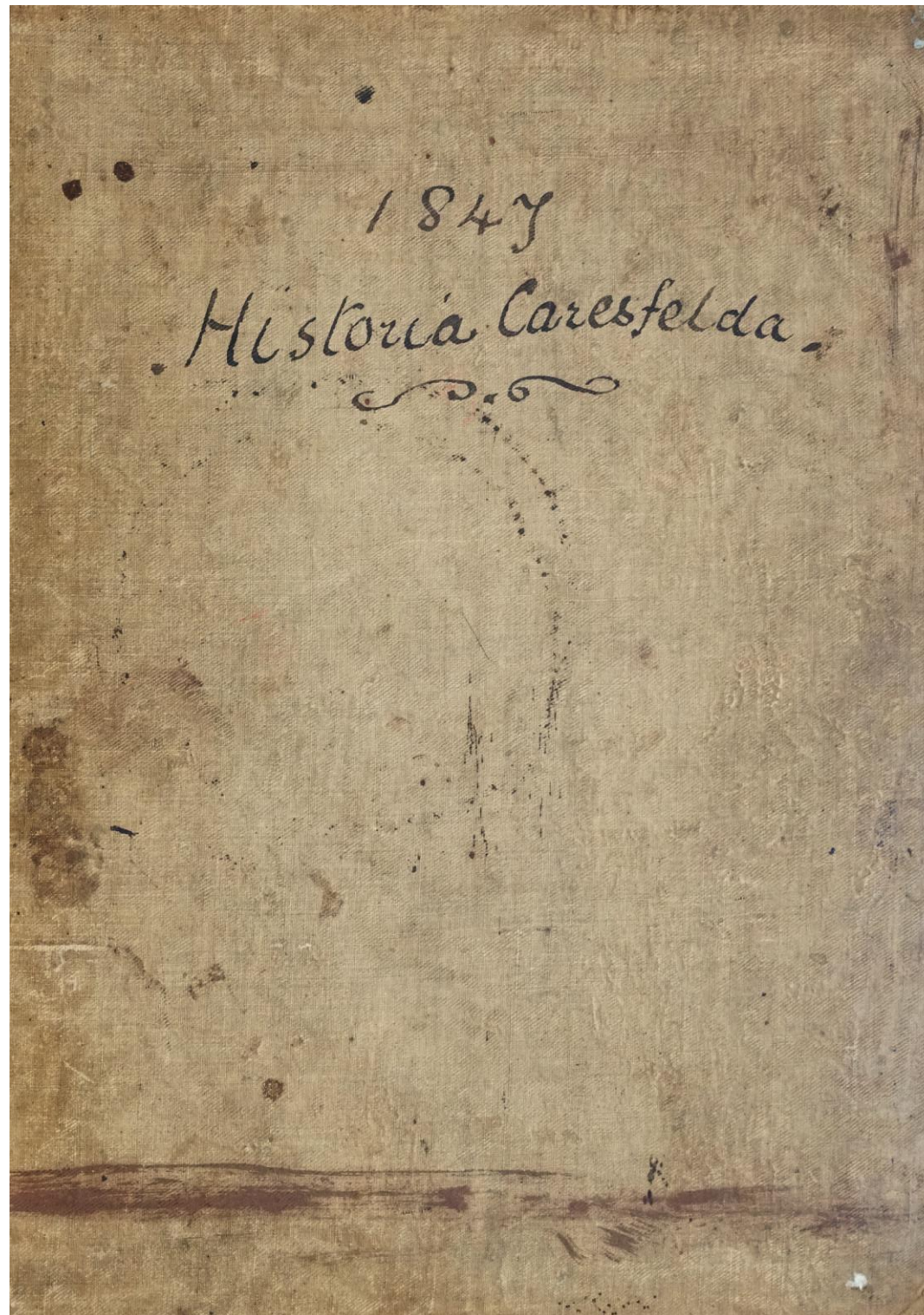


Historia Caresfelda

- A remarkable legacy donated to Charsfield by Edward Dunthorne, a remarkable Victorian antiquarian and grocer of Dennington.

Cover of the original book—

Like this title, the original contents were carefully handwritten.



A large book:

height - 34 cm/13.5 in

width - 26.5 cm/10.5 in

But originally a slim one:

just 23 sheets,

46 pages (1 blank)

Historia Caresfelda – why this name?

There are 11 entries for Charsfield in the Domesday Book with 9 versions of the village name

Caresfella

Carsfelda

Cerfella

Caresfelda

Cerresfella

Ceresfelda

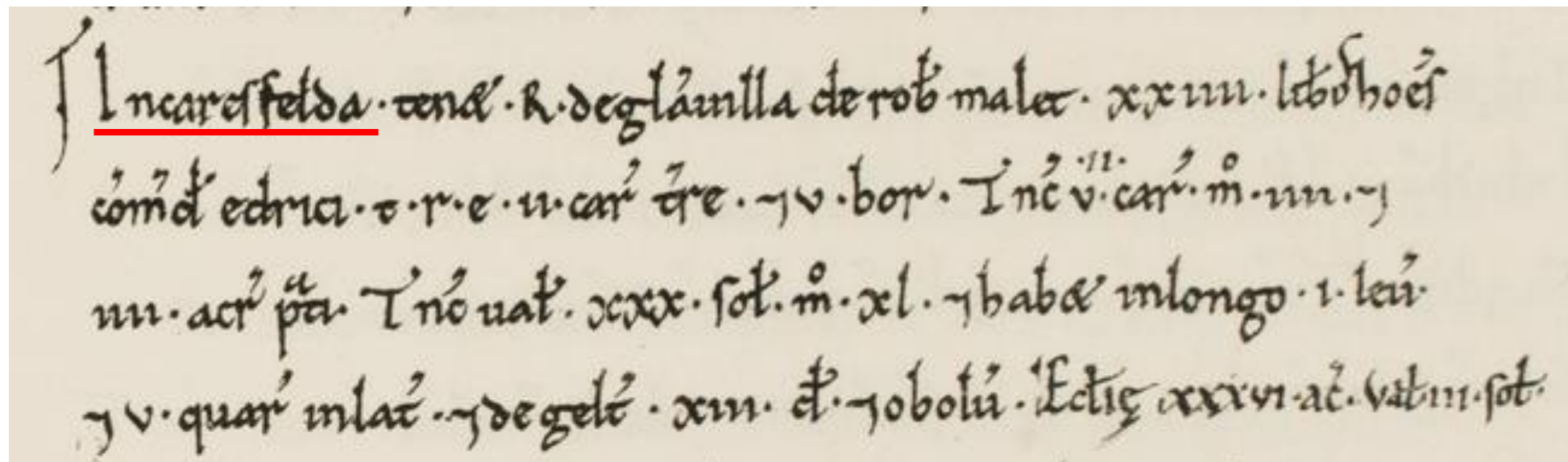
Keresfelda

Ceresfella

Cerefelda

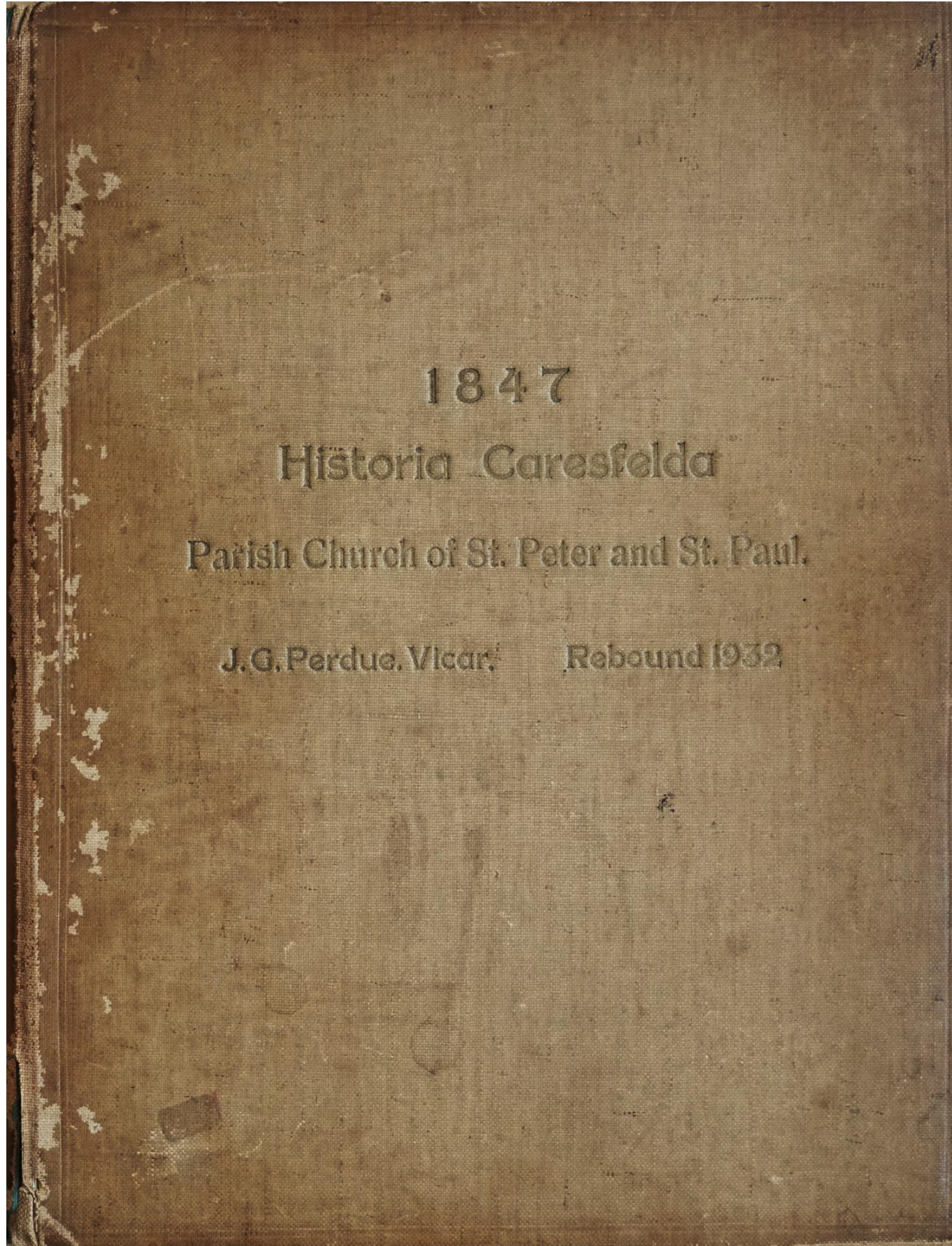
+ *Parvaceresfella (Little Charsfield) with 9 more households*

Largest entry, 29 of the 94 households, is:



Caresfella and Caresfelda are both cited inside the book.

Historia Caresfelda - rebound



The present cover

It was re-bound in 1932 with the old front cover included inside.

Both covers are board.

A striking feature is that Charsfield Church is shown to be dedicated to **St Paul** as well as **St Peter**.

Where did the evidence for this come from?

Historia Caresfelda – what is it?

Now – An historical scrapbook about Charsfield

Originally in 1847 – 46 pages containing carefully researched history by a meticulous antiquarian

- Over subsequent decades, later generations inserted new records into any blank spaces that could be found.

But there was a 40-year gap until:

- **1932**, when it was revived and re-bound and many extra blank pages were added
- Also, numerous loose papers and photos associated with it

Historia Caresfelda – example original pages

A short account of the Parish of

C H A R S F I E L D

in the County of Suffolk,

from the earliest times

Domesday: Caresfella or Caresfelda.

Charsfield is a pleasant village lying 6½ miles north of Woodbridge, and about 6 miles S.S.W. of Framlingham, is in the Hundred of Loes, and Liberty of St Ethelred, and Division of Woodbridge. Its population in 1801, 411, in 1831, 558 and in 1861, 551. The Rt Hon^{ble} W. Greville, Earl Howe is Lord of the manor and patron and improver of the benefice, which is a Perpetual Curacy of the value of £60 a year, of which £27 arises from Queen Anne's Bounty; but his Lordship has generously, within the last two or three years, augmented it to £100. The whole Parish contains 1299 acres 2 woods and 4 poles of land, of which 716^{ac} 0^r 23^{po} belong to Earl Howe, the Rectorial Tithes on 571^{ac} 3^r 7^{po} have been commuted for £160, the remainder is merged in his Lordship's estates here. The Rev^d William Blomfield Bransby, is the present incumbent.

The materials for the early history of Charsfield are scanty. It is very probable that Roger Bigot was chief Lord of this Parish when Domesday was taken, for we find that several persons held Lands here at that time, although no Manor is mentioned; but as the Manor was afterwards found to be held of the Castle of Framlingham, and as Roger Bigot was at the Survey one of the Tenants here, as well as Lord of Framlingham at the time, the greater probability is that Roger Bigot was Lord to William I. (1086).



In Pope Nicholas IV, Ecclesiastical Taxation about 1291, the Church of Charsfield was valued at £8 and a portion of Tithes belonging to Letheringham at 16^s, this Taxation of Pope Nicholas is a most important Record, because all the Taxes as well to our Kings as the Popes were regulated by it, until the survey made in 26th Hen. VIII, and because the statutes of Colleges which were founded before the Reformation are also interpreted by this Criterion according to which these Benefices, under a certain value are exempted from the Restriction, in the Statute of 21 Hen. VIII, concerning pluralities.

As an historical record relating to this Place may be mentioned the Inquisition of the ninth, in the time of Edw. III, who being at war with Scotland and France, the Parliament on 29 March 1340, granted him a subsidy of the ninth and fifteenth of their grain, wool and lambs. The following was the Inquest or Taxation of Charsfield in 14th Edw. III. 1341, before the Abbot of Leston and others

**Charsfield
history
from
Domesday
to 1840s**

(6 pages)

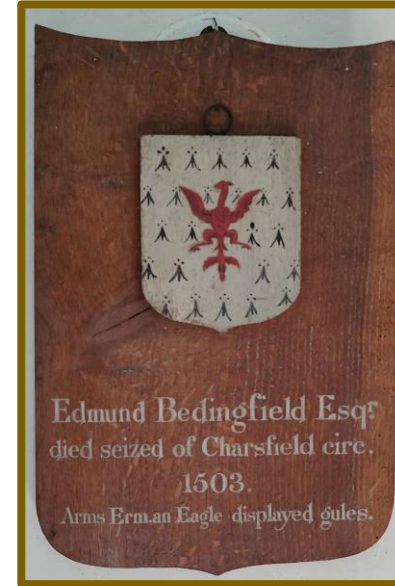
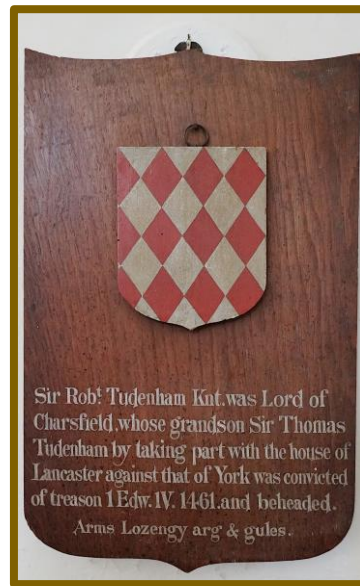
← The Ecclesiastical Tax of 1291 –
Charsfield Church is valued at £8 and
its tithes of 16 shillings were paid to
Letheringham Priory.

This was a small cell of Austin friars,
with allegiance to its parent Priory of
St Peter and St Paul in Ipswich

Charsfield – Lords of the Manor

(as learnt from *Historia Caresfelda*)

These shields hang on the Nave walls in Charsfield Church.



After the Norman invasion:
Bigod (Bigot) family of Framlingham

1199
↓
circa 1400
De Weyland
- Own other local manors, e.g Brandeston and Blaxhall.
- Robert (1300s), born and died in Charsfield
1274 → 1434 owners at **Oxburgh**

1400s
Tudenham
1461 - Thomas convicted of treason & beheaded.
Attainder (land & rights forfeited)

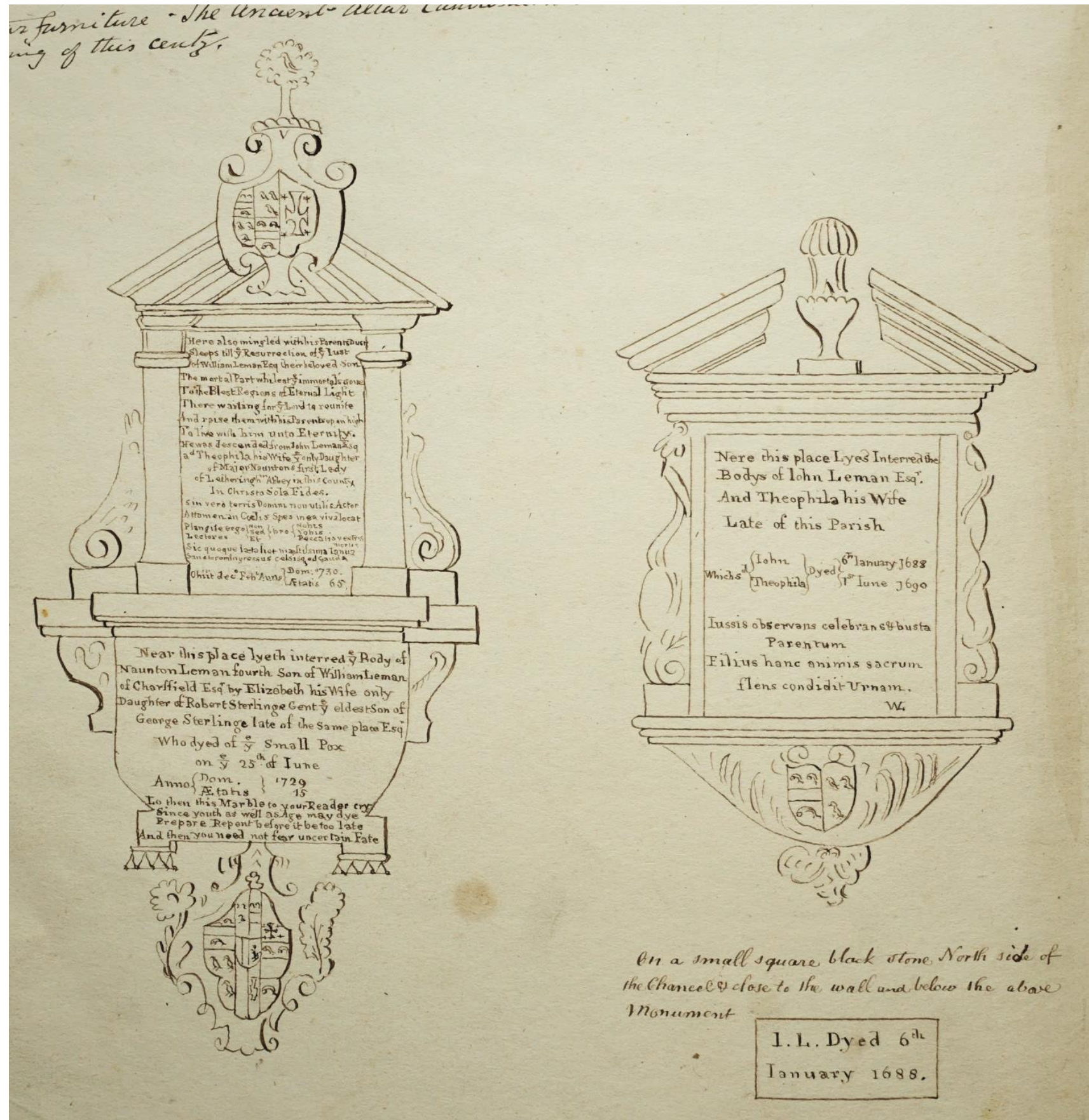


late 1400s
Wingfield
- Trustees during attainder
- Church porch built
- Communion silverware gifted

late 1400s
↓
1613
Bedingfield
- build present **Oxburgh Hall**

Buy Manor in 1613
↓
Sell in 1735
Leman
- John, Lord Mayor of London in 1616
- Subsequent generations marry into local Naunton & Sterling families

Historia Caresfelda – example original pages



The Lemman Monuments in the Chancel

- The inscriptions have been meticulously copied.

Historia Caresfelda - example original pages

Leggett Jeremy son of Jeremy & Sarah	Baptized	4 March	1737	Edw Castleton
Leech Joseph s of John	d.	21 Sep ^r	1738	Curate
Leggett Mary dr of Jeremy & Sarah	d.	27 Jan ^y	1739	
Lancaster John s of William & Mary	d.	2 Dec	1740	
Leech Mary dr of John & Ann	d.	3 Jan ^y	1741	
Leggett John s of Jeremy & Mary	d.	24 Jan ^y	1741	
Leggett Cornelius s of Jeremiah & Sarah	d.	1 Oct	1744	
Leech Robert s of Rob. & Ann	d.	29 Sep ^r	1745	
Leggett Sarah dr of Jeremi. & Sarah	d.	8 March	1746	Joseph Boereton
Lanham Susan dr of Thomas & Susan	d.	7 Feb ^y	1747	Curate
Leech Ann dr of R. & Ann Leech	d.	6 Nov	1748	
Lancaster Hannah dr of Wm & Mary	d.	29 Oct	1749	
Leech Ann dr of William & Sarah	d.	8 July	1750	
Lanham Matthew son of Tho ^s & Susan	d.	29 Apr ^{il}	1751	
Leech John s of Rob ^t & Ann	d.	24 Nov	1752	
Lanham Mary dr of Tho ^s & Susan	d.	21 June	1752	
Leech Joseph s of Rob ^t & Mary	d.	1 May	1796	
Leech John s of Joseph & Sarah	d.	24 July	1796	
Long Hannah dr of Stephen & Mary	d.	4 Sep ^r	1796	
Leggett John s of Wm & Sarah	d.	19 Feb ^y	1797	
Long Mary Ann dr of Stephen & Mary	d.	17 Sep ^r	1797	
Lancaster Susan dr of Sam ^l & Lydia	d.	24 Jan ^y	1798	
Lambert John s of James & Hannah	d.	8 July	1798	
Leggett Sarah dr of William & Sarah	d.	8 July	1798	
Leech John s of John & Sarah	d.	29 July	1798	not in place
Lancaster Elizabeth dr of James & Ann	d.	9 Sep ^r	1798	
Leech Fanny dr of Joseph & Sarah	d.	15 April	1799	
Lancaster James s of Sam ^l & Lydia	d.	13 Oct	1799	
Leggett Jeremiah s of John & Elizabeth	d.	9 March	1800	
Leggett Ann dr of John & Sarah	d.	20 April	1800	
Leech Elizabeth dr of John & Sarah	d.	20 April	1800	
Leggett Elizabeth dr of John & Mary	d.	12 July	1752	
Leggett Wm s of Jeremi. & Sarah	Baptized	21 Sep ^r	1752	
Lancaster Rebecca dr of Wm & Mary	d.	24 March	1754	
Leech James s of Robert & Ann	d.	18 May	1755	
Lanham Elizabeth dr of Thomas & Susan	d.	6 Jan ^y	1756	
Leech Joanna dr of Rob ^t & Ann	d.	26 Feb ^y	1757	
Lancaster Henry B.B.	d.	31 Aug st	1760	
Leech James s of Rob ^t & Ann	d.	5 Oct ^r	1760	
Leggett John s of Jeremiah & Eliz th	d.	10 May	1761	
Lanham Roger s of Tho ^s & Susan	d.	7 July	1762	
Leggett Elizabeth dr of Jeremiah & Elizabeth	d.	9 April	1763	
Leech Elizabeth dr of Rob ^t & Ann	d.	9 Oct ^r	1763	
Lanham Joseph s of Thomas & Susan	d.	6 May	1764	
Leggett James s of Jeremiah & Elizabeth	d.	23 June	1765	
Lancaster Susanna dr of James & Mary	d.	8 Nov ^r	1765	
Lewcock Thomas s of James & Ann	d.	9 March	1766	
Leggett William s of Jeremiah & Eliz th	d.	29 May	1766	
Leggett Elizabeth dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	16 Aug st	1767	
Leggett Eliz th dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	8 Nov ^r	1768	
Lanham Sarah dr of Thomas & Susan	d.	13 March	1768	
Lewcock Sophia dr of Samuel & Sarah	d.	3 April	1768	
Leech Joseph s of Robert & Ann	d.	17 July	1768	
Leggett Robert s of Jeremiah & Eliz th	d.	23 April	1769	
Leggett Sarah dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	10 Sep ^r	1769	
Leggett John s of Cornelius & Ann	d.	8 April	1770	
Leggett Rebecca dr of Jeremi ^{ah} & Eliz th	d.	20 May	1770	
Lewcock William s of Robert & Hannah	d.	31 March	1771	
Lanham Martha dr of Martha	d.	12 May	1771	
Leggett Eliz th dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	7 May	1772	
Leggett Sarah dr of Jeremiah & Eliz th	d.	28 March	1773	
Lancaster Susanna dr of James & Mary	d.	9 May	1773	
Leggett Fanny dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	10 March	1774	
Leggett Jeremiah s of Jeremiah & Elizabeth	d.	19 Feb ^y	1775	
Leech Fanny dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	6 April	1775	
Leech Elizabeth dr of John & Elizabeth	d.	16 April	1775	
Leech John s of Robert & Mary	d.	20 Feb ^y	1777	
Leech James s of Jeremiah & Eliz th	d.	9 March	1777	
Leech Matilda dr of John & Eliz th	d.	4 May	1777	
Lancaster Lucy B.B. dr of Elizabeth	d.	17 Aug st	1777	
Leech Benoni s of Rob ^t & Mary	d.	16 Feb ^y	1777	
Leech Ann dr of Rob ^t & Mary	d.	4 Jan ^y	1778	
Last Henry s of Henry & Mary	d.	8 April	1778	
Leggett John s of John & Elizabeth	d.			

Parish Births, Marriages, Deaths, all recorded in alphabetical groupings

1727 - 1812

(22 pages)

Here, for example is found the birth of **Fanny Leggett**, later Marjoram, who was running "The Horse Shoes Inn" until the 1850s, when she was over 80.

Historia Caresfelda – an original page with later inserts

Vicars & Perpetual Curates of Charsfield.

Vicars

Robert de Hintonham, Instituted	14 Kal. Dec	1304	} At the Presentation of the Prior and Convent at Ipswich.
John Miniot	10 Kal. April	1333	
Walter de Quinton	31 July	1344	
Richard Wild of Cretingham	17 July	1349	
Stephen Sepray died Vicar		1388	
Thomas de Mettingham	28 Jan ^r	1388	
John Brown Inst ^r	24 April	1436	
William Newton Inst ^r	Rector	8 March 1439	
John Norwich instituted Vicar July 1444, upon the Collation of the Bishop, by lapse.			

Curates

William Chapman	1549	} Curates to Elizabeth Naunton Wid ^{ow} relict of William Naunton Esq ^r
Sir Thomas Grigg	1555	
Edward Youngs	1572	
Edward Bennet	1580	
Edward Jewell	1587	
William Hewit	1605	} Curates to Sir Robert Naunton Knt.
John Glover	1610	
Henry Townme	1627	
Robert Large	1635, he was ejected about 1644, for reading the Book of Common Prayer, and for taking the solemn league and covenant with limitations; he became afterwards in such abject circumstances, as to accept of an asylum in the almshouse at Letheringham, where he and his family obtained a constant supply of provision from the Abbey. He died in 1657, and was buried in Letheringham Churchyard.	

Jacob Chilton, Rector of Kettleburgh – Died 1696
 William Wilson, Vicar of Brandeston
 Nathan Hammond 1703, Rector of Boulge, buried 1709
 Hugh Wilson – 1709, Rector of Filtonwooden.

John Robert Hodgson became Churchwarden in 1823 during the Ministry of the Rev^d Wm Brown afterwards Rector of Marlesford. He was succeeded by the Rev^d Wm Fletcher, The Rev^d Kershaw, Rev^d Whalley, Rev^d Theobald, Rev^d W.B. Bransby just died & b. here 15 Nov 1859. He was the first resident Clergyman for many ages for him Lord Howe made the House habitable and increased the stipend to £100 a year. The Rev^d Fred^d Weston was just 1860 & resigned 1865, on or about April 7th he was instituted to the Vicarage of Eaton n^o Norwich.

Joseph Kersey bequeathed by Will, in 1816, the sum of £800 to be applied in the purchase of Bank Stock, the yearly interest thereof to be distributed in Bread & Coals, to the resident industrious poor of the Parishes of Dallinghoo, Charsfield, Marlesford, and Earl Soham, for ever. With this Legacy £832. 18. 4 new four per Cent annuities were purchased, so that each of the four Parishes receives £8. 6. 7 yearly.

The Rev David Medcalf succeeded Rev^d Weston... he officiated for the first time on June 4th 1865 (Whit Sunday) was instituted by the B^p of Norwich on June 12th & read himself in the following Sunday June 18th.

Trustees of M^r Kersey's Charity – Caleb Kersey of Hadleigh – Suffolk – Farmer – Peter Steptoe of Debenham, Suffolk. Farmer – Jonathan Dains of Tolkesham Suffolk Farmer. The last surviving Trustee M^r died when the money was made over to the Charity Commissioners.

← Earliest known priests at Charsfield

← Ipswich Priory (St Peter & St Paul) is patron.

← New patrons after dissolution, the Naunton family (of Letheringham)

← Additional later records have been inserted

←
←

Historia Caresfelda – civil war period

Robert Large 1635, he was ejected about 1644, for reading the Book of Common Prayer, and for taking the solemn league and covenant with limitations; he became afterwards in such abject circumstances, as to accept of an asylum in the alms-house at Letheringham, where he and his family obtained a constant supply of provision from the Abbey. He died in 1657, and was buried in Letheringham Churchyard.

Robert Large – Charsfield Curate/Vicar from 1635

- Ejected from Charsfield Church about 1644 (as a Royalist sympathiser)
- Takes asylum at Letheringham Alms-house
- Gets provisions from Abbey (Nauntons)

Historia Caresfelda – new life in the 1930s

The Great Village Revival (first entry after 40-year gap)

From the late 1920s into the 1930s

- Church repaired
- Vicarage and grounds restored from their “dilapidated condition”
- Sports club
- Nursing association
- Village hall
- Historia Caresfelda re-bound

47
Appointment of The Rev. John George Perdue, Master of Arts, Trinity College, University of Dublin. October 1927.
Patron Miss Emily Whicker, Brook House, Charsfield.

The Vicarage and grounds were in a dilapidated condition. Weeds grew to the doors and the lawns had been hen-runs. No care had been given for many years.

The Church was in a deplorable state, shabby and neglected: the plaster on the walls was dropping off: guttering was missing: the foundations were grown in with nettles and weeds and the stone work perished. The Mullions in the Tower windows were falling and there were many holes in the walls.

The Churchyard was overgrown with weeds and nettles and fallen tombstones lay in every direction.

with undaunted courage and energy the Parishioners took the matter in hand. Working parties were formed in which men, women and children joined. Garden Fêtes were arranged and with such success that in four years the scene was transformed.

During that period the Church was made safe for generations to come: the walls refaced: new stone for that which had decayed: new cement foundations: new bricks of proper type replaces the old where needed: the mullions of the Tower windows rebuilt and oak louvers placed in position.

This work was mainly done by James Pemberton and son: a family which has been connected with the Church and Parish for many generations.

A new parcel of land had been given by Mr E. Hodson of Charsfield Hall to form an addition to the graveyard. Paths in it were opened and old paths renewed.

The road wall of the Churchyard was also repointed and oak posts supplied for the gate.

Emily Whicker,
the last private individual who was Patron (nominated the vicar).

When the last Lord auctioned off Charsfield Manor in 1877, this included sale of the advowson (church patronage) as well. This right subsequently passed on to Emily through inheritance.

Though born in St Pancras, London, Emily, whose mother was from Charsfield, later came to live in the village with her uncle, Edward Hodgson, residing at different periods at Brook Farm and Brook House.

Historia Caresfelda – A celebration recorded

St. Peter's, Charsfield.

Patronal Celebrations, 1929.

SATURDAY, 22nd June.

Furrow Drawing Match at 2 o'clock on RED-HOUSE FARM. Land lent by H. Youngman, Esq. Many good Prizes. Entrance fee (any class), 1/-

SATURDAY, 29th June.

Garden Fête in the Vicarage Grounds, opened at 2.30 p.m. by Mrs. Heywood, Glevering Park.

*Work and Produce Stalls. Draw for Pig.
Usual and Unusual Side-Shows and Competitions.*

JACK EGGETT'S DANCE BAND.

Admission - 3d. Children - 1d.

SUNDAY, 30th June.

SERVICE at 3 p.m.

St. Peter's Church, Charsfield.

Dedication of Memorial to the late Vicar,
The Rev. D. H. Medcalf, M.A.

Dedication of Communion Service.

**SPECIAL PREACHER: THE RIGHT REV. THE
LORD BISHOP OF ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND
IPSWICH, D.D.**

EVENING SERVICE, 7.30 p.m.

On the Vicarage lawn, if fine. *Preacher: The Vicar.*

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Historia Caresfelda – modern times

James Andrew Stewart Laurie
Born 1926 at Buses, Suffolk
1948-1951 Selwyn College Cambridge followed by
Ridley Hall
Ordained 1953
Curate: Hasden & Cricklewood, London
Lancing, Sussex
Vicar 1960-1964 Freehay, Staffordshire
1964-1970 Alstonfield Benefice, Staffordshire
Schoolmaster 1971-1983 in Staffordshire and Derbyshire
Vicar 1983-1990 Charsfield Benefice

During the seven years of Jim Laurie's incumbency, St. Peter's Church continued as part of the United Benefice of Charsfield with Debach, Monewden, Hoo, Wallinghoo and Letheringham. Jim Laurie worked hard to make the Benefice a living reality and frequently conducted four services on a Sunday. He encouraged lay Readers, lay Elders and other church members to assist and lead services. His own sermons, always thoughtful and clearly presented, were delivered (with few notes) from the steps of the chancel. A combined Benefice service was held once a month, in each church in turn. Cooperation increased between the parishes, and when Jim retired and left Suffolk over two hundred church members and friends attended a farewell Benefice party at Easton Farm Park.

**From the 1930s records
were regularly added up
until modern times**

**In particular, there are resumés for
the village's vicars, like the one
shown here for Jim Laurie.**

**In this case it was written by
Margaret Elliott, village historian
from the 1980s to the early 2000s.**

**Margaret is referring to herself
below as she was the church member
who produced an authoritative book
in 1987 on Charsfield's dwellings and
fields in past times – their names
and any associated history.**

There continues to be great interest in remembering past events in the parish. In 1987 a church member made a study of Charsfield field names, boundaries, houses and families from earliest evidence, through Domesday Book to the present time which was published as part of the "Deben Valley Place-name Survey", by the Suffolk local History Council.

Margaret Elliott

In cooperation with Jim
Laurie and the Churchwardens
and Parochial Church Council.
May 1991.

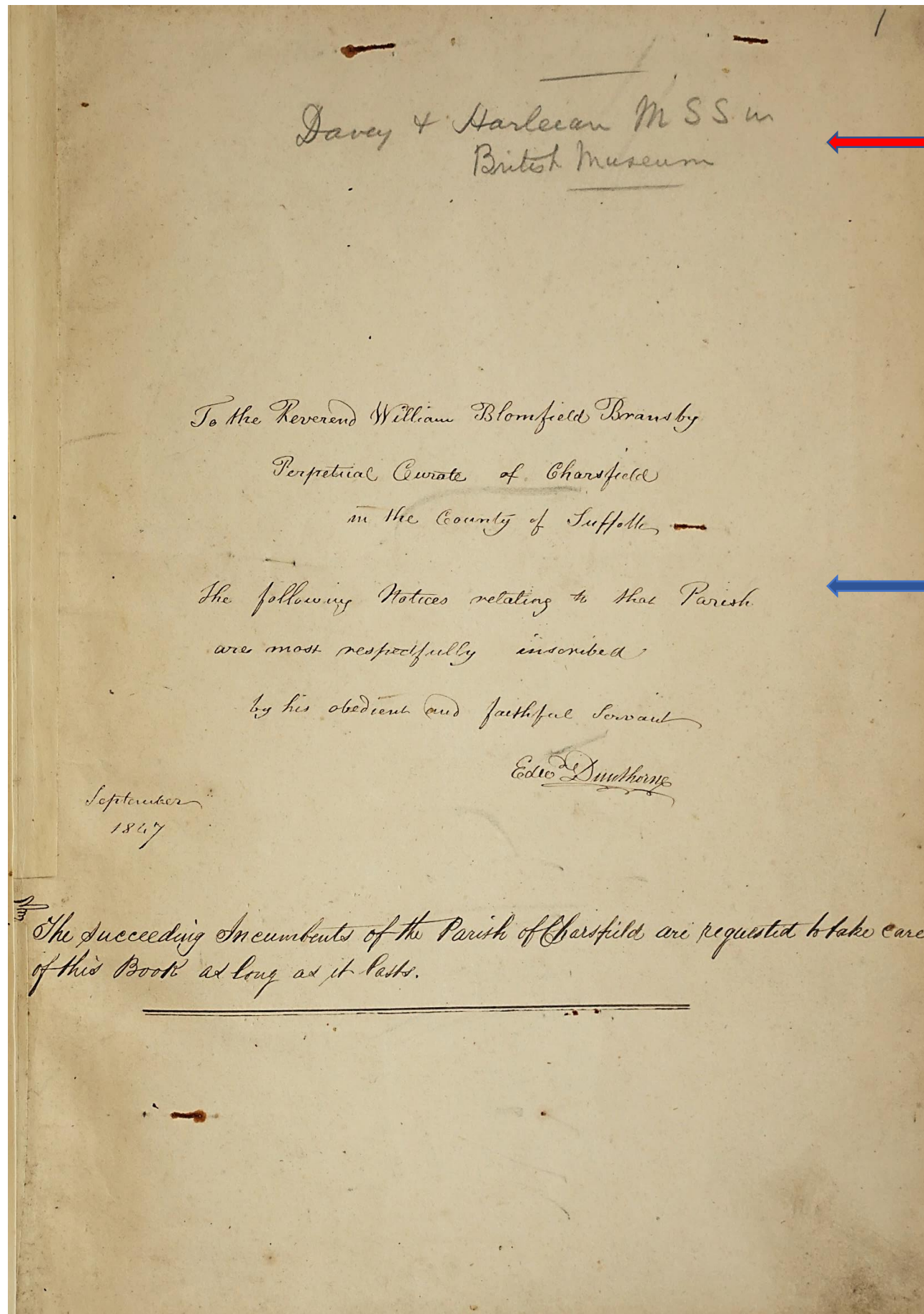
Historia Caresfelda – from the loose material

Amongst the loose items stored with the book (presumably there with the intention of sometime pasting them onto the blank pages) is this photograph of Charsfield Church's interior from the first years of the 1930s or even earlier*. The old pulpit is on the left, not right side; there are oil lamps and a stove. (* The present pulpit came from St Margaret's, Ipswich, in 1936.)



Charsfield Church.

Historia Caresfelda – initial page reveals its creator



**A pencilled addition
references Davy & Harley
collections in London.
Why?**

**The original dedication
to Revd Bransby,
resident Charsfield
vicar (perpetual curate)
at the time Historia
Cresfelda was presented
to the village in
September 1847 by
Edward Dunthorne**

Historia Caresfelda

- Who was Edward Dunthorne?

John Dunthorne = Ann Green – married c.1790 Laxfield

1751 – 1823

1756 – 1838

His father was a grocer at Worlingworth, then later at Dennington in the 1790s

His mother was from a relatively high-status family in the area, perhaps explaining how Edward might have had a good education

William

Miranda

Edward = Harriet Bailey – married 18 Jan 1819

1792 - 1853

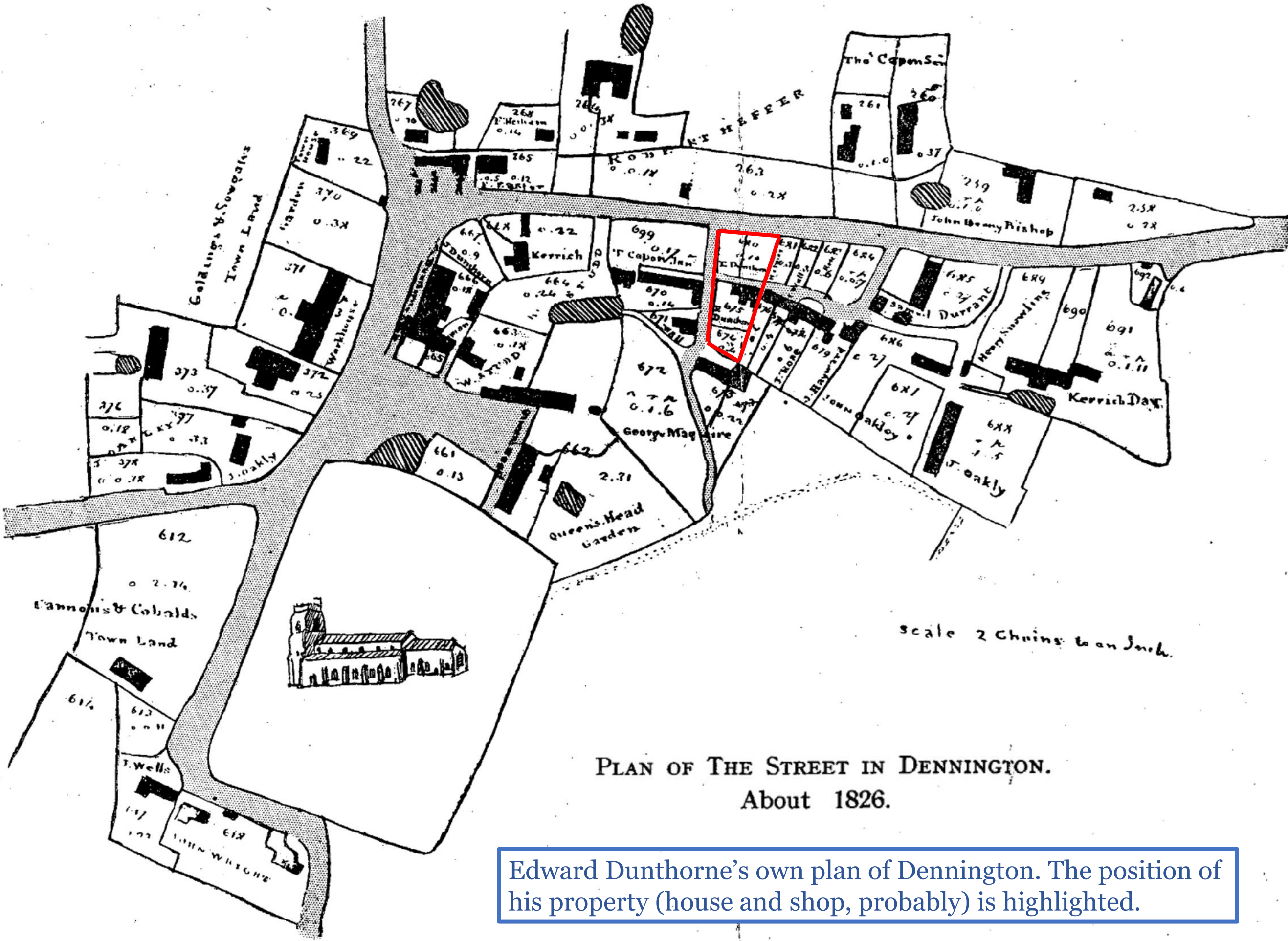
1798 – 1858

at Dennington

Harriet

Anne

Edward



PLAN OF THE STREET IN DENNINGTON.
About 1826.

Edward Dunthorne's own plan of Dennington. The position of his property (house and shop, probably) is highlighted.

Historia Caresfelda

- Edward Dunthorne's contemporary antiquarians

David Elisha Davy (Yoxford & Ufford) - Papers in British Museum

Henry Jermyn (Sibton), Rev J.Darby (Framlingham), Rev Blois Turner (Halesworth)

John Loder (bookseller & publisher of Woodbridge)

James Clarke (Easton) – Grocer & Antiquarian – great friend

In the mid-1840s, the 2 friends, **Edward & James**, both join the newly formed **British Archaeological Association** (rival to the long-standing **Society of Antiquaries of London** and later **Archaeological Institute**).

Membership of the BAA was more open to people such as Edward & James, those in a trade but keen amateur antiquarians in their spare time. Both contribute many times to the **BAA Journal**, albeit these are short communications, e.g about ancient coins found or features of Suffolk churches.

Historia Caresfelda

- **David Elisha Davy was the most renowned Suffolk antiquarian of his time and Edward Dunthorne is known to have had contact with him at times**



Ufford House, Davy's home 1823–1851

Historia Caresfelda

- Davy's extensive papers are held at the British Museum, but he had one published book, re-issued by the recent Suffolk antiquarian, John Blatchly

A JOURNAL OF EXCURSIONS THROUGH THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK 1823-1844

David Elisha Davy

Edited by
John Blatchly

with my best wishes
from the Editor John Blatchly
1 Oct 82

Historia Caresfelda

- David Elisha Davy visited Charsfield and Dallinghoo one day in 1823.

1823

Sat. June 14th

Walked to Dallingho Church which I went into, & took a few additional Notes. The Registers are kept by Mr. Browne,⁴³ the Rector, at his House; tho' I found in the Chest, a small Book⁴⁴ of Burials from 1719 to 1787, to be seen & allowed by the Magistrates; from this I took a few notes.

From Dallingho I continued my Walk to Charsfield. I went into the church, where I noted such alterations as had taken place since I was last there. I took also the Letters &c. on the Steeple & Porch, & the Verses on the Head Stones. I could not get up the Steeple, to take the Inscriptions on the Bells.

Distance to Dallingho Church 2½ Miles, & from thence to Charsfield, 1 Mile.

In my way to Dallingho Church, I past the Moat House, a Farm belonging to Mr. I. Clarke, of Woodbridge, of which I took a rough ground plan.

I did not enquire about the Registers, but I conclude they are in the custody of Mr. Browne the Curate.

Historia Caresfelda

- Edward Dunthorne's obituary in BAA Journal

It remains now to notice our deceased correspondent, Mr. EDWARD DUNTHORNE, of Dennington, Suffolk, who relieved the fatigue arising from his occupation in business by attention to antiquities, inquiring minutely after everything ancient in his own parish, visiting the churches of his neighbourhood, taking rubbings from brasses, and collecting information relating to the pedigrees of the principal families of the county.

From our associate, Mr. Clarke of Easton, I learn that Mr. Dunthorne was deservedly held in high estimation by his neighbours, and that his loss was much deplored. He died on the 9th of September, at the age of sixty-one. He left six small folio volumes of manuscripts connected with the county of Suffolk, which have passed into the hands of the rev. E. C. Alston, of Framlingham. A manuscript history of Charsfield, with a map, and about fifty pedigrees with the armorial bearings of some of the principal Suffolk families, has been purchased by Mr. Clarke. He left also a quantity of coins in silver and copper, mostly of late dates; a few medals; five or six hundred Roman coins; a collection of early tokens and various seals, the product of his inquisitive search in his parish and the neighbourhood.

Historia Caresfelda - Edward Dunthorne's wider legacy

His collected papers are held at the Suffolk Archives in Ipswich

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES Menu

[Home](#) > [Discovery](#) > XI/4/4

Record creator

→ [Dunthorne, Edward, \(1792-1853\), grocer, antiquary](#)

Catalogue description

historical notes and collections rel to Suffolk

Reference:	XI/4/4
Description:	historical notes and collections rel to Suffolk
Date:	c1830-40
Held by:	Suffolk Archives - Ipswich , not available at The National Archives

Historia Caresfelda - Edward Dunthorne's wider legacy

Contents of his collected papers

Dennington – notes from examining extensive records spanning centuries
– maps, sketches, pencil and colour drawings

Booklets: **East Bergholt** – 49 pages

Debenham – 39 pages

Copdock – 12 pages

50-page booklet covering parishes of:

Bedfield, Kelsale, Cransford, Carlton,
Wingfield, Laxfield, Aspall, Badingham

And more

Historia Caresfelda - Edward Dunthorne's wider legacy

The 1929 article based on these collected papers

THE DUNTHORNE MSS.

By THE REV. EDMUND FARRER, F.S.A.

Quite by chance, during the summer of 1929, a parcel of manuscript matter was placed in my hands to examine and report thereon. The material was apparently put together and collected between the years 1826 and 1842 by Mr. Edward Dunthorne, who was for many years a grocer in the parish of Dennington, and yet a man of good education, and one most keenly interested in the history of the county in which he lived.

Initial paragraph of a 39 page article in 1929

“Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History”

Historia Caresfelda - Edward Dunthorne's wider legacy

The Constable Connection

the question of the relationship of those who resided in Bergholt, with the grocer of Dennington, recalling to mind, though, once again, that quite late in his life Edward Dunthorne was corresponding with Miss Mary Constable on the subject of the pedigree and descent of the artist's family.

last page of 1929 article by Farrer in "Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History"

The article indicates that Edward Dunthorne had, not only a great interest in East Bergholt (his 49-page booklet shows this), but also probable contact with family members living there. Further these family members of his had links to John Constable which led Edward Dunthorne to research the Constable family.

Historia Caresfelda - The Constable connection

In a little cottage close to the gate of that residence lived early in the 19th century John Dunthorne, a plumber and glazier, and as Leslie says he was “a man possessed of more intelligence than is often found in the class of life to which he belonged.” Moreover, “he was the only person in the village who had any love for art, or any pretensions to the character of an artist . . . he devoted all the leisure his business allowed him to paint landscapes from nature.”

I think quite possibly among the sketches of East Bergholt which are among the “Dunthorne MSS” there is one which represents the cottage by the gate of Mr. Golding Constable’s residence.

It can be easily realized how that the great artist became very friendly with this man, and that when his talents for painting began to develop, and he needed to follow his natural inclinations, rather against the wishes of his father, he chose as a studio a room under the roof of John Dunthorne, which established a friendship that lasted through life.

Farrer, p182 in 1929 - “Proceedings of the SIAH”

Farrer quotes from the book by C.R.Leslie called “The Life and Letters of John Constable, R.A.”. This has references to the influence on Constable of John Dunthorne, local plumber and glazier but also a talented painter. Later, his son, John Dunthorne Junior becomes a great friend of both John Constable and his wife, Maria, and resides with them in London.

Historia Caresfelda – a painting by John Dunthorne



Flatford Lock by John Dunthorne Senior – 1814

(only surviving painting – Colchester & Ipswich museums; Colchester Collection)

Historia Caresfelda – the remaining problem

Is Charsfield Church dedicated to two Saints?

**Is there further evidence to
determine if it should be
“St Peter & St Paul”**

Historia Caresfelda – St Paul?

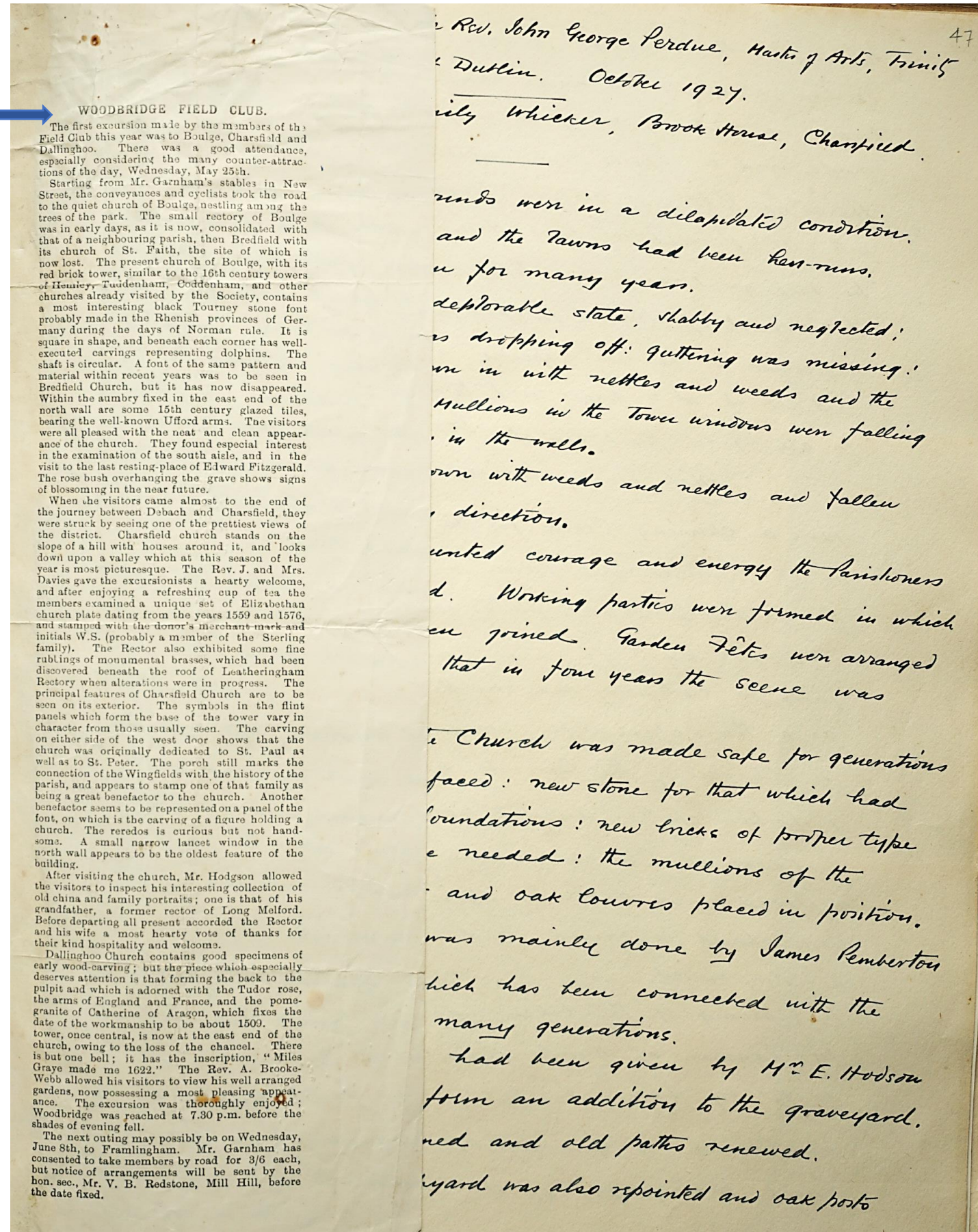
Woodbridge Field Club

There is this article pasted into Historia Caresfelda on the first of the new pages added in the early 1930s. It describes a visit made on Wednesday, May 25th to churches in our locality by the Woodbridge Field Club (a group of antiquarians set up circa 1900).

To fit with the day and date, the year of this visit must be:

1898 or 1904 or 1910

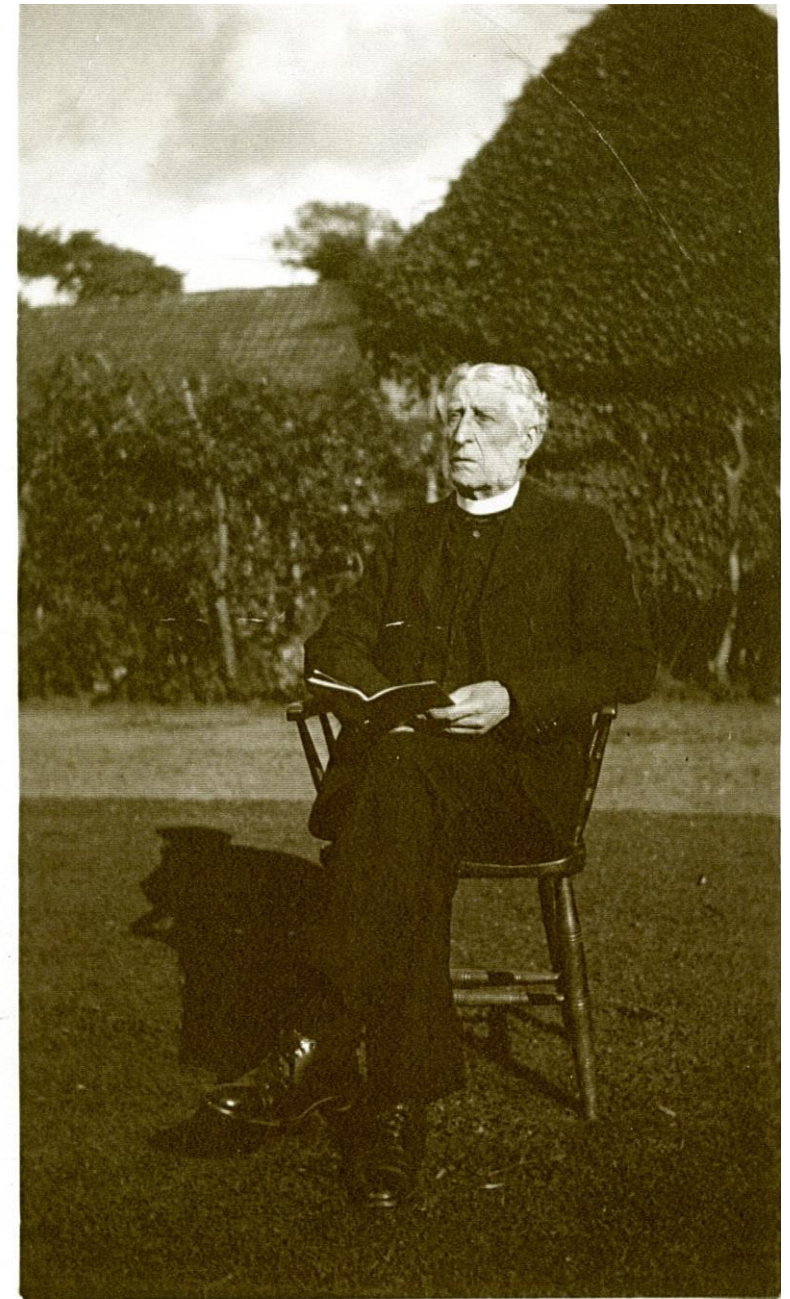
because



Historia Caresfelda – Woodbridge Field Club Visit to Charsfield

When this antiquarian group come to Charsfield, they see “one of the prettiest views of the district” and are entertained to tea by the Rev J.Davies and his wife. His incumbency at Charsfield is between 1896 to 1911.

When the visitors came almost to the end of the journey between Debach and Charsfield, they were struck by seeing one of the prettiest views of the district. Charsfield church stands on the slope of a hill with houses around it, and looks down upon a valley which at this season of the year is most picturesque. The Rev. J. and Mrs. Davies gave the excursionists a hearty welcome, and after enjoying a refreshing cup of tea the members examined a unique set of Elizabethan church plate dating from the years 1559 and 1576, and stamped with the donor's merchant-mark and initials W.S. (probably a member of the Sterling family). The Rector also exhibited some fine



**Revd Joshua Davies
Vicar of Charsfield from
1896 to 1911**

Historia Caresfelda – Woodbridge Field Club Visit to Charsfield

Afterwards, the Field Club visit Charsfield Church and it was then, when examining “**the carving either side of the west door**”, that they come to the conclusion that “the church was originally dedicated to **St Paul as well as to St Peter**”.

Rectory when alterations were in progress. The principal features of Charsfield Church are to be seen on its exterior. The symbols in the flint panels which form the base of the tower vary in character from those usually seen. The carving on either side of the west door shows that the church was originally dedicated to St. Paul as well as to St. Peter. The porch still marks the connection of the Wingfields with the history of the

It seems likely that it was the finding in this article that persuaded the Revd J.G.Perdue and the PCC of the time to put “Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul” on the cover of the re-bound Historia Caresfelda in 1932.

* * * * *

The End