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**Extracted from the Registry of the Lord Bishop of Sarum**

**Document is dated 7 June 1395**

**An agreement and composition between the Abbot and Convent  
of Cirencester and the Vicar of Shrivenham.**

To all sons of the holy mother church - John of Maydenhith Canon of Sarum, Vicar General in Spirituals - by the Grace of God, Lord Bishop of Sarum (the Bishop himself residing in remote parts) - know ye all that we have the underwritten letters presented to us by the venerable Abbot and Convent of the monastery of Cirencester of the order of St Austin in the Diocese of Worcester holding to their own use the parish church of Shrivenham and by the discrete Lord William Solito, perpetual vicar of the said church.

Be it known to all men - there lately arose a matter of great dispute between the Abbot of Cirencester and Mr David Sandelan, perpetual vicar of Shrivenham concerning the sufficiency and in sufficiency of the portion of the vicar - on account of the tithes accruing from lands and cattle in the village or hamlet of Becket - substracted by John Becket, Lord of this place. The vicar aperting that the title of the tithe accruing from the lands of the said village of Becket and the small tithes of the Lord of Becket and one quarter of the corn planted with one half of the house of the said Lord of Becket ought to belong to him in the name of his vicarage. The said religious men asserting that the whole and entire tithe of the lands of the tenants of the said village and other small tithes of the same tenants even of the house of the said John Lord of Becket belong to them, have belonged to them hitherto and do belong to them at present.

Which suit and matter of desention being depending between the parties aforesaid the said Mr David the vicar departed this life, to

whom immediately succeeded Lord William Solito who hath kept up the aforesaid matter. But at length ---they are earnestly desirous of peace.

...agreed that the vicar and his successors may have for their habitation the whole dwelling house of the vicarage with the close and garden, - which the vicars shall refit and repair at their own cost. That the said vicars may also have all the arable land with the meadow lying in the village and fields of Shrivenham and to the said vicarage anciently belonging. That the said vicars may also have a house for the residence of the Chaplain performing divine service in the Chapel of Longcot together with the arable land, meadow and pastures and feeding for 16 cows and 300 sheep and more as it may happen to the same heretofore adjoining and belonging and the oblations and mortuaries happening as well there as in the hamlets of Fernham and also throughout the whole parish. That the vicars may have the tithes of the demesne as well as the great as the small tithes of hay only accepted and the tithe of all things in the three villages, to wit; Bowton, Bowton (Probably should read Becket and Bourton) and Watchfield except the tithe of hay as before which tithe (ie Hay) throughout the whole parish belongs to the Abbot of Cirencester and hath belonged to them of old. Also the vicars may have from Ackhorn Mill in B (Bourton?) one quarter of toll corn. Also from two mills in Watchfield every year two quarts, 4 bushells of toll corn and from the tenants of Watchfield every year 3 quarts 1 half in bread corn and the other half in barley.

Also that the said vicars may have 3 acres sown with corn of the demesne of the Abbots of Abingdon in the village of Watchfield at the option of the said vicar.

Also that the vicars may from henceforth have the small tithes underwritten viz of fowls, of calves, of flax of hemp growing in curtilages, of bees, of mills of merchandisers of curtilages except the shaves of people working for hire except the shaves and tithes of

gardens, of eggs, of doves, of geese, of apples, of peas, of garlic, of leeks accruing from the village of Shrivenham and the whole parish.

That the vicars may also have the whole tithe of pigs, of milk at lactinu throughout the whole parish over above what the vicars of the said church have ever been accustomed to receive. That the vicars may also receive all oblations made - viz; in wax on the feast of Purification and for confessions and anniversaries and in all other funeral rites. Nevertheless that the vicars may receive no other oblations under the names of tithes nor any other fruits or profits there accruing.

And because it hath been clearly proved that the lands of the tenants in Becket by reason the mortality of the many pestilences which lately happened in England remained void and lie uncultivated and are confused and mixed with the demesne lands of Becket, so that neither true or just tithe should accrue thence or from cattle fed thereon, it has been agreed that the Abbot on the account of the difficulty of distinguishing those tithes may for ever hereafter have the entire tithes - and also from the cattle of all kinds - without the interception or demand of the vicars of Shrivenham who shall for the time being and from henceforth as a recompense for the tithes claimed by the aforesaid vicars give up as an annual payment of 40 shillings of a certain annual pension of 60 shillings which the vicars have heretofore paid the Abbot for the small tithes mentioned, which tithes the vicars have hold to farm for forever of the Abbot for the said annual pension of 60 shillings. It hath also been agreed that the vicars shall for the time being pay the Abbot at Easter the remaining 20 shillings of the pension yearly. Also the vicar to carry out all duties also the finding of lights, books and vestments and also the archdeaconal, synodal and pentecostal duties and if there shall arise any extraordinary duties imposed either by the Pope of the King, the vicar shall under gather. Also the vicars to undergo the refitting and repairing of the chancel - all other vicars of the church have from the first foundation of the vicarage undergone the same. This only excepted that Nicholas late Abbot of Cirencester being

prevailed on by the prayers and supplications of the parishioners of Shrivenham and on account of the respect which he had for the said church and said parishioners, once and only upon one occasion refitted and repaired the chancel then in a decayed condition, out of his own mere liberality and to prevent the chancel from wholly going to ruin, which repairs was so done in the time of one David Sandlan, Vicar of Shrivenham, who all his time absented himself from the vicarage and dilapidated and consumed the goods belonging to the vicarage and suffered houses and almost the whole of the other buildings to fall to the ground.

And furthermore the parties - (have agreed) if either break the agreement, twenty shillings fine to be paid to Sarum.

Sealed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1395.