

Letter from Thomas Bray, of Exeter College, Curate in Charge of Wheatley in the Parish of Cuddesdon, to the Lord Bishop of Oxford. 26 Jan. 1756

The Graveyard of the 2nd Church.

My Lord

As I have made some progress, though a slow one, in the Business your Lordship recommended, I think it proper to inform your Lordship of the state of things at Wheatley, before anything more is done.

The Parishioners are very thankful for duty every Sunday. And are very desirous their Chapel-yard should be consecrated, and they express their readiness to give up the Ground and inclose it properly with a Wall. But they are desirous that some old People who live in the Houses, should remain in them as long as they live; but that no others should come into them; but when they are dead these Houses shall be pulled down, and the wall, which in the mean time might only join to the houses, should then be extended to take the Ground they stood upon in.

I have not yet had a Meeting called in Form; but if your Lordship approves of things so far, I make no doubt of having them carried effectually into Execution, and the Petition signed. Concerning the expense of consecrating the Ground, I have consulted Mr Beaver, who said in general that exclusive of the chancellor's Fee, it will not come to above Four Guineas. I believe the parishioners will not make a difficulty of bearing that Expence, but of this I am not yet certain.

It was intimated to me that I should write to your Lordship to enquire after a Terrier of the Ground which belongs to the Chapel yard; but I suppressed that Proposal, because your Lordship does not express any certainty on that head; and therefore it may be better to go on without a Discovery that there is no Terrier, than give a handle to a Cavil.

I desire to know whether your Lordship approves of my going on to have a Meeting called, and have the Wall built, taking in the Ground, but letting the Houses stand for the present, if no more can be obtained with cheerfulness and Goodwill. And, as soon as I know your Lordship's pleasure, I will act accordingly.

I am your Lordship's most obliged & obedient servant

Thomas Bray

Ex. Coll.

Jan.26.1756

Memorandum appended to the above letter, by the Bishop.

Jan.27.1756 In answer to Mr Bray's letter of Jan 26 I directed him to get the Houses taken down at present, if he well could, and if not, to have the ground they stood on included in the petitions as offered for the ch.yard and to get another paper signed by the parishioners promising to take them down as the present inhabitants died or quitted them. I also told him (*page ends here*)

