

Some Observations on Descriptions of Parsonage Buildings made in Norfolk Glebe Terriers

by

ROBIN LUCAS

Glebe terriers of the seventeenth to twentieth centuries constitute a valuable source of information on the character, materials and building history of parsonage buildings and, by extension, of vernacular architecture in general. At an individual level the descriptions provided reveal dimensions and building plans, the number of storeys, the means of heating, the presence of outbuildings and the incidence, or otherwise, of clerical residence; at a collective level they show—distinguishing houses from outbuildings—the phases in which different materials were exploited for walling and roof covering and district attachments to the materials involved. Whilst variation in parsonage buildings, evident in materials, fittings and accommodation, reflected variation in the wealth of different livings, parsonage buildings—and particularly parsonage houses—could not be identified as such before the nineteenth century and the emergence of a recognizable parsonage house.

There are in the Norfolk Record Office in excess of 20,000 glebe terriers for Norfolk parishes. The documents form part of the Norwich Diocesan Archives and the older and more numerous series of them date from the early seventeenth century through to 1955.¹ The large number to survive is the consequence not only of their preservation but also of the large number of ancient parishes within the county, totalling in the region of 750 (including the city of Norwich). Glebe terriers were documents demanded at intervals by the bishop from incumbents and churchwardens and were descriptions of the property of the church and living within

Dr Robin Lucas is Librarian for Art History and Archaeology at the University of East Anglia. He is the author of a number of articles on the building history of Russia and East Anglia and is preparing a short study of traditional building materials in Norfolk. He was a contributor to *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk* published in 1993 and re-issued in a revised edition in 1994.

separate parishes. In the eighteenth century the intervals between terriers were standardized, more or less, at seven years, although changes in frequency occurred when bishops were changed.

Amongst items described in the terriers were buildings occupied by the incumbent, that is, his dwelling house, as well as what barns, stables and other buildings were attached to the parsonage. The descriptions of parsonage buildings are an important source for the study of vernacular architecture. For, as it soon becomes clear from reading the terriers, parsonage buildings formed homesteads and were neither functionally nor, one supposes, visually different from other buildings of their type. In parts of Norfolk where sheep were run terriers refer to clipping yards "within the croft of the parsonage".² Some parsons may have had more or larger barns than farmers with similar holdings of land, for the sake of storing produce paid in tithes, and they may have had fewer cart-sheds since they were less active in farming the land. A small number of parsonages did contain rooms called studies,³ which would have been rare in farmhouses. But generally parsonage buildings would not have been recognized as such, or not at least before the emergence of a 'parsonage type' of dwelling in the nineteenth century.⁴ The terriers contain numerous descriptions to show how modest and commonplace parsonage buildings often were. In the glebe terrier for the parish of Frenze, dated 23rd June 1784, we read:

First the Parsonage House, Timber Built, with Clay Walls, Covered with Thatch, Twenty eight ffeet long, and Sixteen ffeet wide, also a Barn thereto adjoining, Timber Built with Clay Walls, and Covered with Thatch, Ten ffeet and a half long, and fifteen ffeet wide, with a Yard and Garden.⁵

Although the terriers are numerous, it is only some of their number which provide useful information for the history of buildings. A large proportion—more than two-fifths, for instance, in 1770—make no reference to parsonage houses,⁶ one inference of which is that the parish concerned possessed no dwelling for the incumbent. There is considerable variation in the form of surviving terriers, but less variation in the information provided. The majority of descriptions made before the late eighteenth century record seldom more than the existence of a house, barn or stable. In this early period it is the exceptional terriers, that is those which mention the shape and dimensions of the house, the rooms, the chimneys, the number of storeys, the relationship of the house to outbuildings, and the various stages of building, which yield the most valuable evidence. The 1677 terrier for Tasburgh, returned in 1678, can be grouped amongst the more informative terriers of its period (Fig. 1).⁷

It is my intention here to quantify and comment on the information relating to parsonage buildings revealed by parish glebe terriers. The investigation made of Norfolk terriers for the purpose of gaining information regarding parsonage buildings is not the first such investigation but it is believed to be not only the most extensive of its kind but also the only comprehensive investigation for any county.⁸

26

A true note and Certificate made by the minister and churchwardens of the Town of Casburgh in the County of Norfolk, of all and singular the Glebes, Lands, houses, hereditaments, & portions of Tithes belonging to the same, Exhibited to the Lord Bishop of Norwich at his ordinary Visitation, Anno Dni, 1677.

Item, The situation or homestead of the Rectory, wherein standeth one Hall one parlour, a dayry rooms with two butteries, and chambers over them all; also one Bark house, one Barn, one stable with a little room at the end of it with a Chamber over it, together with two temporary lands, and some other land adjoining by estimation these acres or thereabouts; the premises abutting upon the Common Highway leading to Norwich on the south, and a river parting Casburgh and flordon on the north, and upon the Common belonging to Casburgh both East and West.

Item a little piece containing about half an acre abutting upon Mr. flatmans house close on the East, and a place called Mustor Hill on the West.

Edw: Bernard Rect: ibid.

Christ: Warden

Thos: Cymeth

Tho: Moxton

Church warden

Sept 20 1678.
C. B.

Fig. 1

Opening page of the parish terrier for Tasburgh, 1678
Norfolk Record Office, Norwich Diocesan Archives

The number of parishes for which terriers dated up to 1794 provide the dimensions of parsonage houses is 176. Commonly, houses were one room deep, the exterior depth varying from between sixteen to twenty feet. The ancient parsonage at Frenze, described above, was of this type.

Some parishes had barns and stables attached to the end of parsonages, all of which were stated to be under one roof. Eleven houses of this kind were described,⁹ but it is certain there were others. The houses were 'long houses' and the documentary references to them modify published findings of vernacular architecture which suggest that they were confined to the north and west of Britain and absent from East Anglia.¹⁰

The simple I-plan house became an L- or T-plan house when an outshot was made at the rear to serve as a scullery, bakery or brewery. Houses for six parishes were described as having L-plans¹¹ and houses for two parishes as having T-plans,¹² but the large number of backhouses mentioned for other parsonage houses would indicate that L- or T-plans were common. The backhouse in the L-plan house stood behind the hall/kitchen. When the other quarter was filled in by the little parlour, standing behind the great parlour, the house became a double pile, with the rear covered by a cat-slide roof, as in the New England 'salt box', or by a separate roof. The terriers suggest that the double-pile house was more likely to have evolved from local building practice than to have been inspired by planning concepts derived from nationally developed architectural theory.¹³ There were cases in which the backhouse stood apart from the main house, as at Salthouse where it was located "standing next to well in yard" (1692)¹⁴ or at Wheatacre Burgh where it was reached through "a litle low room" (1706).¹⁵

The storeyed or planchered house was a development beyond the open hall of medieval and early Tudor times. Terriers for North Pickenham in 1613 and Garveston in 1627 record that the parsonages there were all planchered.¹⁶ Occasionally the open hall survived into the seventeenth century, as it did at Thuxton in 1613 and Houghton-on-the-Hill in 1614,¹⁷ and to an even later date at Castle Acre where the 1716 terrier describes the entire house as "without any chambers or joyce, or Boards, all open to the Roof".¹⁸ Three seventeenth-century parsonages, at Denton, Hockering and South Lopham, were all described in the early years of the eighteenth century as having three storeys.¹⁹ It was common throughout the seventeenth century to describe rooms on the ground floor as the 'low' or 'lower rooms', whilst rooms on the first floor were described as 'chambers' or 'upper chambers'.

Chimneys, of course, became essential once houses were floored and terriers sometimes mention these, as at Brockdish in 1634 where there was a chimney with "four fiers" and a chimney in the backhouse.²⁰ The parsonage at Wheatacre All Saints was rebuilt in the early seventeenth century with chimneys to both "low rooms" and the backhouse²¹ whilst at neighbouring Wheatacre Burgh the chambers above the "low rooms" were also provided with chimneys.²²

Terriers for eleven parishes refer to the parsonage house as an 'insett', 'insight', 'insider' or 'inward house'.²³ The meaning of such a phrase, which also occurs in

wills drawn up in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries,²⁴ is not known. It is presumed that 'insett house' referred to the character or siting of the house, or some feature within it, although it may have meant no more than that the house belonged to the site. Another now-obsolete term occurring in seventeenth-century terriers is 'vance-roof', used to describe the garrets in three different parsonage houses.²⁵

Glebe terriers sometimes indicate that although a parish lacked a parsonage house, it did possess a parsonage barn. Most parsonage barns, however, accompanied parsonage houses. Occasionally the terriers reveal the size of barns not by dimensions but by the number of bays or goffsteads the barns were said to comprise.²⁶ Other outbuildings recorded in terriers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries included necessary houses, dairies, malshouses, granaries, hayhouses, stables, cow-byres, pigsties, cart-lodges and coachhouses. Some parsons possessed wood-sheds,²⁷ others coal-houses²⁸ and some seven parsons, a turf-house.²⁹ These indicate the fuel which was employed. Many, but not all, of the twenty-eight listed parsonage dovecots were sited within rectorial manors.³⁰ That rectory dwellings may have doubled as manor-houses is suggested by terriers for fourteen parishes which describe the parsonage as moated.³¹

The materials out of which houses were built were mentioned but rarely before the late eighteenth century. It is a reasonable surmise that the larger number of parsonage houses raised before the mid-eighteenth century were built with a timber frame and the walls infilled with wattle and daub. The house may have stood on a brick or flint pinning or plinth and most of the chimneys must have been raised in brick. Some houses would have had flint or clay walls and a smaller number walls wholly of brick. The majority would have been thatched, not tiled. Some indication of the value attached to timber may be inferred from the fact that the rector of Filby caused the parsonage house in the deserted village in that parish to be dismantled in 1648 and re-erected on a new site.³² Timber (10 oaks, 6 pollards) from the glebe of Wheatacre Burgh was felled in 1714 to build the parsonage of Wheatacre All Saints at a time when the livings of both parishes were held by one incumbent.³³ In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries a part-brick, part-timber-framed house was developed with gable walls, often incorporating chimneys, of brick.³⁴ The use of brick and tile was more developed in the town than in the country and it is not surprising to observe in a set of engravings published by John Nurse Chadwick in 1851 that the seventeenth-century parsonage in South Lynn was built in brick and tile (Figs. 2 and 3).³⁵ Terriers for South Lynn do not refer to the materials of the vicarage but the terrier returned in 1706 described it as "A Large Parsonage house with fower Roomes On One flore".³⁶

The sudden and widespread mention of building materials in terriers which date from 1784 suggests that this was done in response to a directive from the bishop. The information contained in terriers was in part determined by questionnaires sent out by the diocesan authorities.³⁷ Glebe terriers for Lincolnshire make general mention of building materials earlier than they do for Norfolk because the Bishop of Lincoln required it.³⁸ The late-eighteenth-century mention of building



Fig. 2

The Old Vicarage House of All Saints, South Lynn,
 published by John Nurse Chadwick,
Memorials of the Vicarage House & Garden, in South Lynn, (King's Lynn, 1851)

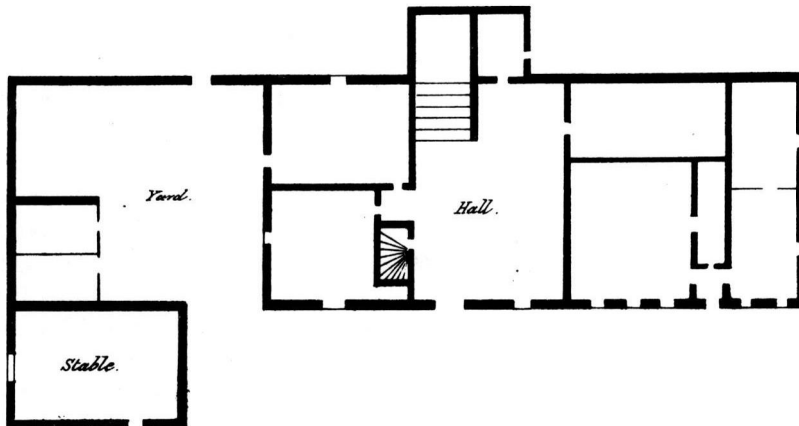


Fig. 3

The Old Vicarage of All Saints, South Lynn,
 plan published by John Nurse Chadwick in 1851

materials allows analyses to be made of variations in the use of materials for walling and roof coverings of parsonage houses in different districts (Figs. 4 and 5). There were, despite the mixed use of materials in many buildings, district attachments to brick, timber-frame, flint and carstone, clay, tiles and thatch.³⁹ Other analyses would show not only district attachments to building materials but also different usages between houses and outbuildings as well as changes in attachments and usages over a span of years. Figures 6 and 7 illustrate changes in the walling materials and roof coverings employed for both parsonage houses and parsonage barns (or stables in the absence of barns) in the one-hundred year period, 1794-1894. By 1794 a higher proportion of parsonage buildings than previously were walled in brick and covered with tile and this trend was to continue into the nineteenth century. As indicated earlier, the nineteenth-century parsonage house became an identifiable construct and was less a guide to contemporary houses than had been the case in earlier times. Its distinctive character was shown in materials like white brick and slate, used sparingly on farmhouses, and in plentiful use of luxury features such as porches and bay windows.⁴⁰

Perhaps not the least important information contained in glebe terriers is that which concerns the building history of the buildings concerned. Very rarely do terriers before the nineteenth century refer to new builds or total rebuilds: more commonly, what were recorded were repairs, alterations and additions, many of which were, characteristically, described as newly accomplished for many years after the time in which they had been made.⁴¹ Parsons, like other householders, had to adjust expenditure on building according to their income and had little spare cash for architectural luxuries. In the eighteenth century there were, however, a number of cases where the incumbent provided his house with a new brick front⁴² or replaced his thatch with tile. An addition made to the rectory at Little Dunham in 1783 was covered with "best blue tiles" whilst the old part was left thatched.⁴³ Fires did, of course, compel major reconstruction and terriers refer to fourteen parsonage houses which suffered fires in the period before 1800.⁴⁴ Barns were especially subject to storm damage.⁴⁵ We may sympathise with Robert White, long-serving rector of Burgh Saint Margaret and Saint Mary, whose first barn was blown down in 1713, whose replacement barn burnt down in 1721 and whose house, including an addition made by him in 1712, burnt down in 1739. Notwithstanding the risks the rector did, when rebuilding the barn and house, cover them again with thatch.⁴⁶

The wealth of livings varied widely, a fact which was directly reflected in the houses available to incumbents. At the bottom end of the scale was the house at Thorpe Abbots, measuring no more than fourteen feet by six feet in 1784,⁴⁷ or the house at Overstrand, which was only a little larger and was described by the incumbent in 1740 as "a Poor Little Cottage No Way Fit for any Clergyman or any other than a very Poor man or a Collectioner to Live in";⁴⁸ whilst at the top end of the scale was the house at Upwell Saint Peter, which had "large Handsom Gardens" in 1735,⁴⁹ or the house at Stiffkey, which in 1770 possessed "Seven Marble Chimney peices".⁵⁰

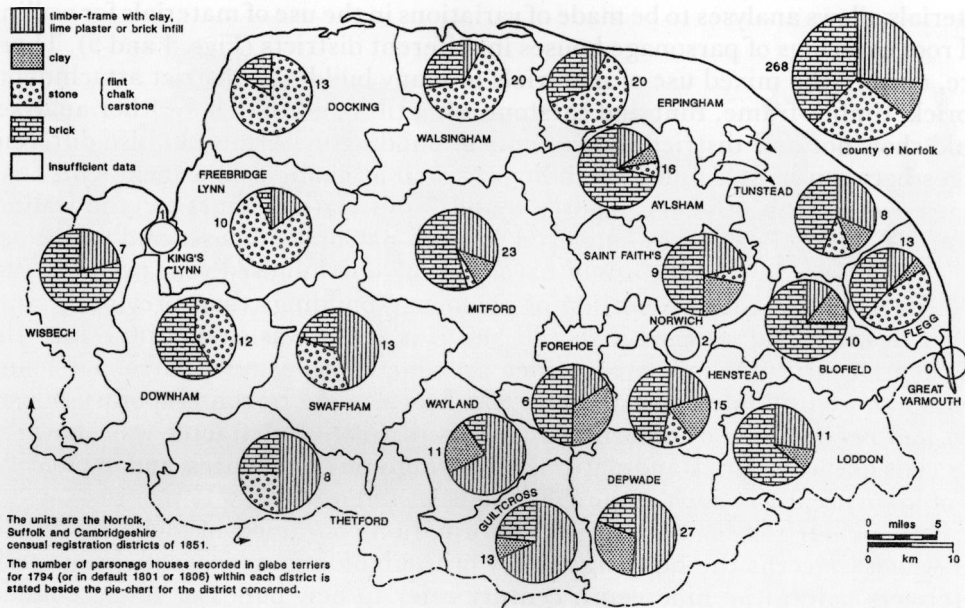


Fig. 4

Walling materials of Norfolk parsonage houses, 1794, as described in parish glebe terriers
Robin Lucas

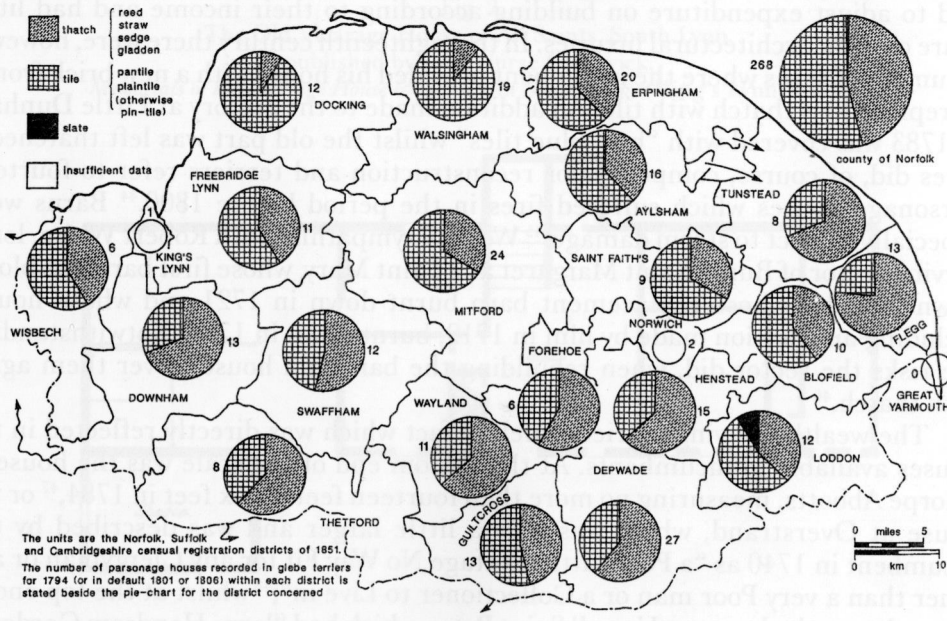


Fig. 5

Roof coverings of Norfolk parsonage houses, 1794, as described in parish glebe terriers
Robin Lucas

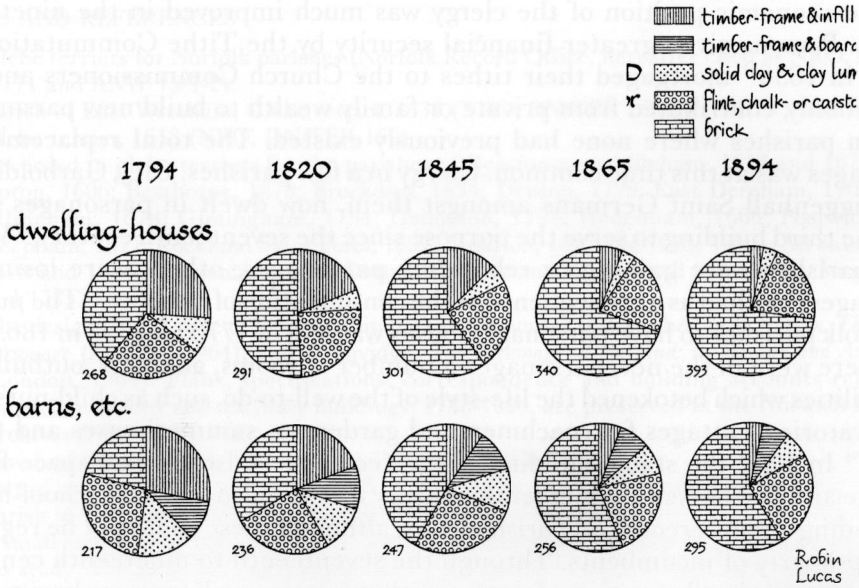


Fig. 6
Walling materials of parsonage buildings in Norfolk, 1794-1894,
as described in parish glebe terriers
Robin Lucas

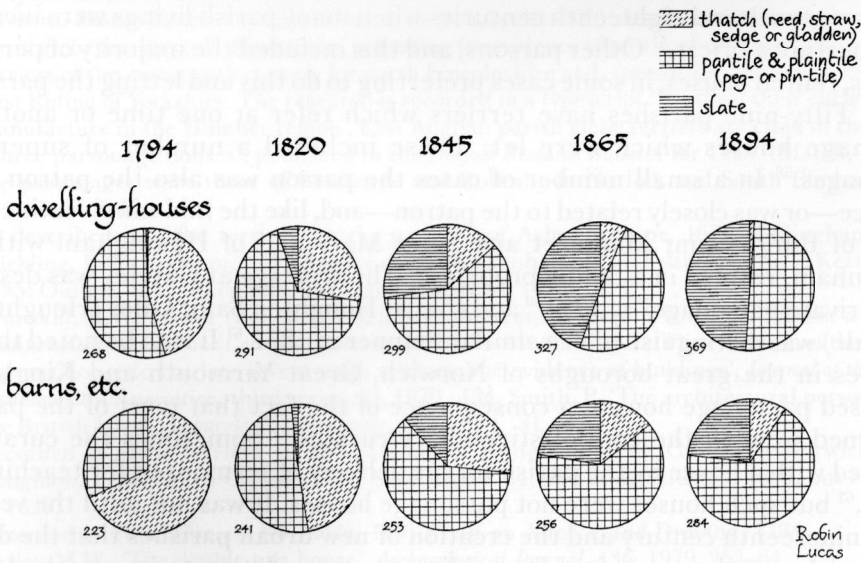


Fig. 7
Roof coverings of parsonage buildings in Norfolk, 1794-1894,
as described in parish glebe terriers
Robin Lucas

The economic position of the clergy was much improved in the nineteenth century. Parsons given greater financial security by the Tithe Commutation Act passed in 1836⁵¹ mortgaged their tithes to the Church Commissioners and, not uncommonly, contributed from private or family wealth to build new parsonages, some in parishes where none had previously existed. The total replacement of parsonages was at this time common. Clergy in a few parishes, Cley, Garboldisham and Wiggenhall Saint Germans amongst them, now dwelt in parsonages which were the third building to serve the purpose since the seventeenth century.⁵² Whilst some parishes were gaining or rebuilding parsonages, others were losing the parsonages they had as a consequence of the consolidation of benefices. The number of Norfolk parishes to have parsonage houses was 395 in 1770 and 398 in 1865-79.⁵³

There were in the new parsonages a number of rooms, adjuncts, outbuildings and facilities which betokened the life-style of the well-to-do, such as child-nurseries, conservatories, cottages for coachmen and gardeners, summerhouses and tennis courts.⁵⁴ In 1872 the stable building of the rector of Walsoken had space for his carriage and five horses.⁵⁵ Nineteenth-century terriers also mention school-houses and reading-rooms erected on parish glebes, although these could not be regarded as the property of incumbents. Through the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries there was occasional mention of rooms within parsonage houses as having been used as school-rooms.⁵⁶

The absence of a parsonage house from a parish could, but did not necessarily, imply that the incumbent was non-resident. Some parsons held a number of parishes, in only one of which they could reside. Pluralism was a necessity through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when many parish livings were incapable of supporting a priest.⁵⁷ Other parsons, and this included the majority of perpetual curates, rented houses, in some cases preferring to do this and letting the parsonage house. Fifty-nine parishes have terriers which refer at one time or another to parsonage houses which were let. These included a number of superseded parsonages.⁵⁸ In a small number of cases the parson was also the patron of the benefice—or was closely related to the patron—and, like the mid-nineteenth-century vicars of Burgh Saint Margaret and Saint Mary and of Honingham with East Tuddenham, resided in a family property.⁵⁹ The vicarage at Gateley was described as a “private parsonage” in 1771⁶⁰ and that at Houghton Saint Giles (Houghton-in-the-Dale) was distinguished in a similar manner in 1862.⁶¹ It is to be noted that few parishes in the great boroughs of Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King’s Lynn possessed parsonage houses, a consequence of the fact that most of the parishes concerned were in the care of stipendiary curates.⁶² Sometimes the curate was provided with a house by the parish for his delivery of sermons or for teaching in a school,⁶³ but such houses were not parsonage houses. It was not until the very end of the nineteenth century and the creation of new urban parishes that the diocese of Norwich saw the necessity of providing accommodation to its parish clergy in Norwich and Great Yarmouth.⁶⁴

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- 1 Glebe terriers for Norfolk parishes (Norfolk Record Office, hereafter cited as NRO, DN/TER 1-171 and ANW 15/1-2).
- 2 Parish of East Wretham, Glebe terrier, 1633 (NRO, DN/TER 169). Parish of West Wretham, Glebe terrier, 1613 (NRO, DN/TER 169).
- 3 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Beeston-next-Mileham, 1613 and 1677; Bergh Apton, 1606; Besthorpe, 1678; Brockdish, 1634; Denton, 1729; East Dereham, 1706; Great Ellingham, 1678; Gimingham, 1794; Grimston, 1791; Hedenham, 1666; Postwick, 1699; Reepham, 1677; Rockland Saint Peter, 1627; Scoulton, 1627 and 1635; Tilney All Saints, 1613, 1678 and 1686; Wiggenhall Saint Germans, 1613; and Wiggenhall Saint Mary Virgin, 1613 and 1735.
- 4 The design of and style of living within parsonage houses is described in B.A. Bax, *The English Parsonage* (London, 1964); and A. Savidge, *The Parsonage in England: its History and Architecture* (London, 1964). Plans, specifications, correspondence and building accounts relating to parsonage houses and ancillary buildings, 1788-1900, are preserved in the Norwich Diocesan Archives (NRO, DPL 1-4).
- 5 Parish of Frenze, Glebe terrier, 1784 (NRO, DN/TER 69/2).
- 6 Out of a total of 684 terriers for 1770, 289 make no mention of parsonage houses.
- 7 Parish of Tasburgh, Glebe terrier, 1677 (NRO, DN/TER 144).
- 8 A small number of glebe terriers were used, along with other evidence, by W. Hoskins to construct his study 'The Leicestershire country parson in the sixteenth century', published in his *Essays in Leicestershire History* (Liverpool, 1950, 1-23). M.W. Barley made use of a selection of glebe terriers when writing on parsonage houses, firstly in *The English Farmhouse and Cottage* (London, 1961); and subsequently in successive volumes of *The Agrarian History of England and Wales* (4, 1500-1640; 5, 1640-1750, Cambridge, 1967, 1985). Sample terriers were also employed by M.W. Barley in a comparison of the parsonage houses of Lincolnshire and Worcestershire in the early seventeenth century, contained within the article 'Farmhouses and cottages, 1550-1725' (*Economic History Review*, second series, (7, 1954-5, 3, 291-306). Another historian to have made use of glebe terriers is D. Neave who, in looking for evidence of past roof-coverings, has searched terriers of the eighteenth century for north Lincolnshire and, specifically, those of 1764 for the East Riding of Yorkshire. The research is recorded in a typescript 'Pantiles: their early use and manufacture in the Humber region'. East Anglian parish glebe terriers are cited in the article 'Three parsonage houses', published in the *Norfolk Research Bulletin* for 1983 (March, 12-18): the parsonages were those of Besthorpe and Rollesby in Norfolk and South Elmham Saint Peter in Suffolk.
- 9 As described in glebe terriers for the parishes of Ashwellthorpe, 1678; Bedingham, 1613; Blickling, 1706; Bodham, 1706; Brooke, 1706; Buckenham, 1614; Felthorpe, 1677; Kettlestone, 1735; Oulton, 1845; Reedham, 1677; and Worstead, 1678-1813.
- 10 Brunskill, R.W., *Houses* (London, 1982), 64-7. Mercer, E., *English Vernacular Houses: a Study of Traditional Farmhouses and Cottages* (London, 1975), 34-49. Smith, J.T., 'The evolution of the English peasant house to the late seventeenth century: the evidence of buildings', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, third series, 33, 1970, 134. Smith, P., 'The architectural personality of the British Isles', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 129, 1980, 31.
- 11 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Bridgham, 1794; Caistor-by-Norwich, 1845; Congham, 1784; North Creak, 1784; Stanfield, 1784; and Long Stratton, 1894, but referring to 1637.
- 12 Recorded in glebe terriers for Ashby, 1801 ('half an Aitch'); and Drayton, 1784.
- 13 Barley, M.W., 'The double pile house', *Archaeological Journal*, 136, 1979, 253-64.
- 14 Parish of Salthouse, Glebe terrier, 1692 (NRO, DN/TER 127).
- 15 Parish of Wheatacre Burgh, Glebe terrier, 1706 (NRO, DN/TER 162).
- 16 Parish of North Pickenham, Glebe terrier, 1613 (NRO, DN/TER 117/3). Parish of Garveston, Glebe terrier, 1627 (NRO, DN/TER 70/4).

- 17 Parish of Thuxton, Glebe terrier, 1613 (NRO, DN/TER 150). Parish of Houghton-on-the-Hill, Glebe terrier, 1614 (NRO, DN/TER 89/1).
- 18 Parish of Castle Acre, Glebe terrier, 1716 (NRO, DN/TER 44/2).
- 19 Parish of Denton, Glebe terrier, 1729 (NRO, DN/TER 53/3). Parish of Hockering, Glebe terrier, 1706 (NRO, DN/TER 84/4). Parish of South Lopham, Glebe terrier, 1706 (NRO, DN/TER 98/6).
- 20 Parish of Brockdish, Glebe terrier, 1634 (NRO, DN/TER 31/1).
- 21 Parish of Wheatacre All Saints, Glebe terrier, 1613 (NRO, DN/TER 162).
- 22 Parish of Wheatacre Burgh, Glebe terrier, 1678 (NRO, DN/TER 162).
- 23 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Buxton, 1613; Colby, 1613; Hanworth, 1635 and 1678; Kirstead, 1706; Letheringsett, 1615; Marsham, 1662 and 1702; Methwold, 1613; Ormesby Saint Margaret, 1613; Little Plumstead, 1613; Stratton Strawless, 1613; and Thwaite-next-Aylsham, 1633.
- 24 Wills of William Marriett of Filby, 1589 (NRO, Norwich Consistory Court, 116 Flack); and of John Ewes or Ives of Ormesby Saint Michael, 1627 (NRO, Norwich Consistory Court, O.W. 311).
- 25 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Hedenham, 1666; Ingworth, 1678; and Postwick, 1699.
- 26 Glebe terriers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries give the size of barns in goffsteads or bays in twenty-two parishes.
- 27 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Alby, 1678; Attleborough, 1735; Besthorpe, 1770; Brundall, 1699; Burnham Deepdale, 1794; Cranworth, 1627; Great Dunham, 1747; Larling, 1794; Middleton, 1770; Northrepps, 1706; Scoulton, 1613; Sparham, 1706; and Tharston, 1784.
- 28 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Attleborough, 1735; Burnham Deepdale, 1794; Caister-by-Yarmouth, 1791; Cley-next-the-Sea, 1794; Cockley Cley, 1716; Great Cressingham, 1706; Little Dunham, 1791; Ingoldisthorpe, 1770; Larling, 1794; North Runcton, 1784; North Walsham, 1784; Wheatacre Burgh, 1770; Wiggshall Saint Germans, 1613; and Wiggshall Saint Mary Virgin, 1784.
- 29 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Didlington, 1820; Cockley Cley, 1716; Eccles-by-Harling, 1735; Hockwold, 1716, 1735 and 1820; Ingoldisthorpe, 1770; Kelling, 1827; and Methwold, 1706.
- 30 Undoubtedly the number of parsonage dovecots was greater than the twenty-eight recorded: glebe terriers point to the sometime existence of dovecots in an additional sixteen parishes through toponyms such as 'Dove-house meadow' although the dovehouses did not, necessarily, belong to incumbents.
- 31 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Beeston-next-Mileham, 1613 and 1677; Besthorpe, 1678; Braconash, 1770; Cantley, 1770; East Dereham, 1678; Dickleburgh, 1706; Grimston, 1716; Hethel, 1614; South Lopham, 1706; Scoulton, 1613, 1706-; Sculthorpe, 1735, 1784 and 1794; Tunstead, 1627; Watlington, 1637; and Wheatacre All Saints, 1678.
- 32 Parish of Filby, Glebe terrier, 1648 (NRO, DN/TER 65/1).
- 33 Parish of Wheatacre Burgh, Glebe terrier, 1714 (NRO, DN/TER 162).
- 34 As described in glebe terriers for the parishes of Feltwell Saint Nicholas, 1794; Merton, 1801; Newton Flotman, 1784; Outwell, 1770; Southery, 1784; Stibbard, 1794; Thorpe-next-Norwich, 1741; Wacton, 1784; and Wood Dalling, 1784.
- 35 Chadwick, J.N., *Memorials of the Vicarage House & Garden, in South Lynn, otherwise All Saints, within the Borough of King's Lynn* (King's Lynn, 1851).
- 36 Parish of South Lynn, Glebe terrier, 1706 (NRO, DN/TER 100/1).
- 37 The glebe terrier for the parish of Colney for 1707 was recorded on the back of a pre-formed printed letter designed to elicit certain answers (NRO, DN/TER 48/2/4).
- 38 Barley, M.W., 'Farmhouses and cottages, 1550-1725', *Economic History Review*, second series, 7, 1954-5, 3, 301.
- 39 The same figures are published in Lucas, R., 'Walling materials of parsonage houses, 1794', in

An Historical Atlas of Norfolk, ed. Wade-Martins, P., and Everett, J., first ed. (Norwich, 1993) and second ed. (Norwich, 1994), 114-15, 195; and in Lucas, R., 'Roof coverings of parsonage houses, 1794', in the same work, 116-17, 195. Readers are advised to refer to the second edition of this work, which corrects serious and misleading printing errors made in the first edition.

- 40 As note 4.
- 41 Glebe terriers for the parish of Wymondham from 1633 to 1678 refer to the vicarage as 'newlie builded' (NRO, DN/TER 169); whilst those for Hockering from 1709 to 1770 refer to the rectory as 'a new built house' (NRO, DN/TER 84/4). The cause of recurring descriptions was sometimes slavish copying, as happened for example in the Horsford terrier for 1834 which actually repeated the date of the 1820 terrier from which it was copied (NRO, DN/TER 88/4).
- 42 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Banham, 1794; Garboldisham, 1794; and Whinburgh, 1784.
- 43 Parish of Little Dunham, Glebe terrier, 1784 (NRO, DN/TER 58/2).
- 44 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Antingham Saint Mary, 1723; Baconsthorpe (fire 1754), 1770; Billingford near Diss, 1677; Boughton, 1729; Burgh Saint Margaret and Saint Mary (fire 1739), 1747; Felthwell Saint Nicholas, 1782; Hickling, 1723; Hingham, seventeenth century; Knapton (fire 1671), 1706; Mautby (fire 1651), 1941; Reedham (fire 1695), 1706; Rockland Saint Mary (fire *circa* 1669), 1709; Southburgh, 1633; and Wheatacre All Saints (fire 1613), 1678.
- 45 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Burgh Saint Margaret and Saint Mary (storm 1713), 1735; Colney (storm 1793), 1794; Horning (storm *circa* 1720), 1760; Illington, 1784; Sheringham (storm 1779), 1784; Tasburgh, 1801; Taverham (storm 1779), 1784; and Tittleshall, 1791.
- 46 Parish of Burgh Saint Margaret and Saint Mary, Glebe terriers, 1735 and 1747 (NRO, DN/TER 36/1).
- 47 Parish of Thorpe Abbots, Glebe terrier, 1784 (NRO, DN/TER 147).
- 48 Parish of Overstrand, Glebe terrier, 1740 (NRO, DN/TER 115/6).
- 49 Parish of Upwell Saint Peter, Glebe terrier, 1735 (NRO, DN/TER 156).
- 50 Parish of Stiffkey, Glebe terrier, 1770 (NRO, DN/TER 138).
- 51 The collection of tithes on agricultural produce for the support of the clergy was instituted in medieval times but by the nineteenth century the collection was haphazard and uncertain and attended by a range of exemptions and local commutations to cash payments. The Act for the Commutation of Tithes in England and Wales passed in 1836 (6 & 7 Will. IV cap. 71) replaced tithes in kind with a rent-charge calculated on the annual value of payments, expressed in quantities of corn, taken between 1829 and 1835. The measure removed a major issue of contention between tithe-payers and tithe-owners and assured incumbents of a known income. In a number of cases the income of incumbents was increased by the tithe commissioners who regarded non-traditional crops as titheable as traditional crops and set aside past local agreements which deprived incumbents of the full value of their tithes. The general prosperity of Victorian agriculture between the late 1830s and 1880 worked to the advantage of the clergy. An introduction to the Act and its operation is Evans, E.J., *Tithes and the Tithe Commutation Act 1836* (London, 1978).
- 52 Parish of Cley-next-the-Sea, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 46/5). Parish of Garboldisham, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 70/3). Parish of Wiggenshall Saint Germans, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 163).
- 53 Glebe terriers for Norfolk parishes (NRO, DN/TER 1-171).
- 54 Cottages specifically provided for parsonage coachmen or gardeners are recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Drayton, 1894; Frettenham, 1894; Hardingham, 1912; Harpley, 1901; Hedenham, 1926; Hevingham, 1845; Hilgay, 1894; Hingham, 1872; Great Melton Saint Mary, 1919; Mulbarton, 1894; Narborough, 1947, referring to 1886; Sandringham, 1908, 1926 and 1955; Saxlingham Nethergate, 1880; Scole, 1872; South Walsham Saint Lawrence, 1926-55; Great Witchingham, 1926; North Wootton, 1955; and Wreningham, 1901.
- 55 Parish of Walsoken, Glebe terrier, 1872 (NRO, DN/TER 157).

- 56 As with rooms in Gressenhall rectory, described as 'scoole howses' in the glebe terrier for that parish, 1677 (NRO, DN/TER 73/5).
- 57 A short review of the social and economic situation of the clergy at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is provided in Evans, E.J., *The Forging of the Modern State: Early Industrial Britain, 1783-1870* (London, 1983), 237-44.
- 58 Recorded in glebe terriers for the parishes of Brandon Parva, 1865-1926; Bawdeswell, 1770; Barningham Northwood, 1794; Bedingham, 1955; Great Bircham Saint Mary, 1820; Coltishall, 1894; Cranwich, 1955; Croxton, 1801; Felmingham, 1933; Fincham Saint Martin, 1735; Framingham Earl, 1894; Gayton Thorpe, 1845-1924; Gunton, 1886; Hapton, 1794; Great Hautbois, 1912; Haynford, 1879; Hellington, 1740; Hingham, 1955; Horning, 1729-; Illington, 1872; Islington, 1912; Mattishall Burgh, 1834; Little Melton, 1955; Great Moulton, 1770-1820; Norwich All Saints, 1706-1820; Norwich Saint Clement, 1709, 1955; Norwich Saint Edmund, 1740; Norwich Saint Giles, 1947, 1955; Norwich Saint Julian, 1706-35; Norwich Saint Lawrence, 1763-1801; Norwich Saint Michael-at-Plea, 1791-1820; Norwich Saint Peter Hungate, 1735-; Norwich Saint Peter Mancroft, 1747; Oulton, 1867; Oxwick, 1886; Rougham, 1955; Rushall, 1801, 1813, 1827; Saxthorpe, 1845-1955; Shimpling, 1735, 1770, 1794, 1820, 1834; Snetterton, 1845; Snettisham, 1955; Stratton Saint Michael, 1845-1919; Stratton Strawless, 1955; Suffield, 1955; Swainsthorpe, at Newton Flotman, 1866-1955; Swanton Abbott, 1867-; Tasburgh, 1845-94; Thorpe Abbots, 1865; Thursford, 1919-33; Thwaite near Loddon, 1845, 1865, 1933; Tittleshall, 1784; Topcroft, 1955; Trowse Newton, 1716; Tuttington, 1941-55; North Walsham, 1907-26; Wellingham, 1879-1950; Wicklewood, 1784-1845; Wreningham, 1820, 1834; and Wroxham, 1845, 1894, 1919.
- 59 White, W., *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Norfolk*, second ed. (Sheffield, 1845), 41, 301; third ed. (Sheffield, 1864), 583.
- 60 Parish of Gateley, Glebe terrier, 1771 (NRO, DN/TER 71/2).
- 61 Parish of Houghton Saint Giles, Glebe terrier, 1862 (NRO, DN/TER 89/3).
- 62 Parishes within the city and borough of Norwich, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 108/4-114/5). Parishes within the borough of Great Yarmouth, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 170). Parishes within the borough of King's Lynn, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 99/4-5).
- 63 Available to curates of Saint Mary the Less at Thetford in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries was the house provided to masters of the Free School and Hospital in the parish (NRO, DN/TER 146). The curate at Little Walsingham had the use of a dwelling in Great Snoring where he was schoolmaster in 1709 (NRO, DN/TER 157). The curate of New Buckenham was accommodated in property belonging to the parish and not the church in 1716 (NRO, DN/TER 33/1). Amongst houses possessed by the chapelry of King's Lynn Saint Nicholas in 1813 were those reserved for the use of chapel lecturers, the chapel clerk and the chapel sexton (NRO, DN/TER 99/5). The curate of Norwich Saint Helen was in 1894 living in a house provided by the Great Hospital to which he was chaplain (NRO, DN/TER 110/3).
- 64 Parishes within the city and borough of Norwich, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 108/4-114/5). Parishes within the borough of Great Yarmouth, Glebe terriers (NRO, DN/TER 170).