

The Chapelry of Winchester.



PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WINSTER.

No mention is made in the Domesday Book of Winster Chapelry. So, unless it was primarily a private chapel attached to one of the two manors, the first chapel was built about 1100 A.D.

Repeated mentions have been made to the pre-Reformation Norman chapel and about 1154 the Church of Youlgreave, together with its chapels and all things pertaining, was given by Robert, the son of Robert, the son of Colle (one of the two Saxon owners of the manor of Youlgreave in Edward the Confessor's reign) to the Abbey of Leicester, which had been but newly formed in 1143. The chapels in question were Gratton, Middleton, Stanton, Elton and Winster. Today, only Elton and Winster remain.

Apart from the divorce proceedings taken in Winster Chapelry regarding the consanguinity of the parties of two of the Staffords of Eyam in 1308; which divorce was granted on the evidence of various witnesses of free origin'; nothing interesting appears to have happened until the dismounting of the monasteries in the sixteenth century, when Winster chapel was granted to the Warner family.

On the 23rd October, 1561, Sir Edward Warner conveyed all of my chapel-scite and chapel-yard called Winster Chapel' to Richard Wendedley of Wendesley, Esquire and Ralph Brown, Gentleman. Subsequently, the appointment of the Minister became vested in the resident freeholders.

From 1604 to 1606, Elton and Winster combined were too small to contribute to the year's rates, yet, of the two Elton was the larger. In 1650, the Parliamentary Commissioners recommended the uniting of the two chapelries of Elton and Winster in a single parish. They reported the small tithes of Winster as being worth but five pounds per annum and 'noe minister at Winster' In 1653. (the first or Second year of the lead-rush) one shilling was paid by Youlgreave Parish Council for a warrant against the inhabitants of Elton and Winster for refusing to pay their levies. With the lead-mining rush the parish grew so much that in 1702, Mrs. Ann Phenney and Mr. Henry Fenshaw gave the fourth of the tithes of hay and corn in the TOWNSHIP to the Minister. The living was soon after augmented by two hundred pounds from Queen Anne's Bounty, four hundred pounds raised by subscriptions from the inhabitants and three hundred pounds by a Parliamentary Grant.

Therefore, in 1711 it is possible that a new chapel was built. Certainly the present tower, with its segment-headed windows, was built then. But the fine Transitional-Norman doorway, which, according to the Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological & National History Society, 1906, was 'so scandalously destroyed' later, points to the newer being added to the original chapel, with, perhaps, the extra addition of galleries inside the chapel, as the eighteenth century was remarkably tiny with dormer windows and many galleries. An oil-painting in the church depicts 'The funeral of Miss Wheeler at this chapel.

A stone on the western face of the West Tower inscribed 'Christopher Bagshaw & Robert Staley Ch. W. 1711' and the age of the bells determine the age of the tower conclusively. On one bell there is no inscription or mark whatever. The other bears the following:

1. 'Jesus Be Our Speed. 1751. Thomas Hedderley, founder.'
2. C, Bagshaw. R. Stanley. Ch Wa 1711.'
3. 'Daniel Hedderley, founder.'
4. 'Devonshire & Rutland Benefactors. Joseph Heathcote & John Sellors. Churchwardens 1860 Recast by John Warner & Sons, London. On the waist are the Royal Arms.

The five bells were dismantled and refitted in 1927. A new bell weighing about 3cwt was added to bring the number to 6.

If one scrutinises the oil painting, it will be seen that the door to the tower was once above the ground and reached by means of an iron staircase. The stone lintel to this door can still be seen on the tower today. Here is further proof that the tower was not rebuilt with the present church.

Mr Rhodes, visiting Winster in 1815, left us a word-picture of the Chapel: "We visited the Church, a small structure which appeared to us not of sufficient capacity for the place and neighbourhood around. The churchyard too is a contracted spot and the graves seemed crowded together in a manner very unusual in a small country town. Two sides of it are bounded with a plantation of spreading limes and several fine yews grow near them."

He also commented on the musical tastes of the inhabitants, alleging that a wealthy gentleman of the neighbourhood had given them the choice of an abundant water supply, conveyed from a well a mile distant, or of an organ for the church. They chose the organ.

Earlier than this, in 1785, the good musical tastes of Winster had been mentioned by the Youlgreave Parish Elders. When a Base Voile had been acquired by Youlgreave Parish it had been decided that it was "not to be handled about to Wakes and other places of profaneness and diversion, excepting the club-feasts of Youlgreave, Elton and Winster." The Bassoon was a favourite instrument of church-music in the 18th century.

The stone font, just inside and to the left of the entrance, a circular tub-shaped bowl on a conical foot, roughly carved with images, is the only remaining relic of the original Norman chapel. It is possibly of Norman or Transition design, circa 1200 A.D. but definitely not later than 1500 A.D., although more recent work has been done on it. The present studded-oaken cover will not fit because the original hinges of another cover still remain.

The inside bowl is lead with a rough hole to allow the water to escape. The modern plug will not fit this hole, so a modern bulb-bowl covers the base of the font today. The Journal of The D.A. & N.H.Society, 1906 devotes 6 pages and 3 illustrations to this font.

In 1842, the old chapel was demolished, leaving the tower, and the present Church was, literally, built around it to provide 294 additional sittings. Unfortunately, this rebuilding was done in the 'dark period' when many church-officials were ashamed of the pre-Reformation chapels. So, the new church was built in the stark, unadorned fashion of these times, with but one gallery and plain glass windows. Even today, the main body of the Church boasts but two stained-glass windows, facing each other and second from the top of the nave. One is dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of this Parish 1865 - 1895. The Reverend Herbert Milnes, Vicar. Died at Cheltenham March 2nd, 1909.' This window was placed by the parishioners in the time of Reverend W. H. Nixon.

The other window, depicting the Ascension into Heaven, was erected by Henry Charles Heathcote, J.P. of Mooresfold, Winster and Martha Kary, his wife. Henry Charles Heathcote was Churchwarden from 1874 to 1897. He died at the age of 77 and was buried on the 19th July, 1921. His wife till the age of 80, being buried the 19th February, 1930. This window was placed in 1936 by Mr Ernest Heathcote and his sister-in-law.

On the tower wall, inside the gallery, hang some monuments of greater age than the body of the Church. The earliest is in memory of John Slater, alias Buxton, buried November 6th, 1694 hath given and left to the poor of this TOWN twenty-shillings a year out of the revenues of the new close to be distributed on the feast of St. John the Evangelist.' This is the only proof we have that the original chapel was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In all documents it is referred to as Winster Chapelry in the Parish of Youlgreave. ,

Another tablet states that: Thomas Eyre, who died in 1717, gave twenty pounds per annum to the minister of Winster, for instructing 20 poor children, inhabitants of Winster, whose parents were unable to maintain their children at school, until they could read a chapter in the Bible.' This annuity was payable on the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Another wall-tablet in the gallery is dedicated to George Norman and Thomas Hill - Chapelwardens.

On the staircase, leading from the gallery, is a tablet which states: Near to this place lieth the body of the late Reverend John Steeple, 50 years Minister of this Church, who died 6th November, 1806, aged 77 years another tablet there is dedicated to another priest, Reverend George Pearson, Minister, who died November 4th, 1811, aged 35 years. And another to Robert Moore, Gentleman, died : August 3rd, 1762, aged 81 years. Again, all these monuments date the tower as older than the Church. At the foot of the staircase hangs a painting of The Last Supper. Unfortunately, the painter omitted to sign his work.

Returning to the nave, there is a brass Memorial plate, near Mr. Milnes's window, dedicated to the nineteen privates, two sergeants and one captain who died in the 1914 - 18 War. Near the Heathcote window is an epitaph to Thomas Wall, who died 11th February, 1853, aged 67 years. He had been a Colour-sergeant in Her Majesty's 95th Rifle Brigade and had been decorated for his bravery in the Peninsular War. The tablet lists these battles and ends with: 'He lived and died a Patriot.'

In 1883, the chancel which is a central arcade of four bays, which splays out at the steps into a double arch at an angle of 45 degrees, making for beauty but difficulty at weddings, was built. It is much lower in height than the nave, and truly beautiful after the stark simplicity of the remainder of the Church. To the right of the stone-and-oak pulpit*is a brass plate, which reads:

'In Te Domino Speravi. In memory of George Moore, born at Winster January 7th, 1756. Died at Canwick, Co. Lincoln, April: 29th, 1841. Also to the beloved memory of Henry, his fourth and youngest son and Eliza, his wife. A shield is carved into the brass showing what appears to be 3 aborigines. The Moores inhabited Oddo, and were the oldest benefactors of the Parish.

Further into the alter precincts is another brass tablet, which States: 'The ashes of Arthur Gordon Harding Britton. Vicar 1932-1948 are deposited beneath the alter. A tablet on the alter is dedicated to 'The Glory of God the Oak Alter, Riddel Post, Reredos and Panelling designed and made in 1937 by the Reverend A.G.H. Britton B.A. Cantab. Vicar of this Parish 1932 -1948.'

There are two small chancel windows, almost hidden, as well as the large triple window, above the Altar, depicting Faith, Charity and Hope which was placed in memory of William Heathcote of Winster, who died April, 1865 and Mary, his wife who died 1879, by his children in October, 1884. This large window dates the completion of the re-construction of the chancel. The first of the two small windows, on the right of the Altar takes the Magnificat as its subject, and is dedicated to: 'The Glory of God and in memory of Mary Milnes. This window placed here by her son and daughter. 'We bless Thy Holy Name, for all thy servants departed this life in Thy Faith and Fear.' The second small window, on the left of the Altar, portrays the Good Shepherd and is dedicated: 'To the Glory of God and in memory of Charlotte Milnes, wife of Reverend Herbert Milnes Vicar of this Parish, who died at Cheltenham 26th March, 1899. The window being installed in 1909 by parishioners.

A brass plate in the choir-stalls, nearest the organ, goes thus: In memory of Cyril Wagstaffe who departed this life 11. 7. 51, aged 41 years. A faithful member and chorister for 30 years. Also his mother, Ethel Wagstaff, a faithful organist of this Church, died 1946.

The Lectern is inscribed: 'This lectern was given by Thomas Burton of Winster, A.D.1884.' This joins the triple chancel window in proving the date of alteration. The Litany desk made by Rev A.G.H Britton 1937.

On the 11th December, 1866, the Perpetual Curacy of Winster was transferred into a Vicarage. In that same month plans for the present vicarage, or parsonage-house as it was then termed, were passed. The actual work of erection was done in 1868, but some extra work was done in 1870.

The old curfew system was kept up till the beginning of this present century. The 4th bell was rung throughout November, December, January and February, at eight O'clock every work-day evening, excepting Saturdays, when the hour was seven. A six O'clock morning bell was also rung daily from 25th March, Lady day till the 25th September.

By 1905 there were but 26 appropriate sittings left and the free sittings had reached 450. This was far different to the year 1801 when Seats were sold with tenements, as was proven by the sale of the tenement now known as Heathcote House and a couple of cottages on the West Bank that year. Today all seats are free, although one does honour the fact that regulars prefer certain seats in Church,

Three hundred years after the Parliamentary Commissioners first suggested the uniting of Winster and Elton in a single parish the deed was accomplished. There is now 'noe Minister' at Elton.

THE PARISH REGISTERS

These begin in 1633, although only a fairly-modern copy remains of the first registers. The next registers, Baptisms 1674 – 1724 are beautifully scripted on parchment. Although the actual registrations are in Latin, the first register begins with: “A memorial of the Great Snow”.

This Yeaere 1614 Jan:16 began the greatest snow which was fell upon the Earthe within Man's Memorye. It covered the Earth fyve quarters upon the Playne and the heaps or drifts of snow they were very deep, so that passengers both horse and foote passed over gates, hedges and walls. It came from the four parts of the World, so that all Mountaynes were full, yea, even in the South parts, as well as these Mountaynes. It continued by daily unceasing until the 13th day of March (without the sight of any Earth eyther upon Hills or villages) upon which day (being the Lord's Day) it began to decooalize, and so by little and little consumed and wasted away till the eight and twentyeth day of May, for then all the heapes or drifts of snow were consumed, except upon Kinder Scout which lay till Witsun Weeke and after.

HINDRANCES & LOSSES. In this Peake Countrye by the snow abovesayd.

1. It hindered the seed tyme – a very cold spring.
2. It consumed much fodder – a multitude of sheepe and cows lost
3. And many wasted flowers – continuance of cold weather.

The Spring was so cold and so late that much cattle was in great danger and some dyed.

There followed ten lesser snows in Aprill, some a foot deep, some lesser, but none continued long.

Upon May morning, instead of fetching in flowers, the Youths brought in flakes of snow, which lay about a foot deep upon the moors and mountaynes.

All these aforesayd snows vanished away and thord with little or no rayne.

1615. A dry summer!

There was no Rayne fell upon. the Earth from 25th day of March until the second day of May.

"There were but two showers on the 10th June and 4th August, so that the greatest part of this land, especially the South parts, were burnt up. Only Lancashyre and Cheshyre had sufficient of hay and corn.'

Register 3, 1724 - 1754 contains a facsimile of Deed re Divorce proceedings taken in Winster Chapelry regarding the consanguinity of the Parties to the Marriage of Two of the Staffords of Eyam. The deed is dated 1308. And the divorce was granted on the evidence of various persons 'of free origin.

In 1735 the Registers contain the first mention of the Town of Winster, but, it is only fair to point out they also style Elton and Bonsall as towns also. After 1732 the Registers were written, not always well, in English, so this could have been an error on the part of the chapel-clerk. However, the tablet in the gallery dated 1694 styles Winster as a township and the influx of new names from 1658 onwards points to a rapid growth of the .parish into a mining-town, From these names the miners appear to have been Irish, Welsh and Scots as well as Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire men when came 'West' to Winster in search of lead and perhaps its by-products of silver and gold.

Here are three chasms, or breaks in continuity, in the Registers. The first, from 1642 to 1658, corresponds with the time when Cromwell was first actively engaged in raising forces for Parliament to his death in 1658, when Charles the Second was finally set on the Throne. .

The second chasm, from 1712 to 1719, corresponds with the Jacobite Risings elsewhere. A strong nucleus of Roman Catholics from pre-Reformation days, not to mention the many. Irish Catholics among the miners, must have been Living in the Parish then. Did they band together and seize the chapel and restore Catholicism?

The third chasm, from 1742 to 1752, corresponds with the 1745 Rebellion. Bonny Prince Charlie, of Prince Charles Edward, or the Young Pretender as you will, could have stayed in Winster on his victorious journey from Preston to Derby, where he was finally routed. Was this their last abortive attempt at reinstating the original Faith of their chapel? The Registers hint at this, saying the records for that period were burnt when control was regained.

In an unnumbered Register can be found an extract from an Act of Parliament, 1678, which decrees that relatives of deceased persons had to swear an affidavit: that the said person was not put in, wrapt or wound up, or buried in any shirt, shift, sheet ex shroud, made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, golde or silver, or other than what is made of sheep's wool only, or in any coffin lined or faced with any cloth, stuff, of any other thing whatsoever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, golde or silver, or any other material but sheep's wool only.

And if no relation of the party buried, or other person, shall bring an affidavit as aforesaid, to the parson or minister within the time (8 days) aforesaid, that then the goods and chattels of the party deceased, shall be and are hereby made liable to the aforesaid forfeiture of five pounds.' This fine took preference over all debts, expenses, etc.

The Act goes on to insist that Parish Registers (at the charge of the Parish) be kept assiduously. One paragraph declares: _ provided, that no penalty appointed by this Act, shall be incurred for, or by reason of, any person that shall die of the plague, although such persons shall not be buried as by this Act directed.'

The year 1754 brought the first printed registers, but, between August 4th 1758 and September 20th 1810 the registers were exhibited, approximately every four years, at the Visitations at Chesterfield. These exhibited registers were parchment copies of the actual forms enforced, by law and have lasted much better.

The beginning of the nineteenth century brought a genteel note to the registers. The word illegitimate was used for the first time in place of the old Saxon term.

On December 31st 1812, another Act of Parliament came into force. One had come into being in 1785 and been ignored by Winster. In 1811, the Reverend Bache Thornhill, Perpetual Curate of Winster Chapelry declared: "October 2, 1783 New Act about registering takes place but not complied with in a single instance; vide Stamped Paper Register Book of Births and Christenings No. 6 from October 3, 1733. to September 30th, 1794, during which period not one birth is registered.'

Another memorandum, dated November 10th 1817 and signed by the same Minister states: 'Flora Robinson states to me that her son Joseph was baptized and christened at Matlock, that she never had a son either baptized or christened at Winster, that the entry the fifth from the bottom of this page is incorrect and that it ought to Stand thus: Robinson / Anne the daughter of Joseph and Flora was baptized July 15, 1796.' The chapel clerk, T. H. Allen, added his signature to the curate's. :

Also in the time of. Reverend Bache Thornhill, there is a copy of the consent form to remove the corpse of Thomas Clay, born Winster 3rd April 1823 - died 28th February, 1824 for interment.

The above-mentioned Thomas Allen, Chapel Clerk, died 11th February, 1836.

A letter, dated 10th duly, 1882, in which Elizabeth Burton gives the Minister, Reverend H. Milnes, notice of burial on the 12th July at the hour of 3 p.m. of Joseph Burton 'without the performance in the manner prescribed by law of the service for the burial of the dead according to the rites of the Church of England; and I give this notice pursuant to the Burial Laws Amendment Act, 1880.' is included in a later register. When the same Elizabeth Burton died the following October, she expressed a wish not to be buried as her husband had been, but with a Church of England service. She, herself, had signed the register for the burial of her husband.

The registers give an accurate picture of life through the years. The infant mortality rate is shocking. At times, there is not a page without its two or three infants. The greatest drop in burials comes in 1921, thereby proving the great strides medicine made during the 1914 - 18 War. The marriages and baptisms drop after 1823 when the first of the three chapels was opened. After that there is a steady decline as the chapels gathered strength.

Here is the number of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in ten years at a time, since the beginning of the Registers till today

Date.	Baptisms.	Marriages	Burials.
1633 - 9	22	-	-
1642	-	-	10
		CHASM	
1657 - 9	36	9	67
1660 - 9 .	225	42	137 (Elton also included)
1678 ~ 9	77	12	62
1680 - 9	208	50	157
1690 - 9	225	39	166
1700 - 9	241	46	190
1710 ~ 9	86	6	77
		CHASM!	
1750 - 9.	420	53	259
1740 - 9.	132	7	84
		CHASM!	
1750 - 9.	139	71	168
1760 - 9	434	81	308
1770 - 9	415	74	414
1780 - 9	380	94	264
1790 - 9	375	69	228
1800 - 9	339	64	178
1810 - 9	346	56	190
1820 - 9	518	86	206
1830 - 9	309	42	226
1840 - 9	219	40	226
1850 - 9	177	42	223
1860 - 9	149	19	189
1870 - 9	202	26	195
1880 - 9	162	18	199
1890 - 9	167	28	147
1900 - 9	136	41	146
1910 - 9	92	30	144
1920 - 9	98	30	132
1940 - 9	61	26	90
1930 - 9	54	25	98
1950 - 9	85	46	101
1960 - 61	9	4	19
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Totals	6971	1339	5642

Ministers of the Chapelry and Church of St. John the Baptist

An unknown Minister wrote-up, in Latin and Old English Script the first registers. He could have been Reverend Roger Coke.

The first known Minister is Reverend John Steeple. He served from 1756 to 1806 when he died in November at the age of 77. He styled himself Curate till 1766 and afterwards as Minister. He accepted twenty-five pounds annuity for teaching children to read the Bible and taught them personally throughout the long years of his Ministry. There was no school in Winster then. He was most methodical and checked the registers carefully, as the following memorandum shows:

“1759: John Steeple (curate) and Joseph Jones witness the baptism of Mary, the wife of John Barnsley of Aldwark Grange, younger daughter of Richard Toft, late of Winster. Signed - (with a mark) by Ann Brockelas and Elizabeth Johnson.”

The name Ann, instead of Mary, had been entered, by mistake, on November 18, 1734. It was an understandable error as the child's mother had been Ann, but Mr. Steeple re-baptized the woman just the same.

Reverend George Pearson followed Mr. Steeple but, alas, did not have the same long ministry. . He died at the age of 35, on November 4th, 1811.

Reverend Bache Thornhill, M.A. Although he was priest from 1811 till his untimely death, by sheeting, in 1827, nearly 150 years ago, his memory lingers on in St John the Baptist Church, almost tangibly in fact. He was the most efficient minister of all, re-introducing Old English Script to the registers. He kept the records beautifully, being most artistic and doodling angels and tombstones on the front of register No.114, He made many corrections, signing each Bache P.C.W. or, as in the case of the safe for communion-plate in the vestry Bache Thornhill, Perpetual Curate of Winster, together with William Ashton & Ralph Staley - Chapelwardens, 1813.

He was possibly related to the descendants of Ralph Bache of Stanton-in-the-Peake, who was granted arms and Crest in 1634, as he very rarely used the name Thornhill when signing anything.

It is also possible that he was first instrumental in proposing the re-building of the ‘chapel, as it was far too small for his congregation.

Contrary to the practice of Reverend John Steeple, he would not accept the twenty-five pounds annuity for teaching poor children instead he organised a school, making the annuity over to the , schoolmaster. This school was taught in the home of the schoolmaster and he was free to take other paying pupils, but Mr. Thornhill still inspected the school twice a year, to discharge absentees and re-fill vacancies. According to some verses, written by John Brimlow who served as a private in the 20th Regiment of Foot soldiers in 1801 and lost his sight, deposited in Derby Library, Reverend Bache Thornhill, M. A. was shot accidentally, recovered a little while, then died. He buried Mary Lamb in December 1827 but did not make an entry in the register. He is not buried in Winster

Reverend John Casill Worsley. | He was Minister for but a few months, April to August, 1828. He died Jan 7 1829 and was buried at Winster..

Reverend J. Shirley. Although he stayed from 1829 to 1839, he left no account of himself.

Reverend George G. Harvey. 1839 to 1846. He was another conscientious keeper of records. An entry at the foot of end page reads:

“Walter, son of Mary Nuttall, Flash, near Leek. I found this entry, on paper, fixed by means of a pin to this page. (signed) G. G. Harvey, Perpetual Curate of Winster. 28 Dec.,1841.”

It was during Mr. Harvey's ministry that the present Church was built in 1842.

Reverend William Dyke. 1846 - the end of 1865. This priest retired at the age of eighty, after twenty years curacy. He lived for five more years and was buried in Winster churchyard by Mr. Milnes, on the 9th June, 1870. He styled himself as Perpetual Curate of the Winster Chapelry till 1852, then afterwards as Incumbent.

Reverend Herbert Milnes. Incumbent from 1865 to 1895 when he went as Vicar to Cheltenham. He died there in 1909. His was not the Longest ministry, but he seems to have been the best loved priest of all. Even today, more than fifty years since he died, he is still remembered by the parishioners. One lady on the West Bank claims that she was the last baby Mr. Milnes baptised, although she was quick to add that he had left Winster by then and christened her on one of his frequent visits.

From an historian's point of view, Mr. Milnes was the finest priest any village could have. He kept the registers beautifully, in simple English. On the backs and fly-leaves of the Burials Book he wrote tiny histories of the deceased characters of the village with Sparkling' brevity and no mean wit.

He and his wife were childless; to their sorrow, but they were deeply concerned with the youth of the town as it was when they first arrived. Mrs. Mary Milnes, his mother, also lived at the Vicarage and taught the older people to read and write. One of these, Mary Hoskins, who died in October, 1894 at the age of 85, learned to read after the age of sixty. Mr. Milnes passed over the twenty-five pounds gratuity to the school, which he also organised, but still taught in Sunday school gratuitously.

The Vicarage, in his days, was a veritable hive of industry, with regular Bible Classes, choir-practice and lessons in all subjects for people of all ages. As well as the school, he was responsible for building the Vicarage in 1868. On the death of his mother, he and his wife, Charlotte, placed the small chancel window in her memory. On the death of his wife, he placed the other small window to match it, in her memory, although she died in Cheltenham in 1899, four years after he had left Winster.

On his own death, in 1909, at Cheltenham, his grateful parishioners, who had been so ungenerous when he needed their backing with the school, placed the large window in the nave in his memory. They also had a special issue of their Parochial Magazine in his honour.

Reverend H. Nixon who followed Mr. Milnes and served as long, following his example and going to Matlock Bank as Vicar, after thirty years, in 1926, is another minister who was greatly loved and is still dearly remembered today. He also wrote information for future historians, again following Mr. Milnes's example, but his handwriting is hard to decipher and the news mostly dull. He lacked Mr. Milne's divine sparkle and brevity. Again, like Mr. Milnes, he came back periodically to Winster and stayed awhile between 1931 and 1932.

Reverend A. W. Dickens. 1926-1929. He styled himself as Vicar. Apart from that, he left no account of himself, indeed he was the very opposite of his namesake, short of words.

Reverend A. Phimister. Vicar 1929 to end of 1931. He died at Winster Vicarage on February 11th., 1932. He was buried by Edmund, Bishop of Derby. ,

Reverend A.G.H. Britton, B.A. Vicar 1932 - 1948. On the 15th March, 1946 he married his own Son, Donald Britton, R.N. at Winster Church. As already reported, he made the altar and is, in fact, buried beneath it. At least his ashes are, so he was the first Minister of this Church to be cremated.

Reverend A.N. Ware. Vicar 1949 - 1955. This minister is still living and visits, in the old tradition, Winster occasionally. He is reputed to have been a truly godly man-

Reverend B. T. Abell. Vicar from 1955 till today. He keeps the registers in the same apple-pie, if less artistic, manner of the Reverend Bache Thornhill. And visits the sick in the manner of Reverend Herbert Milnes. But regrets that the Ministry, today does not call for the same effort on the part of the priest. The Welfare-State has taken so much responsibility off the shoulders of Winster Parochial Council.

Chapel and Church Wardens

In the 17th century they were styled guardians. The first mentioned from 1633 – 1638 and pre-reformation era, were William Roberts, Galiel, Thomas Robinson, Thomas Stanley, Johnnie Oates and George Halley.

George Norman and Thomas Hill were chapel-wardens mentioned on a tablet in the gallery.

Gaps in records appear frequently, but the following certainly served as wardens, possibly for longer periods than stated.

Robert Topliss & George Clark	1755
William Ashton & Ralph Staley	1813
“ William Etches	1814 -1816
“ Ralph Topliss	1817 – 1818
Thomas Rowarth & Ralph Slayley	1818
“ Henry Woolley	1820
Henry Wooley & George Wagstaff	1821
Henry Charles Heathcote	1874 – 1897
Joseph Hardy	1891 – 1893
George Turner	1894
Joseph Hardy & Josiah Smith	1898 – 1899
Ernest Heathcote & Thomas Ellis	1900 – 1901
Benjamin Brittlebank	1902
Joseph Taylor & Joseph Prinsep	1906
“ George Sibson	1907 – 1908
Arthur Ellis	1909
Dr. Fletcher	1909 – 1914
Theophilus Hawksworth	1913 – 1914
H. Bateman	1914 – 1917
James Marshall	1915 – 1919
T. Newton	1918 – 1919
Robert Thorpe & John Gilding	1920 – 1921
William Vincent & S.N. Thorpe	1922 – 1923
Stanley Boam & Gregory Greatorex	1924 – 1925
Josiah Greatorex & G. Longden	1926

Benefactions

Anthony Moore, by will dated 27th April, 1672, left 20/- every year to be paid to the poor of Winster on St-Thomas's day, also for his heirs to make an augmentation to the said 20 shillings to the said poor, making a full sum of 40/- to be paid, out of tenement and close at Grissill, worth about 3 pounds a year, at the discretion of his executors and with advice from the chapel-wardens and overseers of the poor.

Thomas Eyre, who died in 1717, gave Twenty Pounds per annum to the Minister of Winster for instructing 20 poor children, whose parents were unable to maintain them at school, until they could read a chapter in the Bible.

Robert Moore, by will dated 20th May, 1718, left Five pounds yearly for teaching poor children, number ten, to read a chapter in the Bible. And Three pounds yearly, in dole money, to the poor of Winster. This three pounds to be paid out of profits arising from his moiety of the tithes of wool and lamb in Winster and the five pounds to be paid out of rents and profits of the lands by his will devised to his son, Anthony Moore, all his messuage or tenement situated in Winster, wherein he lately inhabited, the gardens whereof adjoined to the chapel-yard, and the gardens and two courts thereto belonging, with the several closes therein mentioned, to his son, Anthony Moore. In Mr. Milnes's day, this Five pounds was paid by the agent of Lord Scarsdale, as charged upon an estate at Winster, belonging to His Lordship, in the occupation of Andrew Brittlebank, namely Oddo. The dole of the Three pounds to the poor was stated in the Parliamentary returns of 1786 to have been uncollected for many years. This was, no doubt, due to the Act passed in 1763 enclosing common grounds of Winster, when allotments were made to the owners of the tithes of corn and hay, but the tithes of wool and Lamb were not mentioned in the award, and no such tithes were received by any person later.

Anthony Moore, by will dated 11th December, 1721, left 10/- per annum, payable at Michaelmas, on trust, to the overseers of the poor at Winster, to divide among the poor people of the Town, on St. Thomas's day, yearly. This issued from a farm at Dore. He appointed Robert Moore his executor. According to a wall-tablet this Robert Moore died August 3rd, 1762 aged 81 years. There is no trace of the money being paid after 1778.

Robert Oates, by will dated 7th May, 1719, left to the minister of Winster 10/- per annum, for a sermon to be preached on the day of his burial, 24 wheat loaves, each valued at sixpence, to be distributed to 24 poor people at the said sermon and 2/- to the bell-ringers for a funeral peal. This twenty-four shillings was paid from dues issuing from Headland Close.

Elizabeth Buxton, by will dated 11th July, 1730, left 10/- per annum to the minister for a sermon on the anniversary of her burial, 20/-, to be given to 40 poor inhabitants and 5/- to ringers on the same occasion. She made similar bequests for the anniversary days of the death of her aunt and mother. Also 10/- for 2 bibles, yearly. All this issued from Ardmore Pringle Close. By 1885 the Reverend H. Milnes was paying for the bibles himself.

The Poor Law Institution

As far back as 1672 Anthony Moore provided for some of the poor of Winster by leaving a tenement and a close, called Grissill, for dole money. In its care of unfortunates Winster Chapelry proved itself truly the heart of the village. From the middle of the 17th century to 1831, the Vicar, chapelwardens and other officials were fully occupied organizing the Overseers of the Poor.

There are still hundreds of bills and accounts for the feed, clothing, etcetera, needed for the care of the sick and homeless, in the chest near the pulpit. The total amount of money needed for a month in 1728 was five pounds, nine shillings and sixpence. As three shillings, apart from one payment of five shillings, is the top amount paid, one shilling being most common, it is easy to visualize the enormity of the task of finding the money needed. So in 1732 another Act For The Relief of the Poor was passed in addition to these passed in the reigns of Elizabeth and Charles II. This appointed the Overseers of the Poor to levy a rate on the inhabitants and ordered them to meet once a month 'for providing of necessary relief for such as be lame and impotent amongst you; and for the placing as apprentices such children, whose parents are not able to maintain them.' It ended dramatically: 'Fail not herein at your Perils.'

One of these levies in 1751 raised but two pounds, eleven shillings and two pence~halfpenny.

In 1740 the first workhouse was opened. John Hall, the first keeper, was paid fifty-two pounds, forty-seven pence and forty-seven pence, respectively for the first three years. He lived rent-free in the house at the top of the West Bank and used Grissill Close to provide milk and food for the poor. This was, in fact, the same land Anthony Moore had bequeathed. The actual Dwellings for the poor were behind Grey Tor Rocks and the Miners' Standard.

The first agreement, dated 25th December 1740, was drawn up to provide 'proper method for the better maintenance, employment and regulation of the Poor of Winster'. It went, as follows: 'The Overseers shall find and provide, at their expenses, bedding and other household goods as shall be necessary for ye providing and getting of meat and drink for the Poor, aforesaid, and shall permit the said John Hall to take the benefit and advantage of the work and employment of the said Peer and suffer and permit him to set them at work in such manner as he shall think fit and shall bear all the costs and expenses concerning disputes of Settlements and Bastardry and shall use their best endeavours to oblige women when delivered of bastard children to discover the father or fathers thereof and to oblige such father or fathers to reimburse the said John Hall all such sum and sums of money and expenses as he shall pay or be reasonably put unto account thereof.' .

However, John Hall was not up to the task. In 1744, only four years later, another document. states: 'The Poor there (Winster) are become numerous and. burdensome by means whereof the poor assessment amount to near fivepence in the pound and a great number of the said poor are young lusty people and able to get their livings but refuse to work whereby their familys are become weekly pensioners,.' It goes on to state that the workhouse must be better organized and a keeper hired yearly, James Johnson was the .second keeper. It went on to insist that the fourteen governors, including the Vicar and chapelwardens, meet each Saturday afternoon at three o'clock to inspect the institution and pass accounts,

Item 8 states: 'None of the poor shall be permitted to wander up and down the streets but be kept within the said house.' Although the records for the workhouse end in 1831, one Parishioner declares that her dead mother told her that on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, two old Irishmen used to dress in their best, shamrock in buttonholes, and parade from the 'Winster Poor' behind the Grey Tor Rocks, down the West Bank to the Main Street. We presume the old 'Angel' was their destination. -

The old tailor bills give an idea of their 'best'. Making a coat cost 1/6d.; a gown 8d.° a jacket 9d.; a wench-jacket 6d.; and breeches one shilling each.

In 1768 work was done on 'The New Poor House' by George Norman for £22, 11, 24.

Children were, in fact, apprenticed at the age of eight, but eleven was the more common age for farming and domestic work. Life was hard indeed for vagrants. Charity begins and ends at home was the proven maxim of the Overseers of the Poor of every Parish. If a poor person wandered into another Parish, the overseers or his own were ordered, all duly sealed, signed and delivered by Law, to bring the intruder home. The conveyance order, dated 17th May, 1792, re Jonathan Botham, the younger, who was apprehended in the Liberty of Youlgreave as a Rogue and Vagabond, charged with wandering abroad and begging in vendor places, proves the severity of those times. This young man was stripped, naked from the middle upwards, and publicly whipped till his body was bloody and made to do public penance in the Churchyard. This eighteen-year-old had been born at Gratton and apprenticed to Jeremy Buxton, a butcher at Winster, from whom he had run away. Probably all the lad was doing was trying to get back to his parents.

This public penance ceased with the beginning of the nineteenth century, as was juicily recalled by an eccentric old lady, Mary Wall, who died in 1888 at the age of ninety. Either the practice was more common than is recorded, or Mary Wall remembered things that happened before she was born, a not uncommon fault in old age still!

As well as the care of the poor, the Overseers had the job of seeing that Joseph Dunn, of Monyash, Molecatcher 1779, succeeding George Cadman who signed an agreement in 1775, killed the moles 'properly' in the Liberty of Winster. This was not according to R.S.P.C.A rules, however, it was their way of not paying unless the job was thoroughly well accomplished and all moles exterminated. This having been done to their satisfaction they paid over the five guineas.

The chapel, according to the many judicial orders extant, were also responsible for catching householders, owing rent, who had done a 'moonlight flit'.

In fact, in the eighteenth century the Chapel seemed to be responsible for every bodily as well as spiritual need of its many parishioners. And its parishioners rallied to the call, as this list of people present at a Vestry Meeting in May, 1795 proves:

Richard Roberts, M. Willcock, William Brittlebank, James Johnson, Mr. Woolley, George Staley, George Haynes, William Hodgkinson, George Wall, Josiah Hall, William Alsop, William Rains, Wm. Longden, John Baloman, Charles Sheldon, Thomas Lovatt, Samuel Haynes, Francis Brittlebank, Francis Bennett, Thomas Burton, Joseph Taylor, Adam Ashton, Anthony Webster, Robert Bateman, Nathaniel Prime, James Boam, Joseph Ashton, Henry Fryer, Robert Frost, James Norman, Henry Ashton, George Blackwell, James Thooling, John Blackwel, George Hawley, Ralph Slaley Jnr, Edmund Barker, Samuel Hardy, George Frost, William Goodwin, Robert Frost & Son, Thomas Broomhead, Thomas Rowarth. Henry Fryer was elected Chapel-Clerk and Sexton in place of Thomas Allen deceased.

Winster National School

Although Reverend Bache Thornhill organised a school of sorts in 1811 to relieve him of the job of teaching 30 poor children, by 1865 there was no efficient school operating in Winster

Under the chairmanship of the new Vicar, Reverend Herbert Milnes, a committee was formed in 1866. The Trust Deed declared:

‘That the committee of Management shall always consist of nine persons, to be elected by the Donors and Subscribers to the School.’

It went on: ‘A person once elected on the said Committee shall continue thereon as long as he shall continue resident in the said Township of Winster, or within six miles thereof.’

Each donor of fifty pounds or more was entitled to 6 votes and could nominate a proxy during his lifetime and an heir to his 6 votes on his death.

Five pounds donation brought one vote in like fashion, and ten shillings a vote for one year. Committee members were allowed one vote in addition to their donation or subscription votes, but no one person was allowed more than 6 votes, no matter how much he paid into the fund.

All seemed set fair. Llewellyn Jewitt, Esquire, the celebrated antiquarian was among the founder members, who became School-Managers eventually. One of the early meetings took place at his home, Winster Hall.

Mr. Joseph Presep, who had passed his examination at Cheltenham College and taken 3rd degree 1st Class Certificate, was persuaded to leave his post in Liverpool. With the promise of seventy pounds per annum, exclusive of his Government-grant, and a rent-free house, he settled in Winster with his wife as sewing mistress.

Even after the delays in procuring the necessary building-site, the school was scheduled to open in September 1866. But, it was the 3rd December, 1866 when it finally opened its doors. And then, it was not as it should have been. In the following April, Mr. Milnes wrote to the Schools Inspection Board asking them to delay their Inspector’s visits until December 1867.

Grants for the school had been obtained from ‘The Lords of the Committee of Education’ and ‘The National Society’. And did they want to know where every penny went! In May, 1867, in reply to some of their questions, Mr. Milnes replied:

‘Our National School at Winster has no endowment attached to it. There is a bequest left to the Minister of Winster for teaching and instructing 30 poor children. The Minister of Winster at the present time, pays over to the schoolmaster £25 (the amount of the bequest) for the teaching of 30 poor children, but he has no power to bind his successor to do the same.’

Six months later ‘My Lords’ wanted to know if any interest had been gained on the ‘Building Fund’. The £8.4.3d in question had already gone to meet extra expenses incurred equipping the school.

At first, meetings were rarely more frequent than half-yearly, either to pass the accounts or to elect new Managers. The Managers seemed to make a habit of dying or leaving the district. In 30 years, not once did all nine Managers attend a meeting, more often the number was for including the Vicar. Not until 1894, when meetings were happening fast and furious to deal with crises, did Mr. Milnes miss a meeting. One absence in 30 years! Mr. Henry Charles Heathcote took the chair, but Mr. Milnes still wrote up the minutes, as usual.

Finances became shaky as early as 1872. Because their income was inadequate to meet the annual expenditure it was decided that the schoolmaster's salary be derived solely from the government-grant and the children's pence. But, it was hurriedly explained : ' The schoolpence will be the pence for the education of all the children – Mr. Milnes paying for his 30 free children as if they were bona-fide scholars.' Mr. Prinsep protested, but still remained.

That same year, the Managers were pestered by the school-cleaner for more money and troubled by faulty drains by the side-door. Eventually the cleaner (who didn't) was sacked and the new one got a rise of sixpence a week bringing the wages to 2/- per week. For this princely sum the cleaner duly promised in writing that:

1. Schoolrooms and classroom should be scoured once a month
2. Schoolroom to be swept out and dusted every Wednesday and Saturday.
3. That fire be lighted when required. PERSON CLEANING TO FIND THE STICKS
4. One months notice to be given in case of dismissal or resignation

In 1881 Mr. Llewellyn Jewitt, who had left the district for Duffield, was taken off the Committee. Then the troubles really began in earnest. Letters had to be written to the defaulters re arrears of school-pence. Weekly-payment, in advance on Monday morning, had to be insisted upon.

'The integrity and unpunctuality of the scholars' was strongly denounced. Teachers were also called to book, literally, and told to sign his or her name, and the time when he or she came each day, as a good example to the delinquent pupils. Better discipline was demanded. All dangerous games and stone-throwing in the playground as 'immediately put a stop to'.

On the 28th March 1884, the indentures of fifteen year old Emily Hannah Prinsep were signed by the Managers. But the financial state of the school was so bad a public meeting was called. Messrs. Joseph Greatorex and Thomas Burton organised a house-to-house collection in the village. This was the first time, since the reformation, that Winster had been styled a village. The collection raised £12.18.6d. This was but little use, so in 1885 it was decided to reduce the government-grant to Mr. Prinsep by twenty pounds. Little wonder the hard-pressed schoolmaster jibbed at this. He was, by then one hundred pounds worse off than he had been led to believe he would receive when he had taken the post nineteen years before. However, he offered one-quarter or one-fifth of his grant towards expenses. His offer was accepted. This was considerably less than the twenty pounds first requested, so school-masters a century ago certainly had room for complaint.

A shaft of sunlight broke through in 1890 when the school was affiliated to the Archdeaconal Board of Education, but the Bakewell Union School attendance Committee, under the guidance of their clerk, Thomas Fidler, continued to make their presence felt. On Monday evening, the 23rd February, 1891, the School-Managers met, for the first time, in the Public Hall of Winster. A report from the government inspector was read, which threatened dire penalties 'Unless the school improves in tone and discipline, this lack of tone and discipline being greatly due to the bad attendance, especially of the Free Scholars.'

Mr. Milnes was requested to remove these persistent absentees and re-fill their places with others more deserving of help. The report went on to state that 17% of the children were never at sc, from time to time, should personally visit the school, that Mr. Prinsep make weekly lists of late-attenders and absentees, and that parents be requested to see that their children attended the school punctually and regularly.

But, those stalwart managers were not easily discouraged. Even with this rowdy apology for a seat of learning, the optimistically approached the County Council re a grant for Technical Education in any of the following subjects: Principles of Agriculture, Dairy Farming, Metallurgy, Mining, Mineralogy and Geology. The asked that preference be given to the first two subjects. The Clerk of the Council does not appear to have bothered to reply.

The year 1891 began the decline of the Prinsep family. The fate of the school and the fate of the Prinseps seemed to be inextricably tangled. In May, Emily Hannah, the twenty-two year old assistant mistress died from congestion of the lungs. She was a great favourite, of a kind and affectionate disposition, always ready to help on a good work in every way she could, according to Mr. Milnes. All the cottages along the Main Street, from the schoolhouse to the church had the blinds down as the cortege passed. Many villagers sent flowers, which she had loved.

With this death, Miss Ada Howe, from Bristol, was appointed assistant-mistress and 'My Lords' were asked for exemption from 'Drawing' in school as:

1. Our present head-teacher is unable to teach it and too old to learn.
2. Emily Hannah Prinsep, who was taking lessons in drawing, is deceased.
3. Of our inability to obtain an assistant-teacher capable of teaching drawing.

The Free Education act came to the Manager's aid. Education was declared free from the 30th November, 1891.

'But every child must pay one penny per week for repairs, firing, books etc. And this penny must be paid every Monday morning, in advance'

Things looked better for both the school and the Prinseps. They were offered Ninety Pounds a year and the school-house. The new school arrangements were published in the December issue of the Parochial magazine. Miss Howe was to board with the Prinseps. Mr. Milnes paid over the Free Scholars' annuity, for 1892, as a 'special donation'.

If 1891 had ended almost well for the schoolmaster, 1892 began terribly. In January, only eight months after the death of his sister, their nineteen-year-old son, William Russell, died from diabetes, after he had returned home, partly-cured, from St. George's Hospital, London. His body, borne by eight of his young companions was shown the same respect on its way to the church, as his sister's had been.

From now on there was little let-up for the Prinseps or the School-Managers. Two hundred circulars were sent to householders, but, despite the fact that the circular-collector had been promised ten-per-cent of the proceeds, the response was pitifully small. Miss Helen Wagstaff complained volubly that she was the worst paid infant-teacher in the district, and that she could only exist on the small pittance paid her by living with her parents. Her salary was raised to £17.10.0d per annum. She demanded 20 pounds. When she got that she demanded twenty-five pounds per annum, or else! She resigned a few times, but she was still teaching in 1895 when the next head-teacher took over. Miss Ada Howe had not even bothered to write an application for a rise, but they raised her salary to £30.

A list for 3 dozen exercise-books at 9d per dozen, 2 dozen copy-books at 21-d per dozen, 1 quire of drawing-paper at 1/6d, 3 boxes of slated pencils at 5d per dozen and 1 box of chalk at 1/6d was eventually passed after meriting as much discussion as 'Blue Streak'. 2 desks and seats, 10ft long and 1 desk and 1 seat only, after the same lengthy discussion, were finally ordered.

All this time, the government-inspectors were harassing the Managers with demands for cloakrooms and better accommodation, so that eventually in January, 1894, Mr. Milnes replied:

'The erection of cloakroom we inted to complete as soon as we can and herewith beg to hand your lordships plans for you approval. As to 2. We beg to submit that (a) the population of Winster is gradually but surely decreasing. (b) The chief industry is lead-mining and as this is necessarily a very precarious thing any failure of produce might occur at any time which would oblige a large number of persons to leave Winster for the purpose of finding work elsewhere. Under these circumstances we shall be glad to know whether you will allow us to postpone the enlargement of the classroom or the partitioning of the large school.

'My Lords' would have none of this. And both Miss Howe and Miss Wagstaff resigned the next month. Mr. Milnes was not quite beaten. He gently remonstrated with 'My Lords' about 'the very dilapidated state in which the plans were returned here', and advertised for a MALE assistant-teacher.

April, however, found even Mr. Milnes at the end of his tether. One can sense the desperation in these words of his: 'That the Managers regret extremely that matters are now come to a crisis. Ever increasing demands of the department being such as to compel every Manager of Schools to resign. The assistant staff of Winster School having threatened to resign unless their own terms are acceded to (which the managers think impossible considering the incompetence of the present staff.) the Managers feel that they must face the question as to the desirability of re-organising the whole staff of teachers, but having regard to Mr. Prinsep's long service they would like to consult with him in this matter, before taking any decisive step and they will be glad if Mr. Prinsep will attend the next meeting of Managers on Tuesday evening next at eight O'clock.' But they went on to agree to the division of the large room by a wooden partition at that same meeting.

Weekly meetings, letters and resignations followed, fast and furious. Letters to 'My Lords' re a pension for Mr. Prinsep who 'has now been with us for 28 years, having been for 10 years previous teaching at Liverpool', availed them precisely nothing. The stipulated alterations to the school were to cost one hundred pounds, it was already in debt. After much discussion re ways and means they hit on the idea of approaching the Non Resident Landowners, which appeal brought forth eleven pounds, six shillings.

Notwithstanding the tenders were still advertised and lists of subscribers (their scruples were fast evaporating now) were put up in Mr. Greatorex's shop and Mr. Henry Charles Heathcote's Post Office and, by August, the total had reached fifty-five pounds.

Mr. Prinsep's health rapidly deteriorated, and still 'My Lords' were unforthcoming. 'Is it enough that application was made while he was still teaching?' pleaded the Reverend Milnes. The work of building and alteration was commenced by Messrs Carson, Greatorex and Fry.

In 1895, Mr. Sibson of Stanton took over the school, taking Government-grant and the fee-grant, with himself finding all the required staff. This motion was carried unanimously. Can you wonder at it? The managers granted Mr. Prinsep a pension of six pounds five shillings a quarter, for a period not exceeding two years, this payment to cease whenever the government pension was granted. He live to enjoy his retirement until July, 1909, just four months longer than Reverend Milnes, although Mrs. Prinsep died in June 18... Actually, Mr. Prinsep recovered his health sufficiently to act as churchwarden, for a time, retiring in 1907.

The minutes book, kept so religiously by Reverend Herbert Milne ends on the 24th October 1894, with the payment of cheques to Mr. Carson (45 pounds), Mr. Greatorex (£36.2.8d) and Mr. Heathcote (£10.14.0d)

It was a happy note with which to end. But can you wonder that Mr. Milne's ministry at Winster also ended, soon after, when he went to Cheltenham in 1895.

With Mr. Milnes and Mr. Prinsep out of office, Mr. G. Sibson took control in no uncertain fashion. A copy still remains of his Time-Table for 1895-6. School Times were from 8:30am till 8:30pm, with breaks from noon to 1:00pm and 3:30pm till 5:00pm. Six days a week. The time-table is signed by the new Vicar, Reverend W. H. Nixon and six Managers on December 11th, 1895.

At a subsequent meeting in 1902 it was decided that future meetings were to held in the Public Library. Whether this was an extension of the school or not, we cannot determine. This is the only mention of a library found.

Mr. S.H. Thorpe took over from Mr. Sibson in 1919 after his demobilisation from the Army. After him Mr. Bell, aptly named for a school and a lovely man according to the ex-pupils who still remember him affectionately, stayed awhile. Then came Mr. George Noton, the present head-master.

The school today does not present the same financial headaches, but it still comes in for quite a bit of adverse criticism of a completely different character. Now it is the parents who are concerned at the low percentage of eleven-plus passes, although the Vicar does worry the authorities on this score.

Mr. Milne's prophecy has been proven accurate, the number of pupils has now reached an all time low.

The Churchyard

This is still a contracted spot, with very little space remaining for new burials. There are no Limes left, but a few yews remain. It is bounded by the gardens of Oddo House, Bank House and the Dower House on three sides and the main Winster-Bakewell road on the fourth. There is therefore, no room for expansion.

The most prominent memorial is the war memorial to the fallen in the 1914-1918 war, which was erected by the villagers in 1920. This stands South of the West Tower, almost directly in front of the entrance door.

Along the wall side, adjoining Oddo, stand many tombstones to the Brittlebanks, who first came to Winster in 1700 and built the former house of the same name in 1868. Their magnificent vault of long-age is now a crumbling mass of broken stone and rusting iron. Reverend Herbert Milnes would have written, as their epitaph: 'Sic transit Gloria mundi.' Many Brittlebanks were brought back to Winster for burial, in this vault, including Andrew Brittlebank, first-born son of Andrew and Catherine Margareta, whose body was brought, by rail, from Kingston-on-Thames in January, 1887.

Four months later, in May, the body of his youngest brother, Hugh, who had died at the age of 22 years and 10 months, was brought back from New York on the steamer 'Erns' of the German line of Lloyds.

Two distinctive head stones, on the path leading directly to the Church, with a stone lying on top of the grave resembling a Roman sarcophagus, denote the burial ground of the celebrated antiquarian Llewellyn Jewitt Esq., F.S.A and his wife, Elizabeth who both died at The Hollies, Duffield, but were brought to Winster for interment, in March and June of the year 1886. Later, in 1889, Georgina Jewitt, the wife of Edwin Jewitt, died at the age of thirty-four in confinement of her second child, at Matlock, and she also was brought to Winster. The infant daughter, Clara, who had been cared for in Winster by Mrs. Benjamin Brittlebank also died at the age of four months and followed her mother the following February 25th 1890.

An Irish baby of three months, James Raftery, made history on the 2nd July 1887. He was buried by Mr. Milnes. In this instance, the family put aside their religious scruples, 'it not being worthwhile to send for the priest from Derby for a child, ' as the explained.

More than six thousand people are buried, more than there are headstones for, in this tiny churchyard, from an unknown traveller on the 13th November, 1759 and Mary Barker, spurious of Rachel in 1770, and a man unknown of 5ft 8 inches high, with full beard, scraggy white whiskers, prominent front teeth, aged about 50 in October, 1892, to name but three of the curious entries to the ordinary people of this last generation. The oldest discernible burial date on stones is that of Samuel Handley in 1735, but this looked new compared with the obliterated ones of much earlier design. These old stones, especially the flat ones, have acquired a simple dignity in their very anonymity. One thing about them is certain, they shared the same faith.

Today, Winster churchyard proves that the right of burial in a churchyard is not confined to members of the Church of England, but that anyone dying in the Parish may be buried there, at the discretion of the Incumbent and the Church-Wardens. However, the Non-conformists and the Church of England are the only people being buried there now, the Catholic families who caused so much unrest long ago, have either died or moved away. The priest no longer comes from Derby to bury the dead.