



Saturday 17 September 2016

SPECIAL ISSUE No 5 - PEW NEWS

ROPER VAULT'S NEW TENANT  
"THE SILENT MANSION"

"On Thursday last were deposited, in the family vault in Lynsted Church, the remains of the late Right Hon. JOHN, Lord TEYNHAM, Baron of Teynham, in Kent, who died at his seat, Lynsted Lodge, on the 6th current, in the 58th year of his age. His Lordship was descended from the ancient and noble family of the Ropers. John Roper, one of his ancestors, celebrated himself especially by eminent service in Scotland, under Edw. III. John, the late Lord, was the 13th Lord Teynham. The title was created by James I., July 9th, 1616. his Lordship was not of the Catholic persuasion, as stated in some of the provincial papers. Himself, Lord Henry, his brother, and Lord Henry, his father, were Protestants. The constant pressure of ill health disposed his late Lordship, in the latter part of his life, to seclude himself almost entirely from society. The few who had access to him, can bear testimony that he possessed many virtues. He was a man of strict integrity; gentle and affectionate in his disposition; in his manners kind, affable, and unostentatious, free from that aristocratic loftiness, that badge of false gentility, which too often raises an unnecessary and painful distinction between the little man and the great, and characterizes

rather the ignoble than real nobility. The poor feel sensibly his loss; they partook largely of his charity; by them especially his memory will be cherished with lasting affection. his Lordship's mind was stored with those religious principle, and imbued with that spirit of piety, which alone could prepare him for the solemn period of his dissolution.



THE CHURCH AS IT WAS.

About two o'clock at noon the funeral procession commenced from the Lodge in the following order:-

Two mutes on foot. - Man with plumes. - The tenants, two by two, on horseback. - Two mutes on foot. - The Steward on horseback, bearing the Coronet on a cushion of crimson velvet, his horse led by 2 grooms, in jockey caps. - A hearse and six, with

four bearers on each side. - Coach and four, conveying S.H. Tyler and Wm. Tyler, Esqrs. chief mourners, and nephews to his late Lordship, with other relatives, attended by two pages. - Coach and four, conveying the executors and two friends, attended by two pages. - Coach and four, conveying two friends, his Lordship's banker, T. Vallance, Esq. & W. Mackay, M.D., attended by 2 pages. - Coach and four, conveying the Rev. Thomas Wilson, Mr. Hosking, his Lordship's solicitor, and Messrs. Church and Sankay, his Lordship's surgeons, attended by two pages. - His Lordship's private carriage; servants with crape bands. - The carriages of his Lordship's friends; servants with silk bands. - The service was impressively and feelingly performed by the Rev. Thomas Wilson, A.B. The remains of his Lordship were then deposited in the silent mansion of his fathers, and the procession dispersed.

C.H. Tyler, Esq. who, with the hon. Mrs Tyler, has succeeded to his Lordship's estates, is understood to be a gentleman of most correct principles and amiable disposition."

*20<sup>th</sup> September 1824: The Morning Chronicle*

## NEW ORGAN

A new organ, built by Mr. Walker, of Francis Street, Tottenham Court Road, was opened at Lynsted church, on Sunday, the 12th instant, upon which occasion a very appropriate sermon was preached by the vicar. The organ is built on the newest principle, and is much admired for the elegance of its construction. It is only due to Mr. Walker to state, that it has given entire satisfaction to the parishioners, by whose subscriptions, amounting to upwards of £120, the whole expense has been defrayed.

*2<sup>d</sup> June 1842: Kentish Gazette*

A Handsome Stone Font with Oak Cover and Oak Rails was presented to the Parish by *Colonel Charles Henry Tyler* of Lynsted Lodge. December the Sixth 1845.

A Handsome Carved Oak Communion Table was presented to the Parish by *Samuel Creed Fairman Esq* 1856



### Parish Register: Organ subscriptions and Other Donations (Font & Communion Table)

Inscription found in the Parish Register (the handwriting was sometimes difficult to read):-  
An organ was erected in the Church **June 13, 1842** by the

Voluntary Subscriptions of the Parishioners and others at a cost of £117.10.00

John Hamilton, Vicar  
Mr Thomas Eley - Churchwarden  
Mr Hezekiah Baker - Churchwarden

*Additional bracketed notes added by Nigel Heriz-Smith*

Church Organ Subscribers											
	£	s	d		£	s	d		£	s	d
Colonel Charles Tyler (Lynsted Lodge)	33	8	9	The Vicar (Rev. John Hamilton, Vicarage)	1	-	-	Samuel Creed Fairman Esq	33	8	9
Mr. Thomas Eley (farmer, Loyterton Farm)	5	-	-	Friends of the Vicar	1	12	-	Miss F.C. Fairman	1	-	-
Mr. Edward Strouts (farmer, Hole Street Farm, Kingsdown)	2	10	-	Lady Harly (unclear)	1	-	-	General Gosselin	1	-	-
Mr. Edward Blaxland Junior (farmer, Dadmans)	2	2	-	Miss Harly (unclear)	5	-	-	Miss Gosselin	1	-	-
Mr. Henry Matson (farmer, Old School House)	1	-	-	Rev. Alfred Baldwin (clergyman, Greenstreet, Lynsted)	1	-	-	Master Gosselin Esq	1	-	-
Mr. John Tracy (surgeon, Greenstreet, Lynsted)	1	-	-	Rev. F.A. Crooke	1	-	-	Mr. Kemp		5	-
Mr. Thomas Wanstall (farmer, Greenstreet, Lynsted)		10	-	A. Friend	1	-	-	Mr Wilkins		5	-
Mr. Hezekiah Baker (baker, Lynsted Lane)		10	-	Mr. Redman		10	-	Mr. Cockle		5	-
Mr. Stephen Packer (grocer, Greenstreet, Lynsted)		10	-	Mrs Mary Vallance		10	-	Mr. Brengle y		5	-
Mr. James Duncan (publican, Greenstreet, Lynsted)		10	-	Mr. George Maytum		5	-	Mrs. Byson		2	6
Mr. John Mannooch (carpenter or painter, Lynsted Lane)		10	-	Mr. William Vallance		5	-	Mrs Mannooch		2	6
				Mr. William Wanstall		5	-	Mrs. Fryar		1	-

## AFFLUENT CLERGYMEN ILLORIED FOR TAKING MONEY WITHOUT PERFORMING DUTIES

Clergymen could be appointed with several "livings" in their portfolio that attracted "tithes" and incomes from land ownership (e.g. payments from tenant farmers on 'glebe' land) and service donations.

The result could be quite fantastic wealth without responsibility to preach to the affected flocks at the various relevant locations! Here is the nationally infamous case of our local man - **Reverend Archdeacon Crofts**.....

*Remember, the figures are from more than 150 years ago!*



### A MONSTER PLURALIST

In the fourth edition of Mr Whiston's pamphlet, "Cathedral Trusts and their Fulfilment," just published, he gives, at page 80, the following list of ecclesiastical income, tithes and benefices held by a single clergyman:- Prebendal income, £1,000.; tithes of Doddington, £347. 10s.; ditto of Hythe West, £12.; ditto of Lympe, £503.; ditto of Leynham, £765. 12s. 6d.; ditto of Stone, £218.3s.6d.; Rectory of Saltwood, £685.; cum Hythe, £95.18s.; Rectory of Cliffe, Rochester, £1,395. 10s. 10½d; glebe of ditto, 20 acres, £35.; total, £5,053. 14s. 10½d; "To look," says the author of "Ecclesia Dei," "at Cliffe church, and think of - is one of the most painful sights and scenes of home travel which a Christian man can witness and weep over." Mr. Whiston notes too that "The canonical rector has not moved from his cathedral orbit to Cliffe more than once in the last 12 years." And in his preface Mr. Whiston states that to the sum of £5,053l 14s. 10½d. "are to added, great tithes of **Lynsted**, £627. 13s. 10½d; great tithes of Iwade, £535. 16s. 3d.; total,

£1,163. 10s. 1½d; making the **real total of £6,217 5s [more than £700,000 in 2016 money!!]**, to which report gives something more. Neither Mr. Whiston, nor the writer of "Ecclesia Dei," adds the name of this unfortunate churchman. As, however, we have before remarked on the case without any such false delicacy, we may now repeat that he is the Rev. Archdeacon Crofts.

*15<sup>th</sup> May 1850: Daily News and Illustrated London News(18 May 1850)*

**"THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CANTERBURY** - To the Editor of the Daily News. SIR,- Your correspondent, a "Church Reformer," hints that Sir B. Hall ought to be more careful in his statement, and declares that 495l. Per annum is the average income of the archdeaconry of Canterbury, arising as well from the fines as from the reserved rents payable in respect of the tithes of the parishes enumerated by Sir B. Hall. Now, the fact is, that Sir B. Hall has omitted altogether the tithes of two parishes, and the church list stand thus, including seven

parishes, instead of five:

Doddington - £347.10.0; Hythe West - £12.0.0; Lympe - £503.0.0  
Tenham - £765.0.0; Stone - £218.3.6; Iwade - £535.16.3;  
**Lynsted** - £627.13.10 1/2. Total £3,009.8.7 1/2.

It appears then that the value of their tithes is more than £3,000, and the assertion of "A Church Reformer" consequently amounts to this: that for the last 25 years, the archdeacon has leased them in such a manner that he has made only £495. a year, while the lessees have had £3,000. If so, it is in a great measure the archdeaconry's own fault; he has forestalled the revenues of the archdeaconry by taking fines for granting fresh terms of seven years instead of receiving the reserved rents only, and allowing the leases to run out; a practice for which there is in this case the less excuse, as he was comparatively young when made archdeacon (25 years since), and his stall and two rectories are worth £3,000. a year, to say nothing of the preferment at his disposal; for instance, the tithes of Lynsted are receivable each

year, i.e., the lessees will probably pay the archdeacon a sum of ready money as a consideration for enjoying their tithes for seven years more. Whether the archdeacon will take £495 cash, in lieu of seven yearly payments of £627.13s.10½d. each, any one may judge for himself who will read the remarks about tithes in his last charge at Canterbury., I remain, &c. VINDEX (July 15)."

16<sup>th</sup> July 1850: Daily News



## MORE SCANDALOUSLY RICH CLERGYMEN (ARCHDEACON & DEAN OF CANTERBURY)

### "JUSTICE TO THE MOORES AND THE CROFTS.

To the Editor of The Times.  
Sir, The Archdeacon of Canterbury makes no answer to my questions, and therefore I return an answer to myself; but, as I wish to do justice to all the Moores, I will dispose of his connexions before I proceed with him. First of them stands Robert Moore, of whom I need only repeat that his offices, during his tenure of them, have produced about £184,000. Again, according to an old Canterbury preacher, "the peculiar propriety of Archbishop Moore's public life would add lustre to any character, and was not less amiable in private;" and so we find that in 1795 Robert's brother George was made a canon of Canterbury, his receipts in which capacity, till his death in 1845, would amount to about £50,000. In 1801 his father's "amiability" gave him Wrotham Rectory, commuted at £2,694. 16s. 5d., with residence and fees (if not hops), and, therefore, worth about £2,809., so as to make his receipts about £173,000., and the proceeds of the two brothers' offices about £350,000. In fact, George's personalty was sworn under £70,000., and his realty was reported to be worth more than £210,000. But he had a son, George Brydges, appointed in 1828 by his father and uncle, to seat No.3 in the Prerogative Court, the proceeds off which, in the average year of 1848, were £2,040., the seat itself being so comfortable that there is nothing for him to do in it except to pay a deputy about £600. a-year, the remuneration for which labour would in 24 years be £33,000., or thereabout. However, in 1837, Archbishop Howley gave him Tunstall Rectory, commuted at £510., and therefore worth about

£560. and producing in 15 years £8,400., so that his amount is upwards of £41,000., and the total for all three more than £300,000. But this leads me to other facts, which I gladly relate, and which you, I am sure, will gladly publish. Mr. G.B. Moore has a brother Edward, not an archdeacon, nor a canon, nor a registrar, nor a clerk of a seat, - not patronized by a chapter, nor promoted by a primate, but with one preferment from a layman, his neighbour, Thomas Law Hodges, late M.P. for West Kent. This is Frittenden Rectory, commuted at £414., and here Mr. Edward Moore resides, beloved and respected, as I am told, by everyone keeping a curate, liberally paid and generously treated; having laid out, too, upwards of £8,000. on his church and schools, and maintaining the latter at his own cost and charges. How for the contrast of Archdeacon Croft. In 1812, this son-in-law of Archbishop Sutton received from him Saltwood Rectory, worth about £800., a-year and producing, in 40 years, £32,000. In 1818 he got Cliffe Rectory, commuted at 1,391l. 10s.10½d., with glebe, &c., and therefore producing, in 34 years, £48,000. There the school is in the church, and there his parishioners say their rector has not been for more than 12 years, though he has lately given them £25. for a new schoolhouse, - a contribution not to be forgotten. Again, in 1822 he received from the same patron a stall at Canterbury, the proceeds whereof, at £1,000. a year, would be £30,000., for which, if he has always worked as hard as during this year, he may have preached four times 30 new sermons, or 30 times four old ones. But, as a canon, he was, of course, like many other canons, *par negotiis nec supra*, equal to any undertaking, though not up to more than the pay for it.

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1, 2, & 4

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Accordingly, in 1825 (through the same patron), he stepped into his archdeaconry, returned by somebody at 495l., but endowed with tithes, commuted at £3,000.16s.1½d., which, at £3,000 a year, would produce £81,000. If for this, he has visited other churches as industriously as Cliffe, he has justified his son's affinity with most of the Moores, and vindicated his connexion with Robert of the Sinecures and George of the Easy Seat. But the Valor Ecclesiasticus includes some land also in the endowment, and further gives for the "jurisdiction with the visitation yearly" an item of £57.12s.7d. (which perhaps is still paid), adding, indeed, that the office is chargeable with 10s. a year for "the distribution of 1½ seme of wheat [Note: one "seme" = 8 bushels] and 20s. in money to the poor of **Lynsted, Tenham, and Doddington,**" which may not be discontinued, though I cannot yet learn who has had either the "seme" or the shillings.

A few more words, however, about the stall at Canterbury. The canons have been reduced in number, and yet, by a beautiful division of labour, the Dean, Robert Moore, Canon Croft, and Canon Spry (lately talking about cathedral reform in convocation) have so far, got through this year for four, five, four, and six sermons respectively, including, too, the duty thrown upon the chapter by their reduction in number, for which £200. extra has been granted by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Some of the city clergy, "invidiously called working," with endowments of about £150. each, applied in 1848 to the same body for like assistance, and one of them has since enjoyed an augmentation of £39. a-year, granted in £184. The lay clerks, alleged (perhaps offensively) to have done duty twice a-day, 365 times for £40. a year, applied in the same way to Lord John Russell, and they got nothing. But I return to the archdeacon.

As a canon he has his share of the patronage of 30 livings, and, accordingly, in 1848 he took one of them as an option for his son Percy. He is also connected with one or two hospitals in or near to Canterbury, and in 1848 Mr. Horsman said (as, indeed, do other persons), "It appears that, instead of always nominating residents in Canterbury as poor brethren, he has named several of his Saltwood parishioners and servants or dependents of his own." Again, as archdeacon, he is



the patron of **10 livings**, which are not always given to old curates, whatever may be their claims. He has a court too - a court ecclesiastical - from the fees of which he has received £5.7s.6d. a year. He has patronage in it also, and accordingly, his son Robert Manners, aged 18, was on June 8, 1833, made registrar; and on Nov. 7, 1834, a cornet in the 1st Dragoons, and on Sept. 4, 1835, a lieutenant. In 1839 his military career closed - perhaps he had to "sell or sail," or the work got hard, while the pay was small; but cessant arma togae ("arms to the gown"), and registrar he still is, with a deputy for the work, and £100. a-year for the fees. On the whole, then, the proceeds of the offices of the Moores and the Crofts have been not less than £390,000. for one family, and

£190,000. for the other, or £580,000. for both. *[An eye-watering £70m over that period in today's money!]*

These, Sir, are facts which I might leave as they stand, but I wish to drive them home, and cinch them there. It may be, then, that the Archbishop is powerless with his archdeacon; that he cannot help the parishioners of Cliffe against an incumbent who has not visited them once in 12 years, nor save the clergy of his diocese from the humiliation of being exhorted to do their duty by one who has received his tens of thousands for duty which he has never done. But surely both the late and the present Primate might have withholden their sanction to an extra £200. from the Commissioners (by way of stipends for additional duties) being divided from 1846 to 1849 (if not for three years later) among seven canons, who preached about five sermons each in a year, and the united annual proceeds of whose offices amounted to £33,000., while these same canons were cutting down their cathedral scholars from £4. to £1.8s.4d.; and those same Commissioners were allowing only £39. to augment All Saints, in Canterbury, with a population of 2,277 to an income of £111., and £24. only for St. Nicholas, Rochester, with a population of 3,331, to a rent-charge of £91.13s.10d.

If, however, Archbishops can and will permit and sanction such inequities - if it is but too true that such abuses have been planted by the prelates of our church in her most hallowed ground, and watered by her dignitaries till their rank luxuriance has overgrown the very shrines of her holy and beautiful place, while their overhanging shade even now darkens her stateliest solemnities, - no wonder at the dreary emptiness of our cathedrals, or

the still more dreary but growing conviction that some of those who minister therein have but a weak faith in what they teach to others. No wonder if the wakeful intelligence of the middle classes views the Capitular Commissioner, composed as it now is with dissatisfaction and distrust, or that the toiling artisan should turn with something stronger than aversion from archdeacons and canons professing their concern for his welfare - but wonderful, indeed, is it that visitors of cathedrals and representatives of chapters should, in 1852, presume to play at senators in convocation, and gravely form committees for "cathedral reform" and "clerical discipline," before they have gone and set each his own home in order, instead of continuing to "build their houses by unrighteousness," which all the law in the world cannot reconcile with morality, and "their chambers by wrong," which no "time can hallow," and not even an eternity of "usage" assimilate to justice, or identify with honour.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Nov. 20. MEMORI"

*3<sup>rd</sup> December 1852: The Times*

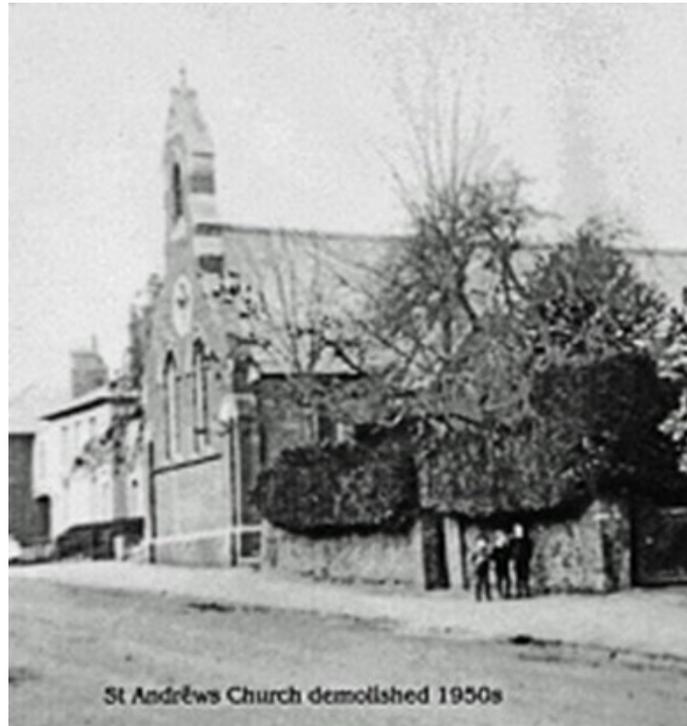


## CREATING SCHOOLROOMS FROM ST ANDREWS CHAPEL OF REST IN GREENSTREET

### GREENSTREET. VESTRY MEETING.

A meeting was held in the vestry-room of St. Andrew's Chapel on Thursday morning last. The Rev. C. Baker occupied the chair, and there were also present the Rev.

scheme. The plans so altered were adopted by the vestry. Mr. Adkins, estimated the cost of the enlargement at £400, and a resolution was unanimously passed to raise the necessary



G.B. Moore (Tunstall), Rev. W.A. Scott Robertson (Sittingbourne), Mr. James Lake, Dr. Pritchard, Messrs. Honeyball, Baker Elvey, George, Dixon, Terry, Killick, &c. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the offer of Mr. James Lake, to hand over this chapel (which had been formerly used for the purposes of the Greenstreet Institute) to the parish of Teynham, to become part and parcel of the parish church. This offer was unanimously accepted, and in all probability the new chapel-of-ease will be shortly consecrated. Plans for enlarging the schools of the parish were then submitted to the vestry by Mr. Adkins, of Faversham, the architect. After they had been fully examined and discussed, certain alterations were ordered, for the purpose of curtailing the expese of the

funds by means of voluntary subscriptions pro rata. The landowners agreed to subscribe 6d. in the pound upon the assessment of their several properties, and the tenants supplemented this with 3d in the pound upon their assessments.- A meeting of the committee appointed to consider the provisions of the new Elementary Education Act with respect to the parish of Lynsted was held last week, the Rev J. Hamilton in the chair. It was decided that, in consequence of doubts being entertained as to a sufficient sum being raised by voluntary efforts to bring the school accommodation for this parish up to the requirements of the Act, a school board should be applied for.

*29<sup>th</sup> November 1870: Kentish Gazette*

## LYNSTED BURIAL SCANDAL

### A BURIAL SCANDAL

The village of Lynsted, near Sittingbourne, is in a state of indignation against its vicar, the Rev. John Hamilton, on account of his conduct in respect to the funeral of one of his parishioners, a person named Hickmott. The friends of the deceased, it appears, lived some distance from the parish church, and a farmer kindly offered to lend them a van to convey the corpse there. Unfortunately, however, the farmer's bailiff, owing to some misunderstanding, had sent the van away for some purpose, and it was not back when the time arrived for the funeral cortege to start. Thus, through no fault of the poor people themselves, they were an hour late when they got to the church, and they found the gates closed. The vicar then positively refused to perform the Burial service that day, but after the mourners had been standing an hour outside the

churchyard in drenching rain the gates were thrown open, and they were allowed to deposit the coffin in the grave. They then left, and the coffin remained in the open grave for the remainder of that day and night, and on the following afternoon the Burial service was read over it and the earth covered in. The corpse was consequently not taken at all into the church, where a portion of the Burial service is usually read. The matter caused much pain and grief to the relatives of the deceased, and the vicar's conduct is the more noticeable because occasions have, it is said, occurred

in which he has himself, during the hunting season, forgotten engagements of the kind, thereby causing much inconvenience to his parishioners.

*3rd March 1880: "Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle etc. & The Dundee Courier & Argus, The York Herald, The Graphic, Western Times, Stamford Mercury"*

**THE VICAR OF LYNSTED**, the Rev. John Hamilton, desires us to correct an erroneous account of a recent burial in his parish, which



appeared in our issue of March 6th, under the heading, "Another Burial Scandal," having been copied from a daily contemporary. It appears that Mr. Hamilton was at the time confined to his house by illness, and that another clergyman who had undertaken the duty had only left the church, after waiting an hour and a half for the funeral party. As there is no mortuary, and the body could not be left in the church, on account of the next day being Sunday, the relatives of the deceased were given the option of bringing it again next day, or leaving it in the open grave, and

they chose the latter alternative.

*3rd April 1880: The Graphic & Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald(10 April)*

### LYNSTED. THE ALLEGED BURIAL GRIEVANCE AT LYNSTED.

The following letter from the Rev. J. Hamilton, vicar of Lynsted, has appeared in the Daily News:- "My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in your paper of March 1 regarding a funeral in my parish. The statement that I refused to permit

the interment is most inaccurate. I was suffering from illness at the time and confined to the house. The curate of a neighbouring parish kindly undertook to perform the service. After waiting an hour and a half, he was obliged to leave. The funeral party came after, but the clerk having left and locked the gates caused a slight delay of a few minutes. The relatives of the deceased were given the option of bringing the coffin again another day, or leaving it in the open

grave; the latter alternative they preferred. There is no mortuary attached to the church, and the next day being Sunday it was impossible to leave the corpse in the church. The funeral took place on Sunday, after morning service. With reference to the last portion of the paragraph, I most emphatically deny that there is any truth in it. I trust that in justice to me you will kindly insert this explanation in your next issue."

*10th April 1880: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*

## NOISY YOUTHS INTERFERE WITH WORSHIP .....

### .....at Lynsted Church

**A**t the Petty Sessions, on Monday, a complaint was made on behalf of the churchwardens of Lynsted against Frank Barnett, a lad of 16, for having, with several other boys, disturbed the congregation in Lynsted parish church whilst engaged in Divine worship on Sunday afternoon, the 7th instant, by making unruly noises in the churchyard. These practices having become of very frequent occurrence of late, it was deemed necessary to make an example in the present case. Complainants did not wish to go to extremities, and on defendant promising better behaviour and paying the expenses, he was dismissed with a reprimand.

*23rd October 1855: Kentish Gazette*

### .....at St. Andrews Chapel of Ease, Greenstreet

**A**t the county petty sessions, on Thursday, William Brown, Lynsted, was summoned for unlawfully disturbing the Rev. Charles Baker, vicar of Teynham, while preaching in St. Andrew's chapel-of-ease, Greenstreet, on the 6th March. The Rev. gentleman said that the churchwardens prosecuted this young man very unwillingly, but they felt compelled to proceed against the first offender on account of the nuisance they had put up with for some time past both at the parish church and chapel of east. For a considerable period both he himself and the congregation had been disturbed on account of the conduct of big boys and young men. In the present instance they



hoped that the defendant would be leniently and gently dealt with. On the occasion in question a quantity of gravel and dust was thrown against the windows. Great disturbances were created outside and inside, sometimes in one part, and sometimes in one part, and sometimes in the other.

In this instance police-constable Link was able to catch the offender. Defendant was fined 7s. 8d. and costs, 12s. 4d.; altogether 1 pound. The Bench hoped that this case would be a lesson to the defendant,

as these disturbances must be put an end to in future, the full penalty of £5 or two months' hard labour would be inflicted.

*18th April 1870: Kentish Mercury*

## EX-LYNSTED VICAR DRUNK, INTEMPERATE AND A THIEF THREE MONTHS HARD LABOUR

### SITTINGBOURNE. CONVICTION OF THE REV. R. W. ROWSON OF FELONY.

**A**t the Peterborough Quarter Sessions on Thursday last, the Rev. Robert William Rowson, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, formerly of Lynsted, was found guilty of stealing an overcoat, value £2, from Gilbert's refreshment rooms in that city, and sentenced to three months' hard labour. It was proved that the prisoner had been convicted of drunkenness and was addicted to habits of intemperance.

*26th October 1878: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*

intemperance that has come to light for a long time has been disclosed in course of a trial which took place at the Perborough Michaelmas Sessions last week. Briefly put, the case is this:- The Rev Robert William Rowson, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, was found guilty of stealing an overcoat, value £2, from Gilbert's refreshment rooms in that city. It appears that he went there and obtained a bed on the 21st September, and on leaving in the morning he took away an overcoat belonging to another gentleman who was staying in the hotel. He then pledged the coat at a pawnbroker's shop for 10s. His defence was that he bought the coat from a stranger, who he met in the street, for 5s. It was proved that the prisoner had been convicted of drunkenness, and was addicted to habits of

intemperance. The court, taking a merciful view of the case, sentenced the prisoner to three months' hard labour.

Here is a pitiable scandal and a crime, and all for drink. Is it worth it?

*Monday 21st  
October 1879: Nottingham Evening Post*



One of the most melancholy instances of the result of

## LYNSTED VICARS NURSEMAID MUDERS HER CHILD

### SITTINGBOURNE.- MURDER OF A CHILD BY ITS MOTHER.-

On Friday last Mary Ann Hook, who resided as cook with the Rev. J. Hamilton, vicar of Lynsted, was brought before the Rev. J. Poore, D.D., and charged with the murder of her infant male child, on the 28th of April.

Sarah Lacey deposed that she was nursemaid in the service of the Rev. J. Hamilton, at Lynsted. Prisoner lived there as cook. On Thursday afternoon, the 28th ult., witness saw the prisoner coming upstairs, and said "Cook, you are not well, are you?" She replied "No I am not, I am very unwell," and went into her bed-room. Sometime after that witness heard her groan, and went to her room, the door of which was locked. Witness requested her to open it, which she did, and then laid down on the bed. On being asked what was the matter, prisoner said "I think I am going to have a slight miscarriage." Witness stood by the bed about ten minutes, during which time the prisoner was delivered of a child. On hearing the child cry witness told prisoner of it, and she replied "Oh! never mind; it won't live." Witness left the room and returned in about quarter of an hour. The child was on the bed, covered with an apron. Witness left the room and returned in about quarter of an hour. The child was on the bed, covered with an apron. Witness saw it move and heard it cry again. Witness said "Cook, what shall we do; I must go and tell mistress." She said "No, don't do that; help me put away the things." Witness said she could not do so, and went away and told her mistress about it. On returning to the room is about twenty minutes, the child was gone, and all the things put away. Mr. Church, the surgeon,

was immediately sent for.

Mr. James Church, surgeon, Greenstreet, said he went to the prisoner and asked if she had been delivered; she made no reply. He then asked where the child was, and she pointed to an apron twisted tightly round something which he found to be the body of a very fine male child; its head was downwards. The child was quite dead, but not quite cold; it was of mature growth. The next day witness made a post mortem examination. There were no marks of violence. He opened the body and found the viscera perfectly healthy. The lungs filled the chest, crepitated when pressed, and floated on water, from which he believed that the child was born alive, and that respiration had been fully established. The cause of death might have arisen from two circumstance; the navel string not having been tied, the child might have bled to death, or it might have been suffocated from being wrapped up in the clothes - either of these circumstance would inevitably cause death.

The usual caution was then read over to the prisoner, and she was asked if she wished to make any statement. She replied "she was very ill." - She was committed to take her trial at the next assizes. The accused is a widow about 40 years of age, and obtained her situation as cook to the Rev. J. Hamilton by means of a false character about two months ago. She came from London, where she had resided with a Mr. Philpot (stated to be a solicitor). Her late husband carried on the

business of a baker and confectioner. She has had a family, and has three children now living.

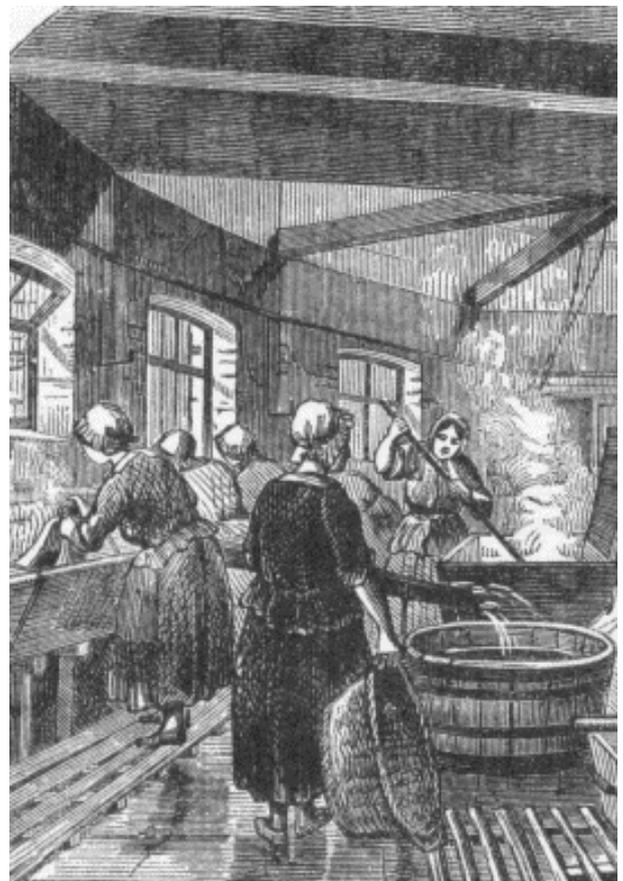
An inquest was held at the Lion Inn, Lynsted, on Monday, before Thomas Hills, Esq., when similar evidence to the above was adduced, and the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder."

*10th May 1859: South Eastern Gazette*

### CROWN COURT.-FRIDAY.

Before Mr Justice Blackburn. THURSDAY. MARY ANN HOOK was indicted for the wilful murder of her infant child at Lynsted. She was found guilty of concealment of birth, and was sentenced to Six months' hard labour.

*30th July 1859: Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*



## THE ROMANCE & TRAGEDY OF REV JOHN HAMILTON'S DAUGHTER

LYNSTED.-

**O**n Tuesday, the 29th September, the marriage of Miss Augusta Christina Hamilton, the second daughter of the Rev. J. Hamilton, vicar of Lynsted, and granddaughter of the late Sir Henry Hawley, Bart., of Leybourne Grange, with Captain Gordon Trevor, Bombay Staff Corps, late 80th Regiment, was solemnised in the parish church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Charles Hawley, Rector of Leybourne, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. James Bower, Vicar of Newnham. The young and lovely bride entered the church on the arm of her father. She wore a white satin dress, a panier, a veil of embroidered tulle, with a wreath of orange blossoms and chrysanthemums. She was attended by six bridesmaids - Miss Hamilton, Miss Cordelia Hamilton, Miss Mary Grace Hamilton, Miss Adela Hamilton, Miss Florence Trevor, and Miss Katherine Tyler; they were all dressed in white tarletan, trimmed with vandykes of lisse satin, wreaths of lisse azaleas, with tulle veils. The bridegroom was attended by his brother - Francis Trevor, Esq., Madras Staff Corps - as best man. The following gentlemen also acted as groomsmen - Captain Hugh Mackenzie, 15th Regiment; Frederic Byrne, Esq., R.A.; J. Midlane Dyer, Esq., Royal Marine Light Infantry; John Hamilton, Esq., and George Trayton Elliott Hamilton, Esq., brothers of the bride. Through the kindness of the parishioners, the church was decorated in the most tasteful manner for the occasion, with appropriate floral emblems by the young ladies of the parish. We also remarked the great taste displayed in the floral arch at the Vicarage-gate, as well as the one on entering the churchyard. Amongst the

numerous and very valuable presents received by the bride was a massive gold bracelet, presented by the church-warden of the parish on behalf of the parishioners. Among the friends present at the wedding breakfast were Admiral and Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, the Rev. James and Mrs. Hawley, Henry Hawley, Esq., Mrs. Smiythies, Henry R. Hamilton, Esq., &c. The happy couple left at half-past three o'clock for London, en route for Brighton. There was a dance in the evening, at which the elite of the neighbourhood were present, and also officers of the garrisons of Sheerness and Chatham. It went off with great éclat, and was kept up to a late hour.

*5th October 1868: Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*

.... three years on.....

### DEATH: INDIA:

April 24th, at Matharan, Augusta Christina (Chrissie), wife of Captain Gordon Trevor, Bombay Staff Corps, and second daughter

of the Rev. John Hamilton, Lynsted, Kent, aged 27. [The cause is not known, but cholera was virulent in India and abroad in this period -including the fourth pandemic.

*27th May 1871: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*

.... remembered.

### East Window given in memory of daughter

### LYNSTED.- THE PARISH CHURCH.-

A very handsome east window has just been erected in this fine old church by the vicar, the Rev. John Hamilton, in memory of his daughter, wife of Captain Trevor, who died in India, in 1871. Mr. Caldwell, of Palace-street, Canterbury, has ably designed and executed the work. In the window that are five openings, each containing three medallions, embracing the most important events in the Life of our Saviour. In the upper part are the figures

of the Four Evangelists and St. Peter and St. Paul.  
*19th December 1873: Kent and Courier Sussex*

[Note: Of course, that window was later destroyed in the bombing of this Church in the Second World War.]



## TOO MANY DEAD! GRAVEYARD EXTENSION

### LYNSTED. THE EXTENSION OF THE BURIAL GROUND.-

**A** largely attended meeting of parishioners was held in the Board School on Wednesday evening in last week, under the chairmanship of Sir Roper Lethbridge, to consider the adoption of the Burials Act. At a parish meeting held three weeks since there were two proposals before the parishioners - one was to adopt the Burials Acts, and place the new burial ground under the management of the Parish Council and the other was an offer from non-parishioners to purchase a piece of ground, and hand it over to the parish, as an extension of the present burial ground. On Wednesday an offer was made known from the Hon. Mrs. Peacock to give the parish a

piece of land as an addition to the existing burial ground. After a lengthy discussion, a proposal to adopt the Burial Acts was defeated by a large majority, while the offer of Mrs. Peacock was accepted, the result of the evening's discussion being hailed with loud cheers. The meeting was attended by a crowded audience, and lasted for three hours.

*11<sup>th</sup> May 1895: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*

### LYNSTED. A NEW BURIAL GROUND.-

On Saturday, the Bishop of Dover visited Lynsted for the purpose of consecrating half an acre of land for a new burial ground given to the parish by Mrs. Peacock. Dr.

Eden, who was attended by the Deputy Registrar, Mr. Henry Fielding, was met by most of the clergy from the surrounding neighbourhood. After the ceremony the Bishop gave an address, in which he spoke against the custom of putting artificial flowers on graves. He said the practice was growing, and if it were continued it would make our churchyards like the burial grounds of France. Instead of being green with grass they were strewn with decayed artificial flowers, presenting a scene of desolation. What he advocated for the use of the poorer parishioners were crosses and other iron ornaments which could be bought cheap.

*7<sup>th</sup> August 1897: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*

## LYNSTED CHURCH .....BLITZED!

### 1940 BOMB HITS LYNSTED CHURCH

#### APPEAL FOR £1,000 FOLLOWING BOMB DAMAGE

**T**HIS Church was bombed by hostile aircraft on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1940, and entirely wrecked, except for the walls, a portion of the roof, and some ornaments. The damage has been assessed at £2,474, but in all probability the total cost of restoration will be £3,000. We cannot tell what the Government will be able to do by way of compensation when the war is over.

Meanwhile, two matters require immediate attention - hence this appeal. They are:

1. The nave and chancel of the Church, as well as the south Chapel are in a state of confusion; debris must be cleared away, the roof needs supports (else it will fall in), and a covering over it. Only in this way

can the pews and other furniture be preserved from damage by bad weather. The estimated cost is £165.

2. At the present time a Chapel has been fitted up for worship at the Vicarage, but it is not adequate for all purposes. The Parochial Church Council, however, feel that one of the Chapels in the Church - the



THE NORTH CHAPEL

North one - should be restored at the earliest opportunity, so that all the Church services and ministrations, including marriages, may take place therein, leaving the final restoration of the main edifice till the end of hostilities. The estimated cost for this is about £250, at least, but this does not include any amount for the repair of the harmonium or for the organ, both of which are probably so damaged as to be beyond repair. Needless to say, we should be most grateful for the gift of a new organ at a later date. By the kindness of the late Lord Brabourne, this chapel was set apart for worship some years ago, and has been in constant use—week-days especially - until the morning of the fateful day.

#### North Chapel Damage in Lynsted Church 1940

This Church, which has suffered so severely is a twelfth century building, possessing several monuments of interest, including a famous one by Evesham. The South Chapel contains the memorials of the Roper and Tyler families, and the North one of the Knatchbull-Hugesson family. Luckily, nearly all these monuments have suffered no harm.

As the cost of printing has to be considered, this appeal does not give all the details we should like to place before our friends, but we are able to print two photographs, showing much of the damage. For these we thank the Editor of the "Kent Messenger." The Vicar will give any further information gladly if desired.

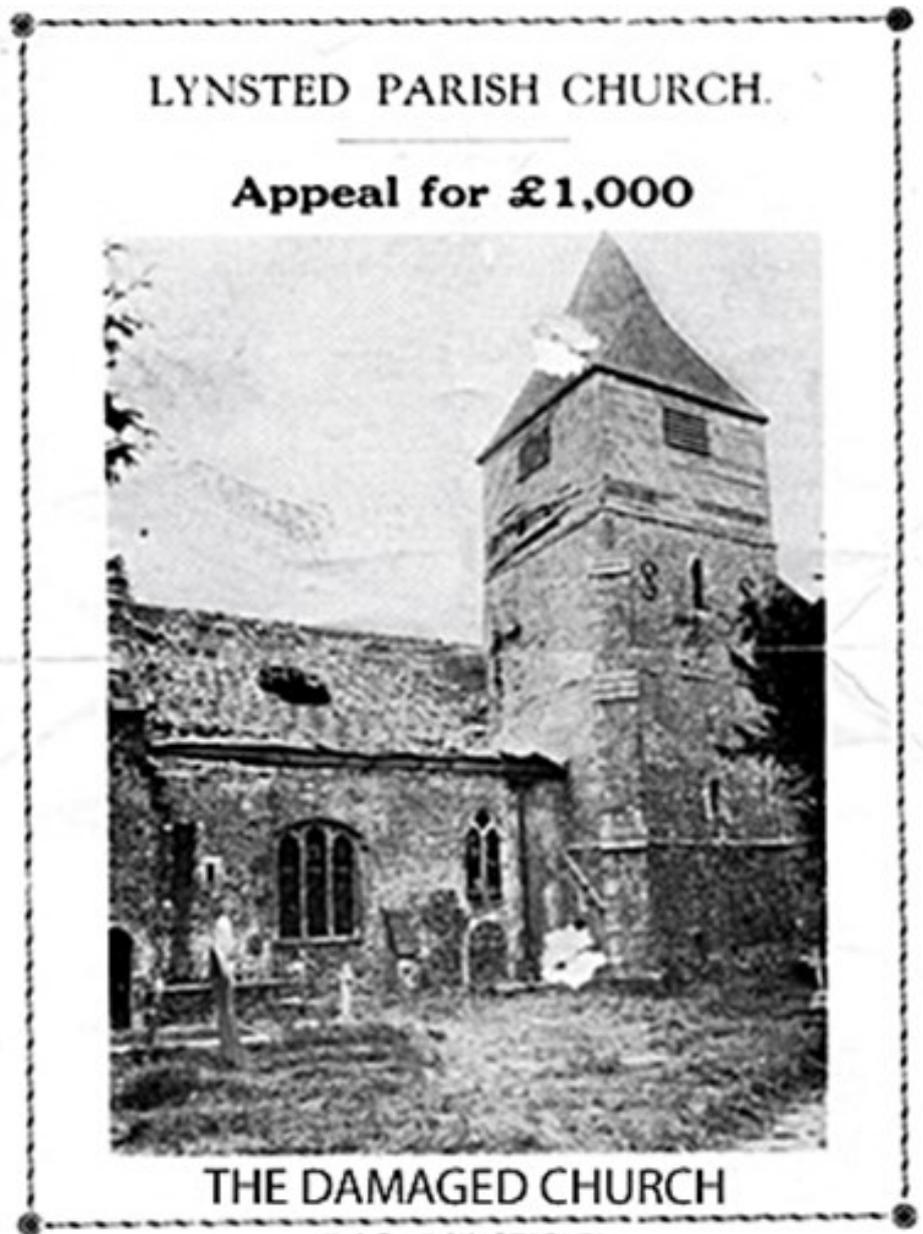
We are making a general appeal now, to include funds for the whole Church. It is important that these should be in hand, so that the work of restoration may be carried out as soon as ever circumstances permit. We know that there are many friends of

Lynsted Church, and we look with confidence to their generosity.

It may be added that much has been done during the past twenty

sums stated in this appeal. These can only be replaced by personal gifts.

Donations may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the Parochial



years to restore the Church and the Hugesson Chapel, some £1,500 having been spent in this way. The parishioners have been keenly associated in all the work carried out. Now, however, we venture to seek help from far and wide, as well as from our own people, so that our Church may ere long possess once more its former beauty and usefulness.

The final word to add is that the beautiful stained-glass windows have all been shattered, and their value is not included in any of the

Church Council— Mrs. Belinda Dixon, "Cambridge," Teynham, Kent; or to myself. A receipt will be sent in each case.

L. E. A. EHRMANN, Vicar,  
Lynsted Vicarage,  
Sittingbourne, Kent.