

TEXT

[MEMORANDA OF THE REVD. CHARLES ALLESTREE, CURATE 1687 TO 1707]¹

[p. 5] A true Copy of a writing left by the Revrd Mr Charles Allestree, sometime Minister of this Parish of Daventry. The Preface giving an Account of the following Treatise.

The trouble and duty of exercising the ministerial function at Daventry is very great and discouraging, and every man living will find it so upon trial. I shall not therefore offer to describe what experience will teach every future minister so sensibly, and so much to his vexation, as it has instructed me.

But it will be reasonable that I should set down (for the benefit and information of my successor) the alleviation of expenses and the casual income of the place that he may depend upon for his invitation to undertake the charge and follow his employment here.

1. In the first place he will find at his admission to this cure, that as there is no need of institution and induction, so no fees are demandable either by the Bishop, or his officers (no, not so much as at a Visitation, either by himself or his Archdeacon) but only for a license to preach, which nevertheless I avoided because I had a license ad praedicandum per totam Angliam from the University of Oxford.

2dly. The Minister of this place is exempted from the payment of taxes to the King, and his small Tythes never come under any valuation so as to be charged with any debt to the Crown.

3dly. Whatever house he rents for his accomodation is, by the favour of the parishioners, freed from parish duties, or taxes to the poor.

4thly. Though I have struggled hard and met with great opposition yet I gained this point at last, that no abatements should be made in times of public taxing, of the twenty six pounds which Mr Farmer is bound to pay to the minister here. This matter is settled beyond dispute, and is inserted in his lease.²

5thly. Every time the sacrament is administered the minister is allowed a bottle of Tent wine for his refreshment after the Service is over.³ And at every Visitation the church wardens pay the minister's charges and expense.

[p. 6] I might add that I have rescued sixteen yard land from the power of an oppressor and made them tytheable, as well as other parts of the field. And this matter is inserted also into Mr Farmer's lease for the prevention of any encroachment for the future. So that now the minister has a right to all the small tythes that arise in the parish and no body starts any pretended privilege or exemption.⁴

My successor will find in these papers such a scheme of things as will

¹ Written in the hand of the Rev William Tayler, curate 1716 to 1750.

² See Introduction above, p. 66, and below p. 83.

³ Tent wine was a Spanish wine of deep red colour and of low alcoholic content often used as sacramental wine.

⁴ See above p. 69.

prove a model for him to govern his expectations by. And more or less (that is to say within a very small matter) his annual income will be proportionable to this years increase and revenue. [Signed] Charles Allestree.

The above mentioned writing is scheduled 'a Preface to the Small Tythes at Daventry in the year 1700'.

[*Taylor comments*] My successor will find 2 mistakes in the writing above. 1st. That it says no fee is to be paid but only for a license to preach, whereas he will find himself obliged (as I did) by the act of Uniformity to subscribe before the Bishop of the Diocese, and to have a certificate of his subscription, which he must read at the same time with the Articles at his admission to this cure. For which certificate they made me pay £1 5s 0d, but I was ill used.⁵ (For this, *videlicet* Clergyman's Vade-mecum, vol. 1, page 47.) Another mistake is that it supposes the University License ad praedican-dum per totam Angliam sufficient to justify a man from taking a license from the Bishop of the Diocese, which I apprehend it will not, for this reason: because the University cannot give a license to serve a cure, although they can to preach in any part of England.

I made these 2 observations for the benefit of my successor and not out of the spirit of contradiction. November 15th 1718. [Signed] William Tayler.

The writing goes on and gives the following account of the income of the minister of Daventry for the year 1700.

[p. 7]	Stated Dues to the Minister		
	£	s	d
Keeping the register at Lady Day		6	8
The Church Yard at four quarterly payments	2	0	0
Contributions raised quarterly	28	0	0
Tythe Eggs on Good Friday		10	4
Offerings at Easter	4	3	0
The Malt Mill paid every half year	1	0	0
For a house paid every half year	6	0	0
A Benefaction paid every half year	20	0	0

In all £62

Tythe of the Yard lands according
to agreement at 8s per yard land

1 Nicholas Stanton for four yard land and a quarter	1	14	0
2 John Stanton for three yard land and a half	1	8	0
3 Moses Stanton six yard land	2	8	0
4 Edward Basely for four yard land and a half	1	14	0
5 William Clarke four yard land	1	12	0
6 Samuel Capell three yard land	1	4	0
7 Humphrey Barker four yard land	1	12	0
8 Mr Maynard three yard land	1	4	0

⁵ Of all the curates from the time of Easton (1631-35) to Smith (1795-1833), Tayler was the only one compelled to subscribe before the bishop. From Smith on all duly subscribed, see NRO, H. Isham Longden MS 59 no. 2.

	£	s	d
9 John Ward two yard land		16	0
10 Thomas Saunders for three yard land and a half	1	8	0
11 London Clarke four yard land and half	1	16	0
12 Richard Eaton two yard land and quarter		18	0
13 John Healey one yard land and half		12	0
14 William Smith three yard land and half	1	8	0
15 Samuel Tibbs three yard land and half	1	8	0
16 Edward Scotton three yard land and half	1	8	0

[p. 8] In all £22 10s

What follows was taken up in kind without any agreement

1 From John Stanton		16	0
2 From James Smith		5	0
3 From Richard Slough		18	0
4 From Thomas Jefferys	1	1	0
5 From Edward Jeffreys		15	0
6 From Thomas Wright		3	10

In all £8 7s 6d

Humphry Barkers orchard		10	0
Mr Wares orchard (<i>now a close AD 1758</i>) ⁶		4	0
Mr Sawbridges orchard (<i>afterwards Floyds now Hickmans and Mr Fraunces's, 1772</i>)		2	6
William Rogers orchard (<i>now William Caporn's orchard and pays the same, 1772</i>)		1	6
Sampson Moors orchard (<i>now Bull's orchard</i>)		1	0
Staverton windmill		4	0
Welton water mill		3	0
Rate tythe from Burrough Hill		14	0
For eight pigs		16	0
For William Pains garden <i>now called Burdock Close</i>		5	0
For Widow Lyddals garden		6	0

In all £3 7s 0d

January 1700

For two marriages abroad		5	0
For two christenings at home		2	0
For Joseph Bryans funeral sermon and buriall		11	0
Consulting the register twice		1	0
For William Hobs burial and funeral sermon		1	0
Four churchings at the ordinary rate		1	8
Two burials at the ordinary rate		10	10

In all £1 12s 6d

[p. 9] February 1700

A Pew entered into the register		2	6
Churching Mrs Jephcote		2	0
Christening William Kents child		1	6

⁶ The words in italics here and below were added at a later date, and are in the hand of the Rev James Affleck.

	£	s	d
Christening Mr Coddal (a Troopers) child		2	0
Christening at home		1	0
Registering an Anabaptist's child			6
A burial with prayers in the Church		1	0
Three burials at the ordinary rate		1	3
Five churchings at the ordinary rate		2	1
Two certificates for burying in Woollen ⁷			8

14s 6d

March 1700

A funeral sermon for Mrs Barker		16	0
Transcribing the sermon for her Husband		10	9
A pair of Cordovant gloves at her funeral		2	0
Christening William Wells his child		2	0
Christening Sam Smiths child		2	6
A Christening at home		1	0
Registring two Anabaptists children		2	0
Four certificates for burying in Woollen		1	4
Burying John Jops a stranger		2	6
A buryall with prayers in the Church		1	0
A strangers marriage with license		5	0
William Muddimans marriage with banns		3	0
Five burials at the ordinary rate		2	1

£2 14s 8d

April 1700

Christening Lieutenant Leeds child		10	0
A Strangers marriage with license		5	0
For a marriage abroad		2	6
Consulting the register once			6
A burial with prayers in the church		1	0
Five burials at the ordinary rate		2	1
Three churchings at the ordinary rate		1	3
Three certificates for burying in Woollen		1	0

£1 3s 4d

[p. 10] May 1700

Christening Mr Rawlins child		5	0
Christening Edward Daniels child		2	0
Two burials with prayers in the church		2	0
A strangers marriage with license		5	0
A marriage with banns		2	6
Five burials at the ordinary rate		2	1
Three churching at the ordinary rate		1	3
Three certificates for burying in Woollen		1	0

⁷ Under the Act of 1678 which stipulated that 'no corpse of any person (except those who shall die of the plague), shall be buried . . . in any stuff or thing, other than what is made of sheep's wool only'. W. E. Tate, *The Parish Chest* 1946, pp. 66-7. It was a protectionist measure.

	£	s	d
Consulting the register once			6
Mrs Winstons quarterly present		7	6

£1 8s 10d

June 1700

A marriage with license	5	0	
A christening at home	1	0	
Three certificates for burying in Woollen	1	0	
A stranger's marriage with license	5	0	
Five churchings at the ordinary rate	2	1	
Three burials at the ordinary rate	1	3	
Consulting the register twice	1	0	

16s 4d

July 1700

Mrs Winstons quarterly present	7	6	
Christening Mr Obediah Smiths child	2	6	
Christening Mr George Checkly's child	2	6	
Christening Mr Edward Spencers child	2	6	
Two other christenings at home	2	0	
A marriage with Banns	2	6	
Two burials with prayers in the church	2	0	
Four burials at the ordinary rate	1	8	
Two churching at the ordinary rate	10	0	

£1 4s 0d

August 1700

A christening at home	1	0	
Consulting the register			6
For two marriages abroad	5	0	
[p. 11] A funeral sermon and burial of Mary Powel	11	0	
A burial with prayers in the church	1	0	
Six churchings at the ordinary rate	2	6	
Five burials at the ordinary rate	2	1	

£1 4s 1d

A pair of white gloves

September 1700

Mrs Clarks funeral Sermon and burial	1	1	6
Opening a grave for her in the Chancel	10	0	
A pair of Shammy gloves and hatband	6	0	
John Woddalls marriage with banns	2	6	
A christening at home	1	0	
Four churchings at ordinary rate	1	8	
Michael Stantons funeral sermon	15	0	
Six burials with prayers in the church	6	0	
Two pair of Cordovant gloves at two funerals	4	0	

	£	s	d
Eleven burials at the ordinary rate		4	0
Churching Mrs Prior		10	0

£4 2s 3d

October 1700

Mrs Winstons quarterly present		7	6
Christening Mr Matthew Arnolds child		2	6
Churching Mrs Knight of London		10	0
William Rose his funeral sermon & burial		11	0
John Ganderton's marriage abroad		2	6
Thomas Jacksons marriage		3	6
A Mortuary for William Rose		10	0
Consulting the register			6
Two certificates for burying in woollen			8
A Funeral Sermon for Mrs Elizabeth Stanton		11	0
Three churchings at the ordinary rate		1	3
Four Burials at the ordinary rate		1	8
Four Burials with prayers in the church		4	0
A pair of Cordovant gloves		1	8

£3 6s 6d

[p. 12]

November 1700

An Inauguration Sermon for Mr Bayliff ⁸		10	0
Christening William Currals child		2	0
Christening John Kinnings child		1	0
Christening Mr Rootes child		5	0
A mortuary (at the lowest rate) for John Wood		3	4
Patrick Ravens marriage abroad		2	6
Christening Mr Kenwricks child		5	0
Two burials with prayers in the church		2	0
Six burials at the ordinary rate		2	6
Three churchings		1	3

£1 14s 7d

December 1700

Registring an Anabaptist's child			6
Consulting the register twice		1	0
Samuel Edwards his marriage		2	6
Seven churchings		2	11
Two burials with prayers		2	0
Four burials at ordinary rate		1	8
Henry Cooks marriage with banns		2	6
Mrs Winstons quarterly present		7	6

£1 0s 7d

1 For obventions		21	1	6
2 For Tythes of all sorts		34	6	6
3 For quarterly collections		28	0	0
4 For benefactions		26	0	0
5 Bakehouse and churchyard		3	0	0
[6] Offerings and eggs at Easter		5	0	0

⁸ The Bailiff was the equivalent of a Mayor in the borough of Daventry.

The summ of this years dues to me was about £117. I paid out of this for the hire of a house and for the Window Dutys £7 10s.

[p. 13] The writing that follows is a copy [*made by William Tayler*] of a letter from Mr Allestree to Mr Farmer who is now Tenant to the College:
Good Sir,

Having this letter from the Treasurer of Christ Church to convey to your hands, I think fit to accompany it with another of my own, as I suppose, upon the same subject

1. You may please to take notice that by your cousin Farmer's will, the whole estate which he left you here, is chargeable with the payment of £30 per annum to the Bayliff and the 3 Senior Burgesses of Daventry. So that it is a great mistake to think that the said sum is to be raised out of the great Tythes of the parish. If therefore you are considered in the bulk of your estate, and lessened in your taxes a great deal more than the sum comes to (as I believe it will be found so) then you've no reason to make any abatement out of my share of the payment, or deduct any taxes at all for it.
2. But if I am chargeable by the Act⁹ with taxes, it must be in proportion to what your whole estate is assessed at (as the very words of the Statute run, page 14.). And this will require a strict review of all the particulars of your assessment, which I am confident you would no more desire to have the discovery laid before the Commissioners, than I desire to have the trouble and necessity of making it, for it lies solely in your breast to adjust and settle this proportion. But you demand the whole extent and rigour of the law from me. And though there are allowances made to you, yet you still require the payment of the utmost farthing from me.
3. You may find, Sir, that the sum of £30 is but one gift, and made payable to Mr Bayliff & the 3 Senior Burgesses in trust, and they and not you are appointed by the will to make a division of it to the parties concerned in the [p. 14] legacy. And I am to have expressly, by the very words of the will, two parts in three upon the division of what shall be delivered to Mr Bayliff.
4. You may see by the testator's vehement urging and entreating the College of Christ Church to be assisting his charitable intention, and conjuring¹⁰ them by some binding clause in future leases to secure the said sum, that it was his design the payment should be perpetual at the usual times, without any abatement. For by constituting them the judges in the matter, he took the most effectual method that could be devised for settling the sum entirely and without deduction upon the legatees, because they had formerly allowed (antecedently to his benefaction) the same annuall stipend to the minister here. And as they could not be supposed in times of the highest taxing even to abate any part of your allowance, so they must be supposed to provide for the security of the same in the like manner without charges at all upon it, because they themselves and not the minister here have received the whole benefit of your cousins bounty to this place. But I know not what they have determined in this matter, it is a secret reserved for your

⁹ Probably that of 1705, 'An Act for granting an Aid to her Majesty by a Land Tax, to be raised in the year 1706 . . .', 4 Anne cap. 11. At this time land taxes were levied every year or so to pay for the wars against France and Spain.

¹⁰ i.e. appealing solemnly or earnestly to.

discovery at the opening of this letter enclosed.¹¹ I have fairly laid things before you and if the subject matter do not give offence I am sure my words cannot. If I might have redress willingly from you, I would make it my endeavours to assist and ease you doubly in all future taxes, because some of the Commissioners in this district are my particular friends, and will give a kind ear to any representation that I shall make to them.

I am your most humble servant, and I hope shall be your most obliged one too,

Charles Allestree. December 18 1706.

[*Upon which Tayler comments*] By the foregoing letter it plainly appears that the College did formerly allow £20 per annum to their minister here, and that they withdrew this allowance upon Mr Farmers benefaction. So that the College received the benefit of the benefaction entirely, and not the minister, which surely should induce them to favour the minister here as much as possible.

[*Upon which Alexander Akehurst later commented*] This postscript is contradicted now at College. It is said there that Mr Farmer's benefaction was at first contested by his representative, that the Chapter allowed an equivalent from the time it ought to have taken place 'till it actually did take place, and that then, and only then, the College withdrew their payment.

A. A. May 18 1787.

[p. 15] An Abstract of Mr Richard Farmers Will [*of 1662*] containing only the 2 paragraphs that relate to his double benefaction both to the Poor and Minister of Daventry Page 4, line 1.

I do will and devise, that my said executors shall immediately from and after her decease pay unto the Bayliff of Daventry and his successors, and the 3 senior Burgesses of the said Corporation, the sum of thirty pounds by the year, and that they pay the same at the 2 usual Feasts in the Year, (that is to say) at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and at the Feast of St Michael the Archangel, by even and equal portions. The first payment thereof to begin at either of the said Feasts, which of them shall first happen after the decease of my said Aunt, Mrs Dorothy Norwood, to the use and in trust, that they, the said Bayliff and Burgesses, shall within one week after they shall receive the same, pay two parts thereof to the Minister of Daventry and his successors, and distribute the other third part thereof among the poor of the parish of Daventry aforesaid according to their discretions.

[Page 5, line 31 and so over the leaf] And I do will and devise that the aforesaid conveyance and assignment so to be made by my executors as aforesaid, be made in trust for the payment of the said thirty pounds per annum to the said Bayliff of Daventry and the 3 senior Burgesses in manner as aforesaid. And likewise I instruct and desire the said College of Christ Church in Oxford to be as much as may be assisting to this my charitable intention, and that when ever they shall make any new lease or grant of the said premises, or of any part thereof, they would by way of trust or

¹¹ What the college wrote to Farmer has not survived. It seems that in this, the last of his struggles over his curacy, Allestree prevailed.

condition, or by some other way, as they shall think most apt and convenient, provide that the said premises, and every part thereof, may be charged with the payment of the said £30 per annum to the said Bayliff and 3 senior Burgesses of the said Corporation to the uses and trusts aforesaid. And I do likewise desire and intreat the said Bayliff and Burgesses and the rest of the parishioners of Daventry that they will not at any time hereafter shorten their allowance to the poor, by reason of this my gift, but rather enlarge the same, so that what I do hereby give may be according as I intended it, for the poor and not the rich.¹²

**[MEMORANDA OF THE REVD. WILLIAM TAYLER, CURATE
1716 TO 1750]**

[p. 13] So far Mr Allestree, to whom I think myself much obliged for the foregoing writing. After him succeeded Mr Hartman¹³ who left only some confused papers which were of no use.

July the 8th 1716 I took possession of this cure. I have now been possessed of it above six years, whereby I am the better able to give a particular account of the profits of it, and to make some reflexions and observations as I hope may be for the benefit of my successor for whose use I intend them, and I desire that this book may be given to him.

[p. 16] I have had several contests with the College Tenant about his encroachments upon my churchyard¹⁴

1st. With relation to the passage from the town to the Upper Park.

2ndly. In relation to the cottages that bound my churchyard on the south side.

In February 1723 when the Tenant was treating with the College about renewing his lease, I went up to Oxford and complained to the Chapter and obtained this grant from them *viz.*

1st. That the Tenant by his lease should be obliged to remove the nuisances or muckhills in the churchyard that lie before the doors of the said cottages, and not to suffer the like again.

2ly. Not to make any more door places to open into the churchyard.

3ly. Not to use any cart-way or horse-way, by or through the churchyard great gates to the little tenements in the churchyard, or to or from the Upper Park, only for carriages of materials for necessary repair of the tenements.

4ly. Not to hinder any burial in any part of the churchyard.

At this time I also petitioned the Chapter that a house might be settled upon the minister here for ever instead of the £6 per annum, which the Tenant pays. But here I failed, though the College own many houses in this town. They did talk of repairing the old Abbey and fixing that upon the minister, but that also dropped. However, I prevailed so far as to get an addition to the salary, and the tenant is now obliged to pay £8 per annum, whereas he paid but £6 before for the hire of the ministers house.

[p. 17] Burrough Hill tythe I take in kind, but though there is 500 sheep kept upon the Hill yet I usually have no more than 9 or 10 lambs and about

¹² For Farmer's will, see PCC 17 Juxon. Mrs Norwood died in 1694: NRO, 3rd ser. wills, S. 75.

¹³ Curate of Daventry 1707 to 1716.

¹⁴ See above p. 72.