

## Rev. James Brogden (1805-1864)

The Rev. James Brogden was Vicar of Deddington from 1848 until his death in 1864. However, during the 1850s his incumbency was marked by a number of prolonged absences and/or sequestrations on account of his recurrent pecuniary difficulties.<sup>1</sup> During such periods the spiritual charge of the parish was entrusted to a series of curates appointed by the Bishop of Oxford as described elsewhere.

The dates of the absences and/or sequestrations of Brogden's living are:

Dates	Reason	Curate
February 1850 to December 1850	Brogden residing in London	Rev. Dr. William Wilson, sen.
December 1850 to September 1853	First Sequestration	Rev. Dr. William Wilson, sen.
October 1853	Second Sequestration	
October 1855 to April 1859	Third Sequestration	Rev. J.H. Burgess, March 1857 to October 1859

Brogden, a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge and a trained lawyer, arrived in Deddington in 1848 with a formidable reputation as a scholar and theologian. He was a prolific writer,<sup>2</sup> and delivered "the most impressive and eloquent" sermons. He was sufficiently well connected to be invited to a *levée* at Buckingham Palace in March 1850. At the beginning of the 1850s, he was around 45 years of age.

Brogden's incumbency has been succinctly summarised by Brian Carter as follows:<sup>3</sup>

*Brogden proved to be a source of embarrassment, frustration and scandal during his sixteen years as Incumbent; he ran up debts with local tradesmen which he was not able to pay, on occasion his living had to be sequestered; he became an alcoholic and managed to quarrel with virtually everyone in the parish. His parishioners could not get rid of him, not even with the help of the formidable Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce.*

For more information about the Rev. James Brogden, and his troubled incumbency as Vicar of Deddington 1848-1864, see Rob Forsyth's biographical notes, including the link to an extract from the Introduction to *'Mid-Victorian Squarson - The Diaries of*

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<sup>1</sup> The notice of the hearing in November 1857 of the petition by Brogden before the Insolvent Debtors' Court in London lists 11 addresses for him in Cambridge and London since his first absence from Deddington. During these periods, Brogden occasionally engaged "in private tuition, and in the authorship of Theological Works". *Oxford Journal*, 7 November 1857, page 1.

<sup>2</sup> *'Illustrations of the Liturgy and Ritual of the United Church of England and Ireland'*, 3 volumes, 1842.

Codrington Library, All Souls College, Oxford, N13355444-6.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433061823724&view=1up&seq=14> Volume 2;

*'Catholic Safeguards against the Errors, Corruptions, and Novelties of the Church of Rome'*, 3 volumes, 1846-51.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=yale.39002053180775&view=1up&seq=25&skin=2021> Volume 3, 1851.

<sup>3</sup> Brian Carter, *'Printers and Publishers in Deddington 1840-2004'*, 2004.

[https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/2941/P-and-PinDeddingtoncomplete.pdf](https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/2941/P-and-PinDeddingtoncomplete.pdf)

*William Cotton Risley, Former Vicar of Deddington, Part Two, 1849-1869', edited by Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson, The Banbury Historical Society, Volume 32, 2012.*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people/indexb/brogden,revjames>

