

Entries in the Parish Register of Great Hampden Church by Reverend Robert Lenthall in August and September 1647

My daughter Sarah Lenthall was buried ye eleventh day of August Ann: supra, (1647) she came from London to Whickham [High Wycombe] & on ye Saturday only to see us and so to returne ye morrow in ye afternoone to Whickham againe, but then fell sick & on Wednesday morning following being ye 11th of Aug. about an houre before Sun rise Dyed of ye sickness & so in ye Evening we buried her in ye Meade called ye Kitchen-meade by ye hedgeside as you go downe into it on your left hand, a little below ye pond at ye entrance into ye meade: She was aged 14 years eleven months & seaventeene days--- had she lived to Bartholomew day she had bin full 15 years of age.

Susanna Lenthall my wife de'ted this life Thursday evening about eight a clock ye 26 August, she died of ye sickness comfortably & in peace & was buried ye 27 by her daughter Sara.

John Gardiner a childe yt lived in my house died of ye sicknes & was buried August ye 29th.

Adrian Lenthall my sonne a hopefull yong man & neere one & twenty yeares dep'ted this life of ye sicknes, Thursday morning a little before day breake & was buried at ye head of his sister Sara's grave ye same day, being ye 2nd of Septe'b.

My Cousin John Pickering a lad about 13 yeares of age, dying of ye sicknes, was buried the 25 of Septeb: 1647

Robert Lenthall, a relative of the Speaker of the House of Commons William Lenthall, led an interesting life. He was Vicar of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire from 1627 to 1637. He married his wife Susanna (1604-1647) in 1627.

He was invited on Sept. 2, 1637 by the people of Weymouth, Massachusetts to be the minister of the First Parish of Weymouth. He seems to have become too involved with the more liberal Quakers and the dominant local Puritans opposed him. Robert and three others were brought to court charged with trying to start a more moderate

Plague come to Great Hampden - 1647

church. Robert was ordered to make a public apology. His friends were not so lucky. One was fined 20 pounds; one was disenfranchised; and the other was publicly whipped.

He left Weymouth, MA for to Newport, Rhode Island, and was admitted as a freeman of the Rhode Island Colony, on 6th August 1640. It is recorded that he was "called to keep a public school for the learning of youth" at Newport, 20 Aug 1640. However, he returned to England in 1642 and was inducted as the Rector of Great Hampden a position in the gift of the Lord of the Manor, John Hampden.

Following the death of his family he left Great Hampden and took up another clerical appointment in Barnes, Surrey. He married for a second time but his wife Cicely predeceased him. They had at least one child, a daughter Anna, who died in 1687. Robert died in 1658 in Barnes, Surrey, at the age of 58.