

*The History of the Parish Church,
Churchyard, Vicarages and
Schools of Euxton*



Horace Walsh

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Euxton
Written 1990
Published 1993

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Photography: *Ted Mullins*

Binding: *Peter Doyle*

Design, Layout and Printing: *Paul McManus*

Dedication

This history is dedicated to and written in the memory of my late wife Mary Alice. She lent her whole-hearted support and encouragement over many years and without it I would not have continued the research. She was the rock on which I built.

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Preface and Acknowledgments

Preface

After a number of years of research into all areas of the history of the church, churchyard, vicarages and schools, the time is now opportune to attempt the production of a consolidated story covering these aspects as far as this has been possible to achieve.

As an enthusiastic amateur historian, without any semblance of formal journalistic training, I am conscious of the many shortcomings in all areas of the story. It will be readily apparent this phase is concerned with physical aspects together with general historical matters and only in very minor key are persons or personalities recorded. I make no apologies for this, some other person or persons can undertake the task of putting 'flesh' on the 'bones'.

Down these years I have journeyed to many places often with fruitless results; I have written countless letters and made numerous telephone calls. The courtesy and charm with which I have been received, and the kind, helpful and friendly letters from all sources have been heart-warming and have greatly helped when I felt discouraged.

The names and where applicable, the organisations concerned, can be found in the Acknowledgments.

There are many, many areas where further investigation may clarify the outstanding matters, and I do hope some other person or persons will undertake these tasks.

I have taken as a mentor, a man named Henry Swinburn, who in the year 1590 wrote a *Brief Treatise of Testaments and Last Willes*. A short extract from his book reads as follows: "Great and wonderful is the number of manifolde writers and civil and ecclesiasticall laws and so huge is the multitude of their sundrie sorts of bookes, as lectures, councils, tracts, decisions, questions, disputations, repetitions, cautels, common opinions, singulars, contradictions, concordances, methods, summes, pracktikes, tables, reportories and bookes of other kinds (apparent monuments of their endlesse and invincible labours) that in my conceit, it is impossible for any one man to read over the hundred part of their works, though living over hundred years hee did intende non other worke. Wherefore by the publishing of this testamentarie treatise, I may be thought to powre water into the sea, to carry owles to Athens and to trouble the reader with a matter altogether needlesse and superfluous, but yet for all this, in case this one little booke may serve instead of many great volumes, then I hope in the equal judgement of such as are indifferently affected, the same is neither to be admitted as commodious, than rejected as superfluous". 'AMEN'

By the nature of the information gleaned over the past years, the story has become very extensive indeed, especially in the area covered by the appendices, but these are the supportive proof to some of the assumptions made in the earlier years of the chapel (church) history, and documentary proof of the later periods.

The story is therefore written primarily for the person or persons deeply interested in historical matters, and at this point in time the intention is to produce privately a small number of copies for distribution to selected sources.

These details will be recorded on a distribution list which it is hoped will be at the end of this comprehensive story.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to the following people and sources of information.

Dr. E.W.G. BILL, Librarian, Lambeth Palace Library.

Mr. K. HALL, County Archivist, Lancashire County and Diocesan Record Office, Preston.

Mrs. A. HARDMAN, Archivist, Lancashire County and Diocesan Record Office, Preston.

Mr. J. HEYES, Assistant District Librarian, Lancashire County Library, Chorley.

Mr. D. SHUTTLEWORTH, Local History Librarian, Lancashire County Library, Chorley.

Dr. C.J. WRIGHT, The British Library, Manuscript Section, London.

REVEREND H.D. RACK, Chetham Society, Manchester.

PROFESSOR M.J. WILKS, Birkbeck College, London.

Dr. C.A. HAIGH, Christ Church, Oxford.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS, London.

Mr. C.C. WEBB, Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York.

Mr. L. RANSON, Lately Registrar, Diocesan Registry, Cathedral Close, Blackburn.

Miss D. WHITTAKER, Diocesan Registry, Cathedral Close, Blackburn.

HOUSE OF LORDS RECORD OFFICE, Westminster, London.

REVEREND D. RAITT, B.D., A.K.C. Vicar, Euxton Parish Church.

Mr. A.J.R. PEDLEY, Lately Headmaster, Euxton Church of England Junior School.

Finally to Miss D. GASKELL, for her very careful reading of the original draft and correction thereto, and for her many, many helpful suggestions.

Introduction

Introduction

In the two previous issues of a booklet sold in aid of church funds, which attempted to answer some of the many questions raised by people who visit the church for one reason or another, each issue carried a short section dealing with the areas surrounding the village and some general detail relating to life in the past. The information I have now gathered concentrates solely on the church and all associated areas and buildings. It is quite clear to me there are people in the locality who have a deeper knowledge and wider understanding of the many parish buildings, roads, streams, activities etc., than I shall ever have time or the ability to research, and it is to them that one should turn for information on these subjects.

In the narrative which follows therefore, I have attempted a logical historical progression as far as this relates to the passage of years and the events which have occurred, but due to many, many factors outside my control, the answers to many of the queries which are evident as the story proceeds, are not at this point in time known to me, but it should be clearly understood that the information may be available. As an example, much as I would have liked to have done this, it has not been possible to visit the Public Record Offices and the British Library in London, nor the Bodleian Library, the Lambeth Palace Library, the House of Lords Record Office, Westminster and the University of Cambridge etc., etc., etc.

To many people coming to this area on an initial visit, the expansion of the village and surrounds in the post 1945 years chiefly, with extensive new house properties, tends to disguise the antiquity of the original village area, and although the village does not figure as a separate identity in the Domesday Survey of 1086, in the Astley Park area approximately half a mile east of the village, a Bronze age settlement with burial urns was discovered in 1963 by a local farmer when ploughing his fields. Careful examination of the area in 1974 uncovered many items and for those so interested, a comprehensive plan and description of the various items found can be seen on display in Astley Hall. People were thus living around here 4000 years ago.

It is not the concern of this story to enter into national or county historical matters, except in those areas and instances where these matters had a bearing upon the church and congregation. It would be a failing however if attention was not drawn to the County of Lancaster and the sparse population up to and including the Industrial Revolution and the impact this had during some tempestuous years on the church history.

There are many areas, which, whilst not directly involving the church activities as such, including of course the church officials, did have some form of influence, but due to the necessity to deal with the main theme these areas have not been included.

Attention is drawn to many instances which appear in the narrative, and particularly in the Appendices, of detail and information reported verbatim. In some of these instances the spelling used is of the day and date when the basic document was prepared and where the spelling therefore is not in line with the modern methods.

Section 1

The village of Euxton in 1990 (A Brief Description)

Section 1

The village of Euxton in 1990

Terminology

Before looking at the physical aspects and characteristics of the village today, it is necessary to appreciate that in speaking the name of the village, the letter 'U' is silent and the name is pronounced 'Exton'. It has been known by many names down the years, the following being some of them:

1187	Euceston
1292 and 1497	Eukeston
1555	Euxton

It has also been known as Euxtonburgh - a fortified place or a mound.

Location and other relevant details

The village lies about two statute miles to the west of the town of Chorley, Lancashire. It sits astride the A49 road and is approximately nine miles from Wigan; three miles from Leyland; nine miles from Preston, a similar distance from Bolton; sixteen miles or thereabouts from Southport; twenty four miles from Manchester, and some two hundred miles from London. The M6 and M61 routes are respectively a half mile west and east of the village approximately. Proximity to such routes has caused the village to develop as a dormitory area in the post 1945 years. It covers two thousand nine hundred and thirty four acres of which seven are inland water. The area is well wooded with little basic industry. Frequent omnibus services to and from Chorley, Leyland and Preston serve the village. There is no rail service.

Dairy and agricultural farming occupy the lands around the village. One river - the Yarrow - flows in the southern region into which the stream called Chapel Brook empties.

At this date there are approximately eight and a half thousand inhabitants compared with some one and a half thousand before the 1939/45 war and this graphically illustrates the expansion which has taken place. The original village properties straddled each side of the A49 road, but many of these have been demolished since 1945 and other properties erected not necessarily of the same sort. There are many old farmhouses in the area. There is no market held in the village.

Roads

Two roads running from east to west enter the village; on the south the A581 known in the section entering the parish boundary as Balshaw Lane - an ancient name - and the other road on the north side as the B5252, Euxton Lane. Until the coming of the Royal Ordnance factory in this lane in 1937, this thoroughfare was merely a country lane which meandered from the Bay Horse hotel to the existing A6 road. The A49 road as it proceeds north from Wigan and passes through the area towards Preston, is considered by the Ordnance Survey to include in parts, the

original Roman road which carried troops from the first named town to the ford at Walton-le-Dale near Preston. If this is so, then the area of Euxton was also known some two thousand years ago.

Churches and Schools (with associated support groups)

Three churches serve the village inhabitants - Church of England, Roman Catholic and Methodist. The first is the subject of subsequent details and the latter two were erected in the nineteenth century. There are Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary Day schools, plus two Lancashire County Council similar schools drawing from the village and surrounding areas some two hundred and fifty pupils approximately to each school.

Rangers, Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Church Lads Brigade provide some facilities for the young through the respective places of worship. There are annual Gala and Walking Days within which the three denominations join forces and these are held in the middle period of each year. A Youth club exists, and a village playing field under the control of the Parish Council is available for most types of popular sport.

Welfare, Medical and Social aspects

There is a small medical centre staffed by various trained personnel and a dentist's practice in the village. Road crossing operatives are in attendance during the day when pupils are proceeding to and from the respective schools.

Four inns, the Bay Horse Inn, the Talbot Hotel, the Travellers Rest and the Euxton Mills Inn, selling the usual beverages with the addition of meals service are disposed around the area.

A modern up to date library operated by Lancashire County Council library service is sited at the north end of the village. There is no village hall as such, but the Church of England Parish Hall is used by many organisations for meetings, social occasions etc., etc.

Banking, pharmaceutical chemist, confectionery, butchery, bakeries, greengrocery, grocery and post office services are available to serve the scattered population and these are situated in the north west and south east areas of the village. This is due in the main to land configuration arising from the last ice age some ten thousand years ago.

Employment

This aspect was mentioned in the previous sub-section headed *Location*. Each day many people travel to their respective places of work - often to surrounding towns and further afield - by motor car and the traffic between the hours of 7.30 am to 9.00 am and from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm along the various roads is in consequence somewhat heavy in volume, necessitating the usual traffic-warden services adjacent to the respective Junior schools.

There is only a small number of self-employed personnel - joiner, bricklayer, painter, plumber and electrician - serving the two thousand homes in the area. A small business manufacturing synthetic rubber products operates in a former cotton

mill on the banks of the river Yarrow, and a ceramic tile merchant and supplier also operates in the village.

Administration

The village is administered under the aegis of the Lancashire County Council and Chorley Borough Council, with a Parish Council dealing with minor matters outside the framework covered by the main councils. The civil and ecclesiastical parishes are coincidental in area. A member of Parliament serves the Chorley - including Euxton - constituency.

Section 2 (a)

The Parish Church of Euxton in 1990

Section 2(a)

The Parish Church of Euxton in 1990

Location

The church stands in the southern part of the village on top of a small mound or hillock just to the north of a stream called by the name of Chapel Brook. This stream has two subsidiary names, the upper section being known as *German Brook* and the lower section as *Culbeck Brook*.

The A49 road - Wigan to Preston section - passes the church heading north and in so doing crosses Euxton Chapel Bridge. Chapel Brook eventually debouches into the river Yarrow which is on the extreme southern edge of the village.

Churchyard, Vicarage and Parish Hall

These are all sited adjacent to the church. A car park serving the various buildings has been constructed on what used to be glebe land held by the church, but since 1978 this type of land has been under the control of the Diocese of Blackburn (Glebe Committee).

Ecclesiastical Matters

The present ecclesiastical parish is bounded on the north by Leyland parish, to the south it joins on to Charnock Richard parish, Eccleston parish is to the west, with Chorley parish lying to the east. The church currently operates within Chorley Deanery under the ecclesiastical control of the Diocese of Blackburn.

At this date there is a resident Vicar, the Reverend Derek Raitt B.D. A.K.C., who is assisted in his duties by a number of lay readers. There is no curate employed at this date. A wide variety of activities and functions is performed by and for members of the congregation and the village - e.g. Mothers Union, Girl Guides and Brownies, Choir, Church Lads Brigade, Men's Society, Badminton, Worship with Mother, Sunday School, etc., etc., etc.

The approximate number of persons on the church electoral roll is four hundred at this date.

A communion service is usually held each Wednesday at 10.00 am. Sunday services are at 8.00 am (Communion), 10.30 am (Matins or Communion) and 3.00 pm (Evensong). Once each month a service is held at 9.15 am (Communion) for the Sunday School children, Brownies, Guides and Church Lads Brigade and any parents who wish to attend.

Special services are held at different times of the year (Easter, Christmas, Confirmation etc.,) as circumstances dictate.

Christenings are also carried out from time to time, sometimes as part of the particular service on the day concerned, and also after evensong.

The village population possess the prescriptive rights to burial in the churchyard. A Garden of Remembrance was constructed in 1981 to serve the congregation.

A Procession of Witness - usually referred to as *Walking Day* - takes place along the A49 road on the first Sunday in July.

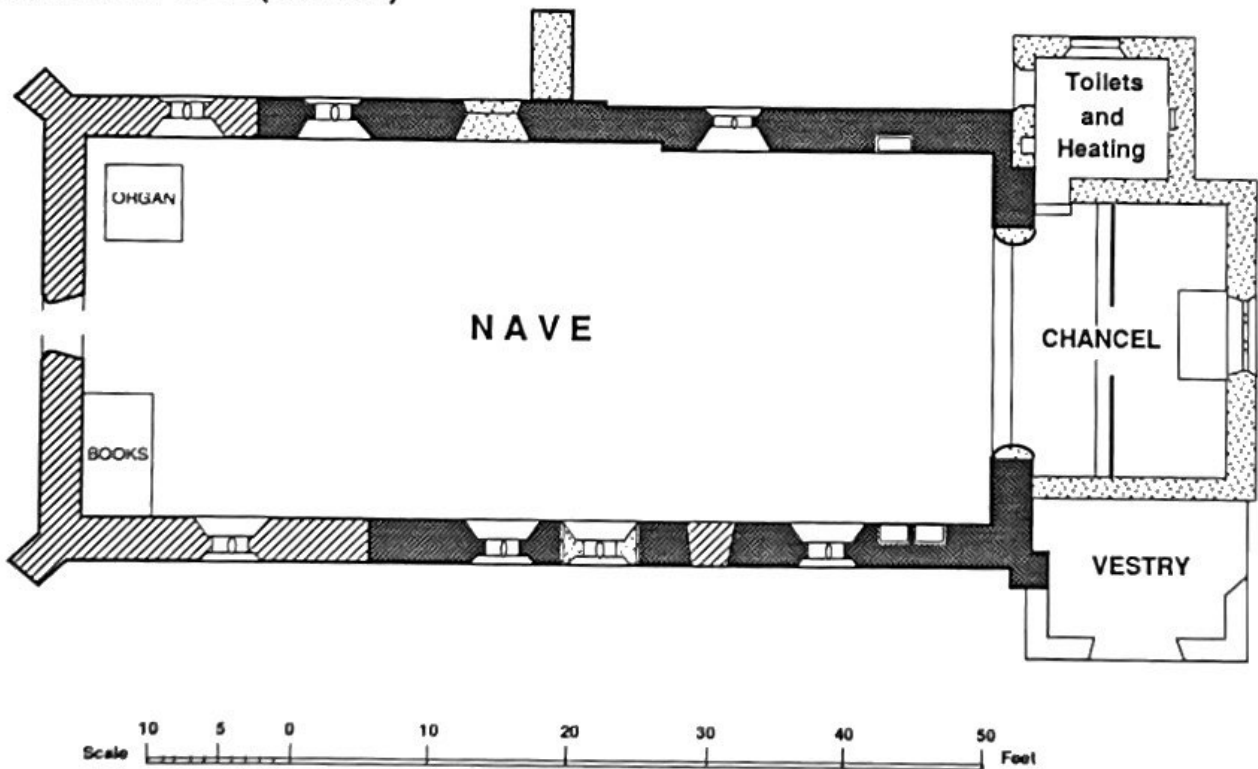
Physical description of the church structure

External

The present structure consists of:

- (i) Nave
- (ii) Chancel
- (iii) Vestry
- (iv) Boiler room plus toilets

EUXTON CHAPEL (Church)



(i) Nave

The nave - which has a central aisle but no side aisles - measures fifty six feet eleven inches on the north side, and fifty seven feet and nine inches on the south side. The width is twenty four feet and three inches at the west end reducing to twenty three feet five inches at the east end.

The walls are of red sandstone rubble roughly coursed. External stiffening buttresses are affixed to the north and south walls, plus a clasping buttress at the south east corner - now almost obliterated by the west wall of the new vestry where

this joins the nave - and two retaining buttresses at the south west and north west corners.

It is said that the stonework for these buttresses came from the former Euxton Junction railway station when this was in existence, but it has not been possible to prove this.

Pevsner states there are parts of the structure which are 14th century or earlier and if the grey stone window frames on the north and south sides - there are three windows on the north side and four on the south side - are carefully examined it will be seen that the two westernmost - one on each side - are of different construction to the other windows. These latter windows again appear to be of 14th century date, see Plate No. 1.

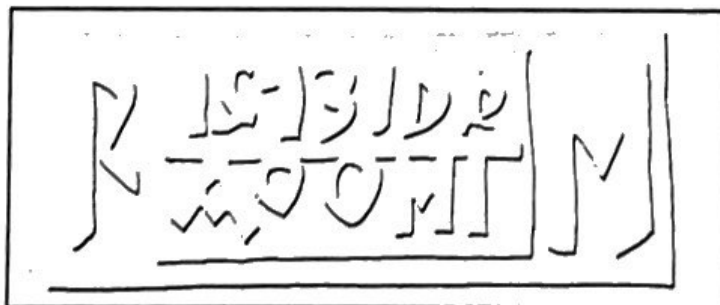
In design the quatrefoil head to each window - similar to a flower with four petals - ties in with the trefoil ornamentation in the lower window section which is like a three fold leaf.

On the west elevation there is installed a stained glass window representing St. George and the Dragon. This was a gift of the daughters of James and Elizabeth Critchley in memory of their parents and was placed in the present position in 1970. It is inscribed with the words "In memory of James and Elizabeth Critchley who worshipped at this church".

The two middle windows on the south side are also filled with stained glass. The easternmost of the windows has the figure of our Lord and the rich young ruler and as the Good Shepherd and this is inscribed "This window is erected to the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of the late John Dean Manning Esq., of Euxton, by his niece Mrs. Jessie H. Pilkington, June 2nd 1910". The second decorated window has figures of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Divine and bears the inscription "To the glory of God, and in memoriam John Dean Manning Esq., of Euxton, born 1st December 1823 died June 2nd 1909". Mr Manning was for many years a churchwarden and figured in many aspects of church and school life during the latter part of the nineteenth century. All other windows are in plain glass.

On the north side can be seen a doorway which is no longer used. Prior to the erection of the chancel and the second vestry - on the north east side of the church and now used as a boiler room and toilet facilities - the priest of the day entered the nave through this doorway.

Below the stained glass window on the external west elevation can be found a dated stone which appears to show the following information:



This particular stone has been the subject of much comment and speculation down the years by various historians and varying comments have been made as to whether it does represent the date of erection of the church. This matter is dealt with in more detail in the history of the structure.

The present west door of the church is a fairly recent replacement of a previous door and was presented to the church by the relatives of Walter Grime Smith who died on 30th September 1956. A small plaque to this effect is affixed behind the door.

On the north west corner of the nave, above the restraining buttress, is a stone quoin some nineteen inches by twelve inches by eight inches approximately, inscribed "Roger Wa". The remainder of the name appears to have been cut away and in fact the stone is upside down. Who did this and for what purpose is not known.

Immediately over the west door and corbelled out from the roof is a bell tower sitting somewhat awkwardly. The bell - see Plate No. 2 - in the turret which is tolled each Sunday for the various services, was forged by J. Taylor & Co. of Loughborough and placed there in the year 1898. It is not known who paid for the installation. The original bell erected in 1723 and later installed in what is now the church parish hall - but previously the Day School and Sunday School - is now in the care and keeping of the modern Church of England Primary school also sited in the village.

In the south wall, approximately seventeen feet from the south east corner, is an alteration in the random rubble stonework which seems to suggest a door opening was to be formed. These alterations are some seven feet in height and seven feet in width at the base, tapering to one foot at the apex. The internal south wall of the nave at this point shows a clearly defined and constructed doorway opening measuring seven feet six inches in height and four feet in width. When this occurred; the purpose of the work content; who authorised the action and at what cost is not known. Why the probable doorway exit via the outer *skin* of this wall of the nave was not completed is not apparent.

(ii) Chancel

This is twelve feet nine inches from west to east and seventeen feet ten inches from north to south. In the east elevation there is a decorated window of stained glass depicting the Tree of Jesse. This window was placed in position on 24th March 1900 and was a gift by the Reverend H. W. Bretherton of Croston and other members of his family in memory of Mrs. Bretherton of Runshaw Hall who died in 1897. There is a brass tablet affixed to the inner north wall of the nave which bears the inscription "Giving thanks to God and in loving memory of Margaret Bretherton of Runshaw Hall who entered into rest September 3rd 1897, her children caused the east window in this church to be set up".

(iii) Vestry

This is a modern vestry taking up some of the area previously occupied by the former oil fired boiler house. Work commenced in the year 1985 under the Community Work Programme where only the cost of the materials used was met from church funds. Completion was achieved in 1990.

The stonework used was selected with great care in order to match as nearly as possible that of the nave. In size the structure measures sixteen feet two inches north to south and thirteen feet four inches east to west. There is an east entrance to the vestry used by the Vicar. A door leads to the chancel with a window in the south facing wall looking on to the Garden of Remembrance and a section of the churchyard.

(iv) Boiler room and toilet facilities

In order to provide adequate heating and toilet facilities for the congregation, action was taken to update the previous oil fired system by the installation of a modern gas fired arrangement in lieu. This has been installed in the previous vestry together with toilet facilities. The work was carried out in 1988.

Church - Internal arrangements

Points of entry

Currently there are three points of entry to the church - by the west door as used by the congregation; through the vestry door at the east end and via the present boiler room cum toilet facilities with a west facing door.

The doorway in the north wall of the nave has not been used for many years as a point of entry and exit, but was in constant use by the priest until the chancel was added.

There is one central passage approximately four feet wide leading from the west door to the chancel and altar, see Plate No. 3.

Organ and Book Store Arrangements

There is no record of the date when an organ was erected in the chapel (church) but when the current replacement organ was installed in the north west corner of the nave in 1979, opportunity was taken to modify the south west corner of the nave to enable better storage of hymn books etc., etc.

It is an extension pipe organ made in Withnell with use being made of second hand pipes but the woodwork was of new material. The overall cost of more than six thousand pounds was raised in six months from current and previous members of the congregation. In many churches the choir stalls are within the chancel but there is insufficient space to do this here, and in consequence five pews on the north side of the west end of the nave, adjacent to the organ, are currently allocated for choir use.

Pews and Floor

There are thirty three pews - seventeen on the south side of the central aisle and sixteen on the north side of this aisle - each pew generally capable of holding six persons making an approximate figure for the congregation of some one hundred and ninety four. The pews - clearly segmented - are of oak construction, simple in design with metal umbrella holders at the central aisle. A wood block flooring installed in the year 1898 is in situ. The central aisle - on a quarry tile flooring - and the chancel are currently carpeted in the matching colour of blue.

Lectern

When proceeding from the west door of the nave, on the right of the central aisle and adjacent to the chancel entry, there is an eagle lectern made in brass with the wording inscribed "A thank offering to God by Mrs Mayhew of Duxbury Park for mercies received - October 1897".

Pulpit

This is of the square type made of pitch pine framing enclosing oak panels and is apparently of 17th century origin, but this has not been confirmed. It is stated it was reconstructed in 1926 and the position slightly altered. At Appendix 19 are details of a very peculiar occurrence concerning this item of church equipment.

Font

It is constructed in oak and consists of a hexagonal base plate with a column of similar design supporting a basin also hexagonal. It stands three feet three inches from the floor and is thirteen and a half inches in width. A font cover in similar timber is in situ. A metal plate encircling the central column carries an inscription which reads "In memory of Miss H. E. Evans a loyal member of this church who died June 1974 aged 68 years". The font was designed and built - after approval by the Diocese of Blackburn - by the Reverend Albert Williams, who was for many years the vicar of a church in Preston, St. Saviours at Bamber Bridge.

Sedile and Piscina

These are recessed into the south wall of the nave adjacent to the chancel and form a single composition of two round headed recesses, each twenty one and a half inches wide with hollow chamfered jambs and heads and moulded labels.

The design is similar to that of the larger compositions (those with three seats) which are at Leyland Parish Church, and as that establishment was regarded as the *Mother Church* of Euxton, it was possibly suggested by and copied from it.

As at Leyland, the piscina is a double one, but the basins are plain. The recess is some ten and a half inches deep and twenty eight high, the chamfered cill being three feet six inches above the floor.

It is also stated that the double piscinas came in during the latter half of the 13th century and extended well into the 14th century. Should this be the case at Euxton, then the dated stone currently on the west external elevation of the nave is very suspect indeed.

Awmbry

The awmbry - sometimes spelt as ambry - is located on the north wall of the nave directly facing the piscina and sedile. This was used as a niche for holding the sacred vessels, and the original pins to which a securing bar and lock would be fitted can still be seen in situ.

It is two feet ten inches from the floor, and some two feet three inches in width, one foot three inches in the height of the opening and one foot five inches in depth.

Credence Table and Altar Rail

Of simple design but sound construction in oak, the credence table and altar rail with kneeling platform were provided by the relatives, and in memory of Florence Parker Lymer. A small plaque fixed to the north wall of the chancel bears the inscription "To the glory of God and in memory of Florence Parker Lymer who worshipped in this church this altar rail and this credence table are dedicated".

22nd June 1949

AETAT 73 years.

Vestry

The internal fittings to this recent addition to the church structure were presented anonymously by families in memory of their loved ones. One cupboard carries a plaque endorsed "In loving memory of Arthur Stanley Rigby from his family". A further plaque is mounted on the west wall which reads "This vestry was dedicated by the Reverend D. Raitt, B.D., A.K.C, Vicar of Euxton Parish Church, 15 July 1990".

Lighting

Lighting is by electricity installed by the Lancashire Electric Power Company in 1935 and consists of six suspended lanterns with six wall mounted flood lights equally divided between the north and south walls of the nave. In addition, two spotlights of fairly recent origin are in position, one serving the pulpit and the other the lectern. A further spotlight illuminates the organ console. There are two floodlights in the chancel area. The vestry and boiler room are separately illuminated.

Roof timbers in the nave and internal walls

Consist of six bays, with five open collar beam and kingpost principals, placed irrespective of the window openings and carrying two moulded purlins on each side, wavy wind braces and exposed rafters (note there are six rafters to each bay, except at the west end where there are seven) the spaces between being plastered. There is a moulded wall plate - the internal walls being twelve feet high to this point - and at each end a wall principal, that at the east end being similar to the others, but the western one is of plainer design.

The westernmost principal apparently belongs to the 18th century restoration or rebuilding and is of pitch pine, but the other four are of oak and date probably from the end of the 15th or the beginning of the 16th centuries. The wall pieces rest on stone corbels - but note the later west principal dies out into the wall at each side at the level of the wall plate - except in two places where they come over the window openings, one on the south side over the easternmost window and the other on the north side over the jamb of the second window from the west.

Those observant people watching the vicar as he preaches from the pulpit, should have noticed two small strips of material affixed to the north wall of the nave and to the chancel wall. These are *tell-tale* markers fixed in position by the church architects at the fabric quinquennial review in 1976 and are intended to record the spread of the side walls outward, due no doubt to the thrust of the roof. Some authorities believe this is due to the collars being placed too high.

At one time in the past, a single stone buttress was built against the external north wall of the nave immediately east of the doorway. When taken down in 1926 it was found to be built against stucco with which apparently the outside wall was formerly covered. No details are available when the stucco rendering was applied nor when it was removed.

The internal north and south walls of the nave are unplastered. The west wall of the nave and the approach wall to the chancel are fully plastered as is the chancel.

Other internal matters

A tablet is fixed to the north wall of the nave which states:

A.D. 1756	£
This C of Euxton was augm^d	
and 1758 A.D. lands purchased with	400
whereof given by	
Queen Annes Bounty	£200
By exer^s of	
Wm Stratford LL.D.	70
By other Benef^{ts}	130

The sum of £70 was given to the chapel (church) arising from the will of Dr. Wm Stratford who was secretary to Peregrine Gastrell, Vic/Gen, of Chester. Stratford had served as secretary to three consecutive Bishops of Chester. Wm Stratford came to Chester on August 8th 1696 when he took a degree at Pembroke Hall on October 20th 1721 and later returned to Chester.

He died on 7th September 1753 and from his concern to help poorly paid incumbents his will gave grants to augment the stipend of a number of them in the diocese. Whether Stratford ever visited the parish and church of Euxton is not known, or if he knew the then patron of the church - a man by the name of Armetriding -who figures greatly in the history dealt with later in this story. Nothing is known of the lands referred to in the details quoted.

Church Silver

Up to the year 1989, the following represented the items identified under this heading:

- 1 Altar Cross (1939) Stolen 17/12/1988
- 2 Vases
- 2 Candlesticks Stolen 17/12/1988
- 1 Bookrest (1939) Stolen 17/12/1988
- 1 Alms Dish (1895) Stolen 17/12/1988
- 1 Small Wafer Box (1917)
- 3 Small Patens (1961)
- 1 Small Chalice
- 1 Large Paten (1879)

1 Large Chalice	
1 Large Chalice	(1740) given by the Lord of the Manor - Mr Longwerth
1 Large Flagon	(1878)
2 Small Cruets	(1961)

Following a burglary at the church on the night of 17th December 1988 a number of items were stolen. Action was taken with the insurance company concerned, to try to replace the missing items and as a result replacement items not of the original pattern were obtained and taken into use in December 1990. Items marked as stolen were recovered in 1992.

Reredos panelling

A plaque is mounted on the south wall of the chancel which states "This Reredos was presented to commemorate the ministry of the Reverend HJG Beloe, Vicar of Euxton 1892 - 1919 and who died January 19th 1939".

This man became the vicar when the church was created a parish church on 6th September 1892.

Psalm and Hymn number holders

There is one each affixed to the entrance walls of the chancel and visible to the congregation. Made of oak, their age and other details are not known but could be early 18th century.

Vicar's seat in the chancel

This carries a plaque which reads "Presented by the Young Men's Society to the church in the year 1933". It has been provided with an embroidered seat cushion which reads "Derek Raitt 1965 - 1990" and was a gift to him on his celebration of twenty five years in the ministry.

Oak Hymn and Prayer book cases

Affixed to the wall in the south west corner of the nave in 1979 as part of the work carried out when the organ was reconstituted.

Litany Table

Is a small upright table - in oak - normally placed at the east end of the central aisle when Matins is held. The donor/s; cost and date of manufacture are not known.

Portable Lectern and Stand

This is usually located in the chancel. Made in oak it has a plaque endorsed with the words "In memory of Christine Hough 1982."

Boiler and Toilet room (formerly the vestry)

A plaque is affixed to the inner door leading to the chancel which reads "This vestry door was erected in memory of Henry and Mary Fairclough also their son

and daughter Thomas and Alice. Given by Marion and Annie daughters of Henry and Mary Fairclough."

Book of Remembrance and Case

These were presented to the church in 1979 by Lt. Colonel J.R. and Mrs C. Thatcher when the organ and area were reconstituted and are located in the south west corner of the nave.

Piano

Is positioned adjacent to the lectern and was purchased in 1981 by the church for use on those occasions when the organ was not being used.

Seats

These two seats made in oak are sited adjacent to the altar in the chancel, and are used by the Lay Reader and Server respectively when assisting the Vicar at the relevant service. The year of manufacture; who made them; the cost and donor/s are not known.

Churchwardens' Staffs

Two wooden staffs are affixed to the two easternmost pews - one on the north side of the central aisle and one on the south side of this passage. Each carries a silver cap - one in the shape of a mitre and the other being shaped as a crown. A silver collar is attached to each staff immediately below the mounted fixture and each collar is engraved with the following details:

On the mitre (or ecclesiastical staff) "In memory of Meryl Watts Lymer died 3.1.1964 warden to Reverend W. Hope from 1949 - 1964, Vice Chairman of Euxton P.C.C.", and on the crown (or civil staff) "In memory of Meryl Watts Lymer died 3rd January 1964. Given by his wife Vera."

These staffs indicate the different responsibilities carried out by the churchwardens in the past. The staff with the crown attachment represents the authority and duties performed in civil matters in addition to church duties. The staff with the mitre attachment was concerned with ecclesiastical matters only.

The office of churchwarden is one of the oldest in the Church of England and became legally recognised as early as the mid thirteenth century. By the sixteenth century wardens were elected annually at the parish meeting. Once elected the wardens had two main sets of duties, first to guard the parochial morals, and secondly to be trustees of the church goods. Parochial church councils were not apparently in existence until 1919 but even so churchwardens still have many responsibilities and much power. For instance, though the freehold of the church and churchyard are vested in the Vicar (or Rector) the actual possession of both is in the hands of the Vicar and wardens jointly.

If a person claims to enter a church for purposes other than attending at or assisting in worship the Vicar and wardens jointly can prevent him or her from doing so. All the moveable furniture and ornaments of the church are in the legal ownership of the wardens - they must allow the Vicar to use them for services as required.

As regards the recent theft of the church silver, it is the duty of the wardens to try to recover it and to prosecute the alleged thief or thieves.

Should anyone create a disturbance especially during a service the wardens can eject the person or persons. They are therefore responsible for maintaining good order during church services. A man wearing a hat during the service can be asked by the wardens to remove it and if he does not, they can remove it themselves!! It is a criminal offence at common law for a person to strike another or to be involved in riotous or indecent behaviour in a church or churchyard and wardens have the power to arrest the offender/s.

They are responsible for providing seats for the congregation and for the collection and disposal of alms during Holy Communion services. The titles of Vicar's warden and People's warden have no official status as both wardens must act jointly. These titles probably arose in the past when the incumbent and the parochial electors could not agree on the wardens to be appointed, and most probably the incumbent appointed one and the electors the other.

When a living becomes vacant, for whatever cause, the wardens are responsible for seeing the general pattern of the main services is continued. They hold the registers and become the link with the Bishop.

Listed Buildings

The church is shewn in the records maintained by Chorley Borough Council as Grade II (star).

Section 2 (b)

The History of the Parish Church of Euxton

- i The years 1200 -1700 'The Dark Ages'**
- ii The years 1701 - 1800 'The Dawn'**
- iii The years 1801 - 1892 'Enlightenment'**
- iv The years 1892 - 1990 'Fulfilment'**
- v Appendices**
- vi Plates**

Section 2(b)

The History of the Parish Church of Euxton

General

Whenever people visit the church for the first time, the questions usually asked are:

How old is the church, who built it and what has changed down the years?

In order to answer these few questions it must be accepted immediately that the first two sections of this three part question do not appear to be capable of any form of documentary proof at all, but the latter portion will be dealt with as the following historical details unfold.

Almost eight hundred years are outlined, and the categories are by definitive choice and fall naturally into the life cycle of the church. Assumptions are made and detailed in the initial part of the church history, and as the years proceed extensive documentary proof where available has been quoted for the remaining sub-sections.

The Years 1200 - 1700

'The Dark Ages' - 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th centuries

Reference has already been made to what appears to be a date-stone built into the west external wall of the nave, and if the detail is correct why consider the years prior to the date so indicated?

In the book written by Sir Nicholas Pevsner entitled *The Buildings of England (North Lancs)* "as far as the church is concerned there are parts belonging to the fourteenth century and possibly of an earlier date." Similarly in a paper¹ read by F.H. Cheetham F.S.A. at a meeting on the 12th March 1925 it is stated that Euxton was one of two pre-Reformation chapels belonging to the Church of England. The other was Heapey. The village name is English which presupposes a settlement before the arrival of the Normans in 1066. And what basis is there for these assumptions and statements? Assuming them to be correct what documentary proof exists, however indirect this may be?

In the year 1187 the population of the village was such that it was known as *Euceston*². By the year 1292 it was known as *Eukeston*³ although in this latter century there were many variations in the name of the village. That there was a

¹Historic Society of Lancs. & Cheshire Volume LXXVIII, New Series Volume XLII

²Lancashire Pipe Rolls by W. Farrer

³Record Society of Lancs. and Cheshire Volume 39 - Final Concords

village of sufficient size to warrant an identity is confirmed. See Appendix 1 to the section.

Edward I by a grant⁴ in the year 1301 to Robert de Eukeston and his heirs, gave permission to hold a weekly market every Tuesday at his manor in Eukeston in Lancashire and an annual fair there on St. Barnabas Day (June 11th). In those days it was the practice to hold markets and fairs either in the lands surrounding the church or in the roads and pathways leading to the church. Robert de Eukeston was also known as Robert de Holland and on his death, his daughter Joan inherited the manor and estates of Euxton which subsequently passed on her marriage to William de Molyneux son of the Lord of Sefton and who died in 1358.

This latter family retained the manor and estates of Euxton until 1729 when they were sold to James Longworth of Liverpool. It seems that the early fourteenth century was the first occasion when the Molyneux family came into possession of an estate in the village.

Clear reference to a priest of *Eukeston* is contained in a Grant by exchange of land between Robert, son of Richard the priest⁵ of this village, and Richard son of Robert of Werden on the 24th May 1330/31. In a feoffment⁶ sealed and dated 12th June 1421 between John of Lethum and John Bryning chaplains to Sir Richard Molyneux - of the Manor of Sefton and Eukeston - the properties previously held by John of Woleton, chaplain until his decease - in Sefton, Eukeston and Ellal were transferred to the first named.

When consideration is given therefore to these detailed references, and to the fact that the only religion permitted in those days was Roman Catholic, it appears reasonable to assume that there had to be some form of church building in which the local population could congregate for religious instruction. It is a possibility the structure could have been erected by de Eukeston alias de Holland, and which as already stated passed to the Molyneux family and remained with them up to the sale of the manor and estate. The Molyneux family regarded the structure as their own private property throughout the whole period from the early 14th up to the early 18th century.

It must also be realised that the church was not at that time the shape and size it is today, and probably measured forty six feet by twenty four feet approximately. Assuming the structure was in existence, it could have been used in the 14th century and later times as a village meeting room or place to hear and be informed of national and local events.

As regards the position of the date stone as it is fixed today, Baines⁷ states that this was originally on the south (external) wall of the nave. Should this be so, was this moved when the nave was extended in the early 19th century and who authorised

⁴Recorded in Charter Roll No 95 (30 Edward I., m6, No 49)

⁵Abstract taken from Clifton of Lytham documents held at the Lancs. Record Office, Preston. Items 121 and 122 from DDCL

⁶Abstract taken from Molyneux, Earls of Sefton, Items 47, 48 and 49 from DDM/17

⁷Baines, History of Lancashire, Volume IV Pages 173, 174 and 176

the movement to the present position and if so why? Baines records in his *History of Lancashire* that a Dr. Kuerden affirms the church was built by William de Molyneaux and gives the year as 1513 as shewn on the date stone as his authority. Scrutiny of a transcription of Dr. Kuerden's diary relative to his visit to the Euxton area does not confirm Baines' statement. It is possible that:

- 1) In the year 1513 de Molyneaux did some form of work on the church structure especially as he regarded it as his private property, but there is no written evidence of this.
- 2) Baines attributed the date stone to the de Molyneaux alive in 1513 rather than the de Molyneaux who married Joan de Holland in the early fourteenth century and who could have built the original church.

It is on record that various deeds were made at Euxton by the de Molyneaux family in 1421/22 which would seem they resided there and as they were a staunch Roman Catholic family it is also reasonable to assume they would use what they regarded as their chapel (church) for worship.

It would seem therefore that the date stone now affixed to the west elevation of the church is very suspect indeed as the correct authority for the original date of the church construction and it is likely there was a building there much earlier.

In the years 1348, 1349, 1361 and 1369 the bubonic plague known as the *Black Death* swept the country and reduced the population dramatically. It is not evident what effect this had on the village but could this have been the end of the market and fair? There does not appear to be anything on record when the charter ceased to function.

'The Dark Ages' - 16th and 17th centuries

Across these two centuries with, initially the abolition of the Church of Rome in England and replacement by the Church of England - 1535 to 1649 - and secondly the disowning of the latter belief followed by the introduction of Presbyterian practices during the Commonwealth - 1649 to 1660 - this became a traumatic time in the history of churches including Euxton.

It is not of concern as to the principals involved during these years, nor their reasons, but it should be fully understood that the changeover actions did not happen overnight, and it was many years before one practice totally replaced another. Although the Church of Rome routines were disbanded by Henry VIII in 1535, religious services using this long established countrywide belief were apparently carried out by Roman Catholics in Euxton Chapel (church) as late as 1687, a matter of some one hundred and fifty years after Henry VIII's edicts had been issued.

The starting point in the early 16th century is the year 1541 when the Diocese of Chester was formed. Prior to that date, all church structures south of the river Ribble fell within the See of Lichfield, and this of course would have included Euxton. In theory, documentation was to be passed between the Diocesan and County Record Offices, and this practice was intended to continue down to the present day. In fact, not all documentation is capable of being relocated due to many valid reasons, and whilst numerous documents covering the years 1541 to

1894 covering Euxton chapel (church) have been transferred to the Diocesan and County Record Office in Preston, a quantity is still held in the Diocesan and County Record Office in Chester.

In 1523 James Anderton of Euxton, a devout Catholic and presumably a friend of the de Molyneaux family, founded a chantry in the chapel (church) of Euxton, for a priest to pray for the souls of himself and Agnes his wife. Who this priest was is not stated, and it must be assumed the chantry continued until the dissolution of chantries in 1547 under Statute I, Edward VI.

The church was also apparently in use in 1537 for Roman Catholic⁸ worship and most authorities assume the chapel (church) was served from Leyland. A Reverend Thomas Shorrocks⁹ is named as Curate or Chaplain at Euxton from 1548 to 1563 and presumably this man was part of the clergy staff at Leyland. The number of clergy as recorded on visitation lists for Leyland in 1548, 1554, 1562, 1563, 1565 varies, but wherever Shorrocks was based he was not apparently resident in the village.

It seems therefore that the chapel (church) was only served irregularly during the following years and the next mention is during the year 1610 when it was described as an early chapel (church) without a curate¹⁰. A Reverend Thurstan Briers and his curate were the only clergy at Leyland that year.

With the outbreak of the civil war in 1642 many clergy were ejected from their livings, but this did not occur at Euxton as the living was not occupied. On November 27th, 1649 it is recorded in the minutes of the Committee for the Relief of Plundered Ministers, and the Commonwealth Church Survey, that in June 1647 the committee had granted the yearly sum of £40 out of the impropriate tithes within the Township of Euxton, sequestered from James Anderton, delinquent, for the maintenance of a minister at Euxton chapel such as the committee approve of, and they now (1649) - Appendix 4a - ordered the said sum to be paid to Mr Seath Bushell, Minister of Euxton aforesaid¹¹. Bushell went to Preston in 1663 presumably leaving Euxton in that year.

Severe restrictions were placed on those maintaining and supporting the Roman Catholic faith, and fines were levied on people who failed to attend the Anglican or the Presbyterian churches during their appropriate periods of authority¹².

During the early period of the Civil War in the year 1641/42, protestant returns consisting of a countrywide collection of adult signatories in favour of upholding the Protestant faith and the rights of Parliament were collected. The years 1643-1645 saw the adoption of 'The Oath of Abjuration', 'The National Covenant' and the 'Negative Oath' - Appendix 4. As these edicts were issued by Parliament before

⁸Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings ii No 113

⁹Victoria County History, Lancs. Volume VI 3,22

¹⁰Hist. Comp. MSS Ref. XIV, App. IV II

¹¹Record Society Lancs. & Cheshire, Volume XXVIII, 81

¹²Record Society Lancs. & Cheshire, Volume 12, published 1885, pp 173-181

Seath Bushell became incumbent of Euxton, whether they were put into practice when he took up his duties is not known, nor whether the practice was in operation in his day. What is clear is that on the 28th February 1641 the 'Protestation' return to Parliament for Euxton, shews seventy three names recording approval and twenty seven names signifying disapproval.

With the departure of Bushell to Preston in 1663, it seems the chapel (church) was not used or maintained for more than twenty years, but in the year 1687 three very significant events occurred and these were:

- 1) A catholic divine whose real name was Hugh Tootell was confirmed at Euxtonburgh chapel (church) on the 13th September 1687 by Johne Leyburn, Vicar Apostolic of the London District¹³.
- 2) In the year 1687 a Mr Walmsley - who was the Vicar of Leyland at that time - delivered a petition to the then Bishop of Chester (Cartwright) seeking the restoration of Euxton chapel (church) to the inhabitants "the key whereof was in the hands of - Molyneaux who alledges that it is his and not theirs and that it has had no maintenance nor any prayers said in it for twenty years past."

This petition appears in full at appendix 5 and by inference it clearly demonstrates the Molyneaux family claim to the structure and their use of it as a catholic place of worship, notwithstanding the edicts of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Elizabeth I and Charles II down the intervening years from 1535.

- 3) In addition, in the year 1687 during the time of James II, it is recorded that the Vicar Apostolic, Johne Leyburn when visiting the northern counties to administer Roman Catholic confirmation in September, confirmed no less than one thousand one hundred and thirty eight persons in Euxton chapel (church), a number only exceeded in Lancashire in Wigan. In Leyland Hundred there were also confirmations at Eccleston - seven hundred and fifty five, Wrighton - four hundred and sixty four and Lostock - eighty six, so those confirmed at Euxton cannot have been drawn from a very extensive area.

Summing up from the 12th to the end of the 17th century it does appear that:

- 1) There was some form of church structure in the fourteenth century.
- 2) The Molyneaux family could have obtained possession of the structure in the early fourteenth century on marriage.
- 3) Notwithstanding all edicts issued from 1535 onwards, catholic officials and families appear to have used the chapel (church) until very late in the 17th century.
- 4) The date stone on the west elevation of the nave as a possible means of identifying the date of the erection of the structure would seem therefore to be very suspect indeed.

¹³Letter dated 26th April 1990, from the Record Office, House of Lords, London. Hearth Tax Returns 1663, Lancs. County Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston. Abstract from the Dictionary of National Biography, Chorley Reference Library - Volume XV, letters DIA DRA, class 920

The Years 1701 - 1800 'The Dawn'

As the history of the church moved into the 18th century it was encountering a series of monarchs who were staunch protestant supporters, William and Mary 1689 - 1694, William III 1695 - 1702, Anne 1703 - 1714 followed by George I 1715 - 1727 and various Acts of Parliament passed by them appear to have greatly affected churches like Euxton.

It is stated that the chapel (church) was *recovered* to the Protestant and Church of England faith in 1700, but despite extensive enquiries made with Lambeth Palace Library, the Church Commissioners, Birkbeck College London, Oxford University, the County Record Offices at Chester and Preston, etc., this statement has not been substantiated.

It is also abundantly clear nothing was done by the Bishop of Chester on and after 1687 to accede to the petition presented to him by Walmsley, Vicar of Leyland in that year. Why was this?

The year 1704 saw the introduction of Queen Anne's Bounty to aid poorly paid incumbents, and following an application by the chapel (church) a sum of £200 was granted in the year 1756 - see the plaque on the north wall of the nave.

By the year 1717 all papists - Roman Catholics - were required to register, in very great detail, every item and parcel of land, every cottage, tenement and church in their ownership and in the case of the Molyneaux family the details regarding their estate were extensive indeed, but there is no mention of them claiming ownership of the chapel (church) of Euxton. Significantly however, they do state in some detail, the church of Sefton near Liverpool. It appears therefore this family had surrendered any claim to the chapel (church) structure at Euxton, but whether they received compensation in some form or other is not known. Did they sell the structure to James Armetriding of Armetriding, Euxton who became the official patron? Was it as a result of court action? Molyneaux family documents do not record any form of action.

The years 1723 and 1724 saw action affecting the chapel (church) in a number of ways:

- 1) A sum of money valued at £7 15s 0d was collected at Euxton chapel (church). A further sum of £1 5s 6d was outstanding and remained uncollected¹⁴. The documents do not make clear who collected the sum or for what purpose. Was this part of the income of the incumbent or perhaps some form of Easter offering?
- 2) On the 12th September, 1724 a Faculty issued for the Bishop of Chester, by Peregrine Gastrell, Batchelor of Laws and the Vicar General, authorised the provision of internal chapel (church) equipment¹⁵ - Appendix 7.
- 3) At Appendix 8 can be found details of what appear to be the first ever financial accounts of the chapel (church) for the year 25th July, 1733. Of particular interest

¹⁴Lancs. County Record Office, Preston, Archives box DDCM Miscellaneous - Euxton - 1724-1770

¹⁵LCCRO 2908/6/3

is the memorandum note appearing in the details which seems to confirm the very beginning of the Church of England services after *recovery* from the Molyneaux family.

- 4) During the years of the 18th century, certain well motivated persons left gifts of money and property to the chapel (church) as acts of charity and details of the number so designated, those which have discontinued for some cause or another, and those still extant can be found at Appendix 26.
- 5) By an Indenture between the Reverend Thomas Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland and others dated the 28th day of September in the 28th year of the reign of George the second¹⁶, 1754, the indenture provides a bench-mark of the confirmation in the actual take-over or recovery of the chapel (church) from the Roman Catholic predecessors. The information given in the indenture details every pew, seat and form, the users of such furniture and the fees they paid plus the *free seats*. The total sum of £123 18s 0d represented the emoluments presumably of the curate who was the incumbent - Appendix 9 - under the direction of the Vicar of Leyland, including presumably the cost of running the chapel (church).

The indenture authorised the raising of a devout and convenient pulpit, reading desk and clerk's pew and details the precise layout and format of such pews, seats and forms, but it does not specifically quote the shape and size of each item. What it does very clearly establish is that in 1724 the structure seems to have been an empty shell, and the statement by the Bishop of Chester in 1717 where it is said "that nothing belonged to it" was indeed valid.

On the 10th June, 1753, the Reverend John Heskin who was appointed curate of Euxton by the patronage of John Armetriding in October 1752 was removed from his post, but why this was done is not clear - Appendix 6 (vii). Furthermore there is no mention of this action in the detail in the Bishop's Act Book at Chester.

It is pertinent to remember that before the year 1752/53, two calendar systems were in use in England. The civil or legal year began on March 25th while the historical year began on January 1st. Thus the civil or legal date of 1658, March 24th was the same day as 1659, March 24th historical. A date in that portion of the year written as

March 24th, 165⁸₉
--

meant that the lower portion and figure shewed the historical year and the upper figure the civil or legal year.

By an indenture dated August 29th, 1754 between James Armetriding of Armetriding within Euxton and others, in the first part, the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty in the second part and Richard Clayton, Curate of the curacy of Euxton, certain messuages or tenements were granted and conveyed to Clayton and his successors for the perpetual augmentation of the said curacy. What happened to those items and when? See Appendix 10 to this section.

¹⁶LCCRO 2908/6/11

Under the "Test Act of 25 Charles II C.2. (1672/73)" all persons holding office were required to provide a certificate of having taken sacraments according to the Church of England. Such certificates were to be signed by the minister and churchwardens at which the sacraments were administered and filed with the records of a court of law. To whom did this apply? The clerk who recorded attendance at church? It was obviously an important matter.

The year 1767 saw the detailing of records of all papists (Roman Catholics) and their numbers, and it is certified by John White - presumably a curate at Leyland - that one hundred and thirty four such persons resided in Euxton¹⁷. As this was now more than two hundred years after the original edicts issued by Henry VIII, it clearly indicated the Roman Catholic religion was still strongly entrenched in the village area.

The years following 1770 disclose a statement which was known as the churchwarden's presentments, and these were apparently required to be made annually to the Bishop of Chester or his legal representative, as they concerned their church. In a composite statement for the year 1770, Euxton was included as part of Leyland and the presentment reads: "We have nothing to present save John Singleton and Alice Woods, Euxton, Elizabeth Bolton of Euxton and Henry Nelson of Croston for fornication." This is a classic example of the churchwardens being responsible for the parish morals.

By the year 1790 Euxton had presumably become of sufficient importance to produce a separate presentation and for this particular year it reads: "This is to certify to the Reverend Maurice Griffith, Rural Dean of the Deanery of Leyland, or his lawful surrogate that our chappell of Euxton and all things belonging are in Good, Decent and sufficient repair and we have nothing presentable."

(Signed) R^d Latham
C. Warden

This instance shews the authority vested in the churchwardens for the well being of the structure and the contents therein.

Although instructions had been issued on a number of occasions by a series of Royal Acts of Parliament, regarding the recording and keeping of parish registers for births, marriages and burials, those in respect of Euxton did not present a separate identity until 1774. Between the years covering the commencement of the 18th century and 1774, the record of births etc. formed an integral part of Leyland Parish Church records. A recent publication by the Parish Register Society has dealt with the baptismal records for Euxton for the years 1734 to 1781 and a copy has been presented to the Vicar of Euxton church. Where did the people of Euxton, particularly of the Church of England faith marry and where were they buried before the latter years of the 18th century?

Until the Molyneaux family apparently relinquished control of the chapel (church) of Euxton at or around the commencement of the 18th century, where did the people of Euxton go on the occasion of births, marriages and deaths?

¹⁷From a book held at the Diocesan and County Record Office, Chester, entitled *Papists within the Diocese of Chester*.

Assuming the detail is correct that James Armetriding of Armetriding within Euxton became the undoubted patron to the living of the chapel (church) in the early 18th century, what land was taken over by him concurrently with the chapel (church)? The section of the combined history dealing with the churchyard will shew that purchases of land for this specific purpose took place long after Armetriding became patron of the chapel (church). It has not been possible to establish any form of proof of the land area acquired in the beginning of the 18th century.

In addition it is stated services were performed in the chapel (church) in 1705 but if this was so, who was the officiating incumbent and if seats, forms and pews were not in place until 1724 and later, did the congregation stand?

One intriguing action seems to have taken place during the incumbency of the Reverend John Lowe at Euxton - 1795/1799 - when according to details contained in the Charity Commissioners report for the year 1900 - this incumbent had given pew number twenty nine in the chapel (church) of Euxton for the use of the schoolmaster of Euxton 'Endowed School'. When was this practice discontinued and by whom and how?

Amid the great welter of conflicting, confusing and unsubstantiated statements culled from official records in divers places, what can be summarised and stated with some certainty is:

- 1) By some means the Church of England authorities 'acquired' the sole use of the chapel (church) structure early in the 18th century, and by the end of this particular century was firmly in control of all services and matters relating there to. Armetriding left no doubt that he was the undoubted patron from this time onwards.
- 2) A regular succession of incumbents were in post from 1728 to 1800.
- 3) There had been instituted by the middle to the end of the 18th century, a regular visitation routine as operated throughout the Chester Diocese by the Bishop's representative.
- 4) Churchwardens were regularly in post.
- 5) The chapel (church) was presumably maintained to a sufficient standard to enable regular services - summer and winter - to be performed.
- 6) Action to allow burials to take place had been put into operation towards the end of the 18th century, but apparently without official authority.
- 7) On the national scene the secularisation of the fabric of eighteenth century Britain was the long slow decline in the importance of the church.

The church was always seen as the bastion of the established social order. Much of the history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Britain was taken up with attempts on the part of the state to enforce religious conformity as a safeguard against social collapse.

The first breach occurred in 1689 when the Toleration Act permitted some groups of dissenters to worship in their own churches. This had an unexpected consequence. Other people began staying away from church.

The Toleration Act did not extend to Roman Catholics and in theory although not always in practice, they were subject to considerable legal and political disabilities. An Act of 1778 was passed freeing Catholic priests from liability to imprisonment and allowing Catholics to buy and inherit land. This Act was very unpopular throughout Britain. Proposals to extend it to Scotland led to riots and in June 1780 to one of the worst outbreaks of mob violence in English history, the Gordon riots.

By an Act of 1791 Catholics were given complete freedom of worship and education and this was extended to Scotland in 1793. From this time onwards those Roman Catholic chapels already in existence which had been allowed to continue by indifference or connivance of neighbours could be openly recognised and new ones built.

The Church of England was preoccupied with tithes, the scramble for preferment and the disrepute that the wretched poverty of so many livings brought to the unfortunate clergymen who had to officiate in them. Esteem of the established church as a whole sank to a low ebb in the first half of the eighteenth century just when Euxton Chapel (Church) had been *recovered* to the Church of England.

This was matched by the decline nationally in church building. In 1711 an Act was passed by parliament which levied a duty on coal to build new churches particularly around London. The decline in attendance at churches of the Church of England faith seems to have continued without interruption until about 1830. In 1818 the Church Building commission was formed and funded by £1 million.

The Church of England remained throughout the eighteenth century the guardian of traditional social values and attitudes more especially those which served to perpetuate the political and social dominance of the landed gentry.

Toleration brought by the Act of 1689 was only grudgingly granted and the last serious riots in England against dissenters took place in Birmingham in 1791 when the Unitarians were singled out by the mob for its attentions because of their radical views. It was long after 1830 before the thinly veiled hostility between Anglicans and dissenters showed any sign of abating.

THE YEARS 1801 - 1892

'ENLIGHTENMENT'

When Henry Brierley took up his post as Assistant Curate of Euxton on September 21st 1800, he could have had little idea at that time of the very considerable number of events which would affect both the country as a whole and the church in particular. The coming years were to see :

- 1) The Industrial Revolution replacing the mainly pastoral life which had been in force down the centuries until the middle and latter parts of the 19th century.
- 2) Replacement of many parish activities by Borough and County Council actions mainly at the end of the 19th century.
- 3) As regards the church, the years of this particular century would shew:
 - a) The alteration of the previous shape of the church, east and west, both internally and externally.
 - b) Provision and taking into use a formal area of land to be used as a churchyard.
 - c) Introduction of the longest serving incumbent to the chapel (church) to date and the only such person of this calling to be buried in what is now regarded as the total area of the churchyard.
 - d) Erection of the first vicarage to serve the chapel (church).
 - e) Legal action which created the structure as the Parish Church of Euxton.

The starting point in considering the 19th century must be the question of population. Most people today are aware of the Census of Population and it is relevant to note that the formal introduction of this system took place in the year 1841, although commencing in the year 1801 and continuing through the years 1811, 1821, and 1831 a crude form of population census was carried out by the incumbents of parish churches and others, but these details are sparse indeed.

The records give the following details regarding the township of Euxton :

Year	Population
1801	831
1831	1581
1841	1562
1851	1631
1861	1491
1871	1182
1881	1147

The railway system, affecting the north and south ends of the village, came into being around the middle of the 19th century and it seems to be significant that the

village population over the years 1851 to 1881 declined by almost 30% and it does seem to suggest that people moved into towns in the vanguard of the rapid changes arising from the industrial revolution. It has not been possible to ascertain what effect if any this reduction in the population had on church activities, finances etc etc.

Henry Brierley served at Euxton chapel (church) as Assistant Curate until the year 1837. On 8th January 1838 on to centre stage of the chapel (church) history strode a man who was to have a profound and very considerable effect on the church and all other areas etc. His name was John Williams and he served Euxton for some fifty-four years, and on his death in 1892 he was buried in the churchyard where today his monument lies behind the left hand hedge of the driveway leading from the lych gate to the church.

A man by the name of Hewitson, writing under the pseudonym of 'Atticus' encountered Williams in 1872 and the following¹⁸ description of him is illuminating indeed. "The Reverend John Williams is Minister. He has been at the place thirty-four years. His income is about £200 per annum. Mr Williams is a dignified, neatly built, evenly proportioned, aristocratic looking gentleman; appears to be about sixty years of age; has a well set head, upon which there is a good covering of silvery-white hair; has a tastefully polished contour, and is well made up in his details; has a good deal of dash and courage in him; used to be solemnly cantankerous and self-willed, considered that the rate-payers should look upon him as the 'FADLADEEN' of the village, and that all the people should say 'amen'; is a scholar, and, if you can keep off his coattails, a gentlemanly, courteous, sincerely pleasant man; studied at Dublin, and was a prizeman at the University there; has never been the minister of any other church than that with which he is now connected, and will probably remain with his 'first love' to the last". These latter words were prophetic indeed.

Baines in his History of Lancashire, Volume IV, states the chapel (church) was enlarged in 1829, but in the details obtained from Lambeth Palace Library, these refer to actions affecting the structure in 1830 and 1837.

In the first instance an application was submitted to the Society for Building Churches and Chapels - later to be known as the Incorporated Church Building Society - by :

W. Chester	-	Bishop of Chester
James Armetriding	-	Patron
R. J. Procter	-	Incumbent

¹⁸Country Churches and Chapels by 'Atticus'. Chorley Reference Library, Section J, Book No. 3781, produced in 1872

and the purpose of the action was twofold :-

- i) To lengthen the chapel (church) by ten feet three inches at the western end and
- ii) To add a gallery at the western end of the chapel (church). The gallery was to be five yards in depth. See Appendix 12.

In a letter written in the year 1830 to the Society for Building Churches and Chapels, the incumbent of Euxton clarified the number of additional sittings planned. There were to be one hundred and twenty nine additional free seats, made up of thirty-six on the ground floor, sixty-three in the gallery and thirty for children in the aisle.

Population of the township of Euxton in 1821 was given in the details by the incumbent as 1360 and of the parish as a whole this was stated to be 12,959 but this latter figure is highly suspect, - Appendix 12 (i & ii). The 'provision' in the church room (chapel) in 1830 was 174 and in the parish 2217. It would seem that as Euxton was under the umbrella of Leyland, these parish details presumably refer to that area as well but it has not been possible to clarify this assumption. There were no 'free seats' at Euxton however, prior to the action now contemplated.

The overall cost of the enlargement to the chapel (church) was given as £257 10s 0d of which £110 0s 0d had been raised by soliciting subscriptions from every person at all interested in or connected with the township. It was quite clear no further sums could be raised by local action as much of the property in the township belonged to Roman Catholic proprietors and the inhabitants were tenants at 'rack rent'. It is also interesting that although the submission was signed by Procter as Incumbent, the actual incumbent of Euxton chapel (church) at that time was Henry Brierley, but it seems he was known as the Assistant Curate.

The outline drawings reveal the existence of a vestry immediately outside the existing north door to the church, and it is clear that the incumbent used the doorway as the point of entry to the nave. Presumably the gallery was a wooden structure, but details confirming this are not available. Entrance to the gallery at ground level was on the south elevation of the nave, immediately east of the existing buttress at the south-west corner, via a doorway, thence by a flight of ten steps with a further three to the gallery area. A short central aisle separated four pews on the south side from five pews on the north side.

At that date the pulpit was placed in the nave, immediately east of the north doorway entrance, and was approached by five steps. West of the north doorway shewed the font (stone) - which is now located in the Garden of Remembrance - in position. A clerk's table was sited near to the pulpit. On the north wall of the nave, east of the north doorway, were four box pews with individual entrances. A similar arrangement was on the south wall of the nave. The altar table was positioned immediately in front of the east wall of the nave. Six forms placed in the centre of the nave faced on to the altar table. Eleven benches or forms were placed west of the north doorway on the north side of the central aisle. Thirteen and a half forms or benches were in place on the southern side of the central aisle. Three of these were occupied by singers or officers.

It is not on record who carried out the work; what the total cost was; how long it took and what interruption if any, occurred in church services or activities. No

details are given or are available of the method/s of heating and illuminating the chapel (church).

The drawings available at this date were originally provided under the authority of James Bennett, Surveyor.

Mention was made previously of civil duties performed by churchwarden, and using certain selected years between 1823 and 1869, a representative sample of the Poor Rate levied by and through them, and the expenditure incurred shews :

Year	Poor Rate Levy			Other Receipts			Expenditure			Remarks
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	
1823	45	10	2 ¹ / ₂	5	2	9*	Not shewn			Rate levied at 1 ¹ / ₂ d in the £. *Hearse money
1838	34	7	6 ³ / ₄	Nil			49	18	10	Nil
1839	45	1	10	Nil			15	9	4	Rate at 2 ¹ / ₂ d in the £
							2	14	3 ¹ / ₂	Churchwardens salary
1842	63	9	4 ¹ / ₂	Nil			26	4	5	Rate not stated

The accounts were presented to the parish at a vestry meeting by the churchwarden concerned, and this presumably took place at Leyland, when all the churches under that deanery - Whittle-le-Woods, Euxton, Hoghton, Heapey and Leyland met to consider the past year and to set a rate for the forthcoming year. It was also the practice at the vestry meeting to elect a constable for the parish, plus an overseer of the roads, and an overseer of the poor.

It is not without interest in that apart from the churchwarden's salary, a vestry clerk was paid a salary, the vicar was paid a small sum for copying the registers, and expenses in levying a rate were also included.

Some of the churchwardens in post through these years were :

Year	Name	Year	Name
1824	W. Hunter	1832	William Farnworth
1825	J. Clayton	1833/34	John Jackman
1826	J. Ashworth	1835/36	Samuel Mason
1827/31	R. Dickinson	1837/38	John Anton.

Additionally, at the vestry meeting, charges were levied on the inhabitants of the township towards the cost of maintaining the parish chapel (church) although, as has been demonstrated, all residents were not necessarily of the Anglican faith. As such this aspect of the levied charge caused considerable resentment to those of the Non-Conformist and Roman Catholic religions.

In the year 1832, the Commissioners of the Ecclesiastical Revenues Commission Office, London, issued to the incumbent at Euxton a pro-forma statement seeking extensive details of the income arising for and on behalf of the person so named and this was duly completed by the Reverend Robert Procter and submitted by him

on the 15th November in the same year - Appendix 14 (i - iv). It is to be remembered that the Reverend Henry Brierley was the incumbent serving the parish and church of Euxton as assistant curate to Procter and Brierley's stipend on taking up his duties in 1800 was £50 0s 0d per annum. This left a considerable sum to be paid to Procter who held the living as a form of plurality.

Attention has previously been drawn to the question of heating and lighting in the chapel (church) at those periods in time, especially in the winter months, and Item 12 of this appendix shews the system in operation obviously designed to overcome or mitigate the problem.

Items 13 and 14 are also interesting in that a parsonage house - referred to in the appendix as a 'Glebe' house - had not yet been erected in 1832 and Brierley is shewn as renting a house. Where this was, whether Brierley was married, and how long he resided in the rented accommodation is not known, but it was presumably up to the date when he was succeeded in 1838 by the Reverend John Williams.

The year 1836 saw the introduction of two cognate acts by Parliament regulating marriages and registration, and these were of basic fundamental importance to the activities of the chapel (church). Details of these changes are shewn at Appendix 15 (i & ii).

The year 1837 saw further fundamental alterations to the chapel's (church) structure and fabric, and the application when made to the Incorporated Church Building Society, London and dated May 1837 was signed by the following persons :

W. Chester	-	Ordinary (Bishop of Chester).
Gardner Baldwin	-	Patron
Vicar of Leyland		
R. Procter	-	Incumbent

together with an endorsement which stated 'by the authority of John Williams, Curate'. There are two aspects to the presentation which create some doubt - in the case of Baldwin he was not the legal patron as this authority remained in the hands of the Armetriding descendants until 1910, and Williams must have been in the area in 1837 prior to officially becoming the incumbent in the following year. The application sought an 'Increase of accommodation by the erection of a chancel and removal of pulpit to the top of the chapel (church) and also the vestry also with other repairs'. The application furthermore stated 'the present position of the pulpit and desk cause great waste as they then stood, and were very inconvenient together with other internal repairs'.

Williams gives the chapel (church) dimensions as fifty-four feet long, twenty-three and a half feet wide and fifteen feet high with a cupola and a west gallery.

The population of the township of Euxton in 1831 was 1581 and by the year 1837 it had risen to 1873.

The total number of sittings in the chapel (church) when the alterations had been completed, and allowing eighteen inches by thirty inches to each, would be three hundred and forty-six to three hundred and fifty.

The outline drawing - Appendix 16 (i - iii) shews the then vestry removed and replaced at the north east corner of the chapel (church) by a new rectangular

structure with an entrance into the proposed new chancel. It also shews the pulpit placed in the middle of the floor. A central passage in the chancel led to the altar table, with four forms or benches each side of this passageway to presumably accommodate the choir singers. All other box pews, benches and forms were to be rearranged around a central aisle from the west door of the nave leading past the central pulpit to the altar, presumably to be used at communion services. A 'churching' pew had been placed in the entrance to the north doorway.

According to Williams, the expense of the necessary works was estimated at £98 0s 0d divided into sums of £45 0s 0d to cover increased accommodation charges and £53 0s 0d as repair charges. These are extraordinary estimates of cost indeed. A sum of £58 0s 0d was raised towards the overall charges.

It was stated the work was to be completed within one month, during which time divine service would not be interrupted. These are again some extraordinary statements, and there is no evidence available to provide documentary proof?

On the question of costs and sums raised in aid, the Vicar of Leyland, the Reverend Gardner Baldwin, M.A., on the occasion of the celebration of twenty years of his incumbency there in 1845, issued a paper - Appendix 17 - which throws further light on the comments made by Williams. The dates quoted by Baldwin are not in line with those provided by Lambeth Palace Library, London, but the main thrust is abundantly clear and goes some way towards clearing the comments previously made by Williams.

Publication of Banns and Solemnization of Marriages

In a petition by the Frith family - successors through descent from James Armetriding, the original patron of the chapel (church), from the beginning of the 18th century - to the Bishop of Chester, and dated 'the fourth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight' permission was sought under licence and seal by the Bishop in pursuance and conformity to the Act of Parliament made and passed in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of the late King William IV' to permit banns of marriage to be published and marriages solemnized for the inhabitants of the township of Euxton - Appendix 18. This application¹⁹ was duly approved by the Bishop of Chester in 1840.

'Non-Age'

What appears today to be a curious practice was the use of a routine, whereby in the year 1848 the incumbent was paid a ninth part of the value of the movables of the estate of a person of the parish on their death in the parish. Whether this affected all persons in the parish, irrespective of their religion, or if it only concerned members of the Euxton chapel (church) is not known. It is also not known when this practice, or the method adopted to bring about cancellation occurred.

Discovery of Still in Euxton chapel (church)

In the issue of the Preston Guardian dated 14th January 1854, a story appeared relating to this matter. The details gathered by the reporter are set out as originally

¹⁹ Document in the Lancs. County Record Office, Preston, reference number PR 3152/1.

printed - Appendix 19. At that time the incumbent was of course the Reverend John Williams, but it has not been possible to trace any subsequent action.

Suspension of the Incumbent

In the year 1877 the incumbent, the Reverend John Williams B.A., was suspended from his duties. The suspension lasted for a period of two years until 1879 and the whole of the details are set out in Appendix 20. It did not seem to affect Williams as he returned to his duties and apparently carried them out successfully until his death in 1892. Williams seems to have remained a bachelor all his life. During the suspension periods his duties were carried out by a deputy appointed by the Bishop of Manchester, Williams residing in the Lancaster area.

Wood Block Flooring in the Chapel (Church) & Notice to Treat.

During the last years of the incumbency of the Reverend John Williams two actions arose dealing with :

- a) The fixing of wood block flooring to the nave in 1885.
- b) London and North Western Railway Co., - North Union - widening (Euxton to Standish) in 1888.

In the matter of the flooring, comprehensive details are shewn at Appendix 22, and it must be assumed the blocks were fixed and are still in situ in the year 1990. If so, the words used by the contractor in the penultimate paragraph of his quotation are valid indeed.

The second named item is more perplexing in that the detailed drawing provided by the London and North Western Railway Co., - Appendix 23 - clearly shewed the land behind the existing Bay Horse Hotel as belonging to or being under the control of the Reverend John Williams, but nothing is known of this at the Diocese of Blackburn, neither is anything known as to what subsequent action transpired. Whether Williams had purchased the land during his incumbency as a private venture is not known, but it may be a reasonable assumption. It clearly identifies the location of the first railway station as being immediately behind the Bay Horse Hotel, before its removal to Balshaw Lane and the subsequent dismantling under the 'Beeching Plan'.

Property belonging to the Church living

Compiled in the year 1879, details are outlined at Appendix 21 and they shew the existence of a parsonage house.

Creation of District Chapelry

In the London Gazette issue dated Tuesday, September 6th 1892, it is recorded that :

"At the Court of Queen Victoria at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, on the 25th day of August 1892, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England in pursuance of the Act of the Fifty ninth year of His Majesty King George the Third laid a representation as to the assignment of a district chapelry to the consecrated church situate at Euxton in the

parish of Leyland²⁰. It was expedient that banns of matrimony should be published, and that marriages, baptisms, churchings and burials should be solemnized or performed at the said church situate in Euxton aforesaid and to be known as 'The District Chapelry of Euxton' ".

This representation was approved by Queen Victoria with the effective date as published in the London Gazette, which means the first centenary as a parish church will be on 6th September 1992. Euxton chapel had therefore become Euxton Parish Church with all the attendant responsibilities and duties which stemmed from this official action - Appendix 24 (i) & (ii).

Summary 1801 - 1892

The century which had now almost passed by saw the township, parish and chapel (church) in a series of actions and events which can with a reasonable degree of safety be described as a period of 'enlightenment'. The century saw :

- a) The consolidation of services by a regular succession of incumbents.
- b) A regular routine of weddings, burials, christenings and churchings.
- c) An incumbent living in close proximity to the chapel (church) with constant availability to residents of the township.
- d) Physical changes in the external and internal arrangements of the church.
- e) Creation of premises suitable for educating the increasing numbers of young persons.
- f) An upgrading in the status of the chapel (church) in that it had become an establishment of district authority in its own right in all ecclesiastical matters instead of being a chapel of ease to Leyland.
- g) A regular system of visitation by the Archdeacon of Chester and/or Manchester or his representative.

THE YEARS 1892 - 1990

'FULFILMENT'

End of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries

As the church and congregation moved towards the threshold of the twentieth century, it is doubtful whether they could have envisaged the changes in life and lifestyles which the passing years would bring - the impact of two world wars; the rapid change in industrial life through constantly increased technology; the tremendous movement of people from the land to towns and cities; the great increase in living standards; increase in longevity of the human species and the

²⁰ Church Commissioners, Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ.

rapid increase in travel modes which foreshortened areas of this country and other parts of the world.

Consecration/Dedication of the church - 1894

The man appointed as the first vicar/priest of the church in 1892 was the Reverend HJG Beloe and he seems to have been a person who was particularly keen to identify problems and provide solutions thereto. On February 6th 1894, he wrote to the Diocesan Registry, Chester, although Manchester Diocese was in operation, seeking documentary proof that Euxton church had been dedicated or consecrated. Why he carried out this action is not known, and when he received the reply from Chester as indicated at Appendix 25 (i) he must have been greatly concerned especially as the structure had by then been under the control of the Church of England for almost the previous two hundred years.

The matter came to light in 1988 during this research, and was referred to the former Registrar of the Diocese of Blackburn. In the reply as shown at Appendix 25 (ii) the Registrar infers that resulting from work apparently carried out on the chapel (church) in the early 18th century, some dedication would have taken place at that time, but he offers no conclusive documentary proof.

Such conclusive documentary proof not being established, the very clear inference is that the structure has never been officially consecrated or dedicated. Whether subsequent incumbents were aware of the problem is not apparent, but nothing has been done in the last hundred years to deal with the matter. There does not appear to be evidence of any positive action taken by Beloe arising from the information from Chester.

Alterations - various to the Church structure

By a faculty granted to the Reverend Henry John Greswell Beloe, and Percival Sumner Mayhew, churchwarden, on the 27th day of July 1894 the following actions were authorised :

- 1) To remove present roof of the church and replace same with a new roof.
- 2) To take down the west gallery and place sittings in the space formerly beneath same.
- 3) To take up the present floor of the nave and relay same with tiles.
- 4) To remove present sittings in the nave and replace same with open benches.
- 5) To remove the present glass in the new and old windows throughout the church, and replace same with cathedral glass.
- 6) To repair the walls of the church.
- 7) To re-arrange the present heating apparatus according to plans submitted and particulars of the said improvements now deposited in the public Episcopal Registry at Manchester.

The detailed drawing, prepared by the architects Paley and Austin of Lancaster, shews the following significant actions :

- a) The doorway on the south elevation of the nave leading to the gallery and adjacent window was to be removed and built up.
- b) The vestry in the north east corner was enlarged and a new doorway in the west wall of this area was to be constructed.
- c) A stove was to be provided to heat the vestry.
- d) A boiler house on the south-east corner of the church was included.
- e) The pulpit was to be removed from its existing position and placed in the position it is in today.
- f) The chancel rails are shewn in situ as now.
- g) The benches formerly sited in the chancel, presumably for use by the choir were to be removed presumably to their present location.
- h) Nothing is indicated on the drawing of the position of the organ and organ pipes, but presumably one was installed in this position as per the pre 1979 era.

How much was performed of this major task is not known, but the Bishop of Manchester issued a licence to Beloe dated 8th June 1894 which authorised services, publication of banns and solemnization of marriages whilst the church was under repair. These actions were carried out in the school buildings.

How long it took; what the cost was; who paid for the work and who performed the work does not appear to be on record. That most of it was done is self-evident, except the work concerned with the roof. That was a major problem some thirty years later in 1926 and will be dealt with in due course.

A faculty to install a stained glass window (Jesse window) in the chancel was submitted by Beloe and his two churchwardens - Henry Dickinson and James Critchley - and was approved by the Bishop of Manchester on the 12th December 1899. The window was installed in the position as it is today in the year 1900.

Purchase of land from Chapel Brook to School Lane

By a conveyance dated 4th November 1899 between Kathleen Mary Crosse and others and the Reverend HJG Beloe and others, the land from Chapel Brook and proceeding in a northerly direction behind the church and the vicarage and touching on to School Lane and Wigan Road was purchased for the sum of three hundred pounds. In area this land totalled four acres, one rod and two perches and was the only glebe land ever to be in the possession of the church authorities.

From this original purchase, one area has been used to extend the churchyard from the original size, and one other area of .729 hectares has been sold to William Marsden, builder and of the village of Euxton, on which substantial properties as residences are currently being erected. No price is available for this latter transaction.

Another area subsequently taken from the original land purchased during the last twenty years is now in use as the church car park.

The remaining area comprising that piece from Chapel Brook to the south wall of the churchyard is still regarded as glebe land, and is now under the control of Blackburn Diocese via the Endowments and Glebe Measures Act of 1978.

The ancient Crosses of Lancashire - Euxton

The report²¹ states that the pedestal of a stone cross was still to be seen in 1899 a little to the south of Euxton church, on the old 'Roman Road' from Preston through Standish and Wigan.

The site is two miles north west by west from St. Laurence Church, Chorley. The cross itself had been broken off flush with the top of the pedestal, thus leaving no hole for the usual 'holy water'. The pedestal measured two feet across the base and was eighteen inches high. The cross may have been placed in position at the top of the steep hill as the last resting place for funeral processions before reaching Euxton Church.

It is not known when the pedestal disappeared from the position indicated, but there is something akin to this lying in the grounds of Houghton House Farm, School Lane, Euxton. According to a prominent local family by the name of Kevill, they state a relative of a previous generation of their family moved the pedestal to the present position. There is no documentary proof of this action.

Grant of Land - Queen Anne's Bounty

On August 3rd 1904, the Reverend HJG Beloe and others granted the land purchased from Kathleen Mary Crosse and others in 1899 to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. In return, the Governors agreed to the augmentation of maintenance in the sum of one hundred and eighty pounds to 'the incumbent of the benefice of the vicarage or perpetual curacy of Euxton in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Manchester'.

The map attached to the grant shews quite clearly the demarcation line of this glebe land and the adjoining land on the south side passing along the centre line of Chapel Brook, thence across on to the southern bank of this brook for a short distance. Whether this is still the position in the year 1990 is not at all clear.

Transfer of Patronage.

Reference has already been made in the section entitled 'The Dawn' - 1701 - 1800 - to the question of the Armetridings of Armetriding in Euxton, as the undoubted patrons of the church, and the records shew that the advowson remained for over two hundred years down through the various branches of the family, ending in the control of Mrs Pauline Peto, of 11 Collingham Gardens, South Kensington, Middlesex.

²¹ Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society., Volume XVII.

At the Court of St. James, London, on the 19th day of July 1910, she transferred the advowson or perpetual right of patronage, of the said benefice of Euxton to the Right Reverend Edmund Arbutnot, Bishop of Manchester, and by so doing, the action placed the right to appoint all subsequent vicars firmly in the hands of the Diocesan authorities where it still remains.

Grant of Stipend by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

At the Court of St. James, London, on the 13th day of October, 1910, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, granted to the incumbent of the Vicarage of Euxton, "one yearly sum or stipend of Fifty-five pounds, to be calculated as from the first day of February, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten, to be paid quarterly on the first day of February, the first day of May, the first day of August and the first day of November".

This action appears to constitute the first official recognition by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners - now the Church Commissioners - of their financial responsibilities for some part of the stipend of the Vicar of Euxton church.

Erection of Stained Glass Windows in the South wall of the Nave.

On the 27th May 1910, a faculty authorising the placing of a stained glass window in the south wall of the nave, was granted to the Reverend Henry John Greswell Beloe, Vicar of the Vicarage and parish church of Euxton, and Henry Fairclough and William Thornley, churchwardens. The window was erected by Mrs Jessie H. Pilkington on June 2nd, 1910 in 'affectionate remembrance of John Dean Manning'.

A second stained glass window was approved by a faculty dated 7th October 1910. The commemoration is again to 'John Dean Manning, born first October 1823, died second June 1909'.

Creation of the Diocese of Blackburn

The year 1926 saw the creation of the Diocese of Blackburn, and along with some two hundred and fifty odd parishes, Euxton was transferred from the Diocese of Manchester to the newly created Diocese.

For Deanery purposes the parish was placed under Leyland, which authority lasted until some nine years ago. The church and parish now form part of the Chorley Deanery.

Architect's description of restoration work

The year 1926 saw very serious problems emerging concerning the church and an extract of a report by a Mr. Isaac Taylor of Manchester is detailed at Appendix 27 (i).

What costs were incurred; how long the work took; what interruptions if any occurred in church activities of all manner etc., is not on record.

The 'lines' written by a person known as 'A.B.' in 1926 can be found at Appendix 27(ii) and are indicative of the depth of feeling for this ancient structure.

Erection of Lych Gate and other actions.

On the 26th July 1927 permission was sought by a faculty to carry out the following work:

- a) To build a Lych Gate with oak gates as a continuation of the new boundary wall
- b) To take down old curtain rods at the west end of the church and substitute new glazed screens.
- c) To provide a new reading desk and other chancel fittings in oak, and to erect a small tablet in the church recording the re-roofing and other work done in the church.

Who carried out the work; the cost and whether the tablet was ever made and fixed in position is not on record.

Electric Lighting in the church.

Following a faculty application on the 11th September 1935 to install electric lighting in the church, the work was carried out in 1936 by W.B.W. Morris at a cost of £45 17s 0d. and the work covered all the present lighting except for the 'spot lights' over the pulpit, lectern, and organist's position. The latter items were fixed in place some ten years ago by a local tradesman named Mawdsley.

Reredos and Panelling of the east, north and south walls of the sanctuary (chancel) plus the placing of a silver cross on the altar.

These actions were approved by the use of a faculty dated 4th October 1939. The silver cross carried an inscription on the back which read 'In memory of Mary Smith, died June 12th 1939' and this was one of the items stolen during the recent burglary. Costs are not known nor who carried out the work or supplied the items.

Improvements to the heating system.

As approved by a faculty dated 14th December 1945, panel and tubular heaters were fixed in the church to supplement the existing system of hot water pipes. There are no records of the cost incurred nor of the contractor who carried out the work.

Procession of Witness - or the church 'Walking Day'.

During the war of 1939 - 1945, the 'Procession of Witness', or as it is more commonly known the 'Walking Day', was discontinued, but a decision was taken at a Parochial Church Council meeting in 1949 to recommence the procession in the following year, and this has continued down the years until the present day.

The 'Barchester Scheme' and 'Care and Inspection of Churches'.

The year 1950 saw the church enter into this scheme which provided the means of obtaining aided status for the maintenance of Church of England schools, and it is understood this scheme is in operation at the present time. In this year too, the church joined the scheme for the 'Care and Inspection of Churches', but it is not known whether this applies at this point of time.

Guarantee regarding the Vicar's stipend.

By the year 1951, the church was required to provide a guarantee that the incumbent's stipend would not fall below £500 per annum and the details of this request were :

'That the guaranteed gross cash stipend of the incumbent shall be not less than the sum of £500 per annum, so that if the standard gross income received from the Church Commissioners together with the amount for the Easter offerings and all the incumbent's usual fees and perquisites shall amount to a lesser sum than £500 in any one financial year, the Parochial Church Council shall pay to the incumbent such sum as shall be necessary to raise the gross income for the year as above computed to a minimum gross cash income of £500 irrespective and exclusive of any other liability or liabilities which the Council may heretofore have undertaken or shall hereafter undertake to defray on behalf and for the benefit of the incumbent'.

Prior to the date 1st April 1978, all incumbents of Church of England establishments were classified as self-employed persons, and suffice to say this created considerable problems. Coupled with this aspect, it was becoming clear by 1950 that the contribution made to an incumbent's stipend from the Church Commissioners would decrease in the face of escalating costs and a diminution of their investment income, and the church congregation would need to meet an ever increasing share of the incumbent's stipend. This practice has greatly increased since 1950 and has led directly to the need to introduce the 'Stewardship Scheme' which has now been 'up and running' for almost the past fifteen years. It is probably correct to say that the bulk of the revenue of the Church Commissioners at this point in time is set aside to meet incumbents' pension arrangements and housing matters. Their contribution towards the stipend of an incumbent is minimal.

One interesting facet of the church expenditure was the practice in the post war years to make monetary payments to the members of the choir, but the actual date when this came into operation is not recorded in any available detail nor what the sums were, nor any details of the system used, but in 1950 the Parochial Church Council at a meeting took the decision to discontinue the payments. The question of payment to the choir since that date has not been operated.

Church Vergers and Church Choir.

It has not been possible to trace the officials who performed the duty of verger prior to the year 1950, due entirely to the apparent loss of the Parochial Church Council minute books prior to this date, and the starting point is therefore the appointment of a man named Filtell in that year.

On the 13th December 1951, Eli Heaton was appointed verger and is still in post almost forty years later, a truly remarkable record indeed. The verger is currently paid a sum of money from church funds for performing this duty.

Further repair work to the church fabric.

As with all ancient buildings, there is an on-going and increasing expenditure in maintaining the structure and fabric and the year 1952 saw the question raised once again of an architect's report including suggested remedies and costs for suitably strengthening and supporting the building.

Spreading of the walls was occurring and a suggested remedy of wrought ironwork in the roof trusses, with stone buttresses on the north and south walls was considered by the Parochial Church Council of that day.

A 'Ways and Means' committee was formed and a 'Restoration Fund Appeal' launched by means of subscription forms and envelopes. The appeal was of considerable interest in that it was directed at all who had the interest of the church at heart - Appendix 28.

A Mr. Wallace was appointed on the 20th August 1952 as the architect to deal with the renovation work. At a special meeting on 26th August 1952 of all those technically involved in the problems, it was decided to use cross tie rods instead of horizontal rods to the roof trusses and these are still in situ at this present point in time as are the buttresses on the north and south external walls to the nave.

A tender by a Mr. A.M. Tomlinson was accepted by the Parochial Church Council on 17th December 1952 and presumably this was within the calculations made by the architect.

At this date, a price had still to be obtained from a Mr. Woods for constructing the north and south wall buttresses, but whether he did the work and at what cost is not known.

Locking of the Lych Gate; Toilet facilities in church; Cremated remains; Appointment of Organist. 1954 - 1956.

In order for the church to comply with the regulations concerning what was a private pathway leading to the church entrance door at the west end of the nave, the lych gate was required to be locked for twenty-four hours on the first Thursday in Lent each year. Whether these regulations persist and the action is still taken is not known, but there is certainly a regular traffic of pedestrians using this pathway in order to make use of the footbridge crossing the British Rail track at the east end of the churchyard. There is no 'right of way' for this action. The public footpath to the railway footbridge is to the south of the churchyard.

The apparent lack of toilet facilities in the confines of the church structure was considered by the Parochial Church Council, but was abandoned due to the probable excessive cost.

Arising from the changing attitude of the population regarding the use of cremation facilities, the burial of the ashes in the churchyard was becoming a major problem, and use of the lawn area to the south of the church for this purpose was considered a possibility, but no definite action was taken at that time.

A person named Wilson was appointed in 1956 as the church organist at a salary of £50 per annum. By a faculty dated 19th May 1956, approval was given to provide two silver candlesticks which were inscribed on the base of one candlestick with the

words 'In memory of Robert Richardson who worshipped in this church'. These were a gift apparently by some unknown donor/s. These items were also amongst those stolen during the recent burglary.

Inspection of Churches Measure - 1958.

Under this measure, the church architect reported that action was required on :

i) Roof timbers and pews.

These were affected by woodworm and the London Fumigation Company was asked to inspect, report and estimate. Whether they carried out the work and at what cost is not known, but some twenty years later as will be shewn, the problem recurred and it seems evident a twenty year treatment cycle will be necessary in future.

ii) Wood Block and Tile Floor.

The wood block floor was to be taken up and the sub-floor to be treated with waterproof concrete whilst the tile floor was also to be taken up and relaid. The flooring was relaid by 29th October 1958.

iii) Gutters; Downspouts; Heating Chambers; Boiler and Boiler House door.

By a faculty granted on the 4th day of October 1960 permission was given to convert the present heating system from coke to oil burning, including rebuilding of the boiler house. The contractor/s is/are not known nor the amount and cost of the work content.

Organ overhaul and reconditioning.

By an estimate submitted by Ainscoughs of Preston, the organ as then installed, was to be fitted with additional stops and general reconditioning work was to be carried out. The estimated cost by the firm is given as £277 4s 0d.

Incumbent's expenditure and Church income.

The village of Euxton was expanding in population and property in the years after 1955, and by a resolution dated 26th January 1960, the Parochial Church Council agreed to :

- 1) Defray in full the incumbent's telephone calls.
- 2) Defray in full the incumbent's National Insurance Contributions. The incumbent at this point in time was treated as a self-employed person.
- 3) Make an annual contribution of £5 0s 0d towards the incumbent's avocational stationery and postal expenses, to be paid in advance at the beginning of each year.
- 4) Make an annual payment of £20 0s 0d towards the incumbent's avocational travelling expenses, in advance at the beginning of each year.
- 5) Examine ways of increasing church income with special emphasis on Deeds of Covenant. It is not on record what actions were taken by the Parochial Church Council.

Repair work to the external walls of the church.

The year 1963 brought to light the need to repoint the south and east walls of the church. The work was carried out by E. Matthews and Son, a building and contracting firm based in the village but now no longer in existence. The cost of doing this work is not on record.

Gifts to the church in 1962 and 1963.

A gift by Miss Windle of two beaten silver cruets was made on the 3rd September 1962. In the following year the 'Beatrice Anthony' bequest came into operation. This was in the form of interest received by the church from a capital sum invested by the Diocesan authorities in accordance with the terms of this will. The amount is always indicated in the annual accounts prepared by the church treasurer.

Diocesan Quota.

In order to assist in the funding of all diocesan activities, all churches in the diocese were required to pay an element of their total revenue based on a percentage figure, and the year 1964 saw Euxton's share set at 15% which is still operative.

Various considerations, actions and faculties affecting the church - 1969 - 1988.

i) A faculty dated 1970 was approved by the diocesan authorities which reads :

' Window - West end of Church'
Subject - 'St George and the Dragon'
Inscription to read - ' In memory of James
and Elizabeth Critchley who worshipped at
this church'.
Work performed by - Mowbray, Whippell,
Cathedral Yard,
Exeter.
Cost to the church - Nil

ii) Retirement of Reverend W. Hope M.A.

By the 27th August 1972, the Reverend W. Hope M.A., had been incumbent of the church for twenty-five years. In the following year he signified his intention of retiring from the incumbency. Action was then carried out by the churchwardens in and under sections one and two of the Benefices (Exercise of Rights of Presentation Measure 1931) to obtain a replacement vicar.

iii) Appointment of the Reverend D. Raitt, B.D., A.K.C.

The Reverend Derek Raitt, B.D., A.K.C., was appointed vicar and incumbent on Good Friday 1974, with his induction being carried out on the 10th May 1974. He is still in post.

iv) Beetle infestation.

Further problems arose in 1976 when it was again found necessary to arrange treatment of timbers and furniture to eliminate the common furniture beetle, and at a later date to decorate the church. The plastered chancel and the west wall of the interior of the nave were painted white. The cost was £1,000 for the total work, with the cost of the beetle infestation at £580. This was covered by a grant in aid from the Diocese of £500 plus a loan of £800 - interest free - spread over a four year repayment period.

v) New Hymn Books.

The Parochial Church Council decided to purchase the revised version of Hymns Ancient and Modern, plus Hymns for Today, and a quantity of two hundred and fifty costing the sum of £171 was obtained during the latter part of 1975 early 1976. These have continued in use down to the present time.

vi) Authority vested in Churches.

By the Church of England Worship and Doctrine Act of 1975, which became law on 1st September of that year, increased authority was devolved to churches as to which authorised forms of services were to be used at the services.

This was to be decided by joint consultation between the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council. The action continues as at this day.

vii) Construction of a portable font.

This was approved by a faculty which read 'A portable font, three feet three inches high, to be placed in the chancel opposite the priest's stall'. This action was carried out and the font is still in that position today. The cost was £70.

viii) Further gifts for use at communion.

A bread holder, with matching cruet were presented to the church for use at communion services by Mr. & Mrs. H. Smith in 1976 as an act of memorial.

ix) Electrical system.

Following a detailed investigation into various aspects of safety precautions, it was found necessary to replace the existing electrical system in the church, and this work, at a cost of £274, was carried out in 1977 by a local tradesman named Mawdsley. Opportunity was taken concurrently to install three spotlights, one over the lectern, one above the pulpit and one above the organist's seat.

x) Organ replacement.

By the year 1978 it was apparent that the organ was in need of a major overhaul and renovation, and following extensive and intensive consultations, action was initiated by the Parochial Church Council to proceed with the installation of a new organ by a small firm known as Withnell Pipe Organs, at that time located at 9, Withnell Fold, Chorley.

The estimated cost was given as £5,300 and following a widespread appeal to existing and past members of the congregation, a sum in excess of £6,500 was raised within six months of the launch. Some use was made of parts from the previous organ during the reconstruction work.

Stewardship Appeal.

It was clearly evident to the Parochial Church Council by 1978 that the sums raised by church offerings from all sources were not sufficient to meet the ever increasing expenditure and a decision was made by them to invite church members and the congregation to participate in a Stewardship appeal. This action was duly carried out by means of appropriate literature and a parish gathering, and proved to be extremely beneficial in many ways, and as part of the on-going process the routines and practices are reassessed, generally at four yearly intervals.

Improvements - West end of the church.

Following completion of the new organ, it was decided to carry out improvement work at the west end of the church, and by a faculty approved by the Diocesan authorities in 1981 the work content consisted of :

'Removal of wooden screen and porchway and stone font (the latter item was to be a feature of the proposed Garden of Remembrance) provision of a cupboard and table for the Book of Remembrance; provision of a cupboard for choir books; placing of a frontal case at the west end; placing of a 'heat curtain' over the west door. Book rests for the choir had already been approved'. The estimated cost of the total work content was stated to be £1,200. The actual cost is not known.

Book of Remembrance.

This was a gift to the church by Lt. Colonel J.R. and Mrs. C. Thatcher in 1981 as a memorial. For those members of the church wishing to record the death of a loved one, a relevant entry is made at that time on payment of a small fee. The anniversary of the death is noted by the Vicar and the name read out during one of the Sunday services.

Garden of Remembrance.

Concurrently with the alteration work to the west end of the church in 1981, the Parochial Church Council decided to proceed with the construction of a 'Garden of Remembrance' and this was to be sited on the lawn area on the south side of the nave. It was to include two screen walls at the end nearest to the chancel with two seats in a paved area, and the siting of the stone font, originally in church, as a central point. The work content was approved by the Diocesan authorities through the medium of a faculty.

The estimated cost for this particular project was stated to be £2,500, but a later detailed cost for this work and the alterations to the west end of the church was stated to be £6,000. A sum of £1,179 surplus from the organ fund was used as a contribution to the overall cost.

Transfer of the church to the Chorley Deanery.

It has already been stated that the year 1704 (or thereabouts) saw the chapel (church) moving under the control of the Leyland Deanery, and subsequent records of births, christenings, churchings and deaths all confirm this action.

Why the chapel (church) never came under the control of the Chorley Deanery is not known, but for the greater part of some three hundred years, all evidence seems to point to the authority of Leyland Deanery being accepted. It is possible that until 1892 the chapel (church) was a Chapel of Ease to Leyland and therefore under the control of that parish church.

On the 7th day of April 1981 the position was changed, and on that day Euxton Parish Church moved under the control of Chorley Deanery where it has remained to this date.

Purchase of Piano

There are occasions during church activities and operations, when the organ is not used, and to meet an instrumental need, the Parochial Church Council in 1982 authorised the purchase of a small octave piano to be placed adjacent to the lectern. The cost of the instrument was £400. The current organist paid half the cost of the instrument.

Parochial Registers and Records Measure - Section 10 - 1978.

As part of the operation of bringing parish clergy in to a modern setting, as outlined in a previous section, further administrative action by Parliament placed the above mentioned measure firmly in the Statute book. Incumbents are now charged with depositing parish records with the Diocesan Record Office at Preston as and when the record books - registers of all kinds etc., etc., - are complete. In addition, a quinquennial inspection is made of the storage facilities in churches by a qualified member of the Record Office staff, and a report is rendered to the Bishop of the Diocese. At Appendix 29 (i) and (ii) are details of the examination and report as prepared on the 14th September 1983. Since then a further survey and inspection took place in 1988 and this action will continue in future.

It has many advantages, not the least being the very careful custody of valuable and, in many instances, ancient records.

For the genealogical and historical student it concentrates records in one central area, but should the Chief Officer of the Diocesan Record Office be satisfied that the storage capabilities and correct record control are in accordance with the measure, then dispensation to retain records at the church concerned may be granted. There are many other advantages in these arrangements.

Toilet facilities, Gas Central Heating and new Vestry.

As part of the on-going process to up date personal facilities in the church, it was found necessary in 1985 to :

- a) Provide toilet facilities and a new gas central heating unit (in lieu of the existing oil fired system) in the present vestry.

- b) Demolish the present boiler house and build a new and larger vestry in place thereof.

The estimated costs were given as :

- a) £4,000 b) £10,000

As regards (a) the work was carried out by the North West Region of British Gas p.l.c. as principal contractor.

In the case of the demolition work connected with the original boiler house and construction of a new and larger vestry in place thereof (b) the building work was carried out by personnel under the Community Work Programme. Great care was taken to obtain from local sources, stonework which matched as nearly as possible that of the nave and chancel and the end result is harmonious indeed.

The cost which fell to the church in the exercise consisted of material charges only. All labour costs were underwritten as part of the Community Work Programme.

Summary 1892 - 1990.

It will be readily apparent there were many fundamental changes and problems down the centuries not only with the structure and contents, but with the ecclesiastical routines and practices.

The church structure has been the cause of much concern in that the timber supporting the roof, the walls and the internal pews has required regular and constant attention to deal with the many problems which have arisen. The cost aspect has called for considerable ingenuity by the incumbents, church officers and laity down through the years.

Modernisation in many areas has been successfully achieved - new vestry; new organ; Garden of Remembrance etc., etc.

In this period, the laity have become more closely involved in and have accepted financial responsibilities in areas in which they had little responsibility in the past - a particular case being the wholehearted adoption of the Stewardship scheme.

By coincidence, in the February 1991 edition of the Parish Magazine, the following verbatim details appear as a note from the Vicar, the Reverend D. Raitt:

'Church Fabric

After closer investigation and following the church architect's report, some urgent work will have to be carried out on the south area of the roof. Internally the roof beams have been found to be infested and I am waiting a report on the extent of the infestation. An emergency repair to a roof beam had to be carried out just before Christmas. It will not have escaped your notice that the floor of the church (the wood block and the tiles) is in need of attention'.

A further note appears from the Vicar in the July/August 1991 issue of the magazine which states :

'At Euxton, as well as normal running costs, we shall also need extra money to meet the cost of expensive repairs to the Church building. At the time of writing I still do not know what these costs will be, but I do know that two further buttresses will have to be built to help support the north and south walls towards the east end and the roof timbers will have to be treated for infestation. Such works will not come cheaply'.

Conclusions of Sections 1 and 2.

As the story unfolds, the history of the early years is of necessity a matter of much conjecture, but with the passage of time, and particularly from the end of the 17th century, ecclesiastical documents and records become available and it appears to be possible to piece together the movement set in motion by the first - and only family patron - of the church some three hundred years ago.

Concurrently with the Industrial Revolution, the changes in administrative practices by local and central government, allied with the reduction in the previously large diocesan groups all played a part in the life of the village and the inhabitants and by secondary action, the church.

One major point concerns the form and type of church services carried out up to the date of creation as a parish church. What effect, if any, did evangelism have on the life of the church ? Did all services make use of the 1662 prayer book ? These details are not available.

The latter years have seen an increasing need for the congregation to realise that pressure from external sources must be met by the will and desire to ensure that the church is propelled into future centuries in a sound and viable condition.

It is not difficult to see that the future will require closer laity action, particularly as the church buildings attain greater age. Additionally, the financial requirement to maintain the incumbency in a modern appropriate standard will need to be met.

Appendices

1. Some early names of the village of Euxton and incidents therein.
2. A small selection of some general actions affecting churches down the years.
3. Time chart showing the history of Parish Registers.
4.
 - (i) The Oath of Abjuration,
 - (ii) The National Covenant 1643,
 - (iii) The Negative Oath.
- 4(a) Parliamentary Survey 1647.
5. Euxton Chapel. Petition to the Bishop of Chester about its being locked up.
6.
 - (i) Submission to the Bishop of Chester - Curate to the Chapel of Euxton.
 - (ii) Incumbents of Euxton Chapel (Church) - 1752, 1753 & 1774.
 - (iii) Incumbents of Euxton Chapel (Church) - 1795, 1799.
 - (iv) Incumbents of Euxton Chapel (Church) - 1800.
 - (v) Letters of Nomination for Euxton Chapel (Church).
 - (vi) Vicars of Euxton Parish Church - 1892 - 1974.
 - (vii) Nomination on the removal of the Reverend John Heskin.
7. Authority by the Bishop of Chester's representative to install items of furniture in Euxton Chapel (Church) - 1724.
8. A true and perfect account between James Armetriding (Patron) and Richard Clayton, Curate, to the year ended 25th July 1733.
9. List of seats and forms within the chapel of Euxton as they were numbered and rated on Saturday, the 14th day of September 1754.
10. Indenture - Conveyance of land and premises to Richard Clayton, Curate of the Curacy of Euxton - August 29th 1754.
11. Visitation of the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Chester 1816.
12. Extension of the Chapel (Church) at Euxton and erection of a gallery in the chapel (church) - 1830.
13. Rating Assessment (appointed at the vestry meeting) 1601/1836.
14. Report to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Office, London - 1832.
15. Acts regulating Marriages and Registration - 1836.

16. Erection of a chancel and removal of pulpit to the top of the chapel (church) and of the vestry - 1837.
17. Abstract from a paper issued by Gardner Baldwin, M.A., Vicar of Leyland - 1845.
18. Permission sought to publish banns of marriage and marriages solemnised in Euxton Chapel (Church) - 1838.
19. Discovery of a 'still' in Euxton Chapel (Church) - 1854.
20. Sequestration during suspension of the Reverend John Williams - 1877.
21. Property belonging to the chapel (church) living - 1879.
22. Wood block flooring in the nave - 1885.
23. Notice to Treat - Reverend John Williams and Railway Co. - 1888.
24. Creation of Euxton Chapel (Church) as a District Chapelry - 1892.
25. Consecration/Dedication of the church - enquiry to the Diocese of Chester - 1894 and Diocese of Blackburn 1988.
26. Charities - Various.
27. Euxton Church - Architect's description of the church restoration work 1926 and Lines on the Restoration of the Roof - 1926.
28. Restoration Fund Appeal - Euxton Parish Church 1952.
29. Parochial Registers and Records Measures - 1978.
30. Baptism details - 1734 to 1781 inclusive.
31. Organists who have served the church in recent years.

Appendix 1

Some Early Names of the Village of Euxton and incidents therein.

- a) Lancashire Fines. Final Concords - 20 Edward 1 - 1292, No. 49 - at Lancaster in the octave (8th) of Holy Trinity by Edward 1 (8th June 1292) between Robert, son of Adam de Hollande, plaintiff, and John de la Crozz of Lathum, and Margery his wife, deforceants (one who wrongfully keeps another from his/her estate) of fourteen acres of land in Eukeston. John and Margery acknowledge the land to the right of Robert as that which he had as their gift, to hold to him and his heirs in perpetuity, of the chief lords of the fee, by the services thereto belonging. For this acknowledgement, Robert gave them a sparrow hawk.
- b) Some Early Names of Euxton. In 1187, the village name was stated to be EUECESTON; in 1277 it was HEUKESTONE and at the date of 29th September 1295 it was known as EAKESTONE. This was the title used in a compotus (account) of the lands of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and a rent paid by Robert de Hollande, at one penny per annum in respect of a tenement in the village. By 1306 and for the same purpose the village identity had become EUKESTONE.
- c) Incidents in EUKESTONE. In the year 1323 the following incidents are recorded:
 - (i) Robert le Blok killed John son of Maurice of EUKESTONE Wednesday in the first week in Lent (9th February 1323).
 - (ii) John le Warde was fined a half mark (13/4 or 67p) for a misdemeanour. Sureties were John de Farrington, Jordan Kerian, Adam de Parr, Henry le Greyne all of EUKESTONE - year 1323.
- d) Exchequer Lay Subsidy Roll. Lancashire 1332 - Hundred of Leyland - Taxation of Edward III - EUKESTON reads :

D	Margia de Hollande	Ijs	viIJD	(2/8)
"	Rog le Spencer	IIjs	-	(3/0)
"	Johne de Ermitridinge	IIjs	-	(3/0)
"	Rog le Graine	IIjs	IIIjd	(3/4)
"	Thurstan de Hindeley	Ijs	VIIjd	(2/8)
"	Will de Ermetridinge	Ijs	-	(2/0)
"	Gibbo de Grayne	-	XVjd	(1/4)
"	Rado fil Harois	Ijs	-	(2/0)
"	Henri fil Walti	-	XVjd	(1/4)
"	Robert de Merton	-	XXd	(1/8)

Sum^a XXIIjs p.b.- £1 3s 0d

The foregoing details are by the Record Society, Lancashire & Cheshire publication, volume II published 1896.

- e) By an Inquest taken at Eukestone on Wednesday next after the Feast of Saint Lawrence; 29 Edward III (12 August 1355) before Alan de Raynford. The Duke of Lancaster's escheator and Roger de Faryngton.

These details can be found in the Record Society of Lancashire & Cheshire publications published 1915, Chorley Reference Library identity A15/70.

- f) In the year 36 Edward III (1362) An Inquisition Post Mortem as to Henry, first Duke of Lancaster, found that his Lancashire possessions included the following : "Fees in County Lanc. - Eukestone."

These details can be found in the Chetham Society publication, Volume 58, first edition, published 1862, p.p s 461 and 462.

- g) The persons shewn at item (d) above on this short list are few in number. They appear to be the only people in the village of substantial means and therefore liable to this form of taxation.

Appendix 2

A Small Selection of some General Actions affecting Churches down the Years.

- a) Glebe During the Anglo-Saxon period, a church was built near to the habitation of the local thegn (lord) who appointed the priest and gave him 'glebe' (a portion of land assigned to a clergyman as part of his benefice, often including a parsonage house). There was neither house nor land for the incumbent of Euxton until the 19th century.
- b) Tithes These were payment made by a tenant of land to the overlord and priest which consisted of one tenth of his income (in cash or in kind) which literally meant every tenth cow, pig, sheep, etc., etc., every tenth bundle of corn, oats, barley etc. These payments went to defray church expenses and the priest's emoluments. Euxton was so served via the mother church - the Parish Church of Leyland. These practices continued down the years until 1836 in Euxton when tithes were converted to cash payments only. These practices ceased altogether in the current century as a result of government action.
- c) Church usage The church would be used for daily worship, with the nave as the communal village hall. People watched 'miracle plays' or pastoral plays. They participated in 'church ales' which were revelries held on 'Holy Days' (holidays) and no one worked on these days. 'Church Ales' seem to have been little more than communal drinking followed by dancing. The ale was often brewed on the premises or in a 'brew house' attached to the church (there is no written or structural evidence of a separate 'brew house' at Euxton) and this was sold and consumed in the church or churchyard. This was a common practice during the 15th century. Attendance at Mass was obligatory.
- d) Chantries During the Middle Ages there was a surplus of parish priests and many found employment as chantry priests. Families and religious guilds founded chantries where memorial prayers or obits (memorial services especially in institutions and on the anniversary of founders' or benefactors' deaths). Medieval Wills made these bequests and Euxton was so served by a chantry founded by James Anderton of Euxton in 1523.
- e) Medieval Law Breakers A medieval law breaker could use the church as a place of sanctuary. Should a fugitive enter the churchyard he/she could stay in safety some thirty to forty days. Anyone violating this sanctuary could be severely punished, even excommunicated. After this period of grace, the fugitive could elect trial before civil courts or plead guilty and flee the county.

Appendix 3

Time Chart shewing the History of Parish Registers.

Year	Monarch	Detail
1538.	Henry VIII.	Institution of Registers by Thomas Cromwell.
1546.	Edward VI.	Registration injunctions repeated by Edward VI.
1555/ 1558.	Philip & Mary.	Lapsing of the Registers during the short reign of Queen Mary, prior to her marriage to Philip.
1558.	Elizabeth I.	Registration injunctions issued by Henry VIII and Edward VI repeated.
1563.	Elizabeth I.	Parliamentary Bill to send transcripts of Registers to each Diocesan centre and for parochial copies to Registrars. Bill not approved by Parliament.
1597.	Elizabeth I.	The Provincial constitution of Canterbury ordered Registers to be kept in parchment and all earlier Registers to be transcribed. All entries for the previous week to be read out in church in the Sunday service. Annual transcripts to be sent to the Diocese. These were subsequently known as the Bishop's Transcripts.
1603.	Elizabeth I.	These instructions repeated except for the weekly reading of the Register.
1644.	Charles I.	Directory of Public worship replaced the Prayer Book. Dates of birth and death to be recorded as well as baptisms and burials.
1653.	Council of State.	Commencement of civil registration by laymen. Many parish Registers defective during the 1650's.
1660.	Charles II.	Ecclesiastical registration recommenced at Restoration of the Monarchy.
1694.	William & Mary.	Marriage Duty Act (6 & 7 Wm. & Mary C.6.) required registration of births, marriages and deaths, but this did not succeed.
1753.	George II.	Hardwick's Marriage Act (22 Geo. II. C.33) to prevent clandestine marriage required registration of marriages on a printed form.
1783.	George III.	Stamp Act (23 Geo.III.C.71) imposed a duty of threepence on every entry.

1812. George III. Rose's Act (52 Geo.III.C.146) required registration of baptisms and burials on printed form.
1836. William IV. Commencement of civil registration (6 & 7 Wm.IV. C.86 and 607 Wm.IV.C.85).

Parish registers for Euxton commence in 1774. Entries for the years 1737 -1774 are contained in the records of Leyland Parish Church at the Diocesan County Record Office, Preston. These are now on microfilm.

In a publication by the Lancashire Parish Register Society, dated 1990, Volume 128, action has been taken by this organisation to place on record baptisms (only) as abstracted from the Registers of the Chapel of Euxton for the year 1734 - 1781. It is not known if this Society intend to place on record details relating to marriages and burials.

Appendix 4

- i) Oath of Abjuration - August 19th 1643.
- ii) The National Covenant - September 25th 1643.
- iii) The Negative Oath - April 5th 1645.

i) Oath of Abjuration.

"I, A.B do abjure and renounce the popes supremacie and Authority over the Catholic Church in General, and over myself in Particular; and I do believe there is not any transubstantiation in the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, or in the elements of Bread and Wine after consecration thereof, by any person whatsoever, and I do also believe that there is not any purgatory; and that the Consecrated Host, Crucifixes or Images ought not to be worshipped, neither that any worship is due to any of them; and I also believe that Salvation cannot be merited by Works and all Doctrines in Affirmation of the said points, I do Abjure and renounce without any Equivocation, Mentall Reservation or Secret Evasion whatsoever taking the words by me spoken according to the common and usual meaning of them, so help me God".

ii) The National Covenant.

This is the Solemn League and Covenant taken by the House of Commons September 25th 1643. It consisted of six articles, in which the subscribers bind themselves :

- a. To endeavour the preservation of the reformed religion in the Church of Scotland, and the reformation of religion in England and Ireland in "doctrine, worship discipline and government according to the word of God, and the example of the best reformed churches".
- b. To extirpate popery, prelacy, superstition etc.
- c. To preserve the rights and privileges of Parliaments and the liberties of the kingdom and defend the King's person and authority.
- d. To discover and punish all incendiaries, malyquants or evil instruments.
- e. To maintain "the happiness of a blessed peace" between these Kingdoms, and to endeavour that they may remain conjoined in a fair peace and union to all prosperity.
- f. To assist and defend all those who enter into this league and covenant.

III) The Negative Oath.

"Enjoined by an Ordinance of April 5th 1645 to be taken by those who had lived in the King's quarters or adhered to his Forces raised against Parliament (The Molyneaux family). They were to swear upon the holy evangelist in the manner following :

"I, A.B. do swear from my heart that I will not directly or indirectly adhere unto or willingly assist the King in this war, or in this cause against Parliament, nor any forces raised without the consent of the two Houses of Parliament in this cause or war. And I do likewise swear that my coming and submitting myself under the power and protection of Parliament, is without any manner of design whatsoever, to the prejudice of the proceedings of the two Houses of Parliament and without the direction privety or advice of the King, or any of his Council or officers, other than what I have now made known, so help me God and the content of this book".

Addendum.

The "Protestation" returns for the village of EUXTON for this time shew seventy three persons signing the papers of affirmation and twenty seven refusing to do so.

Appendix 4a

Transcript from a PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY in the year 1647.

EUXTON.

"Wee also present that Euxton is a Towne within the Parish of Leyland in w^{ch} there is one Chappell distant from the said Parishe Church of Leyland two statute myles and a halfe or thereabouts and from Heapie Chappell aforesaid five statute myles and that the Tythe Corne of Euxton aforesaid is worth fiftye pounds per Ann parte of the before menconed sum of Two Hundred Seventyone pounds and that Mr James Anderton of Clayton claymes the said Tithes as his inheritance and is now sequestered for the state for the said Mr Andertons delinquincyes that the small tythes in Euxton aforesaid are worth two pounds five shillings per annum and belong to the Vicar of Leylands aforesaid and that Mr Seath Bushell is the present incumbent there and is a Godly Preachinge Minister and conformable to the present Governm^t and came into the said Place by an order from the Committee of Plundered Ministers and hath had for his salary fourty pounds per annum issuing out of the Sequestracons of the Tythese aforesaid and wee present that these houses hereafter menconed situate within Charnock Richard are fitt to be annexed unto Euxton aforesaid and made a Parish (viz) Thomas Warings of the Back House Will^m Croitchlowes Henrye Rydings Mr Coopers Richard Haughtons Hugh Bowlings Wyddow Coopers Charnock Hall and the rest of the said Towne lying nearer adjacent unto Euxton Chappell than to any other church or chappell".

The original documents for this transcript are held in Lambeth Palace Library, London.

Appendix 5

Petition to the Bishop about its being locked up.

To the RIGHT REVEREND father in GOD, THOMAS Lord Bishop of CHESTER. The humble petition of the Parishioners of LEYLAND in the COUNTY of LANCASTER. Most humbly showeth unto you Lord Bishop that the parish of LEYLAND is a very large parish extending it self to the South eight miles and upwards besides being of considerable breadth consisting of four quarters to the West the township of LEYLAND one quarter, the township of EUXTON another quarter, the township of WHITTLE CLAYTON and another quarter, and the townships of HOUGHTON, WITHNELL, WHEELTON and HEAPEY the forth quarter, having allways for a Church Warden and of the of the parish having had time out of memories of man, two chappells of ease therein, viz. that of EUXTON and the other of HEAPEY. In the chappell of HEAPEY there doth an orthodox Minister officiate on the Lords Day and a fortnight without the interruption or gainsaying of any person and alsoe in that of EUXTON (which is a very faire built chapel in stone) erected above a hundred years ago wherein severall of the Church of England have preached, as namely Bishop Parr in the tyme and divers others and Mr. LEIGH patron of STANDISHE hath said prayers and read devine service and preached in the said chappell of EUXTON for a very full congregation there, but the rooffe of the said chappell of EUXTON fallinge into Decay and beinge without of Repairs (through some pretensions made by the present MOLYNEAUX or his agents to the chappell as being built (although out of the memory of man) by some of the ancestors and standing upon his land hee would appropriate the chappell to his own private use and temporal advantage) there hath been no preachings there for several years by past yet about five years ago there was a publique and general meetinge of most of the inhabitants with one Mr. JOHN FARNWORTH a estate agent for the sayde Lord Molyneaux whoe dide then state and affirme to the sayde inhabitants of EUXTON that if they would at their owne charges repaire the sayd chappell (which was then very ruinous) they might have the sayd chappell freely (without any hindrance or interruption by the sayd Lord Molyneaux or any of his heirs) for any orthodox Minister to read devine service and preach in, whereupon the sayd inhabitants of EUXTON att their owne proper charges very well repaired the Roofs of the said chappell with slates and fixed a new lock upon the chappell doors and kept it locked upp for the better preservation of the chappell for Gods worship therein, but notwithstandinge the sayd Mr John Farnworth as agent for the sayd Lord Molyneaux in or about the month of Novembre laste gott the key of the sayd chappell doors into his owne hands and being since requested by the present VICAR OF LEYLAND and the churchwarden for EUXTON quarter to deliver the sayd key, he utterly deny the same, revolting from his former promise and now asserting that neither the whole parish of LEYLAND nor the inhabitants of the sayd Towne of EUXTON a quarter of the sayd parish shall have the sayd chappell of EUXTON and longer for publique worshippe of God according to the CHURCH OF ENGLAND that the same chappell is and hereafter must be for the sayd Lord Molyneaux and for sure onlye as hee pleaseth and not otherwise. May it therefore please you Lord Bishop to grant unto us your Lordships humble petitioners and onlye you Lord Bishop to open the sayd chappell doors of EUXTON but also you Lord Bishop lycence for an orthodox minister to read devine service preach and minister the Holy Sacraments there as formerly and for you Lord Bishop health, happiness and long continuance over us (as nevertheless in all duty) wee shall ever pray wee your Lord Bishops humble

Appendix 6 (i)

Transcript of what was the Submission to the Bishop of Chester concerning the Appointment of a Curate to the Chapel of Euxton.

"To the Reverend Father in God Samuel, Lord Bishop of Chester". "I, James Armetriding of Euxton in the County of Lancaster Gentleman having the free and Sole Nominacion donation and presentation of a Minister or Curate to the Chappell of Euxton aforesaid within your Lordship's Diocese, do hereby nominate and present Richard Clayton Clerk to be Curate thereof and do humbly request that your Lordshipp will be pleased to admit to licence him thereto. In Witness whereof I have hereunder put my hand and seal the first day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and twentyeight

(Signed) James Armetriding.

Witness thereof :-

(Signed) Law. Walker.

Thomas Gerrard.

The petition is embossed with a stamp valued at 8d. (Eightpence in pre-decimalisation coinage which is almost three and a half pence in decimal terminology).

Appendix 6 (ii)

Incumbents of Euxton Chapel (Church) from 1752 - 1800.

Details abstracted from the Bishop of Chester's Act Book, March 1752 - 1800. Chester Record Office reference EDA/1/6 - Euxton (L) Pages 3,7 and 101.

Year.	Detail.
1752.	Page 3.
October 16th.	
Euxton Chapel.	Richard Meadowcroft B.A. of St. Johns, Cambridge was Licensed to the Chapel of Euxton in the Parish of Leyland and County of Lancaster at the nomination of John Armetriding of Armetriding in Euxton, Gentleman. Item 14 in the book reference.
1753.	Page 7.
June 10th	
Euxton Chapel.	John Lowes was Licenced to the Chapel of Euxton in the Parish of Leyland and the County of Lancaster at the nomination of John Armetriding of Armetriding, Gentleman, by the Chancellor. Item 48 in the book reference.

Extract from the Bishop's Act Book 1760 - 1776.

Ref. EDA1/7.147V.

1774.	Licence of James Armetriding C.L. to the Chapel of Euxton in the County of Lancaster void by the resignation of John Lowes C L on the acceptance of the said James Armetriding the undoubted patron.
June 20th	
Euxton Chapel.	

Appendix 6 (iii)

Extract from the Bishop's Act Book

Ref:EDA/1. Items 41V, 92V,93 & 101

Year. Detail.

1795. Page 42.

Euxton Parish Church. Licence of John Lowes to the perpetual curacy of Euxton in the County of Lancaster void by the death of James Armetriding on the nomination of Thomas Armetriding C L the patron.

- Notes
- (a) Why did Lowes return after an interval of some twenty-one years?
 - (b) James Armetriding appears to have been succeeded by another member of the Armetriding family. Was Thomas Armetriding a son, nephew, brother etc ?
 - (c) The title of 'Parish Church' as used in the Act Book presumably referred to the civil and not the ecclesiastical parish. The creation of the chapel (church) as a Parish Church did not occur until September 6th 1892 by Act of Queen Victoria - almost one hundred years later.

1799. Page 93.

December 12th.

Euxton. Commission to John Halton, Clerk, Batchelor in Divinity to qualify Robert Procter, Clerk to be licensed to the perpetual curacy of Euxton in the County of Lancaster.

1799. Page 93.

December 24th

Euxton. Licence of Robert Procter, Clerk to the perpetual curacy of Euxton in the County of Lancaster void by the death of John Lowes, Clerk, on the nomination of James Armetriding, Clerk, Master of Arts, the patron.

Note. If James Armetriding was deceased in 1795 it would seem the transfer of the patronage to Thomas Armetriding was not actioned by the Bishop of Chester's records ?

Appendix 6 (iv)

Extract from the Bishop's Act Book

Ref: EDA1/9. Items 41V, 92V, 93 & 101

Year.	Detail.
1800. September 21st. Euxton	Licence of Henry Brierley, Clerk, to be Assistant Curate of Euxton in the County of Lancaster on the nomination of the Reverend Robert Procter the Curate. Stipend £50 0s 0d per annum.

- Notes : (a) Although Procter is shewn as the Curate of Euxton, he was non-resident and had a plurality of livings and resided in Claughton where he held that living in addition to running a private school there. In a petition by Procter to the Bishop of Chester dated 28th March 1804 he sought dispensation from having to move to the Euxton area. Brierley, after his appointment, apparently resided in the Chorley area for which he paid a fee of £20 0s 0d per year. Details of his address are not known. There was no parsonage house at this date. In an Act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of George III, persons such as Procter were required to reside in their parish, but Procter never seemed to have done this. In the petitions to the Bishop of Chester by Procter it is clearly stated there was no convenient residence in Euxton at that time as most of the properties were of poor standard.
- (b) In a letter to Brierley by one W. Nicholls Esquire - probably a member of the Bishop of Chester's staff - it is stated that the late John Lowes resides in the mansion house of his own estate which stood at the "Northern extremity of the Chapelry". The letter is dated 21st March 1804.
- (c) Following further enquiries, it appears Brierley whilst resident in Chorley, occupied one of three cottages which according to information received, was in the Park Road/Market Street area.
- (d) The details quoted at Appendices 6(i)(ii)(iii) and (iv) are reproduced / included by permission of The Cheshire Record Office and Chester Diocesan Record Office. Letter dated 25 March 1993 reference 12/2/CB.

Appendix 6 (v)

Extracts from Letter of Nomination etc., for Euxton Chapel (Church).

The following details are contained in documents held by the Registrar, Diocesan Offices, Cathedral Close, Blackburn.

1838. Presentation to the Living of Euxton of the Reverend
Euxton John Williams by :-
8th January

Cockayne Frith, James Frith, William Armetriding Frith,
Margaretta Frith, Mary Jane Frith and Eliza Frith.

- Notes: (a) The Cockayne Frith family represented in this presentation were the descendants through marriage of James Armetriding, who in 1728 declared himself to be the undoubted patron of Euxton Chapel (Church), and as such these people succeeded to the right of patronage.
- (b) If James Armetriding was the patron how did he acquire the authority and at what period in time ?
- (c) Williams retained the living from 1838 to 1892 apart from a break in the years 1877 to 1879.
- (d) These details are reproduced by verbal permission given by the Diocesan Registrar at the Diocese of Blackburn, Cathedral Close, Blackburn in 1992.

Appendix 6 (vi)

Vicars of Euxton Parish Church following the creation by Act of Queen Victoria on 6th September 1892 in that it became the Parish Church on that date.

Year	Name of Vicar	Years in Post.	
1892	Reverend H.J.G. BELOE	1892 - 1919	27
1919	Reverend W.L. HUGILL	1919 - 1932	13
1933	Reverend T. MASON	1933 - 1942	9
1942	Reverend H.C. HILL	1942 - 1947	5
1947	Reverend W. HOPE	1947 - 1973	26
1974	Reverend D. RAITT	1974 - to date	¹⁵⁵¹ 17

In almost one hundred years, only six vicars have served the parish. Nothing appears to be known of the first four named, the latter two vicars are fortunately still alive at this date. There are no plates or details of any of them, and it is for serious consideration whether this lack of identity should be corrected and permanent records be set up in the vestry of the church.

Appendix 6 (vii)

Abstract from a paper held in the Registry, Diocesan Offices, Blackburn.

Euxton Chapel - 12th October 1752.

Mr. Richard Meadowcroft

B.A. St. Johns, Cantab.

Judgement for Deacons Orders.

Nomination on Removal of Reverend John Heskin.

"To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Chester to be left at the Post Office in Durham, and got to him with speed and care by Rochdale".

"To the Right Reverend Lord Bishop of Chester, I John Armetriding gentleman the true and undoubted Patron of the Chappell of Euxton in the County of Lancastr and Diocese of Chester now vacant by the removal of the Revd Mr John Heskin last officiating minister there the sole gift of which being my prerogative or Right, do hereby nominate Mr. Richard Meadowcroft, Batchelor of Arts, of St. Johns Cambridge to officiate in the same (if by your Lordships approbation he shall be found worthy of the sacred order of Deacon) till he shall be provided of some other Ecclesiastical preferment.

I am, my Lord, your Lordships most obedient and most humble servant".

(Signed) John Armetriding.

- Notes: (a) Who was John Armetriding who signed this paper? What relation was he to James Armetriding? How did he acquire the patronage?
- (b) Why was Heskin removed? There are no details of this at Chester or the Diocesan Office, Blackburn.

Appendix 7

Authority dated 12th September 1724

Given by Peregrine Gastrell, Vicar General and official Principal of Francis, Lord Bishop of Chester to install Pulpit, Reading Desk, Clerk's Pew, seats and forms in Euxton Chapel (Church).

"PEREGRINE GASTRELL Esq", Batchelor of Laws, Vicar General and Official Principal of the Right Reverend Father in God. Francis by Devine permission Lord Bishop of CHESTER, TO ALL CHRISTIAN people to whom these presents shall come. GREETING. Whereas the CHAPEL OF EUXTON in the parish of LEYLAND within the COUNTY OF LANCASTER and DIOCESE of CHESTER is wholly destitute of conveniences for DEVINE SERVICE, having neither PULPIT, READING DESK, PEW, FORM, nor SEAT in it, and WHEREAS THEREFORE (to the end that DEVINE SERVICE may be hereafter performed in the same, and the MINISTER and CHAPEL CLERK who shall officiat there from time to time have the benefit of the pews, seats and forms to be built therein, No other subsistence or salary being as yet provided for them,) application hath been made to us for AUTHORITY to be granted in manner and to effect following. NOW KNOW YE THAT WE the said VICAR GENERALL and OFFICIAL PRINCIPALL by these presents, doe give and grant full LIBERTY, power and AUTHORITY to the REVEREND CHRISTOPHER SUDELL clerk and his successors VICARS of the PARISH CHURCH of LEYLAND aforesaid for the time being, by and with such charitable contribution as will be obtained in that behalf, to cause a decent and convenient pulpit, Reading Desk, Pews, Seats and Forms to be built in the said CHAPPELL to wit, the PULPIT, READING DESK and CLERK's pew at the upper end of the CHAPPELL in the aisle one below another, and the seats and forms on the NORTH and SOUTH side, in one and the same uniform order, in a line, and the same height and proportion, and afterwards with the assistance of four or six of the most substantial Inhabitants, and best contributors in the Chapelry to be named and chosen by him or them, for that purpose at his and their discretion, to SETT and LETT the Seats and Forms, at certain reasonable annual Rates or Rents to be forever fixt and unalterable and payable by QUARTERLY payments to and for the sole use and BENEFIT of the CURAT of the said CHAPPELL of EUXTON and the CHAPEL CLERK for the time being alwais provided, that the Quarterly payments for any of the said Seats or Forms be behind and unpaid for the space of one month after the same shall become due it shall and may be LAWFULL for the said VICAR of LEYLAND for the time being with the assistance of such a number of inhabitants as aforesaid to LETT such seat or Form to any other person or persons that will take the same, PROVIDED also that every person who with the CONSENT of the SAID VICAR OF LEYLAND shall build a pew or seat in the said CHAPPELL, uniform with the rest at his own expence and pay for the same TEN POUNDS for the use of the CURAT and also every person who shall with the same content erect a form there at his own cost and charge and pay for the same FOUR or SIX pounds as by the said VICAR shall be deemed reasonable according to it's situation, for the LIFE use shall for themselves their heirs and assigns for ever to be excused from paying any RENT for the same and may if they please appropriate or annex such seats and forms to what houses they please, to be apperitonant for ever after to them, but the same shall not be at any time transferred nor sold, nor shall any profit or advantage be made of them to the prejudice of the CURAT of the said CHAPEL for the time being in anywise, AND LASTLY for the better securing, putting out, and disposing

of the money arising from the Seats, and Forms to be ERECTED in the said Chapel for the sole use benefit and advantage of the Curat thereof for the time being.

We hereby further nominate and appoint the patron and Vicar of the said Parish Church of Leyland for the time being, James Armetriding of Euxton aforesaid yeoman and his heirs, and the Curat of the said Chapel of Euxton for the time being, to be Joint Trustees and Commissioners, reserving nevertheless the Right and Jurisdiction of the Ordinary and his power of hearing and determining all controversies that may hereafter arise in and about the premises. In Witness whereof we have caused the seal of our office to be put to these presents. Dated at CHESTER the twelvth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Twentyfour.

Signed EDRIS ROBERTS.

vy. ty.

REG. Dep.

Appendix 8

"A true and Perfect Account between James Armetriding (Patron) and Richard Clayton, Curate to the year 25th July 1733.

	£	s	d
20.10.1731. Malt Bill.	18.	14.	8.
Borrowed of him.	1.	10.	0.
Received from William Brown.	4.	15.	0.
More from William Brown.	18.	3.	
Received from Richard Slater.	3.	16.	6.
More from him.	3.	15.	0.
Bounty Money.	200.	0.	0.

	233.	9.	5.

Memorandum

We began service at Euxton Chapel so as to be accounted for from June 7th 24th 1729 then is due to Richard Clayton as follows :-

IMPRIMIS.

A Rowt given to James Armetriding - had for year 1730	10.	10.	0.
June 7th 24th 1731 Due to Richard Clayton for interest	10.	0.	0.
25 July 1731 Due for his seat		10.	0.
June 7th 24th 1732 Due for interest	10.	0.	0.
25 July 1732 Due for his seat.		10.	0.
June 7th 24th 1733 Due for interest.	10.	0.	0.
25 July 1733 Due for his seat.		10.	0.
18 Jany 1733 I pd. Mr. Armetriding in cash.	117.	17.	11.
11 July I paid Robert Stones in Cash at Regan Mawdsley	36.	0.	0.
Paid Mr. Dorset		1.	9. 3.

More out of purse as approached by another account.	6. 4.
Two London (?) from Mr Rawstrone.	0. 0. 8.
paid for messenger to Mr Akhurst - twice.	0. 2. 0.
Due to me for Barley.	1. 10. 4.
19 Aug 1733 I paid for all year for Mr Chorley and Mr Wilkinson came to Euxton.	5. 6.

S.T. 199. 12. 0.

My expenses of three journeys to Manchester - at our chapel - Lawyers Ashcroft Bill.	1. 10. 0.
The charge I was put to in defending our chapel I was faced with (?) visit. Postage of L.T. & Co.	
Going obliged to go several journeys.	1. 8. 0.

Notes : (a) This paper seems to establish the date when the chapel (church) was formally taken into use by the Church of England.

(b) Defending the chapel? Against what and whom? There are no records relating to these matters. Could this have been action by supporters of the Molyneaux family in the village and surrounding areas? Catholic worship must have been strongly supported in the village at this time.

Appendix 9

List of SEATS and FORMS within the Chapel of EUXTON as they were Numbered and Rated on SATURDAY, the 14th Day of September 1754.

Location of Seats.

	Number	Rated		
		£.	s.	d.
The single seat on the North side of the Chapel.	1.	4.	4.	0.
The 1st Double seat adjoining, in the Chapel.	2.	8.	8.	0.
The 2nd Double seat adjoining, in the Chapel.	3.	8.	8.	0.
The 3rd Double seat adjoining, in the Chapel.	4.	8.	8.	0.
The 4th Double seat adjoining, in the Chapel.	5.	8.	8.	0.
The 5th Double seat at the South East Corner.	6.	8.	8.	0.
The 6th Double seat adjoining.	7.	8.	8.	0.
The 7th Double seat adjoining	8.	8.	8.	0.
The 8th Double seat adjoining.	9.	8.	8.	0.
The single seat on the South.	10.	8.	8.	0.
The 1st Form CL following.	11.	4.	4.	0.
The 2nd Form CL following.	12.	4.	4.	0.
The 3rd Form CL following.	13.	4.	4.	0.
The 4th Form CL following.	14.	3.	3.	0.
The 5th Form CL following.	15.	3.	3.	0.
The 6th Form CL following.	16.	2.	2.	0.
The 7th Form CL following.	17.	2.	2.	0.
The 8th Form CL following.)	18.	0.	0.	0.
The 9th Form CL following.) Singers	19.	0.	0.	0.
The 10th Form CL following.)	20.	0.	0.	0.
The 11th Form at the North West corner. P O	21.	0.	0.	0.
The 12th Form at the North West corner.	22.	0.	0.	0.
The 13th Form at the North West corner.	23.	3.	3.	0.
The 14th Form at the North West corner.	24.	3.	3.	0.
The 15th Form at the North West corner.	25.	3.	3.	0.
The 16th Form at the North West corner.	P.....26.	3.	3.	0.
The 17th Form at the North West corner.	27.	4.	4.	0.
The 18th Form at the North West corner.	28.	4.	4.	0.
The 19th Form Joining the Single seat on the North (1st named).	29.	4.	4.	0.
		£123.18. 0.		

Details obtained from the Lancashire Record Office, Preston per their document reference PR2908/6/9 and dated as shewn above.

It will be noted that the total sum as shewn is incorrect and should read £128. 2. 0.

Appendix 10

Indenture. Conveyance of land and premises to Richard Clayton, Curate of the Curacy of Euxton. August 29th 1754.

"To the Rev^d Mr. BALDWIN, Vicar of Leyland near Preston in Lancashire."

1st March 1732 By Indenture, Tripartite of that date, made Between James Armetriding of ARMETRIDING within Euxton, in the County Palatine of LANCASTER, Gentleman, Thomas Pincock, William Woodcock and Christopher Sumner all of Euxton aforesaid Gentlemen of the first part The Governors of Bounty of Queen Anne for the Augmentation of the maintenance of the Poor Clergy of the Second Part and Richard Clayton Clerk Curate of the curacy of Euxton within the Parish of Leyland in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Chester of the Third Part The Messuage together with the several closes of land and premises following were granted and conveyed unto the said Richard Clayton and his successors Curates of the said Curacy of Euxton for the perpetual Augmentation of the said Curacy VIZ : All that Messuage or Tenement with the appurtenances situate lying and being in Euxton in the County of Lancaster and the Buildings, Fields, Courts, Yards, Gardens and Orchards thereunto belonging together with the Closes, Closures or Parcells of Land, Meadow and Pasture following in Euxton aforesaid called the CROFT on the other side of the Lane, the New Close, the Backhouse Hey, the Two Hall Fields, the Two Willmore Heys, the Blackcroft, the two Oldwomans Fields and the Great Meadow, all of which closes or parcells of Land contain together in the whole Eighteen acres or thereabouts Together with all and Singular Outhouses, Edifices, Buildings, Barns, Stables, Yards, Gardens, Orchards, Ways, Paths, Passages, Water, Watercourses Timber and Trees, Woods underwood, hedges, ditches, fences and Inclosures Commons Common of Pasture advantages, privileges, Moluments Herditam^{ts} and Appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises or any part thereof belonging or in anyway appertaining and Reversion etc.

Rev^d Sir,

Your letter of the 21st Instant to Mr Chester, has been put into my hands and the above is a copy of the Description of the several parcells of Land and Premises as they were conveyed to the Curate of Euxton, and his successors for the perpetual augmentation of that Curacy.

Lincoln Inn,
Aug^t 29th 1754.

I am Rev^d Sir

Your very humble Servant,
HENRY MONTAGUE,
Secretary to the Gov^{rs} of
Queen Anne's Bounty.

Appendix 11

Transcript of the details concerning the Visitation of the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Chester in the year 1816.

TO THE REVEREND THE MINISTER OF EUXTON.

Reverend Sir,

You are to give public notice in your Chapel the next Sunday after this comes to your Hands that the Reverend UNWIN CLARKE, Clerk, Master of Arts, Rural Dean of all and singular the Rural Deaneries, within the Archdeaconry of Chester, or his lawful Surrogate will hold his Court of Visitation and for the Probate of Wills, and granting Letters of Administration within his Jurisdiction, in the PARISH CHURCH OF CHORLEY upon Friday the Thirtyfirst Day of May next and by adjournment at the Royal Oak.

Also you are to give Notice to all your Chapel Wardens and Sidesmen, both Old and New, to appear at the hour of ONE in the Afternoon, in the place aforesaid; the Old to make and give their Presentments, and to bring their Terriers heretofore omitted: and to the New, to take their Oaths for the due Execution of their office for the year ensuing. And all persons who have any wills to prove, or Letters of Administration to take, are then and there to appear to that purpose.

And you are requested at the same time to give Notice, that by an Act of Parliament, passed in the 55th year of his present Majesty's Reign, it is enacted, That every person who shall administer any part of the Personal Estate of any person dying after that day, without proving the will, or taking out letters of Administration of such Personal Estate within Six Calendar Months after the Death of the Person so dying, forfeit ONE HUNDRED POUNDS, out of his own Goods and Chattels, and ALSO TEN PER CENT ON THE AMOUNT of the Stamp Duty.

And for publishing hereof you are to certify at the Time and Place aforesaid, under your hand, remitting these Presents, together with a Presentment and Certificate of the Election of the new officers, signed by Yourself and the present Wardens.

This notice was published in
the Chapel of Euxton aforesaid,
on Sunday the 21st Day of April 1816.

(Signed) WM. WARD
REGISTRAR

To the Reverend and worshipful UNWIN CLARKE, Clerk, Master of Arts, Rural Dean of all and Singular the Rural Deaneries within the Archdeaconry of Chester, or his lawful Surrogate.

We the Minister and Chapelwarden of the Chapelry of Euxton in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Chester, do hereby certify, that the following Persons were upon the 15th Day of April 1816 duly elected to serve the Office of Wardens of the said Chapelry of EUXTON for the year ensuing to wit :

(Signed) JAMES PLATT New Warden.

As witness our hands this 31st Day of May 1816.

(Signed) HENRY BRIERLEY. Minister.

James Platt. Warden.

1

Appendix 12 (i)

The cost of such Enlargement, with Fittings complete, as per estimate or contract, will be	<i>£257. 10. 0.</i>
The exertions which have been al- ready made to raise the necessary funds, are	<i>Soliciting subscriptions from every person at all interested in, or con- nected with the Township.</i>
The produce of those exertions, is	<i>about £110. 0. 0.</i>
The only further exertions that can be made, are	<i>None whatsoever-Much of the property in the Township belongs to the Roman Catholic Proprietors; and the inhabitants are tenants at rack rent and much burthened with Poor.</i>

WE do hereby certify, That we consent to the proposed Enlargement of the
Chapel at Euxton as above, in the Parish of *Leyland* in the
County of *Lancaster* and Diocese of *Chester*.

Dated this day of

(Signed) *W. Chester*

Ordinary.

(Signed) *James Armetriding*

Patron.

(Signed) *R. J. Procter*

Incumbent.

Appendix 12 (ii)

Application from the Minister and Church-Wardens
 on behalf of the Township of Euxton
 for Aid towards the ENLARGEMENT and repairs of the Chapel
 at Euxton

The Township is situated } *Leyland*
 in the Parish of }

In the Diocese of *Chester*

and Archdeaconry of *Chester*

The population, as taken in the year 1821
 of the Township, is - - 1360 } both much increased and
 and of the Parish, is - - 12959 }

The present provision of Church-room
 in the Township, is for *174*
 In the Parish, is for *2217*

Of such present provision the actual
 number of free and un-
 appropriated Sitings,
 In the Township, is for *no free seats whatever.*
 In the Parish, is for *500 or thereabouts.*

The proposed addition of Church
 room, beyond the pre-
 sent provision, is for *129* *see letter no 5753*
 and is to be obtained by *long thrown in the Chapel* *10 feet 3 inches*
 (Here insert the nature *to be built a gallery at the West*
 of the Enlargement.) *end, and by removing the benches*
and putting in a better seat.

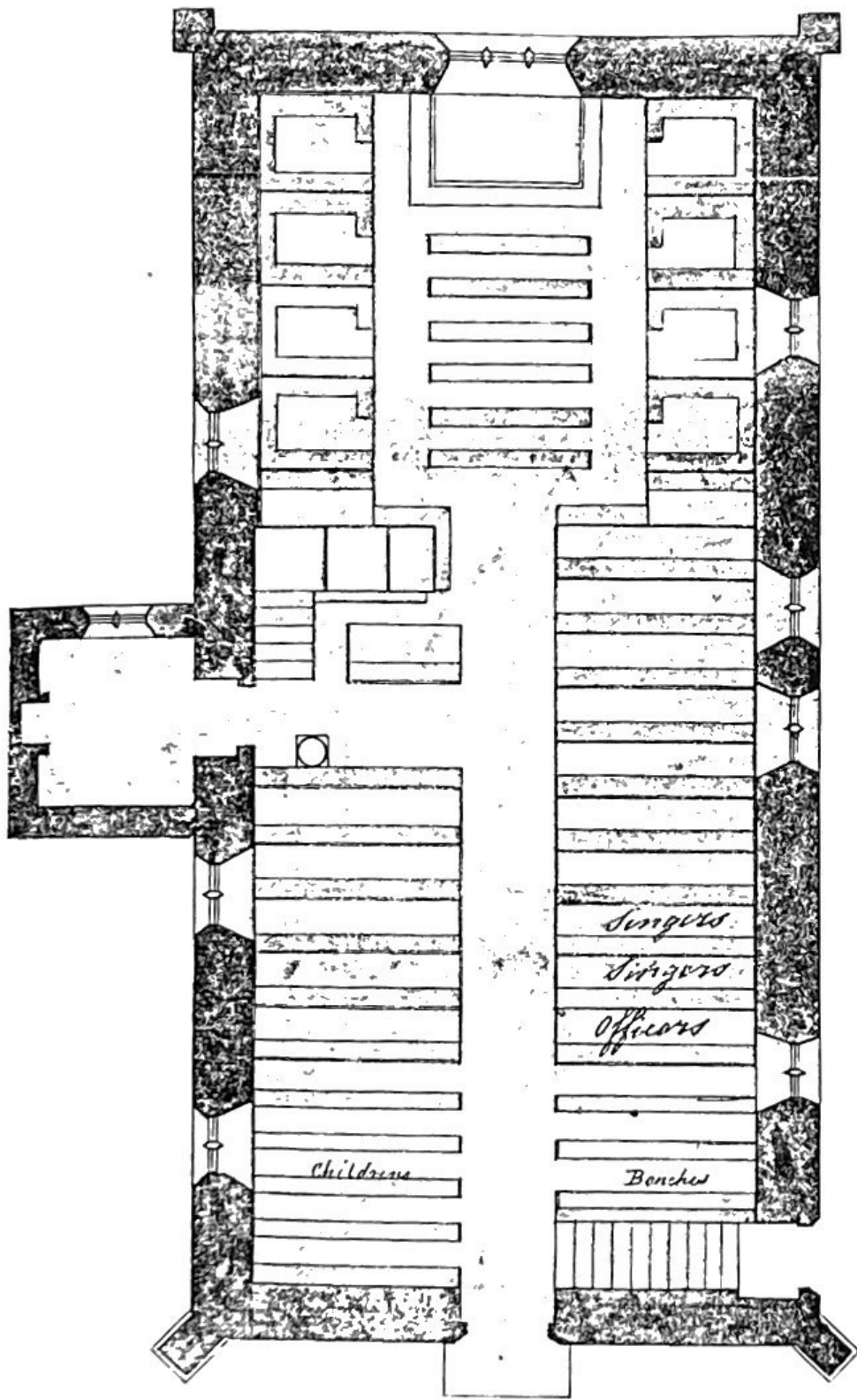
The actual proportion of free and un-
 appropriated Sitings to be
 allotted, in addition to
 the present provision, is *129* *see letter no 5753*
XXIX. besides the School children
see letter no 5753

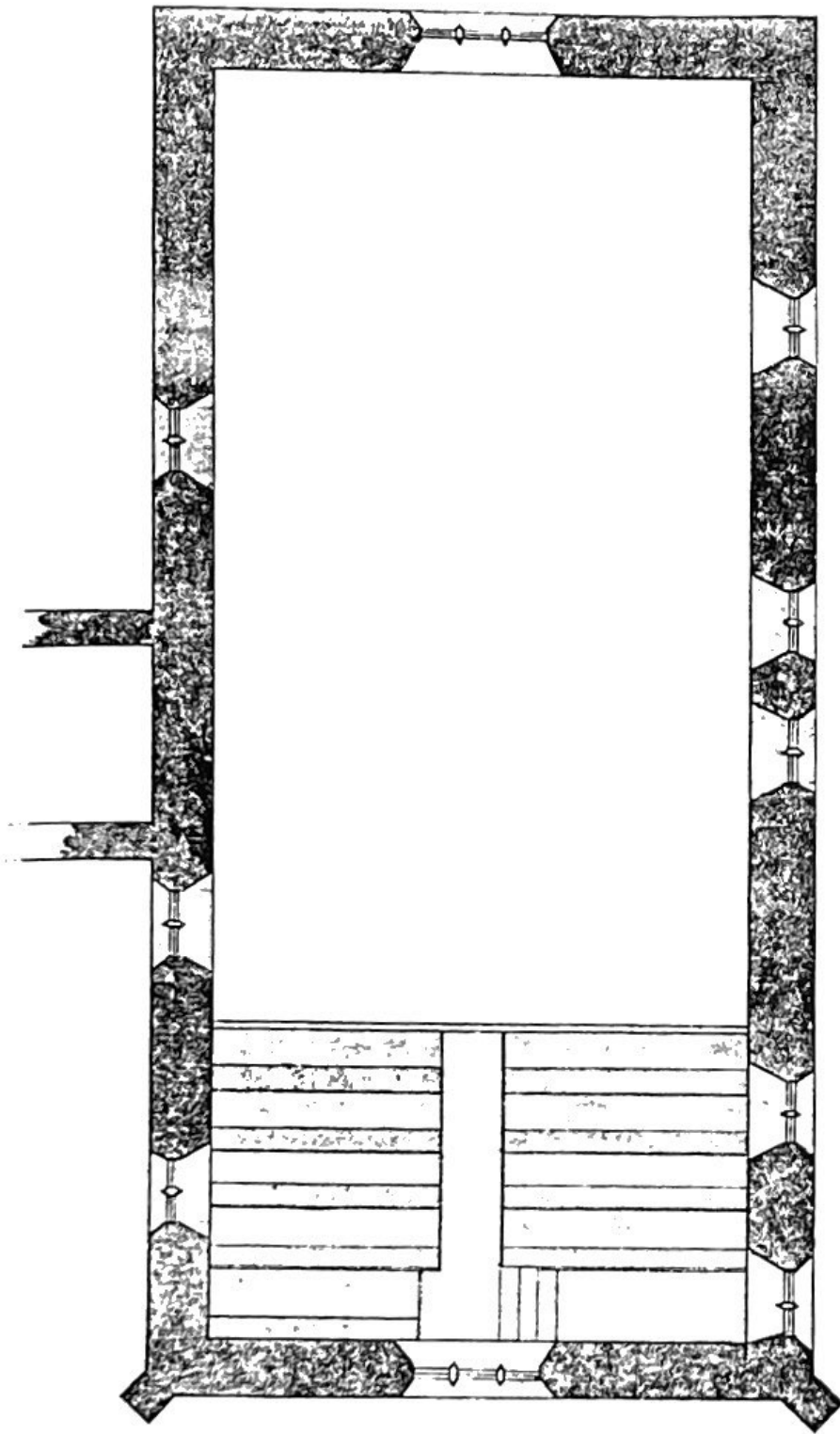
The space allowed for each Sitting is

The Building is of *stone, can also be built, and*
rough-cast with plaster.

The character, description, and di-
 mensions of the Additions are *adding to the length* *10 feet 3 inches*
includes a gallery 3 yards in depth
and along the sides to the West with benches for
seats to accommodate about 50 children.

A Plan to a Scale, showing the present Arrangement and proposed Alteration, is required.





Appendix 13

RATING ASSESSMENTS

The following details shew some of the background aspects to the work of the Overseers of the Poor (appointed at the Vestry Meeting and which could form part of the churchwarden's duties).

"The foundation of liability to Poor Rate and therefore to the Rates which are now levied is in the Poor Relief Act of 1601, by which the Overseers (predecessors of the Rating Authority) were directed to raise weekly or otherwise by taxation of every inhabitant, VICAR and other, and of every occupier of Lands, houses and also competent sums of money for the necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, being poor and not able to work"

Before the passing of the Parochial Assessments Act 1836, it was by no means uncommon to levy the rate on some fraction of the yearly value of the property. This Act provided a definition of 'Net Annual Value' - "the rent at which the property might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenant's rates and taxes and deducting the probable average annual cost of repairs, insurance and other expenses necessary to maintain it in a state to command such rent."

Overseers had almost complete autonomy on rating although there was a right of appeal at the Quarter Sessions. During the early twentieth century the Overseers collected many other rates and the system needed overhauling. In the Rating and Valuation Act 1925 Overseers were abolished and their functions given to the present Rating Authorities together with the provision of a General Rate.

From the District Valuer and Valuation Officer, Preston. 1984.

Appendix 14 (i)

Chester 12310

Ecclesiastical Revenues Commission Office,
44, Parliament Street, August 1882.

The Commissioners appointed by His Majesty, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, to enquire, amongst other Things, into the Revenues of all Ecclesiastical Benefices, Donatives, Perpetual Curacies, and Chapelries, desire the Incumbent of *Euxton* to make a full and particular Statement in reply to each of the subjoined Articles of Enquiry, to be fairly written under the same in the Space left for the Purpose on this Paper, or if the Reply cannot be conveniently written on the same, then on another Sheet to be annexed hereto, such Statements to be severally numbered so as to correspond with the Number of each of the Articles; and to transmit the Articles of Enquiry, and the Statements in reply, to the Commissioners, on or before the 15th Day of November next, addressed "To The Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London," adding in the Corner "Ecclesiastical Revenues Commission."

The Commissioners have adopted this Mode of seeking the Information which they are directed by His Majesty to obtain, relying on the Disposition of all Incumbents to give such full, correct, and explicit Answers as will enable the Commissioners to fulfil the Intentions of His Majesty in issuing the Commission.

It is the Desire of the Commissioners that, where an Incumbent has been in Possession less than Three Years, he should nevertheless make the required Statements, respecting his own Benefice or Cure, after he shall have obtained the best Information in his Power.

By Order of the Board.

William Roberts
Secretary

ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY.

State 1. The Name of the Benefice; and the Name of each Chapelry (if any) thereto belonging, not having a separate Incumbent.

Euxton Chapel. There is no other Chapel belonging thereto.

2. Whether it is a Rectory, Vicarage, Donative, or Perpetual Curacy or Chapelry, and if with or without Cure of Souls.

A Perpetual Curacy, with Cure of Souls.

3. To whom the Rectory belongs, or is reputed to belong, if this Benefice be not a Rectory.

The Great Tithes of the Chapelry are paid to Mr. Anderson Esq. of Euxton Hall, in the said Chapelry.

4. In what County and Diocese, and in what Deanery, the Benefice is locally situate.

In the County of Lancaster, the Diocese of Chester, and Deanery of Leyland.

5. Whether subject to Episcopal, or to some and what Peculiar Jurisdiction.

Subject to Episcopal Jurisdiction.

6. The Name of the Incumbent and the Date of his Admission.

Robert Procter, licensed to Euxton Chapel December 26th 1799.

7. To whom the Advowson belongs or is reputed to belong.

The Advowson is reputed to belong to the Representatives of the late Rev. James Armstrong Rector of St. Michael's near Oxford.

8. The Population within the Limits of the Benefice, specifying the Amount within each Chapelry (if any) thereto belonging, according to the Census of 1831.

The Population according to the Census of 1831 was 1521.

9. How many Curates, if any, are employed by the Incumbent.

One.

State 10. The Amount of Stipend paid to each such Curate, or other Allowance.

£75. - per Annum.

11. The Number of Churches and Chapels, and how many Persons they are severally capable of accommodating.

The Chapel of Euton is capable of accommodating from Four Hundred to Four Hundred and Fifty Persons.

12. What Duty is performed in each Church and Chapel. The Duties performed in Euton Chapel are two full services during the six Summer Months, and one service during the six Winter Months - a Lesson on Good Friday and Christmas Day, and prayers on St. Thomas's Day, and the sacrament administered four times in the Year.

13. Whether there is a Glebe House fit for the Residence of the Incumbent, and if unfit, why?

There is no Glebe House.

14. Whether the Incumbent or his Curate usually resides in the Glebe House, or if not, to whom it is let, or by whom occupied; and, if there be no Glebe House, or none fit for Residence, what Rent is paid by the Incumbent for House or Lodging.

The Rent paid for a House £20. - per Annum, by the Curate.

15. The Gross Amount of the Annual Income of the Benefice (including therein and stating the Amount of those Sums which are due but remain unpaid, and which are not expected to be received) on an Average of Three Years past, ending Michaelmas 1831.

The Gross Amount of the Annual Income of Euton Chapel on an Average of Three Years ending Michaelmas 1831 was £125. 0. 0.

16. How much thereof from Land, whether let, or in the Incumbent's Occupation; and also, if any, how much from Houses.

£125. 0. 0. - from Land - Nothing from Houses above.

17. How much thereof from Tithes, taken in Kind.

Nothing.

18. How much thereof from Compositions for Tithes.

Nothing.

19. How much thereof from Corn Rents.

Nothing.

20. How much thereof from Dividends or Interest arising from Stock in the Public Funds, or Monies appropriated or in any Manner secured to the Benefice.

Nothing.

21. How much thereof from Stipends, Pensions, or some and what other kind of fixed Money Payments,

One Pound per Annum for reading prayers on St. Thomas's Day is payable out of the Maggashy Hall Estate near Cherley.

22. How much thereof from Easter Offerings.

Nothing.

23. How much thereof from Surplice and other Fees.

The Surplice Fee for Funerals may average 15 or 16 Shillings per Annum.

State 24. How much thereof from other Sources not before described, naming them, and the Amount from each.

Nothing.

25. The Gross Amount of the Yearly Payments charged upon and made out of the Income of the Benefice and Glebe Land occupied by the Incumbent, (except Rates and Taxes in respect of the Glebe House and Offices,—Payments in respect of any Mortgage under the Acts called Gilbert's Acts,—Repairs, and Stipend to any Curate or Curator,) on an Average of Three Years past, ending as aforesaid.

There are no yearly payments charged upon and made out of the Income of the Benefice and Glebe Land occupied by the Incumbent.

26. The Amount of each Class of such Yearly Payments, under its proper Title.

Answered in the preceding.

27. The Net Amount of the Average Annual Income of the Benefice, after deducting such Payments (except as aforesaid).

Note. [It is requested that no Deduction be made for the Amount of Sums due and remaining unpaid, though not expected to be received.]

There are no Deductions.

28. Whether the Amount of the Net Yearly Produce, to be stated in pursuance of the preceding Enquiry, may, in the Judgment of the Incumbent, on a full Consideration of the Nature of his Revenues, be fairly reckoned on as the Average Amount, communibus Annis, of the Net Yearly Produce of such Revenues, for the future; or, Whether a greater or less Yearly Sum may, in his Judgment, be expected, and to what Amount, and for what Reasons.

The Incumbent has to remark that a Reduction of Rent of £12. — per Acre on the Lands at Dorseton belonging to the Benefice was agreed upon and allowed by him on the Receipt of the Mentions Rent in 1733. — and that therefore the Gross Amount of the present annual Income of the Benefice instead of £425. 6. —, as stated in the 15th Article of Enquiry, is reduced to £417. 5. — the present Amount of the Net Yearly Produce, which may, from Information to be relied on, be fairly reckoned on as the Average Amount, communibus Annis, of the Net Yearly Produce of such Revenues for the future, but that no greater Yearly Sum may be expected without rebuilding and enlarging the Church House on the principal Estate.

State 29. In case there are any temporary Charges on the Benefice, specify the Nature of such Charges, and the Amount of the Yearly Payments in respect thereof, and at what Time the same will terminate.

There are no temporary Charges on the Benefice.

30. In case there are any other Yearly Payments incident to the Benefice, though not actual Charges thereon, which, in the Opinion of the Incumbent, ought to be stated, specify the Nature and Amount thereof respectively, and such further Particulars as he may deem necessary.

There are no Yearly Payments incident to the Benefice.

31. Whether the Incumbent of the Benefice is, in right thereof, Patron of any and what Ecclesiastical Benefice, Perpetual Curacy, or Chapelry, and give the Name thereof.

The Incumbent is not Patron of any Ecclesiastical Benefice.

Euxton Dignity

32. The Name or proper Title of every Dignity, Prebend, Canonry, and other Ecclesiastical Preferment in any Cathedral or Collegiate Church or Collegiate Chapel; and of every Benefice, Donative, Perpetual Curacy, or Chapelry, with or without Cure, and in what County, Diocese, and Deanery the same may be; and of every other Ecclesiastical Preferment, of whatsoever Kind, now held by the Incumbent; and this is required notwithstanding he may already have made a Statement of such Particulars in pursuance of any other Enquiry made by the Commissioners.

The Incumbent of Euxton Chapel is likewise Incumbent of the Perpetual Curacy of Horwly in the Parish of Melling, in the County of Lancaster, in the Diocese of Chester, and Deanery of Lonsdale.

I *Robert Procter* Incumbent of the said Perpetual Curacy of Euxton do hereby certify and declare, That I have, in the Statements made by me in reply to the several Articles of Enquiry proposed to me by the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty to enquire (amongst other Things) into the Revenues and Patronage of all Benefices, Donatives, Perpetual Curacies, and Chapeltries, with or without Cure, given, to the best of my Judgment, Information, and Belief, a full and particular Account of all Matters and Things required by such Articles of Enquiry to be stated by me. Witness my Hand, this *Fifteenth* Day of *November* in the Year of our Lord 1832.

R. Procter

Appendix 15

Acts regulating Marriages and Registration - 1836.

Two cognate Acts regulating marriages and registration in England were placed on the Statute Book in the year 1836. By the first of these Acts, two new modes of celebrating marriage were provided without interfering with the old privileges of the established Church in regard to marriage by licence or banns. Whilst the essential conditions of notice and publicity were carefully secured, the Superintendent Registrar of each district was empowered either to authorise the celebration of marriage in a duly registered place of worship, but in presence of a district registrar, or to solemnise the ceremony himself, without any religious service, in his own office. Clergymen of the Church of England were constituted Registrars for marriages celebrated by themselves and were bound to furnish the Superintendent Registrars with certified entries of such marriages. The Act was complicated by a variety of safeguards, enforced by heavy penalties against fraud and evasion, but its leading features were simple and have proved effective for their purpose.

It marked an advance on the earlier Marriage Bill of Russell, since it not only allowed dissenters to marry in their own chapels, but *to marry without the banns being published in the parish church.*

The rules laid down by the first Act for registration of marriages were an integral part of a general registration system established by the second Act, and embracing births and deaths as well as marriages. This system rendered possible by the division of the country into UNIONS (Poor Law) brought under effective control the *old parochial registers which had been loosely kept for three centuries.* The statistical value of these returns checked and digested in a central department was fully recognised. The special provisions for the *registration of deaths were also of the utmost service in the prevention of disease and crime.*

Not until after this Act of 1836 was it realised by the mass of people not only that a sudden death would probably be followed by a Coroner's Inquest, but that every death with its circumstances must be treated as a matter of public concern and duly notified.

Still more important in its result has been the requirement of a medical statement on the cause of death, a requirement which at that time brought about the discovery of numerous murders and greatly checked the commission of others.

Appendix 16 (i)

Exton, Wiltshire, Wiltshire

NOTE.—To prevent mistake, particular attention is called to the 8th Constitutional Rule of the Society, as follows, under which ALONE, the Society is authorized by the Act of Incorporation to grant any assistance in cases of repair.

8th CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.

The Committee are at liberty to grant aid towards the repairs of Churches and Chapels, which have fallen into a state of great dilapidation without the neglect or fault of the existing Parishes, and the entire expense of repairing which the Parishes shall prove to the entire satisfaction of the Committee, that they are unable to defray; but in all such cases reference shall be had to the amount of money raised by the Parishes, by rates or subscription, and to the improvement or increase which it may be proposed to effect in the accommodations for the people.

INCREASE OF ACCOMMODATION BY the Creation of a Chancel, & removal of the top of the Bishop of the West, as well with other repairs
 Application from *Mr. B. G. G.* on behalf of the Trustees of Exton in Leg-
 islated for AID towards the Building a Chancel & removing the top of the Bishop (which
 cause great waste as they now stand, & are very inconvenient) with other
 internal repairs. May 1837
 The Chapel is situated in the Diocese of *Exeter*
 and in the County of *Wiltshire*
 and Archdeaconry of _____

- No. 1. The *Chapel* was built about A.D. 1513 of substantial stone walls & with
roof of timber
2. is internally *56* feet long, *23 1/2* wide, *15* high, with *tower* spire *cupola*
3. and has a West Gallery. ~~North Gallery.~~ ~~South Gallery.~~
4. It was last substantially repaired, A.D.
5. at an expense of _____ raised by _____
6. is now in a dilapidated state owing to _____
7. and has been carefully examined by an experienced Architect, Mr. _____ of _____
8. The work is to be completed within *12 months*, during which time Divine Service will *not be interrupted*
9. The estimated cost of the *Trustee's* is *1450* Acres.
10. The assessed Rental of the *2 1/2* takes on a *1000*; Rent, is £ *77 6s*
11. The Poor Rate for the last year, at *10 pence* produced £ *238 11 0*
12. There is ~~Land~~ ~~real charge,~~ ~~money in the Funds belonging~~ applicable for any Church or Ecclesiastical purpose.

- 13. The Plan, Specification, and Estimate, have been submitted to the Rev. Archdeacon
- 14. and a Faculty for the alterations has been granted *Diocesan*
- 15. The Population of the Parish in the year A. D. 1851 was 1581 *as in 1873* of the Parish
13951. *Distance of the Parish from Bishop*
- 16. The actual provision of Church room previous to the proposed alteration (allowing
18 inches by 38 inches to each sitting) is } 350
- 17. Of such present provision the actual number of free and unappropriated
sittings (allowing 18 inches by 38 inches to each sitting) is } 152. *but occupied nearly by the*
Sunday school
- 18. The proposed addition of Church room beyond the present provision, (allowing
18 inches by 38 inches to each sitting) is for } 46-50
- 19. Of the proposed addition beyond the present provision, there will be (allowing
18 inches by 38 inches to each sitting) in free and unappropriated sittings } 46-50
- 20. The total amount of sittings in the Church when the alteration has been
completed, allowing 18 inches by 38 inches to each) will be . . . } 346-50
- 21. Means have been provided for the Congregation to kneel.
- 22. The expense of the necessary Works is estimated at £ 98
viz. increase of accommodation £ 45 repairs £ 53
- 23. The Exactions which have been already made to raise the necessary funds, are *by Rate on Inhabitation*
- 24. The Produce of these exactions, is 58 £
- 25. The only further exactions that can be made, are
- 26. The amount that can be expected from them, is

We do hereby certify that we consent to the Works proposed in the foregoing Application.

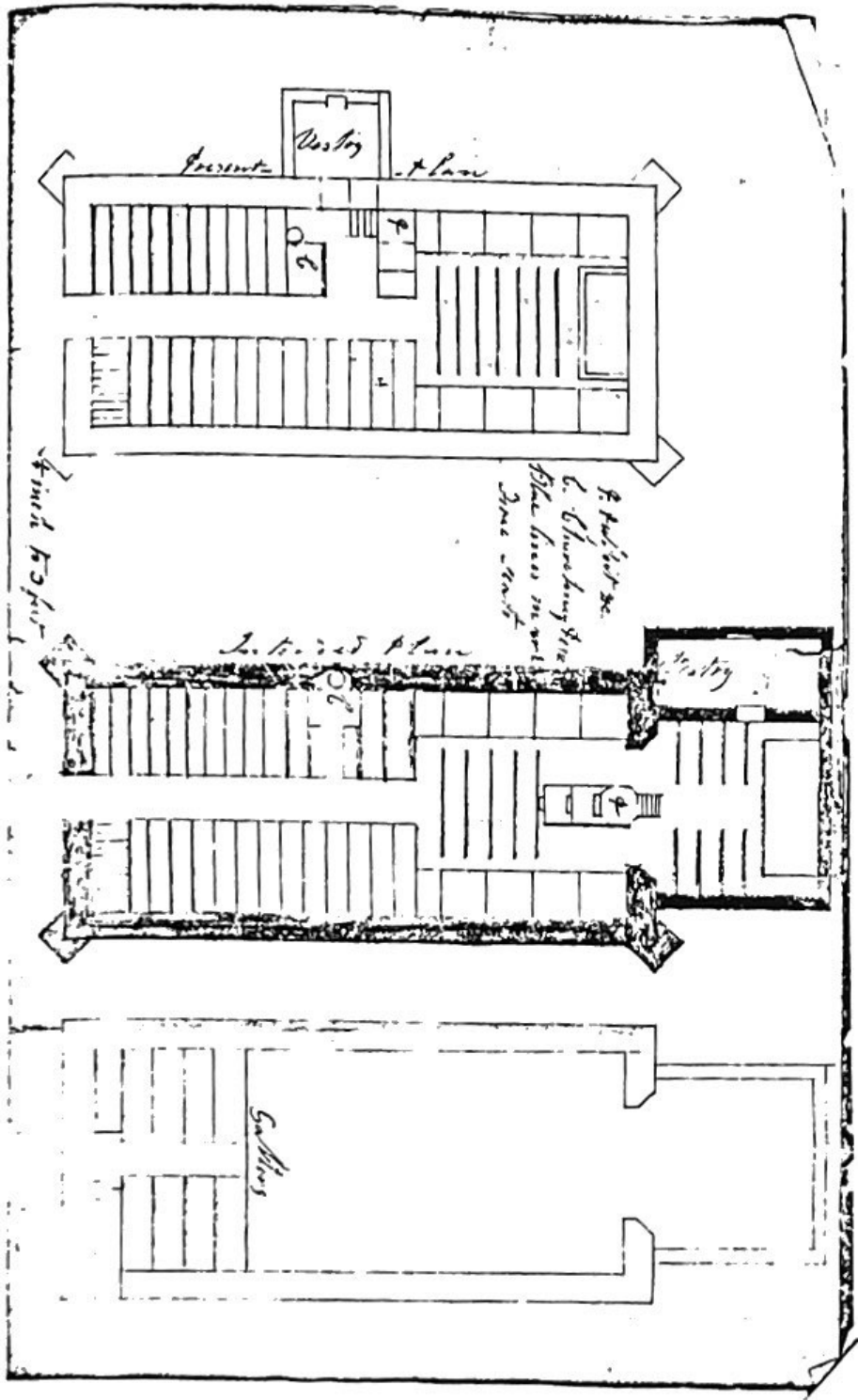
W. H. B. Ordinary.
Frederick Baldwin } *Parson*
Richard Hayward }
W. Frater } *Incumbent.*
by authority to
John Williams Clerk

Note. If the Parish be an exempt or a peculiar (not being a Bishop's peculiar), the application must also receive the assent of the Bishop in whose Diocese the Parish or Place is locally situate.

The foregoing Statement, Application, and Plans, have been examined and approved by me,
Archdeacon of
day of 18

* The following Plans must in all cases accompany the Application.

- 1. A Plan to a Scale, and with the Dimensions marked, showing the present arrangement and proposed alteration; and,
If a new Building, or any enlargement of the present Building be contemplated, the following Drawings are required.
- 2. Plans of the different Floors.
- 3. An Elevation of each Front affected by the proposed alteration.
- 4. A longitudinal and a transverse Section, showing the timbers of the roof, &c. all drawn to the same scale;



Appendix 17

Abstract from a Paper issued by Gardner Baldwin M.A., Vicar of Leyland.

The Paper consists of a statement in 1845 which reads :-

"Having now completed the twentieth year of my Incumbancy, in much humility of soul, confessing my own utter unworthiness, and not presuming to place to my own credit God's manifest blessing vouchsafed through my poor means, do yet for the information of those who feel interested, and those who may come after me, draw up this Record of what has been done during the said twenty years, in public and visible labours for the spiritual and temporal benefit of parishioners at large, to supply the means of grace so far as God has annexed his grace to the due administration of the word and sacraments, and to afford a spiritual education, the means of spiritual food, to the gradually increasing population".

Euxton

Date	Detail	
1833	Euxton Chapel enlarged and gallery erected by subscription and grant from the Society.	£120
1837	Euxton National and Sunday School built by subscription and grant from the Society.	£300
1838	Euxton Chapel again enlarged, new chancel and vestry built by subscription and grant.	£160
1838	Expenses in finishing and levelling Euxton Church Yard and Church Way, paid by parishioners.	£41
1840	Euxton Parsonage - House built by subscription and grant from Queen Anne's Bounty.	£500

These details are contained in the Lancashire Record Office paper reference PR2908/3/27.

Appendix 18

Verbatim Copy of a Paper held by the Diocesan Registrar, Cathedral
Offices Blackburn

concerning the Question of marriages in England under Authority of King William
IV.

"To the Right Reverend Father in God, John Bird, by Divine permission, Lord
Bishop of Chester, We in the County of Patron of the and
Parish Church of in the County of and your Lordships Diocese and the
Reverend of the same Parish and church send greeting. We do hereby certify
and declare to your Lordship our consent and approbation that by and under the
authority of your licence under the hand and seal of your Lordship in pursuance
and conformity to the Act of Parliament made and passed in the 6th and 7th years
of the Reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth intituled "An Act for
Marriages in England" Banns of Marriage may be published and marriages
solemnized within the Chapel of Euxton in the said Parish of Leyland for and in
respect of the inhabitants of the Township of Euxton. In witness whereof we have
hereto set our hands and seal this fourth day of February in the year of our Lord,
One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty eight.

(Signed) Margaretta Frith; Cockayne Frith; James Frith;
Mary Anne Frith; Eliza Frith; William Armetriding Frith;
Thos. Compton; Sarah May Compton; Richard Greswell, Clerk,
Joana Julia Greswell.

Appendix 19

Copy of an extract from a Preston newspaper - "The Preston Guardian" - dated 14th January 1854.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY OF A STILL IN EUXTON CHURCH. - No circumstance has created a more extraordinary sensation in this neighbourhood for some time past than the discovery of a still on Monday last, in a situation certainly the most novel we ever remember to have heard of, and which we should suppose is quite unprecedented. The discovery was made under the following circumstances :- It appears that a few weeks ago some workmen were employed in executing some repairs in Euxton Church, near Chorley, and amongst other things required to be done, were some alterations in the pulpit. The joiner who was employed upon the work, thinking the floor in a shaken condition, removed a portion of it, when to his amazement he discovered what he certainly did not expect to meet with - an apparatus for distillation. It was removed from its singular and incongruous situation, and placed in the vestry of the church. The minister of the church, whose parsonage is close adjoining, was made acquainted with the circumstance, but for reasons which it is not our province to enquire into, the matter was kept secret, and it was only at a late hour on Saturday night last that the facts were communicated to the excise. On Monday morning last, therefore, Mr Peacock and Mr Bentley, of the excise department of inland revenue, obtained a search warrant from Captain Anderton, of Euxton Hall, with power to search both the church and the parsonage. They proceeded to the latter first, and in the pantry discovered a portion of the still - the still-head, we believe. The worm was found in the coach-house, and after a long and diligent search in the church, the remaining portion of the still was found at the bottom of a cupboard in the vestry, covered over with a variety of other articles. The apparatus being now complete, the officers conveyed it to the inland revenue office at Chorley. The still, though almost a new one, appears to have been used several times. It is considered to be made upon a good principle, and is capable of "turning out" (as it is technically termed) upwards of six gallons per night. The circumstances of the seizure have been communicated to the Board of Excise in London.

Appendix 20

Verbatim Copy of a Paper held by the Diocesan Registrar, Cathedral Offices Blackburn concerning the Suspension and Sequestration of the Benefice of Euxton Chapel during the Incumbency of the Reverend John Williams B.A.

Dated 11th December 1877.

Euxton. V.

Sequestration of this Benefice during Suspension of the Reverend John Williams B.A.

Page 1.

Certificate of Publication.

"I, the undersigned, hereby certify that on Sunday the 16th Day of December - One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventyseven previous to the commencement of morning divine service I published the within written sequestration by affixing the same, together with a true and examined copy thereof to the Principal Door of the Parish Church of Euxton in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Manchester and the said two documents remained affixed during the whole of such service, and that I left such a copy affixed.

As witness my hand this 17th Day of December 1877.

(Signed) James Edward Smallpage.

Clerk in the Diocesan Registry.

7, St. James Square, Manchester."

Page 2.

"James, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Manchester to our well beloved in Christ, John Burden of the City of Manchester Gentleman. Greeting:- Whereas by a certain Instrument in writing under our hand bearing date the Fourth Day of December 1877, being the sentence pronounced by us in due course of law upon and against the Reverend John Williams, Clerk B.A., and Incumbent of the Vicarage and Perpetual Curacy and Parish Church of Euxton in the County of Lancaster within our Diocese of Manchester, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Third and Fourth years of the Reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, Chapter Eighty-six, intituled "An Act for better enforcing Church discipline" in reference to certain charges made against the said John Williams on the application of Thomas Bright Crosse of Shaw Hill, Nr Chorley, Esquire, a Justice of the Peace and Henry Alison of Park Hall near Chorley Esquire, Barrister - at - Law, namely of having committed indecent assaults upon Mary Elizabeth Baldershaw (commonly known as Balderson) and divers indecent and improper acts, and of having used indecent and improper language to the said Mary Elizabeth Baldershaw, whereby the said John Williams is suspended for two years to commence from Sunday the 9th day of December 1877 ab officio et a Beneficio, that is to say from all discharge and function of his clerical duties and offices and the execution thereof namely

from preaching the word of God, administering the Sacraments and performing all other offices and duties in the said parish and Parish Church of Euxton aforesaid, and elsewhere in our said Diocese of Manchester and from receiving any of the profits and benefits of the said Benefice".

Signed by James Manchester and sealed 11th Day of December 1877.

Sequel to the foregoing.

19th day of December 1879.

Euxton. V.

Relaxation of Suspension of the Reverend John Williams and the sequestration of this Benefice during the suspension of the Reverend John Williams.

"Endorsement to the Relaxation Certificate."

"I, James Edward Smallpage, of the City of Manchester, Clerk in the Diocesan Registry, Manchester do hereby certify that I did on the 20th December 1879 endeavour to serve personally the within mentioned Reverend John Williams, Clerk, B.A., Vicar or Incumbent of Euxton in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Manchester, with a true copy of the within written original Relaxation of Suspension and Sequestration but being unable to effect such personal service, I did on the said 20.12.1879 serve the said Reverend John Williams with the said True copy in the manner following - that is to say by leaving the same with Alice Pilling the Housekeeper of the said Reverend John Williams at the Parsonage House at Euxton aforesaid, and I further certify that the Reverend John Williams has acknowledged in writing that he has received the aforesaid copy relaxation of Suspension and Sequestration the acknowledgement of which is hereunto Marked A. and I further certify that I did on Sunday 21.12.1879 publish the written original Relaxation of Suspension and Sequestration by affixing the same together with a true copy thereof, to the principal door of the Parish Church of Euxton aforesaid, previous to the commencement of Divine morning service and that after such service I took down the said original leaving the said copy so affixed as aforesaid. Dated this Twenty second day of December 1879.

(Signed) James E Smallpage.

Notes.

(a) Reverend John Williams certificate reads as follows :-

"I acknowledge to have received notice of Relaxation of Suspension and Sequestration Dec 20th 1879."

(Signed) J. Williams.

The certificate is undated

(b) Williams' suspension was lifted by and through him providing a certificate from three beneficed clergymen of his good conduct during the period of his suspension. Their names are not quoted nor is this particular certificate available.

Appendix 21

Particulars and Description of Property belonging to the Church Living of Euxton in the Township of Euxton in the Parish of Leyland and County of Lancaster.

Names of Occupiers	Nos. on Tithe Plan	Names of Field	Quantities Statute Measure A. R. P.	Gross Annual Value £. s. d.	Annual Deductions for Repairs £. s. d.
Reverend John Williams	353	Parsonage House, Pleasure Ground and Garden	1 0 20	21 0 0	1 0 0
	354	Church Yard	1 37		
	6	Chapel Buckshaws	6 2 3	26 0 0	1 0 0
	7	- do -	3 1 36		
	8	- do -	2 3 25		

Certificate - 1879.

Euxton Glebe.

Statement of Property

belonging to the Living

of Euxton obtained by Mr Bell

from the Patron.

Note : Nothing is known of Items 6, 7 & 8 subsequent to this date.

Appendix 22

... on my system as the blocks are not
 put in contact pushing my Patent
 Resilient Impostors with quite close
 joints and being no space beneath is
 a main proof and not liable to dry rot
 and dampness.

I guarantee you a really good and
 lasting job and one which will prove
 itself far superior in cheapness in the
 long run.
 Answering to the favour with your
 esteemed commands

Yours Truly
 R. E. Lowe

Cement Concrete Asphalt & Wood Paving Works
 WORSLEY ROAD,
 FARNWORTH near BURNLEY.

March 25th 1887

J. D. Manning Esq.
 Curator, Chorley
 Lancs.

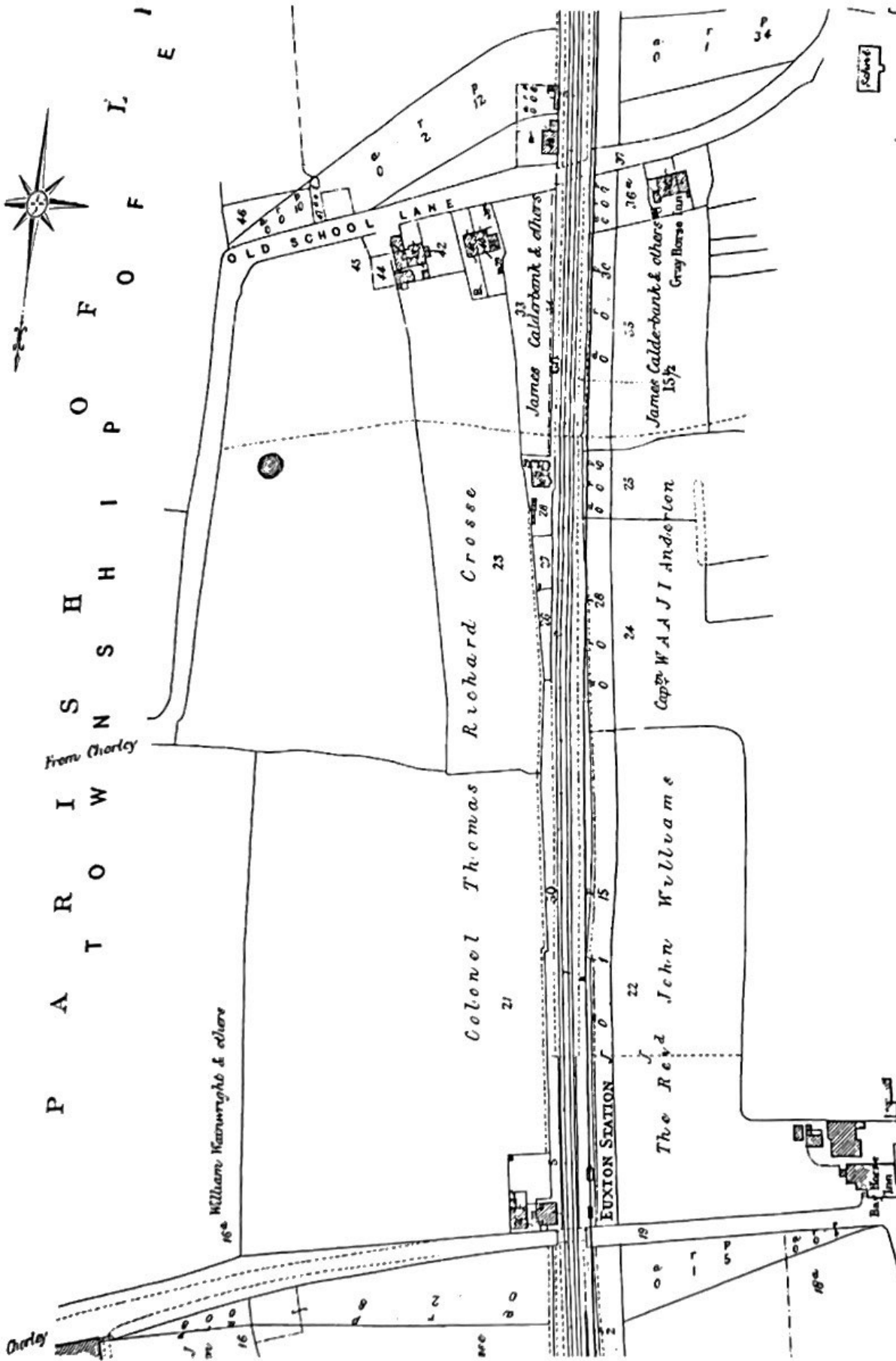
Sir, I refer to your order for 1000 square feet of
 your patent blocks for the Church, which I
 had about 15 1/2 tons for and including
 and cement concrete bed. My Patent is a
 covered concrete which is very strong and permanent
 impervious which is the purpose of the
 system in fact to prevent water and
 moisture from getting in. The price is 1/6 per
 square foot, the total sum of 1000 square feet is
 £167 10s 0d. I will be glad to supply you
 for your supply of all the materials necessary
 for the blocks where necessary.

If the cement concrete bed is laid by
 the contractor it will be bought as per the
 smooth trowel in 1000 feet of concrete,
 of front floor and other parts of the building in
 the finished paper and will allow 1/6 per
 square foot (see also) for employment and
 subject to the rules of the Building and
 the rules for the job.

I may say that the advantages offered by
 my improved system for churches is the slight
 extra cost over the ordinary floor, the
 temperature above of the floor is
 independent from the floor.

These pages deal with the quotation for the supply & fit of wood-block flooring to the Church. As these are now in place in the church, it is reasonable to assume the work was carried out at or about this time.

Appendix 23



Appendix 24 (i)

4366
R
13 APR 1892

Diocesan Registry
Manchester

13th April 1892

Dear Sir

F72310
Exeter P.C.

Diocese of Manchester

This Perpetual Curacy in the Parish of Doynton in the Diocese appears to have existed since 1513, it cannot be ascertained that any district was ever assigned to it.

The Rev. J. Williams who was licensed to Exeter in 1857 always maintained that there was no cure of souls, he has lately died and it is probable that some considerable time will elapse before any appointment is made, owing to a difficulty in making a clear title to the Advowson.

The Bishop is anxious to have a district assigned to the Church as soon as possible, all the neighbouring clergy from whose parishes the proposed district would be taken consent, and I should be glad to know if the Commission would entertain an application for the formation of a district during the vacancy of the living.

Yours faithfully

J. P. [unclear]

The Secretary
Ecclsiastical Commission

Appendix 24 (ii)

THE LONDON GAZETTE, SEPTEMBER 6, 1892.

At the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*,
the 25th day of August, 1892.

PRESENT

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council. Whereas the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Act of the fifty-ninth year of His Majesty King George the Third, chapter one hundred and thirty-four; of the Act of the second and third years of Her Majesty, chapter forty-nine; and of the Act of the nineteenth, and twentieth years of Her Majesty, chapter fifty-five, duly prepared and laid before Her Majesty in Council a representation, bearing date the twenty-eighth day of July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, in the words and figures following, that is say:-

"We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, in pursuance of the Act of the fifty-ninth year of His Majesty King George the Third, chapter one hundred and thirty-four; of the Act of the second and third years of Your Majesty, chapter forty-nine; and of the Act of the nineteenth and twentieth years of Your Majesty, chapter fifty-five, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following representation as to the assignment of a district chapelry to the consecrated church situate at Euxton in the parish of Leyland in the county of Lancaster and in the diocese of Manchester.

"Whereas it appears to us to be expedient that a district chapelry should be assigned to the said church situate at Euxton as aforesaid.

"Now therefore, with the consent of the Right Reverend James Bishop of the said Diocese of Manchester (testified by his having signed and sealed this representation), we the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, humbly represent, that it would, in our opinion, be expedient that all that part of the said parish of Leyland which is described in the schedule hereunder written, all which part, together with the boundaries thereof, is delineated and set forth on the map or plan hereunto annexed, should be assigned as a district chapelry to the said church situate at Euxton as aforesaid, and that the same should be named 'The District Chapelry of Euxton'.

"And with the like consent of the said James Bishop of the said Diocese of Manchester (testified as aforesaid), we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, further represent, that it appears to us to be expedient that banns of

matrimony should be published, and that marriages, baptisms, churchings, and burials should be solemnized or performed at the said church situate at Euxton as aforesaid, and that the fees to be received in respect of the publication of such banns and of the solemnization or performance of the said offices should be paid and belong to the minister of the same church for the time being: Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed as expressing any intention on the part of us the said Commissioners to concur in or approve the taking of any fee for the performance of the said office of baptism or for the registration thereof.

"We, therefore humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take the premises into Your Royal consideration and to make such Order with respect thereto as to Your Majesty, in Your Royal Wisdom, shall seem meet.

"The SCHEDULE to which the foregoing representation has reference.

"The District Chapelry of Euxton being:-

"All that part of the Parish of Leyland in the County of Lancaster and in the Diocese of Manchester which is comprised within and is co-extensive with the limits of the township of Euxton."

And whereas the said representation has been approved by Her Majesty in Council: Now therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her said Council, is pleased hereby to ratify the said representation, and to order and direct that the same and every part thereof shall be effectual in law immediately from and after the time when this Order shall have been duly published in the London Gazette pursuant to the said Acts; and Her Majesty, by and with the like advice, is pleased hereby to direct that this Order be forth with registered by the Registrar of the said Diocese of Manchester.
C.L. Peel

Appendix 25 (i)

JOHN CAMON
Register

Common Registry
Exeter. Feby. 9th 1794.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing Postal order and Stamps value 6s.

The desired search has been made, but I cannot find any record in this Registry, as to the dedication, or consecration, of your Church. In all the documents relating to it up to 1795, it is simply described as 'Suxton Chapel', and after that date, as 'the Perpetual Curacy of Suxton'

Yours faithfully,

John Camon.
per 1794

The Rev^d.

H. J. G. Beloe.

Appendix 25 (ii)

Diocese of Blackburn
Diocesan Registry, Cathedral Close,
Blackburn BB1 5AB

LESLIE RANSON, LLB
Solicitor and Notary
Registrar and Bishop's
Legal Secretary

THOMAS A. HOYLE, LLB
Solicitor and Notary
Deputy Registrar

My Ref: LR/DW Your Ref:

18th May, 1988.

The Revd. D. Raitt, B.D.,
The Vicarage,
Wigan Road,
EUXTON,
Near Chorley, Lancs.

My dear Vicar,

Euxton Parish Church.

Thank you for your letter of the 11th May about the Consecration of Euxton Parish Church. There is no Sentence of Consecration in the records here, but this does not mean that the Church was not Consecrated. It is by no means uncommon in the case of very old churches that the Sentence of Consecration cannot be found and, in view of the long time in which it has been acknowledged to be a Parish Church, burials have taken place in its churchyard and that in the past Faculties have been granted for various purposes connected with it, Consecration may be assumed.

There is in the Registry a Grant in 1754 of various rights to pews in the Church. This Grant recites the introduction into the Church, under the authority of a Faculty dated 12th September, 1724, of various furnishings, including the pews, which were allotted in 1754. This document also has a note endorsed on it that it was confirmed by Faculty in 1755.

According to the Diocesan Directory the Church was rebuilt in 1724. It would be rebuilt on a Consecrated site and the Faculty of 1724 was obviously concerned with the re-furnishing of that Church.

Yours sincerely,

Telephones (0254) 56144 (after office hours (0254) 54105)

Private Telephones: Registrar (0254) 59205 Deputy Registrar (0254) 49876

- Notes
- (a) See also Source Note No 111 which concerns a search by the Diocesan Registry, Chester. This states they could find no documentary proof up to 1795 when it was simply identified as "Euxton Chapel" and from that date, Chester records show it as the "Perpetual Curacy of Euxton".
 - (b) The comments on the third paragraph overleaf are not in line with the information collected from other sources.

Appendix 26

CHARITIES

In this context, the stress is laid upon those charities currently under the control of the Vicar of Euxton Parish Church and the details commence in the year 1686. It was not always the case that the many items were controlled by the Vicar as the following details will indicate.

There were five charities plus the Goosnargh Hospital information and these were:

- (a) Hoghton's Charity.
- (b) Hodson's Charity.
- (c) Pincock's Charity.
- (d) Oakenshaw's Gift.
- (e) Beatson's Gift for Bread.
- (f) The Goosnargh Hospital

(a) Hoghton's Charity

Richard Hoghton by Deed in 1686 gave land vested in William Roscow and producing £1 10s 0d per annum for cloth to the poor of Euxton. When Hoghton died his will did not contain an ongoing provision for the act of charity. The date of the cessation is not known but on the 3rd February 1863, the Incumbent of Euxton, The Reverend John Williams stated to the Charity Commissioners that it was some thirty years before his letter that the last charity issue was made. The charity does not continue.

(b) Hodson's Charity.

This man died in 1701 and left £40 to be invested at 5% with the income to be given yearly to the poor of Euxton and to be laid out in linen cloth. Hodson by trade was a linen webster. He appointed Trustees in his Will and they were named as Thos. Sumner; Ellis Sumner; Richard Armetriding; Richard Hodson and Hugh Smith. The Charity still continues.

(c) Pincock's Charity.

The Will of this man dated 29th March 1716 and proved at the Episcopal Court in Chester in 1727 gave to Thomas Pincock and his heirs, his part of a close called "Highfield", lying in Euxton and containing about two acres, and a parcel of "waste ground" called "Old Lane", upon trust, and out of the yearly profits to pay 20 shillings a year for ever to the poor inhabitants of Euxton at Christmas and a like sum of 20 shillings to the Curate of the Chapel of Euxton for the time being so long as the said Chapel should continue under episcopal government. The Charity still continues.

(d) Oakenshaw's Gift. (also referred to as "Charity")

Henry Oakenshaw by his Will dated 18th September 1744 left £10 to be placed on good security as directed and directed that the yearly interest be laid out in bread to be distributed amongst the poorest housekeepers in Euxton "that resorted to the Chapel there on St. Thomas's Day yearly". In the Charity Commissioner's Report of 8th August 1898 as laid before the Honourable The House of Commons, all records of this Charity had disappeared ?

(e) Beatson's Gift for Bread.

John Beatson by his Will dated 19th July 1792, gave to the Minister and Churchwarden of the Chapelry of Euxton, and their successors £100 upon Trust for investment. The legacy was used to purchase £144 5s 9d of 3 percent Consols. Dividends of £4 6s 6d per annum were to be applied to the distribution of threepenny loaves at Euxton Chapel after morning service amongst such poor persons of the township as constantly attended divine service. The Reverend Robert Procter, John Metcalfe, Robert Latham and William Clarkson were Trustees. The Reverend Henry Brierley was Curate of Euxton Chapel. The Charity still continues.

(f) The Goosnargh Hospital.

The township of Euxton is one of the places entitled to participate in the benefits of this charity.

Charity Commission action subsequent to the foregoing. Now covered by a scheme including the appointment of Trustees and vesting in the official Custodian for Charities. Reference number of this scheme is L3(R)E/221,195 A/1 dated 29.9.1977.

This action consolidated items b,c and e above and placed them under the day to day control of the Vicar of Euxton acting as ex-officio Trustee and two cooptative Trustees. Full details are given in the scheme of the methods of disbursements.

Appendix 27 (i)

EUXTON CHURCH.

Architect's Description of Restoration Work.

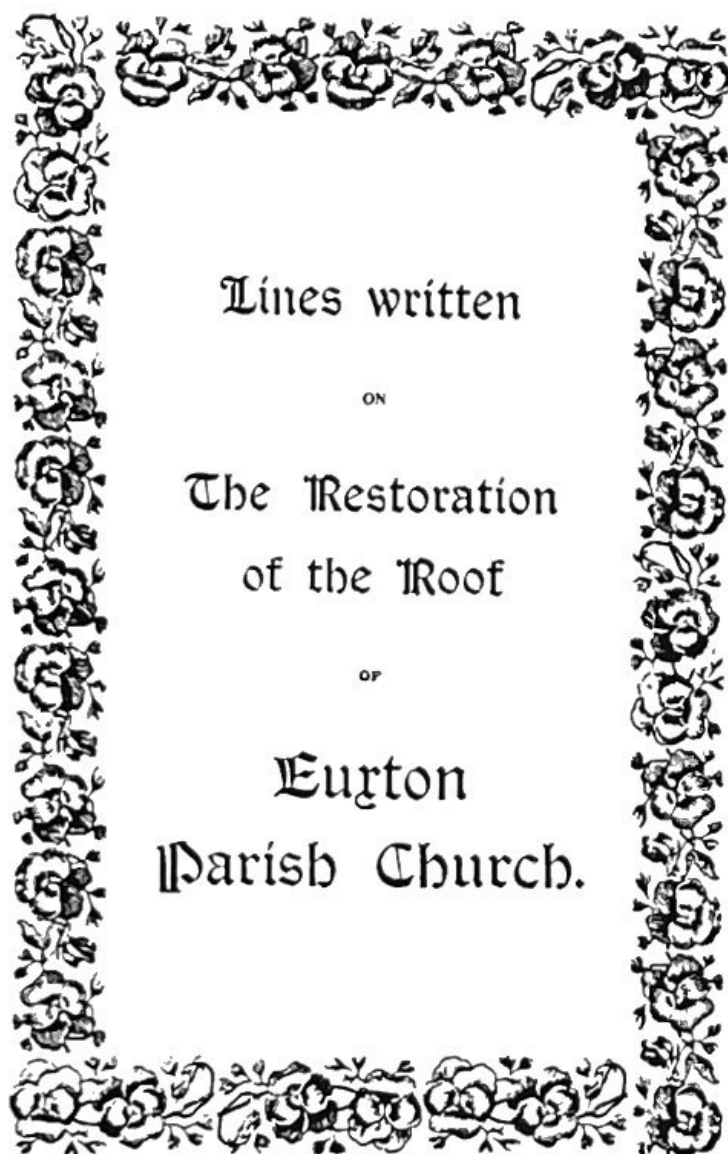
A report on the state of Euxton Church, which is undergoing restoration and repair, has been issued by Mr Isaac Taylor, F.R.I.B.A., of Manchester.

The report states that a considerable amount of sap wood was used in the sixteenth century oak roof which has led to extensive surface decay and loosening of joints, resulting in a general spreading of the roof, and in several cases to the actual breaking of the principal backs. The side walls have also been pushed out of plumb. On examination, it appeared that in spite of the apparent decay there was an ample core of sound timber to do the work, if the spreading of the roof could be counteracted. To do this, a simple arrangement of tie rod and steel channels has been inserted at the back of each roof principal. The decayed sap wood has been scraped away, and the defective joints between purlins and principals have been strengthened with oak cleats bolted through the principal back. A few rafters and pieces of wind bracing which were found to be too far decayed have been replaced by new, and oak curved ribs have been added to strengthen the pitch pine principal at the west end, which would appear to have been put in in the 18th century, when the west bay of the church was built. The grey stone slates have all been stripped, and the roof straightened a little by packing on the top of the rafters where sagging was greatest. The church has been reslated with the old slates; the wooden strut and great stone buttress set against, but not bonded with, the north wall have been removed and small sections of the wall taken out and rebuilt, grouting with cement into the adjoining walling. The ivy has been cut away from the west wall and the rough cast stripped, and the stonework is being pointed and grouted. The plaster between the rafters had to be stripped, and this is replastered. The pulpit, which was made of some Jacobean panels fixed in yellow pitch pine framing has been reconstructed, and the position altered slightly. The floor is being repaired, and the plastered walls distempered.

The work of restoration and repair has been undertaken by Mr E. Mathews, builder and contractor, of Euxton, at the direction of Mr Fyfe, the architect for the recent restoration of Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament. The state of the roof of Westminster hall was caused by the ravages of the beetle, but at Euxton Church no trace of beetle, insect, or fungus of any kind has been found - the weak places being due to wear and ordinary decay.

[From "The Chorley Guardian", March 6th 1926]

Appendix 27 (ii)



IN the years long ago our village church roof
Was fashioned of stout English oak, forsooth,
But time and the withering hand of decay
Have caused two or three of the beams to give way.

So a fitting abode they've erected near,
And taken the pews from that old church dear;
The organ has gone on a holiday glad,
But the font remains standing alone and quite sad.

Bereft now of ivy the west wall looks bare,
The birds will miss it, that fine, bushy lair,
For years they have built 'mong its dary glossy leaves,
And warbled and sang to their friends in the trees.

The floor is all strewn with the debris of work,
And toilers are there, who no duty will shirk.
Contractor and architect, master and man,
Are patiently working according to plan.

So little by little, and day after day,
The task of restoring still goes on its way,
They have taken the buttress from off the north side,
But never a hidden church deed have they spied.

Historical spot with a beauty austere,
Its folk, how they love it, each corner revere,
Great honour it seems this old roof to repair,
You'll long search the country to find one more fair.

Antiquity lovers, they've come by the score,
No doubt. when it's finished there'll come a few more.
Oh! could this old stone church reveal her own past,
We should hear but a tale of mankind to the last ?

For it stood when Queen Bess was her people's delight,
When Cromwell ruled England, and came here a night,
When Milton wrote sonnets, and Johnson his book,
It has weathered the storms, this old church by the brook.
There'll be joy 'mong the folk, when the work is complete,
And the worshippers once more in safety may meet.

There'll be praise and thanksgiving in prayer, and in song,
To God, the great Father to whom all belong.

A.B.

Euxton,
March, 1926.

Appendix 28

Restoration Fund Appeal - Euxton Parish Church.

Year 1952.

"This ancient building is in urgent need of structural repairs in order that it may remain for many centuries to come the landmark it now is.

The weight of the roof is so great that the roof timbers are spreading at their feet, and are pushing the walls out of line.

The Architect's suggested remedy is in the use of wrought ironwork to arrest the spread of timbers and the erection of a buttress on the north and south walls. To execute this work it is estimated that a sum of at least £950 is necessary.

Consequently we are making a general appeal for this sum and invite all people who have at heart the interest of the Church to contribute freely to the Restoration Fund.

A subscription form is annexed, in the envelope provided to the collector who brought it to you!".

Appendix 29 (i)

LANCASHIRE RECORD OFFICE

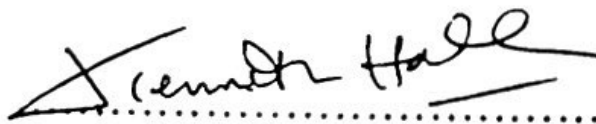
Designated Diocesan Record Office for the Diocese of Blackburn

RECEIVED OF The Revd D. Raitt, B.D., The Vicarage, Wigan Road, Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire in accordance with the provisions of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure, 1978, section XX/10/XX*, the register books and/or records of the parish of EUXTON, (dedication unknown) scheduled below; to be returned to the person who would have had custody of them had they not been so deposited only in accordance with section 13 or section 17(2) of the said Measure.

* Delete section(s) not applicable.

NOTE: Under section 10(6) of the above Measure this receipt shall be kept with the register books and record retained in parochial custody.

Date: 14 September 1983



.....
Chief Officer of the
Diocesan Record Office

SCHEDULE

Registers of baptisms, marriages and banns, 1918-1978, 6 vols.

Registers of services, confirmations and communicants, 1892-1977, 10 vols.

Marriage licences, 1840, doc.

Licence for the solemnisation of marriages, 1838, doc.

Clergy papers, 1954-1960, 2 bundles

Collection and offertory books, 1953-1970, 4 vols.

P.C.C. accounts, 1949-1977, 3 vols., bundle

Appendix 29 (ii)

PAROCHIAL REGISTERS AND RECORDS MEASURE, 1978

SURVEY REPORT TO THE BISHOP

PARISH EUXTON, (dedication unknown)

DATE OF SURVEY 15 AUGUST 1983

1. State of Records

Those kept in the parish church wall safe are mouldy and have been deposited in the Record Office where they will receive appropriate treatment. The few papers kept in the floor safe are in good condition. Records which seem to be missing include churchwardens' accounts, inventories, vestry minutes, also P.C.C. minutes before 1949.

2. State of Storage

Some of the remaining records including the current registers are kept in the wall safe, while others are held at the vicarage. The relative humidity in the vestry on the day of the survey was 62%.

3. Intentions of Parish

The deposit at the time of the survey was the second, an earlier one being made in 1971.

4. Recommendations.

It is suggested that inquiries be made of the churchwardens and other parishioners as to the location of any other records. It is also recommended that the records remaining in the church and those kept in the vicarage be stored in the floor safe rather than the wall safe, in the vestry. Otherwise, the parish is acting in accordance with the Measure.



..... Signed

Diocesan and County Archivist

14th September 1983 Date

Appendix 30

Baptism details - 1734 to 1781 inclusive.

Year	Township	Male	Female	Total	Remarks
1734	Not Stated	4	2	6	
1735	Euxton	4	5		
	Not Stated	1	—	10	1 Family – papists
1736	Charnock Richard	—	2		
	Euxton	2	—		
	Not Stated	3	2	9	
1737	Charnock Richard	—	1		
	Euxton	2	2	14	1 child base born
	Not Stated	5	4		
1738	Charnock Richard	3	2		
	Euxton	1	—		
	Leyland	1	—	17	1 child base born
	Shaw Green	1	—		
	Not Stated	4	5		
1739	Charnock Richard	3	—		
	Heapey	—	2	17	1 family Catholic
	Wheelton	2	—		
	Not Stated	3	7		
1740	Charnock Richard	2	1		
	Heapey	—	2		
	Wheelton	3	4	24	
	Euxton	5	5		
	Leyland	1	—		
	Upholland	—	1		
1741	Charnock Richard	6	2		
	Euxton	3	2	14	3 children base born
	Not Stated	—	1		
1742	Charnock Richard	3	—	13	2 children base born
	Not Stated	3	7		
1743	Charnock Richard	3	1	10	
	Euxton	3	3		
1744	Charnock Richard	—	3		
	Euxton	4	1		
	Wheelton	2	—	19	
	Cuerden	—	1		
	Leyland	—	1		
	Not Stated	4	3		
1745	Charnock Richard	3	3		
	Wheelton	—	1	13	
	Euxton	3	2		
	Not Stated	1	—		
1746	Not Stated	7	2	9	
1747	Not Stated	9	9	18	1 child base born
1748	Not Stated	7	4	11	
1749	Not Stated	10	2	12	
1750	Not Stated	11	10	21	
1751	Not Stated	3	2	5	

Baptism details - 1734 to 1781 inclusive. (cont.)

Year	Township	Male	Female	Total	Remarks
1752	Not Stated	4	8	12	
1753	Not Stated	3	4	7	
1754	Not Stated	2	2	4	
1755	Not Stated	5	8	13	
1756	Not Stated	2	5	7	
1757	Not Stated	6	3	9	
1758	Not Stated	11	6	17	
1759	Not Stated	3	4	7	
1760	Not Stated	5	2	7	
1761	Not Stated	—	5	5	
1762	Not Stated	7	4	11	
1763	Euxton	9	2	11	
1764	Euxton	8	5		
	Charnock Richard	1	—	14	
1765	Charnock Richard	1	—	15	1 base born — male
	Euxton	5	9		
1766	Charnock Richard	1	1	7	
	Euxton	2	3		
1767	Charnock Richard	3	1	15	
	Euxton	7	4		
1768	Charnock Richard	1	1	7	1 base born — female
	Euxton	—	5		
1769	Charnock Richard	2	3	14	1 base born — female
	Euxton	2	7		
1770	Charnock Richard	1	—	10	
	Euxton	5	4		
1771	Charnock Richard	—	1	13	
	Euxton	5	7		
1772	Charnock Richard	4	3	14	
	Euxton	3	4		
1773	Charnock Richard	2	2	14	
	Euxton	7	3		
1774	Charnock Richard	3	5	13	1 base born female
	Euxton	4	1		2 base born male
1775	Charnock Richard	1	1	16	1 base born female
	Higher Charnock	1	—		1 base born male
	Euxton	3	10		
1776	Charnock Richard	7	4	20	1 base born male
	Euxton	3	6		2 base born 1 M & 1 F
1777	Charnock Richard	4	2	21	1 base born female
	Euxton	8	7		1 base born male
1778	Charnock Richard	1	3	9	
	Euxton	—	5		
1779	Charnock Richard	1	3	23	1 base born female
	Euxton	10	9		
1780	Charnock Richard	—	4	13	1 base born female
	Euxton	3	6		
1781	Charnock Richard	4	4	21	1 base born female
	Euxton	5	8		
Total	1734 — 1781	310	301	611	

Appendix 30

Notes

- (a) At February 19th 1775 James Armetriding is shewn as Minister.
Thomas Beatson is named as Church Warden.
At March 12th 1775 James Armetriding M.A. is the Minister.
Richard Broxop is named as Church Warden.
At January 21st 1776 James Armetriding M.A. is the Minister.
Richard Broxop is named as Church Warden.
At May 26th 1776 James Armetriding is the Minister.
Ralph Tootall is named as Church Warden.
At March 23rd 1777 James Armetriding is the Minister.
Ralph Tootall is named as the Chapel Warden.
At November 16th 1777 James Armetriding is the Minister.
Ralph Tootall is named at Chapel Warden.
At June 13th 1779 James Armetriding is the Minister.
John Jewson is named as the Chapel Warden.
- (b) Over a space of almost fifty years, baptismal details for the sexes are almost in balance.
- (c) During the period 1746 to 1762 the details of the township location were omitted. Why was this? During these years there were three incumbents viz. Richard Clayton, Richard Meadowcroft and John Lowes.
- (d) Note the wide catchment areas particularly in the early years. Whether this was due to an absence of incumbents in the areas concerned, or the families had connections with the families and chapel (church) of Euxton is not known? It is to be noted that a catholic family registered a birth in 1739 and this was shortly after the chapel (church) had come under the total influence of the Church of England.
- (e) The early years to 1774 are an integral part of Leyland Parish Church records held on microfilm at the County Record Office, Preston.
- (f) See Volume 128 of the Parish Register Society publication issued in 1990.

Appendix 31

ORGANISTS

Names of people who have performed the duties of organist, and in certain instances, that of the choirmaster down the last few years. Their actual dates of service in this position are not on record at this date.

- a) Miss H.E. EVANS
- b) Miss SUSAN PHILLIPS
- c) Mr. KEITH HALLIWELL
- d) Mr. DENNIS NELSON
- e) Mrs. LOIS CAESAR

The last named person is still officiating as the combined organist and choirmaster.

Plates

1. External view of south wall to the nave shewing 'blocked' doorway; westernmost window and garden seats.
2. View of church bell - note the manufacturer's name - John Taylor, taken from inside the bell tower during roof repairs in 1993.
3. Interior of church looking east towards the chancel and the "Jesse" window.
4. External view of east end shewing "new" vestry, chancel, boiler room/toilets.
5. External view of north wall to the nave shewing doorway entrance used by the incumbent when the original vestry was outside this doorway.
6. External view of a datestone affixed on the west elevation of the nave below the bell tower. See page 17.

PLATE 1



PLATE 2



PLATE 3



PLATE 4



PLATE 5



PLATE 6



Section 3

The Vicarages

(with Appendices and Plates)

Section 3

The Vicarages

The first (original) vicarage

The first official mention of a parsonage house (vicarage) comes from a paper prepared by a man named FH Cheetham, in the year 1925^a where he states "The parsonage house, now known as the vicarage, was erected in 1838 at the charges of Lady Houghton of Astley Hall as a gift to the newly appointed vicar, the Reverend John Williams" (1838 to 1892) who had succeeded the non-resident incumbent the Reverend Robert Procter (1799 to 1838).

According to the Reverend Gardner Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, the cost was five hundred pounds which was raised by subscription and grant from Queen Anne's Bounty.

The detail is only partially correct,

The date of Williams' tenure at Euxton is as stated and Procter was the non-resident incumbent, but the man who was in post was the Reverend Henry Brierley and Williams succeeded him on his death in 1838. How long Procter continued as the non-resident incumbent is not known, but it is highly probable the practice of plurality of livings ceased during the 19th century.

Procter was the incumbent at Claughton where he ran a private school in addition to his pastoral duties.

It is not known who carried out the building of the parsonage house (vicarage); the cost of the land surrounding the parsonage house and from whom it was obtained is also unknown.

Details are not available as to any maintenance charges for this house or whether these were met out of church funds.

The physical description of this parsonage house (vicarage) is as follows:

Ground floor

Porch; hallway; large study; lounge; sitting room (or dining room); kitchen; small larder; small utility room and boiler room (oil fired heating system).

First floor

Five bedrooms (various sizes), one bedroom with an adjoining dressing room; bathroom; separate lavatory.

^a Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancs. & Cheshire, Vol.LXXVIII, New series, Vol.XLII entitled *Euxton Chapel* by FH Cheetham, FSA. A paper read to the society on March 12th, 1925 Chorley Library (Reference Section) book A15/78 pps 21-54

Cellar

A series of rooms with the communication system extant (bell signalling).

External structures

Lavatory; garage and former stable.

The overall area was three thousand square feet.

The foregoing details are indicative of the factual position of the house as it stood in the early years of 1980 and represent the probable changes which had occurred down the years from 1838.

Some general comments on the years 1838 to 1892

The first occupant was the Reverend John Williams, a man who apparently never married but who seems to have resided in the parsonage house (vicarage), except for the years 1877 to 1879, during the whole of his ministry. Presumably he had a housekeeper who *lived in*, but who this was and how many served his needs down the years is not known.

What is of interest in an indirect manner and which presumably had a great bearing on the decision by Lady Houghton (assuming this detail is correct) to arrange the erection of the house, is the correspondence which passed between Procter (the non-resident incumbent) and Brierley the curate actually in post at Euxton, and the Bishop of Chester in the early years of the 19th century. This is reproduced verbatim at Appendices 1 and 2 of this section. The comment in Brierley's letter in the final paragraph is illuminating indeed!!

Actions since 1949

As the parochial Church Minute books for the years prior to 1949 are not available, it is not possible to trace any action/s concerning the parsonage house (vicarage) down the years to this particular date.

It was found necessary in the year 1950 to redecorate the vicarage rooms following subsidence of the house. How extensive this was, what other costs were involved and the redecoration costs are not known. What caused the subsidence is not known.

Some twelve months later in 1951, the Diocesan (Blackburn) Surveyor recommended that part of the vicarage should be demolished. Why this was considered necessary; whether the work was ever done; who did it and at what cost is not known. It appears from later comment that part of the structure suffered from dry rot, and it was also agreed that the architect should provide estimates of the cost regarding work on the vicarage outbuildings.

By 1956 it seems to have been necessary to carry out further remedial work on the structure and for an estimate given as £502 12s 4d, a man named A M Ashworth was to be given the task of reroofing the building. A contribution of £225 was made by the Church Commissioners towards the cost of this work.

In the year 1981 it was then quite clear this original structure, now almost one hundred and fifty years of age (see plate after Appendices), was past the better part of

its useful life. Not only was it costly to keep heated due to the many rooms, but damp conditions, particularly in the bedrooms, were prevalent. Following consideration by the Parochial Church Council, a decision was taken to dispose of the structure and to use the proceeds towards the cost of a new, smaller and modern vicarage, and authority was sought through the Diocesan (Blackburn) authorities and Queen Anne's Bounty to proceed accordingly.

It was decided to erect the *new* vicarage on part of the existing orchard; to use a common driveway serving the previous and proposed vicarages and to use such materials - particularly for the brickwork, roofs and window frames as would blend as harmoniously as possible with the church fabric. The parish was consulted on these matters.

The *new* vicarage was to be one thousand eight hundred square feet in area - almost half that of the previous vicarage - and was to have four bedrooms; a bathroom; a shower and a toilet area all on the first floor with a study; living room; dining room; kitchen; utility room; garage and main offices all at ground level.

Work commenced in 1983 and the *new* vicarage was taken into use in 1985. The previous vicarage had been disposed of by sale in the interim.

The cost and contribution details shew:

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Sale of former house	56500.00	Cost of building house	64782.62
PCC gift	7500.00	Surveyors fees	5954.76
Commissioners grant	3750.00	Agent's fees	1274.64
Diocesan Pastoral A/C	6536.26	Solicitor's fees	732.05
		Building Regulation fee	80.00
		Interest	1462.19
TOTAL	74286.26	TOTAL	74286.26

A contribution is made by the Parochial Church Council to the Diocesan authorities and this is held in a Dilapidations Fund account, so that should repair work be found to be necessary to the structure, funds are available to meet the need. The contribution is assessed on an annual basis by the Diocesan Surveyor.

Appendix 1

Transcript of a Letter written by the Reverend Henry Brierley, Curate in charge of Euxton to the Bishop of Chester.

Sir,

I have received your favour of the 19th instant, in answer to which I have to inform you there is not any parsonage house at Euxton.

The late Reverend Mr. Lowes resided in the mansion house belonging his own estate which stands in the northern extremity of the Chapelry.

Indeed there is not in the whole village with the exception of one or two, anything but the poorest cottages.

I am Sir,

Your most obt Servant,

H. Brierley.

CHORLEY.

March 21st 1804

Appendix 2

Transcript of a Letter written by the Reverend Robert Procter, non-resident Incumbent at Euxton to the Bishop of Chester.

"To the Right Reverend Father in God, Henry William by Divine permission, Lord Bishop of Chester.

The petition of the Reverend Robert Procter, Clerk, Curate of the perpetual curacy of Euxton in the county of Lancaster and your Lordship's Diocese of Chester."

"Sheweth"

"That the said perpetual curacy is a Benefice of small value not exceeding one hundred pounds a year and is duly served by the Reverend Henry Brierley who is licensed thereto and resides in the adjacent parish of Chorley within a mile distant from Euxton being the nearest convenient residence he can obtain, there being no parsonage house belonging to the said perpetual curacy.

That your petitioner is also licensed Stipendiary Curate of the Rectory of Claughton in the said County and personally serves that cure.

Your petitioner therefore prays that your Lordship will be pleased to grant him your licence to reside out of the Chapelry of Euxton aforesaid for the purpose of exempting him from pecuniary penalties and forfeits pursuant to an Act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of His Majesty King George 3rd.

Dated this 18th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six.

(Signed) R.J.Procter"

"Certification"

"To the Right Reverend Father in God, Henry William, by Divine permission Bishop of Chester.

We whose names are hereunder subscribe do certify your Lordship that the contents of the annexed petition are true.

(Signed) Fredrick Needham- Vicar of Tunstall

John Tatham - Vicar of Melling"

PLATE 1



Front of the original vicarage. Note how the first step to the entrance has been worn away by the passage of feet over some 150 years.

PLATE 2



Front and side of the "new" vicarage.

Section 4

The Churchyard and Glebe (with Appendices and Plates)

Section 4

The Churchyard and Glebe

The Churchyard (or Chapelyard as it was formerly known)

Most people, when walking through the present churchyard, will probably assume that this area has always been as now seen but this is not the case at all, and the historical details are tenuous indeed.

The burial areas lie to the south and south west of the church, with extensions east and north. There are distinct areas of age, very evident indeed as an examination of the gravestones makes clear. There are vertical and horizontal memorials, but there is no evidence anywhere of there having been any vault sited in any area.

To the south west of the nave in the Garden of Remembrance is a pedestal sundial. It has a circular baluster stem with moulded top and base, and stands on two circular stone steps. Its height above the top step is four feet six inches and the steps are each seven inches high. In 1926 there was a plate affixed to the sundial with the following inscription:

Rich^d Broxup

Churchwarden

1775

In Whinney Lane, which lies half a mile east of the church, there is a very old farm known as Broxups and it is reasonable to assume that this man lived there. He figures on a number of occasions in the records of Leyland Parish Church when that structure acted as the *mother church* to Euxton.

Also in the Garden of Remembrance is an old stone font which is commented upon in a book published in 1909 by Fishwick and Ditchfield entitled *Memorials of old Lancashire* Volume 2 which states:

"The ancient Baptismal Fonts of the Hundreds of Leyland and West Derby, Volume 2 written by John W Elles, MB, FES.

Euxton

The font in Euxton Church has been described as of early date (see Baines History of Lancashire, Volume 4). This may be the case, but there is no character about the plain recut circular bowl supported on a modern shaft of classical design that could possibly help one to decide whether the bowl is an ancient (possibly Norman) one or whether the whole font is of comparatively recent date."

The oldest memorial stone is one dated 1787 and this records the death of a young child. This memorial stone - which is horizontal - lies south of the nave almost in line with the restraining buttress at the south west corner.

At that time the incumbent was James Armetriding. It is stated this man was the patron of the living, but it is far from clear what authority he had for allowing burial action to take place. It is not known how he came to possess the lands to the north, south and south west of the church at that time, and there does not appear to be any record of any authority from the Bishop and Diocese of Chester which authorised the burial actions prior to 1885. Nor are any details available as to the consecration of the lands concerned. Armetriding continued as incumbent till 1795 when he was succeeded by the Reverend John Lowes. During the subsequent incumbencies of Brierley followed by Williams they approved the burials of thirty persons whose memorial stones are chiefly sited on the north side of the nave.

Action to Regularise the Churchyard Area - Phase 1

What followed in the period from 1787 to 1885 is shrouded in mystery, and the available evidence is that the official action to regularise the lands around the church in order to form a cohesive and coherent authorised consecrated burial area occurred on 26th January 1885. At that time a Colonel Crosse who resided at Shaw Hill, Chorley, sold an area of land as an *extension* to the burial ground and this land was shewn as a quarter statute acre and was sited immediately east of the chancel. It measured ninety two feet east to west and forty eight feet two inches north to south. The use of the word *extension* in this context is significant indeed.

The cost of this parcel of land was twenty five pounds. There were further charges, details of which can be found at Appendix 1 to this section, and it will be seen that the overall cost of creating this first official graveyard was seventy three pounds two shillings and four pence.

A plan was prepared by a James Dereham who is quoted as being a surveyor and this allowed for two hundred and fifty graves to be placed in this area. Whether this was ever adhered to is not known.

A petition for consecration was presented to the Bishop of Manchester on 18th August 1886 and the land concerned was consecrated by him at 12.45 in the afternoon of 3rd September in that year.

By a conveyance dated 4th November 1899, Miss Kathleen Mary Crosse and others transferred a parcel of land, as detailed in Appendix 2 to this section, to the Reverend HJG Beloe and others in consideration of a sum of three hundred pounds in total. It clearly indicated land which became the only glebe land belonging to the parish church and was in area some four acres, one rod and two poles. The area lay immediately behind the land which had been acquired from Colonel Crosse in 1885 as the first official graveyard area.

On 3rd August 1904, the area conveyed by Miss Kathleen Mary Crosse was then conveyed by the Reverend HJG Beloe and others to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty in order to provide augmentation of the stipend of the incumbent.

Further action - Extension of the Churchyard area - Phase II

By the year 1938, the vicar at that time, the Reverend T. Mason, had written to Queen Anne's Bounty on the 17th September seeking permission to extend the existing churchyard in an easterly direction by using a section of the glebe land purchased in 1899 from Miss Kathleen Mary Crosse.

Following correspondence with the Ecclesiastical Commission - now the Church Commissioners - a Deed of Conveyance dated 13th December 1938 was sealed by them and subsequently deposited in the Diocesan Registry, Blackburn, with a copy for deposit in the Euxton church vestry safe. The Conveyance quotes the Reverend T. Mason as the authorising officer.

Some doubt seemed to exist as to whether or not planning permission should be obtained from the Chorley Rural District Council, but on 25th November 1939 the application by the church was duly approved by the Rural District Council.

In order to have this additional burial area consecrated it was necessary to obtain a certificate from the Rural Dean of the Diocese of Blackburn, that the ground was "in every respect in a fit and proper state for consecration". The Act of Consecration was approved by the Bishop of Blackburn on the 25th May 1941.

There is in existence a public footpath signposted from the A49 trunk road, and proceeding in an easterly direction alongside and outside the churchyard boundary wall to the south. This particular wall only continues approximately half-way towards the British Rail boundary fence.

The public footpath leaves the conjunction with the churchyard boundary wall and then proceeds in a north easterly direction across the second extension of the churchyard. At the present time, the footpath leads directly across the gravestone memorials which have been sited in this further extension to the churchyard area - see Appendix 3 to this section.

As the question of introducing an extension to the churchyard area arose in the early years of the Second World War - 1939 to 1945 -, it would appear that the action to divert the public footpath away from the existing location was not taken at that time, and as subsequent events and comments will clearly shew, nothing has been done to correct the problem.

Matters concerning the Churchyard in the Post Second World War Years

In 1945 a wayleaf agreement was signed by the Reverend Hubert Charles Hill as incumbent, and the Lancashire Electric Power Company for the provision of an underground electricity cable running alongside the boundary fence of the British Rail system and proceeding south across what was then regarded as the glebe land.

This part of the glebe land was subsequently sold to a local builder - William Marsden of Wigan Road, Euxton - and properties have been erected thereon.

It is not known if action took place between the Diocesan Registry, Blackburn, and the North West Electricity Board regarding the responsibility for this cable and the wayleaf payment/s.

Construction of Sewer under the Churchyard and Glebe land

Immediately below the southern boundary wall of the churchyard and looking south, can be seen a substantial iron tubing system supported on brick plinths across Chapel Brook valley and this is in fact a sewer which proceeds to the Common Bank sewerage treatment works, Chorley. The line runs north under the churchyard and glebe land and is presumably connected in School Lane.

This was apparently constructed in 1949 by the Chorley Rural District Council, and it is clear that the work was carried out without either a faculty or licence from the Consistorial Court of the Diocese of Blackburn. It was considered desirable, in the interests of the health of the inhabitants of Euxton, and the Rural District that the sewer should remain in the present position.

After protracted correspondence between the Diocesan authorities, the Church Commissioners and the local Rural District Council - now abolished under the terms of the 1974 Act of Parliament - the sum of three hundred and forty six pounds seven shillings and sixpence was paid to the incumbent to cover the costs of a claim for the sewer, easements, manholes etc., at *Church Field*. It seems evident that this patch of land provided an area used by the nearby Church of England Day and Sunday School.

The easement valuation was given as one hundred and eighteen pounds seven shillings and sixpence.

What line the sewer pipework follows across the original glebe land is not evident from any records held in the church vestry safe nor the Blackburn Diocesan Registry.

Other Matters

Consideration was given in 1949 by the Parochial Church Council to the provision of fencing from the southern boundary wall down to Euxton Chapel Bridge thereby enclosing the southern area of the glebe land, but nothing was done in the matter and whether this was due to the right of way of the public footpath is not clear.

In 1952 a decision of the Parochial Church Council resulted in the erection of a substantial wooden flagpole and this was sited west of the congregational entrance to the church. It was used on selected days in each calendar year but in 1980, being found unsafe, it was demolished and has never been replaced.

Also in that year, action was carried out by a man named E. Tomlinson to erect a combined store place cum gravedigger's hut on a piece of land adjacent to the vestry. This small building was demolished and replaced by the *secure* structure now occupying the area and has been in situ for some three years.

The year 1953 saw the Parochial Church Council agree to maintain grave number 25 in proper order and repair. This action arose from a gift of one hundred pounds to be invested for church funds in order to provide the necessary maintenance. It is not known if this action is still in operation.

The gradual movement amongst the population towards cremation caused the Parochial Church Council to consider the implications of this matter, but nothing was done during this time to provide a separate area within the churchyard, and it was not until 1981 that a positive action to create a Garden of Remembrance was initiated and subsequently brought about.

There are two seats in this area - both wooden - each carrying an identity plate. One seat was given in memory of Ellen, the wife of Francis Hodgkinson, and their son Kenneth, dated October 1978; and the other in memory of Paula Read aged seven

and a half years who died 10th November 1986 and her Aunty Mary and Uncle Eric who both died 10th June 1990.

Earlier mention has been made of the public footpath which crosses the graveyard and directly across some memorials, and in 1950 the Parochial Church Council decided to make application to the Rural District Council to divert the public pathway. Nothing was done at that time by either party to expedite the matter, but in 1954 the Vicar at that time, the Reverend W. Hope, proposed to write to Lancashire County Council and the Diocesan Registrar, Blackburn, seeking authority to carry out diversion action. Nothing transpired from his proposed action.

On the 4th December 1963 the Parochial Church Council decided to seek approval from the Rural District Council to carry out diversion action, but as with previous occasions concerning this matter nothing was done. Whether this was due to apathy is not clear but it is difficult not to see this as the reason for the lack of progress. The matter was raised again in 1977 and at Appendix 4 to this section (i and ii) are details of correspondence and a drawing from Chorley Borough Council - who now had control of such matters following the merging of the Rural District Council under the 1974 Act of Parliament. Nothing has yet been done in this long drawn out matter to resolve the problem.

A short distance north of the lychgate and bordering the A49 trunk road, are two police residences and a small police office all in a self-contained block. In 1956 Lancashire County Council initiated moves to purchase an area of approximately one thousand and sixty five square yards of land from the existing glebe land to erect the properties - see Appendix 5 to this section. Following protracted correspondence with all parties, the matter was resolved by the year 1957.

Financial details were as follows:

i. Purchase money for glebeland	£250 0 0
ii. Diocesan Surveyor's Charges	18 18 0
iii Diocesan Registrar's Charges	7 10 0
iv Church Commissioners Solicitor's Charges	5 5 0
Total	<u>£281 13 0</u>

Cash received from the sale of the glebeland went to the Bank of England for the Church Commissioners.

At the junction of School Lane and the Wigan/Preston A49 trunk road in the year 1990, is a bungalow with attachments now used as a dentistry practice. On this site originally stood a structure consisting of a small cottage with ground and first floors and this building was the first school house to be taken into use in the village. Details as they affect the school will be found in Section 5. Suffice it is to say at this juncture that it was sold to Mr & Mrs W.J. Brierley with the area of land on which it stood. As the original land area of the property was awkward in shape, the Brierleys purchased a piece of glebeland in order to make a rectangular area - see Appendix 6 to this section.

The cottage was known at that time as "West View". The land they purchased totalled some four hundred and forty square yards and the cost of the purchase was

sixty pounds. The conveyance is dated 13th February 1963 with the cash arising from the sale going to the Church Commissioners.

It appears to have been the practice to include maintenance of the churchyard and presumably the parsonage - vicarage - lawns as part of the verger's duties, but by a decision of the Parochial Church Council on 26th May 1964 this maintenance was to be carried out by hired help. This was done until 1979 since which time a number of male and female members of the congregation have performed the various tasks.

During 1964 Lancashire County Council purchased a small strip of land from the area immediately in front of the first parsonage - vicarage - house and leading towards the lychgate. This was necessary in order to straighten out that portion of the A49 trunk road in view of the increasing volume of traffic on that road. Cost and conveyance details do not appear to be available. The increasing use of motor cars by members of the congregation when attending church services, created congestion on the small area in front of the original parsonage (vicarage) house and in 1976 it was decided to use a portion of the glebeland immediately to the rear of the Police houses and adjacent bungalow, as a car park area. With the approval of the Diocesan authorities an area was set aside and taken into use. The cost of the first phase was £1,700. Upgrading the area to the present day standards was carried out in 1987 and costs were approximately £6,000.

The year 1983 saw the need to amend the layout of the individual gravestone areas, and approval was sought from the Diocesan authorities to advertise, in accordance with legal requirements, action to remove the kerbstones from every individual grave area. This action would assist in churchyard maintenance and enable modern grass cutting machinery to be used thus lessening the work content.

Following press publicity through local and the various Lancashire county area newspapers, action was duly carried out. A number of families however, objected to the proposals and these family grave kerbstones have been left *in situ*. Where graves are allocated in future years, no grave kerbstones will be allowed to be placed with the headstone.

Appendix 1

* Euxton Church Additional Burial Ground. *



SUBSCRIPTIONS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rev. J. Williams, Incumbent	5	0	0
J. D. Manning, Esq., Churchwarden	5	0	0
W. Bretherton, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. L. Whitehead	2	2	0
Major Priestley	3	3	0
H. Rawcliffe, Esq.	5	0	0
W. Mayhew, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Mayhew	5	0	0
Rev. T. B. Baldwin	5	0	0
Col. Crosse	5	0	0
Collected at Consecration	6	16	3
Mrs. Talbot	3	0	0
T. Rice, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Rice	1	1	0
Miss Harrington	5	0	0
Col. Silvester	5	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0
Mrs. Dewhurst	1	0	0
Mr. Derham	0	10	0
Mr. Haughton	0	10	0
Mr. Lawrence	0	10	0
Mr. Critchley	0	3	0
Mr. T. Fairclough	0	3	0
Small Subscriptions	3	14	6
Less Expenses	0	5	0
				£74	12	9

PAYMENTS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. Derham, Plan of Land	2	2	0
Col. Crosse, ½ acre of Land	25	0	0
Messrs. Wilson & Deacon, Solicitors, Legal Expenses given
Mr. Dewhurst, Draining Pipes	1	16	0
Mr. Tomlinson, Draining Tiles	0	12	0
Iron Hurdles, Gate, &c.	12	6	6
Mr. Thornton, for Thorn Quicks, &c.	2	4	11
Consecration Forms of Service	0	4	9
Diocesan Charges	9	1	10
H. Moon, digging Ditch for Fence	3	1	7
T. Bretherton, digging Drains	10	12	3
Sexton Weeding and Levelling	1	6	9
Ridding-up old Fence, &c.	2	6	3
Mr. J. Derham, Plan for 250 Graves	1	10	0
Register Book for Graves	0	9	0
Expenses of Printing and Postages	0	8	6
Balance passed to Church Expenses Account.	1	10	5
				£74	12	9

The above Accounts examined and passed at a Vestry Meeting, held on the 14th April, 1887.

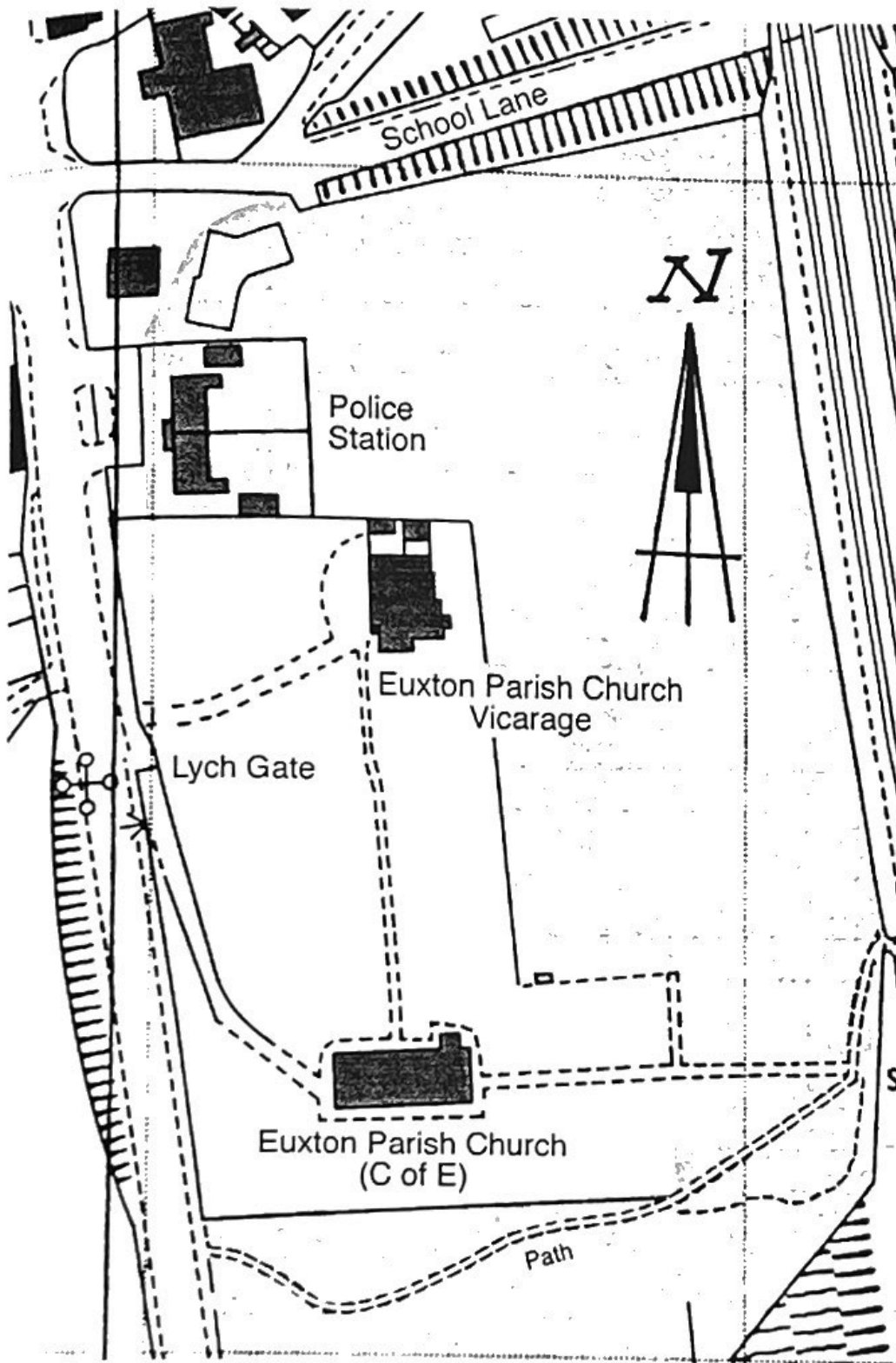
J. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

J. HIRDLE, PRINTER, "STANDARD" OFFICE, CHORLEY.]

In a letter from Charlesworth Secty to the Bishop of Manchester dated 24 June 1886 he gives the consecration date of the first portion of the Burial Ground as September 3rd 1886, at 12.45 in the afternoon.

Appendix 2

Land purchased from Kathleen Mary Crosse - 4th November 1899



Not to scale

Notes: a. Shaded area was sold by Conveyance No. 515008 dated 4th November 1899 between Miss Kathleen Mary Crosse and others and the Reverend HJG Beloe and others.

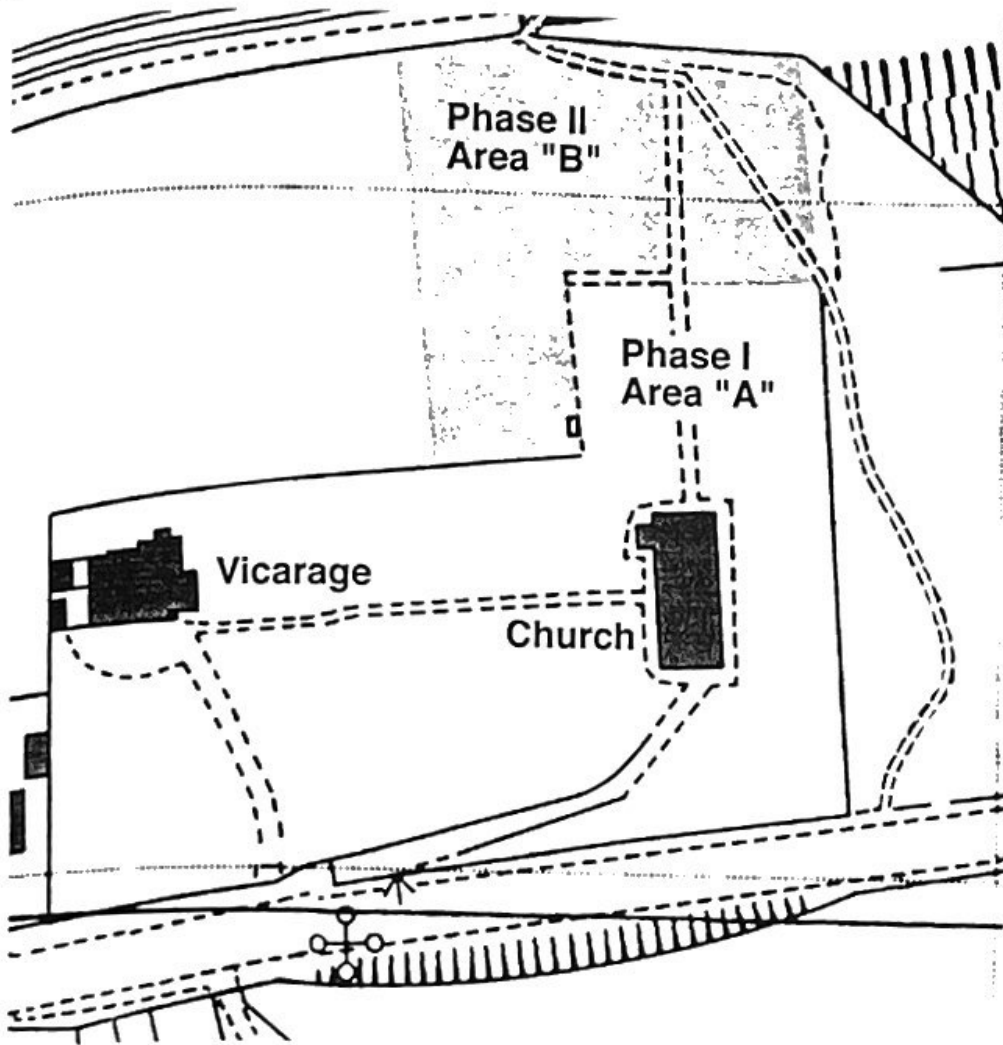
b. Land area was 4 acres 1 rod and 2 poles. Cost £300.

Appendix 2

- c. The public footpath across the churchyard is shown by the dotted lines - marked path.
- d. Area became Diocesan glebe land in 1978. Residue of land south of the churchyard southern boundary wall is now under control of the Blackburn Diocesan Glebe Committee and the only remaining glebe land area.
- e. The information for this Appendix was obtained from records of Euxton held in the Blackburn Diocesan offices.

Appendix 3

The Plan which shews the second (phase II) extension to the churchyard



Not to scale

- Notes:
- Shaded area shown as Phase II was taken from the land purchased from Kathleen Mary Crosse (see Appendix 2) in 1941 - Area B
 - Less than one acre in area.
 - Area A purchased from Colonel Crosse (see Appendix I).

Appendix 4 i

Chorley Borough Council

A. B. Webster, Solicitor,
D. M. A. A. M. B. I. M.

Chief Executive
and Town Clerk.



Town Hall,
Chorley,
Lancs. PR7 1DP.
Telephone: Chorley 5611.

My ref. PAO/MOD W/9
Your ref:

When calling or telephoning please ask for
Mr. J. Speak

18th November, 1977.

Dear Sir,

Public Footpath No. 20 Euxton

... Further to my letter of the 7th November, I now enclose copy of a map showing more clearly the line of the footpath. You will notice that this crosses the graveyard and it was noted by a member of my staff and a member of the Engineer and Director of Work's staff when visiting the site that the line of the path runs over a number of graves. It would appear, therefore, that a Diversion Order is necessary and a suggested route is shown in blue on the plan. I should be pleased to have your comments.

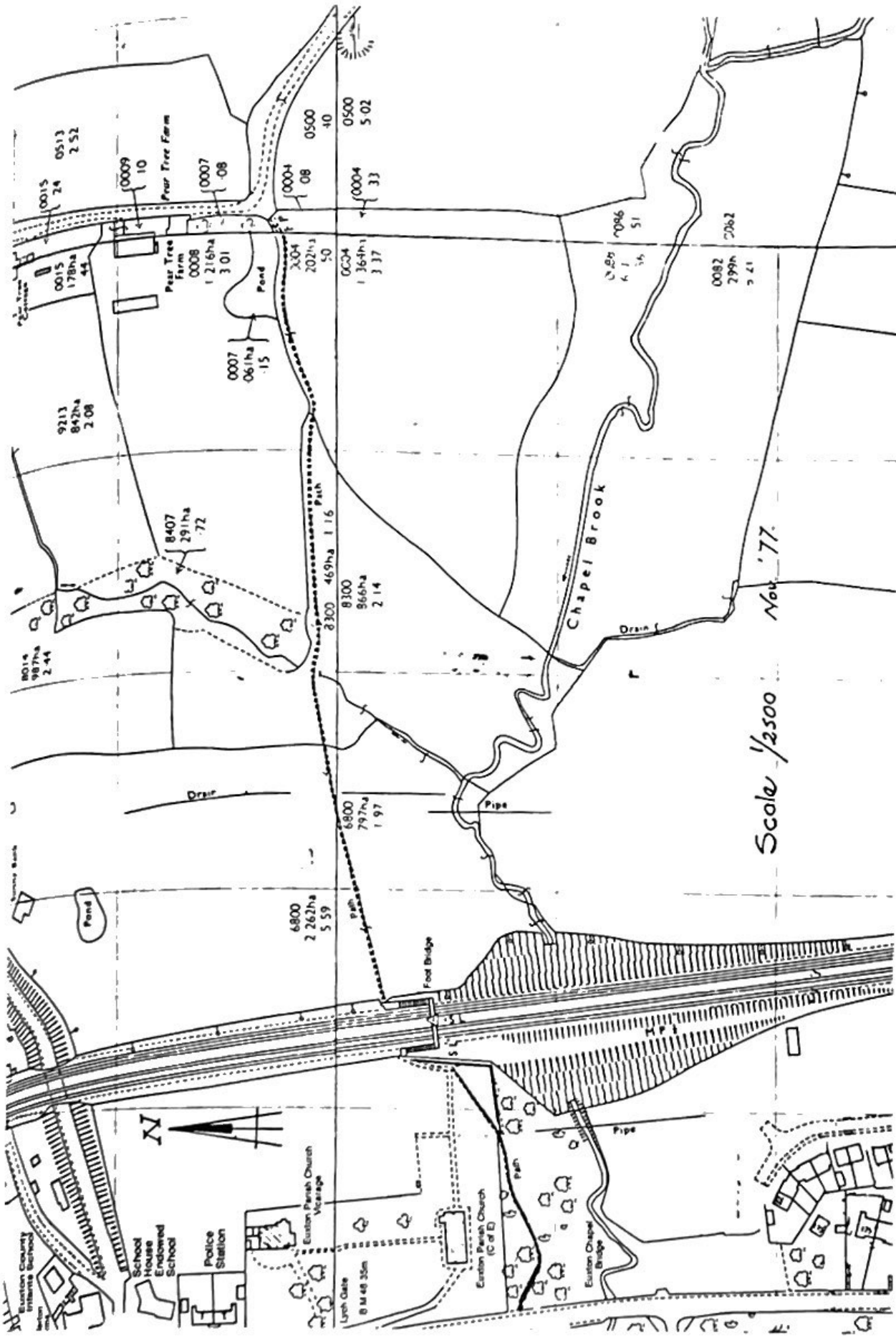
Yours faithfully,

A. B. Webster

Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. H. Walsh,
Avondale,
2 Queensway,
EUXTON,
Chorley,
PR7 6PW.

Appendix 4 ii



CHORLEY Borough Council

J.W. Davies M.A., LL.M. Solicitor, Chief Executive
Town Hall, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1DP



Telephone (Direct Line) (0257) 244200
Switchboard (0257) 265611, Ext 4200
Fax No (0257) 241066
Please ask for Mr J W Davies
Your Ref
My Ref
W/P No Execl1\1308my1
Date 13th August 1993

Mr H Walsh
Avondale
2 Queensway
Euxton
Chorley
Lancs
PR7 6PW

Dear Mr Walsh

PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 20
EUXTON PARISH CHURCH

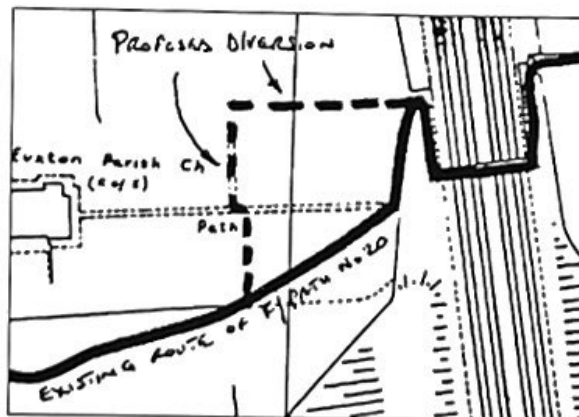
Thank you for your letters of 23rd March and 27th July.

The need for a diversion of part of the route of footpath No. 20 in Euxton was reported to the Technical & General Services Committee on the 14th July. The Committee recommended that a diversion order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 be prepared and subject to Council approval on the 21st September an order will be processed and the footpath diverted as shown on the attached plan no. HWY112. The Euxton Parish Church Council have been consulted over the matter and are in agreement with the proposed re-routing.

We are pleased to give permission for the inclusion of the documents in your forthcoming publication. I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you success with your book and thank you for bringing this long outstanding matter to our attention.

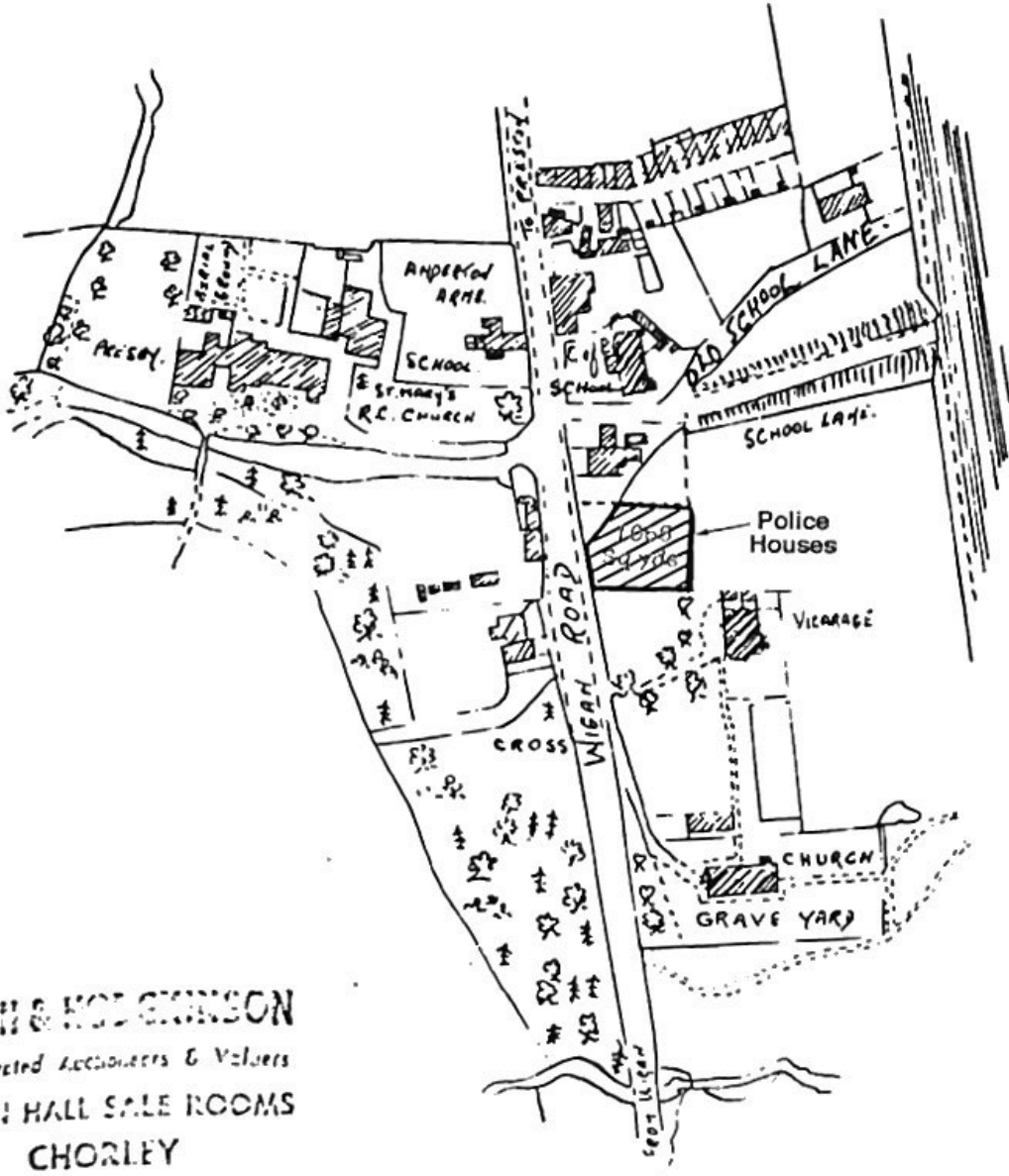
Yours sincerely


for Chief Executive



This letter was received after the manuscript
for the book had been completed.

Appendix 5



SMITH & HODGKINSON
Incorporated Auctioneers & Valuers
TOWN HALL SALE ROOMS
CHORLEY

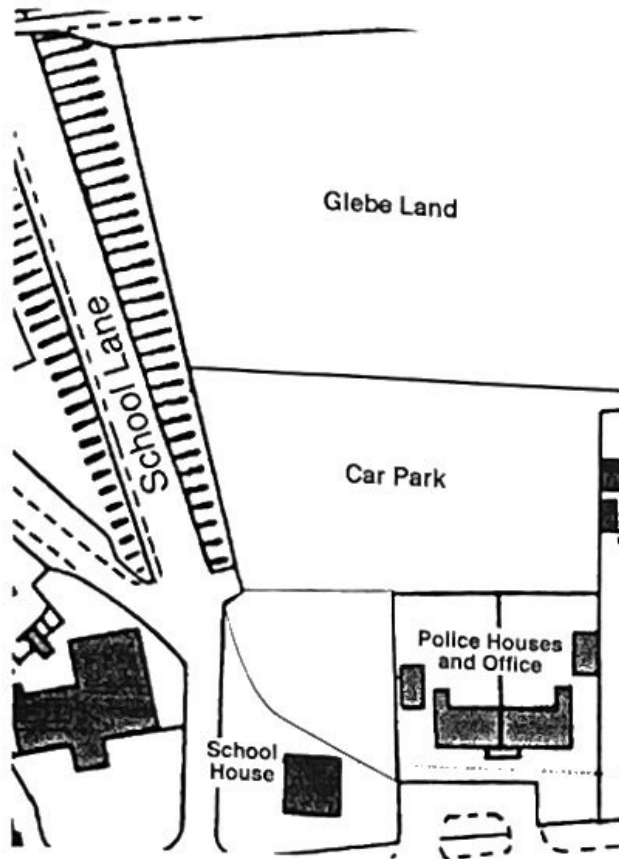
FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

SCALE 1/2500

Permission obtained from Smith & Hodgkinson in their letter reference ND/5PD dated 29 March 1993 to reproduce this plan.

Appendix 6

Euxton Glebe



- Notes:
- Shaded area behind the school house was sold to WJ Brierley and his wife. Area comprised 494 square yards or thereabouts.
 - Taken from Glebe land. Sale price of this area was £60 0s 0d.

Plate 1



This sundial is situated on the south side of the church. At the time this plate was taken (summer 1987), the copper time-plate was showing serious deterioration in that atmospheric conditions were beginning to erode the engraved details. This time-plate was stolen in 1991 and has not been recovered.

PLATE 2



This is the stone font which stood at the rear of the church behind the last pew, prior to the organ alteration and reconstruction. At this point in time the age of the font is in considerable doubt and various writers have expressed the view that it is not as old as the church, nor is it the original font as installed when the church was first constructed.

Section 5

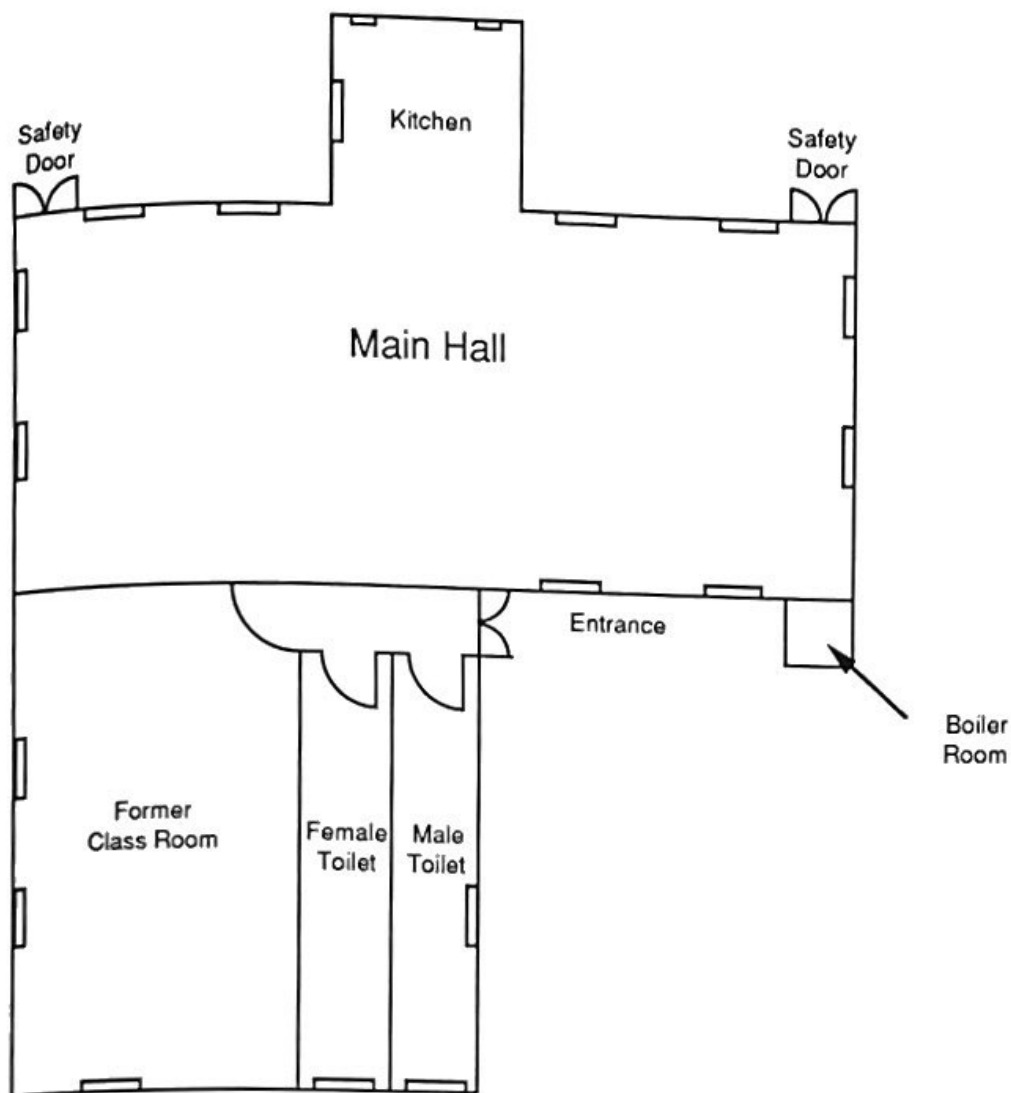
The Schools

(with Appendices and Plates)

Section 5

The Schools

Euxton Parish Church Hall at 20.10.1991



PLAN

Not to scale

The Schools (and use as Church Hall)

It is highly probable that the families entering into the life of the village at this time, will assume that the modern junior school catering for the five to eleven year old children and situate in Bank Lane, is the only school ever to be used in connection with the Church of England religion, but this is not so.

This modern school was erected in the 1955/65 period and, as such, the history of the buildings, staff and pupils is only in its infancy. It is not the purpose of this section to deal with these matters, but to concentrate solely on the first and second Church of England schools to have been in use down many years.

First Day School in Euxton - Church of England

The history of this first school commences on 7th August 1758 when a man named John Longworth

"being desirous that youth might be instructed in reading, writing and accounts, conveyed a piece of land, part of the manor of Euxton lying on the east side of the highway, leading between PLETON and Wigan containing sixteen perches, whereon a building had been lately erected, which was intended to be converted into a school, and this land and building was given in trust to William Farrington and others to act as Trustees".

The land and building stood at the junction of what is now known as School Lane and Wigan road, in the area now occupied by a bungalow and used as a dentistry practice. The building was a small cottage with two rooms each, on the ground and first floors. In its later years it was known as 'West View' cottage. Longworth also conveyed by indenture dated 1759 three closes of land in Euxton, called 'The Marfield, The Big Meadow and The Little Meadow' containing five acres three rods and twenty eight perches.

On the 31st January 1770, one Samuel Crooke 'by indenture directed the Trustees of his will to pay five pounds yearly to the schoolmaster for the time being, to teach four poor children at the new school in Euxton'.

William Woodcock, by his will, gave to the Trustees of the 'free school' in Euxton, twenty pounds "to be raised out of his personal estate in trust, to be placed out at interest on good security, and the yearly interest to be applied for the behoof of the master of the said school, as an augmentation of his salary on every first May".

Ralph Platt, by his will dated 2nd April 1793 gave "to the Trustees of the free school in Euxton, one hundred pounds to be placed on good security with the interest to be disposed of as follows: viz, four parts out of every five to the schoolmaster properly authorised to teach at the said school, for the purpose of teaching in succession, *for ever*, eight additional poor children belonging to Euxton, to read English and the remaining one fifth to be expended in purchasing prayer books for the use of the said additional poor children, which should be given to them, to each a book when they should be respectively dismissed from the said school".

Nomination of the children was to be by Curate or Clergyman, Chapelwarden, Constable and Overseers of the poor in Euxton.

John Beatson, by his will, gave one hundred pounds to be laid out in funds, and the dividends thereof to be paid to the schoolmaster in augmentation of his salary.

Who the schoolmasters were in 1758 and later, and the number of scholars, the periods they attended the school, who the scholars were and the sexes are not known as records do not appear to be available, but in the year 1817 on the 20th June, the Trustees were the Reverend Robert Procter - non-resident incumbent of Euxton Church of England chapelry, the Reverend Henry Brierley - incumbent and curate of Euxton Church of England chapelry, John Clayton, John Lowe, William Clarkson, John Balshaw, Hugh Holden and James Talbot.

The Charity Commissioners' report for that date states inter-alia that:

- a. The schoolhouse was in good repair. It contained a schoolroom on the ground floor, and two rooms over, which were at that time occupied by the son-in-law of the schoolmaster.
- b. The schoolmaster was appointed by the Trustees, and was permitted by them to let the three fields given by John Longworth, at his own discretion and to receive the rent for his own use. In 1817 these fields were in the occupation of Lawrence Felton at a good yearly rent of fourteen pounds.
- c. The schoolmaster also received the following annual sums:
 - i. Five pounds from Crooke's Charity.
 - ii. One pound from the Overseers of the poor, as interest on the twenty pounds invested from Woodcock's will.
 - iii. Four pounds from the same Overseer being four fifths of the interest from one hundred pounds given by Ralph Platt in his will.
 - iv. The dividends from one hundred and forty four pounds, five shillings and nine pence three per cent Consols purchased with the legacy from the will of John Beatson, amounting to four pounds six shillings and two pence per annum from which a deduction was made for commission on receipt thereof. The stock stood in the names of Messrs Nickson, Latham and Balshaw and the dividends had been received by Mr Parkinson, Solicitor, Chorley.
- d. The schoolmaster, in respect of Crooke's gift, instructed in reading five, and in respect of Platt's gift, eight poor boys or girls, the children of persons belonging to the township of Euxton, appointed by the Trustees or admitted by the master without such appointment.

The school was open for instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, to the children of all the inhabitants of Euxton and the neighbouring places, but the master was paid by the parents for the education of all scholars other than the *free* scholars.

What type or variety of equipment was used in the schoolroom is not known, but presumably slate pencil and slate screen were used as the writing and teaching medium. What the school hours were, the attendance periods and all other matters relating to the foundation of this first school under the Church of England jurisdiction is not known. Whether Roman Catholic and Nonconformist children were excluded from consideration or attendance at school is not known, but it is to be noted that the Roman Catholic church now in situ in the village had not been erected by 1817. It has not been possible to trace any records other than the foregoing.

In a report to the Bishop of Chester on the 17th January 1815, Henry Brierley, Curate at Euxton chapel (church) presented information covering a range of questions raised by the Bishop. Details of his comments, observations and answers can be found at Appendix 1 to this section and whether this action was the gathering of

information which ultimately led to the "National School" (second school) being erected in 1837 is not known, but it is significant that the third question raises the specific point of the National Society's influence.

The Second Day School in Euxton - Church of England

Some twenty years were to elapse until in or about the year 1838, from correspondence which seems to have passed between the Trustees of the first school and the Office of the Charity Commissioners, it seems that this school building had become too small for the requirements of the township. The Trustees agreed with the incumbent that the school should thereafter be carried on in a large, convenient building which had been erected in 1837 on the north side of School Lane at the junction with the Wigan to Preston road - currently the A49 - and which had been intended partly for use as a Sunday School; that the endowment of this first school should be transferred, and that the "old building" - first schoolhouse - should be used as a residence for the schoolmaster and schoolmistress.

The trusts of the new building were declared by a deed dated 27th September 1837 after "reciting that a grant had been obtained from the National Society for the erection of a school at Euxton for the education of poor children, and that a sum of money - three hundred pounds according to the Reverend Gardner Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland - had been raised by voluntary subscriptions, a plot of land in Euxton containing four hundred and ninety four square yards was in consideration of the sum of ten pounds" - Appendix 2 and 3 to this section - "conveyed to certain Trustees upon trust to erect and maintain a schoolroom or schoolhouse thereon and to permit the same to be used for the education of poor children in the principles of Christian religion according to the doctrine and disciplines of the United Church of England and Ireland" - note the lack of mention of Scotland - "and it was further declared that the school was to be managed and conducted by such teachers and according to such rules and regulations as the officiating minister for the time being of Euxton chapel (church) should from time to time direct, but so that such rules and regulations should not be repugnant to the principles or disciplines recommended by the National Society, and that the Vicar of Leyland, the incumbent and Curate of Euxton chapel (church) and the Churchwarden and Chapelwarden of Euxton should at all times be ex-officio trustees under the deed".

An appointment of new Trustees was made by a deed dated 25th July 1839, but who those people were is not known. An arrangement appeared to have been made by which the consent of the Trustees of the "Endowed School" was required for the appointment of the master, but after a few years, serious differences arose between the incumbent - the Reverend John Williams of whom mention is made at length in Section 1 - and the Trustees in regard to the management of the school. In 1854 it seems these differences were brought to the notice of the Charity Commissioners. In the correspondence which followed, it was alleged that many of the subscriptions for the *new school* had been given on the understanding that the "Endowed School" should be carried on in this new building, and that the subscribers were unaware that by the deed of conveyance, the management and control of the new school had been vested in the incumbent. This provision appears to have been inserted in consequence of a grant having been received from the National Society.

Apparently, and in order to overcome the problems, the Charity Commissioners suggested that application should be made to the County Court for an order

amalgamating the "Endowed" - first-school and the "Subscription and Grant" - second - school and establishing a scheme for the future regulation, but nothing was done by the parties concerned at that time.

However, in 1860, the correspondence was renewed - the Reverend John Williams had been the incumbent at Euxton for some twenty three years by this date. By a certificate from the Charity Commissioners dated 7th August 1860 an application was made to the County Court at Chorley, and by an order of that court dated 23rd August 1860, made in the matter of the "Endowed School" in Euxton, four new Trustees were appointed in addition to the four surviving trustees of those appointed in 1839.

All the real estate belonging to the charity - "Endowed School" - was vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands, and it was specifically directed that the sum of one hundred and forty three pounds fifteen shillings and nine pence three per cent Consols, forming the endowment of John Beatson's charity, should be transferred to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, and that the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds then in the Leyland Savings Bank, being the endowments of Ralph Platt and William Woodcock, should also be paid into the account of the Official Trustees for investment in Consols. These actions were duly carried out on the 18th January 1861.

The amalgamation of the two schools was left to be dealt with by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, and by an application from the Reverend Thomas Rigby Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland and John Balshaw of Euxton, received by the Commissioners on the 4th January, 1861, the Commissioners, on the 19th April 1861, made such an order for the regulation of the two schools.

The Scheme provided that the two schools should be united and carried on as one school under the provisions of the Scheme. The eight persons then in office as Trustees of the "Endowed School" under the provisions of the County Court order previously mentioned, and the Vicar of Leyland, *plus* the Incumbent and Curate and Churchwarden and Chapelwarden of Euxton constituted the Trustees of the united Charity. Provision was made in the Scheme for the appointment of new Trustees, subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners, whenever vacancies arose.

After providing for the management of the Trust and for the appointment and removal of any master and mistress, the Scheme directed that any master, in consideration of the benefit received by him from the Charity, should be bound always to instruct at the 'National School' *as foundation scholars* twelve children, to be selected and appointed from time to time by the Trustees from the most deserving poor children resident in the township of Euxton - note that the previous number was thirteen. What caused the change?

The school was to be open on weekdays - which appears to have included Saturdays - to the children of *all* resident inhabitants of Euxton township between the ages of five and sixteen and was to be used on Sundays as a Sunday School for instruction of the children of the township, *under the management and control of the incumbent of Euxton for the time being*. The religious instruction in the Day School was to comprise the Bible and Bible history and - subject to a conscience clause - the Church catechism, and "was to be consonant with the principles and

doctrines of the Church of England". Subjects of secular instruction were also prescribed.

Under an order of the Charity Commissioners dated 26th May 1871, the land conveyed in 1758 by John Longworth for the "Endowed School" which consisted of three fields known as the School Buckshaws, was sold for the sum of one thousand two hundred and ten pounds. The purchase money was paid to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds and was invested by them in one thousand three hundred and four pounds eleven shillings and seven pence three per cent Consols.

By the year 1900 the interests from all the investments held in aid of the joint "Endowed and National School" amounted to forty three pounds seven shillings and eight pence per annum, plus five pounds from Crooke's Charity and this was used as a contribution to the general expenses of the school.

Actions and Activities concerning the Combined "Endowed and National Schools" - 1839-1939.

It is indeed fortunate that the Minute Book concerning the virtual day to day actions of the Trustees during these years has survived²² and the following representative details provide a most interesting backcloth to the operation of the school.

The first meeting of the Trustees was held on the 29th July 1839 with those present being:

Mr. J. N. Farrington	Chairman
Mr. T. B. Crosse	
Mr. J. Masters	
Mr. G. J. Wainwright	
Mr. Holden	
Mr. Balshaw	
Rev. J. Williams	Secretary and Treasurer

It is to be noted that Crosse was the person from whom the land for the first part of the church yard was purchased. The Reverend John Williams had been the Curate and Incumbent of Euxton Chapel for two years only, following the death of Henry Brierley. At this inaugural meeting it was decided that:

- (a) Two meetings of the Trustees would be held annually
- (b) The Incumbent - the Reverend John Williams - would give consent for the Day School to be used as a Sunday School.
- (c) The Incumbent was to take possession of the old school house - the former "Endowed School" - and that the said house was to be repaired as a residence for the master. Sufficient money had been borrowed - from whom, how

²²Lancashire Record Office, Euxton School. Minute Book, reference PR 2902/7. 1839-1939

much etc., is not stated in the minutes - for that purpose, with the Trustees jointly being answerable for the repayment of the loan.

- (d) The Incumbent was to be requested to procure persons to act as School Master and School Mistress with final approval and confirmation of appointment to be by the Trustees.

It is not recorded how a man named John Rigby came to be appointed as the School Master, but at the Trustees' Meeting on the 8th October 1845 it is stated that Rigby appeared at the Chorley Court House, and, according to the wording in the Minute Book, "The flagrant and indecorous proceedings in which he acknowledged himself as a participator - evidence confirmed by credible witnesses - rendered him an unfit person to have the management of the School". Sacked!!!

By the 10th November 1845, a John Singleton and his sister Margaret Singleton were appointed temporarily as Headmaster and Headmistress and they were to occupy the old school house, which was to be surrendered by John Rigby to them. It was the duty of Singleton and his sister to be in attendance at the Sunday School.

Statistics concerning the combined schools for the year November to October 1846 shew the following details:

Date	Day School Scholars			Sunday School Scholars
	Boys	Girls	Total	
16.11.	42	28	70	In the period January - October 1846 there was an average of 20/30 boys and girls attending each week.
17.11.			28	
1.46			56	
2.46			68	
12.10.46			80/90	

Attendance at the Day School included the thirteen "free places" - foundation scholars. It was also somewhat irregular. Attendance details for the year 1847-1848 recorded a gradual increase in the number of scholars from a total of fifty boys and girls at the beginning of the year to around ninety at the end of the year.

In his report to the Trustees at the end of the year, the Headmaster John Singleton provided details - by name - of the "free scholars" - foundation scholars - and these were:

Ralph Ravenscroft, Ellen Auton, James Platt, M. Derbyshire, Eliz. Rosbottam, Jas. Ravenscroft, George Ryding, Thos. Bretherton, Hugh Fishwick, Sarah Cooper, Mary Pilkington, Thos. Hunter, Jas. Hodgkinson, and all are taught free of charges.

(signed)

Jno. Singleton.
Master.

In the years 1849 and 1850 the numbers at school were very similar to the preceding year, but school activities were shewn as:

Reading	80	
Writing	49	
Arithmetic	11	
English Grammar	11	
Geography	11	'With Globes'
Knitting and Sewing	28	

Over what period of time, or whether these details were a representative sample is not clear, but the books used in the studies were:

"Markhams Spelling Book, The Bible and Testament, Goldsmiths Geography, Murrays Grammar and Walsinghams Arithmetic".

As the school moved towards the end of the fifth decade, coming events began to cast their shadows. Unpleasant overtones seemed to have developed between certain Trustees, the first inkling of which came in a special notation in the minutes of the 26th December 1859 meeting which reads: "This book and a copy of the original deed of land from the Manderville Trustees to the Reverend G. Baldwin of land for the National School was sent to Mr. Crosse by the Treasurer and Secretary G. J. Wainwright for purposes named at the last meeting the said book and deed with the other two deeds sent to Mr. Crosse before to be returned to Mr. Wainwright as soon as done with.

Runshaw Hall,
Euxton.
29 Decr. 1859.

(Sgd) Geo. J. W. (Wainwright)

Note. Mr. Williams has the account for £25. 4s 0d being amount received from London at £4. 4s 0d per year from 1854 to 1859 which ought to have been paid to the Treasurer Mr. Wainwright when received by Mr. Williams."

The next meeting of the Trustees on April 5th 1860, turned out to be very unpleasant indeed. It is quite clear there was considerable animosity between Reverend John Williams and T. B. Crosse and this seems to have concerned the formal amalgamation of the "Endowed School and the National School" and presumably the overall control, which in the ultimate lay with Williams. Each had written independently to the Charity Commissioners and the meeting, when made aware of these actions, was in complete disarray. The Charity Commissioners in a reply - presumably addressed to the Trustees en-bloc - referred pointedly to this disarray which prevented action by them and they stated that the arrangements for the amalgamation needed to be concerted, agreed and resubmitted to them. At this Trustees' meeting the animosity between Williams and Crosse erupted with considerable acrimony, with Williams storming out of the meeting calling the members 'a pack of old women etc.' Singularly enough, the official ink written minutes of the meeting do not contain this detail and it was added at a later date by Crosse - in pencil. Crosse had also added a pencil footnote which stated 'maps not restored, taken out of the school house by Mr. Williams'.

The Charity Commissioners had requested by the 2nd June 1860 a statement of the property and income of the "National School" before any further action could be taken by them, and this created more problems as Williams had not, by that time, provided information as to the receipt of an annual sum of £4. 4s. 0d. from some unidentified source in London, but this was presumably the 'Consols Office', for the years 1854 to 1859.

The saga continued to the 29th October 1860 meeting when Crosse - as Chairman - complained of the frustration created by Williams which appeared to have held back the formal amalgamation of the "Endowed and National Schools".

Williams had written to the schoolmaster of that date - the gist and content of the letter are not known - but it seems to have been couched in very offensive terms and this greatly incensed the Trustees - so much so that they appear to have considered building another school behind the existing "Endowed School" and for this to be placed under the control of the Trust. Williams left the meeting after seeming to have been asked to 'step outside'. The meeting ended with the Secretary being ordered to write to Williams instructing him to return to the schoolmaster the maps, forms, desks, boards, books and other properties he had removed from the school house to his own house or of which he had possession.

By this time, the Reverend G. Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland had become a member of the Trustees and it is abundantly clear that these people wished to resolve the long drawn out question of amalgamation of the two schools. By a resolution at the Trustees' meeting of 7th December 1860, they stated that:

"The Reverend G. Baldwin be appointed to carry out the resolution of amalgamation of the two schools and their trusts, and that he communicate immediately on the subject and that no other Trustees make any communication to the Commissioners and that if he receive any he will communicate with Mr. Baldwin before he replies to it.

Furthermore that the Reverend Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Sperling and Mr. T. T. Parker be appointed a sub-committee to examine into the accounts of the Treasurer and of any person receiving or having any other transactions with the Funds or affairs of the Trusts".

The formal consolidation of the "Endowed and National Schools" was achieved by the Board of the Charity Commission order under their seal, dated the 19th day of April 1861. The Trustees then in post were:

The Reverend Thomas Rigby Baldwin, Clerk, Vicar of the Parish of Leyland
Edward Edge Silvester, of North Hall in Worthington, Esquire.

Thomas Townley Parker of Adlington, Esquire

The Reverend John Sperling, Clerk, Rector of Eccleston

John Balshaw, of Euxton, Yeoman

George Johnson Wainwright, of Runshaw Hall, Esquire

The Reverend John Williams, Clerk, Incumbent of Euxton

Thomas Bright Crosse, of Shawe Hall, all in the County of Lancaster.

By this action, the protracted and unseemly situation regarding the amalgamation of the "Endowed and National Schools" appears to have ended, but it reflects little credit on all the participants.

By the end of 1862, warring factions were again in opposition, and at a special meeting on the 27th December of that year, when ten Trustees were present, two major problems arose, the first concerning the fields donated by Longworth in 1759, and the second concerning the closing correspondence from the Charity Commissioners in the consolidation of the two schools.

The fields had been let at a good yearly rent of fourteen pounds to a man named Tilcock, and this man had tendered for the continued use thereof. Williams submitted a proposal to the Trustees at the meeting that Tilcock should be served with a proper notice requesting him to deliver up the field by the 2nd February 1864, and for compensation to be paid to Tilcock for any improvements he may have done. Williams' proposal was flatly rejected by the Trustees and it is difficult not to feel sympathy with Williams in view of subsequent event.

In a motion proposed at this meeting by the Reverend J Sperling, a member of the Trustees and Rector of Eccleston, and seconded by Mr EE Silvester, it was moved that "The Trustees having considered the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Charity Commission dated 13th instant, beg to thank them for the confidence evinced in them in that letter, at the same time they wish strongly to protest against the statements contained in the letter of the Reverend J Williams to the Commissioners dated 11th instant and they consider them both contrary to fact and as reflecting vigorously on themselves. That a copy of this motion be forwarded by the secretary to the Commissioners". The motion was carried by eight votes to two and Williams was once again discomfited. The name of the person who supported him is not known.

Tilcock continued to occupy the fields until 1871, but at a special meeting of the Trustees on the 27th February of that year it is recorded that "By a letter received by the Trustees from JR Crosse, this person offered the sum of one thousand two hundred and ten pounds to purchase the fields, now identified as the "School Buckshaws".

The trustees agreed to accept the offer, only the Reverend John Williams dissenting. It was also proposed, seconded and carried "that in the opinion of this meeting, any attempt on the part of an individual member of the Trust to defeat the object of the first resolution above carried by the ex-parte representations made to the Charity Commissioners would be extremely unbecoming".

That this was now a direct warning to Williams not to interfere is undoubtedly true, but it begs a series of questions as to who this man Crosse was. Was he a son or a relative of Thomas Bright Crosse, a member of the Trust? Who set the price level? What compensation did Tilcock receive for any improvements he may have made down the years he occupied the land? The minutes are remarkably silent on these points and it must be assumed that Williams was highly suspicious of the transaction.

In presenting at some length the problems encountered during the formative years of the combined "Endowed and National Schools", the detail, in many instances, has been reproduced verbatim in order to present a word picture of those years and

some general idea of the nature and character of the participants in control of the schools.

School Records, Cost to Families of Pupils, Cost of Operating the Schools

Minutes of the various meetings held by the Trustees record the arrivals and departures of various schoolmasters and schoolmistresses down the years, but details of scholastic achievements, if any, are not recorded. It is clear that at certain periods of the year, harvesting, potato lifting or picking, and other agricultural activities, attendances at the school were irregular. It must be clearly understood there was no formal fixed legal attendance requirement at this period of time.

Fees paid were on a weekly basis and were of the order of one, two or three - pre-decimal - pennies for those other than the foundation scholars. These fees had to be paid to the schoolmaster or schoolmistress every Monday morning, and a record kept in a book set aside for the purpose.

The cost of operating the school, not inclusive of the schoolmaster's and schoolmistress's stipends is not recorded. In the year 1876 the schoolmaster's stipend is shewn as:

	Stipend per Annum			
	£	s	d	
Endowment	52	0	0	All sources.
Pence	30	0	0	Fees by children.
Grant	25	0	0	
Probable Contributions	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Supporters of the school.
	122	0	0	
Less:				
Pupil Teacher	12	0	0	
Expenses	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Net Stipend	<u>105</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	

In order to safeguard the schoolmaster's accommodation from any such person whose services were no longer required, on the appointment of Henry Sykes on the 5th March 1887, he was required to sign the following declaration which makes interesting reading indeed. The statement reads:

"I, Henry Sykes declare that I will reside constantly in the school residence and discharge always to the best of my ability the duties of Master of the School at Euxton and that in case I am removed by the Trustees I will thereupon relinquish all claims to the office and its future emoluments and will deliver up possession of the school and residence to the Trustees and also that it shall be lawful for them if occasion shall be thereupon to take possession of the school building and my residence there and of all property of the charity held by me without ejectment or process of law.

Signed Henry Sykes

January 6th 1887."

Previous to this date, the Trustees had the authority to dispense with the services of either the schoolmaster or schoolmistress, whenever they thought fit, but from this date of March 1887 it was understood as between the Trustees and Sykes that three months notice would be given and received prior to the termination of the agreement. It seems the Trustees, staff and school were entering on a more formalised period.

By the 7th June 1887 the Trustees were informed the school was to be placed under the authority of the Diocesan Inspector operating under the control of the Bishop of Manchester. From that day forward ecclesiastical authority was to be strengthened.

Four years later, by an Act of Parliament dated 1891, the provisions of elementary education were brought into operation and this meant a 'fee grant' was accepted as and from 1st October 1891. This represented the commencement of formalised elementary school education with all the concomitant rules, regulations, procedures etc. There are no records which indicate any actions by the Trustees in this fundamental change.

It has already been stated in Section 2 that the church had become the Parish Church of Euxton on 6th September 1892, and it is interesting to note that by 1895, the Trustees were reduced to three in number and they were:

The Reverend HJG Beloe
Mr JD Manning
Mr H Allison

The first Vicar of the Parish Church

Did the other Trustees lose office arising from the Act of Parliament of 1891?

An interesting sidelight arose in 1898. It stated in the school minutes dated 6th July, that an account rendered by James Tomlinson for placing the 'old' church bell in the turret over the school was presented in the sum of ten pounds ten shillings, but this was rejected and he was paid ten pounds only. As many people are aware, this bell was taken down from the turret and now stands within the modern school in the Bank Lane area. Comprehensive details of this exercise can be found at Appendix 4 to this section. It also clearly establishes when the 'tolling bell' currently sited in the church bell tower was installed.

By the beginning of the 20th century a more formalised method for operating the school had come into existence. The Trustees were the Vicar of Croston, the Priest of the Roman Catholic church in Euxton, the Vicar of Euxton Parish Church and two laymen making a total of five. The Vicar of Euxton was appointed Chairman of Governors. Formalised agreements made under the new Education Act now operated for the teachers. Teachers' time books together with duplicate attendance registers were adopted.

The Education Committee which was based at Preston had assumed an increasing role and authority. Regularisation of the holidays of the two schools - Church of England and Roman Catholic - were to be agreed. Registers were to be kept to record coal purchases for the school fires, as well as fluid for lighting of the lamps. It is of interest that the lighting provided by the oil lamps then in use, was unsatisfactory, particularly in the darker winter months and this subject was to be pursued vigorously with the Education Committee.

The school was used at this time for evening classes and a fee of one shilling - or five new pence - per night was levied. Violin classes - under the Murdoch system (whatever this was) - were held in the school after the close of the school day.

By 1903 a formalised submission of the various costs incurred in operating the school had been put into operation and great care seems to have been exercised by the Trustees and school management in keeping expenditure within the budget figure for the year. Details of the "Allowed Estimate" and the "Expenditure" for the period October 1903 to March 1904 can be found at Appendix 5 to this section.

It was confirmed in 1904 that ten extra half-day holidays were to be allowed during the year at the discretion of the Vicar of Euxton Parish Church. These were not to include church holidays which were in addition.

The school room was used for Parish Council Meetings and for this they paid the sum of one shilling and sixpence for each evening meeting. This apparently covered the cost of fuel for the fires and oil for the lamps. Similarly, as the building was used by the Church of England as a Sunday School, the Governors considered one seventh of the cost of the weekly bill for coal and oil would be a fair and equitable charge.

Nothing of special note transpired down the years, except for changes in teaching staff and vicars of Euxton Parish Church, until April 1928 when it was agreed by Mercers Brewing Company - the owners at that time of the inn adjacent to the school buildings and currently known as Pappa Luigi's - on the one hand, and the Trustees of Euxton Church of England School on the other hand, to exchange one and three quarter yards of land belonging to the property of the school trust situate at the corner north end of the school yard for twelve yards of broken land containing an irregular thorn hedge, situate on the south east corner of the school property. The Brewery Company offered as well, ten pounds in cash on completion. This action was duly approved and carried out and the cash paid to the Trustees in December 1928.

By 1933, H.M. Inspector of Schools commented upon the lack of accommodation for the senior school. The Trustees - School Managers in name and title by this date - were to examine the question of building an extra classroom.

In 1938 action to replace the oil illumination by electric lighting was agreed, with the County contributing thirteen pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence towards the cost.

As a result of the Education Act, children of eleven to fifteen years in age, were to be classed as senior pupils, and consideration was to be given to transferring this age group to a suitable school in Leyland subject to the proviso that the children were to be *withdrawn* on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week for religious instruction at Euxton. It was also confirmed that the school would be recognised as a Junior Infants school, Class 1, following the proposed transfer of the senior children to Leyland.

By 1943, school dinners had made their first appearance in the daily life of all pupils attending. The Trustees - School Managers - could attend and partake if they so wished.

After the end of the Second World War in 1945, the first discussions regarding the provision of a modern school capable of accommodating the increased juvenile population in the village took place, but it took many years before positive action was carried out. At the Trustees' - School Managers' - meeting on the 28th September 1960, a quotation from G & J Seddon, Builders, for Phase I of the new school in the sum of twenty two thousand four hundred and eighty six pounds eighteen shillings and seven pence was accepted. The architects for the construction work were Thorpe and Whyman. The church share was five thousand pounds.

Phase II of this new school was undertaken by a contract with JW Lee, Chorley in 1965, the Church's share being three thousand pounds.

In the interim and in order to accommodate the increasing number of children wishing to attend the National School, a substantial wooden hut was erected on land behind the main school building in the year 1952. It is not known who did the work, the cost and other details, but the structure is still in situ and currently used by a 'Play Group' during weekdays and by the Sunday School on that day. Authority for this particular building is still vested with the School Managers and not with the Church Hall Committee.

The year 1953 saw a new classroom added to the school main building, and this is the section in the south facing wall at right angles to the original main building. It is separated internally from the main room to the hall by a folding wooden screen from floor to ceiling. Again the cost and construction and all other relevant details are not known.

By 1963, as the original "Endowed School" building - latterly used as accommodation for the schoolmaster/schoolmistress - was no longer suitable for that purpose, and in view of the pressure from the local Medical Officer of Health to demolish the structure, action was taken to dispose of it by sale, including the land around it. This was duly achieved for the sum of two hundred and fifteen pounds, the purchasers being Mr WJ Brierley and his wife of Euxton. Concurrently, and in order to regularise the shape of the land at the rear of the building, a small portion of the glebe land was sold to the Brierley's for the sum of sixty pounds. The building was demolished and a bungalow erected in its place.

Preliminary consideration as to the disposal or use of the school buildings, once the move to the new school had been undertaken, revealed a clause in the Trust Deed which stated that the structure was not to be sold, but following legal advice it was evident that the sale to the Parish Church of Euxton as a Church Hall was possible subject to the following conditions:

i The Vendors would be:

The Vicar of Leyland.

The Vicar of Euxton.

Two churchwardens of Euxton.

- ii The Purchasers would be:
The Parochial Church Council.
- iii Purchase price would be £1,500
- iv The prefabricated building (wooden hut) at the rear of the main building could be sold by the Parochial Church Council.
- v There was to be a twenty year clause - half of any profits accruing from the sale of the hall, less the cost of any improvements, would be forfeited if the hall was sold within twenty years.
- vi Effective date was 14th December 1970.

Following an architect's report it was found that:

- i No radical alteration to the building was necessary.
- ii The present heating would do.
- iii The kitchen required considerable alteration.
- iv Flooring to the main room required attention.
- v The toilets should be resited internally.
- vi The electric wiring was in good condition.
- vii Plastering, pointing, demolition and decorating were required.

Following an estimate from Peters and Strickland, a tender price of three thousand three hundred and sixty six pounds was approved and the various works subsequently carried out.

Recent Events and Happenings

Following the 'Summerland' fire disaster in the Isle of Man some years ago, governmental legislation was applied to places of entertainment or where people gathered together on social occasions where the numbers congregating were one hundred or more, and this affected what had now become the Church Hall of Euxton Parish Church. Action to update the fire precautions and general safety requirements was carried out to the satisfaction of officials from Lancashire County Council and the appropriate safety certificates were issued. At predetermined periods, regular inspection procedures operate to ensure the hall and accommodation arrangements are in line with current regulation.

Of more recent date, ambitious plans to update the main hall, side hall and kitchen area were implemented in order to bring these places into a modern setting. The work involved fitting a false ceiling to the main hall, the provision of modern concealed lighting fittings in some areas and complete redecoration. The kitchen area was refitted with modern storage units, with installation of up to date sink units. Work was carried out under the Community Work Programme with only

the cost of the materials falling to be met from Church and Church Hall funds. The overall effect is pleasing indeed.

The Church Hall is governed by a committee elected at the Parish Church Annual General Meeting with the addition of representatives from the Parochial Church Council.

The Church Hall is in regular use each day of the week by a wide variety of organisations and families - Rangers, Guides and Brownies, Worship with Mother, Euxton Luncheon Club, Aerobics class, Women's Institute, Ballet/Dancing class, Birthday parties of all ages, wedding receptions, and sundry other functions and uses, whilst each Sunday, the hall is used as a Sunday School during the morning and by the Young Church Members in the evening.

The Church Hall, now more than one hundred and fifty years of age, and still structurally sound, has seen many families enter through its portals, carry out the task of acquiring some form of education, to be succeeded by their children and children's children. In the latter years it has been the means of bringing people of the parish together on many social occasions thereby assisting greatly in fulfilling a considerable need during the whole of its lengthy existence.

May it continue to do so down the years ahead!

Appendix 1

1st—What is the number of Day Schools in your Parish; and what number of Children attend them, distinguishing Boys and Girls?

There are three Day Schools in the Chapelry of Quakers, which together at present average about 134 children: viz. 70 boys & 64 girls

2nd—What Sunday Schools, and what number of Children are collected in them, distinguishing Boys and Girls?

There were Sunday Schools which at present is attended by 62 children: viz. 30 boys & 32 girls

3rd—Are they conducted in whole, or in part, on the National Society's Plan of instruction?

It is not conducted either in whole, or in part, on the National Society's Plan of instruction.

4th—When were they established, and how are they supported?

It was established in the year 1813, and is entirely supported, as to instruction, by the parents of the children, each head of a family paying a penny or two weekly: with which money I pay the rent of the room and for teachers. There, however, very much in want of school-books.

5th—If on the old Plan, are the present Teachers likely to be induced to learn and practice the new method?

The present teachers would very willingly ~~not~~ learn the new method of instruction, provided they had either the means or opportunity, and it could afterwards be carried on here.

6th—In that case, what number of Children are capable of being collected for instruction, within a walk of two miles?

I apprehend that the number of children which could be brought to attend a Sunday School here upon any plan would not much exceed 100. We have many Roman Catholics who are not willing to send their children.

7th—What causes operate to prevent the adoption of the method of instruction recommended by the National Society—and how can they best be removed? With any general remarks that occur.

The principal causes which operate to prevent the adoption of the new method of instruction, are the want of a proper school-room; and adequate funds to defray the necessary expenses attending the introduction of the new system. Our present school room, tho' both small and inconvenient, costs us four pounds p. ann. It is the only place we can possibly procure, and we have no means, through the poverty of the inhabitants, of having a new one. This Paper, with the Queries answered thereon, to be returned to the Lord Bishop of Hexham, by the Rev. Mr. [Name], Curate, Palace, Chester.

Appendix 2

Bargain and Sale of a Plot of Land for the Site of a School in the Township of Euxton, in the County of Lancaster.

Dated 27th September 1837

1. Colonel Edward Bolling and Mr Adam Lomax Haworth the Trustees under Mrs de Manderville's marriage settlement

to

The Reverend G Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland; Reverend R Procter, Incumbent of Euxton Chapel; Reverend J Williams, Curate of Euxton Chapel, Mr Hodgkinson, Churchwarden, Mr Auton, Chapelwarden.

2. Enrolled in Her Majesty's High Court of Chancery the nineteenth day of February in the year of Our Lord 1838 being first duly stamped according to the tenor of the statutes made for that purpose.

(Signed) D Drew

Appendix 3

Indenture

1. Between Edward Bolling, of Bolton-le-Moors, Cotton Spinner and Adam Lomax Haworth of Bolton-le-Moors, gentleman, Trustees of the marriage settlement of Margaret de Manderville and Reverend Gardner Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, Reverend Robert Procter, Incumbent of Euxton and Reverend John Williams, Curate of Euxton together with John Hodgkinson, Churchwarden and John Auton, Chapelwarden.
2. Incorporated National Society for promoting education of the poor granted a sum of money together with a sum of money raised by voluntary subscription.
3. Purchase price £10 0s 0d
4. **Area.** Northerly and southerly sides 26 yards each, easterly and westerly 19 yards each, containing 494 superficial sq, yards or thereabouts.
5. This Indenture was acknowledged at Bolton-le-Moors in the County of Lancaster on the 30th day of September 1837 by the within named Adam Lomax Haworth who prayed the same might be enrolled before me

John Gordon,

A Master Extraordinary in Chancery

Appendix 4

Extract from local newspaper "Chorley Guardian" week ending 13.4.85

Sound as a bell – again



THE PRICELESS school bell now restored and standing in Euxton C.E. Primary School. In our picture are (left to right) the vicar of Euxton the Rev Derek Raitt, headmaster Mr Tom Alty and bell restorer Bob Hardwick (66C)

CHILDREN at Euxton C.E. Primary School are now able to ring the changes in the village as they study a priceless piece of heritage.

Thanks to the hard work of parent Mr. Bob Hardwick, the old school bell, which dates back to 1723, has been fully restored and now has pride of place in the school entrance hall.

The bell used to chime in the former parish school which is now the newly renovated Euxton Parish Church Hall.

FITTING

It has been hidden for many years, until Mr. Hardwick volunteered to renovate it. "The bell itself didn't need much doing to it," Mr. Hardwick said. "I just cleaned it up as it's made of rough cast iron. The hard work was making the frame to hold it."

Mr. Hardwick is a former pupil of the school, and his son and daughter Stephen and Sarah have also been pupils.

A teacher at Balshaw's High School in Leyland, Mr. Hardwick thanked his colleague Mr. Dave Wane in the metalwork department for all his help and guidance.

The bell is mounted on a frame made from oak wood from the church. "It seemed fitting that we should use another piece of history," said Mr. Hardwick.

Mr. Hardwick has lost count of the hours he spent on the bell. But Mr. Tom Alty, headmaster of the school, said that his hard work was much appreciated by pupils and staff.

Engraved on a brass plaque on the bell frame is: "This stand in oak saved from the church was made in gratitude and respect for the quality of work and effort by the staff of this school past and present."

"That says everything I think about Euxton C.E. Primary School and its extremely high standard of work," said Mr. Hardwick.

Appendix 5

Euxton C. of E. School

Allowed Estimate Expenditure October - December 1903

£	s	d		£	s	d
4	16	8	Books and Stationery	4	4	10 ¹ / ₂
6	13	4	Fuel, Light & Cleaning	2	10	1 ¹ / ₂
			Sewing Materials	1	12	10
5	0	0	Apparatus including K.G.	1	18	0 ¹ / ₂
			Repairs		10	8
			Petty Expenses		7	3

January - March 1904

3	12	6	Books and Stationery	3	8	0 ¹ / ₂
			Sewing Materials		18	8 ¹ / ₂
3	15	0	Apparatus	3	12	11
			Repairs	1	6	6
			Petty Expenses		8	10

Cleaning wages not included.

PLATE 1



This building currently used as the Parish Hall by the Euxton Parish Church was, until the building of the "modern" C. of E. school down Bankside, used as one of the village day schools. The original Catholic day school is immediately across the way. Coal fires used to heat the classrooms - there were two of them - but the chimney stacks were demolished following the installation of gas heating. The building lies next to the "Anderton Arms" inn whose advertising medium can be seen to the left of the plate.

PLATE 2



This plaque - on the western elevation of the building shewn in plate No. 1 - identifies the year of construction of the Day School.

Conclusion
Sections 1-5

Conclusion

Sections 1-5

At the end of a lengthy attempt to piece together the history of the Church and the other specified places, the comment in the preamble to the work where detailed mention is made of many unanswered queries is fully borne out. Considerable emphasis is placed on the Appendices to Section 2 as these papers are, in the main, supportive documents to the body of the narrative.

There are many locations and points of reference to which journeys have been made, and it is highly possible that, due to ignorance in often not knowing the question or questions to ask, some nugget of historical detail has been overlooked and missed.

There is, however voluminous the sections, a basic gathering together of information, which should render a great deal easier the task of some person or persons in future of clearing the many outstanding queries.

What has clearly emerged concerning the church is the impact made by two separate and distinct families and one other particular man. The shadowy Molyneaux family were apparently the claimants to the chapel - church - structure from the early 14th century to the end of the 17th century - a span of some three hundred and eighty years of Roman Catholic control.

Hard on their heels came the Armetriding family, the immediate successors of the Molyneaux family in the control of the chapel (church). Through many generations involving changes of name, they finally relinquished the patronage in the year 1910, in this case a span of some two hundred years of undoubted Church of England control.

The Reverend John Williams was undoubtedly an influential figure during his fifty four year tenure as Incumbent from 1838 to 1892. He saw the church extended east and west; the churchyard disciplines regularised and a formal extension incorporated; the "Endowed and National Schools" amalgamated; a vicarage built and occupied and the internal church layout constructed much as it is today. Whilst there is no evidence to substantiate the views expressed by "Atticus" when he met Williams, the latter appears to have thought so highly of his one and only incumbency that his remains lie in what he regarded as his chapelyard. May they continue to rest in peace

Section 6 (i)

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Section 6 (i)

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Section 6 (ii)

**Lists of Addresses and Contacts
made.**

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Lists of Addresses and Contacts made during the period of research.

	ORGANISATION	CONTACT IN THE YEAR 1990
1	Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire	Miss. J. Smith, Librarian, Liverpool Record Office, Brown Street, Liverpool 3.
2	Record Society of Lancashire & Cheshire	Dorothy J. Clayton, c/o John Rylands University, Library of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M3 9PL
3	Chetham Society	The Reverend D. Rack, c/o The Manchester University Press, Oxford Road, Manchester, M3 9PL
4	Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society	Morris Garnett, c/o 59, Malmesbury Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, SK8 7QL
5	Manchester Local History Library	Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD
6	Department of Geography, University of Keele, Keele, Staffs, ST5 5BG.	
7	Institute of Heraldic & Geneological Studies, 1 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent.CT1 1BA	
8	Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London, WC1E 7HU.	
9	Society of Geneologists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London, SW7 4JX.	
10	British Record Society, Department of History, The University of Keele, Keele, Staffs, ST5 5BG	

- 11 British Records Association,
(Incorporates the Manorial Society),
Master's Court,
Charterhouse Square,
London, EC1M 6AU.
- 12 Canterbury Cathedral,
City & Diocesan Record Office,
The Precincts,
Canterbury,
Kent, CT1 2EG.
- 13 International Molyneux Family Mrs. Betty Brown, President,
Association. 18 Sinclair Avenue,
Prescott,
Merseyside, L35 7LN.
Professor M. J. Wilks
- 14 Birkbeck College,
Department of History,
University of London,
Malet Street,
London, WC1E 7HX
- 15 Christ Church College,
University of Oxford,
OX1 1DP Dr. Christopher A. Haigh
- 16 Lambeth Palace Library,
London, SE1 7JU Dr. E. W. G. Bill,
Librarian.
- 17 Lancashire County Record Office
Bow Lane,
Preston, PR1 2RE Mrs. A. Hardman,
Archivist
- 18 Council for the Care of Churches
87 London Wall,
London, EC2M 5NA
- 19 The British Library,
Manuscript Collection,
Great Russell Street,
London, WC1B 3DG Dr. C. J. Wright Ph.D
- 20 The West Yorkshire Archive
Service,
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Claremont,
23 Clarendon Road,
Leeds, LS2 9NZ
- 21 Church Commissioners,
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London, WC2.
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London, WC1E 6BT
- 26 Borthwick Institute of Historical Research C. C. Webb,
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York, YO1 2PW
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Revd John 37, 40, 41, 42, 59, 74, 102, 103, 104,

112, 130, 131, 138, 157, 158, 159, 161, 163,

171, 172, 178

Yarrow 10, 12, 14

Section 3

The Vicarages

The first (original) vicarage

The first official mention of a parsonage house (vicarage) comes from a paper prepared by a man named FH Cheetham, in the year 1925^a where he states "The parsonage house, now known as the vicarage, was erected in 1838 at the charges of Lady Houghton of Astley Hall as a gift to the newly appointed vicar, the Reverend John Williams" (1838 to 1892) who had succeeded the non-resident incumbent the Reverend Robert Proctor (1799 to 1838).

According to the Reverend Gardner Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, the cost was five hundred pounds which was raised by subscription and grant from Queen Anne's Bounty.

The detail is only partially correct,

The date of Williams' tenure at Euxton is as stated and Procter was the non-resident incumbent, but the man who was in post was the Reverend Henry Brierley and Williams succeeded him on his death in 1838. How long Procter continued as the non-resident incumbent is not known, but it is highly probable the practice of plurality of livings ceased during the 19th century.

Procter was the incumbent at Claughton where he ran a private school in addition to his pastoral duties.

It is not known who carried out the building of the parsonage house (vicarage); the cost of the land surrounding the parsonage house and from whom it was obtained is also unknown.

Details are not available as to any maintenance charges for this house or whether these were met out of church funds.

The physical description of this parsonage house (vicarage) is as follows:

Ground floor

Porch; hallway; large study; lounge; sitting room (or dining room); kitchen; small larder; small utility room and boiler room (oil fired heating system).

First floor

Five bedrooms (various sizes), one bedroom with an adjoining dressing room; bathroom; separate lavatory.

^a Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancs. & Cheshire, Vol.LXXVIII, New series, Vol.XLII entitled *Euxton Chapel* by FH Cheetham, FSA. A paper read to the society on March 12th, 1925 Chorley Library (Reference Section) book A15/78 pps 21-54