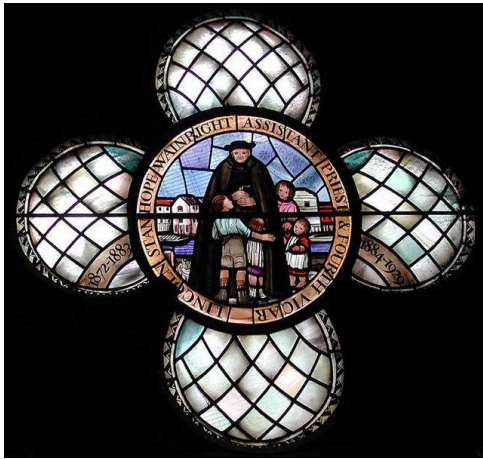




LINCOLN STANHOPE WAINRIGHT

– the Cure d’Ars of the Church of England

June 4th, 1847 – February 6th, 1929

Feast Day: February 6th

Born in London he was educated at Marlborough College and Wadham College, Oxford graduating as a Bachelor of Arts in 1870. Ordained deacon in 1871 and priest the following year Fr. Wainright initially served at St Peter, Devizes but after a year moved to St Peter, London Docks

as Curate to the saintly first Vicar, Fr. Charles Fuge Lowder, where he remained for the next 56 years, becoming fourth Vicar in 1884.

He was close to Fr. Benson SSJE and sought to emulate the Religious Life in the Clergy House, working tirelessly for the poor and outcast of the parish. He fasted frequently and during the great Dock Strike in the 1880s would often go without food because others were hungry. His whole-hearted devotion to God was the basis of his life and he spent an hour each morning in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. It is said that at the time of his death that ‘Docklands was washed with tears because this tiny but indomitable figure, toothless, shabby, untiring, spendthrift of love, would not serve them on earth any more’. The Bishop of London described him as ‘a happy saint, like Saint Francis’¹ and Evelyn Underhill, the great spiritual writer, wrote of his ministry: ‘It was done in the strength drawn from a constant communion with God supported and expressed by the daily Eucharist and by the hour of absorbed devotion which followed it ... First the inward and secret life of oblation and adherence to God; and then, in its power the outward life of co-operation with God. To do great things for souls, you must become the agent and channel of a more than human love’ (*Collected Papers of Evelyn Underhill*, p.125f).

In the Introduction to her biography Lucy Menzies said it was an attempt ‘to make clear to the Church of England that there has been a saint in her midst.’ She (together with Evelyn Underhill) compared his life to that of St. Jean-Marie Vianney, the Curé d’Ars: ‘The Fathers life and work as parish priest and evangelist for fifty-six years in that difficult Dock area is one of the glories of the Church of England and should not be allowed to sink into oblivion ... in many ways he is to England what the Curé d’Ars is to France.’²

He is commemorated within St Peter’s Church with a stained-glass window and in 1961 a London County Council Blue Plaque was placed on the outside of the Clergy House in Wapping Lane.

¹ *Father Wainright, A Record*, Lucy Menzies with a Foreword by A. F. Winnington-Ingram, former Bishop of London

² *ibid*, p.xvii

Online information:

<https://www.fministry.com/2016/04/father-wainright-of-st-peters-london.html>

<https://ordinariatepilgrim.wordpress.com/2015/08/06/studies-in-holiness-lincoln-stanhope-wainwright/>