

Our East Walton Rectors By Stephanie Hall © 2023

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Our Medieval Rectors

The rectors of the Middle Ages were rectors but “not as we know them”. These men, who were ordained clerics, were appointed by the lord who bestowed the parish as a living i.e. to give the recipient an income. They were very likely to be of the gentry or nobility, quite probably a younger son, and they gained income from the parish church rather than from tenant’s rents. The rector may have held more than one parish and he probably did not serve the parish in person. There were some rectors who were local men and may have been more likely to serve in person but as they would have had to pay for training they were probably of the better sort. The rector appointed a deputy, a vicar, to serve in the parish and paid him a stipend. The vicar could be of a lower class although neither villeins nor men with a “physical defect” e.g. blindness or disability were allowed. Priests were ordained by the bishop and had to be over twenty-four years of age.

The job encompassed many roles. We may believe the pastoral aspect of priesthood to be a modern invention but in the Middle Ages priests were expected to be teachers (of basic religious beliefs and liturgy) and to guide the congregation on subjects ranging from motherhood to magic neither of which they were presumably expert on. The pay was not large and money from the church land, the glebe, went to the rector. The vicar’s stipend was augmented by small amounts of alms payable on different occasions in the year. Although some medieval writers, William of Malmsbury for instance, described the clergy as inebriate, Chaucer’s parson is described as a genuinely good man, living in poverty but rich in holy thoughts and deeds, making sure to practice what he preaches. He is the only devout churchman in the company and is perhaps Chaucer’s idea of an ideal parish priest. It is to be hoped that East Walton was blessed with some of these.

Our medieval rectors were:

1322, Robert de Narford instituted to the vicarages of St. Mary and St. Andrew, presented by the Prior of Westacre.

1329, Richard de Crosdale.

1347, Clement de Knapeton, (on an exchange for a place in Wreningham, All-Saints,)

1349, Walter Kemp.

1364, William de Banham, (an exchange for St. Matthew's, Norwich,)

1393, Thomas Bulwere.

1395, John de Wygenhale, (an exchange for Bodney, St. Mary's,)

1414, William, son of Benedict Barber, an exchange for Brunham, St. Clement's.

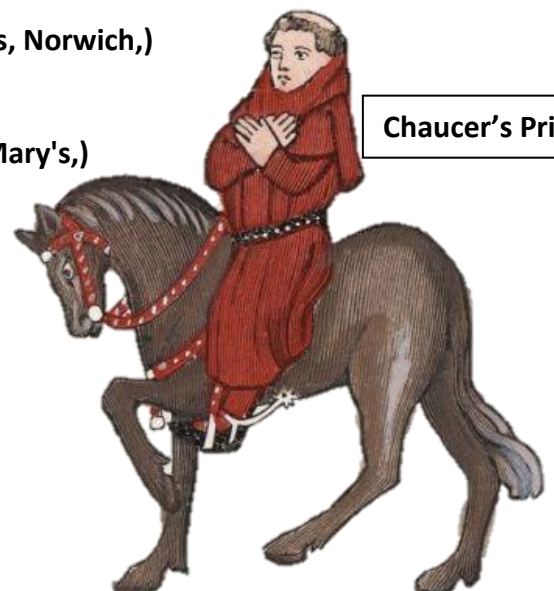
1417, William Smith.

1433, Jeffrey Bishop.

1458, John Wood.

1486, William Hood, or Ode.

1505, Jeffrey Baker.



Chaucer’s Priest

1544, Reginald Fawcett, by the King.

1573, James Venables, by Sir Thomas Gresham.

Records suggest that throughout the Middle Ages the living of East Walton was in the hands of the Prior of West Acre. Built by monks of the Augustinian order, the priory was dedicated to St Mary and All Saints, and within three generations held property in over seventy parishes and had an estimated annual income of around £140 a great deal of money for the time. Despite a devastating fire in 1286 that destroyed the church and the adjacent convent buildings, the priory and its grounds were eventually larger than those at Castle Acre. At its height the priory at West Acre was a hugely impressive and influential religious house. By 1479 it had become so large that King Edward IV allowed it to host its very own annual fair on July 7th.

Unfortunately for the Augustinians poor financial management and a lack of religious rigour meant that West Acre failed to impress visiting dignitaries and West Acre was one of the first monastic surrender.

Details of our Medieval rectors have been lost to time. Fragments of their lives remain in sparse Medieval records; we know for instance that, rather alarmingly, the daughter of Robert de Narford was abducted from her home when she attempted to divorce her husband and Clement de Knapeton, John de Wygenhale and Reginald Fawcett all have will registered with the ecclesiastical courts. It is tempting to speculate that Walter Kemp took over from Clement de Knapeton when the latter died in the plague epidemic but there is no evidence of this. Both Reginald Fawcett and James Venables must have taxing times as the church underwent continual changes from 1538 through to the 1600s and beyond.

Rev Andrew Ellis born 1563.
Rector of East Walton 1623 – 1660

We do not know a great deal about Andrew Ellis. He was born in 1563 in Field Dalling and on 3rd November 1581 he entered Brasenose College, Oxford. Andrew's records have the abbreviation "pleb" which means that his father was what might be regarded as the common sort although the family must have had sufficient funds to send Andrew to college.

Andrew was award BA in April 1588. This seems a long time spent at university, but it may have been that he had to work his way through college and thus took some time to complete his studies. In 1593 Andrew married Margery Myndome in his home village of Field Dalling.

The only other information we have about Andrew is that he was Rector of Bawsey from 16th August 1603 for a seemingly very long period of time. There is a note on his records complaining that he *"holdeth two benefices, he is a bachelor of Art and not qualified any waye for holding them"*. We do not know who added it and it seems not to have had any effect upon Andrew's career.

Andrew did not have a peaceful and easy tenure. He took over the role just before Archbishop Laud instigated huge changes in churches and these continued through the 1630s aiming to root out Puritanism. Rev Andrew had to work with five bishops with varying views about the liturgy and the management of the church until in 1656 there was no bishop at all as the episcopacy was abolished until 1660.

Rev Andrew Ellis died in the year the episcopacy was established again and the moderate Bishop Edward Reynolds took over in Norwich.

Rev Robert Feltwell 1610 - 1669

Vicar of East Walton 1660-1662

Robert Feltwell was born in Pentney around 1610. His father was supposedly a gentleman but Robert was admitted in Caius College in 1626 as a sizar, which is a student who has to work to pay his way through university.

Robert gained his BA in 1630- 31 and the following year he was ordained into the priesthood by the bishop of Norwich. He began his career by becoming curate at Barningham in 1636 and we know nothing else about him until he became vicar of East Walton in 1660 the year of the Restoration. Robert's behaviour at that time may give a clue as why he had "laid low" during some of the preceding years. On May 29th, 1660, King Charles II's thirtieth birthday, Robert delivered a sermon dedicated to him. This was called "David's Recognition" and was later published in London. It seems that in this sermon Robert compared the king's suffering and deliverance to his home country to the experiences of King David and was very strongly pro-Royalist. It is recorded that the sermon was delivered in front of Captain Spelman (the Spelmans were a distinguished Royalist family of Congham) but the location is given as Grimston which is rather unlikely as the incumbent at that parish was the latest in a line of strict Puritan ministers.

Robert Feltwell left East Walton after only two years. He was appointed vicar of Ormesby a much larger parish with a massive church - St Margaret's. Robert remained there for the rest of his days; he was buried at Ormesby on 7th November 1669.

Rev Andrew Needham 1652-1711

Rector East Walton 1668-1671

Andrew Needham was born in Kinoulton, Nottinghamshire in 1652 during the rule of the major-generals, his father was called William. We do not know anything about the family except that they were not wealthy as Andrew entered Caius College in the the year of the restoration (1660) as a sizar, that is a poorer student who had to work through his studies. Andrew gained his BA in 1664 and on 24th September 1664 Bishop Edward Reynolds of Norwich (the first bishop returned after the abolition of the episcopate during the Commonwealth) ordained him deacon. The following year on 23rd September 1665 Andrew was ordained priest.

East Walton was Andrew's first appointment and he stayed in the parish for five years. After that he worked in a number of parishes in the south of the county before moving to Gloucestershire in 1684 to be rector of Beverston. He raised a family there – his daughter was married in his church in 1697 – and remained there until his death on 6th August 1711. He has a memorial at St Mary the Virgin Church in the village.



St Mary the Virgin, Beverston.

Rev Robert Purland 1648 -1723

Rector East Walton 1671-1723

Purland was born in Warham, Norfolk where his father Jeremie (or Jeremiah) was a gentleman. The family must have been financially secure because Robert entered Caius College in 1664 as a pensioner that is a student who came from a wealthy family who paid for his keep and tuition. Unlike many pensioners Robert became a scholar and obtained his BA in 1668 and MA in 1672. He was ordained a deacon in 1670 and a priest one year late in 1671.

East Walton was Robert's first post. He was sponsored by Sir William Barkham of Southacre Hall, so it is not surprising that in 1695 Robert became rector of Southacre and looked after both parishes for the rest of his life.

Robert Purland died in 1723 and was buried at Southacre on 24th May 1723.



Southacre Church

Rev Richard Money 1691 - 1755

Rector of East Walton 1723-1755

(Also, Rector of Gayton Thorpe 1737 – 1755)

Richard Money was born in 1691; although there is no record of his birth or baptism it may have been in Trowse as his father William is recorded as a yeoman of Trowse Newton. Richard was the eldest of six children and as the eldest he was probably given the best chance of education and was thus able to enter Emmanuel College as a sizar in 1707. Many members of the clergy entered university like this, originally financing studies by undertaking tasks within college and, as time went on likely to receive small grants from the College.

Richard was admitted doing his degree in 1709 and he gained his BA in 1711. The bishop of Fulham ordained him as a deacon on May 31st, 1713, but it was the bishop of Lincoln who ordained him into the priesthood on 12th June 1715. Sadly, William Money had died four years previously so did not live to see his son ordained.

Richard began his career as curate at Tolney in 1715. The ecclesiastical records show him being there for four years but no trace of this parish or indeed location can be found. It must be an error in recording, but an alternative has not appeared. In 1720 Richard moved to be curate at Fring and three years later he secured the living of East Walton but maintained the curacy of Fring and the mythical Tolney. Fourteen years after his appointment to East Walton Richard took on the parish of Gayton Thorpe and from that date the two parishes always shared one rector.

Richard Money died in 1755 having served the parish of East Walton for thirty-two years. He was buried in St Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn.

Rev George William Lemon 1726-1797

Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1755-1797

George Lemmon was baptised in Westminster, London on 20th April 1727 when he was just over one year old (born 24th March 1726). His parents were Andrew and Elizabeth Lemon, there is no information about them. George was admitted to Queen's College Cambridge as a sizar in 1743 and gained his BA four years later in 1747. He was ordained priest on 18th March 1753.

Rev George Lemmon came to East Walton in December 1755; he married his wife, Elizabeth Young, at the church on 31st May 1760. George was a very scholarly man, and the quiet life of a country rector suited him, no doubt he was able to pursue his studies between church commitments. However, on 23rd December 1769 he was appointed master at the free grammar school in Norwich.



Presumably he undertook this extra role for financial reasons, it was almost certainly not because he had serious ambitions to be a teacher or that he enjoyed teaching because, according to the biography of his successor Dr Parr "*He (George Lemon) is said to have been not a very skilful teacher, and the school sank under him.*"¹ George endured headship for under ten years resigning in 1779. It is possible that the corporation gave him a small pension. Having given up teaching George was able to concentrate on his academic interests and on writing,

Returned to his role as country vicar George had the time to write an Etymological dictionary and a history of the Wars of the Roses with which he was helped by his patron Edward Spelman. He also created a Latin textbook and several other educational textbooks and tracts.

Rev George Lemmon died on 4th October 1797; he had been ill for some time. He was a much-loved priest, parent and friend and had served East Walton and Gayton Thorpe for over forty years. He was buried in East Walton churchyard and was joined there by his wife Elizabeth.

¹ JOHNSTONE, *Life of Parr*, i. 161).

Rev Martin Coulcher 1767 - 1818

Rector of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1798 – 1818

At the beginning of the twentieth century a later rector of East Walton Rev Andrew Daubeney, wrote a booklet about his predecessors and noted that *“After Mr. Lemon’s death (in 179) the parish fell on rather evil times, as the living was held in conjunction with Gayton Thorpe and Westacre by Martin Coulcher, who, had also a school and clerical work at Wisbech. Mr. Coulcher was a Justice of the Peace and a most worthy man; later he was appointed Headmaster of the King’s Lynn Grammar School, but his parishes were left to the tender mercies of a curate, with not over happy results.”* We don’t know what led the Rev Daubeney to this conclusion nor if it were true, but it is certain that Rev Martin Coulcher was a man with more than one job.

Martin Coulcher was born in 1767 in Acton, Middlesex then a village outside of London. Martin’s father was called William, and his mother was Jane. They surely had money because Martin was educated at Harrow and on March 18th, 1785, he entered Trinity College Cambridge and was able to pay for his education. He gained his BA in 1789 and his MA in 1793. He was ordained deacon in London on April 21st, 1793, and priest by the Bishop of Ely on May 22nd, 1796.

On July 19th, 1793, Martin married Elizabeth Bedell at St Marys, Acton. He was at that time a curate at St Michael Cornhill a very lovely (and busy) church in the city of London. There would not have been much money for the young couple and once Martin was ordained, he sought employment with a better salary. In 1796 he became a master at Wisbech Grammar School. The Coulchers had two small sons, had had another die in infancy and Elizabeth was expecting again when Martin was presented by Anthony Hamond of Westacre as rector of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe in 1798 and in the same year was appointed a master (and later headmaster) of King’s Lynn Grammar School. Martin did not give up the post at Wisbech until 1802 and it seems that the family stayed there because both their son Martin (aged two) and their new daughter Eliza were baptised at Wisbech in 1799. Sadly, the child born in 1798, a boy, had died at birth.

The Coulchers moved to King’s Lynn before the birth of their last son George in 1805. There is no evidence that they ever lived in East Walton or Gayton Thorpe, Martin was a JP and was well-known in the town. Despite this his death apparently happened at Gayton Thorpe in 1818 (he had perhaps moved there later in life) he was fifty-one which was quite young for a gentleman of his class. He was buried at Gayton Thorpe, there is a memorial on the wall of the church.



Sacred
to the Memory of
the Rev.^d MARTIN COULCHER M.A.
Rector of this Parish
and Master of the Grammar School
of Lynn Regis
who died the 18th of May 1818
in the 52nd Year of his Age.

"I have not laboured for myself only, but for
all those who sought Wisdom."

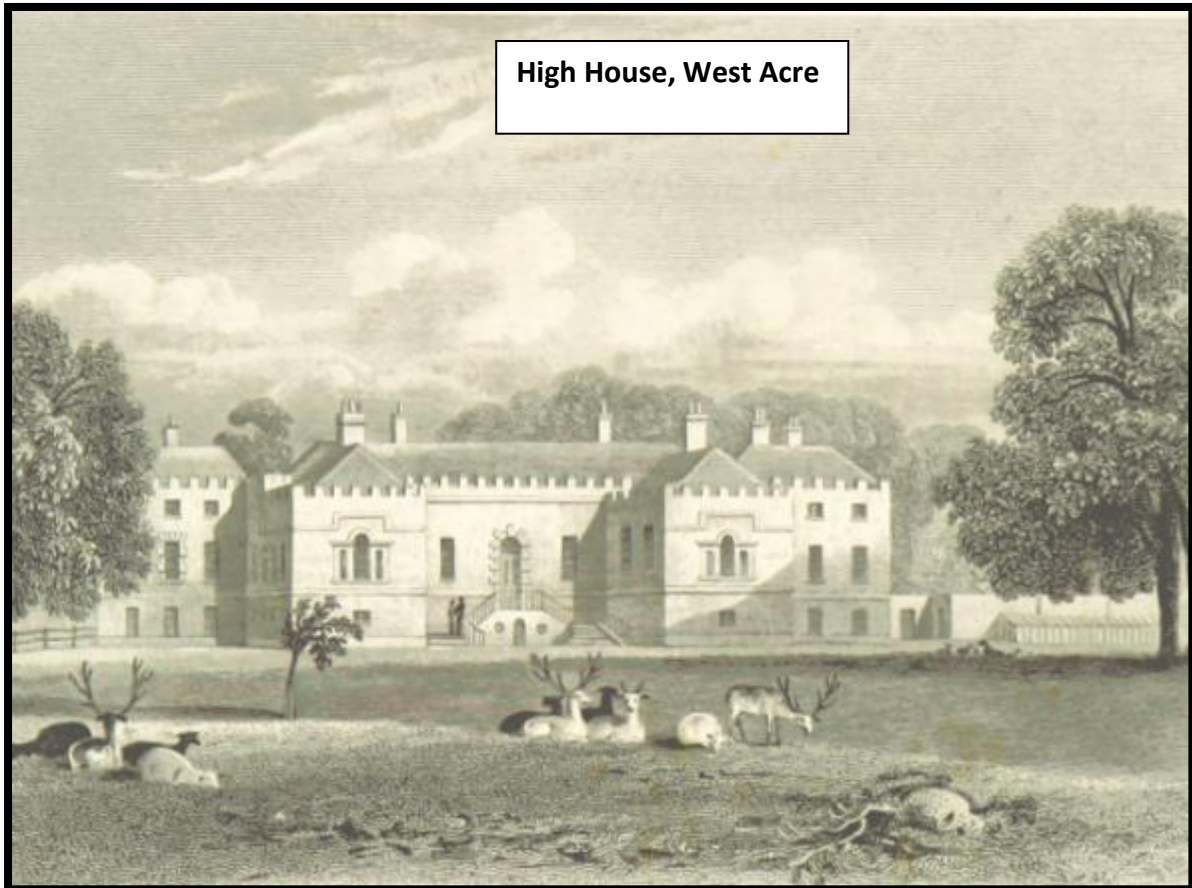
1 Cor. Chap. 14. Ver. 24.

Also
of ELIZABETH his Wife
who died the 22nd of June 1824.

Rev Robert Hamond 1785-1831

Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1818-1831

Robert Hamond was born in 1785 in West Acre, his parents were Anthony Hamond and Sarah Case. Robert was the youngest child of three children born to Anthony Hammond's second wife.



Anthony Hamond was Lord of the Manor at West Acre; he had moved into the newly built High House in 1765. Despite this connection with West Acre Robert was baptised in St Margaret's King's Lynn on 12th April 1785, this may have been because his family were very prominent in South Wootton.

Robert was educated at Eton and from there entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge on 8th March 1804. He was awarded BA in 1808 and in 1811 was awarded MA from Clare College; he became a fellow of that college. Robert was ordained deacon at Norwich on 21st December 1809 and on the same day made curate at East Walton – this was during the rectorship of Rev Martin Coulcher. On 5th June 1814 he was ordained priest and two years later on 23rd June 1816 was granted his first parish at Pensthorpe,. In 1818 when Martin Coulcher died Robert Hamond was given the rectorship of Gayton Thorpe and East Walton. He was presented by his father Anthony Hamond.

In 1824 Robert was granted the living of St Mary Beechamwell which he held until 1829 when he gave it up (and gave up Pensthorpe at the same time) and took on Harpley and Bircham. Pluralism - holding more than one living simultaneously – was a way for clergy to

increase their income, Robert would probably have used salaried curates to cover the extra duties. Officially it was frowned upon, but it happened, and Robert was not exceptional. To be a pluralist required sufficient “interest” (i.e., patronage) be presented to extra livings and to persuade the diocesan bishop to accept and confirm the presentation - as a member of the wealthy Hamond family Robert would certainly have had that.

It seems that Robert lived a quiet life as a country gentleman. He lived with his unmarried sister Sarah in Swaffham Manor which later became the headmasters house for Hamond’s Grammar School and apparently enjoyed rural pursuits. He died, on 14th June 1831 whilst visiting Henry Elwes, a Norfolk gentleman, at his home in Portland Square, London.



Swaffham
Manor

Robert Hamond was brought home to Norfolk and was buried at St Mary’s South Wootton where many of his family are buried.

Seven months after Robert Hamond’s death, in February 1832, the press reported the death of one Charles Denny of Congham whom the Norfolk Chronicle described as “the faithful and devoted servant of the late Rev Robert Hamond”.² Charles Denny’s death from consumptions, was the paper claimed, hastened by grief of his “beloved master”.

² Norfolk Chronicle 25 February 1832

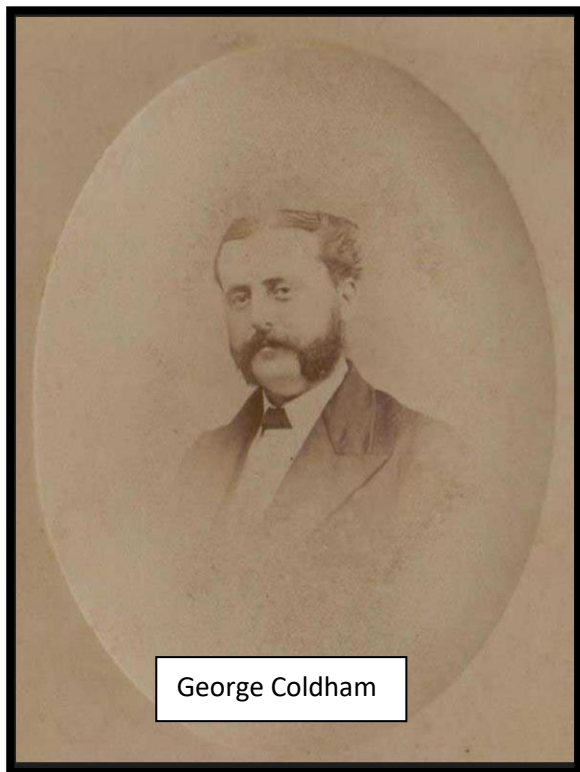
Rev George Coldham 1804-1887
Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1831-1880

George Coldham was born in Anmer on 1st April 1804. He was the youngest of eight children born to James Coldham and his wife Elizabeth. George was probably a rather unexpected arrival as his mother was aged forty-six at the time of his birth and his closest sibling was seven years his elder. Two of the Coldham children (both girls) had died in infancy and the year after George's birth his eldest brother James, who was by then aged twenty and a student at Caius College, drowned whilst swimming in the sea at Heacham.

In January 1821 George followed James to Caius College although his other two brothers, John and Henry, had both been to Trinity. George was ordained deacon on 10th June 1827 and priest on 8th June 1828.

As a deacon he had been appointed curate at his home church of Anmer and a few months later curate at Ingoldisthorpe. One year after his ordination as priest George was appointed rector at Pensthorpe a living which seems to have been in the gift of the Hamond family. Over the next few years George continued to collect parishes - Bagthorpe (curate) in 1830, Gayton Thorpe and East Walton (1831) and Glemsford in Suffolk in 1833. He relinquished Pensthorpe in 1832.

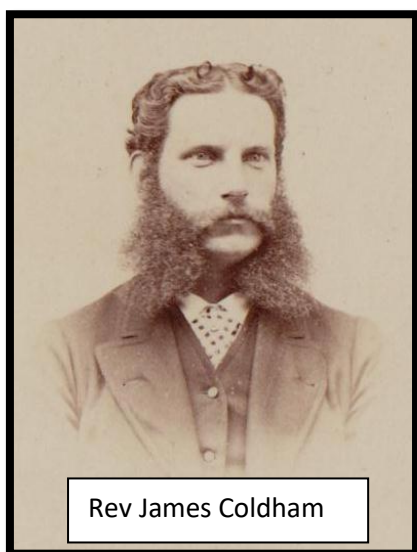
George married Mary Anna Mansfield Clarke in St Nicholas Church in Brighton on 23 January 1832. Mary Anna's father – Sir Charles – was an eminent medical man in London so this was a good marriage for the Coldhams. At the time of the marriage George had not secured the living at Glemsford and the young couple settled in East Walton where their eldest two children were born. It seems however that after 1833 they moved to Glemsford. East Walton cannot have seen much of George. Whilst some priests still practised pluralism - holding more than one living simultaneously, a way for clergy to increase their income - parishes were usually geographically close so that the priest might at least visit each regularly. The distance between East Walton and Glemsford is over fifty miles.



The Coldhams had two more daughters at Glemsford and the first census, in 1841 recorded them living at the Rectory House with their four children. Later that year, on 13th September, Mary Coldham died and was buried at Glemsford. George remarried three years later in April 1844; he married Henrietta Faulkner in Sudbury. George and Henrietta had six children and only one, the first born, did not survive childhood. There would have been over twenty years between George's eldest and youngest daughters. The 1861 census recorded the Coldham family at Glemsford, six of the children were at home; James was at college and Henry Roe at school.



Henrietta Coldham



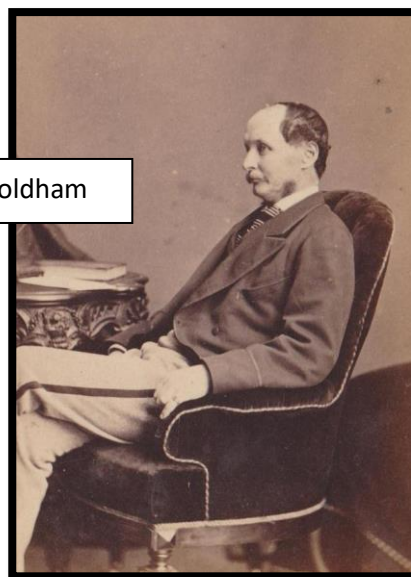
Rev James Coldham

Having attended Eton and Kings College Cambridge

James Coldham was ordained at Lincoln and in 1862 appointed curate at Gayton Thorpe and East Walton. This must have been very pleasing to George, and it may have helped him through a difficult time when in 1863 Harriet died. However, in 1870 Rev James died and was buried at All Saints King's Lynn. The 1871 census showed Rev George a widower again living in the rectory with two of his unmarried daughters and four servants.

In 1873 George's daughter Mary died on 6th May. It is probable that her sister Catherine died during the same year and it is possible they had a shared ailment such as consumption. George's youngest son Henry Roe followed his father and brother into the church and in 1879 he became curate at Glemsford able to help his aging father; he held that post until George's death.

Rev George Coldham died in 1887 and was buried in Glemsford. It is unlikely that anyone in East Walton would have known him.

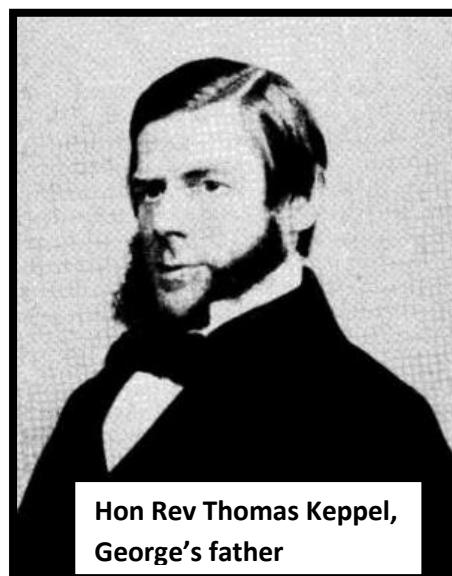


Rev Henry Coldham

Rev George Keppel 1846-1936

Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1880-1883

George Keppel was born on 19th April 1846 in North Creake where his father Thomas was rector. George was child number eleven of the fifteen children born to Thomas and his wife Frances and unusually for those times all the Keppel children grew to adulthood. Thomas Keppel was "the honourable and reverend" as he was the sixth son (in another family of fifteen) of the Earl of Albermarle. This put both him and his family a long way down the aristocratic pecking order and after a very short and unsuccessful stint in the Royal Navy Thomas unsurprisingly opted for Cambridge and the church.



Following the death of Hon and Rev Thomas there was a very large family sharing a legacy which by Keppel family standards was not large. George had two elder brothers in the Royal Navy, one in the church and a wayward one travelling to Australia; George opted for religion and entered Corpus Christi College on 5th October 1865, he was ordained deacon at Ripon in 1871 and priest the following year. The 1871 census recorded him living in Yorkshire where he was a curate at Bardsey church. He was then employed as a curate at Scole in Norfolk and from 1874 at Walmer in Kent. In that same year, on 22nd November, George married Alice La Neve Hart at St Faith's Old Catton where her father was rector. In 1875 George and Alice's only child, a daughter called Gertrude, was born in Walmer. George, Alice and little Gertrude returned to Norfolk; George was appointed vicar of New Buckenham.

The 1881 census found the Keppel family at East Walton; George had taken on Gayton Thorpe and East Walton. This was probably not an easy appointment because as the Rev Daubeney noted some years *later* "*from Mr Lemon's death in 1797 until the year Mr Keppel was appointed there was no resident priest.*"³ Of George's predecessors Rev Hammond had resided with his sister at Swaffham Manor and Rev Coldham, having several parishes, lived at Glemsford in Suffolk.

George did not stay at East Walton very long. In 1883 his older brother Ellice, the only other clergyman in the family, died after a long illness and his parish the village of Winfarthing near Diss, which was in the gift of Lord Egerton of Tatton, passed to George. Winfarthing was a more populous place than East Walton and no doubt provided a larger income.

George stayed at Winfarthing for over twenty years and then ministered an equal time at Intwood near Norwich. He died in retirement in Sheringham in 1936.

³ Andrew Robert Daubeney, "Gayton Thorpe with East Walton, Norfolk - Notes and Sketches of the Churches". 1922

Rev Molyneux Sheffield Crampton Fitzharding Hardinge 1840-1890

Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1883-1886

Molyneux Hardinge was born in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His father Henry Siree Hardinge was born in Dublin; he was not very good with money and in 1831, before taking Holy Orders he was declared bankrupt. Despite this setback, on 2nd February 1831 he married Molyneux's mother Frances Jane Charlotte Betham. Frances' father was Sir William Betham an English-born Irish herald and antiquarian who held the office of Ulster King of Arms from 1820 until his death in 1853. It is hard to believe that he was delighted by the match with Henry Hardinge!

In 1834 Henry was ordained as a priest. Molyneux was the third child of Henry and Frances born in Melton, Suffolk on 16th July 1840. The 1841 census recorded the family resident in Back Street Aldeburgh, Suffolk which from the census appears to have been a road full of pubs. There were three children and three servants in the Hardinge house. In 1848 Frances was pregnant with her sixth child; sadly, both she and the baby, a little boy died. Thus the 1851 census showed Henry rector of Theberton, a widower with four children at home, Molyneux's eldest brother was probably away at school.

Molyneux did not follow the traditional route into the church. The 1871 census recorded him living near Woolwich docks lodging with an elderly Scottish couple Mr and Mrs Charles Sandeman. Mr Sandeman was retired, and he and his wife had another lodger – Summer Toms – in the house as well as Molyneux. Summer and Molyneux were about the same age, and both were clerks somewhere in the docks. On 28th January 1865 Henry Hardinge died; he left under £3000, and his executor was his daughter Letitia who was perhaps the child who had stayed at home with him. A few years later Molyneux entered New College, Oxford.

Henry's death had not left Letitia enough to live on so, like many daughters of the rectory, she sought employment as a governess and the 1871 census recorded her living on the island of Sark with the Le Masurier family who were farmers. The Le Masuriers were both elderly and there are no children in evidence on the census so perhaps Letitia was visiting as a family friend. Molyneux was also there and was listed as an undergraduate of Oxford University. By then he was thirty.

Molyneux was ordained deacon in 1873 and priest in 1874. His first post was as a curate in Mansfield, Nottingham and he then moved to Feltwell in Norfolk. On 15th October 1876 he married Caroline Newcombe in Feltwell. The Newcombes were landed gentry in Feltwell, they lived at The Hall. Caroline's late father had died in 1871 so the farm was run by her widowed mother and Caroline's brother Edward. The newly married Hardinges soon had two small sons – Thomas born in 1877 and Cyril in 1879; one year after Cyril's birth in 1880 Caroline died, she was only twenty-five. It seems that the small Hardinge boys were immediately moved from Molyneux's parish in Essex and taken to live with their maternal grandmother and uncle in Norfolk. The 1881 census recorded Molyneux as vicar of Highwood in Essex, a widower living with two servants. Thomas and Cyril were

recorded living at The Hall where there were several servants including a nursemaid for them. Apart from education in boarding school the boys grew up in Feltwell and as adults both had careers as army officers. There is no information about how much contact or not they had with their father.

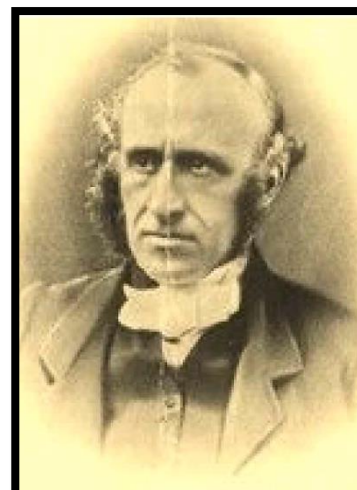
Molyneux Hardinge came to East Walton and Gayton Thorpe in 1883. On 24th September 1884 he married Marcia Arnold at Great Massingham where her father was rector. Although Molyneux was thirteen years older than his daughter Rev Arnold was almost certainly very pleased to see her settled with a fellow clergyman. She was, after all, over thirty.

In 1886 Molyneux and Marcia moved to St Bartholomew's at Barrow. This must have been a very big culture shock for both of them; Barrow was home to a huge steel works and much industry and the population in 1880 was around forty-seven thousand - it was very different to Norfolk. Marcia gave birth to two daughters in Barrow, Edith born in 1887 and Ruth in 1888. The Hardinges didn't have long together as a family as Molyneux died in 1890. Marcia died, very prematurely, just six years later and the girls were sent to live with their Grandma Arnold and Arnold aunties in Bournemouth.

Edith did not marry and died in 1942. Ruth married a very wealthy man with a villa in Italy and a very large country estate, she died in Alassio in 1982.

Rev John Robert Crawford 1845-1942
Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1886-1912

John Robert Crawford was born in Chelsea, London at the end of 1844 and was baptised with his twin sister Hannah at St Luke's Chelsea on 3rd January 1845. His parents, John Robert Snr and Harriet Walford Crawford had a very large family – John and Hannah were the eldest of ten children born in fourteen years. John Robert Snr was born in China as his late father Captain John Robert was a regular soldier in the empire. John Robert Snr did not follow the captain into the military, instead he apparently took an MA at Oxford (there is no evidence of this on the university records) and became a school master. The 1851 census



John Robert Crawford

recorded John Robert Snr and Harriet living at the Grammar School, Castle Street, Berkhamsted with their eldest five children, sundry servants (including one school master) and twenty-two scholars. There were seven children listed on the 1861 census, the Crawford family lived in a house next to (probably attached to) the grammar school, the family employed six servants.

John Robert Junior attended university in Trinity College, Dublin. He was ordained deacon by the bishop of Ripon in 1868 and the 1871 census recorded him as a clerk in holy orders lodging with the Flockton family in Rothwell, Yorkshire. Two years later he was appointed to the curacy of Aberford near Leeds. On 2nd September 1875 John married Emma Ann Brown in Rothwell.

In 1878 John and Emma had their first child, a boy they called Algernon. Algernon was born in Ely so presumably John had taken a position there. Another child, a girl they named Kathleen was born in 1880 also in Ely. The 1881 census however, recorded the family living at 24 Friar Street, Kings Lynn with John registered as a curate. It was not recorded whether he was serving at All Saints or St Margarets. There were two servants recorded at the house, a cook and a nursemaid who seem to have come with them from Ely. The Crawford's second daughter, Norah, was born in Kings' Lynn in 1882 but by the time their youngest child Gladys was born the family had moved to Lofthouse, Yorkshire where John had secured his own parish and was vicar.

In 1886 John became rector at East Walton and the family returned to Norfolk. The 1891 census recorded the rectory as a full and busy home. John and Emma's four children were there and there were also two teenaged nephews visiting from Yorkshire. There were just two servants. The children grew up in the rectory and were confirmed in the church at

East Walton. Algernon left home – the 1901 census recorded him working as a brewer in Salford, Lancashire –his sisters appeared on the census still living at the rectory with their parents and two servants but just after the census Norah married Dr Edwin Swainson in Stratford upon Avon.

By the time of the 1911 census John was sixty-six. He and Emma had been married for thirty-five years which was a very long time for those days. Norah and Algernon were both married, and Kathleen and Gladys were both of an age to leave home. The household kept two young servants. In 1912 Kathleen married Charles Wylie, an engineer, in East Walton Church, it must have been one of the last events for John as he left East Walton that year and moved to become vicar at Narborough. The following year, on November 12th, 1913, Gladys married Fernley Knight, the farmer at Abbey Farm, East Walton in Narborough church.

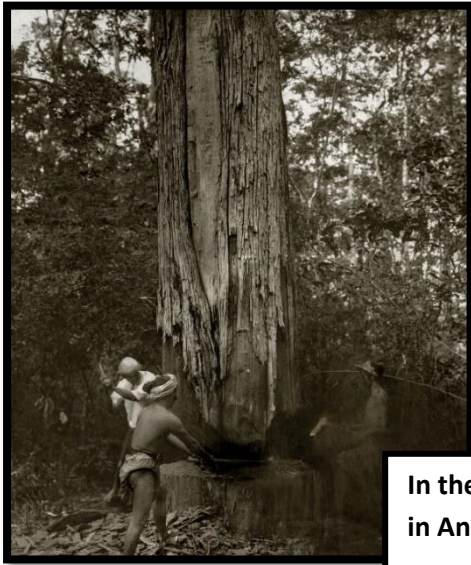
The 1921 census showed John and Emma living at the vicarage in Narborough with two servants. They had their daughter Kathleen and son-in-law Charles staying/ living with them. John died at the vicarage on 28th March 1924.

Rev Andrew Robert Vaughan Daubeney 1873-1971
Rector of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1912-1931

Rev Andrew Daubeney was born into a clerical family – when he was born in 1873 his father Edmund was rector of Bedhampton, Hampshire. Rev Edmund and his wife Mary had nine children, Andrew was the middle child and had only one brother; there were seven girls. The 1881 census recorded the family at the rectory in Bedhampton, at that time there were eight children as Andrew’s youngest sister Olive was born in 1882.

By the time of the 1891 census the family had moved to Market Weston in Suffolk. Andrew’s brother Edmund had left home to study at Clare College Cambridge, Andrew remained at home being schooled by a governess with his sisters. Edmund gained his BA in that year and was ordained in 1892 in Norwich. He took up a post as curate in King’s Lynn. Andrew entered Caius College in 1893 but he clearly was a more restless soul than Edmund and in 1896 he took a job with the Bombay and Burma Trading Company and set off to work in the teak forests of Burma.

The BBTC originally operated only in Burma, but by the turn of the century it was the biggest teak exporting company in the area Siam as well.



In the Burmese teak forests
in Andrew Daubeney's time



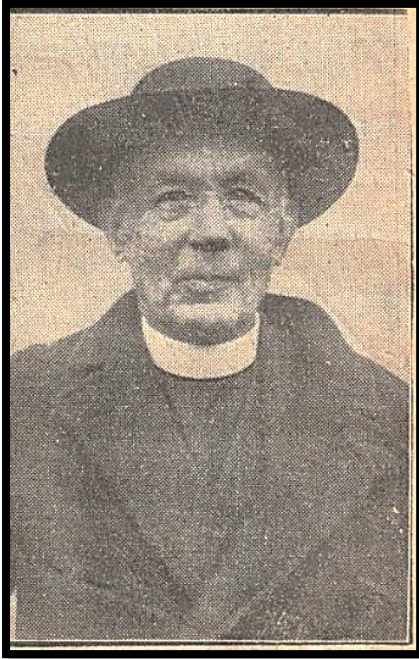
After three years in the far east Andrew Daubeney returned to England. He did not however “settle” as his family might have anticipated but signed up in the Coldstream Guards. This was by no means a soft option; the prewar British army drew its rankers from the working-classes and life in the army was probably just as hard as the one they had left. Even in the Guards regiments Andrew Daubeney would have experienced a life quite unlike his earlier years, mixing with all kinds of people it was perhaps a good training for his later career. The Guards regiments recruited men for three years with the colours and nine years on the reserve. Andrew signed up on 24th May 1899 in London he was promoted to corporal on 30th September 1901 and to Sergeant on 17th March 1902. On 20th September 1902, with three years and one hundred- and twenty-days service, he paid eighteen pounds to leave. There is no mention of his going onto the reserve so perhaps paying the fee removed that obligation.

Rev Andrew Daubeney was ordained in 1904 and his first posts were in the west country in Devon and then in St Austell, Cornwall. He came to Norfolk in 1907 (was granted a curacy at West Acre) and in 1908 he married Rachel Harbord the daughter of a Norfolk rector. The 1911 census recorded them living at the Vicarage, Weasenham where Andrew was vicar. Four years later Andrew and Rachel came to live at East Walton; Andrew was appointed rector of Gayton Thorpe and East Walton in 1912 but it seems he retained an interest in Mulbarton and did not move to East Walton until 1914.

Andrew and Rachel were not blessed with children -Rachel was over forty when they were married – but they maintained an interest in the young people in their families. The 1921 census recorded that they had staying with them Judith Harbord Rachel’s twenty-one-year-old niece, and Andrew’s niece Rosamund who was aged only eleven and an orphan. The parents of this unfortunate child, Andrew’s sister Agatha and her ex-husband John Tudor Frere, had divorced when Rosamund was a baby. The case had been particularly colourful and was reported at length in the national press. After separating Agatha had apparently declined and died when Rosamund was only three and John Frere, an elderly man, died in 1918 aged seventy-five and left nothing to Rosamund. It is likely that Andrew and Rachel took the child in permanently although they may have shared her with other aunts and uncles.

In 1922 Rev Andrew wrote a booklet about East Walton and Gayton Thorpe Churches. called, "Gayton Thorpe with East Walton, Norfolk - Notes and Sketches of the Churches"; it is still in existence and a very useful primary source for local historians. Andrew Daubeney left East Walton in 1931 to go to Mulbarton with Kennington. The 1939 census recorded him at Wayland Rectory with Rachel and a cook. Rachel Daubeney died in Norwich in 1947; Andrew in Loo Water Nursing Home, Heacham in 1971.

Rev Herbert Francis Edward Whalley 1857-1937
Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1931 - 1935



Herbert Whalley was born into a clerical family. His father Richard Ambrose, himself the son of a vicar, was curate at Terrington St Clement at the time of Herbert's birth and was then rector at Gaywood for many years. Herbert was the eldest of three children, he had one sister and one brother. For some unknown reason Herbert's education began at Miss Thompson's School for Girls on Stonegate Street. From here he moved to King's Lynn Grammar School where he did not fare very well reaching only the third form. He moved on to St Edward's School, Oxford. This school was newly founded (in 1863) by an Oxford clergyman and here Herbert was both happy and successful. He found his vocation and although his father was a Cambridge man in 1878 Herbert went to St Augustine's

Missionary School in Canterbury intending to serve abroad.

In 1882 Herbert was sent to Kohala in Hawaii. Herbert's flock all spoke Chinese – he did not, so he ministered to his congregation with the help of a Chinese lay reader who could translate. Ordained in 1883, Herbert's enthusiasm and determination was apparent as the community built and open a new church- St Augustine's which was consecrated on February 10th, 1884. In 1885 Herbert married Mary Louisa Ulyat in Kohala. Mary was the only daughter of a Walpole farmer so must have travelled to Hawaii for her marriage. It was a long journey, and her parents must have been anxious. All was well and Herbert and Mary welcomed their son Clement in Kohala in the same year. Life was not easy in Kohala, and the climate was not very good and in 1887 Herbert, Mary and Clement returned to Norfolk.

Herbert took a post as curate at Walpole St Peter and in 1889 a daughter was born. However, quite soon the Whalleys were on the move across the ocean again, Herbert accepted the rectorship of St Marys in Douglas, New Brunswick. Herbert's new parish was in an area much concerned with the lumber industry and settlements and churches were quite far apart. At the end of one year in Canada Herbert was appointed sub dean in the diocese of Fredricton. He was then invited to become the first dean of Calgary in Alberta. Unfortunately, this was delayed when Herbert became very ill with pneumonia and in the autumn of 1901, he returned to England with Mary, Clement and three girls. The 1901 census recorded Herbert as a clergyman living in Ely Road, Hilgay with his wife Mary and daughters Ursula and Hilda. Herbert was curate at Hilgay recovering his strength for a return to Canada. Clement was living in Gaywood with Herbert's parents and Dorothy was

visiting her aunt in Warrington. Herbert had vowed to return to Canada, and he soon returned to New Brunswick where he became rector of Hampton.

In 1910 Herbert came back to be curate of Gaywood, his father's old parish. He was there for three years before becoming vicar of East Winch in 1913. When the war began Herbert went to the recruiting office to see if he could sign on but being well over fifty, he was far too old. He therefore became a special constable. Herbert's son Clement, who had been in Canada, arrived in England in January 1916 and signed up as a chaplain in the British forces. Herbert and Mary's eldest daughter, Dorothy, was married at East Winch to Charles Clowes whom she had met during the family's time in Canada. She happily left for New Brunswick with her new husband but just a few years later news was received of her tragic sudden death. Her mother Mary died a short time afterwards in 1921.

Herbert was undoubtedly bereft after Mary's death; they had done so much together over nearly forty years. Herbert asked if he might return to Gaywood, this was granted, and he left East Winch in 1921. Herbert spent ten happy years at Gaywood where he felt loved and at home. Two years after Mary's death Herbert met and married Kate Hyde. Kate was a widow; like Herbert she had grown up children and, in her Herbert probably found a kindred soul offering consolation and companionship in his later years. Herbert worked very hard at Gaywood; he was extremely useful to the archdeacon and endeared himself to all his parishioners. After ten years he was tiring and the move to East Walton and Gayton Thorpe offered a smaller and calmer parish at which he was to be rector rather than curate.

During their years at East Walton Rev and Mrs Whalley oversaw several improvements to the church and Rev Whalley was often seen travelling around the parish in a pony and trap; he continued to visit and care for all his parishioners. In 1935 Herbert finally took retirement moving to South Wootton. Sadly, at the end of 1936 his health began to deteriorate and despite devoted nursing from Kate he died in February 1937 and was buried at Gaywood. It was a cold and very wet day, but a huge number of people turned out to express their love and gratitude and say farewell. The many spoken and written tributes spoke of a life lived in the service of others.

Clement Whalley served again as a chaplain in World War 2 and his sons, Herbert's grandsons were also in the forces.

Rev Richard Alfred Woodham Waddilove 1867-1942

Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1935-1939

Richard Waddilove was born in London in prosperous Kensington Garden Square. His father Edward was a solicitor and Richard had five sisters and one brother. By the time of the 1871 census when Richard was only three, his mother Martha was already dead. Richard had twin sisters born in 1868 and his mother died the following year; perhaps she never recovered from a difficult confinement.

The 1881 census recorded Richard, aged thirteen, a pupil at Marlborough College boarding at a house called St Mary's in Silverless Street. The school was not yet forty years old and pupils were boarded in the town under the care of a house head; there were fifteen boys at St Mary's. In 1885 Richard entered Selwyn College, Cambridge. Selwyn was only three years old; it had been founded in 1882 in memory of George Augustus Selwyn, the first Bishop of New Zealand 1841-68, and at the end of his life, Bishop of Lichfield (1868-78). By all accounts George Selwyn was a very remarkable man and the founders of the college wanted a college to educate everyone, not simply a college to educate future clergymen. However, the colleges two aims (in the charter) reflected George's Selwyn's wishes to make provision for those who intended to serve as missionaries overseas and to educate the sons of clergymen. It is tempting to think that life in a new academic establishment was exciting and glamorous, but it was in fact far from the latter. Conditions were primitive, the college population was very small, and the college struggled to become accepted in the university. Many buildings were temporary and in Richard's years there would have been no electricity or even gas lighting in students' accommodation and the lavatories were earth closets. Despite all these problems Selwyn College survived (unlike two other new colleges of the same era) Richard gained his BA in 1892 and was ordained in 1893 in Rochester.

In 1897 Richard married Ethel Hall in Kensington and he was fortunate to become curate at St Mary Abbott in Kensington an area he probably knew well. Richard's father had died a few years earlier but had left his money – of which there was rather less than might be expected – to his military brother and his eldest son, Richard's brother. Richard and Ethel could not rely upon a cushion of family money and Richard needed to seek advancement in the church. The 1901 census recorded them as childless still living in Kensington at Douro Place which was a very nice area. In 1905 the Waddiloves had their first child, a daughter called Ethel Pamela and the following year Richard became rector at Ashted in Surrey.

The living at Ashted was a big step up in financial terms. Two more children were born at the rectory – Sylvia and David. The 1911 census recorded the family living at the rectory with Ethel's mother and sister. There were five servants, but the house was large enough to accommodate this big household as the census recorded there were seventeen rooms.

By the time of the 1921 census Pamela was away at school in Calne Wiltshire (at a school founded by a Church of England clergyman) and David was at prep school in Sussex. Ethel and Richard were registered living alone with Sylvia.



Ashtead Rectory in 1908

In 1928 Richard and Ethel moved back to Kensington. Richard became vicar at St Mary Boltons, South Kensington. St Marys is a Victorian church built to accommodate the newer residential areas of Brompton; it has always served a well-heeled parish. Richard and Ethel were back in Richard's home area and serving a prosperous parish, they must have been very happy. But Ethel died in 1931; she was taken back to Ashtead to be buried there, perhaps it was where she had been happiest. Four years later, in 1935, Richard made a surprising move to Norfolk; he was in his sixties, perhaps he wanted a quieter life which he undoubtedly would have found at East Walton.

Richar Waddilove stayed only four years at East Walton before moving to Farley in Hampshire. Farley is also a rural parish but in the 1930s it perhaps felt less isolated than Norfolk. The 1939 census recorded Richard living in the rectory with a married couple domestic help as cook and chauffeur.

Rev Richard Waddilove died on 27th July 1942 in St Andrew's Hospital, London. He was buried at St Giles Church, Ashtead with his wife Ethel.

Rev Albert Robert William Gray 1899-1982
Rector of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1939-1945

Albert Gray was born at the very end of the nineteenth century – November 1899 – in Ireland. His father William was a surveyor in the Royal Engineers and the family lived in Kilmainham, Dublin an area close to the Victorian prison and a military hospital. William Gray originally came from Lincolnshire whereas Albert’s mother Rebecca was Irish from County Mayo. Albert had three brothers and just one sister who was the youngest child.

Albert was brought up and educated in Ireland. He must have had a good education because he became a school master. For five years he served with the Army Education Corps, it is just possible that he may be in the picture below.



1919 Corps of Army Schoolmasters and the Queen’s Army Schoolmistresses looked after the education of both soldiers and their children. They served both at home and overseas and were qualified teachers.

Albert’s second job was at Wesley College in Dublin. Wesley College began as a Methodist establishment but later incorporated all strands of Protestantism. It was, and remains, unique in Catholic Dublin. The school still exists but it is now housed in new modern buildings. The chapel in the Victorian building contained a war memorial which was removed to the new build along with a large memorial window which was donated to a Protestant college in Belfast.



Albert had decided upon a career in the church, was ordained in 1933 in the Diocese of Southwark and had his first post as curate at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Streatham Vale. It was probably there that he met his wife Margery as she lived in Croydon where she and Albert were married in 1937. Shortly after this they moved as Albert took up a post in Iver, Buckinghamshire.

When war broke out in 1939 Albert was able, with the support of Henry Birkbeck of West Acre, to come to East Walton and Gayton Thorpe. The 1939 register recorded Margery living in East Walton but not Albert. It is possible he was involved in his chaplain's role; from July 1939 he was appointed as chaplain to Territorial Forces. Albert and Margery remained at East Walton for the duration of the war and in 1945 moved not very far – down the road to West Acre and South Acre.

In 1947 the Grays made a long move to Cornwall. Albert became rector of St Michael Penkivel and Lamorran-with-Merther. Lamorran and Merther churches were unused even in Albert's time and Merther (below left) already a ruin.



Albert was rector at Penkivel for over thirty years. He died in 1982 and was buried in the churchyard at St Michael's. Margery died very soon afterwards and joined him there.

Rev Horace Edwyn Jones 1873 - 1967
Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1945-1947

Horace Jones (sometimes referred to by his second name Edwyn) was born in Wolverhampton in the midlands. Neither of his parents originated in the area, Walter Jones, an engineer by trade came from Cheshire and his wife Jessie was from Co Durham. However, the census recorded that all five of the Jones children were born in Wolverhampton.

By the time of the 1881 census, when Horace was aged seven, the family had moved to central London where Walter had a responsible job managing an iron works. By 1891 the family had moved again to Kent. It may have been that they wished to get out of central London as their address was Gravesend area. Horace was seventeen and had a clerical job. Perhaps like many young people he was unsure of what he wanted to do. Horace's mother died in 1901 and two years later in 1903 Horace went to Durham to study theology.

Horace was ordained in 1910 at St Albans and his first post was as curate at St James, Walthamstow. St James was a mid-Victorian church built in the 1840s as the coming of the railways and later the car changed the rural village of Walthamstow into an urban district. Whilst he was working in Walthamstow Horace married Kate Elizabeth Sneezum and they began married life in a small suburban house in Walthamstow.

Over the next ten years (and through the Great War) Horace and Kate moved to two more parishes close to London – Higham Park in 1913 and Hitchin in 1915 – and then Horace took an ecclesiastical administration job for the Waifs and Strays Society of York and Ripon. The Jones had three children born in those years – Muriel in 1914, Vera in 1917 and Geoffrey in 1920. In 1923 the family took a big decision to go and serve in New Zealand.

Horace served three parishes in New Zealand. From 1923 – 5 he was vicar of Raetihi a rural settlement on the North Island and then Bulls with Sandon (another rural settlement) for three years. In 1928 the family moved to the South Island where Horace had the parish of Frankton near Queenstown. It was then a separate town but is now a suburb. In 1930 Kate, Horace and the children set off on the long journey to England. For Kate and Horace, it would be a home coming but the children, particularly Geoffrey, must have had mixed feelings about heading to a grey, chilly country of which their memories were few.

Back in England Horace served first in Ilford and then in Heybridge a large village next door to Maldon in Essex. Here Horace and Kate performed an important role in saving people from Nazi Europe. The 1939 survey recorded the residents at Heybridge Vicarage as Kate, Horace, and their daughter Muriel, the First Aid Organiser Mr Drewitt and the Feldsteins who were refugees from Nazi Germany. A parishioner of Horaces, Mrs Reynolds-Brown, a Quaker, read an advertisement in "The Friend" magazine. It read "Doctors and wives in extreme peril". Mrs Reynolds-Brown immediately tried to help, and she was finally able, through contacts to free the family. Dr Benedict Feldstein and his wife Sophia who had been imprisoned once in a concentration camp, Benedict's brother

Dr Hugo and his wife Helene. Horace and Kate hosted Benedict and Sophia Feldstein for some time during which they had to secure for their guests cards exempting them from internment which would otherwise have been their fate as Germans (aliens). Another problem arose when a Government Order came prohibiting any aliens in the Essex area. The Feldsteins left for Wales and the doctors secured jobs in a rural hospital. Mrs Reynolds-Brown, Horace and Kate had saved the lives of these four people.

After the war Horace came to Norfolk. He came to East Walton and Gayton Thorpe in 1945 and stayed just two years. Perhaps after London and Essex it was just too quiet in Norfolk. After Norfolk he and Kate went to Fringford in Oxfordshire where he stayed until his retirement in 1953. He moved to Rustington in Sussex to make a retirement home there.

Horace Edwyn Jones died at Rustington in 1967. Kate Jones died, aged ninety-six, in 1972 at Rustington.

A very special wedding at East Walton in Horace Jones' time as rector



Warrant Officer C. H. Younger, RAAF, of East Hawthorn, Victoria (Australia) who bailed out of a Wellington Bomber aircraft over Paris 1942-05 and was a prisoner of war (POW) for nearly three years until 1945-04-16, was married to Miss Margaret Gilby of Chadwell, Heath, in the 1200-year-old church of St Mary at East Walton, near King's Lynn on 14th July 1945.

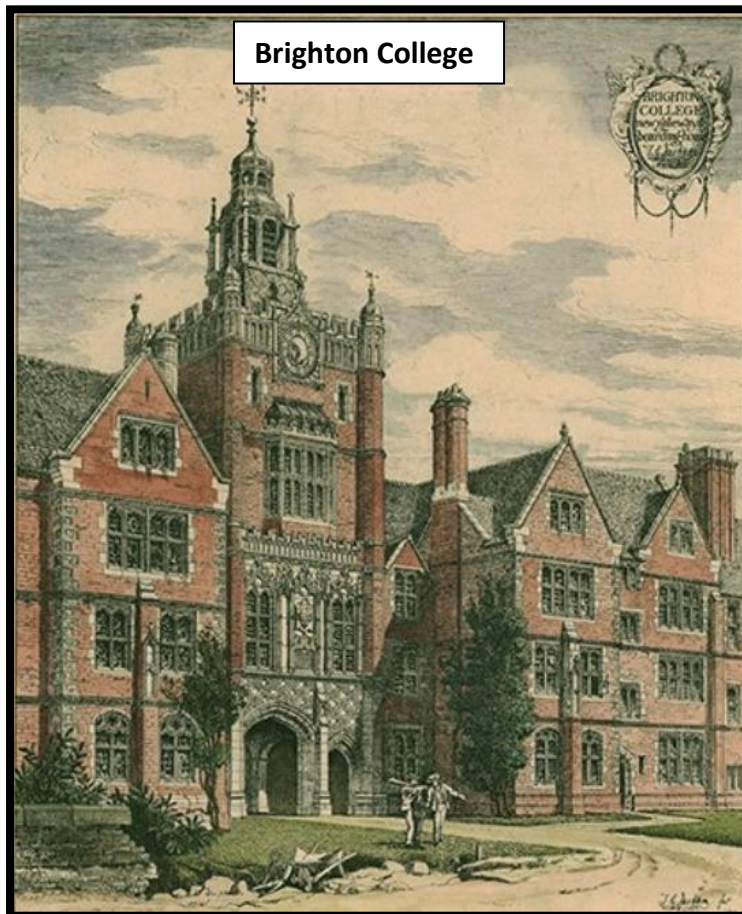


The wedding was delayed because the bridegroom's car broke down!

Rev John Gordon Thornton 1884-1969

Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1948-1955

John Gordon Thornton was born in Nottingham in 1884. His parents, Henry and Katherine, were distantly related and both came from wealthy families. Henry was a banker in the city and the family lived on Rope Walk, a street of large houses. Henry and Katherine had eight children; three girls and five boys, John was the youngest. By the time of the 1891 census two of the Thornton children were already living away from home leaving parents, six children and six servants in the house on Rope Walk.



By the time of the 1901 census John too was living away. He was a student at Brighton College. This was the first independent school founded in Sussex. The buildings were designed by George Gilbert Scott and from its foundation the school sought to establish a reputation for innovative thinking and for questioning the traditional teaching methods.

John followed his brother Claude to Trinity College, Cambridge. He received his BA in 1907 (the year after his mother's death) and was ordained the following year after which he went to be a curate at St Andrews,

Auckland. This must have been a huge culture shock for the young priest as up to 5,000 men and boys were employed in the pits and drifts around his church and one journalist described the area as 'smothered by some of the ugliest features of industrial growth ever to be found'. The experience did not daunt John and in 1913 he moved to Bradford another industrial town, but one dominated by the fabric industry.

In 1914 the war started, and the Thornton brothers went into action. John became a military chaplain as did his brother Claude. Two other brothers were military men. Only the eldest Henry appears to have remained uninvolved. Henry seems to be something of an outsider or black sheep of the Thornton family; he served in the army for two years in South Africa and left to take up a business opportunity possibly using money left to him by an aunt. The 1911 census listed him as a estate agent living in a tiny cottage in Mumbles, South Wales and the 1921 census noted him boarding at a lodging house in

Paddington with no occupation. He sailed to Jamaica in 1933 and died there the following year.

John's two military brothers were Godfrey and Pascoe. Godfrey St Leger Thornton was a regular soldier. He joined in 1899, in time for the Boer War in 1901 and served in Africa until 1913. He was in the artillery (at different times the RHA and the RFA), went to Gallipoli and was injured in September 1915. He was awarded the DSO in February 1916. Whilst serving on the Western Front he was again injured and in October 1917 he was sent home to England for an operation and further medical treatment. He appeared to be recovering and went to stay with his sister Gertrude and her husband Frank Seeley (a wealthy colliery owner) at Calverton Hall in Nottinghamshire. Sadly, he began to ail and he died, aged thirty-eight on 4th February 1918.

Pascoe Spencer Thornton was the second of the Thornton sons. At fourteen he attended the naval college at Dartmouth and passed his mate's certificate at the age of twenty—one when he was in the merchant navy. He went to sail in the Far East coming home to marry in May 1914 just before the start of WW1. During the war Pascoe who, after many years around the China Seas, was fluent in Mandarin, was recruited as an interpreter and worked recruiting and training men for the Chinese Labour Force. He died on 10th April 1917 in Fupai Hospital, Qingdao, Shandong presumably of illness and was buried in Sai Wan China Memorial cemetery in Hong Kong.

Claude like John became a military chaplain. Chaplains were supposed to be non-combatants but one hundred and seventy-nine British Army Chaplains died in the war and some, especially Catholic priests, disobeyed orders to stay behind the front line. After the war Claude served in several parishes around South London whilst John, who had married in 1917, went to be vicar of Mears Ashby in Northamptonshire where he stayed until 1923 when he moved to Woolaton back in his birth county of Nottinghamshire. In 1925 he was appointed Rural Dean of Beeston (the deanery encompassing Woolaton) and he stayed in Nottinghamshire until 1934 when he took a parish of Market Overton in Rutland.

In 1937 John was offered the living at North Creake which was in the gift of the Bishop of Norwich. He and Judith with their sons Godfrey and John moved to Norfolk. Judith was born in Norfolk and had deep family ties in the area so for her this must have been something of a homecoming.

The 1939 census recorded John and Judith living at the rectory in North Creake, both were involved in the Home Front war effort; John as an ARP warden and chairman of the Evacuation Committee. Judith was Senior Casualty worker and Red Cross Detachment Commandant. Godfrey was away at school in Winchester.

After the war, in 1948, John was offered the joint parish of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe. The parish was at that time in the gift of Judith's relations, the Birkbeck family. From 1950 John was also responsible for overseeing West Acre. 1951 was a busy year for John and Judith – John was appointed Rural Dean and in March they travelled to West Bradenham church where John carried out the marriage of their son Godfrey to Barbara

Saxon. Two years later however, John handed over the role of Rural Dean to the rector of Gaywood and in 1955 when he was over seventy, he announced his retirement.

John Thornton left East Walton in August 1955. His parishioners presented him with a television set as a retirement gift; televisions were still quite unusual and this must have been quite an exciting present.

Judith Thornton died in 1966 in Mount Alvernia, a private hospital in Guildford. Rev John Gordon Thornton died three years later and was buried at East Walton. His parishioners put a memorial in the church to this popular priest.



Rev William Leonard Bertrum Caley 1891 - 1974
Rector of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1955-1964

William Caley was born in August 1891 in Watton, Norfolk where his father was the vicar. William was the second child in the family – there were eventually three girls and two boys. The 1901 census recorded the Caley family living at St Mattias Vicarage Plymouth – William Snr’s latest parish. There were now two boys and two girls in the family, one small daughter having died in 1894.

The 1911 census recorded William staying with a paternal great aunt at Cromer. He was



London College of Divinity
(St John’s Hall)

listed as a student of divinity and at this time would have been studying at London College of Divinity, an evangelical college founded in the 1860s. William’s younger brother Vernon was at school at Dean Close School in Cheltenham, a

Christian private school. It is probable that William attended there between the censuses.

William was ordained in Essex just before the war so when the war started, he went to serve initially with the YMCA and then the Royal Army Chaplains Department. Chaplains were supposed to be non-combatants but one hundred and seventy-nine British Army Chaplains died in the war and some, especially Catholic priests, disobeyed orders to stay behind the front line. When war broke out Vernon Caley had just started studying to become a chemist but he immediately signed on, received his commission with the Warwickshire Regiment in February 1915 and went to France later in the year. He received the MC whilst fighting on the Somme in August 1916 when he was wounded by a shell and was killed the following year in August 1917. He was twenty-one and this must of course have been a huge blow for the whole family.



It appears that William returned to formal education after the war – he was awarded BA in 1918 and MA in 1920. The following year, 1921, William married Freda Guthrie Alexina Caley in Erpingham, Norfolk. Bride and groom were distantly related through their fathers. Rev William Caley Snr is on the far right.



At the time of his marriage William was based at St Paul's Stratford. The 1921 census recorded William and Freda staying at an address in Ilfracombe, Devon. It would be nice to think they were on their honeymoon but there's no evidence of that.

In 1925 William and Freda left London and went to Nottingham to St Anne's and their son William John Christopher was born there in 1930. Rev William Snr, having remarried after the death of William Jnr's mother in 1906, was also living in Nottingham and died there in 1933.

The 1939 census recorded William, Freda and their son William John Christopher living in Bournemouth. William was listed as secretary of the Church Missionary Society and was also an ARP, Freda was working part-time at the Red Cross Hospital. Sometime in the 1940s the Caley's moved to Wiltshire where William was Rural Dean of Wilton.

William Caley was first appointed as curate to West Acre before coming to East Walton in 1955; he was the first vicar to hold both East Walton and Gayton Thorpe. The Caley's were at East Walton for nine happy years. Returning to Norfolk was a homecoming for both William and Freda as they had both been born and raised in the county. By 1964 Canon William L B Caley had completed fifty years in the ministry and it seemed a good time to retire. Despite being local to Norfolk the press report of William's retirement stated that he and Freda were moving to Folkestone - their son William John was living in Kent.

When they left in September 1964 the parish presented them with fifty guineas (fifty pounds and fifty shillings i.e., £52.50) the 2023 equivalent of nine hundred pounds.

Freda Caley died in Folkestone at home in Folkestone on 19th September 1969 but was buried in the churchyard at St Martins, Overstrand, Norfolk. In his last years William went into Montana Care Home in Bury St Edmonds, a home run by the Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady of Grace and Compassion. He died there on 8th July 1974 but was buried with Freda at Overstrand.

Rev Donald Keith Innes 1933-2020
Rector of East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1965-70

Donald Keith Innes was born in Hastings, Sussex in 1933 although his parents were both native to London and the suburbs. His mother Jessie Goodwin came from Croydon, her father was an ambitious man who rose from the clerical ranks to become company secretary in a large textile warehouse; his father Alfred was a bank clerk in the same bank as Donald's grandfather. At the time of the 1911 and 1921 censuses both families employed a maid and might be called respectable and aspirational working-class.

Alfred and Jessie married in 1929 in the parish church at Addington, Donald was born four years later in 1933 in Hastings. It is not clear whether the family had moved there, this is not clarified by the 1939 register which recorded Jessie and Donald living with the Innes grandparents in Battle whilst Alfred was resident at the Elgin Court Hotel in Croydon. Battle was probably a safer place for a child at that time.



Clifton College, Bristol in the 1950s

In 1956 Donald entered St John's College, Oxford and after that went on to Clifton Theological School in Bristol. This college later amalgamated with two others to become Trinity College. Donald was ordained in 1958 and in 1959 he married Gillian Lowe in Romford, Essex.

Donald was curate in Essex (at the new Harold Hill GLC estate) and then at St John's Church, Ealing a very large and busy church which served a community of over nine

thousand. He and Gillian had two very small children when, in 1965, they

moved to Norfolk to Gayton Thorpe and East Walton, parishes with a population of around five hundred. Donald was also to be vicar of West Acre.

Gill and Donald settled into the pattern of village life with fetes, marriages, and even successful summer evening parties. They had another daughter whilst at East Walton. However, in 1970 the Innes family moved to Woking in Surrey and after that Donald was rector of parishes in Sussex and the Kent weald before his retirement in 1997.

Donald and Gill retired to Ringmer in Sussex. Donald was very interested in environmental issues and set up a Christian Ecology Link group. He wrote extensively in his retirement. Gill died in 2014 and Donald in 2020 aged eighty-seven.

Rev Geoffrey Wilbur Ronald Berry 1922-2004
Rector East Walton and Gayton Thorpe 1971-1979

Geoffrey Berry's family were a clergy family. His great-grandfather George was vicar at All Saints, Wandsworth; his grandfather George Benton was vicar at Emanuel, Plymouth but Geoffrey's father George Evelyn broke the mould and chose another career.

George Evelyn and Geoffrey's mother Elinor were married before the Great War, Geoffrey's sister Elizabeth was born in 1913. He also had a brother called Alan born in 1915, Geoffrey was seven years younger than Alan so probably the war intervened. In those years the Berrys moved to India where George worked as a telegraphist for the Eastern Telegraph Company. It is likely that Geoffrey was born in India although we have not found proof of that. George, Elinor and Geoffrey returned to England from Bombay in 1926 on a ship called Morea via Gibraltar. The two older children weren't with them, perhaps George had been unable to secure passage for all of them or, more likely, at the aged of thirteen and eleven they had already returned to England for schooling. The family returned to England because George's father Rev George Benton Berry had died very suddenly on a trip to Jerusalem and there must have been things to sort.

The 1939 census recorded George, Elinor and Geoffrey living in Ruislip. George had retired and was volunteering as an ARP. Geoffrey was still at school and not old enough to join the forces. However, in 1943 he was recorded as a young officer in the Indian Army, and he served in Assam, Java and Malaya. As Geoffrey had roots in "the colonies" it is not surprising that he is reported as having served in the colonial service in North Borneo for some years after the war. On 12th May 1952 he arrived back in England on the P&O ship Canton which had sailed from Hong Kong; Singapore; Penang; Colombo; Bombay; Suez and Port Said. He was listed as being employed in the colonial service and gave a central London address.

It was in the 1950s that Geoffrey began a career in the church. He was ordained in St Paul's in 1956 and took up a post in Ruislip, Middlesex. He married Anne Perry in Harrow in 1959. Like Geoffrey Anne came from a family with links to the clergy, at the time of her marriage her brother John was completing his training for the ministry.

In 1960 Anne and Geoffrey moved to St Matthias at Poplar. St Matthias is a

unique church in being the only interregnum church in London. It was built by the East India Company in 1654 and escaped the Blitz with only very minor damage. It is possible that Geoffrey remained here until the move to East Walton because in 1970 St Matthias merged with St Anne's, Limehouse. St Matthias was thriving but St Anne's, with much



smaller congregations, was architecturally too prestigious to close. So, the two churches joined, and the congregation of St Matthias moved to Limehouse. It is possible that Geoffrey, who may even have opposed this change, decided on a move to the country especially as he and Anne had by then four children.

Rev Geoffrey Berry was at East Walton and Gayton Thorpe for nine years and was the last rector to serve Gayton Thorpe and East Walton (also acting as vicar to West Acre) as thereafter the parishes joined the Gayton Benefice. During Geoffrey's time as rector, he and his family enjoyed making music in the church especially at Christmas and Geoffrey became renown for cycling around the parishes refusing an offer from the bishop to have a motorbike to get around faster. Times were changing in the village and the school closed in 1977 two years before Geoffrey left.

In 1979 the Berrys left East Walton to move to a parish in East Sussex. Rev Geoffrey W R Barry died in Chippenham, Wiltshire in 2004.