

## TONY WILLIAMS – A BURTON BRADSTOCK FAMILY HISTORY

Tony Williams comes from a true Burton Bradstock Village family. He is least the seventh generation in the direct male line to live in Burton Bradstock and he has traced his family back to 1779, when his great, great, great grandfather, Christopher Williams, was born to a couple already living in Burton Bradstock. Generations of Tony's family have been baptised, married and buried in Saint Mary's Church in the village.

Tony's great-grandfather, Frederick born in 1840, was the village glazier. He and his wife Dorothy, née Burwood, had 13 children, three of whom died in infancy - baby Daniel was only a week old. His grandfather, William (1876 – 1952) was always called Billy. He was a painter and decorator who lived at The Cot, Shipton Lane with his wife Lily and their six children (see photo right dated 1948).

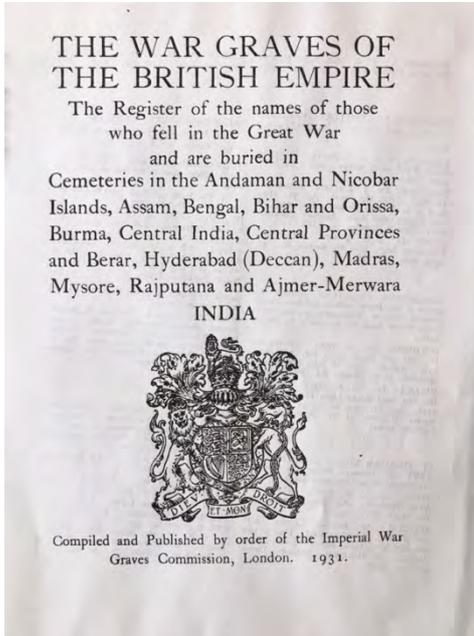


Billy and Lily Williams Outside The Cot 1948



You can also see Billy and Lily in an early photograph taken in Darby Lane in about 1904 with their eldest child, Ethel, born in 1898 (see photo left).

Their son Harry (b 1903) was a soldier in the Dorset Regiment who died in 1921 in the Moplar Rebellion, Malabar, and he is buried in India. (See photos below).



Harry Williams

WILLIAMS, Pte. Henry Frederick John, 5719581. "D" Coy. 2nd Bn. Dorsetshire Regt. 31st Aug., 1921. Age 19. Son of William and Lily Jane Williams, of The Cot, Burton Bradstock, Dorset.

Billy's 5<sup>th</sup> child, George, died aged 14 in 1929 after his foot was crushed in a printing press at Frosts in Bridport. He was a compositor who worked at Frosts who printed the Bridport News - nicknamed the WIP-WOP as that was the noise the press made when printing.

Tony's family have always been musical. Billy can be seen with his accordion later in life with the village band in a photograph found in The Anchor. This photo is pre1952.



Lily can be seen as an old lady, leading the Burton Bradstock Mothers Union into the church in the mid 1950s.



Lily was also a member of the WI and in this photograph she is on the front row, third from the right, and on her right is Tony's Aunt Mary. Lily is also in the picture at the opening of the WI Hall standing on the left of Sir Robert Williams, the MP from Little Bredy. Billy died on Christmas Eve 1951 and Lily on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1957.



Their son, Bertram Edgar Williams 1905 -1967, was Tony's father. He went to school in Burton Bradstock and lived here until 1933, when he moved to Bridport and married Alice Staple in 1935. He also worked as a compositor at Frost's, still the local printing firm and shop in West Street, while his wife worked at Gundry's. Bertram can be seen in the back row, extreme left of the photograph of Burton Bradstock Football Club taken in the early 1920s.

Tony was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1941 and was named 'Seymour' after his maternal grandfather, who was a Baker working for Hussey's in West Street, Bridport and was verger of St. Swithun's church, Allington.

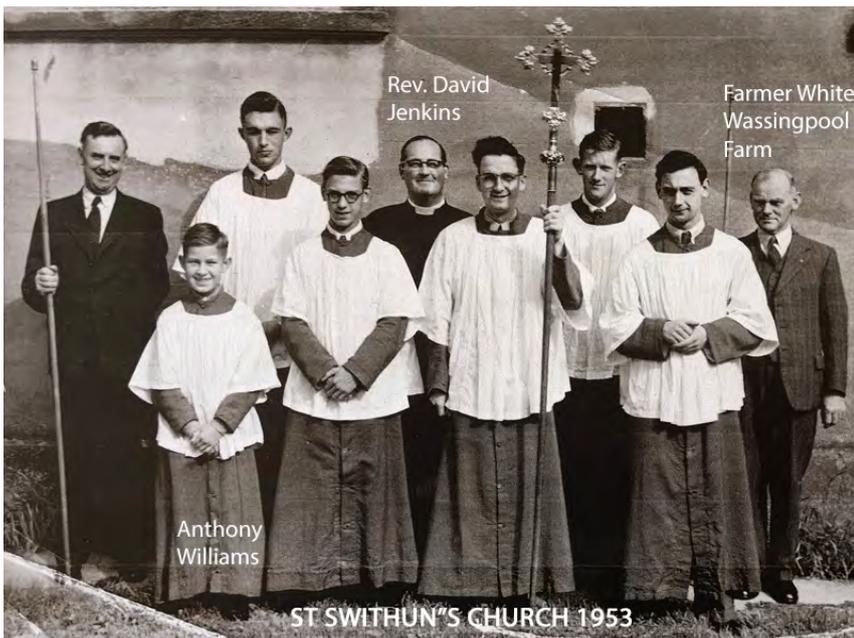


Bridport Pageant 1953 Anthony Williams [Aged 12]

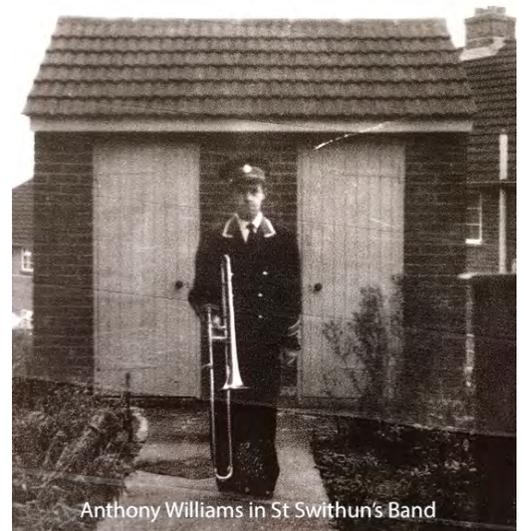
Tony lived in Bridport as a child and went to Saint Mary's and then Bridport Grammar School. He learned piano with Mrs Lewis in West Street whose son Lloyd was an organist on the radio programme The Organist Entertains. Tony took part in the Bridport Pageant of 1953 (see photo) and was a member of the Bridport Air Training Corps. While still at school, Tony had a Saturday job delivering meat on his pushbike for Balson's butchers in West Allington and then worked for solicitors in West Street.

In his spare time, Tony played trombone with St. Swithun's Silver Band (see Photo) and sang in the choir at St. Swithun's Church (see photo).

Tony went off to study theology at Saint Andrew's College Greystoke, Bernard Gilpin Society Durham University and theological college in Cardiff and he began to play the organ. After a lot of travelling around the UK in his job first as a civil servant and then in industrial relations, Tony and his wife Maureen (Mo) returned to Burton Bradstock in the year 2000. He and Mo are active in the village and in Bridport, becoming presidents of Rotary and Inner Wheel respectively and Tony was organist at our village church, St Mary the Virgin.



Rev. David Jenkins Farmer White Wassingpool Farm Anthony Williams ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH 1953



Anthony Williams in St Swithun's Band

Tony is happily retired back in the village where his family have lived for at least 250 years and from doing all his research can feel that he really belongs. The evidence shows that his family lived all their lives in Burton Bradstock from at least the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century until 1933, marrying into local families and making a contribution to village life down the years.

Research by Tony Williams and compiled by Susan Moore

Tony, President of Bridport Rotary 2002, and his wife Mo.

