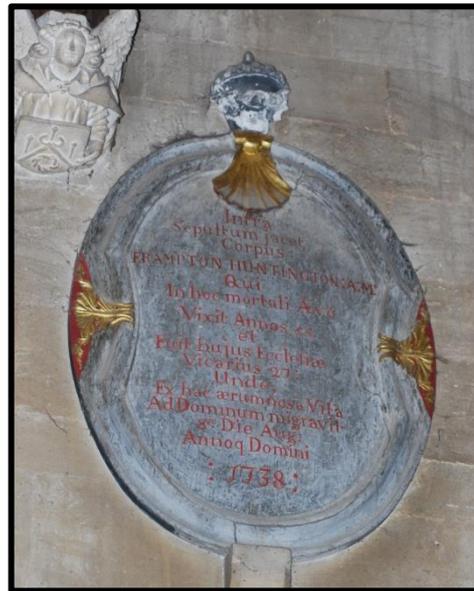


## MONUMENTS OF St MARY'S CHURCH, FAIRFORD - 11

### FRAMPTON HUNTINGTON (1683-1738)



Frampton Huntington was vicar of Fairford from 1711 until his death in 1738. He came from a family which for three generations at least produced learned clergymen, one of whom became a bishop. Frampton's grandfather was Robert Huntington (1597-1664) who was the curate of Deerhurst near Tewkesbury from 1633 and vicar of the neighbouring parish of Leigh from 1648 to his death. Robert had four sons: Robert, John, Benjamin and Dennis, all of whom became clergymen. Robert junior was appointed chaplain to the Levant Company succeeding Robert Frampton who later became bishop of Gloucester and from whom Frampton was named in his honour. A student of oriental languages, Robert Huntington spent 10 years based at Aleppo in modern-day Syria acquiring many important manuscripts during his travels, some of them surviving today in the Bodleian Library. He returned to England in 1681 and became the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin in 1683 and was consecrated as Bishop of Raphoe in Dublin in 1701 but died shortly after. After gaining a BA at St Alban Hall, Oxford, John Huntington became the rector of Whiston in 1667 and later of Harpole, both in Northamptonshire. Benjamin Huntington matriculated at Merton College, Oxford in 1658, was awarded a BA in 1663 and became the vicar of Bexley in Kent in 1665 and is commemorated by a mural monument there, having died on New Year's Day 1706.

Frampton's father was Dennis, the youngest son of Robert Huntington senior. Like his brother John, Dennis was educated at St Alban Hall, Oxford and matriculated in 1661. He became the curate of St Mary de Crypt church in Gloucester and, from 1676, vicar of Preston near Cirencester. On 3 September 1687 Dennis was instituted as vicar of Kempford and remained there until his death in 1711. Dennis had three sons: Robert, Frampton and William, possibly all born in Preston and all of them becoming clergymen as had the generation of Huntingtons before them. Robert (1683-1732) matriculated at Merton College on 11 July 1701, gained a BA at St Alban Hall in 1706 and succeeded his uncle Benjamin as vicar of Bexley in 1707. Upon his death in 1732, the two Huntingtons had provided for Bexley's spiritual needs for a total of 67 years. Frampton's younger brother, William, also went to Merton College, matriculating on 12 December 1706 and becoming the rector of Bagendon near Cirencester on 22 December 1713. He remained at Bagendon until he died on 30 December 1737 and there is a memorial tablet to him in the church.

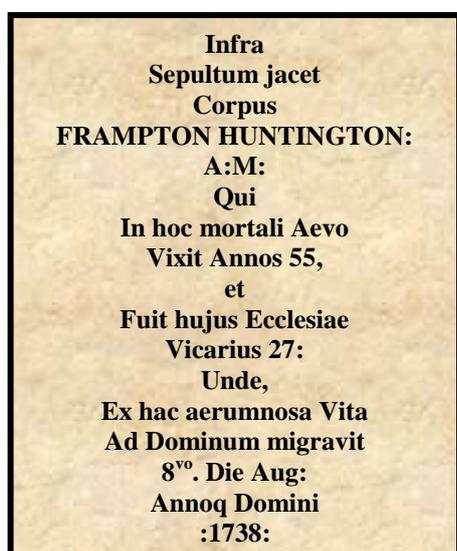
Frampton Huntington was baptised at Preston on 24 April 1683. He matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford on 27 November 1702 at the age of 18 and then continued his studies at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and was awarded a BA on 1 March 1709 and an MA later the same year. He was ordained deacon on 19 June 1709 in Oxford's Christ Church cathedral. Frampton was ordained priest in Bromley chapel on 29 July 1711 and was instituted as vicar of Fairford on 17 August 1711, his only appointment until his death 27 years later.

The last page of the 18th Century volume of the Fairford parish register records the following information:

*"December ye 6th 1718 The Yew Tree was planted in Fairford Church-yard by Frampton Huntington A.M. Vicar.*

*NB: The Wall from ye Parsonage Stable to ye Street was built at ye cost of ye Revnd Mr James Oldisworth Impropiator, but it was pointed & cop'd at ye charge of ye Revnd Mr Frampton Huntington Vicar purely for ye good & benefit of ye trees planted against it."*

Unfortunately the tree was not destined to reach the great age of many churchyard yews as it was blown down in a storm on 16 March 1986.



On 21 July 1719 Frampton married Elizabeth Brown at Hatherop. It appears that Elizabeth was a widow as she had a daughter, also called Elizabeth Brown. Frampton Huntington died on 8 August 1738 at the age of 55 and was buried four days later in the Corpus Christi chapel of St Mary's church where a memorial wall tablet was erected which commemorates (in Latin) his 27 years as vicar of Fairford. In his will Frampton requests that Reverend Samuel Clarke of Kempsford conduct his burial service. Also in his will he made a bequest to benefit the poor folk of Fairford by stating:

*"I give ten pounds to be put out by ye Parish Officers for ye time being of my Decease, ye Interest of wch ten pounds, my Will is, shall be annually laid out in sixpenny loaves of good wheaten household Bread, & to be distributed in ye Church by ye Church Wardens & Overseers of ye Poor on ye same*

*day of ye month come twelve month after my Interrment & so like-wise for ever, among twenty of the poorest Housekeepers, yt do not receive any Alms from the Parish, & yt do duly & constantly frequent ye Church of England to hear ye Prayers there read & ye Doctrine there preached & delivered. And if any one belonging to either of these poor families above mentioned do or shall at any time go to any Meeting under what Denomination soever, my Will is yt family shall not receive ye benefitt of ye bread by me given but another family (yt is qualified as above) shall be put in its room. Likewise my Will & desire is, yt the Baker yt makes ye aforesaid Bread be under ye same restrictions wth ye poor Housekeepers"*

The caveat that the recipients (and even the baker) should be good churchgoers of St Mary's and of no other denomination is noteworthy.

Frampton left most of his property and money to his wife but he also bequeathed many of his books in trust to Elizabeth (Elizabeth Huntington's daughter the former Elizabeth Brown), the wife of Charles Morgan, should she produce a son "who shall be bred a Scholar & take a Degree of Arts in either of ye Universities, of Oxford or Cambridge". If a son was not forthcoming then the books were to be kept in trust for any son of Reverend Samuel Clarke who fulfilled the same educational requirement. When Elizabeth Huntington died in May 1766 she left her property to her grandchildren Mary Morgan and Charles Tyrell Morgan of Fairford.