

RECTORS.	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	PATRONS.
Samuel Hemming	6 Nov., 1773; on death of Nicholas Cholwell	William Baker, Esq.
Henry Baker	16 Mar., 1781; on resig. of Samuel Hemming	ditto
Robert-George Baker	25 June, 1833; on death of Henry Baker	Devises under will of William Baker, Esq.
George-Becher Blomfield	9 Sept., 1834; on cess. of Robert Baker	Wm.-Robt. Baker, Esq.
William Jowitt	14 Nov., 1874; on resig. of George Blomfield	John Allen, of Altrincham, Esq.

The parochial registers date from the year 1538, and are in excellent condition.

CHARITIES.

THE ALMSHOUSES.

STEPHEN HELLARD, Rector of this parish, by deed dated 20th November, 1501, gave to trustees, for the purposes of his will, seven acres of land, called Gleviscroft, a pightle of land adjoining, another pightle in Dead Lane, and a piece of ground in Churchfield, all in this parish. By his will, dated 20th December following, he directed that a messuage which he had built in Dead Lane should be inhabited by three poor people rent free, who should daily pray for his soul, and that the rents of the before-mentioned land should be devoted to the sustenance of the house and the relief of the inhabitants. Three houses, occupied by six aged widows, now stand on the site of the original messuage, and with the 'Homestall' occupy 24 poles. The land, which all lies near Symon's Green, consists of 14a. 0r. 23p., and produces £34 per annum, which amount, after deductions for necessary repairs to the houses, is distributed among the widows.

NICHOLAS CLERKE, by deed dated 27th July, 1676, gave to trustees two pieces of land in this parish, called Stony Croft and Long Stockings, containing together about six acres, for the benefit of the inmates of the almshouse. This land now forms a portion of the 14a. 0r. 23p. above mentioned.

HENRY GYNNE, by will dated 4th June, 1570, gave an annual rent-charge of two shillings and sixpence arising out of a close called Gleviscroft, for the use of the poor of this parish. This sum is added to the widows' fund.

HENRY GYNNE, by deed dated 22nd December, 1649, gave to trustees for the benefit of the inmates of the Hellard almshouse half an acre of land in Chawdell Field. This was afterwards exchanged for another piece on Church Common, and now produces twenty shillings a year, which is also added to the widows' fund.

JOHN ELMER, by will dated 20th February, 1622, devised a messuage, called the Black Swan Inn, at Ware, the rent of which was to be equally divided among the poor of that parish and Stevenage. The inn, which was in Baldock Street, has been pulled down for some years, and a substantial residence, now in the occupation of Mrs. Mumford, is erected on the site. The net moiety accruing to Stevenage is £14 per annum, which sum is also distributed among the widows in the Hellard almshouses.

THE FREE SCHOOL.

THOMAS ALLEN, clerk, by will dated 24th May, 1558, gave all his lands and tenements in the counties of Hertford, Leicester and Kent, and the City of London, to the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, in trust, that they should, *inter alia*,