

William Juxon, Bishop of London 1633 to 1646

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William Juxon was made Bishop of London on the 27th of October 1633 (Mason 1985, 48). Born in Chichester on the 18th of October 1582 he was the son of Richard Juxon, the registrar and receiver-general of the Bishop of Chichester (Mason 1985, 19). William's paternal grandfather, John, was a Merchant Taylor, and Richard's siblings and their descendants were to continue within the City of London mercantile networks for years to come (Marah 1869, 6). Richard's family links meant that William was to attend the Merchant Taylors' School in 1595 before he entered St John's College, Oxford in 1598 (Mason 1985, 19-20).

Juxon's career path resulted in a 35 year relationship with the college, and it was here that he first encountered the much younger and future lawyer, Bulstrode Whitelocke, with whom he used to enjoy hunting (Mason 1985, 24). Intriguingly Whitelocke was later to become involved in one of the more controversial events in Fulham Palace's history.

Ordained in 1607, William Juxon was appointed to the vicarage of St Giles in the northern suburb of Oxford and supported William Laud in his appointment to the Presidency of St John's. This was a close relationship which would later assist Juxon in his rapid ascent within the power factions of both church and state. In 1616 he resigned the vicarage of St Giles' and took up the position of rector at St. James the Apostle in Somerton, Oxfordshire. Just five years later he succeeded Laud as the President of St John's (Mason 1985, 29).

His close relationship with Laud would eventually lead to him becoming one of King Charles' chaplains in ordinary, with Laud also advancing his own career in being made Bishop of London in 1628. Along with Charles I, both Laud and Juxon followed the theology of Arminianism, placing them at odds with the Calvinists who believed in predestination. The close relationship Laud entertained with the King certainly played into his hands, and in 1632 Juxon was made clerk of the King's Closet as Laud wanted somebody he could trust in a position close to Charles. In the following year Juxon resigned the presidency of St John's and Laud was made Archbishop of Canterbury, with Juxon subsequently succeeding Laud as the dean of the Chapels Royal. Laud's rapid rise to the Archbishopric had now placed the Arminians in power, and he was quick to appoint loyal followers into positions of influence.

Due to become Bishop of Hereford Juxon was suddenly (and somewhat surprisingly) appointed Bishop of London in 1633 following Laud's promotion to the Archbishopric, with Laud now placing his trusted colleague at the political and economic centre of the nation (Mason, 1985, 47-48). Yet Laud's machinations did not stop there as he continued to influence political decisions to his advantage. Juxon was trusted to such an extent that in 1636

he was made not only Lord Treasurer but also first commissioner of the Admiralty (Mason 1985, 84). His rapid rise meant that he was now one of the King's most important ministers, a fact which certainly ruffled the feathers of the nobility, particularly in regards of the position of Lord Treasurer. No churchman had held this role since the Bishop of Ely, William Grey, in 1469-1470 and the nobility considered the station to be exclusively theirs (Marah 1869, 20). Yet despite his perceived insignificance in regards of background and privilege, Juxon was able to endear himself to most of those he encountered within the worlds of both religion and politics. Regularly described as 'well-tempered', he was also viewed as honest and incorruptible as well as being relatively successful within the roles he was entrusted with (Marah 1869, 21). As Lord High Treasurer he lodged £900,000 in the Exchequer during his five years in the office, a position which previous incumbents had been accused of abusing for personal gain (Marah 1869, 35 / Mason 1985, 90).

The tide was about to turn however as England entered what was to become known as the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. A rebellion began in Scotland against Charles' introduction of the Scottish Prayer Book which he had ordered to be implemented in 1637. The Scots viewed the book as virtually Catholic in doctrine, an opinion that wasn't helped by Charles' wife Henrietta Maria being a devotee of the Roman religion (Royle 2005, 52). Defeated by the Scots as they took Northumberland and hamstrung by a lack of funds for the war, Charles was persuaded by the Earl of Strafford to summon parliament in April 1640 (Royle 2005, 115). Unfortunately this assembly reached an impasse and it was dissolved after John Pym used it as an opportunity to air grievances against the Crown. Now known as The Short Parliament, this deadlocked meeting was followed in the same year by the Root and Branch petition which called for the abolition of episcopacy and hence the removal of Bishops, deans, chapters and all of their dependents (Fletcher 1977, 279).

Open disapproval of Charles and his policies was gaining traction and Laud was impeached during the Long Parliament which had reconvened in November 1640 as Charles continued to struggle financially. Accused of reintroducing Catholic doctrine to church services, Laud was imprisoned in the Tower in March 1641. Despite the close relationship between Juxon and Laud, Juxon does not appear to have received the same treatment as his old friend and mentor. Although the puritan lawyer William Prynne was a fierce opponent of both Laud and the concept of the divine right of Kings, he was sympathetic to Juxon stating that the bishop 'expressed an equal moderation and humility, being neither ambitious before, nor proud after' (Mason 1985, 135).

It was clear that Charles' position was becoming ever more difficult, and a Bill of attainder was used to execute Strafford in May 1641. Juxon had urged the

King not to give his assent to the execution if he thought Strafford was innocent, but Charles felt he could not refuse the will of Parliament and duly signed the bill and hence his friend's death sentence (Mason 1985 136). Juxon resigned as treasurer just five days later (Mason 1985, 137). Spurred on by the execution of Strafford, Parliament pushed for more power which Charles was reluctant to submit to. In January 1642 the King attempted to arrest five members of the House of Commons with the assistance of 400 troops. William Lenthall, the speaker of the House, made it clear he would not give away the whereabouts of the targets as he represented Parliament, not the King (Royle 2005, 157-158). Charles, realising that London had turned against him, left the capital with his family on the 10th of January (Royle 2005, 159). Parliament was now in a position to further enhance its power and on the 1st of June it issued the Nineteen Propositions. Reducing the King's authority even further, Charles felt that he had no option but to reject the propositions and the downward spiral towards Civil War began. Charles raised his standard at Nottingham in August 1642 and the Wars of the Three Kingdoms had started (Royle 2002, 166).

The political situation clearly placed Juxon in a difficult position. Allied to Charles he was a Royalist, but he represented a City aligned with the Parliamentary cause. To add to this his mentor, William Laud, had been imprisoned in the Tower of London and would eventually be executed, again by a Bill of Attainder, in January 1645 (Palmer 1983, 17). The anti-episcopalian parliament continued in their endeavours to curtail the power of the church hierarchy and managed to remove the bishops from the House of Lords in February 1642 (Mason 1985, 141). This was followed in January 1643 by an ordinance which intended to banish the episcopacy. The estates of 14 bishops accused of taking up arms against parliament were seized two months later (Mason 1985. 142). Juxon was not one of these individuals, and notably he was not actually deprived of his Bishopric until 1649 (Lloyd 1668, 596). A man of caution he managed to navigate his way through the subsequent years of turmoil despite continuing to correspond with the King, as evidenced by a letter sent from Fulham to Charles on the 14th of October 1646 (Marah 1869, 46-48). The long war had left both sides in dire need of finances however, and the ordinance of 1643 was finally enacted in October 1646. The Bishops were done away with and their lands could now be sold, assisting the Parliamentarians in paying off the Scots army who refused to leave the Kingdom until they had been recompensed (Gentles 1980, 574-575).

From the outbreak of the war Juxon had continued to reside at Fulham, seemingly left undisturbed by the Parliamentarians (Mason 1985, 141). This must have been a strange period for the Bishop, with the Battle of Brentford taking place just four miles away on November 12th 1642 and the subsequent standoff occurring at Turnham Green the following day (Royle 2002, 205-207). To add to this, a contemporary newspaper article recorded the following:

'The Lord General hath caused a bridge to be built upon barges and lighters over the Thames between Fulham and Putney, to convey his army and artillery over into Surrey, to follow the King's forces; and he hath ordered that forts shall be erected at each end thereof to guard it; but for present the seamen with long boats and shallops full of ordnance and musketeers, lie upon the river to secure it' (Walford 1878, 489-503).

A lack of a secure crossing point on the Thames had made things difficult for Robert Devereux, the 3rd Earl of Essex and commander of the Parliamentary forces. The troops positioned at Kingston under Sir James Ramsay were cut off by the Royalist forces in Brentford and had to undertake the long march along the south side of the River, across London Bridge and then back out west to Turnham Green in order to reinforce the defences of London (Porter & Marsh 2011, 87). As it transpired Essex's original intention to pursue the Royalist forces into Surrey came to naught, although the bridge and defences had cost the Parliamentarians £343 8s 8d (Porter & Marsh 2011, 103). With the campaign season coming to an end the King's army withdrew to Hounslow before continuing on to Reading and eventually returning to Oxford. London remained in the hands of the Parliamentarians (Royle 2002, 207-208).

Despite the early encounters close to his residence in Fulham, Juxon's war was essentially a quiet one. The same cannot be said for Charles I. Defeated at Naseby in 1645 and subsequently besieged at Oxford he eventually escaped by dressing as a servant in April 1646. With little room for manoeuvre he was forced to seek protection from the Scots in the north of England but was finally handed over to Parliamentarians in January 1647 (Royle 2002, 384/390). The close relationship between Charles and Juxon was to continue throughout the King's imprisonment, with the Bishop becoming Charles' chaplain. He was a constant source of support to the King throughout his trial in January 1649, administering to his spiritual needs and spending the morning of his execution on January 30th praying with him. Attending Charles on the scaffold, Juxon recorded his last words as 'remember' and was reputedly gifted a pair of gloves by the King which now reside at Lambeth Palace Library (Royle 2002, 495-502). Following the execution Juxon presided over Charles' funeral at Windsor on the 9th of February before quietly retiring to Little Compton in Warwickshire.

The abolition of the Bishops and the subsequent sale of their lands raises a number of questions in regards of what happened to Fulham Palace. This is a most intriguing story and highlights the complications and divisions that were brought about by the Civil War. Despite Juxon's Royalist associations which were enhanced by his status as a Bishop, the mercantile side of the Juxon family was firmly Parliamentary. Seemingly starting out as Merchant Taylors, by the early 17th century the family had expanded into the sugar baking /

refining business with William's cousins Arthur and John both operating within the Walbrook area of London (<http://www.mawer.clara.net/sugarji.html>).

In much the same way that William Juxon's career was advancing within the church, John Juxon's mercantile interests meant that the family's status was on an upwards curve both financially and in regards of social connections and status. With the success of his sugar business John was able to purchase the Surrey manor of East Sheen and Westhall in 1619 (Lindley & Scott 1999, 2). Amongst John's children, his son John (Jr) served as a Captain in Colonel Edmund Harvey's London regiment of Horse (Lindley & Scott 1999, 8). He was mortally wounded at Newbury after his horse was shot in the head and then charged into the Royalist forces (Nagel 1982, 128). Carried back to London after the battle he died from his wounds a few days later (Lindley & Scott 1999, 8). Another of John's sons, Thomas Juxon, was serving as a colonel's ensign in the green regiment of the city trained bands under Alderman John Warner in 1642. By 1643 he had been made a captain and by 1647 he was recorded as major and lieutenant-colonel (Lindley & Scott 1999, 3). The religious differences between William and his cousin John's side of the family was highlighted in June 1641 when Thomas was identified as one of the parish zealots who forcibly removed the Laudian altar rails at St Thomas the Apostle. This was one of the first congregations in London to commit such an act (Lindley & Scott 1999, 7).

Yet perhaps underlining the complications of the period it is clear that William Juxon was still very much so in contact with the mercantile side of his family, despite their differences in both religion and politics. A lease is recorded in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, on the 22nd of June 1642 in which William Juxon rented land to Thomas Newce of Lincoln's Inn at a cost of £4.16s.9d per annum. Witness to this was John Juxon Jr, Richard Mannyng and an individual named Abraham Haynes (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/9d5bb349-9c77-462f-830b-ddd0eefafc44>).

It is difficult to ascertain if the relationship between William Juxon and his cousin's family became more strained during the war years. With the abolition of the bishops however, Fulham Palace was put up for sale. The seizure of bishops' land meant that surveyors were dispatched to assess the values of property and land, although as the Parliamentarians were so desperate for money this was often a rapid process with simple descriptions rather than detailed plans. The sale of episcopalian lands reduced the government debt by £660,000, yet much of it was purchased at a price far below market value (Gentles 1980, 576; 583). Fulham Palace was surveyed in 1647 at which point Bishop Juxon was still in residence, as was a Mr Haynes. This may well be the Abraham Haynes mentioned as a witness in the Much Hadham lease. Intriguingly an Abraham Haynes leased the tolls belonging to the Bishop of London in Hornsey in both 1611 and 1631, passing them on to his

daughter Elizabeth in 1639 (Baker & Elrington 1980, 140-146). The same individual is present on another land lease, this time in Takeley, Essex. Dated the 27th of November 1634 this lease was made out to Samuel Gaynfford, with the witnesses present the same as those on the Much Hadham lease of 1642; John Juxon (Jr), Abraham Haynes and Richard Manyng (<http://www.tlhs.org.uk/early%20church%20records.htm>).

There are therefore clear relations between all of these individuals and Bishop Juxon, particularly in regards of both land leases and the financial opportunities they brought about. As it was, Fulham Palace and the manor of Fulham was purchased by Colonel Edmund Harvey in 1647 for the sum of £7,617.8s.10d (Noble 1798, 338). This is of course the same Edmund Harvey that John Juxon Jr had fought under at Newbury and whose banner bore the motto 'the country's safety is the highest law' (Gentles 1993, 412). Further family connections can also be identified. John Juxon Jr was married to Susan Langham, the daughter of George Langham, another London Merchant (Lindley & Scott 1999, 2). Colonel Edmund Harvey's second wife was Judith Langham, the sister of Susan, making John and Edmund brothers' in law.

On the return of the monarchy Harvey was unpopular, having been present at the court that led to the execution of Charles I. He was brought to Sessions House in the Old Bailey in October 1660 to be tried for regicide. He was imprisoned in Pendennis Castle, Cornwall, and remained there until he died in June 1673.

With the return of the monarchy came the return of the Bishops. William Juxon was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury on the 25th of September 1660 and Gilbert Sheldon was made Bishop of London on October 28th.

Credit: Alexis Haslam, Fulham Palace Trust community archaeologist, 2022

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