

CHAPTER VII

THE RECTORS OF MILTON

FROM the ancient records of Acts of Institution in the Lincoln Registers, it appears that the churches and rectories of Milton and Collingtree were united and held in two moieties. This was probably due to the fact that Collingtree formed part of one of the Manors of Milton, and so the rectories would form two moieties of that manor. In very early times these two moieties were held by one rector, as is shown by the following extract from the Lincoln registers, of the sixth year of Robert Grostete (1241). This is the earliest record extant of an institution to these rectories.

COLYNTRE. Henricus de Wycheton, subdiaconus, presentatus per Symonem de Pateshull ad medietates de Colyntre et de Middelton (etc.) in eas canonicè rector institutus. Et mandatum (etc.).

The following is a translation :

COLYNTRE. Henry de Wycheton, subdeacon, presented by Simon de Pateshull to the moieties of Collingtree and of Middleton (etc.) was canonically instituted rector therein. And it was ordered (etc.).

Owing to the difficulty of singling out any particular parish of Milton from the many others

of the same name, some expedient had to be devised by which records of induction to the living would not give rise to any future question of identity. Therefore the two rectorial moieties of the manor were called by the name of Colyntre, a part of that manor, to obviate confusion with the twenty-five other Middletons and twenty Miltons in other parts of the country. So in ancient ecclesiastical documents we must look for Milton under the head of "Colyntre." In the Lambeth MSS. recording the case of the dispute between the Master of St. John's Hospital and the Rectors of Milton and Blisworth, the Rector of Milton, who at that time was John de Clopham, is called "John de Colyntre."

During the incumbency of this John de Clopham, a second rector seems to have been appointed, and from that time up to 1441, or a few years later, there were two rectors, though the rectories were still united. From 1464, the rectories and churches were separated and held by the various Rectors of Milton and Collingtree respectively.

The two benefices having been united for so long a time, the two rectors lived at Milton even after the separation of the parishes. The site of the ancient Rectory of Milton was in the garden behind the present post office, in a plot of ground called Anchor Close. Tradition says this old rectory was burnt down some time early in the last century. Not far away, on the other side of the road, there stands an ancient tenement known as Collingtree Rectory which, up

to about thirty years ago, belonged to the Rectors of Collingtree, and here, it is said, they once resided. This tradition is supported by entries in the Milton church registers :

“ 1600/1. Gye Smyth the sonne of Mr. Willm. Smyth p'rson of Collingtre was bapt. the vjth. Daie of ffebruarie.

1600/1. Gye Smyth the sonne of Mr. Willm. Smyth p'rson of Collingtre was buried ye ixth. Daie of ffebruarie.”

From these two entries of the baptism and early death of his son, it is evident that in those days the Rector of Collingtree lived in Milton. The infant being but weakly, it was too far to carry him from his home at Milton to his father's church at Collingtree for baptism. Three later entries up to December 28th, 1604, record the baptism in Milton Church of two other children of the same William Smyth and the burial of one, which affords sufficient proof, I think, that Collingtree Rectory was once in our village. Indeed, the path by which the Rectors of Collingtree made their way thither through the fields from their home in Milton, still exists as a right of way. A further explanation of this is given in the chapter on the parish. Owing to the two Manors of Milton, the parishes were inter-mixed.

In the entries above, William Smyth is correctly and legally described as “ parson ” of Collingtree, for he was Rector, and only rectors in Holy Orders are parsons. A vicar or curate is not, strictly speaking, a parson. This is a title of honour given to a rector because he was



“Collingtree Rectory,” Milton.

the “persona,” or principal personage in the ecclesiastical parish. A vicar could not be so described, for as a rule he was inducted in place of a rector who was unable to perform the religious duties himself, such as an abbot, who had his abbey to attend to.

Information as to the institution of the various rectors is gleaned from many sources, including the Lincoln Registers, the Lambeth Registers and finally the Peterborough Registers. A list of rectors so far as is at present known is given here.

	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	PATRON.
A Priest (at Milton) in 1085.		
	<i>Doomsday Book.</i>	
Henry de Wycheton, Sub-deacon.	1241.	Simon de Pateshull.
John de Harvey . . .	1280.	
John de Clopham	Oct. 1291.	
John de Clopham was the Rector concerned in the dispute with the Master and Brethren of St. John's Hospital (see pages 83 and 293).		
Thomas de Maleshoures		
Henry de Cliffe, M.A.	June 18th. 1307.	Rex.
	To the First Moiety only	
John de Hemyngbury, Deacon.	Nov. 23rd. 1308.	Rex.
Simon Est, Priest.	March 3rd. 1352.	Abbot & Convent of St. James, Northampton.
		Rex.
Will. de Depyng.	Aug. 13th. 1361.	
Ric. Donne, Clerk.	Feb. 18th. 1409/10.	Thos. Wake.
Dom. Thos. Rage, Priest.	April 21st. 1411	
Dom. Joh. Ingrith, Priest.		
Henry Hanslop.		
Joh. Tewe, Priest.	March 2nd, 1428/9.	Rex.

Ric. Bate, Priest.

Henry Dyssell, Priest

Joh. Lychebarow, Priest

He had the degree of Bachelor in Decrees, and was the Bishop's Commissary General in the Archdeaconries of Northampton and Leicester.

Will Harcourt, Priest.

March 10th. 1437/8

June 6th. 1441

July 13th. 1441.

Oct. 28th. 1441.

To the Second Moiety only

Joh. de Tyddeswell, Acolyte.

Joh. Vivien, Acolyte.

Joh. de Beryndon, M.A., Acolyte.

Alex. Mount-Fichet, Priest.

Will. Baldewyn, Priest.

Will. Donne de Yelvertoft, Priest.

Joh. de Depyng, Priest

Will. de Rondon, Priest

Joh. Turnpenny, Priest.

Laurence Hawkyn, Chaplain.

Henry Redman, Priest.

Will. Stoke, Chaplain

Alan de Thame, Priest.

Dom. Thos. Kyrkeby, Priest.

John Parmenter, Priest.

Joh. de Pateshull.

Joh. de Pateshull.

Will. de Pateshull.

Rex.

March 5th. 1317/8

April 23rd. 1330,

Feb. 2nd. 1330/1.

March 12th. 1340/1

June 1st. 1357.

June 1st. 1357

Nov. 30th. 1364

March 19th. 1368.

Aug. 16th. 1393.

May 22nd. 1399.

Oct. 28th. 1400.

Feb. 8th. 1400/1.

Aug. 11th. 1401.

Aug. 12th. 1405.

Apl. 29th. 1421.

Rectors of Milton only

	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	PATRON.
Will. Ingylton, Robert Ingylton, Clerk. Dom. Robert Barker, Priest. Dom. John Parker, Priest. Joh. Alyson, Priest. M.A. Edward Wigan, D.D.	Feb. 8th. 1464/5. Dec. 18th. 1470. Nov. 23rd. 1489. June 24th, 1494. June 21st. 1506. 1526.	Rex.
Was the first Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge (see page 89). was Dom. John Carter. Thos. Follwell, Clerk. John Roote, Priest.	Sept. 5th. 1545 Oct. 27th. 1553.	John Dygbye, Armig. Queen Mary.
He was deprived in 1571 (see page 95). Giles Sharrock.	March 8th. 1571	
The registers are signed by his curate, "Thomas Mayo, Mynister there." Reginald Sharrock. Lawrence Howlett,	Feb. 8th. 1609/10 May 7th. 1625.	Sir Wm. Samwell. Stephen Harvey, Armig.
Francis Atterbury, M.A.	Apr. 6th. 1627.	Sir Stephen Harvey, K.C.B.
His curate was Andrew Groobye.		

In his notes on Milton written for Dr. Bridges, 1718-1721, William Taylor states: "I have been somew't particular in relation to the Family of the Atterburies, inasmuch as ye present Lord Bishop of Rochester is a Branch of this Family, whose uncle for several years was Rector of this Parish: &c.: (& if we may credit some people) was very Instrumental in promoting his Relations."

Nicholas Clerke		John Clerke.
Benjamin Twigden, M.A.		Richard Glead, John Twigden & Giles Twigden.

Previously Vicar of St. Giles, Northampton, 1676-1679.

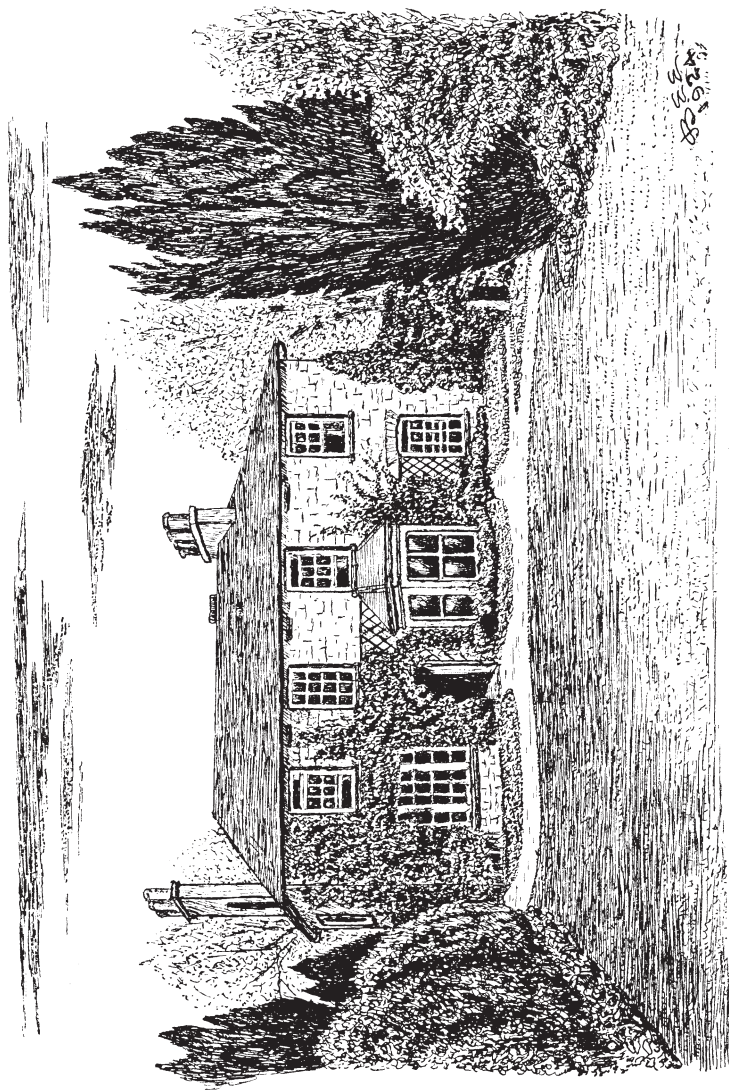
Nicholas Twigden, B.A.		Giles Twigden.
Fullwood Haden, M.A.		Edward Price, Esq.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dodwell, widow of Richard Dodwell and daughter of Richard Glead, tried to recover possession of the advowson of Milton Church and took proceedings against Edward Price in the High Court for that purpose. *Additional MSS.* British Museum. It had been bequeathed to Mr. Price by the Rev. Nicholas Twigden.

Thomas Backhouse, B.A.		Rev. George Back- house.

Curates: Joseph Backhouse, Richardson Wood, C. Justinian Rainsford, Vincent Green, Thomas Corbye, Ed. Gillespie, and William Walmsley, M.A.

	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	PATRON.
Simon Pagett, B.A.	April 6th. 1796.	Rev. Wm. Pagett.
Aged 78 at his induction. Had as curate Wm. Walmsley, M.A.		
John Castleton Miller, D.D.	Oct. 18th. 1799.	Wm. Pagett, Esq.
Dr. Miller had his grave dug in the chancel during his lifetime, and it is said that going there one day to see the man at work upon it he thought it was not long enough. The sexton maintained that it was, so Dr. Miller got into the grave and lay down at the bottom, and found the man was right.		
The Curates of Milton were: Thos. Hornsby, M.A., J.P. (1801-1806), Francis Montgomery and Henry Flesher. The Rev. Francis Montgomery lived here and acted as curate until his death in 1831.		
George Wilson Sicklemore, M.A.	Feb. 11th. 1829.	Louis Hayes Patit & John Geo. Children.
George Oakes Miller, M.A.	June 7th. 1830.	Louis Hayes Patit & John Geo. Children
Curates: Edward Robert Butcher, D.C.L., and William Butlin.		
Edward Robert Butcher, D.C.L.	Dec. 17th. 1840.	Rev. E. R. Butcher.
Dr. Butcher changed his surname to Pemberton on April 21st. 1842, by Her Majesty's Royal Licence, in accordance with the Will of his mother. Before being instituted to the Rectory of Milton he had been Vicar of St. Sepulchre's, Northampton, from 1821-2, Chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Brighton, 1822-30. In 1835 he became Curate of Milton.		



MILTON RECTORY.

He resigned the Rectory of Milton in 1842 for All Saints', Wandsworth. He died Rector of North Huish, Devonshire, in 1879.

Thomas Atherton Kershaw, M.A. | June 4th. 1844. | Rev. T. A. Kershaw.

He built the modern part of the Rectory, facing the lawn.

John Brown, M.A. | June 26th. 1872. | Executors of the late
Rev. T. A. Kershaw.

Mr. Brown was inducted to the Rectory of Didcot in 1890, and died there in 1923.

Alfred William Gross, M.A. | July 30th. 1890. | Pickering Phipps, Esq.

He was Vicar of Whittle-le-Woods, Lincs., from 1883 to 1890. After resigning the Rectory of Milton in 1903, he was for some time chaplain of Luxor, Egypt, from 1904. Andrew Cavendish Neely. | Jan. 8th. 1904. | Executors of the late
Pickering Phipps.

Was Vicar of Denford with Ringstead, 1894-8, and Rector of Islip, Thrapston, 1898-1903. He was inducted to the Vicarage of St. Mary's, Peterborough, in April, 1917, and was installed Honorary Canon of Peterborough Cathedral in 1921.

Benjamin Edward Evans, M.A. | June 9th. 1917. | Executors of the late
Pickering Phipps.

Minor Canon of Peterborough Cathedral 1910-1917, Sacristan 1910, Precentor of Peterborough Cathedral 1911 to 1917. The glebe, all but two acres, was sold in 1919.