

This edifice was originally erected by Thomas de la Warre, the eighth Baron of Manchester, about A.D. 1422, and its noble founder procured the royal license, in the ninth year of Henry the Fifth, for the appropriation of the rectory, and the formation of the College, as originally endowed. The structure did not, however, reach completion in the hands of its pious projector: many enlargements and embellishments were added by successive wardens. The first of these, Sir John Huntingdon, it appears, built the choir of wood,* which was afterwards displaced by a stone fabric.

In 1485, Sir James Stanley becoming warden of the Collegiate Church, built the large Chapel on the north side, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. During his wardenship, the Church assumed very nearly the appearance which it presents in the present day.

Amidst the confusion of the civil wars, and the barbarous efforts of puritanical zeal, this Collegiate Church remained uninjured. For this, several reasons have been assigned: the most probable of any is, the circumstance of Manchester, and the leading men in the neighbourhood, being devoted to the interests of the parliament.

The several members of this Church, and their respective duties, appear to be the following:—

The Warden is appointed by the Crown to superintend the Church as Collegiate, to see that the Fellows do their duty, and to preach to them four times in the course of the year; he must likewise have the Collegiate part of the edifice kept in proper repair. He and the Fellows form a Chapter, for the management of all business connected with that division of the Church belonging exclusively to them.

The Fellows are elected in a Chapter, and are four in number. Their duties consist in reading the liturgy, morning and evening, every Sunday, and preaching twice during the day: this they do alternately. The Fellows of the College are the rectors of the parish.

Two Chaplains (who are also Vicars of the parish) are appointed to read prayers on week-days; to marry, baptize, and perform the other ordinary ceremonies of religion. From the first Sunday in March to the last Sunday in September, they are enjoined to read the litany, and preach a sermon every Sabbath morning at seven o'clock.

There are two Clerks; one of whom belongs to the College, and the other to the parish. The former of these is in effect a sinecure; and the latter is an office so lucrative, that not less than £800 has, on the occurrence of a vacancy, been offered for the nomination, though all the fees of the situation are shared with the Clerk of the College.†

* The whole edifice, as begun by the Lord de la Warre, was built of wood.

† In 1825, the register of the Collegiate Church of Manchester stated the number of baptisms during the year, at 4,463; and of marriages at 2,963. Frequently not less than one hundred infants are brought, on one day, to be baptized. In the confusion incident to such a scene, it sometimes happens that wrong names are given to children, to the great annoyance of their friends; and more than once a boy's name has been given to a girl, and vice versa. On one occasion, the eccentric Chaplain, the late Rev. Joshua Brooks, christened an infant in direct opposition to the wishes of the parents. The circumstance occurred at the time when Buonaparte was in his first popularity. A child was brought to the Font: "Name this child?" said the Chaplain.—"Buonaparte," eagerly replied the father.—"Buonaparte be hanged!" (previously rejoined the Minister;) "Grosser! I baptize thee in the name of the