



## Historical Footnotes

### List of Chaplains

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1861-1863 George William [Mackenzie](#)  
1861-1880 Various chaplains under the patronage of the [CCCS](#)  
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1887 Joseph Bernard [Smith](#)  
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1913-1916 Harcourt Robert Henry [Lightburne](#)  
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1937 John Knight [Lomax](#)  
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### Canon Sidney John Baggott

*Chaplain 1968-1976.*

Sidney Baggott graduated from Christ Church College, Oxford in 1933, recording in *Crockford's* that he had achieved fourth class honours in Classical Mods and a third in Greats, but that after graduation, he had received a distinction in the University's Diploma in Theology. He attended Wycliffe Hall, and was ordained in 1934, and priested in 1935.

From 1937 until 1947 he served in Nigeria. He returned to Europe, and was appointed chaplain in Leysin in 1947. With interruptions at Davos from 1948 to 1950 and in Marylebone in 1951 and 1952, he served as the last full-time chaplain of Leysin, serving Villars and Montana as well, until 1968, when he moved to Berne.

He was appointed Rural Dean of Switzerland in 1966, and Honorary Canon of Malta Cathedral in 1972.

### Colonial and Continental Church Society

*Patrons 1859-1887*

Now known as the Intercontinental Church Society, the Colonial and Continental Church Society received its name in 1861, but was founded in 1823. The Society was and is still active in supporting both permanent and seasonal chaplaincies in various parts of the world.

### Bertram George Durrad

*Chaplain 1889-1890.*

He graduated in 1882 from Jesus College, Cambridge, and was made deacon in the same year. He was priested in 1883 and received his M.A. in 1886. From 1882 until 1885 he was curate at Ashbourne in Derbyshire. For the next three years he was curate in Berrington and at St Giles, Shrewsbury in Shropshire.

*Crockford's Directory* for 1899 lists him as chaplain at Rummelsburg and Berne in 1889 and 1890. In 1891 he returned to Wem, in Shropshire, and after 1893, served at Chadsholme, and Harpenden in the Home Counties.

### Reginald Bernard Gray

*Chaplain 1954-1968.*

Barney Gray was educated at Ridley College, Melbourne, and ordained in 1936. He was priested in 1938. He served curacies in Victoria, and during the war served as a chaplain in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946. After the war, he served in the Oxford diocese until 1954, when he was appointed to the Berne chaplaincy ("with Neuchatel, Stuttgart and Basle"!)

to replace Rowland [Jones](#).

The requirement for the post stated that the new chaplain "should be a gentleman with a minimum of tact, and should know how to behave in diplomatic circles."

Immediately after his arrival, the church hall and house were built, being completed in 1956.

He retired in 1968, and stayed on to assist his successor, Sidney Baggott. He finally left Berne, to full retirement, in 1974. He died in a Worthing nursing home on 26 September 1986. His wife, Pat, had died in Berne in the 1960's.

### John Taylor Holman

*Chaplain 1939-1942.*

John Holman moved to Berne from Frankfurt in 1939. His first service at St Ursula's was on 30 April. In 1940 he reported: *The British community is so small as to be non-existent, except for the Legation and Consular staffs which have greatly increased during the war. Apart from them, not a single purely British family in Berne. There are many Anglo-Swiss. Sunday morning attendance autumn 1939:40, winter: 25.*

He fell ill suddenly at the end of 1942. He took the service on 1 November, but was unable to officiate the following Sunday. He died on 15 November 1942 and was buried in the English Cemetery in Berne. His [memorial plaque](#) is in St Ursula's.

### William Rowland Jones

*Chaplain 1952-1954.*

After leaving Westminster College, Rowland Jones attended Handsworth Theological College. In 1914, his studies were interrupted by the war, and only afterwards could he continue his training, at St Chad's, Durham. He was made deacon in 1920, and priested the following year.

He served in Durham, Hampstead and Highgate before becoming vicar of St Hilda's, Audenshaw, where he served from 1930 until 1952.

He was awarded a doctorate, and published numerous books on psychology.

In 1952, he was appointed chaplain at Berne. On his arrival, he was immediately plunged into the ambitious plans of the Building Committee, consisting of the businessman, Theodor Meyer, the British Consul, Frank Dixon, and the brewery proprietor, Hamish Munro, for the building of a church hall and house. There seem to have been various personality conflicts.

As "president of the British Psychological Society" he gave a course of twelve lectures in 1953 on *The Mechanism of Mind*, and a further six beginning on 4 February 1954 at the English Institute.

He had to leave shortly before Easter in 1954. The Good Friday and Easter services that year were taken by Bishop A Stephen Neill, at that time with the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

### Dr Emil Theodor Kocher (1841-1917)

Theodor Kocher became an assistant in the surgical clinic in Berne in 1866. From 1872 to 1911, he was professor of surgery. He was also a pioneer in the surgery of the stomach, the gall-bladder, the joints, the brain, the uterus and the spinal chord.

However, he is most particularly known for pioneering an operation for removing the thyroid gland as a treatment for goitre. His treatment, which involved delicate and careful surgery, reduced the mortality to a very low figure. As a result of this and his other innovations, he received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1909.

### James Frederick Lateward

*Chaplain c.1850.*

The *Clergy List* and *Crockford's Directory* differ over the order of his first names. He studied at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1809 and receiving his M.A. in 1812. He was made deacon in 1810 and priested in 1811. In 1812, he became rector of Perivale in Middlesex, with an income of £310 a year, plus a house. This enabled him to employ an able curate, and to travel. Presumably during his travelling he was able to spend time ministering to the English congregation in Berne. *Crockford's Directory* for 1860 lists him as Chaplain in Berne.

### Harcourt Robert Henry Lightburne

*Chaplain 1913-1916.*

Born in London in 1883 into an Anglo-Irish family, he was educated in London and Versailles, and then spent time in Paris and Sweden, with the expectation that he would follow his father into the timber trade.

However, he felt called to the ministry, and went up to Selwyn College, Cambridge in 1904, graduating in 1907 and receiving his M.A. in 1911. He was made deacon in 1909 and priested the next year. His first curacy was at St Anne's, Aigburth, from which he resigned in 1911, "not being able to stand the 'Aigburth use' any longer." He served a further curacy at St Margaret's, Anfield.

After five Sundays at St Faith's, Great Crosby, in May 1913, Harcourt Lightburne came to Berne on 1 October of that year on what was at first a six-month appointment. In the spring of 1914, the appointment was made permanent. He lodged at the Pension Herter, Kramgasse 5.

One of his first tasks was to put the church's finances on a better footing. He inaugurated a subscription scheme. He also threw himself enthusiastically into church work, initiating children's services and a catechism class after the Sunday morning service, and a Bible study during Advent. It was in Lent 1914, too, that he began holding daily services, and a mid-week Communion service. He also wrote a weekly column with gossip from Berne for *The Italian Lakes and Swiss Chronicle* under the pseudonym Harcourt Harcourtson.

The outbreak of war meant that much of his correspondence with England had to be by telegram.

He became very fond of Switzerland, and while in Berne, he met and became engaged to Nora Münch, the daughter of a Swiss architect and an English parson's daughter. In February 1916, he wrote to his congregation: "I am returning shortly to England: considerations of a personal nature making it now necessary for me to resume work there providing provision for the future." Presumably his engagement to Nora made it necessary to find a better-paid post. However, he also alludes to recently experiencing "certain other great and bitter disappointments."

From 1917 to 1919, he was a temporary chaplain in the Royal Navy, serving in South African waters. In 1920 he moved to Canterbury, where he married Nora Münch on 11 February at St George's Church, where he was in charge while the Rector reorganized the work of the Church of England Temperance Society at its head office. By doing without a maid, the couple were able to visit Switzerland annually until their four children were born. After a further assistant curacy at St Martins and St Paul's, Canterbury, lasting until 1924, Harcourt served the rest of his ministry in Hawkhurst, Upchurch and elsewhere in the Canterbury diocese.

### John Knight Lomax

*Chaplain 1937.*

John Lomax was made deacon in 1908 and priested in 1909. He served in Southport and at Holy Trinity, Chester. From 1932 to 1937 he was vicar of Ince. He was appointed chaplain in Berne in 1937.

### Herbert MacDonald

*Chaplain 1903-1905.*

He graduated from Cambridge in 1895, and was made deacon in the same year. He served a two-year curacy at St Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, and was priested in 1897. After four years as rector in Newhaven, Sussex, he became chaplain in Berne. During his chaplaincy, he studied for a doctorate in Theology at the University of Berne, receiving the degree in 1904.

### George William Mackenzie

*Chaplain 1861.*

He was born in 1825. He studied at Durham, and was made deacon in 1854, and priested in 1855. After a curacy in Shildon, County Durham, he was priested in 1855. He went to Munich, and served as chaplain there from 1855 to 1861.

In 1861, the Colonial and Continental Church Society, which had put Berne on their support list in 1859, but had not sent any chaplain, appointed him as chaplain in Berne. He seems to have served for two years.

After leaving Berne, he served for eleven years, from 1863 to 1874, at St James', Cupar, in Scotland. In 1874, he was appointed chaplain in Frankfurt-am-Main, serving for 33 years until the age of 82.

### Arthur Anglin Mitchell

*Acting Chaplain 1888.*

In 1888, the chaplaincy at Berne was vacant. Services were maintained by Arthur Mitchell, who was chaplain in Montreux.

### J George Moore

*Chaplain 1942-1944.*

On 8 November 1942, John Holman was too ill to take the service. George Moore took over from 15 November 1942, the day John Holman died, as "American and British Chaplain". He lived near Thunplatz, at Steinerstrasse 47. In October 1943, despite the War, he was responsible for launching an appeal for the [building of a church house](#).

### W Richard Henry Pring

*Chaplain 1907-1908.*

He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in 1884, receiving his M.A. in 1907. After studying at Chichester, he was made deacon in 1887, but not priested until 1891.

He served in several parishes in the London area before spending a year in Berne. (An article in the diocesan *Church Magazine* suggests he was still chaplain at the beginning of 1913.) In 1913, he moved to the chaplaincy at Algiers.

### Rybi & Salchli

*Architects*

The architectural partnership of Eduard Rybi and Ernst Lalchli is best remembered for its contributions to the National Exhibition of 1914. However they designed several other private buildings in Berne, some of which are listed monuments (Viktoriarain 12-14, for example).

### Ven. Gilbert Holme Sissons

*Chaplain 1905-1907.*

He graduated from Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1892, and was made deacon in 1896, the same year in which he received his M.A. After a curacy at St Luke's, Leicester, he was priested in 1897, and from 1902 to 1905 was at Duddington, Northamptonshire.

Gilbert Sissons was chaplain at the time the present church was built. He was appointed at the end of 1904, and stayed for a little over two years.

He subsequently moved to Menton, where he stayed from 1907 until 1916. He next moved to All Saints', Rome for four years, and became Rural Dean for Italy and Malta, as well as the French Riviera. In 1921 he moved to Venice, in 1922 to Alasio, and from 1932 to his retirement in 1934 he was at Bordighera.

### Robert Skinner

*Chaplain 1881-1886.*

He studied at Hatfield Hall, Durham. He was made deacon in 1853 and priested in 1854. He served in Wickham, Co. Durham, and then in Aberdeen, Fife, Lea Marston, Dacre and Shrewton before moving to Berne in 1881. In 1886 he gave his address as 176 Junkerngasse.

### Joseph Bernard Smith

*Chaplain 1887.*

He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in 1867. He was made deacon in 1869, and served a curacy in Grantham, Lincolnshire, before being priested in 1871. For the next nine years he taught at Wellington College, and then from 1880 until 1882 he was vicar of Stubbings in Berkshire.

In 1882 he became chaplain of the English church in Xeres, Spain, moving at the end of the next year to Bologna, and then in 1887 for a short time to Berne. He was the first chaplain appointed after the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) had taken over the patronage from the Colonial and Continental Church Society (CCCS).

### Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

*Patrons 1887-1977*

Now known as the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel ([USPG](#)), the SPG was founded in 1701. Like its evangelical counterpart, the [CCCS](#), it supported a number of permanent and temporary chaplaincies in Switzerland during the last two centuries.

### Dr Thomas Carter Stanley

*Chaplain 1890-1893.*

He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1857, and was made deacon in the same year, and priested a year later. He served a curacy in Hollywood, County Down. He served as chaplain to the forces, serving in Aldershot, Preston, Halifax (Nova Scotia). Shoberyness, Chatham and Dublin, before ending up in Gibraltar in 1885. During this period, he completed a doctorate in law at Dublin, receiving his LL.D. in 1869.

After five years in Gibraltar, he became chaplain in Berne from 1890 to 1893.

He next spent a year at Honeychurch in Devon, and then returned to the continent, serving at Dinant from 1894 to 1897, and then in Capri.

### Alfred Swainson

*Chaplain 1894-1896.*

He graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1877, receiving his M.A. in 1890. He was made deacon in 1877 and priested in 1878. From 1884 to 1894 he was vicar of Priors Hardwick in Warwickshire, becoming rural dean of Southam in 1891. In 1894 he moved to Berne, where he lived at 26 Dufourstrasse.

### James Richard Dutton Thompson

*Chaplain 1897-1903.*

He graduated from Magdalen College, Oxford in 1869. After some eleven years, he was ordained deacon in 1880, and priest two years later. He served curacies in Woodford, Wiltshire; Cranborne, Dorset; Temple Bruer, Lincolnshire and Burrington, Shropshire.

In 1897 SPG appointed him chaplain in Berne, and he served there for six years. He left on 13 April 1903. In 1905 he moved to Boulogne, France.

### William Thomas Portles Tymperley

*Chaplain 1852-1860.*

He studied at St Bees, and was made deacon in 1841, priest in 1842. The *Clergy List* for 1852 lists him at Berne. *Crockford's Directory* for 1860 lists him as "Chaplain to HBM Embassy at Berne". After leaving Berne, he moved to Sheffield. He retired to Kent, where he died in 1889.

### Markus Matthaeus Vischer

*Chaplain 1946-1952.*

Markus Vischer was born in Basle in 1879, and brought up in England. He graduated from Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1901, receiving his M.A. in 1905. He attended Ridley Hall, and was made deacon in 1902 and priested in 1903.

He worked with the Mission to Seamen in London and Antwerp, and served as chaplain to the forces during the First World War. He returned to Switzerland in 1919, when he was appointed chaplain in Davos. He was there for three years before returning to Britain, where he ministered in Perth from 1922 for five years, Appledore, Kent from 1927 and then at Sandwich from 1931 until 1946.

On 1 June 1946, at the age of 67, he replaced George Moore as chaplain in Berne. He served the chaplaincies of Berne, Neuchatel and Basle. In 1949, he was appointed Rural Dean of Switzerland. In spring 1952 he left Berne and moved to Basle, where he continued to work until his retirement in 1954.

### Alexander Bassel Winter

*Chaplain 1921-1935.*

He graduated from New College, Oxford in 1884. The SPG appointed him to Berne in 1921, commenting internally on the difficulties of financing the chaplaincy "owing to the small numbers of the English community." He was to remain for fourteen years.

Bassel Winter contributed the column *Currente Calamo* to the *Anglican Church Magazine*, giving several insights into life in Berne during the interwar years. He died in 1935.