

CHAPTER 8.

RECTORS, PARISH CLERKS, CHURCHWARDENS AND SCHOOLMASTERS

RECTORS

THE following is a list of the Rectors of Gawsworth, dating from the thirteenth century, extracted from available records with particular reference to Ormerod, Earwaker and Polehampton.

c. 1262 JOHN DE BIRTLES

He occurs as "rector of the church of Gawsworth," in an agreement made on the Feast of Pentecost, 1262, between him and John de Hulme, of Alderley, by which the latter grants to the former two parts of his lands in Hulme on a lease for 13 years. The witnesses to this deed are Benedict de Coudré, Peter de Davenport, William de Sydington, Adam de Birtles, Alan of the same, Adam de Pexhull, and many others.¹

EDMUND FITTON, who died in 1332.

1332. 5 Kal. Oct. [Sept. 25.] JOHN FITTON.

Presented by Thomas Fitton on the death of Edmund Fitton.

1349. 5 Ides Dec. [Dec. 9] RICHARD DEL SHERD.

Presented by Thomas Fitton on the resignation of John Fitton, who was instituted to Wilmslow.

1359. August 5. JOHN CATON.

Presented by Thomas Fitton [cause of vacancy not given.]

On the Nones of December [Dec. 5] the Bishop conceded to John Caton, rector of the church of Gawsworth, that he might celebrate divine services, and cause them to be celebrated in his chapel within his house at Gawsworth.²

1383. December 2. ROBERT BUKHARD.

Presented by John Caton and John Gaze, chaplains, by reason of a grant of the manor of Gawsworth, &c, from Thomas Fitton, on the resignation of the said John Caton.

¹ Sir Peter Leycester's MSS. at Tabley House, Knutsford. According to Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* *John de Birchall* occurs *temp.* Henry III. [1216-1272], as rector [but ? curate] of the "chapel of Gawsworth," in a composition with Simon, Abbot of St. Werburgh's, at Chester, about the tithes of Prestbury.

² Lichfield Registers, vol. v. f. 12.

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1383. December 21. THOMAS DE BATELY.

Presented by John Caton and John Gaze, chaplains, on the resignation of Robert Bukhard, by reason of an exchange with the church of Northenden.

1383-4. January 31. JOHN CATON.

Presented by John Gaze, chaplain, on the resignation of Thomas Bately.

1391. August 31. GRIFFIN DE DAVENPORT [LL.B.]

Presented by Thomas Fitton on the death of John Caton.

The rector was a younger brother of Nicholas de Davenport, of Woodford, Esq., and died c. 1427.

1394. September 4. REGINALD LYGHTCLYFF.

Presented by Thomas Fitton, of Gowsorth, on the resignation of Griffin de Davenport, by reason of an exchange with the church of Brereton.

1396. July 19. WILLIAM PRYDYN.

Presented by Thomas Fitton, of Gowsorth, on the resignation of Reginald Lyghtclyff.

1424. August 26. JOHN DE KYNGESEY [? KINSEY.]

Presented by Sir Laurence Fitton, Knt., on the resignation of William Prydyn, saving to the said William an annual pension of 9 marks.

1432. October 8. JOHN DE BOSDON.

Presented by Sir Laurence Fitton, Knt. [no cause of vacancy stated]

1433. October 24. ROBERT HEUSTER.

Presented by Sir Laurence Fitton, Knt. [no cause of vacancy stated.]

1470. December 25. GEORGE BAGULEY.

Presented by Thomas Fitton, Esq., on the death of Robert Heuster.

This rector was commemorated by an inscription formerly on the south wall of the chancel, which stated that he was the builder of the rectory.

1497. May 6. RANDLE FITTON, LL.B.

Presented by Edward Fitton, Esq., on the death of George Baguley.

He was a younger son of Edward Fitton, of Gawsworth, Esq., by his wife, Emma, daughter and heiress of Robert Siddington, of Siddington. As shown by the quaint verses formerly painted in the chancel of Gawsworth church, he was at the sole cost of rebuilding the chancel, leaving it pretty much as it now is. He died Feb. 23, 1535-6.

1536. May 22. WILLIAM LEGH.

Presented by Sir Edward Fitton, Knt, on the death of Randle Fitton.

It has not been found possible at present to ascertain to which of the numerous families of the Leghs this rector belonged. He remained at



The lych gate from a pen and ink drawing by Richard A. Riseley.

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Gawsworth for nearly 30 years, and was buried there on Feb. 10, 1564-5, as thus entered in the Register, "Sr Williã Legh person of Gawsworth was buried the x of februarye."

1565. ROBERT ROGERS, B.D.

Presented by Sir Edward Fitton, Knt., on the death of William Legh.

This rector was a distinguished man,¹ appointed Prebendary of Chester Cathedral on Nov. 25, 1580, and Archdeacon of Chester early in that year. He was a good antiquary, and made collections relating to Chester, and the miracle plays, &c., performed there, which collections were arranged by his son, and are now among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum. His will, which is preserved at Chester,² is dated 17 June, 1580, and was proved 20 Jan. 1595-6. He calls himself "Robert Rogers, Archdeacon of Chester, and pson of Gooseworth in comitatu Cestriæ," and leaves "my flesh blood and bone, my body to be buried in the earth, Dñi est terra, with decent buriall, Christianlike without all maner of pomp and superstition." He bequeathed everything to his wife, Elizabeth Rogers, "whose name was before I married her Elizabeth Dean, and my trust in her is that she will see my children and hers brought up in the fear of God." "At my buriall [there is] to be a sermon made by some godly wise learned man, wherein he is to exhort the people to prepare themselves towards heaven, to despise this world, to amend their lives and to repent, he to have for his paynes xs." His widow, Elizabeth, one of the daughters of John Dean, of Wallingford, co. Berks., gent., survived him till Dec. 2, 1617, when she died in her 72nd year, and was buried in Eccleston church, near Chester, where an inscription was placed to her memory.³ They had 10 sons and five daughters, of whom Elizabeth was baptized at Gawsworth, 26 Feb. 1575-6, buried there May 22, 1577, Isaac, baptized May 16, 1577, and Zacharias, baptized Oct. 18, buried 25 Dec. 1578.

1595-6. March 21. THOMAS KAYLL, M.A.

Presented by William Stubbs, of Congleton, gent., on the death of Robert Rogers.

This rector's name does not appear to be mentioned in the Registers, and his burial, in 1597, did not take place at Gawsworth.

1597. August 25. WILLIAM BROWNELL [M.A.]

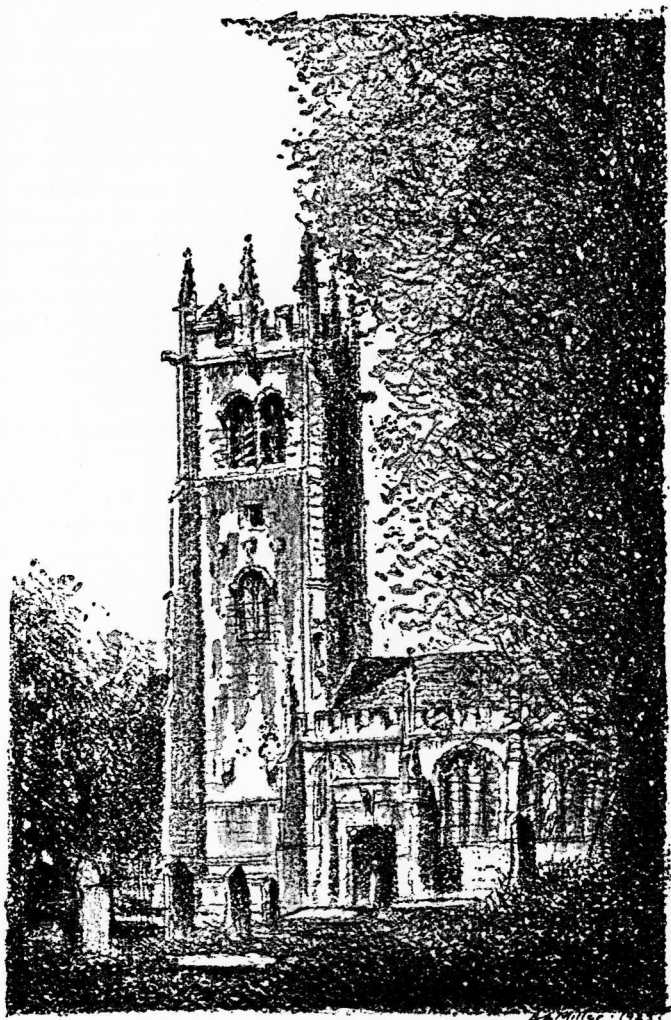
Presented by William Knollys and others, on the death of Thomas Kayll.

Mr. Brownell remained here for the remainder of his life, a period of 33 years. By his wife, Elizabeth Bentley, whom he married (?at Gawsworth)

¹ He is thought by some to have been one of the ten children of John Rogers, the first Protestant martyr in 1555, a native of Lancashire.

² An imperfect copy occurs in Harl. MS. 2037, f. 320.

³ Copied in full in Harl. MS. 2151. His arms were, Argent a mullet Sable, charged with a martlet Or, on a chief of the second, three fleurs-de-lis Gules, and her arms, Azure on a chevron between three wolves' (?) heads erased Or, six estoiles Gules.



Church Tower and South Porch.

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on March 25, 1599, he had one son and several daughters. His only son, *Nathaniel Brownell*,¹ was bapt. at Gawsworth on Nov. 26, 1601, a daughter, *Rebecca*, on Nov. 14, 1605, and *Mary* and *Alice* (twins) on April 20, 1607. On Jan. 20, 1623-4, *William Moreton*, of Congleton, gent., married *Mary Brownell*,² daughter of *William Brownhill* (*sic*) "Mr in Artes and pson of Gausworth," and on Feb. 7, 1627-8, *Edward Rowe*, of Macclesfield, gent., married *Alice Brownell*.³ On Jan. 2, 1628-9, is recorded the marriage of "Mr Tho: Jainsou Mr of Arts Oxford and pastor at Prestbury," with *Rebecca Brownell*. Mr. Brownell was buried at Gawsworth on Sept. 11, 1630, and his widow, *Elizabeth*, on Oct. 19, 1650. From an entry in the Registers he appears to have acted for a time as tutor to Sir *Edward Fitton*'s sons. His tombstone on the floor of the chancel, according to *Earwaker*, read: "Hic jacet | Gulielmus | Brownell vi | tæ integerrimus | theologus | et rector hujus | ecclesie | qui sepultus | fuit Sept. . . . | Anno Dñi | 1630." At the West end of the church by the font is an incised grave-stone reading: "Hic jacet Gulielmus Brownell de G a w e s w o r t h obit x.v. December MDCXXXIII."

1630. Sept. 19. WILLIAM HUTCHINS.

Presented by *Thomas Drinkwater*, citizen and merchant of Chester [on the death of *W. Brownell*.]

He matriculated at Oxford from *Brasenose Coll.* on June 3, 1603, his father being described as a plebeian, co. Chester, no place of residence being given. *Dr. Ormerod* states that he was descended from a family settled at *Pulford*, co. Chester. He obtained a Fellowship at *Brasenose College*, and was Vice-Principal of that college. He was ejected from *Gawsworth* about 1643, as a Royalist, and one who would not take the *National Covenant*, &c., and his living was sequestrated.⁴ He died about 1647.⁵

c. 1643. . . . THOMAS BROOKE.

[Presented on the ejection of *William Hutchins*.]

¹ This *Nathaniel Brownell* married *Hellen Downes*, daughter of *Peter Downes*, of *Synderland*, in *Bowdon* parish, on June 3, 1619, and there are many entries of the baptisms and burials of his children at *Gawsworth*. He was buried at *Gawsworth* on Oct 2, 1638, where his tombstone still exists. On Feb. 2, 1612, *Robert Legh*, gent., was married at *Gawsworth* to *Susanna Brownell*, evidently a relation of the rector (? niece). In 1609 is recorded the death on April 5 of *Ann Brownhill* (*sic*) wife of *Tho. Brownell*, of *Northen*, and sister of *Thomas Birch*, of *Birch*, near *Manchester*, gent. It seems probable that Mr. Brownell came from *Northenden*, or somewhere not far from *Manchester*.

² A son, *William Moreton*, was bapt. at *Gawsworth* Aug. 9, 1629, another son, *Thomas Moreton*, was buried there on Oct. 12, 1631, and on April 2, 1633, his wife was also there buried. Her tombstone is still in the church.

³ They had a daughter, *Rebecca Rowe*, bapt. at *Gawsworth* on Oct. 12, 1630; and after the death of her husband in Sept., 1631, she appears to have married his cousin, *William Rowe*, of *Macclesfield*, as shown in the *Visitation* of 1663-4.

⁴ "Mr. Hutchins hath the parsonage house of *Gawsworth*, the glebe land thereto belonging and a tenement in *Gawsworth*, all of them sequestered 28 Sept. 1644." (*Return of estates sequestrated in Macclesfield Hundred*.)

⁵ See *Henry Newcome's Autobiography* (*Chet. Soc.*), p. 16.



Gawsworth Church
Priest's doorway North side Chancel.

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This Presbyterian minister, who came here when Mr. Hutchins was ejected, was certainly at Gawsworth in Nov. 1644, when there is entered in the Register "the names of the Males of the Townshipe of Gosworth, who have taken the Nationall Covenant within the Church of Gosworth afforesaide Nov: 24 Anno Domi 1644," where his signature as "Thomas Brook pastor ibdem," heads the list, the second being "Tho: Reddish clicus," probably the curate,¹ and the third "Joh: Leadbeater, capt." He remained here till 1649, when, as Newcome records, "out of dislike to the place and people, he was resolved to leave," and applied to Newcome to take his place.² There were many difficulties to encounter and formalities to comply with before this could be accomplished, so that the name of Mr. Brookes, as he writes it, occurs frequently in Newcome's Autobiography.

1650. HENRY NEWCOME, M.A.

Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of England, on the death of the last incumbent [i.e. William Hutchins.]³

This distinguished Nonconformist, whose most interesting Autobiography and Diary were published by the Chetham Society a few years since, was the fourth son of Stephen Newcome, M.A., rector of Caldecot, co. Huntingdon (by Rose his wife, eldest daughter of Henry Williamson, B.D., parson of Connington), and was baptized Nov. 27, 1627. His elder brother, Robert Newcome, being appointed master of the Free school at Congleton, he was, about May, 1641, sent there to him, and on May 10, 1644, he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was under the tuition of the Rev. Zachary Cawdrey, Fellow of the College, and afterwards rector of Barthomley, co. Chester. On Sept. 24, 1647, he returned to Congleton, probably as master of the Grammar school there, took his B.A. degree at Candlemas in that year, and in 1648 was appointed reader to Mr. Ley, the then rector of Astbury, and "shortly fell to preaching, sometimes at Congleton, and sometimes at Astbury." On July 6, 1648, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Mainwaring, of Smallwood, near Astbury, gent. (and sister of the second wife of Elias Ashmole, the celebrated herald and antiquary).⁴ On Aug.

¹ The Gawsworth Registers record the burial of "Jane, the wife of Mr. Thomas Reddish," on June 30, 1662, so that he was probably living in the neighbourhood for some years, possibly serving at one of the smaller chapelries, Siddington, Marton or Bosley.

² Newcome records in his Autobiography that "Mr. Brookes had spent six years among them [the people of Gawsworth.] . . . but by his great passions and contests with the people he had lost the authority of his preaching and he had little success with them."

³ This is from the "Broad Seal," which Newcome says he procured, and which is dated Nov. 28, 1649.

⁴ Newcome records that on August 28, 1652, "my brother [-in-law] Ashmole came to Gawsworth to see my father-in-law and us. It was the first time that ever I saw him. A deal of delightful company I had with him, and from that time [I made] a very cordial friend and relation of him. He stayed in the country about a month, and was often with me. He went whilst he was with us to Buxton, to view all the rarities of the Peak, and went daily a simpling [botanizing] in the mountains and mosses about us. He left us Oct. 23."

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22, 1648, he was ordained at Sandbach, and in Michaelmas of that year settled as incumbent of Goostree, a small chapelry in that parish. He remained here till his friend, Col. Henry Mainwaring, of Kermincham, interested himself in his favour, and ultimately helped to secure his appointment to Gawsorth.

He removed, as he tells us in his Autobiography, to Gawsorth on April 8, 1650, and his son Henry was born there on May 28, 1650, and baptized on June 7th, by Mr. Cartwright, then minister at Bosley.

On Oct. 29, 1652, his son Daniel was born, baptized Nov. 10, and on Feb. 27, 1652-3, he preached two sermons at Gawsorth in aid of "a collection for the Indians," and made a house-to-house visitation which raised "a pretty sum for that little place, seven pounds odd money." In 1656 he records that he "repaired the parsonage house, pointed it and mossed it round, made some convenient alterations in the house, especially that partition in the parlour, it cost me a good deal of money." On Nov. 3, 1656, Mr. Hollinworth, chaplain at the Collegiate Church of Manchester, died, and after much negotiation, Newcome was appointed to that place on Dec. 24, and on April 12, 1657, he preached his farewell sermon at Gawsorth.²

After leaving Gawsorth he held the chaplaincy at the Collegiate Church, Manchester, till the Restoration in 1660, when in the new arrangement of the fellowships, &c., he was passed over. He remained in Manchester, occasionally preaching, till August 1662, when he was silenced by the Act of Uniformity. From this date till 1672, although he continued to reside at Manchester, he was unable to preach much in public; but on May 13, in that year, on the passing of the Declaration of Indulgence, he took out a licence to preach in his own house and also in a barn. This licence, however, was soon after cancelled, and for some years he was prevented from public preaching, although he continued to do so in private. In 1686, after the passing of the Declaration of Indulgence by James II., he preached once more in public, first in an empty house and then in a barn; and about 1690, the Chapel in Cross Street, Manchester, was built for him, where he preached till his death on Sept. 17, 1695, aged 68 years. He was buried in the Chapel on Sept. 20, his wife was buried there on Feb. 8, 1700-1, aged 84 years, and their daughter Rose on May 4, 1719, in her 70th year.

1657. . . . THOMAS EDGE.

[Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of England on the resignation of Henry Newcome.]³

Mr. Edge had previously been incumbent of Goostrey, where he appears

¹ These were the Indians in America, among whom John Eliot laboured, and for whom he translated the Bible.

² On Nov. 9, 1656, his son *Peter* was baptized at Gawsorth.

³ The "Broad Seal," as Newcome calls it, was passed about Sept., 1657. Newcome also records that Mr. Jeynson, the vicar of Prestbury, "put in furiously" for his son, Arthur Jeynson, in the place of Mr. Edge, and that the names of Mr. Hugh Henshaw, of Chelford, Mr. Bradley Hayhurs: (then residing at Macclesfield), Mr. Orme and others, were mentioned.



Church Gargoyle.



Church Corbel.

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to have succeeded Henry Newcome. In 1656 he married Mary Brett,¹ but they do not appear to have had any issue. He was ejected from Gawsworth on the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662, and went to live at Chelford. In 1672 he preached in a house at Withington near there, but subsequently preached more privately till his death on June 21, 1678.² Calamy describes him as "an excellent preacher . . . his sermons were close and methodical, full of sound argument and apt similitudes and delivered with much zeal . . . He was useful to many, and his loss was much lamented."

c. 1662. MATTHEW SMALWOOD [D.D. or LL.D.]

[Probably presented by Lord Gerard of Brandon, on recovering the Gawsworth estates.]

In the printed account of the disputes between Lord Gerard and Alexander Fitton, c. 1663, Earwaker records "Dr. Smalwood being Parson of Gawsworth in Cheshire, Halsall in Lancashire, St. Martins Outwich in London, and also of the Life Guard."

He matriculated at Oxford from Brasenose College, 15 Feb., 1632-3, aged 18, son of James Smalwood, of Middlewich, co. Chester. He was one of the witnesses to Sir Edward Fitton's will, dated at Bristol on Aug. 16, 1643.³ He was created a Prebendary of St. Paul's, London, on Dec. 6, 1660, and probably had St. Martin's Outwich about the same time. He appears to have resigned Gawsworth in 1664, and in 1671 became Dean of Lichfield. He died April 26, 1683, and was buried in the Cathedral there.

1664. July 3. HUGH HOLLINSHEAD.

Presented by Charles Lord Gerard [? on the resignation of Dr. Smalwood.]

Mr. Hollinshead, who was not improbably a younger son of the family of Hollinshead of Heywood in Alderley parish, appears to have been at Gawsworth as Curate prior to his presentation as Rector. He not improbably represented Dr. Smalwood there, as there is the entry of the baptism of "Hugh sonne of Hugh Hollinshead ministr at Gawsworth," 15 April, 1663; and on Sept. 21, 1664, that of "Thomas, son of Hugh Hollinshead, Rector of Gawsworth," buried Sept. 23. He died on Jan. 12, and was buried on Jan. 16, 1665.

¹ "Thomas Edge and Mary Brett. Their banns were published the 23rd, the 30th of Dec., 1655, and 6th of January" [1655-6], Goostrey Registers. They were probably married before a neighbouring justice of the peace.

² His burial is thus recorded in the Prestbury Register. "1678. Chelford. Thomas Edge, gent., sepult. apud Chelford, 24 Junii." His widow was buried there on Jan. 27, 1685-6, as "Mary, relict of Mr. Thomas Edge, Minister."

³ A deed in possession of B. Ll. Vawdrey, Esq., of Tushingam Hall, is a grant dated 20 April, 1643, from Sir Edward Fitton, of Gawsworth, Bart., the true and undoubted patron of the parish church of Gawsworth, to Thomas Legh, of Adlington, Esq., and Richard Grene, of Congleton, and their assigns, of the next presentation to the rectory and parish church of Gawsworth, to present *Matthew Smalwood*, clerk. Signed, Edward ffytton, Rauffe Hollinshead, senior, Francis Hollinshead, John Davenport, Thomas Bennett.

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1665. June 13. ARTHUR JEYNSON.

Presented by Thomas Jeynson, clerk [Vicar of Prestbury, on the death of Hugh Hollinshead.]

This rector was the son of Thomas Jeynson, Vicar of Prestbury, by his wife, Rebecca, daughter of the Rev. William Brownell, rector of Gawsworth, and was baptised at Prestbury on March 16, 1632-3. He matriculated at Oxford from Brasenose College, 5 April, 1650. The only entry there is in the Registers relating to him is that recording his burial, and there is nothing to show whether he was married or not. It is also not certain whether he resided at Gawsworth or not, but he was buried there on Oct. 12, 1683. His father, as Newcome tells us, had "put in furiously for his son" to be presented to Gawsworth in 1657, but was then unsuccessful.

1683-4. February 1. JOHN HAMMOND, M.A.

Presented by Charles, Earl of Macclesfield, on the death of Arthur Jeynson.

He matriculated at Oxford from Christ Church College as a poor scholar on 26 Feb., 1668-9, aged 16, the son of John Hammond, of Hatton, co. Salop; B.A. 17 Dec., 1672; M.A. 8 July, 1675. He remained at Gawsworth for 41 years; and on April 16, 1689, was married at Prestbury to Alice, the second daughter of Sir Fulk Lucy, of Henbury, Knt., and by her had issue.¹ She died probably in childbirth, and was buried at Gawsworth on Oct. 14, 1697, aged 37. His burial is thus recorded, "1724 April 15 John Hammond Rector, who left ye Interest of fifty pounds to the poor housekeepers of Gawsworth." His epitaph is preserved on the south wall of the chancel. He was in his 73rd year when he died. The Rev. John Hammond, grandson of the Rector of Gawsworth, ultimately became heir to the estates of the Lucys of Charlecote, co. Warwick, and on 9 Feb., 1787, took the name and arms of Lucy only. He erected the monument at Gawsworth to his grandfather.

1724. June 16. WILLIAM HALL, M.A.

Presented by Charles Mordaunt, Esq., and Elizabeth, Lady Mohun, his wife, on the death of John Hammond.

Mr. Hall, who according to an inserted entry in the Gawsworth Registers was born on Feb. 19, 1692-3, and who was educated at Jesus College, Cam-

¹ A son (whose name has been carefully erased), bapt. 1 June, 1691, *George*, bapt. 7 Dec., 1693, *Henry*, bapt. 18 Dec., 1694, *Alice*, bapt. 13 April, 1696, and *Susanna*, bapt. 1 Oct., 1697. There was, according to the epitaph, a third (? eldest) daughter, who is probably to be identified with the *Isabella Hammond* mentioned in the following entry, "1718, Dec. 18, Jeffrey Power, of Cheadle, in ye county of Stafford, gentleman, and Mrs. Isabella Hammond, of this Parish, were married by Licence." On June 20, 1723, "William Smith, gentleman, and Mrs. *Alice Hammond*, both of Gawsworth, were married by Licence." The Gawsworth Registries also record the marriage on July 6, 1712, of *Edward Hammond*, and Mrs. Bridget Smith, who were "married by James Johnson, of Sutton."

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bridge, B.A. 1714, M.A. 1728, was appointed to the living of Siddington on March 13, 1715-16, and in 1718 he had the adjacent living of Marton given him. He resigned both these on being appointed to Gawsworth in 1724, where he remained for the rest of his life. He married Esther, daughter of the Rev. John Latham, A.M., rector of Church Lawton, co. Chester, but does not appear to have had any issue by her. She died Sept. 6, 1746, aged 54, and was buried at Gawsworth on Sept. 9. He died on July 20, 1769, aged 76, having been 46 years rector of Gawsworth, and was buried there on July 24.

1769. July 27. MILES LONSDALL, M.A.

Presented by Elizabeth Parrott, widow, on the death of William Hall.

This rector matriculated at Oxford from Brasenose College, 26 Jan., 1754, aged 17, the son of Miles Lonsdall, gent., of Bury, co. Lanc. He held one of the Hulmeian Exhibitions at Brasenose, and took his B.A. degree 21 Oct., 1757, and that of M.A. 4 June, 1760; and on March 6, 1764, Miles Lonsdall, clerk, and Mary Still, of Manchester, were married at the Collegiate Church, Manchester. The *Manchester Mercury* describes her as "an agreeable lady with a large fortune." He died on Dec. 5, 1785, aged 50, and was buried at Gawsworth on Dec. 12, but there is no monument to him there.

1786. January 6. JOHN TICKELL, M.A.

Presented by Charles, Earl of Harrington, on the death of Miles Lonsdall.

This rector matriculated at Oxford from Merton College, 23 June, 1755, aged 18, son of William Tickell, gent., of Samford Courtney, co. Devon. He took his B.A. degree as from Exeter College, 3 Feb., 1761, M.A. 22 April, 1762. He was non-resident at Gawsworth.

1803. . . . HENRY FORSTER MILLS.

Presented by the Archbishop of York [Dr. Markham,] by lapse, on the death of John Tickell.

Mr. Mills, who was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1790, M.A. 1793, married on Nov. 27, 1794, at St. George's, Hanover Square, Alicia, third daughter of Dr. Markham, Archbishop of York. He was made Chancellor of York Cathedral in 1802 by Dr. Markham, was appointed to Gawsworth by the same patron in 1803, and in 1804 was presented to the rectory of Emley, co. York, by the Hon. R. L. Seville. He held these preferments till his death, dying at Pulteney Street, Bath, on April 27, 1827, aged 58. It is needless to say he was non-resident at Gawsworth.

¹ The baptism of "Myles, son of the Rev. Myles Lonsdall, Rector," occurs in the Gawsworth Registers, on Feb. 24, 1771, and his burial on September 10, 1781, but there were possibly other issue who were alive at the rector's death.

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1827. July 20. THE HON. WILLIAM HENRY STANHOPE,
M.A.

Presented by Charles, Earl of Harrington, on the death of H. F. Mills.

Mr. Stanhope was the sixth son of Charles, third Earl of Harrington, by his wife, Jane, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Fleming, Bart., of Brompton Park. He was born on Aug. 2, 1790, and died in London, June 21, 1872, in his 82nd year. Like his two predecessors, he was non-resident at Gawsworth, where his duties were undertaken by resident Curates. Of these the most important were the Rev. Francis Brandt, M.A., afterwards Rector of Aldford, co. Chester, who was at Gawsworth for many years, and the Rev. Edward Massie, M.A., who was Curate-in-charge from 1848 to 1873, during the so called "restoration" of the church.

1872. July 25. THE HON. HENRY AUGUSTUS STANHOPE,
M.A.

Presented by Charles Wyndham, Earl of Harrington, on the death of the Hon. H. W. Stanhope.

Mr. Stanhope was the third son of Philip Henry, Earl Stanhope, D.C.L., F.R.S., LL.D., the distinguished historian, and was born 4 Dec. 1845. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, B.A. in 1869, M.A. 1870, and on Nov. 2, 1878, married the Hon. Mildred Vernon, second daughter of Augustus Henry Venables-Vernon, sixth Lord Vernon, of Sudbury, co. Derby. Mr. Stanhope, who had been curate of Wendover from 1860 to 1872, resided at Gawsworth from 1873 to February, 1880, being the first of the rectors of this parish who had done so for nearly 100 years. Whilst here he made considerable additions to and improvements in the Rectory. In December, 1879, he was presented by Lord Leconfield to the valuable living of Spofforth, near Wetherby, co. York, which he held until 1887.

1880. February 13. JOHN TREVENEN PENROSE, B.A.¹

Presented by Charles Wyndham, Earl of Harrington, on the resignation of the Hon. H. A. Stanhope.

John Trevenen Penrose was the second son of the Rev. John D. Penrose of Wood Hill, Cork. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A., 1876, M.A. 1883. Ordained Deacon at Worcester Cathedral 1877, Priest 1878. Was curate of Coleshill, Warwickshire 1877/79 and All Saints, Wakefield 1879/80. He was Rector of Gawsworth from 1880 until his resignation in 1897, when he was presented to the living of Barnard Castle. He was rural dean of Darlington from 1905 to 1906. In that year he was presented to the living of Petworth which he held from 1906 until his resignation in 1919. He was rural dean from 1911. During his later years he lived in retirement in London. In 1884 he married Miss Nancy Stawell, daughter of

¹ A memoir of the Rev. John Trevenen Penrose was published in 1927 by Fanny J. Skinner. A. R. Mowbray & Co., Ltd.



Church group by the South Porch of the Church, circa 1885. The Rev. John Trevenen Penrose is seated in the centre, and on his left David Rees, the schoolmaster at Gawsworth from 1883 until 1890.

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Sir William and Lady Stawell of Australia. He was a brother-in-law of Mr. Ronald McNeill, Member of Parliament for Canterbury, and Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and in October 1926 was staying with him at Cushenden, County Antrim when he was drowned. Mr. Penrose was playing golf when he and others were attracted by cries from the Strand bathing place. Two women who were bathing there had been suddenly carried out of their depth by a current. Seizing a life-buoy Mr. Penrose dashed into the water, but collapsed as he was approaching one of the women. At the inquest later in the day medical evidence showed that death was due to heart failure. The jury expressed deep appreciation of Mr. Penrose's heroic action, and commented strongly on the fact that there had been several men on the beach, and they all stood by and allowed an old man to attempt rescuing the women. The following tribute was written shortly after his death, by the late Mr. F. W. Proctor:—

Many people in this neighbourhood were shocked to learn that the Rev. J. T. Penrose, a former beloved rector of Gawsworth, had lost his life in a gallant attempt to rescue two young women who had got into difficulties whilst bathing. Mr. Penrose, who was in his 73rd year, was on a visit to his brother-in-law, Mr. Ronald McNeill (M.P. for Canterbury and Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs), at Cushenden, Co. Antrim.

As one who was privileged to enjoy the friendship of Mr. Penrose for many years, the writer has some ground for setting forth his views as to his life and worth. I first met him in the summer of 1891 and this fine, handsome man impressed me so much that I instinctively felt that nothing ill could be associated with him. And that first impression proved to be correct, for in all the years from then till now I never knew of his doing a mean or unkind act. He spoke ill of none, was a great lover of children, and to the aged, weak or afflicted, his presence was both comfort and inspiration. He recognised that the main end of life is to forgive—and is not forgiveness divine? His whole life was spent in doing good to others, his last earthly act being one of supreme self-sacrifice and "Greater love hath no man than this." The possessor of a rich voice, he exercised his fine vocal powers in order to bring joy into the lives of those amongst whom he laboured, this talent and his God-given sense of humour adding considerably to his popularity. He had the greatest admiration for Charles Kingsley both as man and author. Kingsley's "Muscular Christianity" and strong, manly views keenly appealing to him, but before all and through all he was a faithful parish priest. When almost overwhelmed with sorrow his high courage and simple faith sustained him and, like Valiant, in constancy he followed the Master to the end. His gentle persuasiveness and transparent honesty of purpose have, doubtless, been the means of winning many souls for, like Goldsmith's village preacher, he not only "allured to brighter worlds" but also "led the way." Would that the Church of England today possessed ten thousand priests of his type! Although it is nearly 20 years since he left this locality he always kept a warm corner in his heart for Gawsworth, which he re-visited at intervals."

It is recorded that in his early days at Gawsworth Mr. Penrose's athletic powers proved a passport to the good opinion of a neighbouring squire's

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son, who might perhaps have been less inspired by the most eloquent of sermons. Mr. Penrose had paid his first call at Thornycroft Hall, a country house near Siddington, and on taking his leave was accompanied by young Mr. Mytton Thornycroft—who, later, became his brother-in-law by marrying his sister Fanny—as far as an iron gate leading from the garden to the park. Before Thornycroft could open the gate the rector had cleared it at a bound. The young man reported to his family: “The new parson is all right—he can jump a five-barred gate!”

For the last few years he had been living in retirement at Wimbledon where he occasionally did duty for neighbouring clergymen. He was a keen sportsman and had travelled extensively.

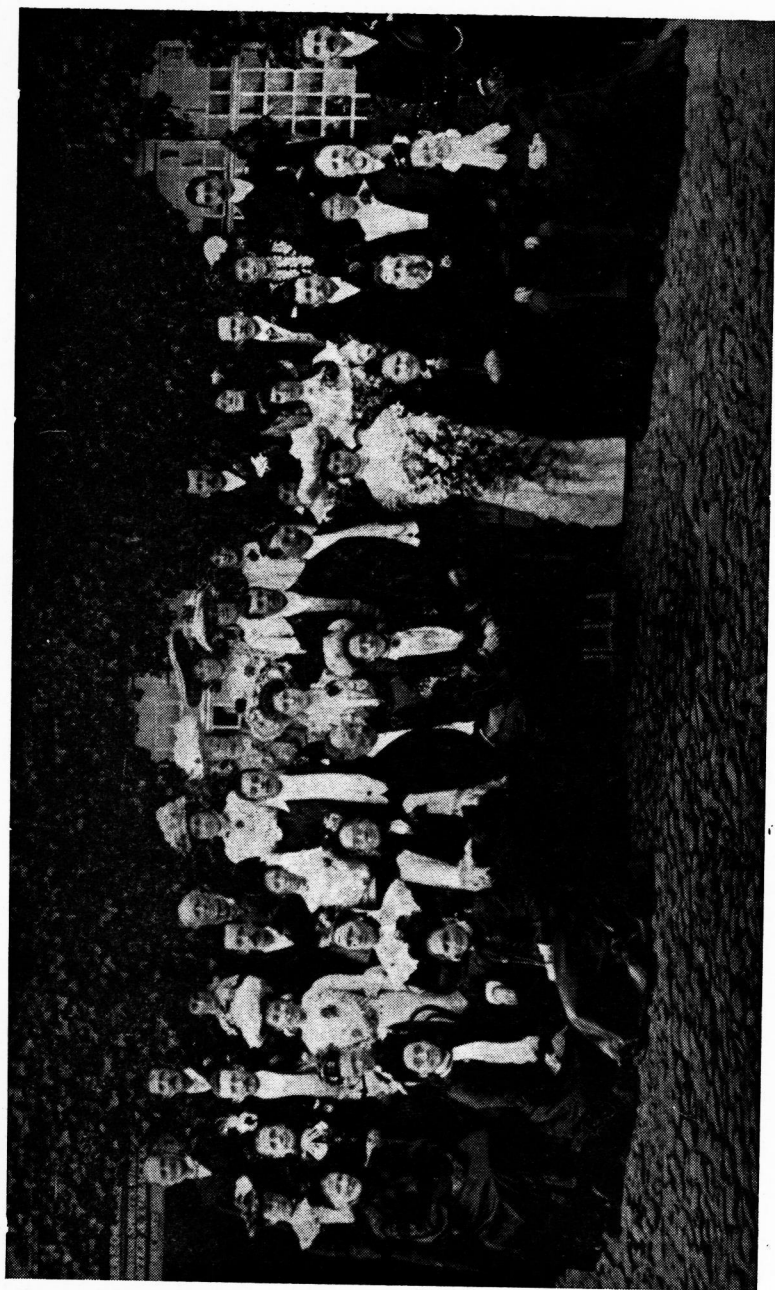
During the seventeen years Mr. Penrose was rector of Gawsworth the large parsonage house, as extended by his predecessor, was a serious problem, and he took several pupils as boarders, to be educated with his own children. Older parishioners who remember Penrose say he was a good country clergyman, had a fine voice, and was fond of holding musical concerts in the rectory; several programmes survive, which suggest the musical accomplishments of the village in those Victorian times were quite outstanding.

His parish magazine provides an interesting record of life as lived in a country parish in the last quarter of the 19th century, and the following advice to his parishioners which appeared in the magazine notes for June 1894 is typical of many harvest hints:

“The Summer is advancing, and with it the hard work of hay and corn harvest approaches fast. It has been proved over and over again that the hardest manual labour in all climates, in Summer or Winter, can be better done and with more comfort and satisfaction to all concerned without the use of intoxicating drinks than with them. Beer, when taken in hot weather, heats the blood, and in the long run increases thirst instead of quenching it. What is wanted is a drink that will cool the blood and quench the thirst, at the same time that it feeds and sustains the body. Tea, coffee and cocoa are good, but the best of all is Stokos, a drink that is used largely in many harvest fields.

It has been pronounced by working men to be “both meat and drink.” In view of the terrible ravages which strong drink is making in this country and the special troubles which arise both to farmers and labourers from the excessive use of beer in the harvest field, we earnestly invite our readers to make trial of this excellent temperance drink. Above all, we urge upon fathers and masters not to allow the temptation of beer drinking in the harvest to be put in the way of lads and young boys, who never drink it at other times. The following is the receipt(?) for Stokos:—

Put a $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. of oatmeal ground fine, about 6 oz. of loaf sugar, half a lemon cut into slices into a pan; mix all together with a little warm water, then add a gallon of boiling water; stir thoroughly, and use when cold. The lemon may be omitted or any other flavouring may be used



Edwardian wedding group, outside the Harrington Arms Inn.

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instead. Pure "Lime Fruit Juice" (to be had at the grocer's) makes an excellent flavouring about 3 tablespoonfuls put in when cold. COSTS: 3d. a Gallon."

Mr. Penrose's will disclosed a gross estate of £18,974 with nett personality of £15,904. Among his bequests were sums to the Church Missionary Society, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and the Poor Clergy Corporation.

1897. ALEXANDER ROBERT GOLDIE, M.A.

Presented by Charles Augustus, Earl of Harrington, on the resignation of John Trevenen Penrose.

He was educated at Trinity College Cambridge, B.A. 1866, M.A. 1870 Deacon 1868, Priest 1869. He was Rector of Gawsworth 1897 until his resignation in 1904 when he retired to Bath. He joined the Roman Communion in 1907 and died in 1923. Mr. Goldie was formerly curate of Elvaston from 1868 until 1874, and Vicar of Elvaston Derby from 1874 until 1898. This church, beautifully situated in the park of Elvaston Castle, is in the gift of the Earls of Harrington, who acquired the advowson through their ancestor Sir Michael Stanhope from Henry VIII. in 1539, following the dissolution of the monasteries.

During the seven years he was at Gawsworth Mr. Goldie was not on the best of terms with his parishioners and was much criticised for closing the church and churchyard to the public. Fletcher Moss and many wellknown writers of the day unkindly recorded in the Press the closing of the church and its precincts, referring disparagingly: "to the barricades and fortifications being erected to discourage visitors coming to the village." One contemporary Press account begins the article with the heading "The Closing of Gawsworth," and goes on to relate:—

"The new rector of Gawsworth, the Rev. A. R. Goldie, has followed the methods instructed by Mrs. Lowther of Shrigley Hall of Pott Shrigley, and copied by Earl Egerton of Tatton.

"Mr. Goldie is evidently a firm believer in the old saying, an Englishman's house is his castle. The rectory gate is kept locked, and on one of the gate posts he who runs may read that these are "Private Grounds Trespassers will be prosecuted."

The churchyard has also been locked against visitors and the following notice posted "During the summer months the church will be shown to visitors by appointment with the rector or churchwardens on any day of the week between the hours of two and five except Saturdays and Bank Holidays."

"The Postle family has also received notice to quit, the Postles having been in Gawsworth seventeen years, tending a small farm and keeping a few cows, while the head of the family adds shoemaking to his farming labours."

Fletcher Moss in his "Pilgrimages in Cheshire and Shropshire" wrote:



Gawsworth Old Rectory, circa 1900, with locked gate and trespassing notice, during the occupation of the Rev. A. R. Goldie.

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"Gawsworth is so exceptionally beautiful, with its ancient church and halls embosomed in lofty trees and faithfully reflected in the placid pools, that the artist and the tourist delight to go there. The antiquary may muse over the remnants of the many stately monuments of the vanished Fittons, the lover of heraldry may here study the coats of arms of all the Cheshire families in bewildering profusion of quarterings, and even the simple-minded may try to imagine what that church was like when from floor to ceiling, walls, windows, roof, and all were ablaze with the colours of the rainbow, for all that art and skill in their palmiest days could do to beautify it was freely done.

"Arrived at the cottage by the church gates we found men working at fortifications round the churchyard, and notices saying no one could be admitted who had not previously received the sanction of the rector and churchwardens. As we had not had any notice of this notice it was impossible to comply, though I had no doubt the rector would admit us if he could be found. Therefore I went to the rectory, but found the garden gate locked, with a big notice on it, "Private grounds. Trespassers will be prosecuted." "I rang the bell three times, but there was no answer. I hesitated whether to keep on ringing, for there was evidently some one inside the house, when a man who was working at the fortifications and was careful to lock the churchyard gate after him as he went in or out, sent a stable boy to me, and from him I learnt that the rector was in the house, but "when e's lock'd issel in 'e wunner come out." I asked if there were no maid-servants to answer the bell, and the answer was, "'e wunner let 'em." When I said something about the ordinary civilities or courtesies of life, the poor lad only seemed ashamed for his master, so the next thing we did was to rig up the camera in the road and photograph the rectory, taking care to focus for the notice on the gate.

"The woman at the cottage told us she had notice to quit after living there for nearly twenty years, rearing a family and eking out a living by showing the church. Watts had set up his camera and was about to take the cap off when some one frightened the wild-ducks on the pool and all the reflections in the water were destroyed. A little patience set that right. Again all was ready, when some dense smoke rolled over everything, quite stopping photography. The smoke evidently came from a rubbish heap in the rectory garden, and Watts, who was very religiously brought up, burst out, saying it was that something parson doing it on purpose."

In all fairness to the memory of Goldie it must be recorded that for many years Gawsworth church and yard, during the long period of absentee rectors had been used as a tea room and garden. The remedy he employed was severe, and there was certainly a lack of tact in his methods. His action was generally misjudged and although the church and its precincts were closed to visitors from 1898 to 1904, save at the time of church services or when three days notice had been given of proposed visits, the outcome of the closure was a greater respect from the public not only at Gawsworth but all churches in the area. Possibly the trouble came to a head by a surfeit of noise and

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horse-play at the time of Gawsworth Wakes. Old residents relate that until the turn of the century stalls and booths were set up in church field and the whole length of the avenue on these annual occasions of festivity, and no doubt the church precincts in particular suffered on these occasions.

Tales of Gawsworth wakes and sports of many years ago have been retold by Mrs. M. Hague of Over Alderley. This lady, writing earlier this century, recorded that

“Gawsworth Wakes Sunday never fell before the 6th or after the 12th of August. This day in the past was set aside for visitors and the return of sons and daughters who would return to their old homes. If there were family squabbles they were all forgotten for that day. All were made welcome on Wakes Sunday. Mrs. Hague said that her great uncle would welcome his guests to the strains of “Hold the Fort” and “In the sweet bye and bye,” played on his musical box. There would be a drink of wine for all.

“A day in the following week would see tents and stalls in a field by the New Barn for it was a public house then. There were competitions of all kinds and there would be no notices of “No Beer.” There was a prize for the man who could make the ugliest face looking through a horse collar. Another race was the greasy pig race which caused much amusement as the old ladies tried to catch the slippery little animal.”

Little wonder Mr. Goldie felt it his duty to abolish a grievous state of affairs, and teach the public to regard Gawsworth church and yard, hallowed by centuries of worship, with reverence.

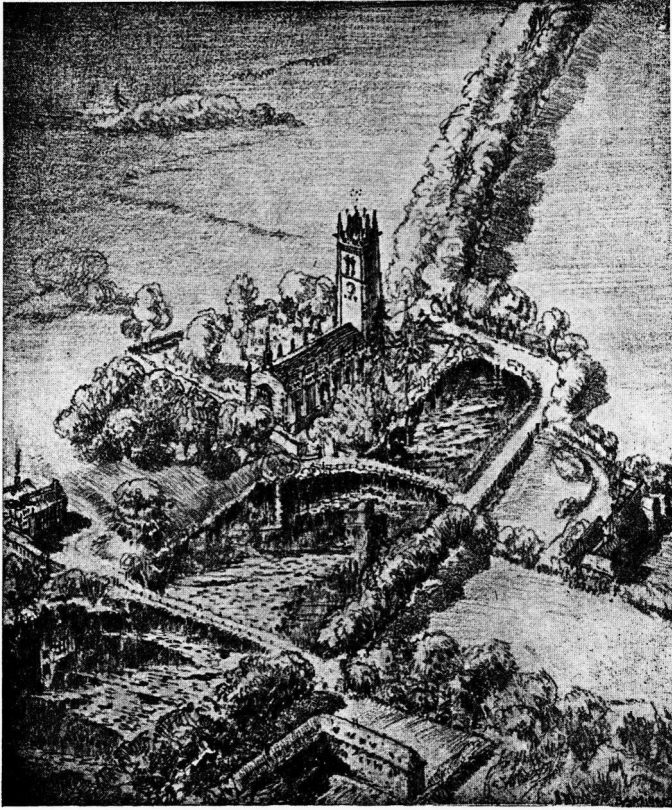
The rector was also responsible for the first attempt to restore Anglo-Catholic worship to Gawsworth. Until he was inducted and instituted to the living in 1898 Holy Communion took place on the first Sunday in the month after morning prayer at 10.30 a.m. He taught the old Faith with vigour, and during his incumbency the influences of the Oxford Movement began to reach Gawsworth in full measure.

1904. HERBERT EDWARD POLEHAMPTON, M.A.¹

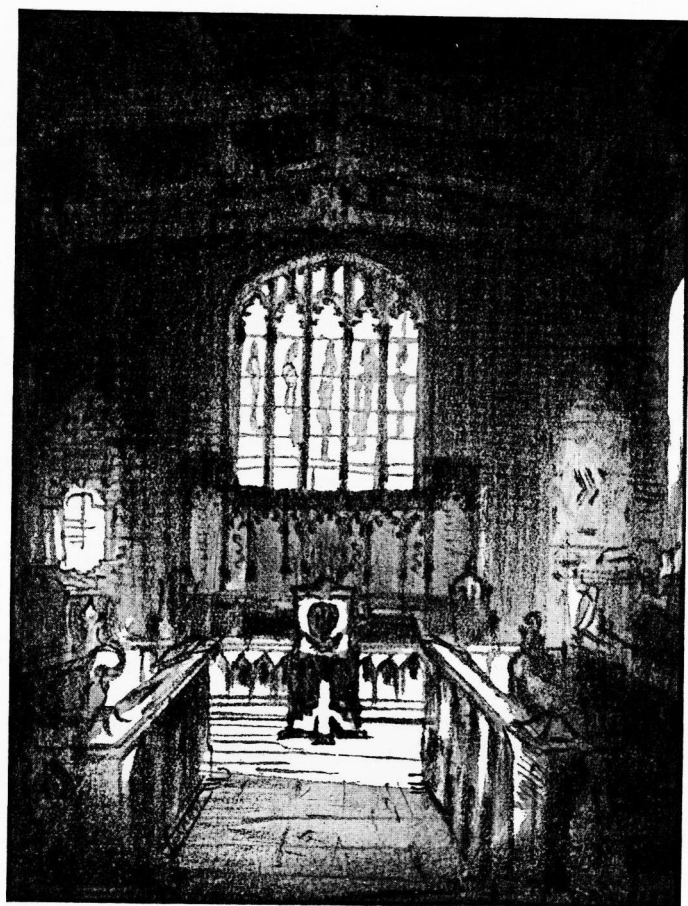
Presented by Charles Augustus 8th Earl of Harrington on the resignation of Alexander Robert Goldie.

He was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, and the University College of Durham. B.A. 1885, M.A. 1889. Deacon 1886, Priest 1888. After he was ordained he assisted his father, who was then Rector of Ightham in Kent, in the capacity of curate, until 1889 when he became curate of the Parish Church of Frome, Somerset, under Father Hanbury Tracy who had just

¹ Consecutive generations of Polehamptons appear to have been drawn to the church, and there is an interesting book published by Richard Bentley in 1859, with the following title page: “A Memoir and Diary of the Rev. Henry S. Polehampton, M.A., Chaplain of Lucknow. Edited by the Rev. E. Polehampton, M.A., and the Rev. T. S. Polehampton, M.A., Fellows of Pembroke College, Oxford.” In this book the Rev. Henry S. Polehampton was Chaplain of Lucknow at the time of the great Siege; the diary too, is of outstanding interest.



A bird's-eye view of Gawsworth.



Church interior circa 1860.

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succeeded the brilliant priest, Father W. J. E. Bennett. He was curate of Chislehurst 1900/01, and St. Philip and St. James, Oxford, 1901/2. He was at Elvaston as curate 1902/04.

When he was instituted and inducted to the living of Gawsworth in 1904 the work of restoring church ritual to Gawsworth, initiated after 300 years by the former incumbent, was continued wholeheartedly.

Following the example of his predecessor, the Rev. A. R. Goldie, Mr. Polehampton came to Gawsworth from Elvaston Church adjacent to Elvaston Castle, Derby, the ancestral home of the Earls of Harrington. For some years he had to contend with considerable animosity in his new parish, primarily because of the ceremonial he employed, and a paper written by Polehampton,¹ and read at the Chester branch of the English Church Union on the 3rd May, 1920, is an illuminating account of Gawsworth parish life earlier this century.

Father Herbert Polehampton² resigned the Living of Gawsworth in 1925 when he retired to Hastings, where he died on 17 September 1938 and was buried four days later in his native village of Ightham near Sevenoaks Kent. May he rest in Peace.

The author remembers the era of Father Polehampton at Gawsworth (1904-1925) with affection. In those days the language of Gawsworth was indeed broad Cheshire, particularly in the village school which he attended for a short time. The rector, however much he tried could never master some of the country expressions and the speech of the Cheshire countryman was always at variance with the language of Oxford and his native county of Kent. Alas, all is now changed, and with very few exceptions the author's school-fellows all speak B.B.C. English. If the reader wishes to hear Cheshire as it was generally spoken in the village until about the year 1920 Dick Thornycroft of High Lane Farm is a splendid survival of that period. How distant now it all seems, motor transport has changed everything—and the horse which was part and parcel of the village scene has also largely disappeared. Tom Hague clung to his horses until 1951, but his sons have since adapted themselves to this machine age.

¹ This interesting manuscript, with other personal papers was found in Polehampton's desk, which he left to his old friend Frederick Smith, now resident at "Ightham," Pennington's Lane, Gawsworth. The finest MS. written in Polehampton's inimitable prose, is a quite brilliant story thinly disguising the names of people still having relations living in the parish and district. A copy is in the author's safe, and the script has been edited for possible publication in years to come. In this manuscript Polehampton has left biographical sketches with personal comments on the Bishop, Archdeacon, Diocesan Surveyor, neighbouring clergy, the village schoolmaster and the parishioners.

² Prior to Mr. Polehampton's departure for the south Messrs. B. Stoddard & Son, of Chestergate, Macclesfield and Manchester, conducted a sale of some of the Rector's possessions. The prices included: Old Jacobean oak-gate table, twisted supports, 4ft. 4in. by 5ft. 6in., £15; upright pianoforte by C. Bechstein, £67; bracket clock in mahogany, £11; old carved mahogany Rummer table, 2ft. 11in. diameter, £18; old salt glaze H.P. pot, £14 10s.; set of Queen Ann dining chairs in mahogany, eight single and two carvers, £72; Queen Anne sideboard in oak, 6ft. 5in. wide, £13; old mahogany bureau, £38; Chippendale mahogany and inlaid circular table, £22; complete set of "The Connoisseur," £40; old oak wardrobe, £40 10s.—Good prices indeed for 1925.

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1925. ALFRED THOMAS FEARON SYDNEY STEPHENS, M.A.

Presented by Dudley Henry Eden 9th Earl of Harrington on the resignation of Herbert Edward Polehampton.

Born 1878 at Brightmet Vicarage Bolton. Son of the Rev. Alfred Stephens. He was educated at Bolton Grammar School and Keble College Oxford. B.A. 1900, M.A. 1904. In 1913 he married Agnes Maud daughter of J. W. Scorer Esquire.

He was ordained Deacon in 1902 and Priest in 1903. Curate of Emmanuel Church Barlow Moor 1902-04, St. Andrew Ashton-on-Ribble 1904-06 and 1909-10, Tonge-with Brightmet 1906-09, St. Thomas Garstang, 1911-14, Dodleston 1914-16.

Before being presented to Gawsworth Mr. Stephens was Vicar of Eaton, a small parish three miles south of Gawsworth from 1916-25. Mr. Stephens served with the B.E.F. France 1918, Captain School Football, Cricket and Athletics; Rowed in Keble College VIII.; Won medal Manchester to Southport Walk 1903; Won the Morecambe Cross Bay Swimming Championship 1907.

During the twenty years he was rector of Gawsworth, he was often to be seen walking or cycling over the parish, and as a countryman he was a good follow on to Mr. Polehampton. Mr. Stephens disliked modern inventions changing the mode of life of country people. He resisted (unsuccessfully) electric light replacing the old oil lamps in the church, and was opposed to any change which was designed to change the Gawsworth scene. As a churchman he followed a "Middle" course, and during his rectorship some of his predecessors' church ritual fell into disuse.

On his resignation he lived at Leamington Spa, where he died on 5 Nov. 1954. Four days later he was laid to rest priest-wise with his head to the east in the old churchyard at Gawsworth.

1945. JOHN RAYMOND HARRISON, M.A.

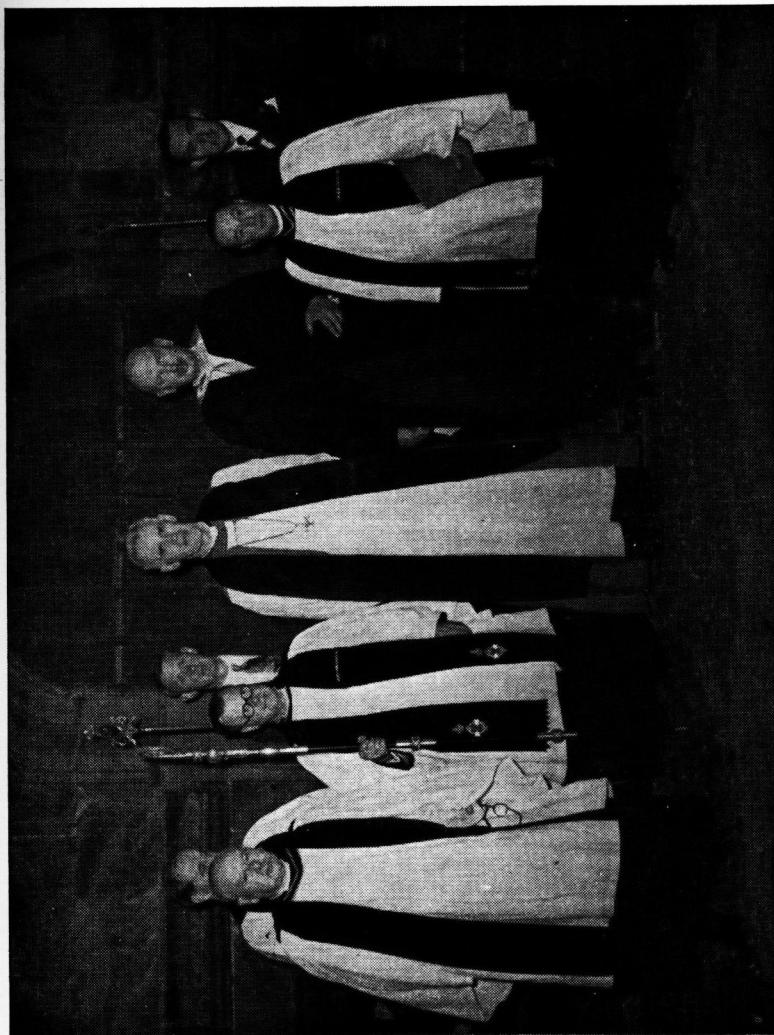
Presented by William Henry Leicester 11th Earl of Harrington on the resignation of Alfred Thomas Fearon Sydney Stephens.

Mr. Harrison took his B.A. degree as from Queen's College, Cambridge, 1915 and that of M.A. 1919. He was also at Ripon Hall, Oxford. Deacon 1920, Priest 1921. Curate of St. Peter's, Macclesfield, 1920-24, Curate St. Andrews Nottingham 1924-27, Vicar of Oldbury, Worcs. 1927-32, Vicar of St. Christopher's Sneiton 1932-36, Vicar of Bunny-w-Bradmore 1936-45.

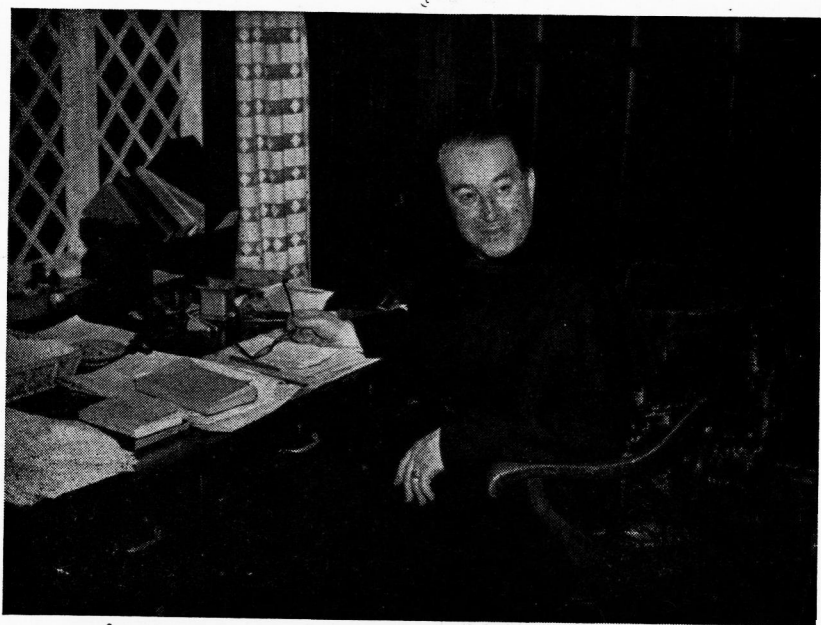
He was inducted and instituted to the living of Gawsworth on 23rd February, 1946, and on resigning in January, 1953, was presented to the living of Weare in Somerset.

1953. WILLIAM EDGAR CLARKE, L.Th., F.S.A.

Presented to the living of Gawsworth by the Author, Raymond Richards.



The Institution and Induction of the Rev. W. E. Clarke on 11th May, 1953. Reading from left to right: The Archdeacon of Macclesfield, the Ven. J. Tyler Whittle; the Rev. L. W. Dodd, Rural Dean; the Rev. O. Littler, Acting Chaplain; Albert Turnock, Warden; the Lord Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Rev. Dr. D. H. Crick; Raymond Richards, Patron; the Rev. W. E. Clarke; Frank Ollier, Warden.



The Rev. W. E. Clarke in his study, January, 1956.

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Previous to coming to Gawsworth Mr. Clarke served the whole of his ministry in the Diocese of Lichfield. Lichfield Theological College 1920. Ordained Deacon 1923, Priest 1924, Curate Northwood 1923-25, Curate Malins Lee 1925-27, Curate Christ Church Stafford 1927-32, Chaplain to St. George's Hospital Stafford 1930-53, Vicar of Gailey-with-Hatherston 1932-53, Chaplain R.A.F.V.R. Mentioned in dispatches 1943. His war service is distinguished. After the campaign in France, Belgium and Holland, Mr. Clarke was posted to Supreme Allied Headquarters at Versailles, to become the first British Chaplain there under Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder. He subsequently helped to conduct General Eisenhower's Service of Thanksgiving at Rheims at the end of the War. When preparing to move into Germany he was involved in an accident with an American Truck, and on being admitted to hospital was found to have fractured his spine. His chauffeur who was driving him had both legs broken. After a period of several months in hospital both made splendid recoveries.

Mr. Clarke married Margaret Ellen Lewis, eldest daughter of Robert Lewis Price of Weobley and Dawley Salop. They have two daughters, Rosemary Lewis and Margaret Ann. The elder daughter married on June 18th, 1955, John Proctor, the son of A. Heriot Proctor, M.C., and grandson of the late F. W. Proctor who was schoolmaster of Gawsworth from 1891 until his retirement in 1925, the younger Margaret Ann married June 15th, 1957, Bernard Thomas Raper Wood, the son of the Rev. F. B. Wood, M.A.

PARISH CLERKS

As recorded by Polehampton, who came to Gawsworth when the motor car was almost unknown, the village until the end of the First World War was comparatively isolated, and in its rural setting the country dialect survived little changed from the middle ages. Possibly no race of countrymen conveyed the atmosphere of village church life better than the parish clerks. The first to be mentioned in the Parish Registers is William Gaskell. A native of the parish he was born in 1648 and died at the age of ninety-three, relinquishing office in the year previous to his death. He was clerk for fifty-five years. In 1734 William was succeeded by Humphrey Swindells. It is not quite clear from where he originated and the register does not record his baptism. But, as the name appears as early as 1615 it may fairly be assumed that Humphrey was a son of the soil. He was in some ways a Solomon, for in 1739 he displayed good taste and sound judgment in that he married Hannah Harrup, a Gawsworth woman, by whom he had six sons and four daughters. On an official salary of six guineas, with moneys he might make in his spare time, Humphrey did his duty in his generation, becoming the "Jesse" of his three successors in office—son, grandson and grandson-in-law. In him were combined Christian and patriotic

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instincts. He held office for fifty-four years, dying in 1788. Humphrey was succeeded by his youngest son, Samuel, at the age of twenty-seven. Born in 1761, he married in 1792 Sarah Thornicroft of Eaton, by whom he had four sons and five daughters. He was clerk for forty-six years, and died in 1834 at the age of seventy-three. Samuel was followed by his second son, William. Born in 1796, and married in 1828 to Mary Fell, of Gawsworth, he struck a contrast between his father and grandfather, the former of whom had a family of nine, the latter one of ten, William having no issue of his marriage. Result, perhaps, of the absence of "the 10th anthem!" He was in office twenty-five years, falling dead on the bank of the rectory pool in 1859.

Thus the parish clerkship was held by three generations of Swindells for one hundred and twenty-five years. Probably a record. William Swindells was succeeded by his son-in-law, William Barrett. He was in office till 1870, and seems to have done better financially than his predecessors, drawing a salary of fourteen pounds as against six guineas. There is no record as to what became of him. In 1871 William Tedder was appointed. Resigning in 1880, he removed to Elvaston, where he died. Charles Postles succeeded, and retired in 1890. In this year the parish reproduced the rare old type of clerk in the person of Abraham Holland, one whose memory is held in reverence and esteem by the older generation of Gawsworth's church folk. At the age of sixty-two he shouldered the duties of parish clerk and sexton. Faithfully he carried them out till 1911, when increasing years compelled him to resign.

Abraham died in 1917, full of honour, at the age of ninety. His funeral, in the graveyard he had so lovingly tended for many years, was conducted with the dignified ceremonial prescribed by the Church. The service was attended by officials past and present, who had learnt to respect and admire this old clerk's simple Christian character. With "old Abraham's" passing went a link with the past.

The author retains Abraham Holland's school exercise books, and the writing book, dated 1938, is in faultless "copper-plate"; what a tribute to the old village school and the penmanship of George Clegg, who taught the village children from 1837 to 1842.

The present verger, William Heap, is cast in the mould of his predecessors to this office and is a "character" in the truest sense of that word, liked and respected by the whole village.

CHURCHWARDENS

The following list is necessarily incomplete, but it is accurate so far as a patient search through the existing church records permits.

- 1683 Edward Jackson and Humphrey Harrup.
- 1684 Edward Jackson and Humphrey Thornycroft.
- 1697 Henry Stubbs.
- 1711 Joseph Mottershead.
- 1721 Henry Stubbs.
- 1769 George Walter and Ralph Barnshawe.
- 1770 Humphrey Swindells and Joseph Warrington.
- 1771 William Carnthwaite and Richard Broadhurst.
- 1772 Richard Vernon and John Thornicroft.
- 1773 John Thornicroft and Richard Broadhurst.
- 1774 Thomas Hammond and Thomas Hammond.
- 1775 William Hulme and Thomas Anderton.
- 1776 Thomas Bailey and William Hammond.
- 1777 William Hammond and Thomas Bayley.
- 1778 John Bayley and Josiah Stubbs.
- 1779 James Rathbone and Thomas Jackson.
- 1780 Robert Potts and James Johnson.
- 1781 Robert Potts and James Johnson.
- 1782 Thomas Potts and Thomas Norbury.
- 1783 Thomas Potts and Thomas Norbury.
- 1786 Robert Hammond and Joshua Whittakers.
- 1825 Joseph Brindley and James Holland.
- 1826 Joseph Brindley.
- 1829 Joseph Warrington and Samuel Atkinson.
- 1830 Robert Mottershead and William Rowley.
- 1831 John Warrington and James Rathbone.
- 1833 John Thompstone and Thomas Hammond.
- 1834 Thomas Bullock and William Whittaker.
- 1835 James Wheelton and George Vernon.
- 1837 James Trafford and John Thompstone.
- 1838 Richard Vernon and William Thornicroft.
- 1839 Joseph Brindley and Peter Blackshaw.
- 1840 Thomas Smallwood and Eli Vernon.
- 1841 Eli Vernon and Joseph Wardle.
- 1842 Thomas Percival and Samuel Whittaker.
- 1843 Jonathan Robinson and William Shaw.

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- 1844 John Chapman and Samuel Anderton.
1845 Abraham Lomas and Joseph Bowyer.
1846 William Thornicroft and William Blackshaw.
1847 Isaac Thompstone and Richard Cheetham.
1848 William Rawlinson and Joseph Anderton.
1849 James Fisher and George Thornicroft.
1850 John Whittaker and James Lomas.
1851 Joseph Bayley and Josiah Stubbs.
1852 Joseph Brindley and Edward Gee.
1853 George Wardle and Samuel Atkinson.
1854 John Blackshaw and Charles Thornicroft.
1855 Joseph Warrington and Edward Warrington.
1856 Samuel Bullock and Josiah Thompstone.
1857 Thomas Percival and John Warrington.
1858 Francis Thompstone and James Trafford.
1859 James Hammond and John Whittaker.
1860 James Chappell and James Whittaker.
1861 Samuel Slater and James Hammond.
1862 Robert Mottershead and Noe Warrington.
1863 Thomas Smallwood and Thomas Sims.
1864 Matthew Mawkner and Joseph Rathbone.
1865 Robert Mottershead and William Anderton.
1866 Robert Mottershead and Charles Wardle.
1867 Abraham Lomas and Joseph Anderton.
1868 William Blackshaw and Joseph Wood.
1869 Robert Mottershead and Josiah Thompstone.
1870 Robert Mottershead and John Slater.
1871 Robert Mottershead and Isaac Thompstone.
1873 Robert Mottershead and Abraham Lomas.
1874 Abraham Lomas and Thomas Whittaker.
1875 Abraham Lomas and Samuel Bayley.
1876 Abraham Lomas and Jabez Wright.
1877 Abraham Lomas and John Chappell.
1878 Abraham Lomas and John Chappell.
1879 James Whittaker.
1881 Abraham Lomas.
1885 J. Chappell and F. Cartwright.
1886 J. Thompstone and J. Hague.
1887 J. Thompstone and John Chappell.
1888 John Chappell and William Chapman.



Church Corbel. The brawling woman.



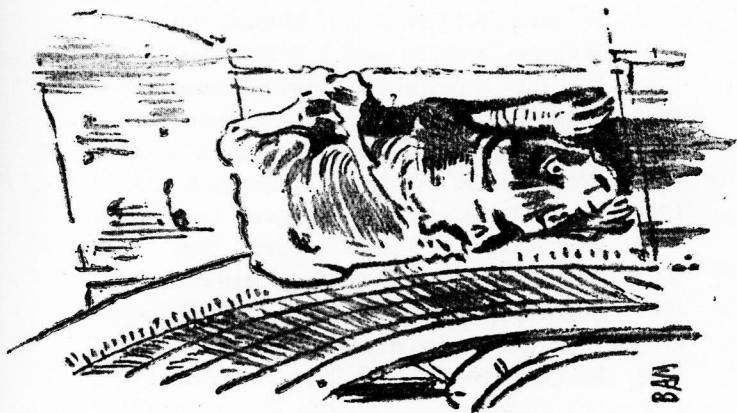
Church Corbel. Toothache.



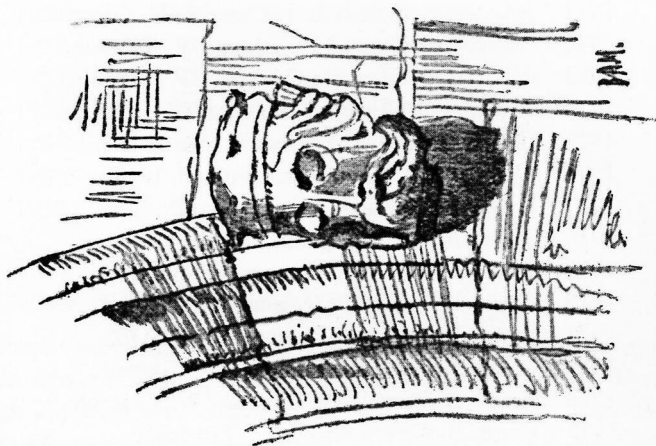
A grotesque.



Church Corbel. Father Christmas.



A Saurian Reptile.



Church Corbel. The result of mead.

The Manor of Gawsworth

- 1889 Charles E. Thornycroft and William Chapman.
1890 Charles E. Thornycroft and Edward Blackshaw.
1891 Charles E. Thornycroft and William Chapman.
1892 Charles E. Thornycroft and William Chapman.
1893 William Chapman and J. Mottershead.
1894 William Chapman and J. Mottershead.
1895 William Chapman and William Lomas.
1896 William Chapman and William Lomas.
1897 Percy Lomas and James Wright.
1898 Percy Lomas and James Fisher.
1899 Percy Lomas and James Fisher.
1900 Percy Lomas and James Fisher.
1901 John Mottershead and Henry Malbon.
1902 John Mottershead and Henry Malbon.
1903 John Mottershead and Henry Malbon.
1904 John Mottershead and John Thompstone.
1905 John Mottershead and John Thompstone.
1906 John Mottershead and John Thompstone.
1907 John Mottershead and Richard Thornicroft.
1908 John Mottershead and Richard Thornicroft.
1909 John Mottershead and James Fisher.
1910 John Mottershead and James Fisher.
1911 John Mottershead and Thomas W. Clayton.
1912 Albert J. Bullin and Thomas W. Clayton.
1913 Albert J. Bullin and Thomas W. Clayton.
1914 Albert J. Bullin and Thomas W. Clayton.
1915 Arthur Lomas and John F. Slater.
1916 Thomas W. Clayton and John F. Slater.
1917 James Fisher and John Trueman.
1918 James Fisher and John Trueman.
1919 James Fisher and Thomas W. Clayton.
1920 James Fisher and Thomas W. Clayton.
1921 James Fisher and Thomas W. Clayton.
1922 James Fisher and Thomas W. Clayton.
1923 Frank Bickerton and Thomas W. Clayton.
1924 Frank Bickerton and John Trueman.
1925 Frank Bickerton and John Trueman.
1926 Mark Pierson and John Trueman.
1927 Mark Pierson and John Trueman.
1928 Mark Pierson and H. Lomas.

Rectors, Parish Clerks, Churchwardens and Schoolmasters

- 1929 S. P. Bayley and H. Lomas.
1930 S. P. Bayley and E. Johnson.
1931 S. P. Bayley and E. Johnson.
1932 H. Slater and S. C. Brocklehurst.
1933 H. Slater and Thomas W. Clayton.
1934 H. Slater and Thomas W. Clayton.
1935 James Padmore and Thomas W. Clayton.
1936 James Padmore and Thomas W. Clayton.
1937 Charles Twemlow and Thomas W. Clayton.
1938 Charles Twemlow and Thomas W. Clayton.
1939 Fred Lawrence and Thomas W. Clayton.
1940 Fred Lawrence and Thomas W. Clayton.
1941 Fred Lawrence and Thomas W. Clayton.
1942 W. F. Hockenhull and Fred Lawrence.
1943 W. F. Hockenhull and Frank T. Ollier.
1944 W. F. Hockenhull and Frank T. Ollier.
1945 Charles W. Longden and Frank T. Ollier.
1946 Charles W. Longden and Frank T. Ollier.
1947 Charles W. Longden and Frank T. Ollier.
1948 Charles W. Longden and Frank T. Ollier.
1949 Charles W. Longden and Frank T. Ollier.
1950 Charles W. Longden and Frank T. Ollier.
1951 John Fairhurst and Frank T. Ollier.
1952 Albert Turnock and Frank T. Ollier.
1953 Albert Turnock and Frank T. Ollier.
1954 Albert Turnock and Frank T. Ollier.
1955 Albert Turnock and Frank T. Ollier.
1956 Albert Turnock and Frank T. Ollier.
1957 Frank T. Ollier and Daniel G. Massey.

THE SCHOOL AND SCHOOLMASTERS

The present school building was erected by the Earl of Harrington in 1832, and now forms part of the author's Gawsworth estate. Formerly the village children were taught in a room of one of the Moss Houses. The first village school to be recorded in Gawsworth was built in 1707 by Lord Mohun; part of this building still survives in the structure of Gawsworth House, situated at the head of the avenue adjacent to the church, and now occupied by the rector. It would appear to have been converted into a private residence before the end of the 18th century.

The Manor of Gawsworth

Bishop Francis Gastrell, D.D., Lord Bishop of Chester from 1714 to 1725, in his "Notitia Cestriensis" referred to this property in his valuable notes on Gawsworth when he recorded "A Little School erected by Ld Mohun adjoining to [the] Church yard, for teaching ENG.[lish] and to write; but no Endowment."

Following the closing of the school house adjacent to the Church yard, Polehampton was of the opinion that prior to 1832 a make shift school appears to have been held in a room of one of the Moss Houses. It was presided over by one Richard Vernon, and as stated in the Report of the Charity Commissioners—"He came to reside at Gawsworth in 1827, and established a private school there. His terms were 3s. a quarter for instruction in reading; 2s. more for teaching writing; and 2s. more for arithmetic. He was appointed by the minister and churchwardens schoolmaster of the charity-school at the latter end of 1832; and then agreed to teach all the free children reading, writing, and arithmetic, for 5s. a quarter each. This agreement had been acted on up to the time of the inquiry. The children are selected by the resident minister of the parish, and the regular number is always kept in the school."

Of Mr. Vernon it is recorded that he was born at Buglawton in 1759, to which village he retired at the age of seventy-eight. He died there in 1841 at the age of eighty-two, and his body brought to Gawsworth for burial.

Mr. Vernon was succeeded by George Clegg. Of this schoolmaster nothing is on record save that, until his resignation in 1842 he received an annual "salary of two guineas for singing in the Church."

To him succeeded Mr. Knowles, who received "two pounds and ten shillings for instructing the singers" He resigned in 1847 and was followed by Thomas Booth. This pedagogue held office for twelve months only, receiving a salary of "one pound seventeen shillings and sixpence for singing one year."

In 1848 came James Cosgrove. He remained till 1883. Like his predecessors he was in receipt of "two pounds ten shillings for assisting in the Choir." After thirty-five years' service he retired and was succeeded by David Rees, who does not appear to have had any official hand in the destiny of the church's music.

During the first years of David Rees' headmastership at Gawsworth School all apparently went well, but falling attendance and adverse inspector's reports began to cause anxiety with the school managers, and

Rectors, Parish Clerks, Churchwardens and Schoolmasters

in 1890 Mr. Rees was asked to look for another position. The Minute Book of Meetings of Managers about this period makes disquietening reading, and no doubt the schoolmaster was not sorry to leave.

In September 1891 Mr. Frederick William Proctor was appointed headmaster, a position he held until his retirement in 1925. He was born 14 May 1865, and died at his home, Warren View, Gawsworth, on the 12th August 1952, aged 87. On August 14th he was laid to rest in Gawsworth Churchyard, nearly all those present at his funeral having been scholars, a number as long ago as the closing years of Queen Victoria's reign.¹

Mr. Proctor began his scholastic career as a pupil teacher in the boys' department of Duke Street National School, Macclesfield, under the late Mr. G. Peachey, and for eighteen months was assistant master there. He was later senior assistant master there. He was subsequently senior assistant master at Christ Church School, of which Dr. G. Beach was then headmaster.

Mr. Proctor received his training at Chester College in 1886/7, and on leaving, his first appointment was as headmaster of Macclesfield Industrial School, for which post he was chosen from 200 applicants. In January 1888 he was appointed to Macclesfield Forest School, and after two and a half years' service he was invited to the headmastership, which he accepted and held for eighteen months. He vacated this appointment in response to an invitation from the managers of Gawsworth School to take up the position of headmaster there, and from September 21st 1891 he continued in this capacity without a single day's absence until his retirement in December 1925.

During Mr. Proctor's long connection with Gawsworth, by his zeal, enterprise and excellent methods, he brought the school to a high

¹The school possesses a very interesting log book which begins in 1873, and contains an almost complete weekly record of school events until the volume closes with the last entry recorded in December 1905 by F. W. Proctor, which reads "With the New Year I shall begin to make entries in a new Log Book. This has been in use nearly 33 years!" The volume is a typical log book of a small school serving an obscure rural village community. It contains records of great snows when no pupils could attend, details of many hard winters, and reasons why attendances were thin, such as harvest periods. The resignation of two headmasters is recorded as follows: "June 22 1883 My term of teaching in this school expires this day, having been a teacher here for a period of 35 years. Cosgrove"; his successor, Mr. Rees at his departure merely wrote "May 15 1891. I this day resign my appointment of Master of this school." It must have been a very sad leaving. He obtained the headmastership of Wear Gifford School, near Bideford, Devon, which he held until he retired from teaching. He later lived at Leamington, where he died at the advanced age of 82, and was buried in Lillington churchyard.

The Manor of Gawsworth

standard of efficiency, and gained in an unusual degree the confidence and esteem of those amongst whom he lived and laboured. A tribute to his devotion to those who came under his guidance was manifested in the warm regard in which he was held by scholars of the school. The confidence of the school managers, too, was no small compliment to his judgment and discretion.

Mr. Proctor was an active member of the Parish Council of which he was vice-chairman, and it was largely due to his efforts that many improvements were carried out. He identified himself with the village sports, the local nursing association and was connected with many other bodies. He was for 20 years a member of the church choir, with which both his sons were connected. A former President of Macclesfield and District Teachers' Association Mr. Proctor was for 20 years press secretary to that body. He also taught English on the staff of the Technical School for eighteen years.

His son Mr. Roy Proctor, M.C., still lives at Warren View, and his grandson, John Proctor, married Miss Rosemary Clarke, the elder daughter of the Rector of Gawsworth, as recently as June 1955.

Mr. Proctor was succeeded in 1926 by Mr. Edgar Laurence Banks, who maintained the best traditions of a village schoolmaster, and whose retirement in the Autumn of 1955 marked the end of yet another long service in the honourable calling of village pedagogue.

Mr. Banks was born at Rushton Spencer, just over the Staffordshire border, a distance of some seven miles from Gawsworth, being the younger son of the late William and Julia Banks. It is interesting to record that William Banks, senior, was also a teacher, being headmaster of the village school at Rushton Spencer for no less than 38 years. After a lifetime of service to the parish, teaching two generations of scholars, he lies buried at Rushton Spencer church, a picturesque old building situated on a romantic hill-top overlooking the village.

After attending Leek Technical School Mr. Edgar Laurence Banks began his teaching career as a student teacher under his father at Rushton Spencer, and was there from 1910 until 1912; during this time he qualified as a handicraft instructor, later serving in a number of North Staffordshire schools.

His first appointment as a teacher on the permanent staff was at Daybrook Street School, Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, under the late Mr. Charles Shaw, serving here from January 1913 until early in 1914,

Rectors, Parish Clerks, Churchwardens and Schoolmasters

when he returned to Rushton Spencer as assistant to his father. Later the same year he joined the Royal Naval Air Service, being transferred in 1916 to the Royal Navy as artificer.

Following his demobilisation in January 1919 Mr. Banks took up a course of study at Sheffield University (Crescent College), to which he had been originally admitted in 1914. Leaving in 1920, having obtained at the Teachers Training Department a Diploma with honours in hygiene and teaching, he resumed his career by accepting the position of assistant at Hillsborough Church School, Sheffield. In 1921 he was appointed to Sale Memorial Church School in the same city, and where his brother was headmaster, and the year following was teaching at Langsett Road School, also in Sheffield, using this address as his headquarters for instructing other schools in the area in his specialised subject of handwork.

In March 1923 Mr. Banks was appointed headmaster of Caulden School, Waterhouses, near Leek, Staffordshire, and three years later in June 1926 he received the appointment of Headmaster of Gawsworth.

Since then there has been a period of transition in school and church affairs. The development of road traffic has destroyed the former comparative isolation of Gawsworth, and in 1950 the school was classified a Junior Mixed School, taking pupils up to the age of 12. From this age group onwards scholars are now taught at the higher grade schools in Macclesfield.

As a country school since Georgian times, Gawsworth has served the village well, and I recall with nostalgic memories my own short period as a youthful scholar there in 1915.

The following is the list of schoolmasters, compiled from existing records:

Richard Vernon	...	1827 to 1837
George Clegg	...	1837 to 1842
(?) Knowles	...	1842 to 1847
Thomas Booth	...	1847 to 1848
James Cosgrove	...	1848 to 1883
David Rees	...	1883 to 1891
Frederick W. Proctor	...	1891 to 1925

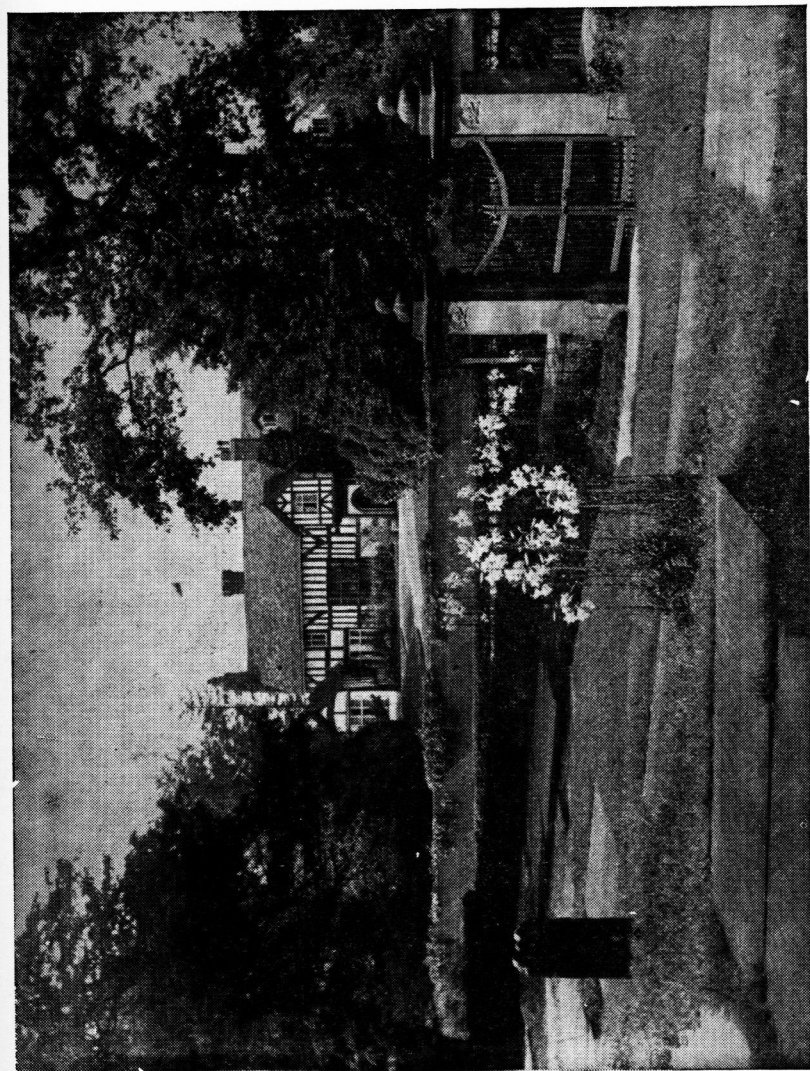
(Born 14 May 1865. Died 12 Aug. 1952, aged 87. Buried Gawsworth, Aug. 14).

The Manor of Gawsworth

Edgar Laurence Banks ...	1926 to 1955 (Retired August).
Mrs. G. M. Maddison ...	1955

Mrs. Maddison was appointed to succeed Mr. Edgar Laurence Banks on September 1st 1955. She first joined the staff of Gawsworth School as an Assistant Mistress on 1st September 1948. Before coming to Gawsworth Mrs. Maddison had held teaching appointments under the Cheshire County Council and the Liverpool Education Committee. A native of Liverpool, she was educated at St. Edmund's College, Church of England Grammar School, Liverpool, and received her professional training at St. Katharine's Church of England Training College.

The author agrees with Polehampton that, like the old parish clerk, the ancient type of village schoolmaster has passed, but he has left behind him a sweet savour of personal goodness. Until the advent of what were called board schools, in 1870, the Church of England provided the education of children. To the village schoolmaster was entrusted that education, and in those days it was uncompromisingly a definitely religious education. Children were taught creed and dogma, with love and affection, giving them spiritual equipment for life's battle. That these past masters carried out their trust is witnessed to by many of the older generation of church people in country parishes to-day, who have a deep rooted faith in God's resurrection and ascension; the descent of the Holy Spirit are facts on which they pin their hope of everlasting life. Not so with the rising generation. It misses the influence of the old-world schoolmaster who taught these things not as of mere historical interest, but as facts on which rest the higher spiritual things which matter. With inadequate salaries they sought, in their humble way, to expound a since forgotten truism that no child should be set to face a world of sin unset on the foundation of primitive creed and dogma. Devoted souls. They leave an indelible mark behind them. Though dead, they speak to the truth of sacramental grace "as generally necessary to salvation." *Orate pro animae eorum.*



The Georgian gate piers to the yard of Gawsworth Church with view of the Old Rectory.



Gawsworth Church.
The South Porch.