

## Vestry Meetings

The Vestry was a regular meeting of parish rate-payers, automatically chaired by the incumbent, which was responsible for both ecclesiastical matters and the administration of local government. Its secular responsibilities were transferred to parish councils in 1894, and its ecclesiastical duties to parochial church councils in 1921.

Its responsibilities therefore extended to such matters as the proposals to fill-in the Town Pool in 1854, and the restoration of the parish church in 1858-1859.

During the successive sequestrations of the Rev. Brogden's living, the chair was normally taken by the Curate. If unavailable, the chairman was usually the Vicar's churchwarden or the Parish churchwarden.

One of the most important meetings of the year was the Easter Vestry, at which the churchwardens were appointed.

The routine functions of the Vestry included:

- nomination of parish overseers and surveyors (of roads);
- appointment of parish constables;
- setting the church rate, poor rate and gas lighting rate;
- passing the churchwardens' accounts and other officers' accounts.

The churchwardens during the 1850s are set out below.<sup>1</sup>

	Vicar's Churchwarden	Parish Churchwarden
1849	William Margetts, Grocer	Samuel Field, Solicitor
1850	Charles Faulkner, Esq.	Thomas Austin Farmer
1851	Charles Faulkner, Esq.	John Scroggs Auctioneer
1852	Charles Faulkner, Esq.	John Scroggs Auctioneer
1853	Samuel Field, Esq. Solicitor	Fred. Gulliver Farmer

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<sup>1</sup> Vestry Minutes 1819-1858, Oxfordshire History Centre, MS. D.D. Par. Dedd. b.22 (PAR86/2/A1/1).

1854	Samuel Field, Esq. Solicitor	Fred. Gulliver Farmer
1855	Edward Hatten King's Arms Inn	Henry Franklin Builder
1856	Edward Hatten King's Arms Inn	Henry Franklin Builder
1857	Henry Churchill Solicitor	Henry Franklin Builder
1858	Henry Churchill Solicitor	Henry Franklin Builder
1859	Samuel Field, Esq. Solicitor	Fred. Gulliver Farmer
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