

# DOYNTON

AND THE

PEOPLE

IN-  
BET-  
WEEN

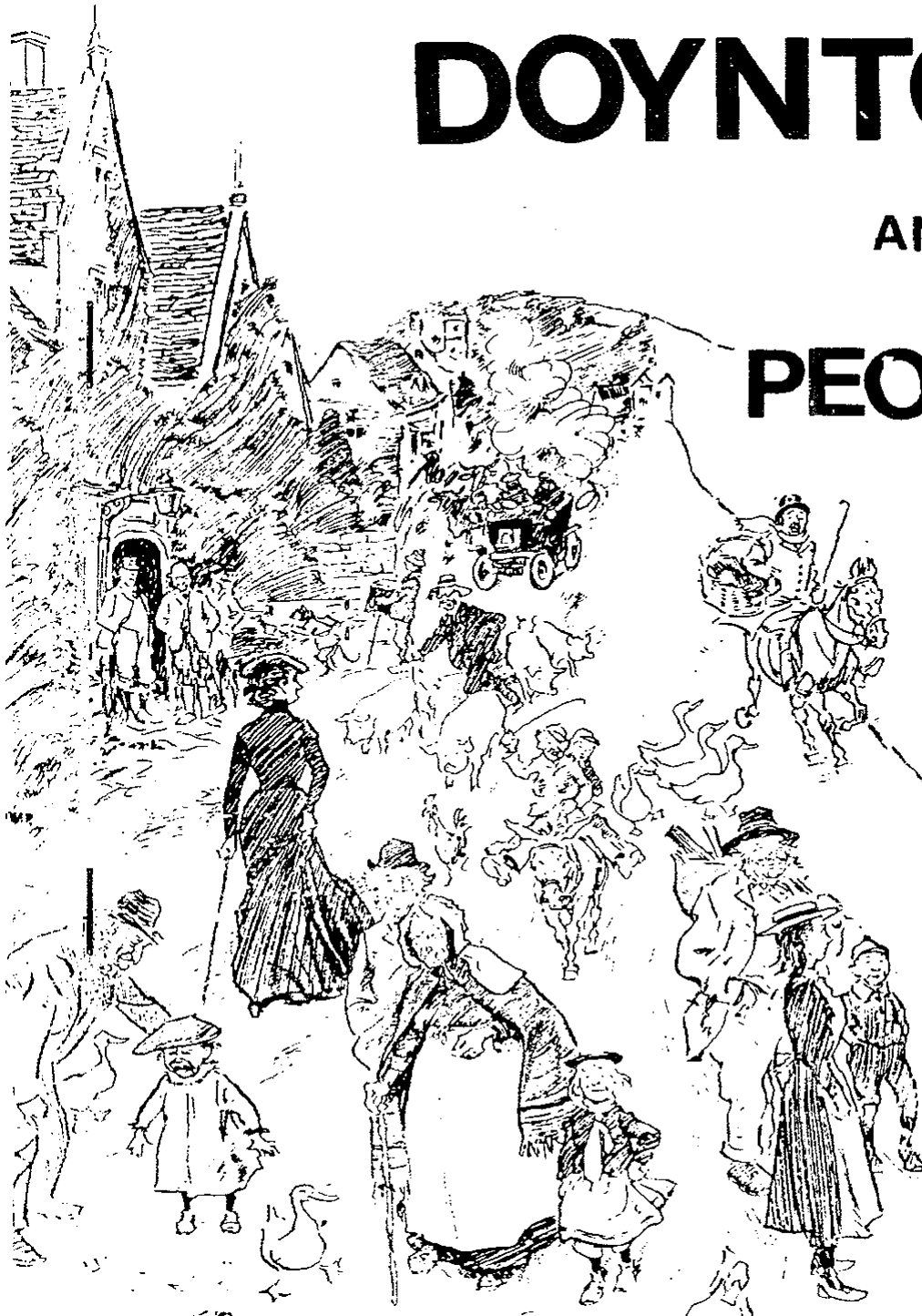


Fig 4.1. 'Rescue' measurements at Cross Cottage, May 25, 1985. Bumper truck in the background between the camera and the road at the Cross. Top right corner is the 20th century path and boundary wall. Left middleground is Gordon Copping excavating coal chute to the cellar running under the grass into Crossways. A letter dated July 30, 1853 stated that Mr. Clutterbuck, Rector, had applied for the Parish School Room (formerly the Chapel) and had expressed a wish to purchase the whole property. The foundation of that Old Chapel runs alongside the surveyor's pole (marked in feet).



Fig 4.2. The Old Rectory walled garden in 1965; looking through the ironwork gate and along the central path with herbaceous borders on both sides.

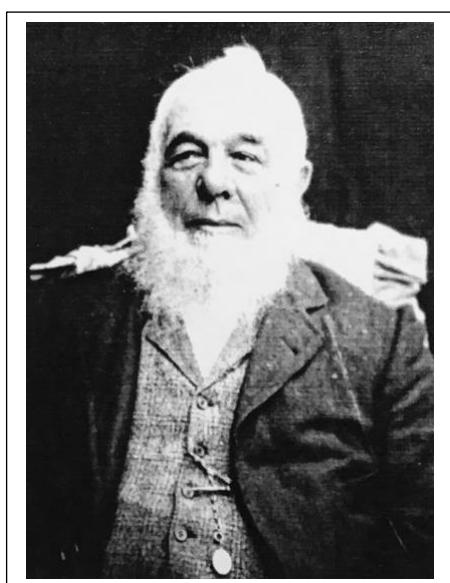


Fig 4.3. A. G. How, Rector 1872-85.

*Photo courtesy Vera Amos.*

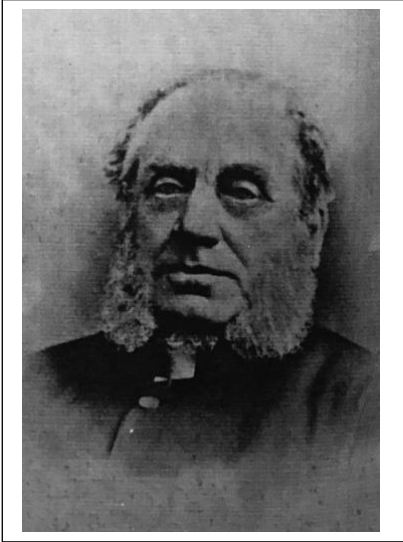


Fig 4.4. A copy of the photo in the vestry framed in the same style as the pre-1893 photo of the chancel arch. Thought to be R. L. Crawley-Bovey, Rector 1891-99.



Fig 4.5. A 14<sup>th</sup> century reeve.

As the reeve was the intermediary between the lord and his serfs or tenants, so was the church reeve or churchwarden the buffer between the spiritual director of the parish and his flock. With the advance of the Elizabethan period the medieval court leets lost their power. Much of the decision and judgement that they had made formerly passed into the hands of the justices of the peace and much of the administration into the hands of the churchwardens, who gradually found themselves coping with matters both spiritual and temporal.

At the major period of their administration they were responsible for the church fabric, for the maintenance of the glebe and parsonage, for most charities, for roads and bridges, for vermin and for paupers and vagabonds. At best, they may have been able to do no more than sign their names, but they had to keep accounts to cover expenditure over at least a twelve-month period, balance those accounts and have them approved by the village Vestry Meeting. In reality this paperwork often became a task for the village schoolmaster, for which he might receive 1/- or, later, even 2/6. This was in return not for burning the midnight oil, but for labouring over tiny scribbles upon scraps of parchment or paper rejects by the light of a guttering candle.

Even in the late 20th century, housemasters in boarding schools try to limit the issue of pocket money to fixed times. But necessity and special pleading often means that an undeniable request comes just as a chemical experiment is liable to explode. Money passes and is forgotten. Or perhaps a scribble is made on the back of a cricket score or of an envelope - a fair copy is made of the first and the second is posted in the letter-box. This happens often enough that by the end of the week there is a sense of loss. Such schoolmasters have fellow feeling for the churchwardens of the past who, in their work clothes, were approached by the representative of a family being forcibly moved from Exeter to Tetbury, by requests for remuneration for catching twenty-four sparrows, two adders and one fox, for the expenses in delivering bells or briefs, for attending Visitations, for the cost of lime to whitewash the church or for stone to fill a hole in the causeway.

The job of churchwarden carried with it a fair deal of hassle and trouble and also the danger of losing money. Even with the best-kept records there was the likelihood of having money tied up for long periods. It is not surprising that being a warden was not undertaken from a sense of duty but from a rota of duty.

Appendix 3 gives the names of all churchwardens that could be extracted from Registers, Bishops' Transcripts, Terriers or PCC minutes. Sometimes the records show that he is serving the office for a particular holding in the village. Sometimes his holding can be deduced from the twenty-three sets of deeds that have been examined so far. If there is doubt then that doubt is indicated. A blank still leaves the hope that further research may allow it to be filled in. It is regrettable that the returns of the Bishops' Transcripts in the 18th century were so lacking in detail during the long years when the cure was served by curates.

It is clear, very quickly, that the rota was not based upon an individual or on a family but on a land holding; the tenant might change but the holding maintained its position on the rota - if we consider the year 1756, when Robert Palmer was churchwarden for John Davis' Estate, we find that the Church Rate Book has him paying for the late Widow Taylor's. The reality was that John Davis, living in Bristol, was the eldest son of the late Widow Ann Taylor alias Davis and that Robert Palmer was the husband of her granddaughter living in the village. This same Robert Palmer, twelve years later, was churchwarden for Mr. Richard Davis' Estate and he had been the husband of the Ann Taylor alias Davis already mentioned. Robert Palmer died in 1777 and his son Thomas lived and worked as a Surgeon-Apothecary in Keynsham until his death in 1793. The property had been bought by William Nichols and from 1793-5 he was churchwarden for 'his own property'. The same property is being referred to in all these different guises.

The rota was not so rigid that the cycle could not be varied; illness, widowhood, youthful inheritance or a change of rector could affect the sequence. But, in general, if a property had time out, then it made up for it by remaining on duty for more than one year, i.e. Francis Evans, 1758-60, for Doynton House. He had married the granddaughter of the last George Weare to be resident in Doynton. The newly married couple moved into the Weare family property in 1756. We know that the previous generation of Weares had been resident in Cirencester and that during this time Doynton House had been in the hands of tenants: Giles Browning was paying the correct rateable value in 1753-54 and we know that his father had married and moved into the village at the same time that the Widow Weare, in 1686, moved with her only son George, still in small clothes, back to her family home in Cirencester. Giles Browning, the father, had been churchwarden for an unspecified property in 1697. The period that follows this is one that lacks many entries on the churchwarden list.

If we accept the limitations of the surviving records, we find that there would seem to have been six periods of variable terms in office:

#### **Period 1, 1498-1576.**

When Arthur Player broke up the medieval manor of the Tracys and split them into two parts, there were a total of seventeen copyholdings, one leasehold and at least two properties that had been sold as freehold (fee simple). This total of twenty medieval holdings would imply a perfect rota of two churchwardens returning to their duty every ten years. The few figures that we have for the duty cycle produce the average figure of nine years. This would have included the leasehold tenant of 178 acres, the copyhold tenants of as little as twelve acres and at least two specialists with two acres or less each.

**Period 2, 1602-1642.**

The Atwood holding, the tucking mill at Brook House, Doynton House, Vine Cottage, Nichols Farm, Sowd Farm and Starling Villa have added themselves to the two earlier freehold holdings of the grist mill and Rosevale, to use the modern names. Much amalgamation of farms smaller than twenty acres has taken place. The larger farms, including the glebe, have begun to be affected by enclosure as the result of private agreements, not by parliamentary acts.

For the churchwardens the task now seems to return quicker - with eight or maybe nine entries the cycle is 5.75 or 7.32 years.

**Period 3, 1677-1767.**

A period of farming prosperity and solid safe investment in the land. The Langton family still holds, in three large farms, half of the former manorial holding; the other half, owned by the late Abell Kitchen, had been sold and regrouped for fresh incoming families.

No one wants to have the duty for any longer period than is necessary. Despite a few speedy returns to the rota, the average, based on seventeen identifiable entries, is 8.5 years before a return to duty.

**Period 4, 1768-1780.**

A period of continuing amalgamation during the approach to the wars with France. Here ten identifiable entries show a cycle of 10.8 years.

**Period 5, 1797-1936.**

Here there is a new attitude. A few prosperous farmers or gentrified, retired townsmen take over the duty for longer periods at a time: William Gunning 1797-1801, Joseph West 1797-1802, James Nichols 1803-07, Thomas Downs 1834-42, the Reverend Charles Raikes Davy 1859-85, George Alvis 1882-1902, George William Bishop 1905-36. The further forward we go in time, the longer a few holders of office continue with the job.

**Period 6, 1966-present time (1990).**

The period of service is becoming shorter again. Here, for the first time, the Vestry meeting elects both wardens; for the first time lady churchwardens are both elected and confirmed in office.

It should be noted that Doynton had shattered the peace of mind of local historians in the late 19th century, when they discovered that the village had put forward the names of Sarah Snailham in 1758 and Hannah Butler in 1772 as churchwardens. In each case they were rejected by the Archdeacon on his Visitation, but their task was undertaken by a substitute male. One wonders, however, if the ladies had to assume the financial burden. They had been widows for twenty-five and nine years respectively and there must have been local pressure for them to take the turn on the rota that belonged to their holdings.

If Doynton seemed to be exacting in its demands on these two ladies, it was equally so upon the nonconformists in the village. In 1677 the two wardens were John Grandford, shoemaker and Roger Packer, who farmed from the Cross House. Both of them were open Quakers; John was presented for non-attendance at Easter Communion in 1682 and the administrators and assessors of his estate included Quaker family names. Roger was the father of Susanna Packer mentioned on page 18. It may be relevant that 1677 was a year during the interregnum between two strong but low church rectors; Robert Wilkes died that same year and he had worked well before with the Quaker who had been appointed 'Register' and it was a year later that Joseph Jackson was inducted.

The earliest entries for the Vestry Meetings are written in the end papers of the account book that makes up the late 18th century Church Book.



Fig 4.6. Mary Parry, Churchwarden 1986-89. She and her husband, Victor, spent their holidays from veterinary practice in Staple Hill caravanning in the north of Scotland. Here she relaxes near Gairloch with Honey, Brandy and the Burmese, Bimbo (in harness).

*Photo, courtesy Victor Parry.*

Fig 4.7. Ralph Midwinter, Churchwarden 1979-88, and Treasurer for many years, university lecturer in epidemiology. He and his wife, Audrey, 'Mrs. M.', consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, do not follow current dietetic wisdom - they always provide ice-cream at the garden parties. Here, in 1990, at Rectory Farm, from a central position, Ralph

discusses the shortage of ice-cream cones with Richard Kent on the right, whilst to the left Peter Rubery glories in having bought his cone betimes.

*Photo, courtesy Dawn Hooper.*



Fig 4.8. Jesse Webb, Churchwarden 1904-6, mason and later builder and contractor; in the present time he would have been described as 'upwardly mobile'. He bought and rebuilt the Old Poor House and was in conflict with the Parish Council over the Village Pound.

*Photo, courtesy the late Lawrence Fisher.*





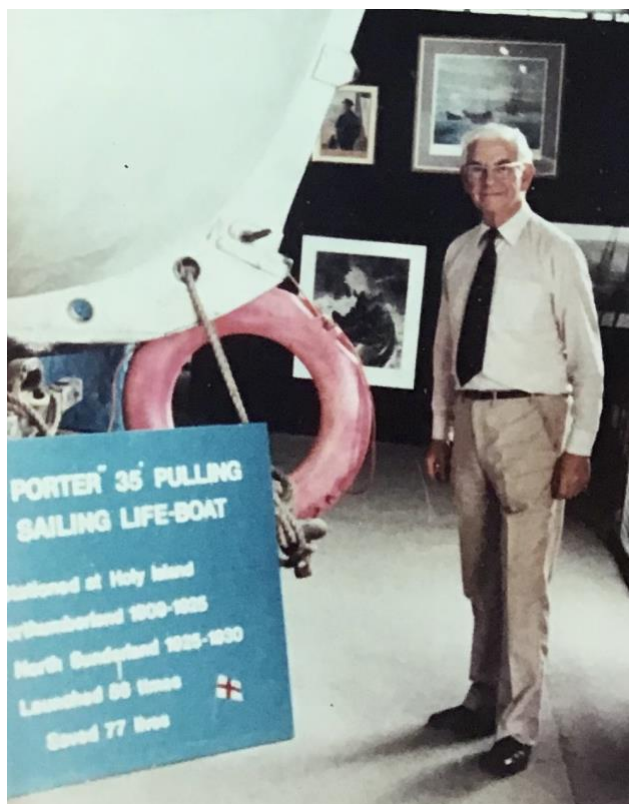


Fig 4.9. Peter Sturdee, Churchwarden 1976-85. In the Navy as a career, he saw action during WWII on a surviving WWI Monitor off the coast of Libya. He had the traditional RN ability to adapt skilfully and to finish neatly. In retirement he became SW organizer for the RNLI and later Honorary Curator of the RNLI museum in Bristol, where he is photographed in front of the 'Lizzy Porter'. *Photo, courtesy Daphne Sturdee.*

Fig 4.10. Elsie Clarke of Tracy Park (right), who together with her husband, Charles, had given Doynton the Village Hall and Playing Field, is seen leaving the church in 1969 with her son-in-law Christian Pitman, Churchwarden 1945-65, publisher. He had been i/c Doynton Home Guard in WWII.



Fig 4.11. Frank Ellis, Churchwarden 1959-65 (left), farmer. He moved into Court Farm In 1939 and even as an incomer had a strong feel for the history of the village. He spoke of the 'Roman road' to Reverence, of his conviction that a stream ran formerly beneath his front driveway. Here, in May 1964, he has been interrupted in trimming the Barley Mow. *Photo, courtesy Joan Cottrell.*



Fig 4.12. George Bishop, Churchwarden 1905-36, farmer (right). From just before WWI he lived In Greenway Farm, Wick, as the main Tracy Park tenant. His particular pride was the breeding of Shire Heavy Horses for use on the farm. With his eldest son, Jack, he celebrates here his winning entries in the Kingswood Horse Show. *Photo, courtesy Mary Cryer.*



In the early period the churchwardens were directly responsible for the poor of the parish. This was still true in 1774, when the normal Church Book contains the following items:

<i>Glazing work at the Church and the Poor House</i>	<i>0-6-9</i>
<i>To a poor person with a pass</i>	<i>0-0-6</i>
<i>To a traveller in distress</i>	<i>0-0-6</i>

But these were the only entries in that year relating to the poor and it is certain that within ten years the wardens had the assistance of the Overseers of the Poor, for it was in 1785 that the earliest surviving Poor Book started.

From 1678 to 1720 Joseph Jackson made entries in the registers that often had a short expansion of the plain name. In that period of just over 40 years, from 515 Baptisms and Burials, he refers to:

6 vagrants  
 6 'senex'  
 5 'senex' and pauper  
 1 girl pauper, whose child died at birth.

This gives the Impression that, until the end of the 18th century, most people in Doynton may have lived with straitened finances but were not considered paupers. Perhaps the problem that the Elizabethan period had had with the wandering beggar had disappeared by the Restoration. Perhaps the charity of Joseph Jackson and of the widow, Elizabeth Langton (died 1702/3), restricted their use of the term 'pauper' or they gave a practical form of charity in work, so that only those who were aged or 'senex' were thought of as being paupers.

The above possibility is reinforced by an addition made to the burial entry of John Bryan in 1711. He was said to be 'of Church House'. This refers to the same building also known as the 'Poor House', but implies that the use of it then was similar to the use of the modern Parish Hall. There was an earlier reference in 1686 to the burial of Joan, wife of Nicholas Francombe of Church House. Both John and Joan were in their forties, still producing a family and came from freehold owning sections of the parish. They did not give the impression of being paupers.

The Church House in many villages was the setting for the 'Church Ales'. These festivities might be held up to four times a year. The churchwardens begged the ingredients to make the ale, and sold the tickets on a fairly compulsory basis to raise money for church purposes, including charity. No accounts for this period in Doynton survive. The Church House would have had a full set of brewing equipment and would have provided a communal oven for the use of the poorer cottagers. Perhaps we should envisage the Church House/Poor House here, in the 17th and 18th centuries, as having a very small number of poor, who lived on the top floor. This top floor was reached by outside stone steps at each end of the building. The village pound lay against the south end and possibly the stocks to the north. It was likely that the ground floor was used for the village functions. This building became the Old Poor House in 1896, Jubilee Cottage in 1897 and is now called Tile Barn. But still, at the back of the building, projecting into Poor Close, there is a fine beehive oven.

Poor there certainly were by the time the Overseers of the Poor started their account book in 1785. Certainty is reinforced by a glance at the Parish Registers. Below is a comparison of the entries in the Burial Register for two successive periods of 10 years - a similar pattern exists in the baptismal entries:

	Burials	Designated Paupers	%
1774-83 inclusive	81	0	0
1784-93 inclusive	63	13	20

Such a result may stem from the arrival of a new rector and from his attitude, different to that of the previous incumbent.

The Overseers' accounts continue until 1832, that is only two years before the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, which set up the creation of Poor Law Unions; for Doynton this became the Chipping Sodbury Union. This union was not abolished until 1930 then continued under another name as a Public Assistance Institution and only finally ceased to exist with the National Health Act of 1946. Even then, it was used as a nursing home until the mid 1970s. Now called Ridgewood, it is taken over in part by the Social Services and in part by evening classes.

In 1785 the poor rate was 11 pence in the pound for the first half year; in the same period the Church Rate was 8d in the pound to cover the three years 1785-7 inclusive. This means that the village was paying eight times as much to maintain the poor as to maintain the parish, the highways and the church. By the year of Waterloo the poor rate was 40d. and the church rate 5d., for the year. So the same proportion was maintained between the two rates.

Let us look at the details of the initial half-year's entry in the Overseers' Book.

Nov. 1785

Poor Rate of "Eleven pays" for the necessary relief of the poor of the Parish of Doynton, for the first 1/2 year yields £74 - 8 - 8

<u>Regular Maintenance</u>	
Edward Jones 2 children, 7/12 @ 16/- the month	5 - 12 - 0
William Hale for one of Jones children, 7/12 @ 8/- the month	2 - 16 - 0
Ann Doling, 7/12 @ 8/- the month	2 - 16 - 0
Ann Batman, -ditto-	2 - 16 - 0
Martha Sumahon, -ditto-	2 - 16 - 0
Betty Bolwell, 4/12 @ 6/-, 3/12 @ 8/-	2 - 8 - 0
Mary Cornish child, 3/12 @ 6/-, 4/12 @ 8/-	2 - 10 - 0
Alia Bryan, 7/12 @ 6/-	2 - 2 - 0
Betty Clark, 7/12 @ 6/-	2 - 2 - 0
The Widow Lewis, 7/12 @ 4/-	1 - 8 - 0
	27 - 6 - 0
<u>Casualties</u> in said 7/12	52 - 7 - 0
made up of	
£1800 county rate, July 4	5 - 17 - 0
Sept. 24	5 - 17 - 0
Doctor's bill	1 - 5 - 0
Individual payments to Sarah Poulling, William Gay	4 - 9 - 0
Poyntz Fox bread	8 - 0
<u>Clothes</u> : Pare of britches for Jones boy	3 - 0
2 shirts & waistcoat Jones boy	7 - 6
Ann Doling - a blanket sheet	8 - 6
Ann Batman - a rug	5 - 6
Martha Sumahon - a rug	5 - 6
Clothing for Mary Cornish child	5 - 0
Coat for Jones boy	7 - 0
Pare of shoes & mend Jones boy	4 - 10
Mending shoes for 2 of Jones children	2 - 0
Pare of shoes for Jones boy	2 - 6
<u>Building Materials</u>	
Glaziers note	17 - 1
To a note for Tyle for the poor house	6 - 2 - 0
Haling 8 load of tyle @ 10/- a load	4 - 0 - 0
A cart load of paven	5 - 0
The carpenter's note	6 - 1 - 7
The mason's note	1 - 9 - 3
20 foot of freestone crase	5 - 10
The Tyler's note	6 - 8 - 7½
14 hundred of Hart Laths	1 - 3 - 4
To fetching laths	4 - 0
4 thousand and half 4 nails	15 - 0
8 hundred of 8 nails	5 - 6
8 hundred of 6 nails	4 - 0
4 bushels and a peake of Hare	3 - 2
The note for lime	12 - 9½
For haling lime	7 - 0
<u>Sundries</u>	
Attending Justic meeting with William Gay	2 - 0
Sarah Pooling funeral expenses	1 - 1 - 0
Paid Robert Gunning Easter Monday	1 - 0 - 0
New Book	1 - 0
2 poor men with 2 passes	1 - 0
Drawing rate and entering account	2 - 6
Total receipts: With the book	12 - 5 - 11
Rate of 11 pays	74 - 8 - 8½
Total disbursement	£86 - 14 - 7½
	79 - 13 - 0
Balance due to parish	£ 7 - 1 - 7½

<b><u>Regular Maintenance</u></b>			
Edward Jones 2 children, 7/12 @ 16/- the month	5	12	0
William Hale for one of Jones children, 7/12 @ 8/- the month	2	16	0
Ann Doling, 7/12 @ 8/- the month	2	16	0
Ann Batman – ditto -	2	16	0
Martha Sumshon – ditto -	2	16	0
Betty Bolwell, 4/12 @ 6/-, 3/12 @ 8/-	2	8	0
Mary Cornish child, 3/12 @ 6/-, 4/12 @ 8/-	2	10	0
Alis Bryan, 7/12 @ 6/-	2	2	0
Betty Clark, 7/12 @ 6/-	2	2	0
The Widow Lewis, 7/12 @ 4/-	1	8	0
	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Casualties in said 7/12</u></b>			
made up of £1800 county rate, July 4	5	17	0
Sept. 24	5	17	0
Doctor's bill	1	5	0
Individual payments for Sarah Poulling, William Gay	4	9	0
Poynz Fox bread		8	0
<b><u>Clothes</u></b>			
Pare of britches for Jones boy		3	0
2 shirts & wastcoat Jones boy		7	6
Ann Doling – a blanket sheet		8	6
Ann Batman – a ruge		5	6
Martha Sumshon – a ruge		5	6
Clothing for Mary Cornish child		5	0
Coat for Jones boy		7	0
Pare of shoos & mend Jones boy		4	10
Mending shoos for 2 of Jones children		2	0
Pare of shoos for Jones boy		2	6
<b><u>Building materials</u></b>			
Glazers note		17	1
To a note for Tyle for the poor house	6	2	0
Haling 8 load of tyle @ 10/- a load	4	0	0
A cart load of paven		5	0
The carpenter's note	6	1	7
The mason's note	1	9	3
20 foot of freestone crase		5	10
The Tyler's note	1	3	4
14 hundred of Hart Laths	1	3	4
To fetching laths		4	0
4 thousand and half 4 nails		15	0
8 hundred of 8 nails		5	6
8 hundred of 6 nails		4	0
4 bushels and a peake of Hare		3	2
The noate for lime		12	9 ½
For haling lime		7	0
<b><u>Sundries</u></b>			
Attending Justic meeting with William Gay		2	0
Sarah Pooling funeral expenses	1	1	0
Paid Robert Gunning Easter Monday	1	0	0
New Book		1	0
2 poor men with 2 passes		1	0
Drawing rate and entering account		2	6
Total receipts: With the book	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>
Rate of 11 pays	<b>74</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8 ½</b>
	<b>86</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7 ½</b>
<b>Total disbursement</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Balance due to parish</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7 ½</b>

The 'regular maintenance' would seem to be an outpayment system, where the recipients had to find their own living at an average rate of 2/- (10p) per week. 2/- was then the daily rate for a labourer in Doynton. The latter was not living in luxury and the paupers were very much below the bread line. The Overseers of the Poor found themselves forced to meet any extra expenses, which, under the term 'casualties', ended up costing twice as much as the regular maintenance payments. The records show that clothing had to be an extra; the Jones family seemed to be particularly rough on them.

Under building materials the building is called the 'Poor House', but a year later the reference is to labour on the 'Church House' - it would seem to have been a period of transition in the name. The total rebuilding costs for the 200-year old house were nearly £30, just two years before the nave of the church was extended nine feet for a cost of £53.

Over the years the overseers also paid for funeral expenses - a guinea, for doctor's bills, for the house rent of a few paupers, for the midwife's services - 5/- per lying in, the constable's expenses in examining the weights and measures, for the bill at the 'Three Horseshoes' for liquor and eatables for the men who had care of *'Christopher Bolton in time of insanity. £1-9-8'*.

The last reference can serve to remind us of the problems that a family, living around the poverty line, could meet over a period of 130 years. In 1784 two servants at Tracy Park, Christopher Boulton and Mary Snailum, were married, children followed at two-yearly intervals until 1793, when they both appear in the overseers' records:

<u>Expenditure</u>		
1793	Re Chris. Boulton, 5 journeys to Bristol	10 - 0
	Dinner & liquor for men at Bristol	4 - 0
	House time for Mary Boulton (Birth of son, Christopher, April 28)	1 - 0
	Turnpike and standing the horse	5
	Dinner and liquor, George Amos & Aaron Francombe	3 - 0
	Ed. Davis what he expended re. Boulton's settlement	1 - 19 - 0
	Counsellor's opinion	1 - 1 - 0
	Paid Thos. Wigmore 5/- Joseph Wigmore 1/-	
	Aaron Francombe 4/- Jacob Battman 1/-	12 - 0
	Thos. Francombe 1/-	
	for their attendance on Christopher Bolton	
1793, Jne 23	Burial of Christopher Bolton, pauper	
1812, Mar 24	Mary Boulton, widow, dies intestate & is buried (her 4 d., Eliz. Amos granted admin. 'under £300')	
1812, Nov. 7	Christopher Boulton (the son) marries Eva Amos	
1813-1825	Six children born	
1834, May 29	At Gloucs, Summer Assizes, Chris. Bolton, aged 41, of Doynton is accused of having, on 28th. inst., feloniously stolen from a pit about 3 sacks of potatoes, value £1 - 7 - 0.	
	Description: Smallpox scars. Neither read nor write. Height 5'7". Lab.	
	Sentence : 3 cal. mths. First 4 days & last month in solitude.	
	Comment : behaviour - orderly.	
1836	The 2nd. daughter, Martha, marries George Snailum.	
1841	George and Martha Snailum live in the old thatched cottage at the bottom of Watery Lane, that belonged to Bury House. They had two children and one lodger, Eva Boulton, aged about 45.	
1892	The walls of the old thatched cottage give way, beams collapse. Martha Snailum, who has lived there for 57 years and been a widow for 44 years, has to move to one of the Brewery Cottages, let to her out of kindness for 1/- a week.	

Expenditure		£	s	d
1793	Re Chris Boulton, 5 journeys to Bristol		10	0
	Dinner and liquor for men at Bristol		4	0
	House time for Mary Boulton ( <i>Birth of son, Christopher, April 28</i> )		1	0
	Turnpike and standing the horse			5
	Dinner and liquor, George Amos and Aaron Francombe		3	0
	Ed. Davis what he expended re Boulton's settlement	1	19	0
	Counsellor's opinion	1	1	0
	Paid Thos. Wigmore 5/-      Joseph Wigmore 1/- Aaron Francombe 4/-      Jacob Battman 1/- Thos. Francombe 1/- for their attendance on Christopher Boulton		12	0
1793, June 23	Burial of Christopher Boulton, pauper			
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1892	The walls of the old thatched cottage give way, beams collapse. Martha Snailum, who has lived there for 57 years and been a widow for 44 years, has to move to one of the Brewery Cottages, let to her out of kindness for 1/- a week.			

By the period of the 1841 Census the population of Doynton had increased to 549, its highest point. But the Sodbury Poor Law Union had been created and a workhouse built at Yate. The building of the workhouse or 'The Spike' may explain why the 1841 census for Doynton has no one in the Poor House; of all the inhabitants of the village only two elderly widows are mentioned as being paupers. No accounts survive, but the two widows would seem to have retained their 'independence' in their home village. Both of them were living on part of the Gore-Langton estate, in the buildings once known as Saunder's Farm and now known as Turnbridge Cottage. Elizabeth Thomas, spinster, aged 82, had that part of the main building nearest the road and lying diagonally to it. She also had a section of garden beneath the present Old School.

The other pauper was Mary Dixon, 51, née Moss. She married William Dixon in 1809 and, when widowed, made another attempt, this time to a man twenty years her senior. Once more a widow by 1841, she was living in Turnbridge with the three unmarried sons by her first marriage and with the eldest son of that marriage living in another part of the former Saunder's Farm. She tenanted the garden area nearest to the road and it must mean that she and the three sons were living in just part of the present garage, recently rebuilt, that belongs to Turnbridge Cottage. She was still living in it for the next twenty years.



The last two paragraphs give the picture that we get from the 1841 census and the registers. If we move on to 1881, we find a Vestry Meeting where it was suggested that the outdoor paupers should be excused paying the poor rate. It seems strange that they should have taken so long to make such an obvious suggestion, but we do have equally strange anomalies these days. To make sure that too many did not claim exemption from paying the poor rate, the meeting named those who should have exemption. These names can be cross-referenced with the entries in the 1881 census.

Lucy Bateman	72	widow	White Bonnets
Hannah Fox	72	widow	High Street
Hannah Hancock	81	widow	Mill Lane
James Jones	50	married	Watery Lane
Henry Liles	82	single	High Street
Jacob Spencer	78	widower	High Street
Martha Snailum	66	widow	Watery Lane

Fig 4.13. The T-junction at Church Site on Dec. 27, 1990, showed unseasonal beauty with a burst of sunshine falling on the conifers and beech hedging. To this side of the church is the Victorian facade of Tile Barn, formerly the Poor House. Closer to the camera is the small structure of the bus shelter. On the right are 9 and 10 Church Site, which were part of a group of prefabricated council houses (Airey type) put up in the post-war period to a Swedish design. No. 10, bought by its tenant, has new outer walls and windows and boasts the first solar panels in the village on its roof.



Fig 4.14. The Old Poor House, previous to its rebuild in 1897. The front facade is in poor condition and the far end seems to have subsided. The main roof has already exchanged its Cotswold stone tiles for Double Romans. Stone tiles remained on the back wing until the 1970s. This photo shows the other outside staircase to the one in the sketch on the following page. The wall this side of the stairs contained the village pound, of which we can pick out the two vertical posts with the brackets to take the thrust-in rails to Impound the strayed animals. *Photo, courtesy the Gloucestershire County Archivist. From the Blathwayt family deposit.*





Fig 4.15. A sketch of Holy Trinity, Doynton dated March 7, 1887 (below left). The artist may have been a Miss Buckley. It shows the stairs to E. of Old Poor House.

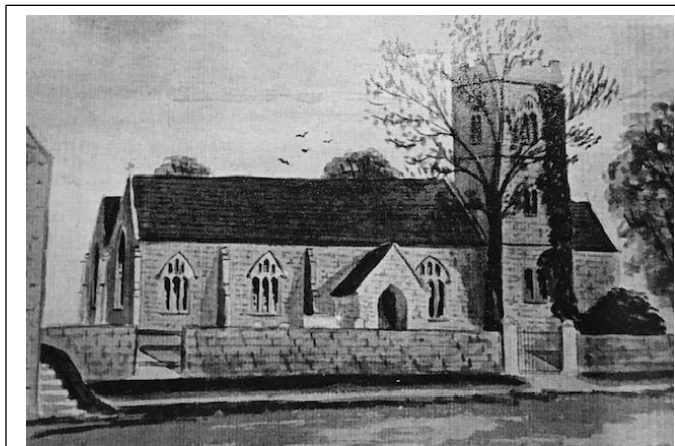


Fig 4.16. 'Ridgewood', Station Road, Yate (above right). The building is now used for the Social Services and for evening classes. The photo shows the gatehouse of the workhouse, which few paupers were ever able to leave; exercise, accommodation and work took place mainly on site. The camera is standing in front of the former Board Room of the Guardians of the Poor. On the far right of the gatehouse was the schoolroom for the children until they were apprenticed out by the Guardians.

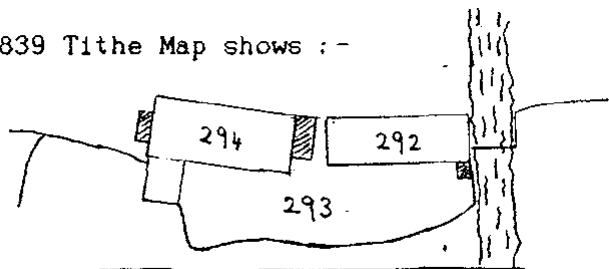
Fig 4.17. December 27, 1990. View, across the commemorative trees in front of the Village Hall, looking at Summers Close with its lime tree. Beyond, on the sky line is Dyrham Wood. The middle ground shows two old people's bungalows. On the right two Woolaway type council houses, empty for two years, despite the demand for such property, while the District Council hesitates over the plans for rebuilding or refurbishing the area and over how to obtain the finance for the work.



The census returns made no mention that they were receiving poor relief and indeed, under the column headed 'occupation', sometimes made an entry as if they would still take on work, if they could get it. Living mainly alone, mostly of an advanced age, they all had members of their families in the village, who would have been able to keep an eye on them. If we now look at the same census covering the workhouse in Yate, we find, amidst the 100 inmates, six who were born in Doynton. They included one widower of seventy, one old bachelor of sixty who had always lived with his widowed mother, one unmarried mother and three children. We cannot now know the background details but, as a group, they would have seemed less capable of sustaining an independent existence than those who remained in Doynton.

Fig 4.18. The 1839 Tithe Map 4

The 1839 Tithe Map shows :-



Parish officers	293	Poor House Garden	10 perches
	294	The Poor House	6 perches
Glebe	292	Parish Pound	4 perches

This gives a total of 20 perches or 1/8 of an acre, which is reasonably close to the modern measurement of 0.117 of an acre.

The deeds for Tile Barn contain a conveyance of Oct.24, 1845, in which:

*The Guardians of the Poor of Chipping Sodbury Union*

Charles Adams Bush                    }       Churchwardens of Doynton

Thomas Sparrow                        }

William Amos                         }       Overseers of the Poor, Doynton

Edward Gale                            }

convey a messuage now occupied as several tenements with garden ground, approx. 8 perches, but formerly comprising 3 perches only, now in the possession of ---- Fry and others to Edward Gale for £93. The number of perches does not agree with the earlier figures, but the Parish Pound was considered to be separate and under the control of the Vestry. In 1881 this meeting resolved that, since the pound was dilapidated, they should ask Mrs. Amer to repair it. Her late husband, who died in 1871, had repaired it at his own expense. To judge by the pre-1897 photograph the pound, which lies on the left of the stairs, still remained dilapidated fifteen years later.

Before the Gale family sold the Old Poor House, it was being occupied in family units: top left - Anstee/ Orchard, lower left - Guy Spencer/Harold Broom, top right \_\_\_\_ Ford, back - Andrew Rawlings. But the village memory goes back to its earlier use as a poor house, when the men lived on the top floor and the women and children were on the ground floor.

The inheritors of Edward Gale sold the building in July, 1896 to Jesse Webb of Doynton, mason, for £63. It was devised as 'that plot of land together with three cottages formerly one messuage occupied as several tenements formerly the Poor House of Doynton'. There was no definition of the area.

The Parish Council of Doynton had been formed in 1894 and regarded itself as now being responsible for the Parish Pound. So, once more, in 1897, there was a proposal that the pound be put in order. Straight away they ran into conflict with Jesse Webb, who laid claim to it. The Parish Council employed Mr. Seymour-Williams to investigate the claim and the dispute lingered on in the Minute Book until Christmas 1904, when it was acknowledged that Jesse Webb had taken possession of the pound. There were numbers of the village still furious about the whole conflict some seventy years later.

It was on the rebuilding of the Old Poor House as bought by Jesse Webb, on which Alex. Amos (1876-1980) first worked, when out of his apprenticeship. One of the major tasks was to take out the whole roadside face of the building and to move it one yard further back without removing the roof - the former face was on the line of the low garden wall, which now fronts Tile Barn. The outside stairs at each end were taken away: an apple tree was planted in the garden, survived ninety years and was blown down in 1987. The alterations were carried out in 1897, the year of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, so the building was renamed 'Jubilee Cottage'. To celebrate the jubilee the village planted a commemorative tree in the triangular patch of grass in front of Jubilee Cottage but, despite protection by iron railings, it soon succumbed to the large number of milking herds that passed four times a day.

The Overseers of the Poor can only be distinguished from 1785, when the Poor Rate Book starts. The list shows no relationship to that of the churchwardens, despite both offices starting at Easter each year. There are names that appear on both lists, William and James Nichols, Joseph West. Certain of the overseers and certain of the churchwardens never held the other office: William Davis, Richard M. Russell. Once again Doynton was insistent on nominating women as village officials; in two successive years, 1806 and 1807, two widows were appointed and took office. The first was Mrs. West from the Mill, followed next year by Mary Mannings of Rectory Farm.

By 1870, when the surviving Vestry minutes start under the chairmanship of Lewis B. Clutterbuck, the Overseers of the Poor were nominated as 'fit and proper persons to serve the office' on Lady Day, March 15, whilst a further Vestry on Easter Monday, April 18, was used to elect the churchwardens. The following six people were returned as Overseers - notes are added of their position in the village:

Henry Shield	farmer, 30 acres	Toghill Hs.
Richard Highnam	farmer, 100 acres/2 men	Bowd
Frederick Dare	milller, 1 apprentice	Doynton Mill
George Fox	farmer, 30 acres	
Moses Alway	farmer, 307 acres/3m/2b.	Court Farm
William Amer	farmer, 160 acres/4m/3b.	Bury House

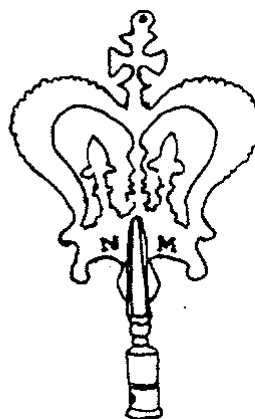
From the point of view of village society these are all solid citizens and worthy employers of labour, but not gentry. Nevertheless, these six citizens appointed a deputy overseer to do the work: Gabriel Amos grocer and competitor to Job Lear. He was to receive a salary of £10 p.a. It should be remembered that this heavily manned organisation was to deal with approximately six paupers in Doynton and another six in the workhouse in Yate. By 1891 Yate was using seven officers to deal with seventy-one inmates. The organisation was becoming a bureaucratic nightmare.

Gabriel Amos left the village in 1874 and he was replaced by John Sparrow, whose salary was increased to £12 in 1877. John, too, left the village having spent ten years as Assistant Overseer, as Waywarden and as Guardian of the Peace. He was replaced by John Sparrow, senior and then, in 1893 by William George Amos, carpenter and wheelwright, who was to take his nephew, Alexander Amos as apprentice. William George was to be the last named Assistant Overseer.

When we looked at the out-paupers of Doynton in 1881, we found that the majority, six out of seven, had an average age of seventy-five. However hard one had worked during life, old age, if reached, or illness, if suffered, was a period to be feared. Hence the rise of the Friendly Societies.

This early form of mutual insurance not only covered funeral expenses but also gave family support during periods off work. This cover was for any incapacity, a broken leg for example, that was due to bad luck or occurred during work, but a broken leg as a result of being drunk received no cover. Some societies used to have a share-out of the unused money amongst the members each Christmas. Most groups had an annual procession through the village, led by the officials, each bearing his brass-headed staff of office. Such processions were still taking place here in the 1920s. The form of the brass heads was often based on the name of the public house in whose parlour the official meetings took place.

Fig 4.19. The brass plate from Rectory Farm and the brass staff head belonging to Nicholas Mannings.



In 1803 the government sat down to analyse a set of returns from every parish in the country. Here it is for Doynton, when the number of inhabitants was 303.

		£	s	d
Expenses of maintaining and relieving the poor	in 1776	70	5	7
	in 1786	84	12	10
	In 1803	130	13	7 ¼
Poor rate in the Pound			3	6
Expenses all other purposes, church, highways etc. 1803		23	1	7
Number of persons relieved OUT 12 IN 0				
Number of Friendly Societies in parish 1				
Number of members of above society 30				

The above return mentions no name of a Friendly Society but village memory produces two: The United Patriots and the Wiltshire Working Men's. The first known agent of the United Patriots was Nicholas Manning for whom there survives a brass plate and a brass staff head in the form of a crown. There were two of this name; the first, a grazier, died in 1802 and by his will left much of his brewing equipment to his widow. All his land etc. he left to his great-grandson of the same name, who lived at Old Rectory Farm. There is no Crown Inn recorded in Doynton, except as a spelling mistake for Cross Inn, but inhabitants of Doynton in the Edwardian period pointed to the Old Rectory Farm as a former beer house. Two later agents were first Edmund Fox (1831-1908), a small farmer of 15 acres. In 1991 a medal was found in loose fill from Turnbridge Cottage, which was inscribed:

*Presented by the Directors of the United Patriots National Benefit Society of Great Britain, Chief Office No. 1, George St., Euston Rd., St. Pancras to – Edmund Fox, 1st. Div. No. 68 - As a token of respect for the interest taken by him in the prosperity of the society.*

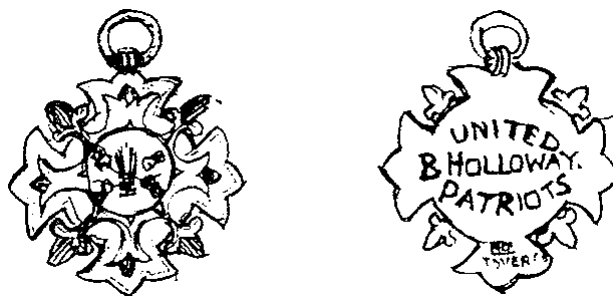


Fig 4.20. A sketch of the front and back of a 9 ct. gold and enamel medallion presented to B. Holloway.

The second later agent was B. Holloway to whom the society presented an elaborate medallion in 9ct. gold. He was unfortunate to have an accident with a horse and cart, which made it difficult for him to move around, and the collection of the dues was taken over by his brother, Augustus.

Little is known of the second society, The Wiltshire Working Men's Benefit. It had Fred Perry as agent.

The unexpected event was ever to be feared. The earliest example is written at the start of the Abson Register, CMB 1687-1754; from internal evidence the year can be deduced:

1696 'Memo. Upon Saterdag the 14 of July was dround a man and a woman beatwixt Dinton and Weeke: near to boydburge'. No names are given and they may have been strangers or travellers. The area is likely to have been round Bury Ham with the River Boyd backing up behind Wick Rocks.

A similar, unexpected accident occurred a hundred years later and was recorded by the coroner of the time:

1796. Mar. 27 To taking an inquest at The Three Horseshoes at Doynton and view of the body of James Pegler, labourer, aged 36, found drowned in a ditch near Browning's Tying in the parish of Doynton aforesaid at 2 o'clock of Thursday last. It appears he was subject to fits. Verdict: Accidental Death.

20 miles £1-15-0

*Buried a day later as the son of James and Susanna. He had not been baptised in Doynton. Browning's Tying now called Tobacco Lease, TN 98 & 99.*

1796. Oct. 26 Parish of Doynton on the body of Mrs. Mary Butler aged 59 years found dead 14th. instant. Supposed to have died from taking a quantity of drops or poisonous ingredient. Verdict: Natural Death

20 miles £1-15-0

*The unmarried daughter of William and Hannah at Bowd Farm. The title 'Mrs.' was an honorific representing the standing of the family. She had had 3 illegitimate children by Ben Bond.*

1815. May 23 Wick/Abson Joseph Perry, farmer, 37 years. Going into his cornfield to frighten rooks from off the new sown barley and having a loaded pistol in his side pocket, buttside downwards. The pistol went off and discharged itself and the contents thereof passed up and penetrated the axilla, which caused his death in the space of four hours.

Verdict: Accidental Death

*Born in Charlcombe 28.2.1779. Brother to George, carpenter, of Vine Cottage, Doynton and to other brothers farming near by in Wick and Abson.*

1817. Mar. 31 Doynton. Sarah Bryan, widow, found dead in bed on the morning of yesterday without previous illness. Verdict: Visitation of God by a fit of apoplexy or some other sudden visitation of God and not by violence.

*Aged 72.*

Few coroners these days would venture to give a verdict of death by visitation of God; it measured an acceptance of man's limitations of knowledge and a humility towards man's position in the universe.

Fig 4.21. PCC Meeting 1: 1970.

Left to right:

**George Palmer**, Churchwarden 1965-69 and treasurer for many years, deputy general manager of Friends Provident Life Office & Century Insurance. Generally found with a pipe in his hands, though not always alight.

**Joan Cottrell**, Churchwarden 1970-71, probation officer and JP, married to Fred Cottrell, retired Methodist District Chairman. She was part of the bridge between the two churches at the time of discussion on Anglo-Methodist Reunion.

**Graham Jones**, Churchwarden 1966-75 and 1989- , car body builder but he also kept the village transport running. An enthusiast for Esperanto, vintage cycling and the London-Brighton Old Crocks Race.

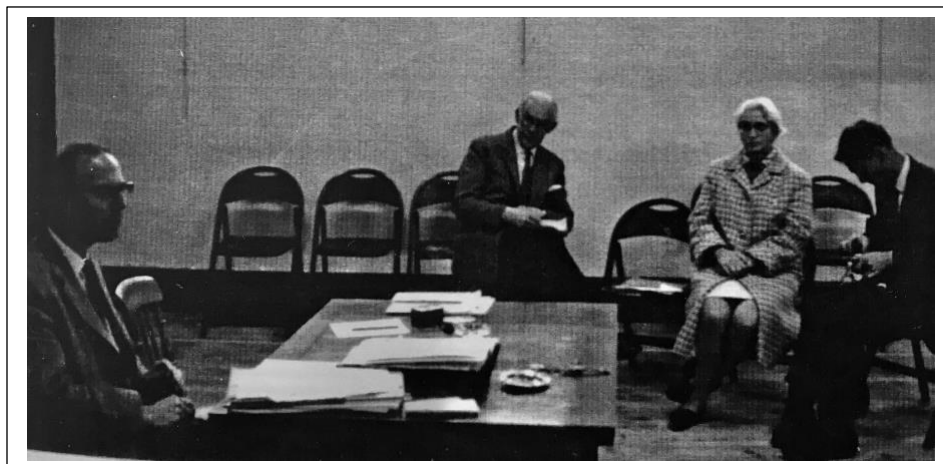


Fig 4.22. PCC Meeting 2: 1970

Left to right:

**Samuel Horsley**, Quantity surveyor, very useful to assess the cost of repairing the church roof. A walker and follower of beagles.

**Patricia Rees**, Midwife and District Nurse. A PCC member with 'bite'. When her involvement in the village allowed, she undertook medical missionary work in Sierra Leone and is one of the few in the village to have met the rising economic tide of Islam.

**Elizabeth Copping**, school teacher. Her field of activity has been with the children of the village through the Pathfinders and Explorers.

**Phyllis and Gerald Dibbins**, Churchwarden 1972-79, stock manager on farm. Farming, three daughters and the parish were exhausting. They decided to retire by going to look after the Bishop of Bristol.

Both photos are of a PCC meeting on August 21, 1970. At that time all meetings were held in the Village Hall, where the spartan conditions at that time cut down the length of the meetings and the composite fee paid by the PCC helped the finances of the Village Hall. The meeting was chaired by the Rector, Victor Searle-Barnes, seated at the table. The two ashtrays were for the secretary, Richard Kent, who was behind the camera.



Fig 4.23. Vera Mizen was for so many years the organizer of the Harvest Supper in Doynton, a task which is still in the hands of her family. Shrewd and knowledgeable in farming ways, she had been brought up to expect to have to cater for around 16 for lunch. She quietly contributed to charities from the sale of the produce of her garden. Here she and her husband are dealing with a fine row of main-crop peas.

Frederick Mizen, Churchwarden 1937-46 and also active on the parish and district councils and as snow warden. As a young man he had been keen on walking the basset hounds, which were used by the Wick and District Beagles from 1924-36.





Nowadays the medical profession is not allowed to write a death certificate giving 'old age' as a cause contributing to the death. But it would be hard not to consider that it played its part with our only two centenarians:

Bur. 1754. Jan. 28 Margaret, wife of John Blanch, aged 101.

There is no trace of her baptism or of his in Doynton. There was a family of that name in the village in the early 18th century and another section of it in Pucklechurch. John, the husband, was buried in Doynton two years after his wife. He must have been considerably younger since the register makes no mention of his age. She spanned the period from Rembrandt to Chippendale.

Bur. 1980. Oct. Alexander Wilcox Amos, aged 104.

Youngest son of William and Priscilla (nee Wilcox). Apprenticed as a carpenter to his eldest brother, William George. He was still working in his nineties and even managed to survive electrocuting himself by cutting a live cable with his saw, perhaps because, although working in the roof space, he was wearing gumboots at the time. Married in 1903 to Mabel Gertrude Percy and had 3 children, Dean, Arthur and Vera. Chairman of the Langton charity until he retired in 1873, aged 96. He was a keen follower of the Beaufort Hunt and the tea party to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was attended by the then Duke of Beaufort.

There were two others who reached their 100th year:

Bur. 1805 Tobias Fox of Rookery Farm

The last man to have 'yeoman' inscribed on his tombstone.

Bur. 1836 Betty West.

Widow of Philip. Their family worked Doynton Mill 1753-1818.

Joseph Jackson's detailed entries in the registers help us once more. He labelled as 'senex' all over the biblical limit of seventy years. There were eleven of these. When they exceeded ninety years of age, he entered the number of years in the register:

William Thomas 1586-1684 98 years

Again, associated with the mill. His grandfather of the same name, Shereman and Mylner, was also long-lived, 1508-1591.

Walter Tyler -1691 92 years

Tailor. He purchased freehold of Jone's Tenement or Crossways in 1657. One of the same name, living in the hamlet of Southwood, lived to 71.

Thomas Francomb -1709 91 years

Lived and farmed in the hamlet of Southwood/Tracy Park.

In his forty years' incumbency (1679-1720), Joseph and his curate buried 231 people in Doynton churchyard, many of whom were children - 79 or 34% had died in childhood. This compares with the figures for child deaths in an industrial town in 1840, calculated for three social classes (gentry, trade, labouring), which were 20%, 40% and 60% respectively.

In all periods, if the individual survived childhood, then he or she would have an enhanced expectation of mature survival. Here, in Doynton, making allowance for young wives who die in childbed, we are left with approximately 140 or 60% who died in maturity. Of these, as already mentioned, eleven or approximately 5% of all those buried died after the age of seventy. This compares well with the figures for the 20th century, but we must beware; the comparison of such figures is facile - professional expertise and more detail than we have for Doynton are needed to interpret the figures correctly.

It is surprising to find that, of the 140 deaths in maturity, only twenty-eight left a probated will, 19 men and 9 women (8 widows and 1 spinster). We must remember that, of the women, only spinsters and widows were allowed to make a will.

The men, when they made their wills, seemed, at first reading, to be possessively preventing the remarriage of their widows. But, in general, these caveats were made calmly to prevent the money leaving the family. Should the widow remarry, any money inherited by her would become the possession of the next husband. Some clauses were inserted to ensure that, even if the widow did not remarry, she did not have absolute freedom to leave the late husband's money to relatives on her side of the family.

Robert Webb, fuller, in 1652, made his 'nowe wife', Maud, the tenant for life of two houses and land and stated that she should receive 'rest and residue'. The houses and land were for her widowhood and 'if she should marry or die then, within one week of such marriage or death, the unexpired leasehold term should be split' amongst his four children.

At times the second marriage would seem to have been ill at ease; Thomas Browne, clothier, in 1610, had left 'my nowe wife Johane - £70, 2 of my best kyne, the bed and implements about it on which she and I now lyeth excepting the bedstead, the worsor of my other beds with a pair of blankets, a coverlet and a bolster. The use of such pewter and brass as is fit for her to use in reasonable sorte in her natural life. But if she make claim to any part of the inheritance except that certain part of the tenement wherein I now dwell, then all gifts shall be null and void'. Thomas then made his granddaughter the executrix of his will.

Sometimes it was the males who formed the source of unease; Henry Hillman owned and lived in Bury House and it is probable that his widowed sister, Sarah Adlam lived with him. She made her will in 1781 leaving 'my sister, Nancy Taylor, an annuity of £20, in no way subject to the control or debts of her husband - the annuity to commence with the death of my brother, Henry Hillman. He has given me 2 bonds of £500 and of £600, these are held by my cousin, Eliz. How. She may hand these to my brother when he has made arrangements for my sister's annuity'.

The preoccupation with the care of the children could even start with those in the womb. John Bruton of Dyrham married into the Atwood family of Doynton. He left a will, probated in 1684, by which he left £30 apiece to his four children at the age of twenty-one or on marriage. The rest and residue was to go to 'that childe which my wife now goethe wth. all provided she be safely delivered'. We find that child baptised four days after the burial of the father.

In 1546 Richard Longford, the tenant of the main manor farm at Doynton, died leaving a young family. To his son, Thomas, he left 'my plough team of 8 oxen and the harness – my wife shall have the occupation of the same for her lyfe time. I wyll that Thomas Longford, my sonne, shall be send to the skole 2 yeres and then he shall be bound prentice to a merchant man and to deliver to his master or to my oversees for him every yere during the time of hys prentice shepe 20 shillings'.

John Rables, shopkeeper, lent his authority to his second wife to balance the seeming rebellious element in his only daughter and heiress. He wrote, in 1707, 'My wife may dispose of anything she thinks fit and give to relatives. If my daughter be disobedient to her mother and not satisfied with what she can spare then she shall give her but one shilling'.

In contrast to the wills displaying care, concern, compassion, even indulgence, there are those that display spleen or grievance.

One of the sons of William and Margaret Atwood (brass in church) was Richard, who detailed the debts owed him, in 1567, by five different neighbours, varying from twenty pence to £3. The sixth entry listed in this manipulative will displayed more ire: 'William Atwood, my brother, £10, and more if I had time to count hit but seinge I am sicke and not able to count hit I said he shall paye but £X if he will be freundlye to my wife'.

A widow, Alice Russell, in her will dated 1739, said depreciatingly that she was somewhat indisposed and then continued - 'Whereas, in 1721, I intrusted John Tyler of Doynton, yeoman, to put out at interest for me £120 of my own proper money, this was lent to Edward Thomas of Dyrham and Hinton, gent., upon his bond dated April 21, 1721, but the bond made no mention that he was acting in trust and I being illiterate and not capable of reading it and not in the least suspecting that the said Tyler would have tricked and deceived me.' She entrusted her niece, Mary Fry, and her friend, Aaron Strange to recover the money and enjoy it.

There are no letters or diaries surviving from any period earlier than the late 19th century. The wills often supply the only human touch that long lists of names would fail to provide. Some wills, principally of the 17th & 18th centuries, have inventories either Incorporated into the text or attached to the document. They give a valuation of all the goods and chattels of the deceased. Sometimes the valuation of similar items, in two different wills, can show a wide variation. The two values may represent two different qualities or, in farming stock and produce, the value may differ according to the period in the farming year.

Consider the following example: in three different wills probated in 1685 and 1686 a horse was valued; the first and last were assessed at £3-14-2 and £3-13-4, a difference of ten pence. So small a variation would seem to point to a reasonable valuation. The middle horse was valued at £1-12-0. At first sight, this would seem to have been a very bad horse, then one notices that low values, in the same inventory, are given to a flitch of bacon, to a sheep and to a rick of hay. The motive for this low valuation is lost, but the Intention seemed constant.

In a period of history when few farms or fields were known by any other name than that of the tenant, we can find references in the inventories that give clues to the village geography of the past.

In 1639/40 the clothier, who owned both the corn and fulling mills, has the last third of the inventory set in 'the house adjoining the Street', which was probably the first reference to Brook House. Similar information comes from the will of William Packer, 1657, in which he itemises wood for fuel and rick stacks 'in the backside standing near a ground called Court Close'. A deed in another collection shows that he had bought his father's copyhold, in 1632, from Michael Meredith. The two items together point at Cross House when it was a farm and not a pub.

The Packer family had some members who were merchants in Bristol. As they built up more money, so those members who remained in Doynton were able to invest in more land and buildings. The son of Walter Packer, John, built Nichols Farm. The inventory of 1697 must apply to that building but it also makes a reference to 'In Baldins House'. Two William Baldens, father and son, had occupied Home Farm from 1606 to after 1655. This was a former Elizabethan farmhouse tenanted by the Mylles family and lay opposite the newly built 'Nichol's' Farm; by 1697 Home Farm was probably in ruins. This would explain why John Packer only kept one half-headed bedstead there.

At other times it is the unusual item that attracts attention: 1623, Richard Langford leaves 39 shillings' worth of pewter, but its weight is given too – 59 pounds. He leaves no money in the house. The value of his goods was £50-14-9, but he had borrowed over £72 and so left a deficit on his estate. That did not stop the Lord of the Manor, Michael Meridith, from claiming his heriot – value of the best beast. Another will and inventory for January 1686/7 lists the animals that were being overwintered in each field – the acreages given are for that period:

<i>Island Mead</i>	<i>4 bullocks</i>	<i>8 acres</i>
<i>Packer's Style</i>	<i>1 heifer, 2 bullocks, 4 yearling</i>	<i>20 acres</i>
<i>Middle Piece</i>	<i>4 cowes, 1 heifer</i>	<i>7 ½ acres</i>
<i>Berry Hedge</i>	<i>6 oxen</i>	<i>6 acres</i>
<i>Little Field</i>	<i>4 oxen</i>	<i>3 ½ acres</i>

Further down the list £10 worth of hay was mentioned. A modern rule of thumb suggests overwintering one cow or sheep on each acre

Fig 4.24. Doynton Choir – thought to be the earliest surviving photo of a Doynton choir. No certain identification, but there are features in common with those who appear in the photo below it, where the choristers are identified.



Fig 4.25. Doynton Choir c. 1902 Photo courtesy Barbara Price.



<i>Back row</i>	<i>Middle Row</i>	<i>Front Row</i>
<i>C. J. King, organist</i>	<i>William Jones</i>	<i>Arthur Jones</i>
<i>Edward Amos, sexton</i>	<i>Charles Percy</i>	<i>Bertrum Webb</i>
<i>Ted Holloway</i>	<i>Leonard Holloway</i>	<i>Harold Amos</i>
<i>George Jones</i>	<i>Charles Camery</i>	<i>Jack Godwin</i>
<i>Harry Bryant</i>		<i>George Croome</i>
<i>Harry Camery</i>		<i>Reginald Alvis</i>
<i>Oliver Hinton</i>		
<i>Louis Jones</i>		
<i>William Robinson, Rector (1899-1908)</i>		

Fig 4.26. Tony Hooper (in the stetson), Chairman of Doynton Parish Council 1963-1986, talking to Albert Amos, Parish Clerk 1941-83. The Garden Party, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1984, took place in a heat wave; they and the stallholders have all sought shelter under the trees – Bramley, William Bon Chrétien, Juglans Regia.





The inventory of Walter Dymock, cordwainer, 1701, suggests that he may have crafted both clogs and shoes made to measure: -

A certain parcel of timber	£2-0-0
A certain parcel of lasts	0-5-0
In his shop's book prayed at	3-0-0
In the shop, 3 new pairs of shoes	0-5-0

That the Rector of Doynton, Robt. Wilkes, possessed books is not surprising. But it seems less usual for a clothier of 1639/40 to have had some. George Weare at Doynton House had enough to be valued at £10.

The turmoil of the 17th century is suggested by a musket and bandolier, by a pair of pistols, and by a pocket pistol and a sword. The advancing tyranny of time is measured by a watch 1686/7, a clock 1707 and an 8-day clock 1799.

One other intriguing task with an inventory, if it is for a complete house, is to try to reconstruct the rooms as they were at the time of the inventory. Those who have lived all their lives in the village will have experienced the way in which each generation has had its own ideas on the ideal layout for the building - a staircase may change its position four times in a century. Reconstruction is sometimes not only mentally stimulating but also spiritually frustrating.

Reconstruction is easiest with the Old Rectory, since there are 'terriers' which define the number of rooms. It can also be done with Doynton House: newly built by Roger Rodbourn in the early 17th century, it was bought by the Weare family when the Rodbourns moved away. In 1684, George Weare was to marry Ann Solace of Cirencester, she bringing him £900 and her lands in that town. On marriage they set up home in some style in Doynton House and started a family, but the husband died after only two years of marriage. His widow returned to Cirencester with their only child. Thus, until 1770, Doynton House was held by farming tenants of the Weares. It is certain that Giles Browning was the tenant here in 1753 and it is thought that his father, of the same name, was the first tenant in the property - he had first moved into Doynton, as a married man, in 1689. Both inventories of 1686/7 and of 1718 are printed in the appendix. The rooms that are mentioned suggest that they are occupying the same property, but there is a fine contrast between the possessions of a well-heeled gentleman and those of a prosperous farming tenant.

Sometimes the will became the subject of a court case and the executors had to account for their actions and expenditure before the Consistory Court. This is why for Richard Longford and for William Nichols there is a complete inventory of the goods and chattels but, as well, an account of the expenses. From this we learn that the funeral expenses for Longford in 1623 totalled 3 shillings and 4 pence, plus the administrative costs of £1-1-0. One reacts that such a low figure may have been because the estate was overextended. This conception is reinforced by Elizabeth Langton in her will of 1703 laying down firmly that her funeral should not cost more than fifty pounds. But, if we move on to 1714, when William Nichols died, then we find that his widow and executrix spent as follows:

Shroud and other things for the funeral	0-6-0
Coffin	0-8-0

This totalled 14/- and compares with the legal fees and expenses of £1-14-8. Once more a low figure.

If we move forward over a century, we find that in 1849 Abraham Amos, aged 67, former bailiff to T. P. Peterson of Mangotsfield, was buried in Doynton. The expenses of £3-3-0, not itemised, were sent to his former employer. This was probably welcome financial support for his widow, by then living on savings. He left an estate probated at 'under £20'.

Until recently one personal memory remained of that time. In 1959 the Women's Institute compiled several pages with the title 'Our Village in Living Memory'. Amongst them were the memories of Miss Alvis who was then over seventy. She repeated the story told by her mother, who had been born in 1844 and spoke of her childhood memories of funerals attended by men on horseback wearing flowing black bands round their top hats. The mid-Victorian period was one where, in an era of financial stringency, without pensions or a lifetime income that allowed much saving, families nevertheless strove to have a funeral with a sense of luxury and style that had never been enjoyed during the deceased's lifetime. In this, Friendly Societies, already mentioned, might be a help. The early form of life insurances, sometimes with a payment of one penny per week, were primarily taken out and maintained to cover the funeral expenses. It was a period of minor snobberies, such as that attacked by Stanley Holloway in his monologue 'Brahm Boots'.

After the First World War some effort was made to curb excessive outlay. In July 1935, James Scribbins of Mill House gave a wheeled bier to the parish for the use of the parishioners without charge. At that time the sexton dug the grave and the wheelwright made the coffin - the village was self-sufficient. The bier is still kept under cover in the former gashouse, in which the acetylene gas for the church lighting was produced and is still available for use. The processing of a funeral cortege or a wedding party on foot through the fields and down the lanes still occurred in rural Europe after World War II but is not remembered as occurring here since the war. Until 1953 the bier was used, during a funeral service, to support the coffin instead of using trestles.

In 1929 a restriction had been put on the ringing of the church bells. Formerly they had been rung for several hours but Jesse Webb, who lived in Jubilee Cottage/Tile Barn, next to the church, managed to persuade the PCC to restrict the sexton to tolling the tenor bell for not more than one hour.

The continuous period of inflation since WWII has made a nonsense of all previous figures. By 1979, the simplest interment cost £325. Prices change, but the village still maintains the traditions of a small community in supporting the surviving family at a funeral or memorial service. There are occasions, now, at the end of the 20th century, when the church can be fuller for a memorial service of thanksgiving than for the harvest service of thanksgiving.

Fig 4.27. The Toll Road from Bath reached the London Road at Wick, about 100 yards from the Doynton Parish boundary.





One of the tasks that preoccupied the newly formed Parish Council in 1894 was the maintenance of the footpaths and the harassing of the Sodbury Highway Board (formed 1863). The latter had always been one of the tasks of the Churchwardens and their subordinate officers - the Waywardens. In 1753 the churchwardens had paid William Saunders one shilling 'for opening the Watercourse at Turnbridge'. At that time the stream was not covered in at Turnbridge and so the road crossed the stream in a water splash. There was another such open water splash behind Townsend Farm corner. The third example still exists at the S-bend by St. Ives Farm. Outside the village the name of Old Ford on the old route to Dyrham suggests much the same form of water crossing. Ten years later the wardens paid out 11/- for stone and a further sum of £1-10-10 to 'William Gunning for repairing the Causeway'. This was a ninth part of their income for the year but such entries in the second part of the 18th century were a rarity and given the local clay, a rainy winter and the repetitive passage of livestock, the local roads must have been awesomely difficult to use.

The Vestry Minutes for 1870 stated that Moses Alway was elected Waywarden 'for the better management of the Highways in England for the said parish of Doynton'. This may seem strange when the Sodbury Highway Board apparently existed already, but a minute in the Vestry Book for 1878 reveals that the Doynton waywarden was still responsible for 5½ miles of road within the parish. As a task it has had few recorded holders of the office:

1870-74 Moses Alway

1876-78 James England

1879-93 John Sparrow, senior

1893-94 Frederick John Dare

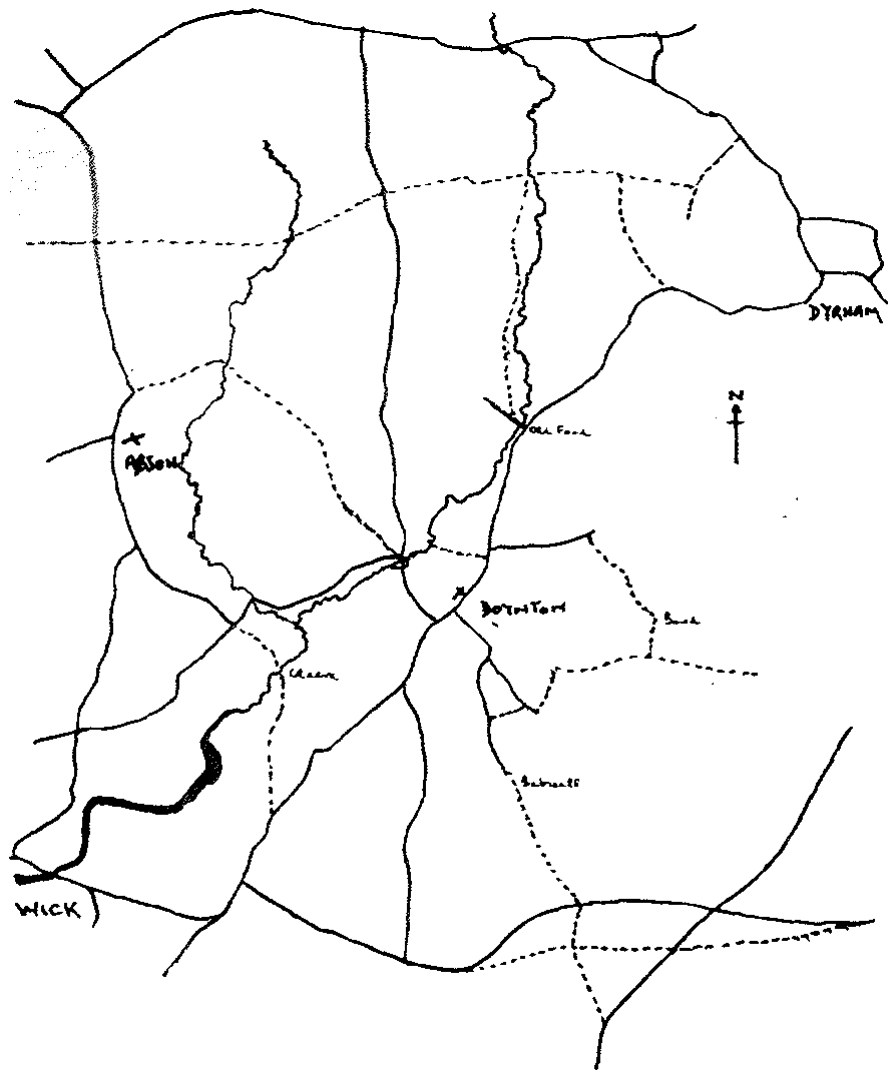
1894-95 Job Lear (6 months only)

In 1894 the responsibility passed completely to the District Boards and no records have been deposited. Only for the period 1870-1894, when the annual Vestry Minutes survive in their brief form, is there some indication of the road system just before the era of tarmacadam and motorised transport.

On June 3rd, 1870, a special Vestry Meeting was held to consider a road 'leading from the top of Bury Hill to Cleeve Bridge Cottages and on to Abson and known by the name of Cleeve Bridge Lane extending along a field called the Bury belonging to Mr. William Amer, is a great improvement and equally convenient to the Publick'. The Vestry approved: 'the present road as set out by Mr Amer be adopted in lieu of the old one under the same conditions vjz. that the gates be never fastened but always in such condition that passengers on horseback and on foot may travel there without hindrance'.

They referred to this track as a road - we might consider it a bridle path. It was shown as a road on the 1830 edition of the 1" O.S. map, surveyed c. 1811, passing in a straight line from the crest of Bury Hill to the Packhorse Bridge by Cleeve Cottages. The foundations of the cottages are still there, beneath the brambles and the boundary banks to the quarry. The road crossed the River Boyd by the hump-backed bridge moving uphill past cottages on the Wick side of the river to the crossroads above Gatheram. It is thought that this route was used by pack animals between Bristol and Marshfield. It ran parallel to the main road but was not subject to the charges or tolls on the latter. Cleeve cottages even contained a farrier in 1851. By 1899 the Parish Council minutes wrote of 'the footpath over Cleeve Bridge'.

Fig 4.28. Map of Doynton Date unknown.



On the map this and other tracks considered roads on the early O.S. maps are shown with an intermittent line. Those that have since been adopted and maintained by the highway authorities are indicated with a continuous line. The other noteworthy changes are:-

- a) The road from Pucklechurch to Dyrham via Back Lane and Snowden's Lane.
- b) From White Bridge/Old Ford to the above Back Lane, alongside the upper River Boyd. This was, in all likelihood, the original route from Doynton to Dyrham. It ran through one of the two open fields of Doynton, Lower Field, and gave access to two separated parts of Doynton on the Dyrham side of the river. When the field was enclosed in the 17th century, the new enclosure boundaries acknowledged the existence of the road. The present metalled road, Doynton to Dyrham, runs across the line of the field boundaries next to the parish border and must be later than the enclosure. One short branch of the old road went into Limekiln Lease and Stone Pits (TN 33 & 34). These two names date from 1648 in the Great Field, which started to be enclosed from 1635.
- c) A track from Woodlands Lane to Doynton Mill. This had a full cart-width bridge across the Boyd until recently - the abutments can still be seen. But, since WWII, the Parish Council has only maintained a footbridge across the river.
- d) From St. Ives to Reverence, branching to Rushmead and to Bowd, was the track known traditionally, but not in any deeds, as 'the Roman Road'. Nearby is a short green lane that joins Watery Lane and Toghill Lane.
- e) The main road Bristol to Chippenham over Toghill. We considered its realignment in 1808 earlier in this booklet.

The names of roads change occasionally; Rookery Lane is named from the farm on it. The farm was built for the daughter of Tobias Luton, who had lived in the older farmstead of Trunkhouse Barn. Throughout the 18th century the road was called Luton's Lane. Earlier it had been known as the Ridgeway or Dursley Way. There is no direct route to Dursley in the 20th century, but the name may date back to the medieval period, when a link through Chipping Sodbury, Wickwar, Wotton u/Edge was part of a woollen trade route north from Bath.

The narrow lane to St. Ives, Watery Lane, was well named - the properties to the north of it were called the Splatts - the lane had been the site of a tannery, a brewery and a water splash. Until the late 20th century, when less water came down from the escarpment, it was always very wet. Nevertheless, in 1877, when James England as Waywarden was trying to persuade the Sodbury Highway Board to repair the lane, the minutes refer to it as 'Waterloo Lane'.

The footpath to Tracy Park lay across the headlands of the strips in the second great field of Doynton, Toghill Field or South Field. There is a reference in the will of Thomas Bush dated 1574 to 'two acres of wheat in Southfield towards Colyes Yeate named Maples'. The name Colyes Yeate became applied to the field that enclosed the earlier headlands. The popularity of pugilism in the Regency period and the short stay of the parents of John Gully at the Rose and Crown, Wick, in 1783, meant that, when John Gully became the champion of England, the locals renamed the field Gully's Gate. This was the name used in the 1839 Tithe Map.

In considering the tasks of churchwarden, overseer of the poor and waywarden, we have covered the parish officials who used to work on an unpaid basis and who were appointed by the parish as a whole through the Vestry Meeting. The other officers were appointed by smaller groups and may sometimes have been paid for their contribution to the fabric of the village. In the present day there is a numberless army of volunteers who help to make the village one workable unit.

Of the first group, it was the Parish Clerk who, traditionally, had the greatest sense of his own importance.



Fig 4.29. The illustration by Hablot K Browne of a church interior circa 1820. In the top deck of the double-decker pulpit the rector is reading from the Bible, which rests on "the Cushion". On the far side of him, in the gallery below the hatchment, the musicians and singers are mostly asleep. On the bottom deck the parish clerk looks very pleased.

In many parishes he received no annual payment but extracted a sum, dependent on its size, from each freeholding or tenancy. To these he added the fees at baptism, marriage, churching or burial. Here in Doynton he seemed to have an annual salary, but, naturally, would not have taken amiss any addition to it. His name occurs frequently as a witness to village weddings.

During the 17th century, the parish clerk often had the task of 'lining out' the psalms, that is, he first intoned the line of the metrical psalm on his own so that the largely unlettered congregation should be able to repeat it after him. However we have already shown (in the Saints booklet) that, by 1771, Holy Trinity had a set of Singers. Here was one task that the clerk needed to undertake no more.

The list of clerks shows the tradition of family service there was in Doynton. Samuel Francombe may have 'lined out' and John may have covered the transitional period but William England, certainly, will not have done it. The period of the clerks' greatest influence coincided with the period of the absentee rectors. Here, too, his position changed with the sequence of resident rectors from the time of John Laty in 1823.

The clerk had been the executive officer of the Parish Vestry, but, as we have seen, the Vestry, in piecemeal fashion, lost its control to the new Guardians of the Poor, to the District Highway Board, to the School Managers and to the newly created Parish Councils. More and more the post lacked a purpose and we find that in 1871 he was being paid a salary of £3-3-0 a year - a salary that had been paid sixty years earlier. In that year he augmented his income with £2 for cleaning the church, £1-17-0 for mowing the churchyard and attending the fire, giving a total of £7 p.a. The last clerk named on the list was so named in 1868-79, but, when he was buried in 1894, he was called 'sexton of this parish'.

The task of the sexton, traditionally, was looking after the fabric of the church, the digging of graves and the ringing of bells; his task lay with the first, his income with the second and his pleasure with the third. The surviving minutes of the annual Vestry Meeting, starting in 1870, are brief and they seem to record meetings that were nearly as brief. It is not until 1902 that they mention the sexton. In that year William Holloway gave in his resignation. He must have been followed by Edward Amos (1842-1922), who appears on the photograph of the choir in about 1903. Increasingly, outside undertakers hired or brought in their own gravediggers so that when, in 1968, William Jones (1888-1969) claimed to hold the office of sexton, he did so mainly because of the love that he had had for the church bells. Throughout his life he had been a member of the choir, starting as a treble in April 1898 and dying on his way to choir practice in 1969. In adult life he was captain of the bells and the photograph of the ringers shows how strong a family tradition he had built up. In the 18th century accounts we find the bells being recast and an almost annual renewal of bell ropes being purchased. The church has never had a church clock and so it has laid great stress on the bells, especially in the period before most villagers had watches or clocks, before radio and the Greenwich Time Signal.

If the Vestry minutes paid small attention to the sexton, they spent an amazing amount of time considering the Organ Blower. A succession of pre-teenagers were appointed and, before the First World War, paid an annual salary of £1-5-0. During the Second World War there was a PCC minuted suggestion that the girls in the choir might take turns at the task. We do now have an electric pump.

In the 1870s, when the organ was new, a visitor wrote of the choir that 'they sang well but merely led the people, who sang heartily'. Twenty years later it was the Congregational Chapel that was known for its singing. Then the choir at Holy Trinity was taken over by a choirmaster of genius, C. J. King, who cycled over from Bitton every Sunday in all weathers. He turned a country church choir who 'led the people' into a strong group of twenty male voices who were capable of taking, and did take, choral evensong with treble solos in Bristol Cathedral. The boys were rehearsed thoroughly in their parts once a week and were on trial for a year before being accepted. For this they were paid 2d. a month, received an Easter egg and enjoyed a choir outing, often to Weston-super-Mare.

Charles King was followed by Frank Geal, who did not enjoy the rumbustious misbehaviour of the choirboys, but he stuck to the task and completed forty years as organist, 1928-1968, making the journey over from Longwell Green. Choir members, too, lasted a long time: William Jones was in the choir 71 years and his brother, Arthur, was a member for a mere 64 years, 1900-1964. In this period since the introduction of decimal currency few people stay all their lives in the village and not one has spanned the time from clear treble to breathless age.

The period of time following the formation of the Parish Council was one in which the new body and the older Vestry Meeting had to adjust themselves to their new roles. Some have argued that it was an overdue separation of Church and State. Some social commentators would say that it was part of the political tendency to take decision and control out of the hands of the parishes and to give those powers to bodies concerned with larger districts. Now, some commentators go so far as to assert that not enough candidates of calibre offer themselves for parish council work - indeed some parishes lack a council. Doynton, at least, is fortunate to have enough voters in the village prepared to take on council work. There are not always so many that there is a contested election, but then it is part of the village philosophy that, if someone volunteers, then the others step back with a sigh of relief. This attitude means that the council is often in the hands of a small group of friends, who have persuaded each other to take on a task that contains more 'ennui' than power. The parish council in the 1990s seems to have less power to affect the future of the village than had the former Vestry, Churchwardens, Overseers and Waywardens in the past. In 1991, the parish council was charged with dealing with the reactions of the parish to a 3-day pop festival, to a permanent 'travellers' site and to a large tip for road-building spoil just over the parish boundary. In the past, working with a local JP, the parish representatives would have decided, implemented and executed within hours. The present council, working through legal and democratically justifiable channels, seeks to influence a result administered by objective but remote officials. It is not the wisdom of the decision that matters but the presentation of the argument. Seemingly, only those who are prepared to bend the law can act fast.

The people 'in between' have had long practice in survival: on the borders of the two Saxon kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia, as a farming community within the extensive early Kingswood Forest and its forest law, as lootable bystanders to the Battle of Lansdown in the Civil War, as taxable fodder for Court Leet & Court Baron, Tithes, Subsidy Rolls, Ship Money, Hearth Tax, Window Tax, Succession Duty and VAT. Some of the surviving tax lists give us valuable clues to the population of the past. Some of the varieties of tax will be dealt with in the section on work, but let us consider the general indications that they give us about the people of the village.

The Scots seem never to have invaded Doynton; they would claim that it would be difficult to consider the village as a land of opportunity. The Welsh, on the other hand, have never been restrained by the borders of the Principality. The Subsidy Roll of 1327 rated xv pence tax against John le Welsche. The Davis and the Lewis families have flourished here for three centuries and the Jones family for even longer, though they have not been all of one line. Bristol was the port for trade with Ireland and John the Ireys starts the sequence well in 1288. However, his countrymen did not maintain the pressure and in recent years only one man was distinguishable by the nickname 'Paddy'. The names of the past were solidly and reiteratively English: Kidd, Rawlings, Fox, Sparrow, Britton, England.

The 20th century has brought a change. On first acquaintance, the village might seem the modernised version of a joint creation by Mary Russell and Nancy Mitford, but, in reality, it has many ties with the outside world. The last twenty years has found three inhabitants with Chinese connections: one had studied Mandarin at university, another had learnt it as a missionary in the then remote Yunnan province and yet another was born into the family life of the British Consular Service in China, a luxurious but isolated life on an island off the coast at Foochow. At the same time, there were others who were born or brought up in Australia, Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Malta and Rhodesia (*Zimbabwe since 1980*), all of whom had names that differed little from the English names in the village in the past. The foreign contacts are increased by a retired diplomat and his family from Malaysia and a retired businessman from Denmark - the village found it difficult to get their tongues round a name like Arianayagam. It is surprising that the supranational, not just the extra-parochial, totalled nearly 10% of the voters list. There are only three families with names going back before the reign of Queen Victoria. Their members form another approximate 10% of the same list.

In 1841, the number of men and their wives, over 21, who were active in agriculture was 106 out of a total population of 529, or approximately 20%. Many youngsters, down to a seven-year-old, were also employed on the farms and many elderly will have had part-time work in the fields. To look through the present voting list, >18, for all those active in agriculture, is to find 31 involved or roughly 12% of the list. This is not nearly as great a contrast to 1841 as expected.

One change that has been expected is the influx of professional or retired people that has pushed up the price of property in the village. Until recently, we had to return to 1775 to find a resident surgeon-apothecary in the village; now we could staff a very small hospital. We have four at consultant level, two in general practice, eight with other specialities and a reserve of five members of the profession - a total of nineteen. Teachers run a close second to that total. They have ten on the active list with eight in reserve. In a computer age, when the minds of the elderly boggle at using such a machine, but when youngsters use them before they can read, it is not surprising perhaps to find that we have six computer software engineers already. To define the word 'profession' is to become arbitrary, but they form approximately 18% of the voting list.

Members of the professions have usually been born outside the village and move into it as they become more firmly successful in their particular field. The changed character of the electorate gives rise to two thoughts: the one, lighthearted, is on nicknames, and the second, more serious, is on the social balance in the village community.

Nicknames have been out of fashion since WWII. The correspondence in 'The Times' in 1977 referred to the nicknames of very senior army officers in the Second World War - Jumbo, Squeaker, Boy, Dolly, Pug. Schools, that by their conservative nature retained the habit longer than most, were beginning to give up the tradition in the 1970s and only the older staff still had them. The village once had the habit; Lawrence Fisher's father was already calling his son 'Chummy' at the age of eleven months (1910). Cricket was the cause of 'Timer' for Arthur Amos and 'Jessop' for the blacksmith, Charlie Packer (Jessop flourished c. 1900). From 1906-1939 Bury House was lived in by George S. Rollinson after he left the navy. He was nicknamed 'Booby'. Was this because his middle name was Shirley? Dean Amos admittedly liked fast motorbikes and was called 'Swift'. Was it just this simple reason or did the village have an admirer of the works of Dean Swift? Others - Troby, Cobby, Stump and Pongo - would need even more imaginative research to find the original cause of the name. Today the village is no longer a closed community and the habit is lost.

Social balance is even more difficult to pin down. It is difficult to define the mixture in a community that will give the happiest measure of life together. In the medieval and Tudor periods, an absentee landlord and rector left the remainder, tenants or peasants, to look after themselves. By the eighteenth century a single lord of the manor had become ten or a dozen freeholders who ranked with the leading tenant farmers; the remainder served them. Today, moving on another couple of centuries, we find that service is anathema and everyone would claim a high standard of possessions and facility. This is not a situation that will change easily nor one that we should perhaps seek to change. However, if we consider the increasing number of retired people withdrawing to the village and a similar number of professionals who are at a very involved stage in their careers, and the current habit of both partners in a marriage going out to work, then we find that what the village lacks is children. Love them or loathe them, they are what the village needs to have a balanced age range. Thus, it could be argued, we need to find a way to increase the ability of young couples to find and afford starter homes in Doynton.

Fig 4.30. The bellringers in the early 1950s. Left to Right.  
Back row: Vernon Jones, in uniform, on National Service 1950-52, James Jones, Arthur Jones.  
Front row: Frederick Filer, William Jones, Arthur Amos, Percy Perryman - the buttonhole indicates a wedding (15.3.1952).





Fig 4.31. The packhorse bridge at Cleeve in the spring of 1970, looking south towards Wick Rocks. The ruins of Cleeve Cottages lie to the left, now burlled. From there downstream to Wick Bridge was then still a superb blackberrying route.



Fig 4.32. James Scribbins, Churchwarden 1922, miller. One of the last to grind the corn in Doynton Mill. He gifted the bier to the parish. On Revel Day he used to organise the festivities with their military band, fête and cricket match and led the march out to Hagmead.

*Photo dated 1936, courtesy Joan Cottrell.*



Fig 4.33. Frederick Filer was persuaded to help dig the graves during the war. Here, in the early 50s, he has excavated almost to full depth in the new churchyard extension. James Sheppard has shoes that are too clean for him to have helped with more than advice.

*Photo, courtesy Barbara Price Bottom.*

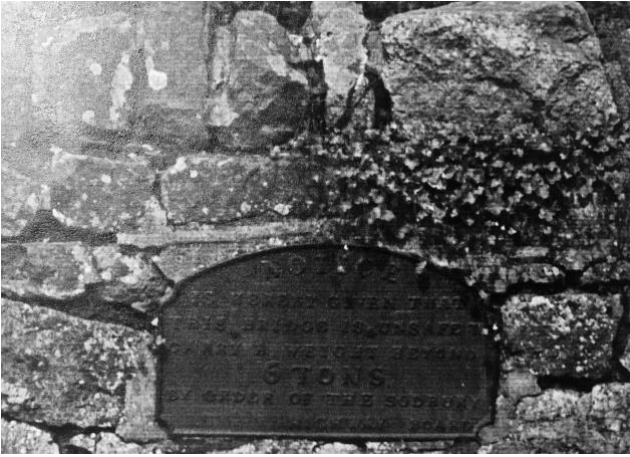


Fig 4.34. When the Sodbury Highway Board bridged in the watersplash at Turnbridge, they fixed this cast-iron plaque to the bridge wall.

They would find a village that is restricted in certain ways: the public transport system, despite subsidy, is infrequent; the nearest village, Wick, contains the Rector, the doctor and the school; police, fire and ambulance all come from a distance. They would find a village that lacks some of the variety and choice of leisure activity offered by the town. But they would also find a community that seeks to supply voluntarily those facilities that are felt necessary.

Who, at church, is part of the flower rota, cuts the grass, raises the plants and sets them out, polishes the brass, dusts the top of the nave walls, climbs the tower to raise the flag and chimes the bells?

In the village there is a rota for Meals on Wheels and for collecting the newspapers every morning. Many are persuaded to bake cakes, pot up plants for the Kidney Research Plant Sale, refurbish used Christmas cards for the Children's Society, go house to house collecting for flag days or singing carols, spend time knitting teddy bears or trousers and jerseys. Doyntonians also talk.

The village also supports activities outside its boundaries: Voluntary Ambulance Service; car journeys to the hospitals, to the Welcome Club or to go shopping; running Girl Guides and Brownies; providing voluntary guides for Dyrham House(NT); reading to the blind or making audiotape programmes for them; pony riding for the disabled; practical support for the Cyrenians or, when Pat Rees was in Sierra Leone, locating spare parts for an ancient Land Rover and sending them out there.

The tradition of mutual help in a closed community still remains, despite the changing times; at times of illness help can arrive for milking, grass cutting or keeping the fire going.

At the entrance to the village - as a village we cannot have a 30 m.p.h. restriction - 'Doynton welcomes careful drivers'. Doynton would also welcome fresh inhabitants with energy to spare.

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- 4.11. Frank Ellis, Churchwarden 1959-65, farmer. *Photo, courtesy Joan Cottrell.*
- 4.12. George Bishop, Churchwarden 1905-36, farmer. *Photo, courtesy Mary Cryer.*
- 4.13. The T-junction at Church Site on Dec. 27, 1990.
- 4.14. The Old Poor House, previous to its rebuild in 1897. *Photo, courtesy the Gloucestershire County Archivist. From the Blathwayt family deposit.*
- 4.15. A sketch of Holy Trinity, Doynton, dated March 7, 1887.
- 4.16. 'Ridgewood', Station Road, Yate.
- 4.17. View across the commemorative trees in front of the Village Hall, December 27, 1990.
- 4.18. The 1839 Tithe Map 4
- 4.19. The brass plate from Rectory Farm and the brass staff head belonging to Nicholas Mannings.
- 4.20. A sketch of the front and back of a 9 ct. gold and enamel medallion presented to B. Holloway.
- 4.21. PCC Meeting 1: 1970.
- 4.22. PCC Meeting 2: 1970.
- 4.23. Vera Mizen was for so many years the organiser of the Harvest Supper in Doynton.
- 4.24. Doynton Choir – thought to be the earliest surviving photo.
- 4.25. Doynton Choir c. 1902. *Photo courtesy Barbara Price.*
- 4.26. Tony Cooper (in stetson), Doynton Parish Council 1963-1986, talking to Albert Amos, Parish Clerk 1941-83.
- 4.27. The Toll Road from Bath reached the London Road at Wick, about 100 yards from the Doynton Parish boundary.
- 4.28. Map of Doynton, date unknown.
- 4.29. The illustration by Hablot K Browne of a church interior circa 1820.
- 4.30. The bellringers in the early 1950s.
- 4.31. The packhorse bridge at Cleeve in the spring of 1970.
- 4.32. James Scribbins, Churchwarden 1922, miller.
- 4.33. Frederick Filer, Assistant Gravedigger.
- 4.34. When the Sodbury Highway Board bridged in the watersplash at Turnbridge, they fixed this cast iron plaque to the bridge wall.

### Appendix 3: OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

#### a) Churchwardens

A churchwarden served the office for a particular holding:

- i. If known for certain, the modern name is given.
- ii. If there are indications but no certainty, a question mark is added.
- iii. If there is obscurity, the space is left blank.
- iv. If the modern holding is not identified but the contemporary name is certain, then the latter appears in brackets.

YEAR	RECTOR'S WARDEN	Modern Name of Property for which s/he served	Years of Duty Cycle	PEOPLE'S WARDEN	Modern Name of Property for which s/he served	Years of Duty Cycle
1498	John Brewer			Thomas Hobbes		
1539	Jn. Francombe			John Thomas		
1543	John Tyler			Thomas Byssshop		
1547	Jn. Francombe		8?	Walter Burgess	Rectory	
1548	Thos. Spryngall			John Packer		
1562	John Atwood	Tracy Park?		Walter Mylles	Home Farm?	
1563	Richard Lewis			Walter James		
1571	Thos. Longford	Manor Farm?		John Packer	Nichols	
1572	Wm. Huyttes			Thomas Taylor	Starling V.	
1575	Thos. Browne	Bury Manor		John Reder	½ Annity	
1576	John Packer	Nichols	5	John Mylle	Home Farm?	
1602	Walter Packer	Cross House		Rich. Tyler		
1605	John Thomas					
1607	Thos. Harford	Brook House?		Thos. Node		
1608	Rich. Strange	½ Annity		Thos. Reade	½ Annity	
1611	Rich Tucker					
1613	Rg. Rodborne	Doynton House		Peter Fowler	Vine Cottage?	
1616	Wm. Reade	?		Ant. Strange	½ Annity?	8?
1617	Walter Packer	Cross House		Thos. James		
1620	Wm. Reade	?		Thos. James		
1622	Thos. Atwood			Thos. Francomb	Sowd	
1623	Jn. Taylor	Starling V.?		Ant. Strange	½ Annity?	7
1624	Walter Packer	Cross House	7	Wm. Osborne	Both mills	
1625	Thos. James		5	Thos. Clement	½ Bury Farm	
1628	Nich. Francomb			Jn. Robins(on)	½ Bury Farm	
1629	Walter Packer	Cross House	5	Jn. Taylor	Starling V.	6?
1633	Rg. Rodborne	Doynton House		Arthur Strange		
1634	Jn. Robins	½? Bury Farm	6	Ant.? Snell		
1635	Walter Packer	Cross House	6	Nich. Francomb	Sowd	
1636	Rg. Rodborne	Doynton House	3	Hugh Pellinger		
1637	Wm. Osborne	Tucking Mill?		Wm. Atwood		
1639	Roger Dymock	Rosevale				
1640	John Packer	Nichols Farm		Obediah Bullock		
1641	Thos. Webb	Grist Mill?		Ant. Strange		
1642	Rich. Taylor	Starling V.?		Thos. Saunders	Turnbridge	

1655	Thos. Tucker	Tracy Park Cot.		Edward Strange		
1660	Thos. Ridley	Tracy Park		Walt. Wilshire		
1663	Roger Dymock	Rosevale		Wm/ Balden	Home Farm	
1671	Rich. Martin			Thos. Francomb	Sowd	
1677	Jn. Grandford	Rosvale?		Roger Packer	Cross House	
1678	Wm. Walker	Twain Cottage?		Wm. Dymock		
1679	Sam Bryan	½ Summers		Thos. Blanch		
1680	Sam. Francomb	Splatts & CC		John Harper		
1681	Wm. Atwood			Thos. Dymock	Tannery	
1682	Jn. Bryan	rest Summers		Sam. Francomb	Splatts & CC	2
1683	James Cope	Beech Farm?		Richard Neal	Tracy Park Cottage	
1684	Jon' Milard			Jn. Francomb		
1685	Thos. Francomb	Sowd		Roger Dymock	Rosevale	
1686	Sam. Francomb	Splatts & CC	4	John Harper		
1687	Thomas Webb	Grist Mill		John Fussell		
1688	Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse		Wm. Jonson		
1689	John Atwood		8?	Rich. Davis		
1691	Thos. Dymock	Tannery	10?			
1692	John Bryan	rest Summers	10	John Francomb		
1693	Robert Davis	Starling V.		Thos. Rely		
1694	John Atwood		5	Thos. Francomb	Sowd	
1696	Robert Davis	Starling V.	3	Sam. Webb	Tucking Mill	
1697	John Still	Bury House		Giles Browning	Doynton Hs?	
1698	John England			Ab. Harper		4
YEAR	RECTOR'S WARDEN	Modern Name of Property for which s/he served	Years of Duty Cycle	PEOPLE'S WARDEN	Modern Name of Property which s/he served	Years of Duty Cycle
1699	Sam Saunders	Turnbridge?		Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse	11
1700	Thos. Edwards			Sam. Francomb	Splatts	
1701	Sam. Francomb	Splatts		John Webb	Tucking Mill?	5?
1702	Sam. Manning	3 Horseshoes		Sam. Francomb	Splatts	
1703	Jn. Packer	Cross House		Rich. Davis senr.		
1704	James Butler			Wm. Strange		
1705	James Butler			John Packer	Cross House	3
1706	James Butler			Rich. Si?da?		
1707	Wm. Nichols					
1708	Wm. Wilton			Rich. Neal	Tracy Park Cot?	
1709	John Still	Bury House	12	Wm. Holbrook	Brook Hs/Mill	8?
1710	John Still	Bury House		Wm. Holbrook	Brook Hs/Mill	
1712	Jn. Francomb			Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse	13
1713	Ant. Strange	Hillview		Jn. Francomb		
1714	Ant. Strange	Hillview		Sam. Francomb	Splatts	
1715	Thos. Lewen	Brewery		Sam. Manning	3 Horseshoes	
1716	Edw. Davis			John Bryant		
1717	Edw. Davis			John Bryant		
1718	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.	
1719	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.	
1720	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.	
1721	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.	
1722	Wm. Holbrook	Brook Hs/Mill	12	Jn. Tyler		
1724	Wm. Jones			Mat. Snailum	Nichols Farm	

1725	Mat. Snailum	Nichols Farm		Wm. Jones		
1726	Sam. Manning	3 Horseshoes	5	Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse	14?
1727	John Still	Bury House	17?	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes	
1728	John Still	Bury House		Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes	
1729	John Still	Bury House		Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes	
1739	Jn. Francomb	Splatts		Tobias Fox	Rookery Farm	
1744	John Still	Bury House				
1749	Wm. Butler	Bowd Farm		Jn. Snailum		
1750	Sam. Packer	St. Ives				
1751	Jms. Bolwell	Twain Cot.				
1752	Jms. Bolwell	Twain Cot.				
1753	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	14?	Sam. Snailum	Turnbridge	
1754	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Sam. Snailum	Turnbridge	
1755	Wm. Davis	Court Farm		Walter Butler	Sowd	
1756	Robert Palmer	Brewery		Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	
1757	Hn. Rickets	Tracy Pk. Farm		Thos Bryan	Cross House	
1758	Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Sarah Snailum	Nichols Frm.	
1759	Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Wm. Butler	Bowd Farm	10
1760	Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Wm. Butler	Bowd or Brook H.	
1761	Lewen Palmer	(Gregory Est?)		Geo. Francomb	Woodlands?	
1762	Lewen Palmer	(Gregory Est?)		Wm. Davis	Court Farm	
1763	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?		Wm. Elms	Toghill Hs.	
1764	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?		Wm. Elms	Toghill Hs.	
1765	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	11	Sam Snailum		
1766	Wm. Davis	Court Farm	4	Wm. Browning	Sowd	11
1767	Wm. Davis	Court Farm		Wm. Browning	Sowd	
1768	Robt. Palmer	Brewery	12	Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	12
1769	Mr. Hillman	Bury House		Mr. Evans	Doynton Hs.	11
1770	Mr. Hillman	Bury House		Mr. Evans	Doynton Hs.	
1771	Lewen Palmer	Cross House	14	Hn. Rickets	Tracy Park Frm.	14
1772	Hannah Butler	Brook Hs.	12	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?	9
1773	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?	
1774	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	9	Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	6
1775	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	
1776	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	
1777	James Bush	Tracy Park		Abraham Fagg	Cross House	6
1778	Wm. Davis	Court Farm	11	Wm. Browning	Sowd	11
1779	Mr. Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.	9	Mr. Hillman	Bury House	9
1780	Mr. Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Mr. Hillman	Bury House	
1781	Joseph West	Corn Mill	8	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?	8
1782	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Thos. Pinker	Woodlands	
1783	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Thos. Pinker	Woodlands	
1784	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Isaac Wyatt	(Smart's Hs.)	
1785	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm.		Wm. Gunning	Bowd Farm	
1786	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm.		Wm. Gunning	Bowd Farm	
1787	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	11	Edward Davis	Court Farm	9
1788	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1789	Marchant Russell	Woodlands?	6	Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1790	Nich. Manning	Rectory Frm?		Wm. Gunning	Bowd Farm	4
1793	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm.		Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1795	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm.		Edward Davis	Court Farm	

1797-1801	William Gunning	1797-1802	Joseph West
1802	John Evans		
1803-1807	James Nichols	1803-1805	Robert Toghill
		1807	Mr. John Bush
1809-1819	Gabriel Amos	1809	Mr. John Bush
1827-1833	William Davis	1815-1836	James Nichols
1834-1842	Thomas Downs	1837-1839	Edward Gale
		1840-1842	Robert Bush
1843-1848	Thomas Sparrow	1843-1861	Charles Adam Bush
1849-1858	Thomas Burchell		
1859-1885	The Rev. Chas. Raikes Davy	1862-1873	Henry Falcon
		1874-1881	Moses Alway
1886-1902	William Davy	1882-1901	George Alvis
1903-1904	H.M.Shaw	1902-1903	W. L. Loxton
1905-1936	George William Bishop	1904-1906	Jesse Webb
		1907-1911	A. G. Bowker
		1912-1921	John Pearce
		1922	James Scribbins
		1923-1936	Joseph Ship Pearce
1937-1945	Cmdr. H. L. Wells	1937-1946	Frederick Mizen
1946-1965	Christian Pitman	1947-1958	William Purnell
		1959-1965	Frank Ellis
From 1966 both churchwardens were chosen by the annual Vestry Meeting			
1966-1975	Graham Jones	1966-1969	George Palmer
		1970-1971	Joan Cottrell
		1972-1979	Gerald Dibbins
1976-1985	Cmdr. Peter Sturdee	1980-1988	Ralph Midwinter
1986-1989	Mary Perry	1989-	Graham Jones
1990-	Margaret Marsh		



1498	John Brewer			Thomas Hobbes	
1539	Jn. Francombe			John Thomas	
1540	John Lewis			Thomas Reed	
1543	John Tyler			Thomas Bysshop	
1547	Jn. Francombe		8?	Walter Burgess	Rectory
1548	Thos. Spryngall			John Packer	
1562	John Atwood	Tracy Park?		Walter Mylles	Home Frm?
1563	Richard Lewis			Walter James	
1571	Thos. Longford	Manor Farm?		John Packer	Nichols
1572	Wm. Huyttes			Thomas Taylor	Starling V.
1575	Thos. Browne	Bury Manor		John Rede	% Annity
1576	John Packer	Nichols	5	John Mylle	Home Frm.?
1602	Walter Packer	Cross Hs.		Rich. Tyler	
1605	John Thomas				
1607	Thos. Harford	Brook Hs.?		Thos. Node	
1608	Rich. Strange	% Annity ?		Thos. Reade	% Annity ?
1611	Rich. Tucker				
1613	Rg. Rodborne	Doynton Hs.		Peter Fowler	Vine Cott.?
1616	Wm. Reade	% Annity ?	8?	Ant. Strange	% Annity ? 8?
1617	Walter Packer	Cross Hs.		Thos. James	
1620	Wm. Reade	?		Thos. James	
1622	Thos. Atwood			Thos. Francomb	Sowd
1623	Jn. Taylor	Starling V.?		Ant. Strange	% Annity 7
1624	Walter Packer	Cross Hs.	7	Wm. Osborne	Both mills
1625	Thos. James		5	Thos. Clement	% Bury Frm.
1628	Nich. Francomb			Jn. Robins(on)	% Bury Frm.
1629	Walter Packer	Cross Hs.	5	Jn. Taylor	Starling V. 76
1633	Rg. Rodborne	Doynton Hs.		Arthur Strange	
1634	Jn. Robins	% Bury Frm	6	Ant. ? Snell	
1635	Walter Packer	Cross Hs.	6	Nich. Francomb	Sowd?
1636	Rg. Rodborne	Doynton Hs	3	Hugh Pellingier	
1637	Wm. Osborne	Tucking Mill?		Wm. Atwood	
1639	Roger Dymock	Rosevale			
1640	John Packer	Nichols Frm.		Obadiah Bullock	
1641	Thos. Webb	Grist Mill?		Ant. Strange	
1642	Rich. Taylor	Starling V.?		Thos. Saunders	Turnbridge
1655	Thos. Tucker	Tracy Pk. Cot.		Edward Strange	
1660	Thos. Ridley	Tracy Park		Walt. Wilshire	
1663	Roger Dymock	Rosevale		Wm. Balden	Home Farm
1671	Rich. Martin			Thos. Francomb	Sowd
1677	Jn. Grandford	Rosevale?		Roger Packer	Cross Hs.
1678	Wm. Walker	Twain Cott.?		Wm. Dymock	
1679	Sam. Bryan	% Summers		Thos. Blench	
1680	Sam. Francomb	Splatts & CC		John Harper	
1681	Wm. Atwood			Thos. Dymock	Tannery
1682	Jn. Bryan	rest Summers		Sam. Francomb	Splatts & CC 2
1683	James Cope	Beech Frm.?		Richard Neal	Tracy Pk. Cot.

1684	Jon' Milard			Jn. Francomb	
1685	Thos. Francomb	Sowd		Roger Dymock	Rosevale
1686	Sam. Francomb	Splatts & CC	4	John Harper	
1687	Thomas Webb	Grist Mill		John Fussell	
1688	Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse		Wm. Jonson	
1689	John Atwood		8?	Rich. Davis	
1691	Thos. Dymock	Tannery	10?		
1692	Jn. Bryan	rest Summers	10	Jn. Francomb	
1693	Robert Davis	Starling V.		Thos. Rely	
1694	John Atwood		5	Ab. Harper	
1695	John Atwood			Thos. Francomb	Sowd
1696	Robert Davis	Starling V.	3	Sam. Webb	Tucking Mill
1697	John Still	Bury House		Giles Browning	Doynnton Hs. ?
1698	Jn. England			Ab. Harper	4
1699	Sam. Saunders	Turnbridge?		Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse 11
1700	Thos. Edwards			Sam. Francomb	Splatts
1701	Sam. Francomb	Splatts		John Webb	Tucking Mill 75?
1702	Sam. Manning	3 Horseshoes		Sam. Francomb	Splatts
1703	Jn. Packer	Cross House		Rich. Davis senr.	
1704	James Butler			Wm. Strange	
1705	James Butler			John Packer	Cross House 3
1706	James Butler			Rich. Si?da?	
1707	Wm. Nichols				
1708	Wm. Wilton			Rich. Neal	Tracy Pk. Cot?
1709	John Still	Bury House	12	Wm. Holbrook	Brook Hs/Mill 8?
1710	John Still	Bury House		Wm. Holbrook	Brook Hs/Mill
1712	Jn. Francomb			Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse 13
1713	Ant. Strange	Hillview		Jn. Francomb	
1714	Ant. Strange	Hillview		Sam. Francomb	Splatts
1715	Thos. Lewan	Brewery		Sam. Manning	3 Horseshoes
1716	Edw. Davis			John Bryant	
1717	Edw. Davis			John Bryant	
1718	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes	3	Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.
1719	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.
1720	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.
1721	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes		Thos. Gunning	Diddington F.
1722	Wm. Holbrook	Brook Hs/Mill 12		Jn. Tyler	
1724	Wm. Jones			Mat. Snailum	Nichols Frm.
1725	Mat. Snailum	Nichols Frm.		Wm. Jones	
1726	Sam. Manning	3 Horseshoes	5	Tobias Luton	Trunkhouse 14?
1727	John Still	Bury House	17?	Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes
1728	John Still	Bury House		Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes
1729	John Still	Bury House		Sam. Mannings	3 Horseshoes
1739	Jn. Francomb	Splatts		Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.
1744	John Still	Bury House			
1749	Wm. Butler	Bowd Frm.		Jn. Snailum	
1750	Sam. Packer	St. Ives			
1751	Jms. Bolwell	Twain Cot.			
1752	Jms. Bolwell	Twain Cot.			
1753	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	14?	Sam. Snailum	Turnbridge
1754	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Sam. Snailum	Turnbridge
1755	Wm. Davis	Court Farm		Walter Butler	Sowd
1756	Robt. Palmer	Brewery		Wm. Nichole	Home Farm
1757	Hn. Rickets	Tracy Pk. Frm.		Thos Bryan	Cross House



1758	Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Sarah Snailum	Nichols Frm.	
1759	Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Wm. Butler	Bowd Farm	10
1760	Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Wm. Butler	Bowd or Brook H.	
1761	Lewen Palmer	(Gregory Est?)		Geo. Francomb	Woodlands?	
1762	Lewen Palmer	(Gregory Est?)		Wm. Davis	Court Farm.	7
1763	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?		Wm. Elms	Toghill Hs.	
1764	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?		Wm. Elms	Toghill Hs.	
1765	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	11	Sam. Snailum		
1766	Wm. Davis	Court Farm	4	Wm. Browning	Sowd	11
1767	Wm. Davis	Court Farm		Wm. Browning	Sowd	
1768	Robt. Palmer	Brewery	12	Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	12
1769	Mr. Hillman	Bury House		Mr. Evans	Doynton Hs.	11
1770	Mr. Hillman	Bury House		Mr. Evans	Doynton Hs.	
1771	Lewen Palmer	Cross House	14	Hn. Rickets	Tracy Pk. Frm	14
1772	Hannah Butler	Brook Hs.	12	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?	9
1773	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?	
1774	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	9	Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	6
1775	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	
1776	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Wm. Nichols	Home Farm	
1777	James Bush	Tracy Park		Abraham Fagg	Cross House	6
1778	Wm. Davis	Court Farm	11	Wm. Browning	Sowd	11
1779	Mr. Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.	9	Mr. Hillman	Bury House	9
1780	Mr. Fran. Evans	Doynton Hs.		Mr. Hillman	Bury House	
1781	Joseph West	Corn Mill	8	Thos. Pinker	Woodlands?	8
1782	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Thos. Pinker	Woodlands	
1783	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Thos. Pinker	Woodlands	
1784	Joseph West	Corn Mill		Isaac Wyatt	(Smart's Hs)	
1785	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm.		Wm. Gunning	Bowd Farm	
1786	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm.		Wm. Gunning	Bowd Farm	
1787	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.	11	Edward Davis	Court Farm	9
1788	Tobias Fox	Rookery Frm.		Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1789	Marchant Russell	Woodlands?	6?	Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1790	Nich. Manning	Rectory Frm?		Wm. Gunning	Bowd Farm	4
1793	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm	7	Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1795	Wm. Nichols	Nichols Frm		Edward Davis	Court Farm	
1797-1801	William Gunning			1797-1802	Joseph West	
1802	John Evans					
1803-1807	James Nichols			1803-1805	Robert Toghill	
				1807	Mr. John Bush	
1809-1819	Gabriel Amos			1809	Mr. Robert Bush	
1827-1833	William Davis			1815-1836	James Nichols	
1834-1842	Thomas Downs			1837-1839	Edward Gale	
				1840-1842	Robert Bush	
1843-1848	Thomas Sparrow			1843-1861	Charles Adam Bush	
1849-1858	Thomas Burchell					
1859-1885	The Rev. Chas. Raikes Davy			1862-1873	Henry Falcon	
				1874-1881	Moses Alway	
1886-1902	William Davy			1882-1901	George Alvis	
1903-1904	H. M. Shaw			1902-1903	W. L. Loxton	
1905-1936	George William Bishop			1904-1906	Jesse Webb	
				1907-1911	A. G. Bowker	
				1912-1921	John Pearce	

1937-1945	Cmdr. H. L. Wells	1923-1936	Joseph Ship Pearce
1946-1965	Christian Pitman	1937-1946	Frederick Mizen
		1947-1958	William Purnell
		1959-1965	Frank Ellis
From 1966 both churchwardens were chosen by the annual Vestry Meeting.			
1966-1975	Graham Jones	1966-1969	George Palmer
		1970-1971	Joan Cottrell
		1972-1979	Gerald Dibbins
1976-1985	Cmdr. Peter Sturdee	1980-1988	Ralph Midwinter
1986-1989	Mary Perry	1989-	Graham Jones
1990-	Margaret Marsh		

b) Chairmen of the Parish Council

1894	William Davy
1905	Shaw
1905	John Pearce
1925	John Cryer
1928	George Russ
1935	Alexander Amos
1936	Mervyn Canby
1937	John Cryer
1946	Stephen Hinton
1949	Frederick Mizen
1950	Norman Nicholas
1959	Charles Henry Matthews
1960	Norman Nicholas
1961	John Carlyon
1963	Anthony Hooper
1986	William Crew
1991	Margaret Marsh

1894	William Davy	1946	Stephen Hinton
1905	Shaw	1949	Frederick Mizen
1905	John Pearce	1950	Norman Nicholas
1925	John Cryer	1959	Charles Henry Matthews
1928	George Russ	1960	Norman Nicholas
1935	Alexander Amos	1961	John Carlyon
1936	Mervyn Canby	1963	Anthony Hooper
1937	John Cryer	1986	William Crew
		1991	Margaret Marsh

c) Other Officers

	Parish Clerk	Annual Salary
-1718	Samuel Francombe	
1718-1764	John Francombe, mason, nephew of above Samuel	£1-10-0
1764-1799	William England, cordwainer of Rosevale	£2
1799-1819	Thomas Francombe, lab., nephew of above John F.	£3-3-0
1819- ?	John Francombe, son of above Thomas F.	£3-3-0
? - 1866	William Liles, mason, son-in-law of above John F.	£3-3-0
1866-1894	James Amos, son-in-law of above William L.	£3-3-0
	Clerks of Parish Council	

1894-1898	Stephen Hinton	
1898-1922	Bernard Holloway	
1922-1933	Edwin Holloway	
1933-1935	Howard Anstey	
1936-1940	Charles H. Matthews	
1940-1941	Edwin H. Fricker	
1941-1984	Albert H. Amos	
1984-1989	Susan Merrell	
1989-	Nicola Carter	
	Sextons	
-1894	James Amos	
-1902	William Holloway	
1902-1916	Edward Amos	
1916-1930	Charles Packer, appointed by the Rector as Verger to do the same work as previously done by the sexton (£4-0-0). By 1929 was called sexton and was paid £10 for looking after churchyard and furnace, £1-19-0 for blowing organ, £1-19-0 for bell-chiming and given full set of rules. He resigned.	
1930- ?	Bert Amos	
1936-1943	Thomas and Violet Bezer	
1940s and 1950s	Frederick Filer, did much of the grave digging.	

Parish Clerk		Annual Salary
-1718	Samuel Francombe	
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1764-1799	William England, cordwainer of Rosevale	£2
1799-1819	Thomas Francombe, lab., nephew of above John F.	£3- 3-0
1819- ?	John Francombe, son of above Thomas F.	3- 3-0
? -1866	William Liles, mason, son-in-law of above John F.	3- 3-0
1866-1894	James Amos, lab., son-in-law of above William L.	3- 3-0
Clerks of Parish Council		Sextons
1894-1898	Stephen Hinton	-1894 James Amos
1898-1922	Bernard Holloway	-1902 William Holloway
1922-1933	Edwin Holloway	1902-1916 Edward Amos
1933-1935	Howard Anstey	1916-1930 Charles Packer, appointed by the Rector as Verger to do the same work as previously done by the sexton (£4-10-0). By 1929 was called sexton & was paid £10 for looking after churchyard & furnace, £1-19-0 for blowing organ, £1-19-0 for bell-chiming and given full set of rules. He resigned.
1936-1940	Charles H. Matthews	1930- ? Bert Amos
1940-1941	Edwin H. Fricker	1936-1943 Thomas and Violet Bezer
1941-1984	Albert H. Amos	1940s and 1950s Frederick Filer, did much of the grave-digging
1983-1984	David Bryant	
1984-1989	Susan Merrall	
1989-	Nicola Carter	

#### APPENDIX 4 : POPULATION

The Population of Doynton				
		M	F	Total
1608	Men and Armour			c 145
1712	Sir Robert Atkins			c 200
1779	Samuel Rudder			c 340
1801	Census returns	145	158	303
1811		167	175	342

1821		209	206	415
1831		233	215	448
1841		245	284	529 includes 27 in a girls' school
1851		232	267	499 includes 34 as above
1861		227	221	448
1871		218	216	434
1881		213	189	402
1891		210	181	391
1901				360
1911		165	159	324
1921		164	153	317
1931				320
1941	No census			
1951		147	157	304
1961		181	184	365
1971				343
1981				297
<p>Note -</p> <p>The figures for 1608 were achieved as follows:</p> <p>No. of able-bodied men, Group 1 - 9, group 2 – 23, group 3 – 0, no group given – 2 (=34)</p> <p>Add an equal number of women (=34)</p> <p>Men mentioned in Group 1 were all born before 1588, so only baptisms in the register since 1589 are counted – male 40, female 50, less those given as “son or Daughter of...” under Burials 21 (=69)</p> <p>Consider the aged and impaired or the imbeciles – a completely arbitrary figure (=8)</p>				145
Initially, figures suggest a population explosion, but longer consideration suggests that it is population mobility, and two wills reinforce this idea. William Booth, 1540, and his wife Alice, 1563, as a family left the names Bushes Ground TN16 and Bushes Woodmead TN43. Of their six children surviving in 1563, only the eldest son, Thomas, still remained in Doynton. The others were in Cold Ashton, Howenstoke, Swainswick, Boyd, with Umphrey in London.				
The Survey of Church Livings, 1650, gives 49 families for that year.				



# The Population of Doynton.

	M	F	T
1608 Men and Armour			c145
1712 Sir Robert Atkins			c200
1779 Samuel Rudder			c340
1801 Census Returns	145	158	303
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1871	218	216	434
1881	213	189	402
1891	210	181	391
1901			360
1911	165	159	324
1921	164	153	317
1931			320
1941	No Census		
1951	147	157	304
1961	181	184	365
1971			343
1981			297

## Note :-

The figures for 1608 were achieved as follows :

No. of able-bodied men, Group 1 - 9, group 2 - 23, group 3 - 0	Total
no group given - 2	34
Add an equal number of women	34
Men mentioned in Group 1 were all born before 1588, so only baptisms in the register since 1589 are counted - Male 40	
Female 50	
Less those given as 'son or Daughter of..' under Burials 21	69
Consider the aged and impaired or the imbeciles.	
A completely arbitrary figure -	8
	145

Initially figures suggest a population explosion, but longer consideration suggests that it is population mobility and 2 Wills reinforce this idea.

William Bush, 1540. } The family left the names : Bushes Ground TN 16  
& his wdw. Alice, 1563 } Bushes Woodmead TN 43

Of their 6 children, surviving in 1563, only the eldest son, Thomas, still remained in Doynton. The others were in Cold Ashton, Howenstoke, Swainswick, Boyd, with Umphrey in London.



## APPENDIX 5: MAJOR CHARITABLE GIFTS TO THE PARISH

### 1530 Poor House

In his typescript notes on the history of Doynton, dated October 1939, the former Rector, the Rev. C. F. Goddard, mentions as the earliest of the benefactions to the village the following:

William Tracy Esquire, by Deed, gave land for the erection of a Poor House, 1530. (This would have been the year of the death of the donor.)

No such deed survives in the collection belonging to the church and the gift was not mentioned by Atkins (1712) or by Rudder (1779).

### 1610 Thomas Browne

In his will he calls himself yeoman of Doynton, but earlier documents mention him as weaver and clothier. As a witness to the will he uses the miller of Doynton and as an overseer William Webb, clothier of Marshfield.

He seems to have been married three times, each time to a Joan. He was suspicious of the last one - he left her comfortably off, but 'If she make claim to any part of the inheritance except that certain part of the tenement wherein I now dwell, then all gifts shall be null and void'.

He may have lived in Bury House and this enabled him to be dogmatic: "My body to be buried in the Chapell within the parish church of Doynton, where I have already appointed the same."

Certainly he believed in private enterprise. He left £5 to the poor of Doynton to be put to use as follows: 'The Overseers of the will in agreement with the Churchwardens shall lend the £5 to an honest man of Doynton who will return the stock and interest that they think fit at the end of the year and the interest be distributed to the poor, ½ at Christmas Eve and the other ½ at Easter Eve'. A practical man in his choice of dates.

An account of charitable gifts in 1683 and 1701 by Joseph Jackson showed that the £5 was then in the hands of Mary Walker, relict of William. By 1701 she was resident in Little Sodbury and paid a yearly interest of 6/- for the poor. 'But of this we have no security but her word, it not appearing upon any writing that was ever yet produced.'

There is no reference to the charity, which must be considered lost.

### 1660 John Langton

John Langton died at Doynton on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1660, and was buried on Christmas Eve at St. Nicholas in Bristol. In his will, written less than a week before his death, this God-fearing, successful merchant venturer of Bristol left £20 to the poor of Doynton.

By Chancery decree in 1665 his executors were ordered to transfer the trust to Sir Thomas Langton of Bristol who paid this sum over to Jn. Atwood of Boynton in return for the title to:

'One close, meadow or pasture called Briary Hedge, 1 acre, lying under the Cliff', upon trust that the 12 trustees give the rent of this (20 shillings) to the parson and churchwardens of Doynton for distribution to the poor.

The title in the land was mentioned in the Reports of the Charity Commissioners 1815-1839 as belonging to the Minister and Churchwardens and [which said] that the tenant, Edward Davis, regularly paid 30/-, which was distributed to the poor. The Tithe Apportionment map of 1839/40 refers to it as TN 91. It lay surrounded by land belonging to Earl Temple and the Gore-Langton family and was generally rented by the tenant of their major farm, Court Farm. This continued until the sale of the whole estate by Earl Temple in 1918, when the map supplied indicated that the sale did not apply to TN 19.

In December 1894 the first meeting of the Parish Council was held. Within a year it had been arranged with the Rector and Churchwardens that Albert Anstee, tenant of Court Farm, should pay the rent of John Langton's Charity to the Treasurer of the PC for distribution, as customary, on Christmas Day, seemingly at a rate of 3/4 per head. Though why Queen Anne's Bounty should have benefited by 3/5 in 1936 and 1937 is not clear. The following spring the Rector, Mervyn Canby, challenged the PC to pay him the sum of 20/- a year. After a year of consultation with the Charity Commissioners the deeds, according to the minutes of the Parish Council, were handed to the PCC In June 1939, but there is no reference to this in the PCC minutes.

All this happened at the outbreak of World War II, to which the Rector went almost straight away as a Forces Chaplain. It coincided with the handover from one organisation to another. It is perhaps not surprising that the whereabouts of the deed is not clear. The Charity Commissioners still send £1 per year to the Treasurer of the PCC. The one acre of land, with its own spring head and surrounded by another farm holding, is worth more than that.

#### 1668 William Langton

William Langton, Rector of Dyrham, left £600 in trust, to be invested in land. Of this sum £200 was allocated for the education and apprenticing of the poor of Doynton.

The total income was increased by the interest from two other small charities:

a) John Atwells of Thornbury, 1729, gave £100 to Doynton in his will, but his effects only allowed £70 to be paid over. They did, however, earn £20 in savings of interest.

b) Philippa Still of Bury House left £10. The two sums of money, totalling £100 were invested in 1748 in turnpike bonds from the Marshfield Turnpike Trust. For a while this produced £60 p.a, which was applied with the William Langton Charity.

By the time the Commissioners of Enquiry into Charities and Education made their report in the period 1815-39 the annual income from the William Langton Charity was £30-6-7 and the total including the sources above was £36-6-2 and of this £14 was used to pay the schoolmistress.

The surviving accounts start in 1862; by then the schoolmaster, Willm. Amos, was receiving £20 p.a. The only repair that the old schoolroom at Cross Cottage had from 1862 to 1874 cost 4/8 for tiler's work payable to John Williams. The head teacher's salary continued to be paid out of the charity until 1882. Later, as a National School, it still received support but the sums varied each year and were probably applied to items such as books and stationery.

Meanwhile the apprenticeship side of the charity continued. Payment, sometimes in two parts, usually totalled £15 or £20 per Indenture, was made to master blacksmiths or wheelwrights and continued until 1923. In 1938 the trustees for Dyrham and those for Doynton were officially separated. The Doynton trustees were to consist of two representatives of the Parish Council serving for four years and three co-opted trustees who serve for five years.

After WW II education became free but compulsory for a longer period. So the educational side of the trust was used to make grants for books or uniform. Apprenticeship ceased to be a standard form of training and those grants were adapted to help purchase tools or to attend technical classes. Girls as well as boys received grants.

Since 1983 the Educational and Apprenticing Foundations have been amalgamated. The trustees meet every half-year if there is any application for a grant, which does not happen even every year. Records are kept and financial returns made to the Commissioners, but there is no publication of applications made or of the reasons for a grant. It remains a very typical example of village democracy - traditional names as trustees, knowledge based on living in a community and not on the filling in of forms.

The value of the charity has gradually diminished; 1839 - £36, 1870 - £27, 1879 - £33, 1989 - £22. The loss in value is even greater in real terms. But it may be that a more vigorous form of management could increase the income.

#### 1702/3 Elizabeth Langton.

Widow of John Langton, who had died at Doynton in 1860. She survived her husband by 41 years, living on in Doynton, probably at Court Farm with her spinster sister and with four personal servants. Her monument in the church refers to her benevolence.

In her will she left £10 to the poor to remain in stock. It produced 12/- p. a. and was distributed half at Christmas and half at Midsummer. By the same will she bequeathed nearly £800 in personal gifts to relatives and friends in 39 individual items.

#### 1722 Beloved Wilkes

Robert Wilkes was Rector of Doynton for 37 years and raised his family in the village: Beloved, Rebekah, Robert, Ann, Francis. The father started to buy land in 1655 with a field called variously 'Mulberry' or 'Ouldbury', and shortly before his death built the farmhouse still known as Wilkes Farm; now in Doynton, but until recently in Wick and Abson, it was even earlier in Pucklechurch. Wilkes was very much a farming parson. The farm was a family holding but there were no male heirs after Francis (1665-1744) and so the will of the eldest surviving son became operative.

He gave the farm in trusteeship to Aaron Strange, schoolmaster, and to the ministers of Doynton and Pucklechurch with a threefold purpose:

- a.
  - i His servant, Ann Cope, should enjoy his section of the house for life.
  - ii The Rector of Doynton should receive 10/- a year for preaching a sermon on Easter Monday.
  - iii That 15/- p.a. should be expended on a dinner at Wilkes Farm. This still took place within family memory - the fish knives and forks had to be borrowed from the Rectory. Recently the meal has been held in Bristol.
- b. On the death of Ann Cope, the trustees should elect two poor widows of ministers of the Church of England and place them in that same part of the house, together with £10 and half a load of coal each p.a. In the first 100 years of the charity only one such widow was disposed to stay in the house. The two widows selected usually remained resident elsewhere. They received the £10, augmented by a further £8-18-5 from additional bequests added to this charity; The Rev. Peter Grand, 1791, £200 and the Rev. Thomas Coker, 1799, £200. Help is still given to clergymen's widows today.
- c. The residue of income was to maintain and educate at Oxford University a future minister from a suitable candidate in the parishes of Abson, Dyrham Pucklechurch and Doynton, not being a son of one of the trustees. In 1828 a sixteen-year-old lad was chosen to finish his schooling at a cost of £86 p. a. In 1830 he started in college and, with strict economy, needed £131 p.a; the vacations cost him a further £52.

In the mid-nineteenth century a lad was chosen who was not of the locality and the judgement in Chancery was made that a local choice should always have precedence.

The Income was produced by letting the farm of 31 acres on a seven-year lease. New fields, Butlers Ham and Little Field were added in 1833. The Charity Commissioners sold the farm, then 42.7 acres, for £8,000 in 1971.

To the Reverend Trustees of late Mr.  
BELOVED WILKES's Charity, at  
Wick and Abston, in the County of  
Glocester.

The humble Petition of *Margaret Dixie*

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner, aged 42 — now living in the  
Parish of *Salbury* — in the County of *Salbury*  
is the Widow of *the late Mr. Beaumont Dixie*  
late *Curate of Salbury* — who died in the Year 1786 — *May 10*  
That your Petitioner hath *none* children. *Margaret, aged*  
*14. Beaumont aged 17. Fumetina aged 15. William aged*  
*Elizabeth aged 11. Caroline aged 10. Dorothy aged 8. All*  
*under aged 5. Richd. aged 3. all now residing with*  
*the Widow excepting Beaumont & Elizabeth, the first an Antiquary*  
*Clark in Antiquary & later residing with Mr. Burton but deceased.*  
That your Petitioner hath no Salary, Annuity, Estate, Pension,  
or Provision whatsoever, (excepting *ten pounds lately*  
*received from this Charity* — — —  
( ) and is not in a Condition to support herself, without  
the Pension allowed by this Charity.  
Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prays to be admitted a  
Pensioner of this Charity, and your Petitioner (as in Duty  
bound) will ever pray, &c. *Margaret Dixie*

We whose Names are hereunto subscribed, being well ac-  
quainted with the said Petitioner and her Circumstances, or  
having such Information concerning them, as may fully be  
relied upon; do hereby certify the Contents of the above Peti-  
tion to be true; and that the said Petitioner is a Person of good  
Character and Reputation, and in all Respects proper to par-  
take of the Charity allowed by the said Trustees. Given  
under our Hands this *29<sup>th</sup>* — Day of *July* — 1786 —

*Robert Hunter of Salbury*  
*W. Robinson Vice of Clifton*

*Hinkley Church Ward of Salbury*

all  
1786

It is surprising to find that an 18th. century village charity should go to  
the expense of having special printed forms for any application to it. Here  
is one dated July 29, 1786. Today, if there seems inadequate space on the  
form, you are requested to add a personal note on another sheet of paper. In  
1786 they did this without being asked. — 147 —

### 1937 Village Hall

Gifted by Charles Samuel Clarke, 6 December 1937 in three parts:

- a) The land. Part of O.S. 266, formerly Ford's Close, purchased of Mrs. Anstee in 1932.
- b) The building that the donor caused to be erected.
- c) The sum of £500 in trust for the physical and mental recreation and the social, moral and intellectual development of the inhabitants of Doynton without distinction of sex or politics and other opinions.

The first council was:

The Rev. Mervyn Canby	Rector of the parish of Doynton
Herbert Edmund Cryer	Doynton PCC
Fredrick John Coram	Doynton PC
Vera Evelyn Bevan Mizen	Doynton WI
Stephen Augustus Hinton	Doynton British Legion
Dean Wilcox Amos	Doynton Cricket Club
G. Dixon	3 Co-opted Members
Mrs. Wells	
Mrs. Carrow	

The council might not exceed ten in number nor fall below nine. All council members had to be reappointed every year.

The land in front of the hall shall remain open nor shall it be monopolised by any game such as lawn tennis.

Initially the children's playground, two swings and a see-saw, was set up on land behind the hall and joined by a long path to the back of the school. To avoid damage to the hall from exuberance, the play equipment was moved to the playing field in 1962.

The Hall has never sought to make a profit apart from a small margin to hold in reserve. Its meetings often seemed to be preoccupied with minute expenses; did someone leave the lights on too long, when the WI broke a cup, should they be made to pay for it? Answer - No! The cost, 3d, was to be set against the stamp account. When regulations demanded 'EXIT' signs, the quotation was for £30, but in the end they were made for 19/2. Special efforts were made to raise money when needed - whist drives, sales of work, wine and cheeses parties, old-time dances. The bottomless pit of expenditure has always been the heating; the last 25 years have seen three systems put in to reconcile current ideas of comfort with the spartan frame of a pre-war building. The hire in 1991 is £5 an hour; in 1937 it was 2/6 + electricity.

### 1950 The Village Playing Field

The subject of the gift was a former part of the Glebe known as the Close. At the period of the Tithe Apportionment it contained some of the present front garden of the Rectory, in all 3.86 acres as TN 275. The present field contains 3.627 acres, O.S. 264.

The gift made by Elsie Margaret Clarke on Oct. 31, 1950 is vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands and the local Managing Trustees are formed by:

- i. The Rector as Chairman.
- ii. 2 councillors elected annually by the Parish Council.
- iii. 2 officers of the Doynton Cricket Club, as long as the club continues to exist.

The Managing Trustees have the power to vary all rules, provided they do not override any provision of the deed, whose primary object is the benefit of the inhabitants of Doynton.

After fluctuating fortunes the Doynton Cricket Club has ceased to be active. The facilities are used by Dyrham Cricket Club, and Doynton cricketers form part of their team. They and the visiting teams enjoy a well-kept wicket and a pleasant setting.

The corner next to the Old Rectory and behind the stile to Toghlll Lane contains the Children's Play Area, moved from behind the Village Hall, with equipment maintained by the Parish Council.

#### 1958 The King Music Bequest.

In February 1958 the PCC minutes record the receipt of a bequest from Miss H. E. King of Freshford near Bath to the Rector, Churchwardens and PCC. She left £200 for the repair of the organ and the provision of music in memory of her brother Charles Joseph King

The £200 bequest was invested in Diocesan Board of Finance units. The initial interest in 1958 was £8 p.a. but the interest was retained to buy more units and the fund accumulated under adroit financial management. Despite the withdrawal of funds for a major overhaul of the organ and for fresh sets of hymn books, the fund is one of the few healthy charitable trusts in the village. By the end of 1990 the original 10-shilling units were now worth £4.68 and the total value stood at £4,415.60.



## APPENDIX 6: INVENTORIES

a)	Surviving Inventories ( Attached to Gloucs.wills unless otherwise stated)				
1623	Richard Langford	Farmer	Court Farm	GDR/B4/2/L/3	
1639/40	William Osborne	Clothier	Mill House & Brook Hs.		
1657	Walter Packer	Farmer	Cross House	within will	
1665	Roger Dymock	Farmer	Rosevale		
1678	Robert Wilkes	Rector	Rectory		
1685	George Ford	Farmer	Turnbridge Cottage		
1686	John Francombe	Farmer	Sowd Village		
1686	Thomas Tucker	Baker	Hengrove		
1686/7	George Weare	Gentleman	Doynton House & Farm	PCC will	
1697	Sarah Grandford	Widow			
1697	John Packer	Farmer	Nichols Farm		
1698	Thomas Frankum	Farmer	Sowd Village		
1701	Walter Dymock	Cordwainer	Rosevale		
1707	John Atwood	Merchant?	Brook House?		
1707/8	John Ragles	Cordwainer?	Diddington Firs		
1710	Thomas Webb	Miller	Mill House (Corn)		
1712	Samuel Mannings	Blacksmith			
1713/4	Rich. Davis als. Taylor	Farmer	Starling Villa ?		
1714	William Nichols	Butcher		GDR 269f90	
1714	Thomas Reely	Farmer			
1718	Samuel Francombe	Parish Clerk	Splatts/Rose Cott.		
1718/9	Giles Browning	Farmer	Doynton House		
1743	Sarah Manings	Widow			
1799	Thomas Coker	Rector	Rectory	within PCC will	

b) A comparison of 2 inventories 31 years apart but thought to be in the same building, Doynton House, but of contrasting social backgrounds.

1686/7 George Weare, gentleman. Part only of PRO. Prob 4/6213 m.1  
Jan. 28 Taken and appraised by Walter Tyler, William Tyler & Willm. Nicholas.

	£10 - 0 - 0
• His wearing apparel	
• In the Hall one tableboard, tenn chaires, two pairs of brass Andirons, one brass slyce and one paire of tongs.	3 - 0 - 0
• In the Parlor, one tableboard, one paire of bellows, 14 Turkywork chaires, one straked carpett, one paire of Andirons, one slyce and a paire of tongs.	5 - 0 - 0
• In the Kitchen in brass, pewter and Iron, two Joyne stools, 1 bench, 1 settle, some bacon & other things there	6 - 0 - 0
• In the Whitehouse, one sideboard, one cheese (press?) a kneading trough, 2 brasse kettles, 1 brass pot & other lumber	4 - 0 - 0
• In the Cellar, 12 barrels, 3 horses, a powdering tubb and other things there.	2 - 10 - 0
• In the passage, 1 (sideboard?) & 1 Screwpress for linnen.	10 - 0
• In the Brewhouse, 2 furnaces, 2 Meshingvatts & other lumber	3 - 10 - 0
• In the Parlor chamber, one bedd and beddstead with all appurtenances thereunto belonging, 13 chaires, a case of drawers, a dressing table and box and looking glass, 2 paire of Andirons, a fender, 1 slyce & a paire of tongs all of brass, a paire of bellows & other things there.	30 - 0 - 0
• In the chamber over the Hall, 1 bedd and bedstead with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, two trunks and other small things there.	3 - 0 - 0
• In the chamber over the Whitehouse, 1 bedd and beddstead with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, 6 chaires, 1 case of drawers, a dressing table & other things there	5 - 10 - 0
• In the chamber over the Kitchen, 1 bedd and beddstead with all a. t. b., a sidecupboard & 1 paire of Andirons.	3 - 0 - 0
• In the closet belonging unto the Kitchen chamber, 1 paire of pistols, 1 pockett pistol, a little box and trunk and other small things.	1 - 0 - 0
• In the cheeseloft in cheese and cheesestacks	5 - 10 - 0
• In the Cockloft over the Kitchin chamber, one standing bedstead with the a. t. b., 1 truckle bedstead with other things	1 - 10 - 0
• In the other Cockloft, one Hutch and malt with other things.	2 - 0 - 0
• In plate.	20 - 0 - 0
• In money.	35 - 0 - 0
• In Island meade fower Bullocks.	19 - 0 - 0
• In Packers Style, 1 heifer, 2 bullocks & 4 yearelings	15 - 0 - 0
• In Hay on Packers Stile	7 - 0 - 0
• One Bay Gelding.	6 - 0 - 0
• In the middle peice, fower coves and one heifer	16 - 0 - 0
• In the Berry hedge, six oxen in that ground.	44 - 0 - 0
• In the Little Field, fower oxen and hay there.	32 - 0 - 0
• Nineteen sheepe	8 - 0 - 0
• One chesnutt mare	5 - 0 - 0
• One hogg pigg	1 - 0 - 0



• One acre of wheate	1 - 0 - 0
• In 33 sheepe	15 - 0 - 0
• In 2 Two yeare aged colts	8 - 0 - 0
• In linnen	10 - 0 - 0
• In plough harness	4 - 0 - 0
• In books	10 - 0 - 0
• In debts owing for rents	30? - 0 - 0
• In the stable 2 Roadsaddles and one padde.	1 - 0 - 0
• In five peeces of gold, 3 rings and a small parcell of old silver - - four peeces of gold & 8 small rings	12 - 0 - 0
• One watch and one sword	5 - 0 - 0

1718/19. Giles Browning. Yeoman

Jan. 3 Taken and appraised by Thomas Davis and ?

• His wearing Apparell	£ 1 - 10 - 0
• In books	2 - 0
• In the Kitchen Chamber, 1 bed bedstead & Bolsters & a.t.b.	3 - 10 - 0
• A table board and two Coffers	15 - 0
• In the little Chamber, 1 bed & bedstead & a.t.b.	15 - 0
• In the Hall chamber, 2 beds and bedsteads & a.t.b.	1 - 10 - 0
• In the 2 Cocklofts, near about three hundred of Cheese att £13-4-0 per hundred	39 - 12 - 0
• Scales, Weights and cheese tacks	5 - 0
• In the Hall, a little table board, 9 chairs and other things of small value	8 - 0
• In the cellar, 4 Barrells and a ffew Glass Bottles	15 - 0
• In the Kitchen, 9 Dishes of pewter, 1 dozen of plates, 1 pewter candlestick, 3 pewter spoons and 2 pewter dishes.	1 - 14 - 0
• A Warming pan	1 - 6
• An Iron grate, 1 tongs & fireshovell, 3 Iron candlesticks, one Spitt, one box & clamps and a pair of bellows.	5 - 0
• A Table board, 3 forms, 4 chaires & other things of small value.	5 - 0
• In the White House, 3 Tubbs, 3 Trendles, 5 pailles, 1 cheese press, a few cheese fates, 1 doz. of trenchers, a few Milk pans, 1 churn and three benches.	1 - 5 - 0
• Two sacks and two Grist baggs	2 - 0
• Four Kettles & 1 Crock, a Scumer and a fryeing pan	2 - 0 - 0
• In the Barne, one Cart and Dungpott, piiks, Shovells, Horse Harness, an Iron barr, 2 Ladders & other things of small value.	2 - 10 - 0
• A Horse and a Bridle and Sadle.	3 - 10 - 0
• Twenty kine and Eleaven calves	78 - 0 - 0
• One pigg.	1 - 0 - 0
• Twenty Tnne. of Hay.	25 - 0 - 0
• Money in the House & Debts owing	29 - 13 - 11
• There will be Due att Lady Day next for keeping of Sheep.	5 - 10 - 0
• All other Lumber Goods and things belonging to the Deced.	5 - 0
The totall £200 - 3 - 5	
Money to be deducted, due att Lady Day next to the Landlord and otherwise.	54 - 12 - 0
So that this Inventory amounts only to	145 - 11 - 5

1799. Thomas Coker. Rector of Doynton PCC Will, Gros. Nov. 767.

There is no inventory 'per se' for Thomas Coker, who died in 1799, but he left 22 codicils to his will in which he detailed the items of furniture that were to go to various legatees. Here are some of them. They represent the furniture of an 18th. century 'squarson'. Not being an inventory there is no valuation.

Common Parlour : 1 Two-leaved Mahogany Table.  
8 Rush Bottom chairs.  
1 Round Mahogany Table  
1 Peer Glass.  
1 High-backed elbow chair with scarlet cushion  
Fire-shovel and tongs, poker and fender

The Chamber called the Worked Room:  
A Mahogany Wardrobe.  
Dressing table and looking glass.  
Bedstead & curtains, bed bolster & 2 pillows,  
3 blankets and a quilt.  
6 Worked Chairs chairs and 2 stools.  
Valance and window curtains.  
1 Pair good flaxen sheets, 2 Damask table cloths,  
6 napkins, 6 towels, fire-shovel and tongs, poker & fender

Breakfast Room : A small oaken table.  
An oaken table and 6 chairs and another oak table.  
Window chair with green cowhide.  
Fire-shovel, tongs, poker, fender, bellows and brush.

Staircase : A clock.

<u>1623</u>	<u>Richard Langford</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Court Farm</u>	<u>GDR/B4/2/L/3</u>
<u>1639/40</u>	<u>William Osborne</u>	<u>Clothier</u>	<u>Mill House and Brook Hs.</u>	
<u>1657</u>	<u>Walter Packer</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Cross House</u>	
<u>1665</u>	<u>Roger Dymock</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Rosevale</u>	
<u>1678</u>	<u>Robert Wilkes</u>	<u>Rectory</u>	<u>Rectory</u>	
<u>1685</u>	<u>George Ford</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Turnbridge Cottage</u>	
<u>1686</u>	<u>John Francombe</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Sowd Village</u>	
<u>1686</u>	<u>Thomas Tucker</u>	<u>Baker</u>	<u>Hengrove</u>	
<u>1686/7</u>	<u>George Weare</u>	<u>Gentleman</u>	<u>Doynton House and Farm</u>	<u>PCC will</u>
<u>1697</u>	<u>Sarah Grandford</u>	<u>Widow</u>		
<u>1697</u>	<u>John Packer</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Nichols Farm</u>	
<u>1698</u>	<u>Thomas Frankum</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Sowd Village</u>	
<u>1701</u>	<u>Walter Dymock</u>	<u>Cordwainer</u>	<u>Rosevale</u>	
<u>1707</u>	<u>John Atwood</u>	<u>Merchant</u>	<u>Brook House?</u>	
<u>1707/8</u>	<u>John Ragles</u>	<u>Cordwainer?</u>	<u>Diddington Firs</u>	
<u>1710</u>	<u>Thomas Webb</u>	<u>Miller</u>	<u>Mill House (Corn)</u>	
<u>1712</u>	<u>Samuel Mannings</u>	<u>Blacksmith</u>		
<u>1713/14</u>	<u>Rich. Davis als. Taylor</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Starling Villa?</u>	
<u>1714</u>	<u>William Nichols</u>	<u>Butcher</u>		<u>GDR 269f90</u>
<u>1714</u>	<u>Thomas Reely</u>	<u>Farmer</u>		
<u>1718</u>	<u>Samuel Francombe</u>	<u>Parish Clerk</u>	<u>Splatts/Rose Cottage</u>	
<u>1718/19</u>	<u>Giles Browning</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Doynton House</u>	
<u>1743</u>	<u>Sarah Manings</u>	<u>Widow</u>		
<u>1799</u>	<u>Thomas Coker</u>	<u>Rector</u>	<u>Rectory</u>	<u>Within PCC will</u>

**b) A comparison of two inventories thirty-one years apart but thought to be in the same building, Doynton House, but of contrasting social backgrounds**

<u>1686/7</u>	<u>George Weare</u>	<u>Gentleman</u>	<u>Part only of PRO. Prob 4/6213 m.1</u>		
Jan 28 Taken and appraised by Walter Tyler, William Tyler and Willm. Nicholas.					
His wearing apparrell			£10	0	0
In the Hall one tableboard, tenn chaires, two pairs of brass Andirons, one brass slyce and one paire of tongs			3	0	0
In the Parlor, one tableboard, one paire of bellows, 14 Turkywork chaires, one straked carpett, one paire of Andirons, one slice and a paire of tongs			5	0	0
In the Kitchen in brass, pewter and Iron, two Joyne stools, 1 bench, 1 settle, some bacon & other things there			6	0	0
In the Whitehouse, one sideboard, one cheese (press?), a kneading trough, 2 brasse kettles, 1 brass pot & other lumber			4	0	0
In the Celler, 12 barrels, 3 horses, a powdering tubb and other things there			2	10	0
In the passage, 1 (sideboard?) & 1 screwpress for linnen				10	0
In the Brewhouse, 2 furnaces, 2 Meshingvatts & other lumber			3	10	0
In the Parlor chamber, one bedd and beddstead with all appurtenances thereunto belonging, 13 chaires, a case of drawers, a dressing table and box and looking glass, 2 pairs of Andirons, a fender, 1 slice & a paire of tongs all of brass, a paire of bellows & other things there			30	0	0
In the Chamber over the Hall, 1 bedd and bedstead with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, two trunks and other small things there			3	0	0
In the chamber over the Whitehouse, 1 bedd and bedstead with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, 6 chaires, 1 case of drawers, a dressing table & other things there			5	0	0
In the chamber over the Kitchen, 1 bedd and bedstead with all a.t.b., a sidecupboard & 1 paire of Andirons			3	0	0
In the closet belonging unto the Kitchen chamber, 1 paire of pistols, 1 pockett pistol, a little box and trunk and other small things			1	0	0
In the cheeseloft in cheese and cheesesstacks			5	10	0

In the Cockloft over the kitchen chamber, one standing bedstead with the a.t.b., 1 truckle bedstead with other things	1	0	0
In the other Cockloft, one Hutch and malt with other things	2	0	0
In plate	20	0	0
In money	35	0	0
In Island meade fower Bullocks	19	0	0
In Packers Style, 1 heifer, 2 bullocks & 4 yearelings	15	0	0
In Hay on Packers Stile	7	0	0
One Bay Gelding	6	0	0
In the middle peice, fower cowes and one heifer	16	0	0
In the Berry hedge, six oxen in that ground	44	0	0
In the Little Field, fower oxen and hay there	32	0	0
Nineteen sheeps	8	0	0
One chestnut mare	5	0	0
One hogg pigg	1	0	0
One acre of wheate	1	0	0
In 33 sheepe	15	0	0
In Two years aged colts	8	0	0
In linnen	10	0	0
In plough harness	4	0	0
In books	10	0	0
In debts owing for rents	30?	0	0
In the stable 2 Roadsaddles and one padde	1	0	0
In five peeces of gold, 3 rings and a small parcel of old silver - - four peeces of gold & 8 small rings	12	0	0
One watch and one sword	5	0	0

<u>1718/19</u>	<u>Giles Browning</u>	<u>Yeoman</u>	
Jan 3 Taken and appraised by Thomas Davis and			
His wearing apparrell	£1	10	0
In books		2	0
In the Kitchen Chamber, 1 bed bedstead and Bolsters & a.t.b.	3	10	0
A table board and two Coffers		15	0
In the little Chamber, 1 bed & bedstead & a.t.b.	1	10	0
In the Hall Chamber, 2 beds and bedsteads & a.t.b	1	10	0
In the 2 Cocklofts, near about three hundred of Cheese att £13-4-0 per hundred	39	12	0
Scales, Weights and cheese tacks		5	0
In the Hall, a little table board, 9 chairs and other things of small value		8	0
In the cellar, 4 Barrells and a ffew Glass Bottles		15	0
In the Kitchen, 9 dishes of pewter, 1 dozen of plates, 1 pewter candlestick, 3 pewter spoons, and 2 pewter dishes	1	14	0
A warming pan		1	6
An Iron grate, 1 tongs, & fireshovell, 3 Iron candlesticks, one Spitt, one box & clamps and a pair of bellows		5	0
A Table board, 3 forms, 4 chaires & other things of small value		5	0
In the White House, 3 Tubbs, 3 Trendles, 5 pailles, 1 cheese press, a few cheese fates, 1 doz. of trenchers, a few Milk pans, 1 churn and three benches	1	5	0
Two sacks and two Grist baggs		2	0
Four Kettles & 1 Crock, a Scumer and a frying pan	2	0	0
In the Barne, one Cart and Dungpott, piiks, Shovells, Horse Harness, an Iron barr, 2 Ladders & other things of small value	2	10	0
A Horse and a Bridle and Saddle	3	10	0
Twenty kine and Eleaven calves	78	0	0
One pigg	1	0	0

Twenty Tnne. Of Hay	25	0	0
Money in the House & Debts owing	29	13	11
There will be Due att Lady Day next for keeping of Sheep	5	10	0
All other Lumber Good and things belonging to the Deced.		5	0
The total	200	3	5
Money to be deducted, due att Lady Day next to the Landlord	54	12	0
So that this inventory amounts only to	145	11	5

<u>1799</u>	<u>Thomas Coker</u>	<u>PCC Will, Glos Nov. 767</u>
There is an inventory 'per se' for Thomas Coker, who died in 1799, but he left 22 codicils to his will in which he detailed the items of furniture that were to go to various legatees. Here are some of them. Not being an inventory, there is no valuation.		
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	8 Rush Bottom chairs	
	1 round Mahogany table	
	1 Peer Glass	
	1 high-backed elbow chair with scarlet cushion	
	Fire-shovel and tongs, poker and fender	
The Chamber called the Worked Room	A Mahogany wardrobe	
	Dressing table and looking glass	
	Bedstead & curtains, bed bolster & 2 pillows, 3 blankets and a quilt	
	6 Worked Chairs chairs and 2 stools	
	Valance and window curtains	
	1 Pair good flaxen sheets, 2 Damask table cloths, 6 napkins, 6 towel, fire-shovel and tongs, poker & fender	
Breakfast Room	A small oaken table	
	An oaken table and 6 chairs and another oak table	
	Window chair with green cowhide	
	Fire-shovel, tongs, poker, fender, bellows and brush	
Staircase	A clock	