The Appointment of a Parish Incumbent

The appointment of preachers and clergy was often in the purview of the largest landowner in a parish. One such placement at least pleased the villagers of Coney Weston who wrote their thanks to Sir Nicholas Bacon.

A Right Worshipfull, Whereas we doe understand, that ye hath pleased you to make choice of Mr. Andrews to be our minister, and to that purpose have appointed that he shall preach at or towns of Wyverston wherby we should have triall of his gifts May yt please you therefore to understand that he hath forenoon and after noon this Saboote day bestowed such profitable paynes amonc vs, as we have great cause to thinke well of him and for or partes our humble desyre unto yr worde: is, that ye will continue yr good liking towards this man, not doubting both in regard of his teachinge as also of his godly lif and honest conversation, that we shall have amonge vs, and we shall acknowledge our selves to be bound to pray still for yr worde: health and preservation, as for many other fayours, towards us so especialy for this in showing yr selfe a most earfull & provident Patron for us; In witnesse of our approbation of him we the Inhabitantes of Wyverston have here unto subscribed our names this 8 of June 1613.

Wm: Stokes
Thomas Havell als Smyth
Tho: Wilton
Wil Godmyche
Willm X Margind his mark
The mark of X Wm Selmon
The mark of Willm X Pountye
The marke of X Robt Forsar
The marke of X Ivo Bone
John Stokes
Henry Weste
Thomas X Hawes his mark
The marke of X John Forsford
The marke of X Henry Molker
The marke of X James Walton
Right prosperous, my lord, or we do understand that ye shall please you to make them or in Andover to be our minister and to best purpose and appointed that he shall provide at the town or parish nearest to your house, and send all to the gift. Many of them are learned to understand estate to be this year.

The nearest, Salisbury, for bestowed hath provided, payed them among ye, he we have great cause to thank good work of ye and for a press, our humble dof best part of press is sent of ye will continue good living towards such men, not doubting holy in your service of ye: concerning to such of your good life and esteem, that we do good and to some to some good thanks for sending your man among ye, and will likewise bring our paper to be bound to your shadow for your honesty and of kindness, do so many other favors toward us: At present for this in presenting ye, I must make a presentable Patron for ye. I pray God, as our approbation of your right excellent of possession. Give you God to prosper and your name; dated 6 of June 1617.

W. Stites.

Wagerd and all Smyth, John Gobed.

Thom. F. litter gis and be

Thom. G. Gis and be
A Letter from the
Residents of Manchester
to the Secretary of the
Ministry...