

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

### THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

Beckley is a village on the East Sussex/Kent border, about 10-15 miles north of Hastings. University College acquired the living in 1817 from the then incumbent, Henry Hodges. The living had been held by at least his two immediate predecessors. As with the other livings purchased by the College in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the money for the purchase came from the surplus of the income from the property at Linton-on-Ouse, as according to the instructions of its donor, John Radcliffe.

In 1976 the living was united with the neighbouring village of Peasmarsh, whose living is held by Sidney Sussex College.

The first presentation to Beckley by University College was made in 1837. Here is a list of the next incumbents, based on a list hanging on the wall of the church and inspected in February 2005:

1837: William Glaister (matr. 1814; F. 1821–39; died at Beckley 14 June 1861).  
 1861: William Hedley (F. 1844–63).  
 1878: Thomas Shadforth. (matr. 1834; F. 1839–52; died at Beckley 25 Jul 1887)  
 1888: James Lee Warner (F. 1866–72)  
 1900: Robert Burton Poole. (matr. 1859)  
 1908: Richard Arnold Edgell (matr. 1877)  
 1931: Donald Frederick Wilkinson (matr. 1914).  
 1948: Hugh McDowell Wilson. (matr. 1913).  
 1961: Edward Lloyds Sporne (no known College link).  
 1964: Allan John Pearman (no known College link).  
 1966: George Ernest Pritchard (no known College link).  
 1976: Charles Edward Wonnacott (no known College link).  
 1981: Christopher Freeman Hopkins (no known College link).

All these items were found in the archives during the stocktaking of July 1993, except for **UC:E25/D2/1–4**, which were transferred from the Estates Bursary in July 2002 as Accession No. 378.

Catalogued in September 2019.

#### UC:E25/D1 - DEEDS AND RELATED PAPERS ON THE LIVING OF BECKLEY

**UC:E25/D1/1** **n.d. (late 17<sup>th</sup> cent.?)**

Note (found in **UC:E25/D1/11** below) with a summary list of 17<sup>th</sup> century deeds about the advowson of Beckley. The handwriting appears to be from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**UC:E25/D1/2** **23 Oct 1804**

Attested copy of the will of Thomas Hooper of Beckley, Sussex, clerk, dated 9 Mar 1741 and proved 9 Oct 1753. Among other bequests, he gives his son Odiam Hooper the advowson of Beckley.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

UC:E25/D1/3

n.d. (after 27 Feb 1770)

Copy of extracts from the will of Odiam Hooper, late of Hailsham, Sussex decd., dated 24 Jun 1757 and proved 27 Feb 1770. He bequeaths his lands, including the advowson of Beckley, to his son Thomas Hooper. On Odiam's death, Thomas will also be entitled to the vicarage of Hailsham, and Odiam asks his son to select one of the parsonage houses attached to the parishes as a place for his mother to live in for the rest of her life.

UC:E25/D1/4

15 Aug 1782

Mortgage

**Parties:**

1. Thomas Hooper of Beckley, Sussex, Clerk, Rector of Beckley and patron of the advowson of the same.
2. Elizabeth Brattle of Hove, Sussex, Widow.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.**Consideration:** £800.**Comments:** 1 mortgages the advowson of Beckley to 2.

UC:E25/D1/5

n.d. (c. 1817?)

Copy of an extract from the will of Elizabeth Brattle late of Hove, Sussex, widow, dated 22 Jul 1786 and proved 27 June 1789. She appoints William Duke and John Wood her executors.

UC:E25/D1/6

5 Jan 1801

Assignment and Ratification of Mortgage

**Parties:**

1. (a) John Wood of Bexhill, Sussex, Gent.  
(b) William Duke of Bexhill, Gent., executors of Elizabeth Brattle, decd.
2. Thomas Hooper (as in **UC:E25/D1/4** above).
3. (a) The Revd. Richard Cooke Tyldes Patterson of Hornden in the parish of Biddenden, Kent., Clerk.  
(b) John Woollett of Rye, Sussex, Gent. Executors of William Patterson late of Hornden, esq.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.**Consideration:** £800 from 3 to 1 and £900 from 3 to 2.**Comments:** 1 assign their right to the mortgage taken out by Elizabeth Brattle in 1782 to 3.

UC:E25/D1/7

25 May 1802

Lease for a Year

**Parties:**

1. Thomas Hooper (as **UC:E25/D1/4** above).
2. (a) John Butler Pomfret of Tenterden, Kent, Esq.  
(b) William Watson of Rye, Sussex, Gent.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.**Consideration:** 10s.

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

UC:E25/D1/8

26 May 1802

Further Security by way of Release following Lease for a Year

**Parties:**

1. Thomas Hooper (as in **UC:E25/D1/4** above).
2. Richard Cooke Tylden Pattenson and John Wollett, both as in **UC:E25/D1/6** above.
3. John Butler Pomfret and William Watson, both as in **UC:E25/D1/7** above.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.**Consideration:** £800 from 2 to 1.**Comments:** At the request of 2, 1 now assigns his rights on the advowson of Beckley, under this mortgage, to 3.

UC:E25/D1/9

11 Sep 1804

Bargain and Sale

**Parties:**

1. John Butler Pomfret and William Watson, both as in **UC:E25/D1/7** above.
2. Richard Cooke Tylden Pattenson and John Wollett, both as in **UC:E25/D1/6** above.
3. Elizabeth Hooper of Hailsham, Sussex, Sinster (sister and heir of Thomas Hooper of Beckley, Clerk, deceased).
4. The Revd. Henry Hodges of Beckley, Clerk.
5. Henry Davison of Lincolns Inn Old Square, Middx., Esq.
6. Charles Lamb of Higham in the parish of Salehurst, Sussex, Esq.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.**Consideration:** £2500 from 4 to 2, and £5900 from 4 to 3.**Comments:** Thomas Hooper died intestate in October 1803, and now 4 wishes to purchase the advowson from 3. 2 pass their claim on the mortgage on the property to 6.

UC:E25/D1/10

4 Oct 1804 &amp; 19 Nov 1806

Mortgage

**Parties:**

1. The Revd. Henry Hodges of Beckley, Sussex, Clerk.
2. Henry Davison, as in **UC:E25/D1/9** above.
3. (a) Sir James Pulteney of Park Lane, Middx., Bart.  
(b) James Patrick Murray of Faringford Hill, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, Hants., Esq.  
(c) Thomas Law Hodges of Hempstead otherwise Hampstead Place, Benenden, Kent., Esq.  
(d) George Frederick Stratton of Tew Park, Oxon., Esq.
4. Charles Lamb, as in **UC:E25/D1/9** above.
5. William Bishop of Hastings, Sussex, Gent.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.**Consideration:** £6000 from 3 to 1.

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

**Comments:** 1 mortgages the advowson to 3. 2 passes on any rights of his own to 3. On the dorse of one of the membranes is a deed dated 19 Nov 1806, in which 3 lend 1 a further £1451 4s 10d.

**UC:E25/D1/11****19 Nov 1806**

Bond

**Parties:**

1. Revd. Henry Hodges of Beckley, Sussex, Clerk.
2. (a) Sir James Pulteney of Park Lane, Middx., Bart.  
(b) Patrick Murray of Farington Hill, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, Hands., Esq.  
(c) Thomas Law Hodges of Hampstead Place, Benenden, Kent., Esq.  
(d) Frederick Stratton of Tew Park, Oxon, Esq.

**Comments:** 1 is bound to 2 for £2900 if he does not pay them £1451 4s 10d together with interest before 19 Nov 1807.

**UC:E25/D1/12****7 Mar 1817**

Case and opinion submitted to William Morgan by University College seeking advice on the value of the advowson of Beckley.

**UC:E25/D1/13****10 May 1817**

Advice from William Hayes on the quantity of evidence on the title to the advowson of Brackley which ought to be produced.

**UC:E25/D1/14****24 Jun 1817**

Further advice from William Hayes on how to effect a surrender of a term of 1500 years on the advowson of Beckley.

**UC:E25/D1/15****9 Aug 1817**

Licence of Mortmain granted by the Crown to University College to permit the College to purchase the living of Beckley. The deed is still stored in its original special box.

**UC:E25/D1/16****n.d. (1817)**

Abstract of title of Henry Hodges to the advowson of Beckley, quoting deeds back to 1741.

**UC:E25/D1/17****1817**

Draft of **UC:E25/D1/18** below.

**UC:E25/D1/18****11 Aug 1817**

Grant

**Parties:**

1. (a) James Patrick Murray, Lieutenant-Colonel in His Majesty's Forces.  
(b) Thomas Law Hodges of Hempsted Place, Kent., Esq.  
(c) George Frederick Stratton of Wykham Park near Banbury,
2. The Revd. Henry Hodges, Clerk, Rector of Beckley, Sussex.
3. William Bishop of Hastings, Gent.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

4. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.

5. Charles Wetherell of Lincolns Inn, Middx., Esq.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.

**Consideration:** £7500 from 4 to 1 and 10s from 5 to 1.

**Comments:** 1 and 2 convey the above advowson to 5 in trust for 4.

Arrangements are made for 4 to pay the consideration to 1 in instalments on agreed dates.

**UC:E25/D1/19–20**

**1824**

Two drafts of **UC:E25/D1/21** below.

**UC:E25/D1/21**

**1 Jan 1824**

Surrender of Mortgage

**Parties:**

1. James Patrick Murray, Thomas Law Hodges and George Frederick Stratton, all as in **UC:E25/D1/18** above.

2. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.

**Property:** The advowson of Beckley.

**Comments:** Now that 1 have received in full the £7500 promised by 2, they surrender all their rights on the advowson to the College.

**UC:E25/D1/22**

**2 Aug 1884**

Schedule of documents about the advowson of Beckley, dating from 1741 to 1817.

**UC:E25/D2 - A PIECE OF LAND AT BECKLEY ADDED TO THE CHURCHYARD IN 1864**

**UC:E25/D2/1**

**1861**

Abstract of title to the orchard sold in the deed below, quoting deeds back to 1853.

**UC:E25/D2/2**

**1 Mar 1861**

Conveyance

**Parties:**

1. Kemp Berry, formerly of 4 Tyndale Place, St. Mary Islington, Middx., and now of Beckley, Sussex, Esq.

2. Sarah Durham of Beckley, Widow.

**Property:** A piece of land formerly a hop garden and now called the Corner Orchard containing 1 acre 1 rood and 27 perches, in Beckley and adjoining the churchyard, as is shown on a plan drawn on the deed.

**Consideration:** £150.

**Comments:** 1 agrees to produce at 2's request a list of title deeds relating to the property, as listed in a schedule at the bottom of the deed.

**UC:E25/D2/3**

**4 Apr 1861**

Copy of a Conveyance

**Parties:**

1. Sarah Durham of Beckley, Sussex, Widow.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

2. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners of England.

**Property:** The northern part of an orchard in Beckley called the Corner Orchard, adjoining the churchyard of Beckley to the north, the remainder of the orchard to the south and west, and land belonging to Kemp Berry to the west, as shown on a plan drawn on the deed.

**Consideration:** None.

**Comments:** 1 gives the above land to 2 for the purposes of enlarging the churchyard at Beckley.

**UC:E25/D2/4**

**24 Feb 1864**

Conveyance

**Parties:**

1. Sarah Durham of Beckley, Widow.
2. The Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford.

**Property:** The residue of the orchard described in **UC:E25/D2/2**, which was sold off in **UC:E25/D2/3**.

**Consideration:** £75.

**UC:E25/D2/5**

**after 24 Feb 1864**

A typed transcript of **UC:E25/D2/4** above.

**UC:E25/C1 - CORRESPONDENCE ON THE PURCHASE OF THE LIVING OF BECKLEY**

**UC:E25/C1/1**

**June 1816**

Description of the rectory of Beckley, with a note of the price which the incumbent is willing to receive. This was presumably sent to University College to help them decide whether to purchase the living or not.

**UC:E25/C1/2**

**10 Nov 1816**

Letter from John Hodges (address, Barham) to William Crabtree. Hodges (the cousin of Henry Hodges, the incumbent) asks that his cousin's intention to sell the living of Beckley be kept confidential for now. He discusses arrangements to inspect the village and make a survey.

**UC:E25/C1/3**

**18 Dec 1816**

Letter from Richard Crabtree (address, 27 St. James's Place) to William Crabtree. Crabtree reports on his dealings with the son of Mr. (John) Pinckard (the tenant of Handley Park) on drawing up a new lease, and says that he is about to visit Beckley to check the lands there.

**UC:E25/C1/4**

**Feb 1817**

Description of the Rectory of Beckley, with the money to be raised from tithes, prepared by Richard Crabtree.

**UC:E25/C1/5**

**28 Feb 1817**

Letter from Nathaniel Kentish (address, Wokingham) to William Crabtree. Kentish sends Crabtree a map of Beckley (now lost) with an explanation of the colour scheme employed on it.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

**UC:E25/C1/6** **18 Mar 1817**

Letter from John Hodges (address, Nethersole House, Barham, Canterbury) to William Crabtree. Hodges asks if the College wishes to buy a farm as well as the advowson; if they do, he suggests a sale price.

**UC:E25/C1/7** **11 Apr 1817**

Letter from John Hodges (address, Nethersole House, Barham, Canterbury) to William Crabtree. Hodges on behalf of his cousin Henry accepts the College's offer to purchase the advowson of Beckley for £7500, to be paid in several instalments until 1823, but asks that they pay interest on this amount.

**UC:E25/C1/8** **2 May 1817**

Letter from George Frederick Stratton (address, Wykham Park, Banbury) to the Master of University College. Stratton explains that he is one of Henry Hodges' trustees and has a mortgage on the advowson of Beckley. The property cannot therefore be sold without his consent, which he is unwilling to give, unless some interest is paid on the instalments which the College will pay. He considers Hodges' life as "a particularly bad one", and says that it has proved lost impossible to insure his life, and so asks that there be a clause added to say that, if Hodges dies before 1823, the College will pay all the remaining instalments at once.

**UC:E25/C1/9** **3 May 1817**

Draft letter from George Rowley to George Frederick Stratton. He expresses surprise at Stratton's letter, declaring that the College had ever taken Hodges' health into consideration when calculating the purchase price. He regrets this sudden upset in their negotiations, and discreetly observes that the College has an eye to other purchases.

**UC:E25/C1/10** **3 May 1817**

Draft letter, from George Rowley to an unnamed addressee, almost certainly John Hodges. Rowley reports on the unwelcome letter from Stratton, and threatens to withdraw from the sale unless Stratton withdraws his conditions.

**UC:E25/C1/11** **4 May 1817**

Letter from George Frederick Stratton (address, Wykham Park, Banbury) to an unnamed addressee (George Rowley?). Stratton has received a letter from "Mr. Hodges" (presumably John), and is sufficiently assured by its contents that he consents to the sale.

**UC:E25/C1/12** **7 May 1817**

Letter from John Hodges (address, Nethersole House, Barham, Canterbury) to an unnamed addressee (George Rowley?). Hodges is furious at Stratton's intervention, as is his cousin Henry, and reports that Henry wishes to follow through the sale on the terms already agreed.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

**UC:E25/C1/13****n.d. (May 1817?)**

One sheet of a draft letter from George Rowley to an unidentified addressee, apparently a solicitor working for the College, in which he ask among other things that a licence of mortmain be procured for the purchase of the advowson of Beckley.

**UC:E25/C1/14****n.d. (May 1817?)**

Another single sheet of a draft letter from George Rowley to an unidentified addressee (possibly John Hodges?). He reports that the College is applying for a licence of mortmain. Getting such a licence is an expensive and slow business, and Rowley advises that they go ahead with the sale as soon as possible anyway.

**UC:E25/C2 - CORRESPONDENCE ON THE LIVING OF BECKLEY AFTER ITS  
PURCHASE BY THE COLLEGE**

**UC:E25/C2/1****30 Nov 1818**

Letter from Henry Hodges (address., 30 Nov 1818) to William Crabtree. Hodges reports that the parishioners of Beckley wish to build a school on Bell's system. Much money has been raised, but Hodges asks if the College can make a contribution towards it.

**UC:E25/C2/2****14–17 Dec 1840**

Letter and receipted bill about settling an unpaid solicitor's bill from 1824/5 in relation to the purchase of the advowson of Beckley.

**UC:E25/C2/3****5–12 May 1881**

Envelope containing three letters to Charles Faulkner, from William Hedley, Thomas Shadforth, and the College solicitors. Shadforth, in amongst some rambling discussions about the current state of Oxford, and developments there which Shadford regrets, reports that he has been asked to pay quit rent on the land bought at Beckley in 1864. Hedley, his predecessor in the parish, knows nothing of this, and the solicitor therefore advises refusing to pay the quit rent for now.

**UC:E25/C2/4****Jul–Aug 1881**

A second envelope containing three letters concerning the dispute on whether the land bought by the College at Beckley in 1864 was liable for quit rent or not. Correspondents include Thomas Shadforth.

**UC:E25/C2/5****15 Oct 1906**

Letter from Robert Burton Poole to A. B. Poynton. Poole asks the College to make a contribution of £140 towards the cost of a new Village Room. The letter was found in an envelope, on which Poynton noted that the request was refused.



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

## THE LIVING OF BECKLEY, SUSSEX

**UC:E25/C2/6****13–16 Mar 1909**

Two letters to the College, one from the Ecclesiastical Commission, on the question of whether the land sold to the Commissioners in 1861 was liable to any quite rent, which has now been claimed on it.

**UC:E25/C2/7****n.d. (c. 1908–31)**

Last page of an otherwise lost letter from Richard Arnold Edgell, presumably to A. B. Poynton, asking him to place a request to the Governing Body, probably on a financial matter.

**UC:E25/C2/8****Dec 1919–June 1920**

Envelope with correspondence about the sale of some land by the College to the parish to enlarge the churchyard. Correspondents include Richard Arnold Edgell, who among other subjects discusses his hopes that son, who is studying a place at Oxford, may obtain a grant to help him stay there (this was Lawrence Arnold Edgell, who came up to University College in 1917, and would become a priest too). [3 items]

**UC:E25/C2/9****Mar 1920–Jan 1921**

Envelope containing three letters from Richard Arnold Edgell to A. B. Poynton, Bursar. Subjects discussed include the possibility of buying a field from the College, and receiving a cheque for the parish's churchyard fund.

**UC:E25/C2/10****Feb 1931–Mar 1935**

Correspondence file, kept by the then Master, Sir Michael Sadler, about the parish of Beckley. Subjects include: poor relations between the parish and Richard Arnold Edgell; Edgell's retirement as rector there, and the appointment of Donald Wilkinson as his successor; agitation about tithes and the possible reduction in the rector's stipend; the positive reception of Wilkinson in the parish; the installation of electricity in the rectory; the ownership of water springs; and a planning scheme in the Beckley area. Correspondents include: George Bell (Bishop of Chichester), A. J. Carlyle (F. 1893–5), Derman Christopherson (matr. 1894), Harold Clifford Smith (matr. 1895), Richard Arnold Edgell, Finlay Sanderson (matr. 1893), and Donald Frederick Wilkinson. [148 items]

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952