



Crime and Punishment

Rowde

A CHURCH ROBBER

A man was on Sunday last apprehended at Seend, and taken before W H Ludlow, Esq charged with entering the Church in that village, and stealing a key to one of the doors.

Mr Ludlow directed him to be detained in custody, and a large bag which he had with him delivered over to the constable, for the purpose of examination on the following morning. Amongst other articles, there were found in this bag a considerable number of bibles and prayer books, and Wesley's hymn books. Some of these books contained the names of Wadham Locke, Esq and other persons residing at Rowde, who attended on the examination of the prisoner and identified them as their property, and as having been stolen out of the Parish Church at Rowde, during the night of Saturday or on the morning of Sunday last. There were also found on the prisoner a large knife, of a very unusual make, a bunch of keys of different sizes, a chisel and a turnscrew, and a box containing paste. On his apprehension he gave the name of Daniel Archard, but on his examination, he said his name was Daniel Bingham a gunmaker by trade, and a native of Worcester. His ostensible occupation is a vender of religious tracts and children's books.

He is committed to the Old Bridewell, Devizes. **Sheffield Independent Saturday 11 July 1829**

General Quarter Sessions for this county opened at Warminster.

Daniel Bingham, alias Richards, the wholesale church robber, was sentenced to 7 years transportation, for stealing two prayer books, the property of Wadham Locke, Esq; 1 prayer book the property of Mr Joseph Chandler, and a cloth the property of the Rev E Vincent, from the parish church of Rowde; and for stealing from the church of Seend, the key of the belfry. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 16 July 1829**