

A full list of the Vicars of Bradwell since the parish was formed in 1875 until 1968

William James Webb M.A. Vicar from 1875 – 1881

He was the curate-in-charge of the church when it was consecrated in 1868; while the Church was a Chapel-of-Ease of the mother church at Hope. We read that the expenses of the church in 1873 were £34. 7. 0d; the collection amounted £19. 16. 1.1/2d. He was inducted as the first Vicar of the newly-formed parish in 1875. He had previously been curate of Wigan Parish Church. He gained his degree at Trinity College, Cambridge. He left Bradwell to accept the appointment of Vicar of All Saints Alrewas and Fradley, near Lichfield.

Henry Thornton Dudley. M.A. Vicar from 1881 – 1893

When he first came to Bradwell, the Reverend H.T. Dudley lived in a house in Smalldale; and it was during his incumbency that the present vicarage was built (1881). Seth Evans described it as 'one of the finest in the country'. Mr. Dudley was educated at Queen's College, Oxford. He served several curacies at St Leonard's, Bilston (1869-1870); All Saints, Sedgley (1870 – 1874; 1876 – 1879); St Luke's, Derby (1874); St Mary's, Stafford (1875). He was Vicar of St Mary's, Aldridge, Staffordshire (1879 – 1881) before coming to Bradwell. On leaving here, he went to be Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Whitfield (1893 – 1900).

George Bird. M.A. Vicar from 1893 – 1913

Mr. Bird graduated from St Peter's College, Cambridge. He served curacies at Christ's Church, Fenton, Staffordshire (1881 – 1884); St Peter's, Wolverhampton (1884 – 1889); St. Mary's, Hartfield, Sussex (1890 – 1891); and St Luke's, Leek, Staffordshire (1892 – 1893). He was Vicar of Bradwell longer than any other incumbent has been and was well loved and respected. He was well thought of as a poet and a musician. He wrote 'Ronald's Farewell' in 1902 and had a book of hymn tunes published. He left Bradwell to become Vicar of All Saints' Church, Gainsborough.

Alfred Tomas Cowen Vicar from 1913 - 1916

Mr. Cowen was educated at Bishop's College, Manchester. He served curacies at St Simon's, Salford (1897 – 1900); St James', Gorton (1900 – 1904); he was priest-in-charge of St Philip's, Gorton and Rector of the same parish from 1909 – 1913, when he came to be vicar of Bradwell. While he was vicar a church-mission room was erected at Abney, through the generosity of Mr. H.C.B. Bowles. Mr. Cowen left Bradwell to take appointment as the Vicar of Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

Stanley Charles Moseley, B.A. Vicar from 1917 – 1923

After graduating from St. John's College, Cambridge he served curacies at St Mary's, Spilsby with Hundleby (1904 – 1910); St Chad's, Shrewsbury (1910 – 1917). He left Bradwell to become Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Fairfield, Buxton.

John Rowley Donald M.A. Vicar from 1923 – 1936

The Reverend J. R. Donald studied at Worcester College Oxford. He served curacies at All Souls, Manchester (1902 – 1905); St Thomas' Church, Pendleton (1905 – 1907); he was Vicar of SS Simon and Jude, Cockshutt ((1907 – 1920); he was the Principal of the Diocesan Boys' School, Rangoon (1920 – 1923) before coming to Bradwell. He is well remembered by many people. He was a hardy man from the Hebrides, who liked nothing better than fresh air and the countryside.. He walked regularly to Abney ('over The Edge'), with a long crooke as his familiar companion. From a church magazine of 1923 we read ' Choir Trip . We went to Blackpool on Monday, 7th July. All went well, thanks to to Mr. Simpsons' organization, even the weather. According to present. The Vicar and two members of the choir spent the night in Manchester Railway Station'. The six Sheffield plate candlestick were given to the memory to the memory of the Reverend and Mrs. J.R. Donald in 1948. During his incumbency the church was redecorated (1929); the tender for the work was £65 from Messrs. Bentley and Jowett, of Sheffield. Also, the present Altar and Reredos were erected in 1931 – the gift of Mrs. Fanny Jeffery.

Henry Edwin St. John Southwell-Keely. Vicar 1936 – 1944

Mr. Keely was her for most of the War Years. He had previously served as curate of Kingden (1926); Wilmot with Wicklow (1926 – 1927); Dorchester (1927 – 1928); he received permission to officiate at Temple Ewell and River (1928 – 1931); was curate of St Peter's Burnham, Bucks (1931 – 1933); and at St. Mary's Wirksworth (1933 – 1936; before coming to Bradwell. During his time here the Peal of Eight Bells was installed – another gift from Mrs. Fanny Jeffrey. The present system of electric lighting was installed in 1938. Mr. Keely left Bradwell to take appointment as curate of Holy Trinity, Fareham, Portsmouth.

Eric Nelson Kemp Vicar from 1944 – 1947

Mr. Kemp was trained at Lichfield Theological College. He served curacies at the Church of Our Lady, Seaton Delaval (1940 – 1942); St. Giles, Dallington ((1942 – 1943); he was East Midlands Director of the

Industrial Church Fellowship (1943 – 1944) before coming to Bradwell. One of the most lasting decisions taken during his time in the parish was to introduce the 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion each Sunday; this has continued to be the main service since it was begun on March 11th 1945. Mr Kemp left Bradwell to become Vicar of St. Mary's, Somers Town, London. Later posts included Rector (1947 – 1949) of St. Colomba-by-the-Castle, Edinburgh (1949 – 1958); Director of Industrial Church Fellowship, Ontario, Canada (1958 - 1963); Rector of Holy Cross, Derby (1963 – 1964); and Rector of All Saints, Kimberley British Columbia, Canada (1964 -)

Gilbert Leonard Vigar, M.A., B.D. Vicar from 1947 – 1952

Mr. Vigar was a graduate of University College, London and prior to ordination went to the Kelham Theological College. He served curacies at St. Cuthbert's, Sheffield (1938 – 1942); and at Herringthorpe (1942 – 1947). During his incumbency the Rood Bedam and Figures were installed. The church was decorated throughout. Plans for a new Vestry, and a smaller Vucarage did not bear fruit. From Bradwell Mr, Vigar took appointment as Vicar of St John the Baptist Ault Hucknell (1952 – 1955) at the same time he was curate-in-charge of Heath Church; Vicar at St. Mary Magdalene Madingley (1957 – 1961); Assisstant Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of Ely; before accepting the post of Chaplain and Senior Lecturer in Divinity at Lincoln Teachers' Training College in 1961.

Philip George Williams M.A. Vicar 1952 – 1956

Mr. Williams gaoned his degree at the University of Wales. He served curacies at St. Bartholomew's, Wednesbury (1938 – 1940); All Saints Alrewas and Fradley (1940 – 1945); St Peter's, Hednesford (1945 – 1947); he was appointed Vicar of St. Luke's Onecote with Bradnop, Staffs. (1947 – 1952) before coming to Bradwell. On leaving, he became Vicar of St. Catherine's, Wakefield (1956 – 1961); and later became Vicar of St. Aidan's Skelmanthorpe, West Yorkshire (1961 -).

Victor Crabtree Vicar 1956 – 1966

Trained at Kelham Theological College, Mr. Crabtree served curacies at Holy Trinity, Shirebrook, Nottinghamshire (1943 -1946); St Paul's, Burton on Trent (1946 – 1950); was Priest-in-charge Shirebrook (1950 - 1956). During his incumbency at Bradwell the Aumbrey and Credence Table were presented to the church. At the entrance to the churchyard, a

pair of wrought-iron gates were erected by Walter S. Daniel in memory of James and Elizabeth Daniel and Hilda Hall (1965). A considerable amount of repair work was done to the tower of the church, where much damp and dry rot had been discovered. An anonymous donor gave the Sanctuary Lamp. A Ciborium was presented by the Mother's Union in memory of Joan Alice Crabtree in August 1966. Mr. Crabtree left Bradwell in 1966 to become Vicar of St Leonard's Church Shirland, Derbyshire.

Robert Swinbank Caney

Vicar from 1967

Mr. Caney was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge and trained at Lichfield Theological College. He served curacies at Holy Trinity Kingswinford (1961 – 1964); and at Castle Church, Stafford (1964 – 1967). During his incumbency several pews were removed from the church and the church was redecorated throughout; the picture 'Madonna and Child' was given Mrs. H.C.B. Bowles (1967) and the Bishop's Chair was given Mr. and Mrs. J. Ashbury. The Oak Carving 'He Died to Save' was presented by Mrs. Catherine Williams; also the Lantern light above the west door was given by P. Walker and Miss M. Wynn. Plans are being considered for major work to be done to the organ.