The Parish Church
of
Saint Mary Hambleton

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Centenary 1882-1982
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The Consecration Service in 1882 was attended by the Archbishop and Archdeacon. In 1882 the Archbishop of York was William Thomson (1862-1890) who was known as “the Archbishop of Society” (and unaffectionately known as “cod fish”). Our present Archbishop Dr. Stuart Blanch is very highly regarded especially by his clergy. We had hoped he could be with us for the Centenary but he has his duties as a global Archbishop. We wished therefore to invite the present Archdeacon of York as our Guest Preacher.

Bishopthrope,
York

“I am sorry not to be able to be with you in person for your Centenary celebrations. I have been long committed over that period to an official visit to the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. On April 22 itself I expect to be in Abu Dhabi and I will try to remember to pray for you on that day – under a bright sun and in a warmer clime.

1882 was an interesting year. In the course of it Mr. Daimler built his first petrol engine; the great Charles Darwin died; and they were discussing (even then!) the building of the Channel tunnel. The consecration of Hambleton Church will probably not have made the national headlines but it was nevertheless a significant moment in the life of the community and many will look back to it with thanksgiving for the ministry that has been centred on the Church all these years. The Church remains an essential part of a healthy stable and creative society and I hope every member of it will do what he can to sustain its witness and enrich its service to the community.

Every blessing for the next hundred years.”

Stuart Ebor:
“THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. MARY, HAMBLETON” 1881.

Thursday, August 4th, will long be remembered in the village of Hambleton as the day on which the Foundation Stone of the Church, now in course of erection, was laid. The religious service of the day consisted of the Service for the laying of the Stone, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and the Evening Service in the School-church, at 7 o'clock.

The stone was laid by Mrs. Mervyn D. Jefferson. The service used as one sanctioned for the occasion by the Archbishop of York. The clergy and choir assembled in the School-church, and proceeded to the site, singing the hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers.” The prayers were said by the Rector (i.e. of Brayton), the lesson being read (in the absence of the Rural Dean) by the Rev. Canon Jarratt, Vicar of North Care, the senior clergyman present; and he also pronounced the blessing at the end of the service. The appointed psalms were chanted. A collection was made during the singing of the hymn “Christ is our Corner Stone.” At the close of the service the clergy and choir returned to the School-church, singing, “We love the place of God.”

A numerous congregation was present at the service, including, in addition to inhabitants of Hambleton, and visitors from a distance, representatives of all parts of the parish.

At the service in the evening the School-church was crowded with a hearty and attentive congregation. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. A. Kaye M.A., the Vicar of St. Paul's, Middlesburgh, and formally Curate of this parish (i.e. of Brayton). Between the Services, there was a public tea, in a tent at Hambleton House, the trays furnished by the following ladies: Mrs. Smith (of Hambleton House), Mrs. Cleveland (of Gateforth Parsonage), Mrs. W. Thompson, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. R. Brown, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Holiday, Mrs. G. Anson, Mrs. Thomas-Anson, Mrs. Theophilus Anson, Mrs. G. Burton, Mrs. John Todd, Mrs. W. Lister and Mrs. Crosthwaite (Vicar's wife). Valuable help was also given by Mrs. Tunningley, Mrs. R. Wilson and Miss Abbott.

The pecuniary results of the day were: Collection at the Stone Laying, £47; Evening Service £13. 19s. 0d; Tea, £21; Total £81. 19s. 0d. (This is a substantial and very generous level of giving considering values of money in 1881). By July 1882 the amount raised towards the new church had reached £1469. 19s. 0d.

“CONSECRATION OF ST. MARY’S CHURCH, HAMBLETON” 1882.

It is impossible, within the limits at our disposal, to give more than the barest outline of the proceedings connected with this event; an event which may, nevertheless, be described as the most interesting and most important which has occurred within the parish of Brayton, in connection with the Church, in the present generation.
The day fixed by the Archbishop of York was Saturday, April 22nd. The hour appointed for the Consecration Service was a quarter to eleven. His Grace was attended by the Ven. Archdeacon Watkins, the Rev. W. S. Cole M. A., Rector of Ryther and Rural Dean, and H. A. Hudson Esq., the Registrar of the Diocese. There were also present a numerous body of the clergy of the neighbourhood. The Consecration Service was that always used in the Diocese. The morning prayers were said by the clergy of the parish; the first lesson was read by the Rev. Canon Crosthwaite M.A., Vicar of Knaresborough, and the second lesson by the Ven. Archdeacon Watkins, B.D. The Consecration prayers were said by the Archbishop, who also preached the sermon. He took for his text Philippines 3:10 “That I may know Him, and the power of His Resurrection.”

A second service was held in the evening. The lessons were read by the Rev. W. H. Cleveland, B.A. Vicar of Gateforth, and the Rev. J.R. Husband B.A., the Curate of St. Mary's, Hull. The sermon was preached by the Rev. James Palmes M.A., the Rector of Escrick, whose text was Psalm Iv:22. The congregation both morning and evening was large, the church in the morning being crowded to excess, and every seat being occupied in the evening.

The choir both morning and evening was strengthened by a few voices from other parts of the parish and from Selby. The singing, both for warmth and taste, was all that could be desired, and we observed that the congregation joined heartily in the Services.

After the morning service a public luncheon was held in the school-room. The tables were well covered with viands contributed by many cheerful givers, of all ranks and conditions, some from other parts of the parish. Cut flowers and flowering plants arranged with the greatest of taste, gave a charming effect to the room. The guests numbered about 130. No regular programme of speeches had been arranged, and it had not been intended that formal speeches should be made on the occasion; but the healths of the Archbishop, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Crosthwaite were proposed and responded to.

The weather throughout the day was unsettled, but there was not much heavy rain, and such as did fall, did not seriously diminish the congregations.

The pecuniary results of the day's proceedings were: Collection in the Church, £50. 7s. 0d; Proceeds of the Luncheon (nett) £19. 13s. 8d; Total £70. 0s.0d. It ought to be added that the services of the waiters and other helpers on the day, belonging to the parish, were given,” (Again considering money values in 1882, this is a high level of giving financially.)

These last two articles on the on the Stone-laying and Consecration come from the Parish Magazine of the day, and were written by the Rector of Brayton, The Rev. Robert J. Crosthwaite, later to become Bishop of Beverley.
His Magazine was very brief by today's standard, i.e. one page, and was mainly bought not for its local news as for its “Home Words” large inset with its Victorian moral stories, (price 1 penny).

THE GIVERS AND THE COST OF THE CHURCH.

The exact cost of the new church was £2,012 1s. 9d. The value today a 100 years later of an almost identical building would be far in excess of £100,000. The largest contribution to the cost of the church was by Mr. W. T. Smith of Hambleton House (now The Owl). Here is the Hambleton Church Fund Subscription List exactly as it stood on the day the Church was opened:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. T. Smith</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Diocesan Church Extension Society</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incorporated Church Building Society</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Jefferson</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Smith</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. D. Jefferson</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. B. Firman</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Todd</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Todd</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Todd and Miss H. Todd</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Todd</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Todd (Birkin)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the Vicar</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. C. F. Husband</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. John Smith (Brayton)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Harwar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Gowthwaite</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Hindell</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. G. Bleasby</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R. Wilson</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J. Smith (Hambleton)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Subscriptions</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection at the Laying of the Foundation Stone</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds of Tea</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection on Consecration Day</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds of Luncheon</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messrs. Weddall and Parker</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Anson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>
The sum still required to clear the Church of debt: £220.

THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE LIFE IN HAMBLETON 100 YEARS AGO.

It is important to realise that St. Mary's new Church was a daughter-church or chapel-of-ease of the Parish of Brayton. This Parish consisted of the following numbers of people and houses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Houses 1851</th>
<th>Houses 1861</th>
<th>Houses 1871</th>
<th>Houses 1881</th>
<th>Inhabitants 1851</th>
<th>Inhabitants 1861</th>
<th>Inhabitants 1871</th>
<th>Inhabitants 1881</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barlow</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>208</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brayton</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>529</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burn</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>341</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gateforth</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hambleton</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorpe Willoughby</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>176</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore in 1881 the Vicar's spiritual and pastoral care was for 1964 people who lived in the 418 homes of the six villages. He shared his work with Curates, although at Gateforth there was a Perpetual Curate (like a modern team-Vicar of our time). The question, who was the first Vicar in 1882 of the new Church at Hambleton, strictly speaking, requires the answer: the then Rector of Brayton, Rev. Crosthwaite. It was he and his Curates who usually took the Services. It is amusing to notice from the population of the six villages of the Parish, that Hambleton was bigger than Brayton; that Thorpe Willoughby was even smaller than Gateforth. What then is surprising is that it took so long for the obvious needs of Hambleton for a Church of its own to be met. For centuries, Hambleton people had found it a long way for people to have to go to St. Wilfrid's, Brayton, and you can find comments to this effect in ancient documents. In 1883 to 1923 the Rector of Brayton was the Rev. Tommy Cheese, and it was during his time that the new separate Parish of Gateforth cum Hambleton was formed. On 17th. December 1914, there was formed the District Chapelry of Gateforth cum Hambleton, and in the
following year on 15th. July 1915, the Church of St. Mary's, Hambleton was substituted as the Parish Church, in place of St. Mary's, Gateforth.
The Rev. F. A. Gumley was appointed on 28th. March 1914, and remained for the next 22 years looking after the new Parish of Gateforth cum Hambleton,
and was known as Vicar, being the first Incumbent after the separation from Brayton that occurred on 21st April, 1915. By this date then began the new Parish.

So when you ask where did the villagers go for Baptisms and Weddings and Funerals? The answer is that for centuries the people usually went to Brayton. A visit to Brayton Churchyard is testimony to the people of Hambleton and Gateforth buried there; and the Brayton Registers show a constant flow of “Hatch, match and despatches” well into the time of the First World War. Children could be baptised at Gateforth Old Church from Georgian days, and marriages were licensed from there from 1915. At Hambleton, baptisms occurred in the ‘Old School” before the Church was built, although many parents went all the way to Brayton, and even some after the new Church was open, couldn’t resist going to the mother Church as was their right until 1915.

**Baptisms – in the School-Church, Hambleton**

1880  
Oct 17  Ruth born Feb. 25th, daughter of John Stead & Agnes Pickup.  
    Nov 21  Rebecca, born Oct. 17th, daughter of Thomas & Jane Norton.  
    Dec 26  Norman & Vincent, the twin sons of Elias & Ann Brown, born on July 23rd, and privately baptised on Sept. 19th, were received into the Church on this day.

1881  
    Mar 20  Nellie, born Nov. 7th, daughter of James and Jane Sayner.  
    Apr 17  Mary Hannah, born Feb. 19th, daughter of George & Emma Newby.  
    June 12  Elizabeth, born May 18th, daughter of David & Mary Howcroft.  
    “  “  Tom, born Apr. 21st, son of John & Catherine Walker of York, privately baptised on May 8th, was this day received into the Church.  

1882  
Jan 15  Ruth, born Nov. 23rd, daughter of Peter & Elizabeth Harper.  
    Apr 16  Edith, born Feb. 21st, daughter of James & Sarah Howcroft.  
    “  “  Sarah, born Feb. 18th, daughter of Brook & Esther Newby.

These baptisms in April 1882 were the last to take place in the School-Church. The following are the first baptisms at St. Mary’s:-

1882  
June 18  Elizabeth Ann, born April 29th, the daughter of Frank and Alice Middleton of Hambleton.  
    “  “  Harry, born Jan. 26th, son of George & Margaret Milner.  
    Aug 20  Mildred Ann, born July 10th, the daughter of John & Martha Palframan.
Aug 20  Alice, born July 16th, daughter of George & Emma Newby.
   “ Jane, born July 12th, daughter of James & Jane Sayner.
   “ Annie Elizabeth May, born June 30th, the daughter of Samuel & Elizabeth May Lund.
   “ Joseph Twigg, the son of William & Maria Thompson, born on April 24th, and privately baptised on May 10th, was this day received into the Church.

Marriages – at Brayton Parish Church.

1880  Nov 20  Richard Brooke of Aberford to Mary Jane Settrington of Hambleton.

1881  Jan 22  George Revis to Elizabeth Anson, both of Hambleton.
       Nov 24  George Clark to Mary Lilley, both of Gateforth.
       Dec 12  Thomas Smith of Gateforth to Elizabeth Briggs of Burn.
       Dec 22  James Firth Singleton to Eliza Elizabeth Pickup, both of Hambleton.
       Dec 23  Samuel May Lund to Elizabeth Marsden, both of Hambleton.
       Dec 24  William Taylor of Hambleton to Ruth Heathcote Smith of Selby.
       Dec 27  George Lilley, of Lupset, to Annie Elizabeth Issatt of Hambleton.

1882  Feb 4  William Wilson to Martha Dodsworth, both of Hambleton.
       Jul 22  James Longfield to Sarah Ann Pool, of Hambleton
       Jul 25  Charles Sherwood to Mary Jane Higgins of Gateforth.
       Aug 3  Robert Dick to Ada Evelyn Abell of Gateforth.

Burials – at Brayton Church.

1880  Nov 27  Sarah Lee, of Gateforth, aged 78 years.
       Dec 16  Ruth Pickup, of Hambleton, an infant, 10 months old.

1881  Feb 11 Joseph Thomas Farrar, of Hambleton, aged 5 years.
       “ 21  Moses Richardson, of Hambleton, aged 80 years.
       “ 28  Mary Ellen Heptonstall, of Gateforth, aged 6 years.
       Mar 7  George Smith, of Hambleton, aged 47 years.
       “ 14  Walter Heptonstall, of Gateforth, aged 1 year.
       “ 22  Ann Wilson, of Hambleton, aged 42 years.
       “ 23  Susannah Lund, of Hambleton, aged 58 years.
       “ 26  Robert Smith, of Gateforth, aged 73 years.
       Jun 8  James Wanless, formerly of Gateforth, aged 71 years.
       Jul 21  Tom Walker, of Hambleton, an infant aged 1 years.
       Aug 16  George Lightfoot, of Hambleton, aged 57 years.
30 Julia Ann Howcroft, of Hambleton, aged 1 year.
Sep 20 Hannah Wilson, of Hambleton, aged 90 years.
Dec 5 William Clayton, of Hambleton, aged 2 years.
16 Elizabeth Middleton of Hambleton, aged 76 years.
This glance at the Registers points to the kind of life in those days. Mothers brought up large families, and spent a lot of time nursing and bringing up children, many of whom sadly were ill in their early months and frequently died. Modern mums have a great deal to be thankful for! Marriages happened mainly near Christmas when girls “in Service” could get a day or so free. The long honeymoons of today were beyond the means of most people. Quite often both bride and groom were born locally – travel was still a major happening, and meant that friendships were very much within the village where one was born and bred. Truly it could be said that everybody knew everyone else, and this attitude was to last until the 1960's, when with the new estates, the old villagers rued the fact that they were losing this highly personal village life that added such a strong sense of belonging. To compensate today in village life we have to cultivate instant friendships, and do all we can to maintain this friendliness.

The employment of men mentioned in the Registers consists of many labourers, most of whom worked in farming, such as on the big Estates. Farming was mixed, with dairy, sheep and pigs, arable; just a little market gardening; growing of peas was popular then as now, as were potatoes. The extensive growing of sugar beet is a very new trend, as is the vast mushroom-farm at Gateforth. Other labourers worked on the railway in general labouring, such as in building work. Locally there were a few shops (plus the carriers) who practically supplied all daily needs for food, clothes and home – there being little need to go into Selby except once or twice a year. It was the day of horses and carts, with two wheelwrights and two blacksmiths in the village. Many remember the last blacksmith on the Green who repaired any thing made of metal. Most unmarried girls worked “in Service” as domestics, or worked at the Anson Jam Factory, which was in Station Road. It was burnt down in 1959 and is where Campey's have their store today for sugar and animal foods. Mr. Anson was the biggest employer in Hambleton village, and his family also had two local farms for growing quite a lot of the ingredients bottled. For years Mr. Anson was the Churchwarden at Hambleton, particularly at the time of the building of the new Church. He lived in the Manor House in Chapel Street.

There is no Register of Services before 1914, nor do the Parish Magazines of Brayton of 1881 and 1882 give Sunday Services, presuming everybody knew the times – only weekday ones are given which show that St. Mary's, Hambleton, had twice monthly Thursday Services at 7 p.m. During Lent it was each Thursday, with a different Clergyman each time giving a long sermon or talk on Missions. Indeed at Hambleton they formed a strong missionary group at the Church which raised large sums
for overseas, especially the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, e.g. “A Missionary Lecture on China was given in the Schoolroom on Thursday 2nd March 1882 by the Rev. J. Burnett. The audience was larger than usual, and listened with evident interest to the graphic account given by the Lecturer of the customs and religions of the Chinese and some of the Church of England amongst them.” We still support Missionary work today, like the C.M.S. But interest has swung in recent times to supporting work done for the world's very poor, e.g. Christian Aid.

The Sunday Services at Hambleton and Gateforth in 1914 followed the pattern below; and it is fair to say a similar pattern also like this existed from 1882 onwards. Certainly the main Services were Mattins (popular with Middle Class folk) and Evensong (popular with servants and the Working Class folk). Holy Communion was for the select few except at Easter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hambleton</th>
<th>Gateforth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sunday in the month.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>10.30 am Mattins and Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00 pm Evensong</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.30 am Mattins and Holy Communion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.00 pm Evensong</td>
<td>6.30 pm Evensong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.30 am Mattins.</td>
<td>8.00 am Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.30 pm Evensong</td>
<td>3.00 pm Evensong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.30 am Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.30 am Mattins &amp; Litany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.00 pm Evensong</td>
<td>6.30 pm Evensong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the Good Friday Observance in 1882 the Parson writes “we must earnestly intreat our readers to remember the sacred character of this day and to observe it not as a mere holiday, but as the commemoration of the most solemn event in the world's history, as well as the most wonderful manifestation of the love of God to man.” A plea we need to hear in 1982.

The Harvest Celebrations, however, were extremely popular.

Harvest Service 1881.

“This was held on Thursday 6th October (in the School-Church). The sermon was preached by the Rev. F. J. Young M.A., Rector of South Milford. The collection, which was for the Schoolmaster's House Fund, amounted to £6. The weather having sadly damaged all gardens in which flowers are usually found in abundance, the prospects of the decorators were not good; but so many contributed to the utmost of their power, and the materials furnished were used with so much skill and taste that no one would have supposed that any unusual difficulties had been met and overcome.”
Harvest Service 1882

“This was on Tuesday 10th October. This was of course the first Harvest Thanksgiving Service held in St. Mary's Church. We need scarcely say that the decorations were executed with the greatest taste. The pillars and window-sills, the communion rails, the Lectern, the Font, and the Pulpit were decked with flowers, evergreens and corn. At the East end were the words “O GIVE THANKS” and under the West Window, “SEED TIME AND HARVEST SHALL NOT CEASE.” These texts were formed with red letters and a white background, and were very effective.

The Service was a very hearty one. The prayers and lessons were read by the clergy of the Parish (i.e. of Brayton). The sermon was preached by the Rev. C. C. Nation M.A. Vicar of All Saint’s, Pontefract, on the words “Our Father.” The Anthem was by Mr. Church, on words taken from Psalm 147: “All Thy Works shall praise Thee, O God.” Though simple, it was very sweet, and was sung with great care by the choir. The collection was for the Church Building Fund. It realised the handsome sum of £34. 3s. 7d.” Brayton Church at their Harvest gave the Collection of £11. 3s. 0d. To Hambleton Church Building Fund.

Christmas Concert 1880

The choir and Sunday School children from the opening of the School-Church provided entertainment – a tradition that has resulted in all sorts of similar things occurring ever since in what we now call the “Old School”, and which are just as popular today.

“A miscellaneous Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music was given in the School-room on the evening of Wednesday, 22nd December. The first part was sacred, and consisted of carols and anthems, sung by the children and the choir, with help from some kind of friends from a distance. The second part consisted of secular songs, et. The weather was unfortunately most unfavourable, but in spite of this, there was a very good attendance, and so far as can be gathered from opinions freely expressed by those who were present, the entertainment gave lively and universal satisfaction.”

Sunday School Festival 1881

“The Annual Festival of the Sunday Schools of the Parish were held at Brayton on Thursday 23rd June. The children of the four schools belonging to Brayton, Hambleton, Barlow and Thorpe Willoughby, assembled at 2 o'clock or soon afterwards on the village green. Service in the Parish Church was at half-past-two. We never remember to have seen the Church so full on any similar occasion. Every seat appeared to be occupied, and the children were remarkably quiet and attentive. The sermon was preached by the Rev. E. A. Lane M.A., the Rector of St. Maurice's, York. He took for his text Psalm 34:8 “O taste and see how good the Lord is”. After the service the whole congregation returned to the village green, where two or three school songs were sung whilst the
tea was being prepared. After tea, the evening was passed in races, games etc. The wagons for the distant villages left about 9 o'clock.

The trays were supplied by the following ladies: Mrs. G. Anson, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Braithwaite, Mrs. B. Bramley, Mrs. Brigham, Mrs. R. Browne, Mrs. G. Burton, Mrs. Crosthwaite, Miss Dodgson, the Misses Emanuel, Mrs. Haigh, Mrs. G. Palframan, Mrs. J. Farrand, Mrs. M. Palframan, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Wheater, Mrs. Smith of Hambleton House. The number of children who had tea was about 300. The day was beautifully fine, and everything seemed to go off perfectly."

**Sunday School Treat 1882.**

“Instead of one festival there were three at Brayton, Barlow and Hambleton. The Hambleton entertainment was on Friday the 28th July. We are afraid that the Vicar is responsible for some want of judgement in his choice of the day in this case. The truth is, the pea harvest occupied a longer time than he expected, and several children were occupied in the pea field, children who otherwise would have been present. This was almost as much to the sorrow of their entertainers as their own. We hope that all bust times will be avoided next year. (There follows the usual list of trayholders). Mr. John Palframan kindly lent his field close to the school for games etc. which were kept up till about 9 o'clock, when a shower of rain summarily dismissed the whole company. We have omitted to say that a children's service in Church was the first event in the day's proceedings."

**The School-Church 1872.**

This was the original name for the former Church of England School in Station Road opposite the Church. Its proper name now is the Parish Hall but it is affectionately known as the “Old School”. The land for it was given by Lord Londesborough (i.e. William Henry Forrester Denison), the chief landowner in the village, to the Vicar and Churchwardens upon trust (a) for a place for the celebration of Diving Service according to the principles of the Established Church; (b) for a school for the education of adults and children of Hambleton, Gateforth and Thorpe Willoughby.

It was dedicated and licensed by the Archbishop of York on Tuesday after Trinity Sunday 1872. And so from then on until 1882, it was used as a “Church” until ST. Mary's opened. It opened as a school on 23rd September 1872, with 48 pupils under Mr. R. Frost. Mrs. E. M. Holland was the last Headteacher when the school closed in 1973, and of course is the present Headmistress of the new Church of England Controlled Primary School in Gateforth Lane. This new school was built in 1973 because of the expansion of the village population. A temporary classroom in the early 1970's was even to be found in the churchyard opposite the school because of space problems. The Centenary in 1972 of the School was admirably documented by Mrs. Holland in a detailed booklet.
at that time, and should be consulted for those interested in knowing more about the village school life from 1872. The key point is that this building expressed a very close link between Church, the children and the village. The Church at Hambleton always owned the building (and has the original Deed), and we have seen it as a place to serve the local community so long as finances permit. Since 1973 therefore, it has been run by Mrs. Molly Thwaites, with her Churchwarden husband, Mr. Frank Thwaites and the family, on behalf of the village, as a Hall or community centre used by numerous organisations, clubs, classes, by young and old, for entertainment and fund raising, for meetings and parties. It is run on a non-profit making basis and all monies are ploughed back in the upkeep of the building.

Miss Enid Thwaites has the earliest known photograph of the School-Church. This brown sepia photograph shows a small bell-cote right in the middle of the top of the main roof (just like the one to be seen still at Brayton School); there are no chimneys shown at all; and the small room had a side window facing south. Water came from the well in the school-aster's garden next door. The schoolmaster's house belonged to the church before it was sold in the late 1960's. There used to be a gallery in the small room that was used for the infants. The cloakrooms were added in 1908, the dividing screen in 1913, electric in 1938, although heating as to this day is by two coke burners which when going well, make the place pleasantly warm.

We know there was a school before 1872 in Hambleton, which W.W> Morrell refers to in his book of 1867:

“The tithes were commuted for land and money payments in 1796, and an allotment of five acres, 12 rods and 7 perches of land was given for the support of a school erected in that year. The land lets at £9 per annum for which sum six children are taught free.”

Going further back, Brayton Parish Registers refer to the death of the village schoolmaster in Hambleton on 18th December 1641. He is pompously described as the “Pedagogus”, although in those days right up to Victorian times, school teachers had nothing of the status they receive today. The registers also refer to Thomas Smith, the son of Brian Smith, the “Pedagogus”, who died at the age of twenty-one in the 17th Century.

Here are “Inspection Reports” for 1881 and 1882.

i. Annual Examination of the Parochial Scool of Hambleton, and Inspection in Religious Knowledge, conducted by the Rev. H. Toovey M.A., the Diocesan Inspector, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 11th and 12th January 1881. “This School Continues to maintain its character for sound teaching in religion. The children passed a good examination, the paper-work of the first division being particularly good, both in subject matter and in composition. I am glad that the children are being prepared to be examined next year in a part of the Prayer Book. The singing has been carefully taught. The general order and tone of the school are all that can be desired.
ii. Government Inspection of Hambleton School, Thursday April 21st, 1881.
“The general results of the examination are again very satisfactory. The standard of work deserves high praise. Throughout there are evidences of careful and painstaking teaching; and the slate work merits special attention. Grammar and geography have also been taught with success. I cannot speak so favourably of some of the Infant's work, or of the sewing and knitting. The latter would improve if taught with more system.”

iii. Inspection in Religious Knowledge, January 1882, by Rev. Toovey “The Marks show that the children passed a satisfactory examination, and have a good knowledge of their subjects. Much pains have been taken with the singing, which is very good; so also is the order. The repetition was said too mechanically and too rapidly; the children in Division II and III might, with advantage, learn some easy psalms and texts. The paper work was decidedly good.”

“The school again passed a good examination, and its state reflects great credit on the Master.” The Master was Mr. Cargill; and the reason for the praise about the singing is that he was also Organist at St. Mary's for over 40 years.

Children's Entertainment 1881.
“A very agreeable and successful entertainment was given in the Schoolroom on the evening of Tuesday, December 6th. The first part consisted of the “Musical Aesop”, a collection of fables in prose and verse, connected with each other by means of a simple tale of a boy's adventure in a morning errand. Some of the fables were sung and some recited; the narrative being read by the Vicar, and the accompaniments played by Mr. Cargill. The second part was a miscellaneous selection of instrumental and vocal pieces, Mrs. Cargill giving some valuable help at the piano. The performers were all (with one exception of a former scholar) either the children, or the teachers of the Day School.

The weather was very unfavourable, but the room was nevertheless well filled. A sum of about £4 was cleared for the Master's House Fund.”

In Christmas week the Hambleton Burlesque Band from the “Musical Aesop” also performed at Brayton Church.

In 1981 this school tradition of Christmas entertainment continued at the new Hambleton C. of E. School with the Juniors presenting “Only a Baby” telling the Christmas Story, on Thursday the 10th December.
at 7.00 pm; and the Infants their Entertainment in the afternoon. In addition, they have a Christingle Service that is now an annual event.

GATEFORTH CHURCH 1825 TO 1948.

In Hambleton we have traced Church and Village life back a hundred years to 18882, then back to 1872 with the School-church; but parallel with this in Gateforth is the story of Gateforth Church and the Gateforth Estate which takes us back to 1825, and earlier. Indeed the background to Christianity in Gateforth and Hambleton can be found back into Medieval days.

The Deed for Gateforth Chapelry 1825.

This can be seen in the Borthwick Institute in York. It recites that Humphrey Osbaldeston (of Gateforth Hall) “Had granted a piece of land in the Parish of Brayton and the chapel standing therein upon trust to procure its consecration as a Chapel-of-Ease to be used by the inhabitants of Gateforth for Divine Service; that the same was consecrated 5th September 1825 and licensed for Divine Service. Humphrey Osbaldeston being anxious to endow the same and make provision for the Minister officiating therein, had agreed to transfer £4,000 3% Consols . . . . . . . to pay £105 p.a. to the person for the time being who shall be appointed to preach and officiate as a Minister of the Gospel in the principles of the Church of England in the said Church or Chapel of Gateforth . . . . .” (Later this became £150 p.a.).

The Patronage was given to Humphrey Osbaldeston and his heirse, i.e. he had the right of appointing the Parson. The repairs of the Church was the responsibility of Humphrey Osbaldeston, his heirs and assigns.

The ownership always remained private and never was transferred to the Church of England, and in recent times the Leeds City Corporation, and the Health Authority owned it; and the land now is in a private citizen's ownership.

St. Mary's, Gateforth.

It was built of grey-white brick and stone next to Church Lodge, on the south facing side of the Hough, quite close to the Hall. It cost Humphrey Osbaldeston £5,000 to build the Chapel. The Chapel was almost cross-shaped, with a small chancel at the east end, and an interesting towere at the west end where the main door was. The tower was a smaller replica of the octagon tower and spire at Brayton, only the octagon was brick and had battlements. Inside the Chapel it was white plastered, and had a set of three identical windows along the south and north walls of the nave, the windows having leaded lights. The pulpit was a most impressive three-decker one, for taking the Service from the first level, the lectern on the next, and the sermon from the top. The stone in the building came from Monk Fryston, and was driven on oxen carts to Gateforth. The Church had a marvellous old barrel organ that played a fixed number of hymns. It also had a harmonium. In 1935 an organ purchased for £170 of which Leeds Corporation gave £135, £10 came from Mr. Abell, and Mr.
Riley Smith gave the other £25. Under the Chapel near to where the pulpit was, there is the Osbaldeston Vault. Buried there are:-

1. Catherine Osbaldeston, died December 1824, aged 75 years.
2. Humphrey Osbaldeston, died September 1835, aged 90 years.
3. Theodosia Brooke, died 18th June 1850, aged 76 years.
4. Humphrey Brooke Firman, died 28th January 1868, aged 34 years.
5. Brooke Firman, Lt. Colonel, died 22nd December 1846, aged 67 years.

This vault is all that remains on the site of the former Church, and it was sealed after the demolition in 1948. Also worth of note in the Chapel, were four Hatchments hung on the walls. These were Coats of Arms on a lozenge-shaped wooden frame, and were usually hung in church following the death of the person concerned.

The Church had been best attended in the days of the Squire, but after the Hall became a Sanatorium under Leeds Corporation, the Church fell into a slow state of decay (especially the roof), and attendances began to dwindle, apart from “high days and holidays”. This decay was never dealt with by the owners, and because the Church was about a mile from the village, interest was not as strong as it might have been had the Church been originally in the centre of the village. By the 1920’s the finances were becoming desperate if you look at the unbelievable Annual Account for the year 1919 to 1920:-

Gateforth Church Account.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£. s. d.</td>
<td>£. s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection in Church from Easter 1919-1920</td>
<td>1 14 6½</td>
<td>York Diocesan Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save the Children Fund</td>
<td>12 4</td>
<td>Carbide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvest Thanksgiving, given to Selby Cottage Hospital</td>
<td>5 5 0</td>
<td>Save the Children Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Selby Cottage Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7 11 10½</td>
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Just before the demolition following the closure of the Church, quite a lot of the contents went to the Corporation. The organ went to St. James Hospital in Leeds (£35 being given back to the Church Council); the barrel organ that had been in the gallery of the Church was given to the Leeds City Museum (and should be there still); of the two alters, one is now the main alter at Hambleton (see later about this); the pulpit went to St. James Hospital although part of it was retained for use in the Gateforth Mission Room; the cupboards are in Hambleton Church and possibly one of Hambleton's two sanctuary chairs came from there. Hambleton also has Communion plated chalice that came from Gateforth.

Marriages only took place in Gateforth Church from 1921 to 1945, and the Registers record 10.
St Mary's Gateforth 1825-1948
Christian worship in Gateforth following the 1948 closure was carried on in two places, the Mission Room in the Main Street, and in the Gateforth Sanatarium Chapel room. The Vicar was the Chaplin to the Hospital and as well as the usual services of worship, a number of people were prepared for Confirmations. The Mission room had been the tiny school for the village, but it was never a success as a place of Sunday worship nor as a village Hall on weekdays, and so due to decline, it was sold by the Church Authorities in 1977. On Sundays now, Gateforth Christians drive to Church at Hambleton, despite the fact that Gateforth village has always felt itself distinct from Hambleton, although at one time, Hambleton people used to walk to Gateforth Chapel to join in worship at Festivals.

Gateforth Parsonage and Parsons.

The Parsonage was given in 1834 by Miss Theodosia Osbaldeston Brooke of Gateforth Hall at a cost of £2,000. Miss Brooke was the daughter of Mr. Osbaldeston. The Parsonage is the large five bedroomed house, built of grey-white brick in Gateforth Lane in Hambleton, just before the bungalows that now form “The Meadows”. The Parsonage had one acre of garden and two acres of glebe land. It was sold in 1955 by the Church Commissioners for £1,800. This then was the home of the Perpetual Curates of Gateforth, who were only Parsons of Gateforth village, despite the oddity of living in Hambleton. And it naturally became the Vicarage when the new Parish of Gateforth and Hambleton formed in 1915.

The Perpetual Curates of Gateforth were first the Rev. William Green, then the Rev. R. D. Newenham, the Rev. Dr. Illfe, the Rev. William Henry Cleveland (who died in 1913), and the last Perpetual Curate was Rev. Francis Albert Gumley who was appointed on 28th March 1914, and a year later became Vicar.

GATEFORTH HALL AND ESTATE.

Any Parson at Gateforth in Victorian days knew that he had to get on with the Squire his Patron, and that every parishioner lived as a tenant of the Squire, and virtually all worked for him on the land or at the Hall. The Hall was built in 1814 by Humphrey Brooke Osbaldeston (1745-1845). His descendants go back to the Humphrey Brooke of London, who wrote the Court Letters for Queen Elizabeth I, and who purchased the Manor of Gateforth from Lord D’Arcy in 1564. Besides the building of the Hall in 1814, Humphrey Brooke Osbaldeston succeeded to Hunmanby near Filey, and lived at Hunmanby Hall, which is endowed now as a fine Methodist Boarding School. He was also Sherriff of Yorkshire. His daughter Jane Brooke married the Rev. Richard Brooke (he having changed his name from Robson by Royal Licence when he married Jane). He therefore became a Squire. He was also a Magistrate of the West and East Ridings, and Lord of the Manor of Askern. Jane Brooke, his wife, left “The Gateforth Charity”, and in Brayton Churchyard, a huge pink marble tomb describes the huge sums she left to good works in Yorkshire (not unfortunately very much at all to
Gateforth! One can imagine in the 1860's and 70's when Rev. Richard Brooke was squire, and the Rev. Dr. Iliffe was the Minister at Gateforth that the people really had a huge dose of Victorian Christianity.

To get some of the feel or atmosphere of Victorian times on the Estate, it is amusing to glance at some of the details published on its auction in 1896. It was a vast Estate of just over 2,005 acres, of which over 200 acres were in Brayton, 70 acres for the Hall grounds, and the rest was almost the whole of the Gateforth Parish. Excluded were the Hough, and Gateforth Green (presumably Common Land), but included were the Church and all the farms and cottages that made up the village then. All the Gateforth farmers were therefore tenant-farmers, and they are listed as George Abell (200 acres), John Abell (158), Shillitoe (145), Taylor (131), John Barry (101), Frances Watson (132), Baxter (193), Charles Wilson (60), George Dickson (237), John Middleton (157). There were 15 cottages to let which totally only brought in £73 p.a. The farmers all paid rent at just over £1 per acre which brought in £2,580 p.a. to the Squire, which when you think of the typical low wage of the time, it made the Squire a very rich man, and very powerful over everyone's life in the village.

The London Estate Agent's "blurb" at the auction of 1896 says "the sporting yield £375 p.a. The Covers are nearly 200 acres in extent and are for the partridges. There is hunting with the Bramham Moor and Badsworth Hounds". "It is worthy of note that among the local industries at Hambleton is Anson's Factory, where vast quantities of fruit are made into jams: the potatoes, peas and other vegetables are bottled and put up for export, Chiefly for the Ocean-going Steamship Companies, so that a constant demand is maintained for locally grown fruit and vegetables". "...The Estate is bounded by the Aire and Calder Navigation on the south and east, and is a valuable means of cheap transport to and from the farms". "The lands are well drained and watered, and are also known as possessing specially rich mixed soil, much of it being under potatoe, pea and flax cultivation, with a sufficient quantity of wood for rearing pheasants, the whole being eminently suitable to Sporting Purposes as there is no better shooting in the County. The geological formation indicates that below the immediate subsoil of conglomerate and Bunter sand-stone, Coal Measures are found, and as they appear to be, from the Geological Survey Map, only a few hundred feet from the surface, the possibilities exist for a large development of Mineral wealth in the future". (Hints of what we now know through the Selby Coalfield, but which the Squire never followed up).

The details then about the Church, the Parsonage, the advowson follow in the brochure.

We read next a typical piece of estate agents “eye-wash”: “the name of Squire Osbaldeston (George Osbaldeston) who flourished at the early part of the present century, is recorded in the annals of Sport, and is well known to all patrons of the horse, hound and gun. On his presentation Snuff Box is inscribed 'The Best Sportsman of any age and country.'
He died in 1866, after living a long life as an English Sportsman. The present owner inherited through the female line, and the purchaser of Gateforth will succeed to a Property which has not been out of the same family for many hundred years”.

“Gateforth Hall is a solid and substantial Mansion built in white brick, without any pretence at architectural beauty except in the front which has a remarkably fine stone Columnar Entrance in the Ionic Style . . . it is approached by carriage drives with three excellent Lodge Entrances” (only Church Lodge and West Lodge remain now). “Gateforth Hall contains: the Entrance Hall and Billiard room (26' by 20'), a spacious Hall, two Drawing Rooms, a Morning Room, a fine Library Room, on the north side is a Ladies Boudoir. The first floor is reached by a handsome staircase with Gallery, and 8 Principal Bedrooms and 2 dressing rooms. In the Wings are 9 bedrooms, 2 Boxrooms, dressing room, fitted bathroom and a Housemaid's closet. On the Groundfloor are 8 Bedrooms, bathroom, and Museum. The Domestic Offices: Scullery, Ironing Room, Dairy, 2 store rooms, Jam Room, Housekeeper's Room, Linen Room, Butler's Pantry, large Knife and Boot Room, large Servants' Hall, various large and small cellars, a Bakery, Coal-house, Ash Pit, Paint House, Game Larder, etc. The Stables have 8 stalls, three loose Boxes, large Coach Houses, Harness Room, Forge, suit of 6 Living Rooms above, Lofts and Pidgeon Cote. The Kitchen Garden is over 3½ acres with walled garden, and a Gardener's Cottage. In the Rose Garden is a range of glass containing Grape and Peach Houses”. Then follows a detailed list about the farms the Squire owned, including the Inn “The White Swan”. We are left to imagine the kind of life at the Hall and on the Estate, and the vast army of servants and tenants.

Since those days the Estate has gradually been sold off in lots and the Hall has been variously used as a T.B. Hospital and Convalescent Hospital, and at present is a “Leisure Centre”. The farmers are now mainly owner-occupiers, and the village remains a peaceful quiet seclusion.

THE CHANTRY CHAPELS OF HAMBLETON AND GATEFORTH.

There are various ancient documents referring to these two Chantry Chapels built in medieval days, and the reason they were built was the distance people otherwise would have had to go to get to their Parish Church at Brayton. These Chantries were quite small, with an alter for saying Mass, and were usually endowed and founded by a wealthy Christian so that a Priest could take worship, be Schoolmaster and Pastor, and manage to live simply, often having to run a small holding to provide his food.

Hambleton Chantry Chapel: As long ago as 6th January 1292, the Abbot of Selby wrote “considering the towns of Hamelton, Gayteford and Lund, by reason of distance of the place could not repair without difficulty to their parish church, and in due time congregate in ecclesiastical offices, did, by their unanimous consent, grant that Mr. John de Craucome,
vicar-general to John, Archbishop of York, then in remote parts, should in the Chappel of Hamelton, ordain a chantry for ever to remain, dedicated to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary . . .”. “The Abbot then says there is to be one Priest and a Clerk, who were to receive 10 Marks from the monies of Brayton Church, and that the Abbot and Convent were to be the Patrons.

The Oxford Bodleian Library has a manuscript of 1536 in the time of Henry VIII that says: “Chantry of Our Lady at Hambleton, two miles and more from Brayton. John Richardson, incumbent, founded by William Hamelton dated 1307, to say mass, etc . . . value £6. 4s. 4d. We do not know the exact site in Hambleton where the Chapel was.

We know that it was built by 15th October 1292 when the first priest started there, and there was a cottage with 5 acres attached. The order for its suppression, (in effect closure), was 28th February 1539, when Henry VIII at the Reformation was opposed to such places. There is a lot to know about the founder of Hambleton Chantry, William de Hamelton, who has been by far the most famous person and Christian to come from this area. He was the son of Adam and Alice de Hamelton, and was educated at Selby Convent. By 1287 he was Archdeacon of York, and whilst Archdeacon he also became Incumbent of Brayton Church, being presented by the Abbot of Selby. In 1298 he became Dean of York Minister, and by 1305 was the Lord High Chancellor of England. He died in 1307.

Gateforth Chantry Chapel: We know from what the Abbot of Selby said above that Gateforth also was to have a Chapel from 1292, but it was not endowed until the Feast of the Virgin Mary 1332, “John de Lascy, of Gateforth, having obtained the King's license to amortize and the licenses of John de Wystowe, Abbat of Selby, and convent of the same, patrons of the Church of Brayton, and William de Jarval (Rector of the same Church), gave, granted, and by his charter confirmed in pure almes to Richard de Hillam, chaplin, and his successors celebrating divine service at this chantry for ever, for the souls of himself, etc . . . two messuages (i.e. houses) in Gayteford against the chappell, and thirty acres of land in that town; also six acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood; and his mill towards Brayton worth twenty pence per annum . . . ” A later member of the Lascy family, Robert Lascy of Gaytford on 12th February 1426 left in his will that he was . . . “to be buried in the parish church of Brayton in which he leaves etc . . . and two acres of land in augmentation of an honest divine (priest), in the Church of Gaytford, for 95 years after his death”. This means that the de Lascy family founded the Chantry, one of John de Lascy's family being Hugh de Lascy an Abbot of Selby, so that it comes as no surprise that John was its first Patron.

Torre, the 17th Century historian, gives us a list of theophilus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chantry Priests of Gateforth</th>
<th>Patron</th>
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<tr>
<td>1332 Ric. Hillam</td>
<td>Johes de Lascy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Aug. 1349 Joh. Metherley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Mar. 1413 Jac. Cursom</td>
<td>Archbishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Dec. 1443 Rad. Selby</td>
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The Chapel was Dissolved in 1540, and realised at that time £4. 10s. 0d. Again, we do not know the exact site in Gateforth where it was.

The point about these Chantry Chapels in Hambleton and Gateforth is that Christian worship was provided for locally, with a resident priest in each village for two centuries. It then took from the Reformation until the 19th Century for history to repeat itself, with two churches and priests in each village. Inflation in the 20th Century has turned the clock back once more, and in 1982 neither village has a resident Vicar, although both are pastorally cared for, as are the worshipping needs, at St. Mary's of course.

SNIPPETS ROM THE PAST

Most of this booklet is about the Church life in Hambleton and Gateforth Parish, but perhaps readers would like a few comments about the history generally. We await carefully researched history of our humble villages, based on ancient documents and facts.

. . . . . In 1022 there was 'a grant by Nicholas de Burstal to his daughter Agnes of a portion of assart in the wood of Caiteford abutting Hadelsay Lane". This is the earliest reference and spelling I know of Gateforth. . . . . As many of you know, Hambleton is mentioned in the Domesday Book compiled after 1086. The Manor of Hambleton is described: “in Hambleton Alchel had three Carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be two ploughs there. Ernui now has it of Ilbert. In the demesne one plough and six villains, and one bordar and two spokesmen, but they have no plough. Wood pasture one mile long and one broad. The whole manor two miles long and one mile and a half broad. Valuein King Edward's time 30 shillings, now 20 shillings”. This implies a Saxon settlement in King Edward the Confessor's reign – indeed the very name Hambleton is of Saxon origin. The Ilbert referred to above is the Norman Baron Ilbert de Lascy who was to give the manor of Hambleton to the Abbey of Selby. (Eventually it passed to the notorious John of Gaunt and his family.)

. . . . . Medieval people Obviously William of Hambleton, and also the de Lascy family were most important. There are also wills giving lands to Selby Abbey, e.g. land from Gateforth, e.g. William de Gateford quit-claimed “his right to the wood called the Hoga de Hamelton, that the said Abbey might enclose the same”. Clearly the Abbot of Selby influenced life far and wide.

. . . . . Towards the Reformation time Lord George D'Arcy was owner of the Gateforth Estate and had a house there. Brayton Church contains his tomb with with stone effigy (died 23rd September 1558). He sold the Estate to the
Brooke family whose descendants were Squires of Gateforth almost to the present century. Buried inside Brayton Church are Humphrey Brooke of Gayteforth 16th January 1658, a and his son of the same name 23rd December 1688. Brayton Registers begin 25th March 1615 and record Births, Deaths and Marriages affecting Hambleton and Gateforth from that time to the Great War. 1750's resulted in a toll to repair roads, with a toll gate at Hambleton. It is hard for us to realise it took over 8 hours to travel from York to Leeds before tolls improved things. In 1796 land was enclosed and resulted in land improvement schemes, and new ditches and hedges (that now are rapidly disappearing). In 1816 the Wesleyans built a small Chapel in Hambleton, and rebuilt it in 1841 at a cost of £350. It had a monument to Thomas Wade of Hambleton (1803-1862), a farmer's son who became a fine preacher. Later he lived in the Selby area and married Susannah Staniland. He was an influential Methodist. The present Methodist Chapel was built in 1899, and its little School-room in 1876. The Leeds-Selby Railway opened on 22nd September 1834 at a cost of £210,000 with a Halt at Hambleton. This station is now closed, but the new main line is at present being built (London to York) right along the boundary between Hambleton and Thorpe Willoughby. It will be exciting to see high speed trains. In addition there are to be “merry-go-round” trains from the new Selby coal-mine at Gascoyne Wood serving non-stop, the power stations of Drax, Eggbrough and Ferrybridge. Buildings. Apart from those mentioned already, there are few of the 17th Century e.g. The old Post Office of 1655 in Chapel Street (it opened as a Post Office in 1845). But of earlier origin is Owlett Hall Along the Common, which was used in the Middle Ages as a Hunting Lodge and as a Warning Station. Also, in Gateforth, Burton Hall has early origins. But the key building we must describe now is the Parish Church:

A GUIDE TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HAMBLETON AS IN 1982.

The attraction of St. Mary's lies in its straightforwardness. It has a practical layout for worshipping our Lord, and its country atmosphere makes the ordinary person feel quickly at home in their Church.

It is a modest Victorian Church, imitating the style of English medieval Churches, with its very steeply pitched roofs, the pointed arches and windows. Its red brick makes it easier to upkeep than stone churches, and also easy to keep warm in the winter Services. A pleasant feature is the half-shingled bell turret, pointing up both to heaven, and calling us to worship.

The Font is square, and somewhat curious: the main worn part clearly pre-dates the Church. The base is a Victorian copy made to fit what might have been a medieval holy water stoop. One wonders whether it came from one of the former Chantry Chapels. Perhaps it was a gift to the new Church in 1882 from another Church updating their 'humble' font.
with an elaborate fashionable new Victorian one. The font cover came from the redundant Church of St. Michael's, Cottingley. It remained unused in the Vestry until 1980 when a faithful parishioner put a base on it to fit our font, and he carved a fine gold dove on it, the baptismal symbol that represents God the Holy Spirit.

Also from Cottingley in the 1960's came the Choir Vestry Oak Screens, and the present pulpit. The original pulpit was a plain one, whilst the newer one has symbols on it: three angels; Christ as King with crown, orb and sceptre; Star of David; IHS (i.e. Jesus); Alpha Omega (i.e. Jesus as the Beginning and the End).

The oak Lectern in 1882 was placed in the centre, at the top of the Chancel step. The Lectern has two stars of David and a cross.

The Sanctury in 1882 had curtains on the East Wall on either side of the Alter. Above the curtains were the words “Holy, Holy, Holy,” on the north side; and “Lord God Almighty” on the south. Behind the Alter was a tapestry up to the East Window in keeping exactly with the Alter Frontal. The original brass Victorian Alter Cross is now in the side Chapel, and has the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) at its centre. For years the main Alter was the oak one now in the side Chapel. In 1948 the present pale oak High Alter was put in the Sanctuary – or more correctly put back, because it was supposed to have come originally from Hambleton Church before it went to Gateforth Church. In the early 1950's, the Vicar followed a somewhat out of date ecclesiastical fashion, and introduced the four Riddell Posts and curtains round the Alter. At the same time matching cross and candlesticks were made, and the expensive gold leaf put on.

Next to the Alter is the Mothers Union Banner, which represents our Patron Saint, and she is teaching the boy (not baby) Jesus the Hebrew language. Also in the Sanctuary are (1) a pleasant Glastonbury chair, for the Bishop; (2) stone seats or sedilia for the Priest and his assistant; and (3) an oak alms dish. This dish is worth a close look at. Obviousl it is made by a local country craftsman especially for St. Mary's, and reflects the importance of farming in the Parish, with a scythe, rake, corn, sickle and whetstone carved in the centre.

The dark oak Carving above the main Alter is very fine. It has the following features:

1. The Man = Evangelist = St. Matthew
2. The Lion = Apostle = St. Mark
3. Agnus Dei = The Lamb of God = Our Lord Jesus, as the centrepiece.
4. The Ox = Pastor = St. Luke
5. The Eagle = Profit = St. John.
The **Organ** was given by the Smith family in 1885, in memory of W.T. Smith of Hambleton House. He died in 1882, the year the Church opened. The Organ is a modest two manual Conacher Organ, made in Huddersfield by what was then the country's biggest Organ Works. For years the Organ was pumped by hand from the vestry the moment music was required.

The **Stained Glass Windows**. Three of these were definitely given by the Smith family, in December 1883. They are: (1) the window on the south side of the Chancel, the most eastern one. It shows Simon the Cyrenian bearing the Cross after Christ. (2) and (3) are the two Great West Windows. They show the three Wise Men adoring Christ at twelve years old in the Temple at Jerusalem; and the Baptism of our Lord. These windows were given by Mrs. Smith and her daughters in memory of William Thomas Smith (1810 – 1882), and his son William Thomas Smith (1850 - 1861). The windows are by Ward and Hughes, of Soho Square, London. The Vicar in 1884 considered the windows were “very handsome and are much admired for their beauty and design and richness of colouring.” In Brayton Church there are stained glass windows given at the same time by the same family with the same inscriptions.

The great East Window above the Alter does not have an inscription or date, but it is so in keeping with the rest, that it was probably made by the same firm, perhaps also given by the same family but we cannot be certain about the latter. The windows portrays:-

Jesus in Gethsemane with the disciples asleep;
Jesus ascending to heaven with the disciples watching;
Jesus on the Cross, with Mary and John at the foot.

The south aisle east window was given in memory of Harris H. Anson (the Churchwarden's son), who was an Officer killed by a shell in the first World War in France on 30th August 1919, and is buried at Vis-en-Artois. The window is in very bright modernist-looking colours, and depicts a soldier dressed like a knight, who is receiving in death the “crown of life.” The names of those who were killed in the same war are on the large War Memorial plaque on the north aisle wall.

Outside the Church there is a pleasant churchyard, which has never been a burial ground. A small part of it was annexed by the West Riding County Council in 1932 to widen what is now called Station Road. The Church is built just below sea level, and there is an arrow on the north side of the Church, although flooding has never affected the Church, flood water having only affected the southern part of the Parish of Gateforth.
The Parsons of St. Mary's Hambleton:

(1882 - 1883 Robert Jarratt Crosthwaite, Rector of Brayton.)
(1884 - 1914 Tommy Cheese, Rector of Brayton.)

Vicars:

(1) 28th March 1914 - Frances Albert Gumley. Vicar for 22 years. Reputed to have only 52 sermons, which were recycled each year!

(2) 13th Jan. 1937 - Willie Ernest Smith, who also helped out at Monk Fryston during the Second World War. Vicar for 8 years.

(3) 13th June 1946 - W.R. Spalding Wray, during whose time Gateforth Church was sadly closed. Vicar for 7 years.

(4) 22nd March 1954 - James Gaskell Waring. Vicar for 4 years.

(5) 14th Sept. 1960 - William John Lowry, from whose time the Parish was held in plurality with Monk Fryston, the Vicarage being at Monk Fryston. Vicar for 18 years.

(6) 10th Oct. 1979 - Noel Tewkesbury. The plurality with Monk Fryston continued.

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CONCLUSION:

The Centenary of St. Mary's is a time for looking back as Christians in thankfulness and joy – for 100 years of faithfulness and witness to Christ and His Church, and for the way our Lord has blessed the people of Hambleton and Gateforth. Jesus is Lord of history and Lord of our lives. History is at its most relevant and interesting when it is living history e.g. the building of St. Mary's is not a 00 year old museum but a living church with a past, with a present and under God a future for worship and leading villagers to Christ. Looking back gives us roots, appreciation and perspective and helps us come to terms with God's ever changing world.

The Centenary is also a time for looking to the future. Our Lord leads us as a Christ with hope, faith and confidence.

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Rev. Noel Tewkesbury (Vicar)
February 1982