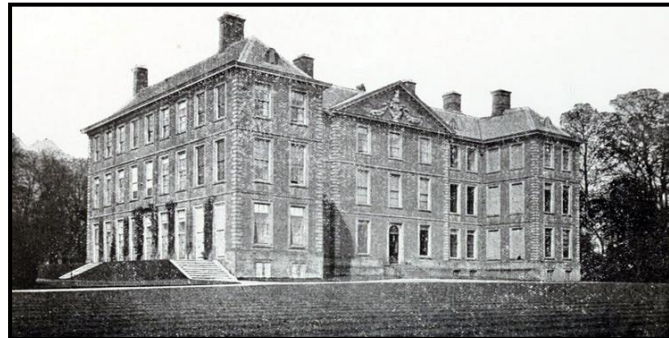
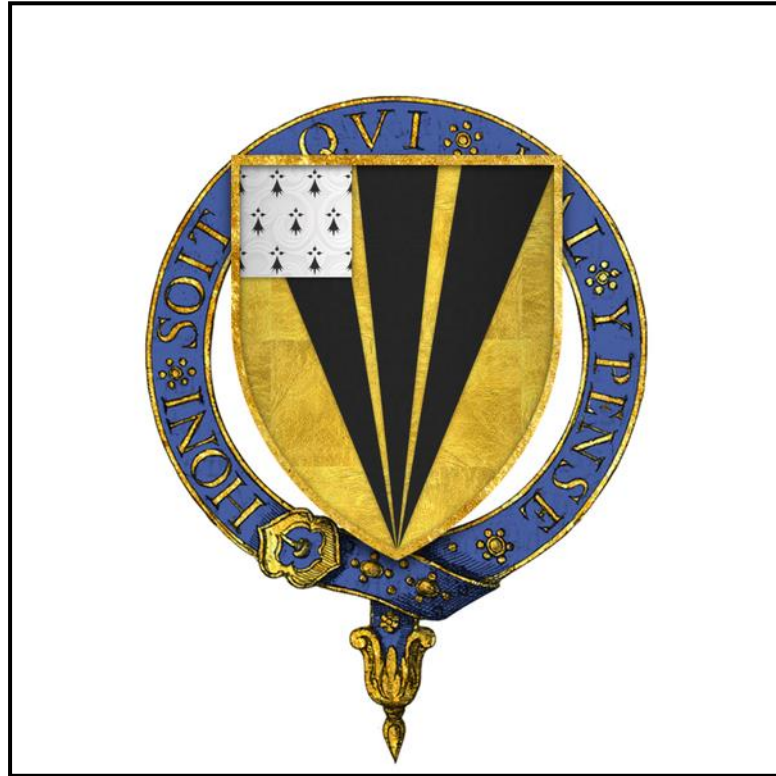


Rev. Francis John Wrottesley



*Francis J
Wrottesley*

Curate - St. Mark's, Worsley: 1873 - 1875

Priest, Author, School Founder



Rev. Francis John Wrottesley – (1873-1875)

Francis John Wrottesley was born on 19 May **1848** in Tettenhall, Staffs. - a county in which he spent a number of years after fulfilling early curacies elsewhere. He was the first born of 5 children to Edward John Wrottesley and Mariana Eugenia Jeffreys. Of his 4 siblings, 3 died within 12 months of their birth. Edward John (born 1814) was the nephew of John Wrottesley, Baronet, (born 1771), making Francis John his great-nephew. **Francis'** great-great-grandmother was Lady Mary Leveson-Gower.

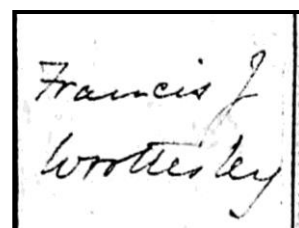
Edward John was born on 9 November **1814** at Codsall, Staffs. He studied at University College, Oxford, gaining his B.A. in 1838. His M.A. followed much later in 1855. He was ordained Deacon in **1838** and Priest in **1840**, and he became Curate at Newton Heath, Manchester, till **1841**. He then became Perpetual Curate in his home county, at Tettenhall, Staffs. He remained there until **1862**, when he became Vicar of Brewood, Staffs. He remained in post until his death on 19 January **1901**. In his will, his effects were left to Francis John and Rev. Edward Salt, (son-in-law), clerks.

Edward John married **Mariana Eugenia Jeffreys** at Swansea on 8 August **1847**. She was born on 20 July **1814**, and baptised on 10 August 1814 at St. Mary, Swansea. She was the fifth of eight children to John Jeffreys and Martha Tringham. One event for which she is remembered is the publication of 'A Staffordshire Legend, Etc.', a collection of poems and dedicated to *'The Lady Wrottesley and the other Ladies of Tettenhall, to whose active benevolence and generous sympathy we are indebted for the forthcoming bazaar, this little work is affectionately inscribed.'* The collection was signed at Tettenhall Parsonage, August 19, 1851. Also, she wrote a piece entitled *'Hoel the Hostage'*, of which no reference or copy can be found. She died in the registration district of Cannock on 11 January **1892**.

Edward had already transferred to Tettenhall by the census of 1841, when he was living at an address on Lower Street. The first census after their marriage was for **1851**. At the time of the record, Edward John and Mariana were visitors at the home of John, Lord Wrottesley. Edward was aged 36 and his occupation was Perpetual Curate of Tettenhall Church. Curiously, Francis John was not present with his parents. He was at an address also on Lower Street, Tettenhall, in the care of two domestic servants. Alice Sophia, their second child, had been born and had died in January 1850.

By **1861**, Edward and family were at the Vicarage in Tettenhall. Francis John was now 12 and a scholar. Also there was Anna Caroline, aged 6, and a scholar. In the intervening ten years, Henry Edward had died in 1853, and Herbert Arthur in 1856 - both within a few months of their birth. By **1871**, Francis was now 22 and an undergraduate at Oxford. He was with his parents at Brewood Vicarage. He had matriculated at Oxford on 12 October **1867**, at the age of 19. *The Leeds Mercury* for Tuesday 14 December **1869** reported that Francis had been awarded a class 3 honour at Oxford in the Classical Honours School, a commoner of Worcester College (A *commoner* is any undergraduate member of the University who has not obtained a college scholarship or exhibition). The degree of B.A. was awarded in **1873**, and his M.A. followed in **1894**.

He was appointed Deacon in **1873** and took up his first curacy at St. Mark's the same year. His first record in the parish registers was for a burial on 11 March 1873. In the following year, *The Lancaster Gazette*, for week ending 6 June 1874, wrote *'At the ordination held on Sunday at Manchester Cathedral, appointed to Worsley'*. The final entry in the parish registers for him was for a marriage on 31 October **1874**. Part of his brief tenure coincided with the curacy of Acton Windeyer Sillitoe.



He was next appointed Rector of St. Martin's, Chichester, **1876-8**. This stood in St. Martin's Street and there are references to it from the C13 onwards. However, the church slowly deteriorated throughout the nineteenth century and was eventually pulled down in 1906, having been already amalgamated in 1899 with St. Olav's. He also acted as Curate of St. Peter the Great, in the sub-deanery of Chichester,

1875 - 1877. This church was built in 1841 but it suffered a great deal of damage in World War 2. If the reader looks carefully at this picture, you will notice a sign board above the entrance. Always in the shadows of the cathedral, a dwindling congregation and the need for major repairs led to its redundancy in 1979. The parish was united with St Paul's and, after extensive repairs and the removal of the fittings, the church became first an antiques market and more recently a restaurant and bar! Previously, the parish worshipped in the cathedral and the vicar was sub-dean, hence its alternative name of Subdeanery parish



The *Bristol Mercury* announced on Thursday 21 March **1878** that **Francis John Wrottesley** had been appointed as Perpetual Curate of Bishops Wood (or Bishopswood). Crockford's states that he was the vicar. This meant a return to his native county of Staffordshire. It is a small village on the Staffordshire border with Shropshire, and interestingly, lies within the parish of Brewood, his father's parish. The photo on the right is of St. John's Church, Bishopswood. The church dates from 1850. Both churches stand at each end of Kiddemore Green Road, a distance of about two miles.

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A year later, **1879**, he became Curate at St. Paul's, Hampstead, Camden, London, where he remained for just one year, approximately from November 1879 to August 1880, when looking at the parish registers. This church, founded in 1860, had closed by 1980. He baptised his son Frederick John there on 19 April 1880, and at the time of his baptism, they were living on Kings College Road. Yet again, he and his family moved, this time to All Souls, Hampstead, in **1880**. His time there started about November 1880 and finished about December 1884. Whilst at All Souls, Hampstead, he baptised the last of his children, Dorothy.

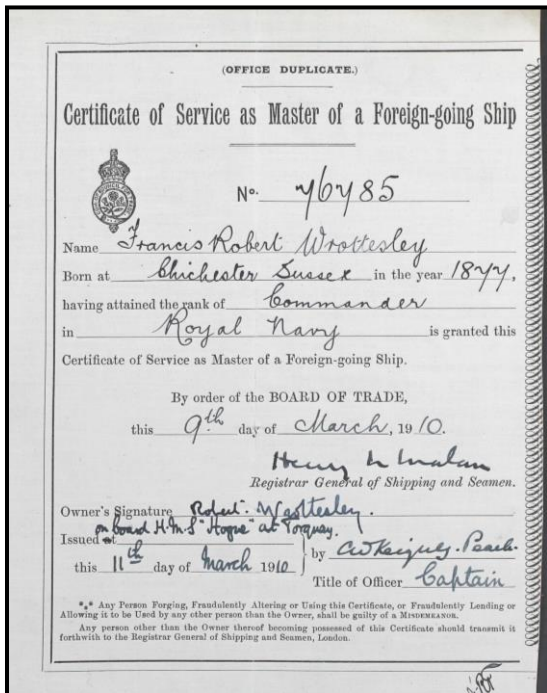
1880	Frederick John	Francis John & Agnes Mabel Stilwell	Kings College Road.	Clark	Francis Wrottesley
April 19	John				
No. 672					

St. Paul's

All Souls

P.B. received May 20	Nov 19	Dorothy	Francis John & Agnes Mabel Stilwell	Wrottesley	3 Goldhurst Rd	Clark in order	Francis Wrottesley

In the midst of this movement around the country, he found time to get married. On 3 October **1876**, at the church of St. Peter the Great, Chichester, Francis John Wrottesley, aged 28, married **Agnes Mabel Stilwell Freeland**. She was the eldest of eight children to Frederic John Freeland and his wife Anne. Frederic was a Surgeon, living at 51 North Street, Chichester, in the parish of St. Peter the Less. Agnes was 21. Frederic and Annie Thornton Raper had married in Chichester on 3 March **1851**.



Francis and Agnes were to have five children. Such were their movements that the children were born in three locations quite distant from each other. **Francis Robert Wrottesley** was born on 8 June **1877** in Chichester. He was to become an officer in the Royal Navy. He enrolled on 15 July 1891 and at that time, he was a scholar at Eastman's Naval Academy in Titchfield, Hampshire. He eventually was commissioned and attained the ranks of Lieutenant (1899), and Commander (1909). Francis was placed on the Retired List as medically unfit with the rank of Captain on 10 July 1919. He had been at times Captain of H.M.S. Orwell and H.M.S. Angler. At the time of the 1911 census, he was a Commander (aged 33) on board H.M.S. Hogue, an armoured cruiser, docked at Margate, serving under Captain C. W. Keighly-Peach, and one of 550 crew members. He married Leila Staveley, daughter of General Sir Charles William Dunbar Staveley, on 17 August 1911 in Wisbech, Cambs. He was a Captain in the Royal Navy during World War I and was mentioned in

despatches. He was awarded the Order of St. Anne in Russia, and was granted the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) in 1919. This was *'For distinguished services in command of No. 14 Kite Balloon Section in Mesopotamia from August 1916 to February 1917'*. He died on 13 November 1954 without issue at his home Wick Cottage, Downton, Wilts.



Their second child, and the first daughter, **Annie Eugenia**, was born whilst the family was at Bishopswood, Staffs., early in 1878 and died within a few weeks of her birth. Their second son, **Edward Algernon Wrottesley**, was born on 30 April **1879** at Bishopswood Vicarage, whilst the family was still resident in Staffordshire. He married Mabel Letitia Clowes, daughter of Francis Clowes, on 12 December 1906, at Smallburgh, Norfolk. We learn from the 1911 census that he was a Produce Buyer and Manager in a Biscuit Factory. He was by then living at Devonshire Lodge, 1 Shinfield Road, Reading, with his wife and young son Arthur John Francis, later to become a Barrister-at-Law, and to whom he left his estate at his death. On 19 September 1916, *The London Gazette* announced that he was granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant in the Berkshire Volunteer Regiment. At the time of the presentation of a Charter to establish a University at Reading on 17 March 1926, his name appeared as a Life Member of the Council of the University College of Reading. He died on 1 November 1957 in Reading.

Frederick John, the fourth child and third son, was born on 20 March **1880** and baptised at St. Paul's, Hampstead, Camden, on 19 April 1880 by his father. He married (at age 37) Marion Cecil Patterson (42) at St. Stephen's, Paddington, on 26 November 1915. His address was given as Denstone Vicarage, Rocester, Staffs., and Marion's was 2 St. Stephen's Crescent. Her father, William, was a Lieutenant-Colonel. His father officiated at the wedding. Frederic served in World War 1 in France, attaining the rank of Major. When he applied for his service medals on 1 February 1922, his address was 29 St. Leonard's Terrace, Chelsea, SW3. He died on 17 November 1948 and had been living at Manor Farm, Newnham, Basingstoke. Some of his effects were handed to Arthur John Francis Wrottesley, his nephew and a Barrister-at-Law. However, in the probate application, he was named Wrottesley, the Right Honourable Sir Frederic John, P.C., Knight.



Freedom of the City Admission Papers show that he became an Apprentice on 9 May 1899 to Jeremiah Colman, to learn his Art for a term of seven years. Frederic was educated at Tonbridge School and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read Mods and Greats (Classics). He was called to the bar by the Inner Temple in 1907, and practised at the parliamentary bar. During World War I, he served with the Royal Field Artillery, reaching the rank of Major and being mentioned in despatches. He took silk in 1926 and became Recorder of Wolverhampton in 1930. He was appointed to the King's Bench Division of the High Court in 1937, receiving the customary knighthood the same year. He was also Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal and Chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the County of Stafford, 1939–1948. In 1947 he was made a Lord Justice of Appeal and appointed to the Privy Council, but was forced to retire in 1948 for health reasons, shortly before his death.

In a widely read practical book on advocacy, published in 1910, and drawing on experience accumulated over the years, he wrote: *The only safe way for an advocate who has an expert to deal with upon cross-examination is to hold him down to the issues and not to allow him to cover too much ground. ... The ability to cross-examine professional expert witnesses is rare. ... Expert are, as a class, shrewd and cunning, and are usually selected on account of their eminence in their professions, or skill in their advocations, and they are presumed to speak guardedly and carefully upon topics with which they have the greatest familiarity, for they often stake their reputations upon the result of the trial in which they are called to testify.*

In the church of St. Nicholas, Newnham, there is a tablet to the Right Honourable Sir Frederick John Wrottesley, Kt. who lived at Manor Farm and died in 1948.

Their fifth child and second daughter, **Dorothy**, was baptised at All Souls, Hampstead, on 18 November **1882**. She died twelve months later. *The Morning Post* for 10 November 1883 announced: *Death on 2 November 1883 of Dorothy, only daughter of Francis John Wrottesley, aged 13 mo.*

A study of the various censuses of the nineteenth century is often a convenient way of tracing the life and movements of people, giving addresses, family members, ages, marital status, occupations and places of birth.

1851 census: Francis John (2), son of the Rev. E. J. Wrottesley. Lower Street, Tettenhall, Staffs. No parents at that address. (They were visiting Lord Wrottesley at his home).

1861 census: Francis John (12); Rev. Edward J. (46); Marianna E. (46); Anna C. (6); The Vicarage, Tettenhall, Staffs.

1871 census: Francis J. (22); Undergrad. at Oxford; Rev. Edward (56); The Vicarage, Brewood, Staffs.

1881 census: Francis J. (32); Agnes M. (26); Francis R. (3); Edward (1); Frederick (1mo). 3 Goldhurst Terrace. Curate, All Souls, Loudoun Road.

1891 census: Francis John (42); Clerk/Schoolmaster; Mabel A.S.(36); Edward A. (11); Frederick J. (11). 18 Buckland Crescent, Hampstead.

1901 census: Francis John (52); clergyman; Mabel A. S. (46); Frederick J. (21). The Vicarage, Denstone.

1911 census: Francis John (62), clerk in Holy Orders; Agnes Mabel Stilwell (56). The Vicarage, Denstone, Staffs.

It must be borne in mind that these details only refer to a particular given moment in time, and that every ten years. More changes of address may have occurred, other births and deaths might have taken place, other occupations followed, and members of the family may have been temporarily absent on holiday or visiting elsewhere.

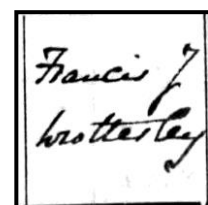
And so we see that Francis John Wrottesley, by **1881**, was at another parish - All Souls, Loudoun Road, Hampstead. It was founded in 1865. Additions and alterations were made in 1905; but the



building was declared redundant in 1985 and is now converted into apartments. It is at this time that more significant events occurred in his life. Records show that he was a resident of this part of the city for a small number of years. His first entry into the parish registers was for a baptism in February **1881** and the last was December **1884**. The 1881 census above shows that he was living at 3 Goldhurst Terrace, S. Hampstead [otherwise known as St. John's Wood, Kilburn. St. John's Wood was once part of the Great Forest of Middlesex. Its name comes from its mediaeval owners,

the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, which took over the land from the Knights Templar in 1323. It has also been home to Lord's cricket ground since 1814 - Ed.]. Other records show that he continued to be there until 1887. From that year, he then resided at 18 Buckland Crescent, Hampstead, until 1898, when he was still at that address in Crockford's.

So, by the end of **1884** his connections with parishes in north west London came to an end. And yet the Crockford's of 1898 shows that he became Vicar of Denstone in **1898**. So what happened in those intervening years? Part of the answer lies in this:



The Hall School is an independent boys' preparatory school in Belsize Park, Hampstead, London, currently teaching boys from age 4 to age 13. The school originated as Belsize School, founded in 1889 by the **Revd. Francis John Wrottesley**, who with his wife had taken fee-paying pupils at their home in nearby 18 Buckland Crescent since **1881**. The Wrottesleys sold their school in **1898** to the Revd. D. H. Marshall, who took over an adjoining house in 1903, when there were 58 boys, including 10 boarders.

The school currently has a roll of about 430 boys, from age 4 to 13. The school is known for its pink and grey uniform consisting for many years of a pink school blazer, cap and tie. This would prove somewhat of a target for the other students in the area, as Giles Coren, an old boy, recounted in an article for *The Times* in 2010. "My junior school uniform had a bespoke embroidered crest on the pocket of the bright pink blazer. And on the bright pink cap. And on the garters of the grey and pink socks. And on the rugby shirt! ... I was also always uncertain about why the uniforms had to be such a shocking bright pink. We would have been beaten up regularly anyway. ... But had the uniforms just been grey, like everyone else's, one might have been able just occasionally to get to the bus stop without being spotted, and have a safe journey home."

Another former pupil, Ben Fogle, talked about being a very shy child. "I used to hide behind my parentts' legs at social functions, and at my prep school, the Hall in Hampstead, north London, I lacked confidence and was a bit of a goody-two shoes." Boys are prepared there for public schools.

Apart from the addresses given above in Hampstead, he did appear in Electoral Rolls at Victoria Road, Mill Hill, Harrow, for two years, **1896-1898**.

Eventually, in **1898**, he became Vicar of Denstone, a village situated between the towns of Uttoxeter in East Staffordshire and Ashbourne in Derbyshire. *The church, All Saints, was designed by G. E. Street*

and is in stone with pink bands and tile roofs. It consists of a nave, a south porch, a chancel with a rounded apse and a north vestry, and a north tower. The tower is cylindrical with a conical roof, and has paired lancet bell openings. At the west end is a rose window, and in the church most of the windows are lancets. (Nikolaus Pevsner).



The church dates from 1862, as does the church house, also designed by G. E. Street. Indeed, he designed other features of the church - the lychgate, churchyard cross, and village school, as well as the pulpit, chandeliers and wrought-iron screen. The church is now a Grade 2 listed building.

The founder of the church was Sir Thomas Percival Heywood, Bart. (1823-1897, 2nd Baronet Heywood). At the time of the appointment of Francis Wrottesley, the patron was Sir Arthur Percival Heywood (1849-1916). Sir Arthur had a keen interest in campanology and in 1891 he founded the Central Council of Church

Bell Ringers. Certainly by the time of the 1911 census, both Francis John and Agnes Mabel were living at the Vicarage in Denstone.

Between the years **1907** and **1912**, Francis John edited and contributed to a collection of parish register records for some parishes in Staffordshire. These included Ellastone, Rocester, Tatenhill, Trentham, West Bromwich, Barlaston and Brewood, his father's parish.

Francis' wife Agnes Mabel died in the 1st quarter of **1917**, aged 61. The Reverend Francis John Wrottesley of Devonshire Lodge, Shinfield Road, Reading, died on 27 on December **1922**, aged 74. He was evidently living with one of his sons, Edward Algernon. Probate was granted on 12 February 1923 to Edward Stilwell Freeland solicitor.

