

# History of the Rectory of St Marylebone

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The Church was appropriated to the Priory of S. Laurence de Blakmore, which initially appointed Vicars as ministers of the Church. Afterwards it became a Donative or Curacy, whereby the Priory appointed Curates for the spiritual care of the Parish. This was confirmed by S. Roger, Bishop of London, in the seventh year of his consecration (1235-36). The Priory was suppressed in 1525, and the King granted the Rectory to Cardinal Wolsey, with licence to appropriate it to the Dean and Canons of Christchurch, who, at his request, granted it to the masters and scholars of his college at Ipswich.

When Wolsey fell into disgrace, the King seized it for himself, and it remained with the Crown until 1552. It was then impropriated to Thomas Reeve and George Cotton, to be held of the Manor of East Greenwich in common socage. It was subsequently granted by Elizabeth I to John Dixon, in the thirty-third year of her reign (1580-81). James I subsequently granted it to Edward Forcet (which could be spelt Fawcet) in the ninth year of his reign (1611-12). It was inherited by his son Robert, then his daughter (Robert's sister) Arabella, and then Arabella's son John Austen. The manor and impropriated rectory were held together since at least 1650.

Subsequently, for at least a century before 1821 impropriated Rectory was held by the Dukes of Portland. It was purchased from them by the government, when the Rectory was restored to a clergyman with the cure of souls in 1821 by an Act of Parliament, 57 Geo. III c. 98.

## A List of Ministers of the Parish

<i>Name</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Until</i>
[William Witham		1454 <sup>1</sup> ]
John Fishpole	1544	
Edmund Thompson	1571	
Francis Burton	11 <sup>th</sup> July, 1582	Resigned 1583
Thomas More	5 <sup>th</sup> July, 1583	
John Payton	18 <sup>th</sup> January, 1584	Resigned 1592
Robert Powell	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 1587	
Thomas Jones	25 <sup>th</sup> October, 1587	
Griffin (or Griffith?)	18 <sup>th</sup> December, 1598	1607

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia gives William Witham as incumbent of St. Marylebone ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Witham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Witham)), but an examination of the references suggests he was in fact incumbent of St. Mary-le-bow: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=32600>. Both links retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Edwards		
Thomas Swadlin, D.D.		
John Crosby		June 1669
Edmund Price	1664	
William Rogers		
George Allen	30 <sup>th</sup> May, 1672	
Matthew Brailsford	1711	
James Abbadie, S.T.P.	1724	1727
Daniel Boote, D.D.	1754	
Thomas Dyer	1760	
James Parent	1760	
Thomas Easter	1765	
Stephen Deguthon	1767	
J. Baker	1768	
Sambrook Russell	1768	
William Charles Dyer		
The Rt. Rev. John Harley, Bishop of Hereford		1788 Formerly Dean of Windsor (1778–87). Nominated on 29 October and consecrated on 9 December 1787. Died in office on 9 January 1788.
The Hon. and Rt. Rev. John Butler		1788 Consecrated Bishop of Oxford in 1777, translated to Hereford in 1788. Nominated on 23 January and confirmed on 28 February 1788. Died in office on 10 December 1802.
Sir Richard Kaye, Bart. LL.D	1788	Died in Office 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 1809
Luke Heslop, B.D.	1810 (Rector from 1821 onwards)	1825
John Spry	1825	
The Hon. and Rt. Rev. John Pelham	1855	Consecrated Bishop of Norwich in 1857, in St. Marylebone Church.
Charles Eyre	1857	
William Barker	1882	

William Morrison	1908	
Hubert Matthews	1942	
James Harington Evans	1954	
Frank Coventry	1958	
Christopher Hamel Cooke	1979	
John Chater	1990	
Christopher R. Gower	1997	
Stephen John Evans	2010	

**Impropriation:** Where the property and income of a Parish was vested in a layman, who could not hold the cure of souls. The layman was in turn responsible to providing a priest to provide for the cure of souls, but he could use any of the excess income as he pleased. It differs slightly from the appropriation of a Parish, where the holder of the property was a Monastery or Spiritual corporation, which could provide for the spiritual care. The (lay) Rector nominates a curate, who is then licensed by the Bishop.

**An Act for ratifying the Purchase of the impropriate Rectory of St. Mary-le-bone in the County of Middlesex:**

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=XqZFAAAACAAJ&pg=PA169&lpg=PA169&dq=an+act+for+ratifying+the+purchase+of+the+impropriate+rectory+of+Mary-le-bone&source=bl&ots=HYDp8m0CeO&sig=Lwn2Yvl--gbagTddQltJp7zaAGI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=jZOxUo-bLq6O7QaxgIHgDQ&ved=0CD0Q6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=an%20act%20for%20ratifying%20the%20purchase%20of%20the%20impropriate%20rectory%20of%20Mary-le-bone&f=false> (retrieved 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013)

**Some account of the late David Pike Watts, with extracts from his letters. (By his daughter).** Contains a series of letters that show the problems with the impropriation of the Parish in the early nineteenth century, and a discussion of the government purchase of the right:

[http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=tCUAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA132&lpg=PA132&dq=impropriation+marylebone&source=bl&ots=GCsCHUPJgC&sig=Z6qVCFiTzj6bXjhcIYkZy-2\\_NGI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=DpqxUpT5NKyp7QaXwICYDw&ved=0CE0Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=impropriation%20marylebone&f=false](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=tCUAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA132&lpg=PA132&dq=impropriation+marylebone&source=bl&ots=GCsCHUPJgC&sig=Z6qVCFiTzj6bXjhcIYkZy-2_NGI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=DpqxUpT5NKyp7QaXwICYDw&ved=0CE0Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=impropriation%20marylebone&f=false) (Retrieved 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2013)

**Further Information on Selected Ministers and Rectors**

**Thomas Swadlin, D.D. (1600-1670)**

Thomas Swadlin was a curate of the Parish at some point after the English Civil War.

He was made curate of St. Botolph, Aldgate, London in 1635, and gained fame as a preacher. He was a fervent Royalist and allied to Archbishop Laud, for which reason he was imprisoned in 1642; after being freed, he was deprived of his living. He went to Oxford and was made a Doctor of Divinity. He afterwards made money wherever he could by preaching and teaching. He was reinstated in St. Botolph's after the Restoration, but could not settle, and ministered in a several Parishes (including St. Marylebone) until his death.<sup>2</sup>

He wrote a number of works, some theological, some devotional, and some political (the latter being one cause of his imprisonment by the Parliamentarians). Two letters, written against the excesses of Roman Catholicism and Presbyterianism respectively, can be found here: <http://www.anglican.net/works/thomas-swadlin-two-letters-subtile-papist-zealous-presbyterian/> which might be read in conjunction with this <http://www.anglican.net/works/thomas-swadlin-whether-turn-presbyterian-romane-continue-catholique/>

### **James Abbadie, also known as Jacques or Jakob Abbadie**

Abbadie was a Swiss protestant theologian. Though from a poor family, his education was sponsored and he flourished, and was said to have received a doctorate at the age of only seventeen. He was summoned by the Elector of Brandenburg to minister to the French Church there; he remained in Berlin until the Elector's death. He came to England at the time of the Glorious Revolution, at the invitation of Marshall Schomberg, with whom he went to Ireland. His writings found favour with the King, and he was made Dean of Killaloe, though his lack of English prevented any further advancement. He retired to Marylebone in 1724 and died in 1727.<sup>3</sup>

### **The Rt. Rev John Harley**

Harley was born 29<sup>th</sup> September 1728, and died 7<sup>th</sup> January 1788. He was the second son of Edward Harley, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Oxford and Earl Mortimer. He was Archdeacon of Shropshire from 1760 to 1769 and then Archdeacon of Hereford from 1869 to 1787. He was Dean of Windsor, Registrar of the Order of the Garter and briefly, at the end of his life, Bishop of Hereford.

### **The Hon. and Rt. Rev. John Butler**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oxforddnb.com/templates/olddnb.jsp?articleid=26809> (retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014)  
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/templates/article.jsp?articleid=26809&back=> (retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014)

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Abbadie,\\_Jacques\\_\(DNB00\)](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Abbadie,_Jacques_(DNB00)) (retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014)  
<http://www.studydrive.org/enc/bri/view.cgi?n=16380> (retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014)

Butler was born in Hamburg in 1717. He was for a while a tutor in the family of a banker, Mr. Child. Despite not attending university, he was awarded the degree of LL.D. from the University of Cambridge. His first wife was a school-mistress; his second a wealthy heiress, which improved his social standing. He was ordained and became a popular preacher. He held various appointments, including chaplain to the Princess Dowager of Wales, prebendary of Winchester, and minister of Great Yarmouth.

Despite his establishment connections, he published a pamphlet in 1762 attacking the Prime Minister, the Earl of Bute. His fortunes changed, however, and he was appointed a King's Chaplain, and later Archdeacon of Surrey. He later supported Lord North, the Prime Minister, in the conduct of the American Revolution. He was consequently consecrated Bishop of Oxford. Having adopted Tory principles, he preached before the House of Lords on the martyrdom of King Charles I. He was later translated to Hereford. He died in 1802, aged 85, leaving no children.

His published works include:

*An Answer to the Cocoa Tree, by a Whig*, 1762.

*A Consultation on the Subject of a Standing Army*, 1763.

*Serious Consideration on the Character of the Present Administration*.

*Account of the Character of the Rt. Hon. H. B. Legge*.

### **Sir Richard Kaye, Bart.**

Sir Richard was born in 1736; he attended Brasenose College, University of Oxford. He was awarded the degree of BCL in 1761 and DCL in 1770. He was a great patron of the artists Samuel Hieronymus Grimm (whom Sir Richard instructed to draw "everything curious") and Tilly Kettle. He was also friends with Captain James Cook and Joseph Banks; the former named Kaye's Island after Sir Richard (now called Kayak Island). His interests were wide and varied: he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1765, as an experimentalist in the field of electricity.

He held a variety of clerical posts in plurality (many at the same time), rising from Rector of Kirkby in 1765, to Archdeacon of Nottingham and Chaplain to King George III. He was a Canon variously of Lincoln, Durham, and Southwell.

He died on Christmas Day 1809, leaving no children; the baronetcy came to an end with him.

### **Luke Heslop**

Heslop was born on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1738. He obtained the degrees of BA, MA, and BD from the University of Cambridge. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Professorship of Chemistry in 1771. Another pluralist, he held a variety of clerical

appointments, including Archdeacon of Buckingham, prebendary at St. Paul's Cathedral, and Vicar of St. Peter-le-Poor, London. In 1809 he settled in Marylebone. He oversaw the building of the new Parish Church, which was consecrated in 1817; he was made the Rector of St. Marylebone in 1821, following the end of impropriation (*supra*). Despite the number of appointments he held, Heslop died in comparative poverty on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1825.

He was the author of

*Observations on the Statute of 31 Geo. II, c. 29, concerning the Assize of Bread, 1799*

*A Comparative Statement of the Food produced from Arable and Grass Land and the returns from each, with Observations on Inclosures and the Effect of an Act for Enclosing Commons, 1801*

*Observations on the Duty of Property, 1805*

### **John Pelham**

Pelham was born in 1811, the fourth son of the Earl of Chichester. After attending the University of Oxford, he was ordained in 1834, to serve the Parish of Eastergate. While there, he formed the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Henry, Cardinal Manning. After several appointments, he was instituted to the living of St. Marylebone in 1855. Under the influence of Lord Shaftesbury, he was appointed to the See of Norwich, and was consecrated in 1857. He had there an impressively long episcopate, and was zealous in his parochial visitations and building of new Churches and schools. Though a strong evangelical, he treated the growing High-Church, Oxford Movement with fairness. He retired in 1893 and died the year after.

### **William Barker**

Barker was born in 1838 and educated at Worcester College, Oxford. After ordination he was Curate of Hanover Chapel, Regent Street and later the Chaplain to the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields. He was Vicar of St Mary's, West Cowes from 1873 to 1882 and an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen. He was instituted as Rector of St Marylebone in 1882, and was then appointed Dean of Carlisle in 1908. He died on 28 January 1917.

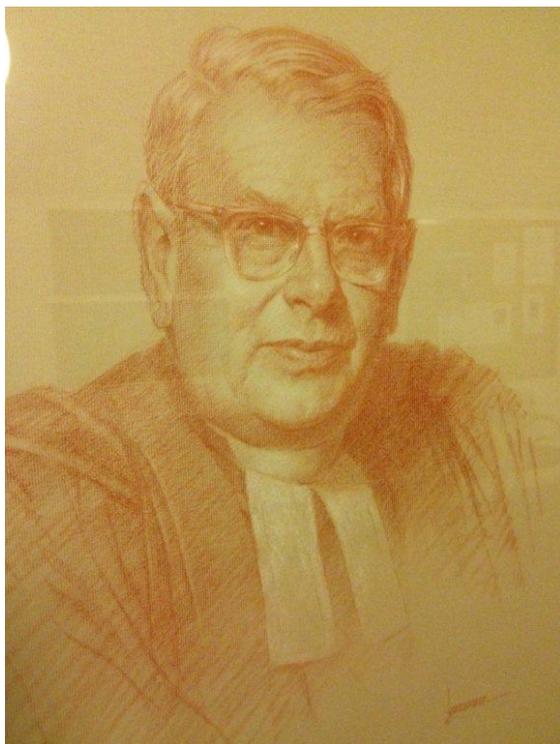
A notable feature of his time at St. Marylebone was the re-ordering of the Church, and the construction of the apse in its present form. Barker, being influenced by the Oxford movement, wanted to shift the emphasis on Church towards the sacramental, rather than merely preaching. As such, the giant 'triple decker' pulpit was moved from the Central Aisle, to one side. The new apse also allowed for greater emphasis on the sanctuary and High Altar.

### **William Morrison**

Morrison was born in 1852. After Ordination he worked for a time as a prison Chaplain, and became a notable reformer in this field. He wrote two books on criminology and penology, and continued to be the subject of scholarly interest well into the twentieth century (<http://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5209&context=jclc>).

From 1902 until 1908, he was president of the Churchman's Union. This was an Anglican progressive society, which sought to further theological enquiry and debate within the Church, and to open these up with more modern and accessible language and presentation. The Union was not associated with either High or Low Church groupings, seeing such debates as being about inessential aspects of the Faith. In 1908, Morrison became Rector of St. Marylebone, where he remained until 1943.

### **Christopher Hamel Cooke**

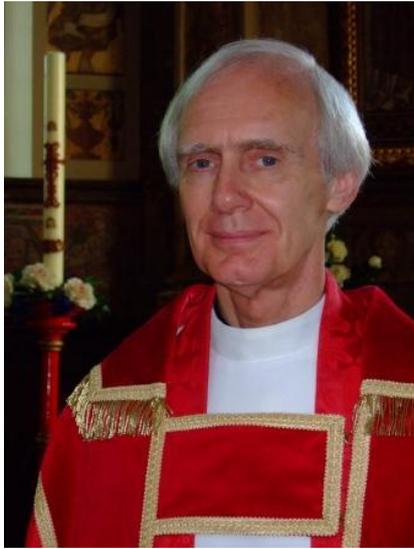


Hamel Cooke was born in 1921 and served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War; after the end of the war he studied in Oxford and was ordained in 1950. While Vicar of St. Marks, Coventry, he served as a hospital Chaplain and director of the Samaritans. This developed his life-long interest in the relationship between religion and medicine.

After ten years as Vicar of St. Andrew's Bedford (where he was the training incumbent of the Rt. Rev. Richard Chartres, Bishop of London), he moved to become Rector of St. Marylebone. He utilised links with nearby Harley Street and raised a large sum of money to transform the crypt into a health and spiritual centre. He wrote

three books on the topic of health and religion. He retired to Stratford-upon-Avon and later died in 2002.

## Christopher Gower



Gower was born in 1945, and worked as a civil servant and police officer before his Ordination in 1973. He held a variety of appointments around the capital, before moving to St. Marylebone in 1997; he was made a prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral in 2007. For much of his time after Ordination, he continued in secular employment, working in education, leisure and community services in local government. He wrote a number of books, influenced by his experiences at St. Marylebone, including "Speaking of healing", a guide for those interested in and preaching about the nature of health and human nature.