

OTHER RECTORIES

The first known reference to a rectory (parsonage house) goes back to the year 1685 when the incumbent Matthias Crouch completed a terrier. In this he lists “a parsonage house completely repaired and one garden and one orchard copse planted by the present Incumbent”. Also listed are the tithes:-

“Item	All the tithe of corne of all sorts of graine with tithe of hay.
Item	Tithe of wool and Lambs being the ??? of the said Towne and also of bees
Item	Tithe of piggs and hens and other ffoule there bred and composition of Dove Coats
Item	Offerings at Easter being two pence every communicant, one penny for a horse, one penny for a plow, for each cow a penny and of calves within the year
Item	Two oxgangs of Arable land lying in Common fields”

The “tithe” which had become a legal requirement in England by the eighth century was based on the injunction to Moses and Jacob in the Bible to donate one tenth of all the produce of their land for the work of God. Locally this went to support the rector of the parish in his efforts to maintain the chancel of the church and provide church worship.

The rectory was very near to the church but the exact location is not known. However the terrier of 1764 by the then incumbent Christopher Spencer Brearey gives a detailed description of the property:

“To the said Rectory belongs one Manse or dwelling house the body 21 yards long and 7 broad with a wing extending from the north west part 4 yards and one foot which is in breadth 6 yards and 6 inches covered with straw containing a large kitchen, an hall, a parlour and several small offices below stairs with 2 cellars, the rooms are run with lime and hair and whitened over, the parlour is papered. Above stairs are 5 small rooms all papered and boarded. To the said Manse adjoin 2 stables and a coach house with a garner over them; a large barn of 6 bays and a garden before the house and an orchard behind. Also adjoining to the foldyard of the said Manse lays a lesser foldyard called Collygarth which has in it a lesser barn of 3 bays which has a right of corn monage belonging to it having been formerly a Crafts house together with a garden or orchard lying to the south of them belonging to the said Rectory in copyhold of the Manor of Middleton, a copyhold rent of 1 shilling being paid yearly to the Lord of the Manor. There is a pigeon house and brewhouse.”

After the demolition of the house in 1809 “Collygarth” is still referred to in the terriers up to 1861 in the following terms

“The parcel of ground called Colly Garth together with a garden and orchard belonging to the said Rectory and held in copyhold of the Manor of Middleton to a copyhold which is paid every half year of 6 pence for the said Colly Garth and garden to the Duke of Devonshire and was the benefaction of Mrs Elsie Crouch daughter of the late Revd Crouch formerly rector or this parish.”

THE RECTORY, EAST END (1867)

The Parsonages Act 1838 made it lawful for an incumbent, under certain circumstances and with the approval of the patron, the ordinary and the Archbishop of the province to sell his parsonage house and up to 12 acres of contiguous land. The purchase money from such a sale was to be paid to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty who would supply the sum towards the erection of a new residence. Sometime between the censuses of 1851 and 1861 the 1809 Rectory was sold and subsequently lost its religious associations. By 1866 the proceeds of the transaction plus interest amounted to £5055.12s.3d. which was paid into the fund.

In that same year Henry Dacre Blanchard who had been the Rector since 1863 received £1555 from the fund towards the cost of purchase of land and buildings suitable for development as a rectory. The land amounting to some 11 acres was situated to the immediate north east of the church across the main road. At the time it contained a farmhouse with barn, stables and other outbuildings with orchard, yard and croft adjoining.

In 1867 the new rectory was built at a cost of £3000 and was designed by W H Crossland, a Leeds architect with building work being carried out by William Richardson of Beverley. W D Parsons was the clerk of works. The house was large and of Victorian Gothic design in redbrick with lots of stone details. There were mullioned and traceried windows, embattled bays, arched doorways and decorated barge boards.

The 1895 terrier states that it contains 8 rooms and 1 water closet downstairs and 7 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 dressing rooms and 1 water closet upstairs. The outbuildings are coach house, saddle room, stables for 2 horses, 1 work place, loose box, privy, coke place, oil place and coalhouse.

The first occupant was the Rector the Revd. Henry Dacre Blanchard MA (1825-1904) the son of the previous rector. He graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1847 and was ordained deacon of the diocese of Norwich in 1849 and priest in 1850. He held successive curacies at Great Yarmouth, St John's Worcester, Kilnwick with Walton and Beauminster before his appointment in Middleton. During his tenure of office at Middleton he oversaw the restoration of the church and the enlargement of the churchyard.

In 1891 the household included a cook and a servant.

The Revd. Blanchard was succeeded by the Revd. Ernest James Wilson MA of Trinity College, Cambridge who remained in office until 1937. In 1917 he succeeded Captain Brooksbank as Chairman of the Parish Council.

In 1918 the Revd. Wilson mindful of the fall in the value of agricultural land sold Horsecold Farm (433 acres) and Middleton Wold Farm (404 acres) under the terms of the Glebe Lands Act 1888. He was aware that Government Securities were a more desirable source of an incumbent's income than farms with their fluctuations of rent, repairs and possible occasional friction with parishioner tenants. It was estimated that the interest on the purchase price reinvested would increase the yearly income of the benefice by £200.

He was succeeded as Rector in 1937 by Revd. T D S Evans who in 1939 said that he was glad he did not have the responsibility of living at the former rectory (The Hall) as it took him all his time to make ends meet at the present building.

Hazel Brown who was a teenager towards the end of the war recalls working full time at the Rectory doing domestic work. The house itself contained many fireplaces and consequently more dust. She particularly remembers the cleaning was not helped by a vacuum cleaner that was more “blow than suck”. Her employers had charge of her ration book and as the food they provided contained an excess of artificial sweeteners she felt decidedly undernourished, so much so that her doctor raised concerns.

She also recalls an incident involving the elderly gardener, Mr Johnson, which shows the Rector’s concern with things rather than people. One day, while working on a ladder Mr Johnson fell and landed on the flower beds. The Rector Mr Evans’ immediate worries were with the damage done to the garden and not the gardener.

At that time the lawns, orchard and vegetable gardens were maintained by German and Italian prisoners of war.

With the war over the Church authorities found it necessary to house the rector and his wife in smaller premises and the property chosen was “Applegarth” in Warter Road (now known as “Warter Lodge”). Built in the 1920’s for Walter Dooks and added to in the 1930’s it was bought in 1947 by the Diocesan Authorities from Isabella Pollard and Olivia Margaret Collier who had purchased it from Mr Dooks in 1946.

During the war evacuees had been housed there and some have returned over the years in an effort to discover some elements of their family history.

Hazel Brown who worked there for a short time recalls Mrs Evans’ dismay at their new abode. She said it was “like living in a cardboard box”. No doubt Mrs Evans, who was conscious of her status as the rector’s wife felt the move as a further indication of their gradual loss of influence in village affairs.

As for the property itself Hazel particularly recalls hot coal from a railway engine setting fire to the fencing. (The house is adjacent to the railway embankment).

The last rector to occupy the house was the Revd. Parlow who died in office in the 1970s.

The 1867 Rectory was used as a private dwelling and eventually became “Parklands” and was then used as a residential home for the elderly and later became a private dwelling again.

Pam Linford remembers garden parties at Parklands in the early 1950s in aid of various charities given by the then owners Mr & Mrs Harland. Mrs Harland’s maiden name was Owbridge (of cough mixture fame) and she appeared fur coated and blue rinsed. There were stalls, a dog show and refreshments but no entry to the house. The Harlands also gave Christmas parties in the Village Hall with Mrs Harland appearing at the last minute with Olive the cook and a barrel of candy.