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Non-resident Clergy of Bristol and Gloucestershire

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by C. ROY HUDLESTON

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THE EARLIEST permission for non-residence which I have traced was granted on 29 January 1690/1 to a Bristol pluralist named Emanuel Heath, who was vicar of St Augustine and rector of Holy Trinity alias Christ Church. This was a royal grant, allowing Heath 'to go to our island of Jamaica and to remain there for six years, he to receive all the revenues, tithes, profits, rights and emoluments belonging to the vicarage and rectory in as full and ample a manner during such his absence as if he were actually resident.'¹

We step into the 18th century, that golden age of pluralism and non-residence, with bishop Secker's diocese book.² Here among others we learn of Mr William Moseley, vicar of Almondsbury, of whom the bishop notes in 1735, 'careful, good old man, attentive to his own interest, resides upon a living he hath near Gloucester,' and in the same year, of Walter Rainstorp, rector of Compton Greenfield, 'Tory, good, resident,' but in 1763 'old and infirm, living at Bath,' In his earlier days Mr Rainstorp had been usher of Bristol Grammar School and rector of Compton Greenfield at the same time.

These instances of non-residence, however, predate the passing of an act, which was known as Sir William Scott's bill. There had been previous legislation on pluralism and non-residence, as far back as Henry VIII's time, but it was largely ineffective, and abuses were widespread throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Strangely enough, as it seems to us, Sir William Scott's bill passed in 1803 was not designed to prevent abuses but rather to protect clergy guilty of them from legal action which might be taken against them by those concerned about the all too frequent cases of non-residence. The Bill, which was entitled *An Act to amend the laws relating to spiritual persons' holding of farms and for enforcing the residence of spiritual persons on their benefices*, legalized the position of those clergy already non-resident, and provided for the issuing by the bishops of non-residence licences. The Bill enacted that if an incumbent was absent from his parish between three and six months in the year without a licence he forfeited one-third of the annual value of the benefice. Absence of six to eight months meant forfeiture of half the income, over eight months, two-thirds, and for a whole year three-quarters of the annual value. Bishops were empowered to grant licences to incumbents to reside out of the parsonage house or at a distance from it as the bishop might approve. Grounds for non-residence were the illness or infirmity of the incumbent, or of his wife or children, no parsonage house or one that was unfit, provided the incumbent was not responsible for its unfitness. He was also allowed to be absent from the parsonage house if he occupied his own or a relative's mansion in the parish, provided he maintained the parsonage house in good repair. The bishop could also grant an incumbent a non-residence licence if he arranged for the parish where he did not reside to be served by another parson.

Sir William Scott's bill was amended by Acts in 1814 and 1817 and all these Acts were repealed by an Act passed in 1838. Among other provisions it was laid down that no parson could hold two

1. Bristol R.O., EP/A 8/4/1.

2. Ibid. EP/A/2/2. I owe these references to Miss Ralph.

livings unless they were within ten miles of each other. No one could hold a benefice with a population of over 3,000 with one of over 5,000, nor two livings if their total value exceeded £1,000. Every incumbent must reside for nine months of the year. Ill health was still accepted as a reason for non-residence and if an incumbent could prove incapacity of mind or body or both, his petition to be absent would be granted. An archdeacon was allowed to hold two benefices, or cathedral preferment and one benefice.

Undoubtedly the largest number of petitions for non-residence came from incumbents who had no parsonage houses. We are so accustomed to the rectory or vicarage in every parish that it is hard to realise how different the picture was well into Victorian times. As late as 1831 out of the 286 parishes in Gloucester diocese only 116 incumbents were resident. Of these nearly half were without parsonage houses, and in 1832 bishop Monk of Gloucester at his primary charge to his clergy, had this to say: 'I observe that there are no less than 75 parishes which have no glebe house whatever; and that there are 45 others in which the house belonging to the living is not inhabited either by the incumbent or by the curate. In some of the latter cases . . . the evil might be removed by the enlargement and improvement of the mansion; but in the greater part the building termed the glebe house is a mere cottage, affording accommodation to the family of a day-labourer. After all deductions made there remain above a hundred benefices in the diocese entirely destitute of a residence, or anything that can be converted into a residence for the pastor. . . . He is in consequence compelled to live at a distance, and sometimes a considerable distance, from those among whom his duties require his constant presence. . . . In all cases where the value of the living will bear the expense of building a residence, it is obviously my duty to require that recourse should be had to proper means with as little delay as possible. But the income of far the greater part of the livings of which we are speaking does not amount to the annual sum of £150, so unequal are they to bear the dwelling house for the incumbent!'³ In Bristol diocese in 1831 out of 252 incumbents only 113 were resident, 59 living at other benefices, 17 infirm and 23 having no parsonage houses.

Parishes without dwelling houses in the two dioceses included Lassington, Upton St Leonards, Oxenhall, Norton and Maisemore. In 1819 the incumbents were all living in Gloucester. St James, Bristol, had no parsonage house and the incumbent lived in St Michael's parish in 1811. As late as 1840 the incumbent of Mangotsfield lived in Clifton. In the same year the rector of Christ Church, Bristol, was obliged to live in a house of his own in Bedminster. The incumbent of Baunton in 1819 was living in Cirencester, the incumbent of Charlton Kings in Cheltenham, there being no glebe house, nor any convenient lodging house. Most astonishing of all is the fact that the Revd John Seagram, incumbent of Stroud from 1804 until 1833, had no glebe house, and his income was only £84 4s. 6d. One can hardly blame him for augmenting his stipend by holding the curacy of Steeple Langford. His curate, the Revd John Williams, who served Stroud with selfless devotion from 1805 until 1833, lived just inside the parish of Painswick, where he had a classical boarding school—a useful source of additional income to the £20 a year his vicar paid him. He was also the non-resident incumbent of a church in Liverpool. It is satisfactory to add that on Mr Seagram's resigning the living of Stroud in 1833, though his successor terminated Mr Williams's curacy, all was well in the end, for he was appointed rector of Woodchester, a living he held until 1857.

As to unfit parsonage houses, that at Woolstone was said in 1819 to be a mere cottage, extremely damp and unhealthy, though the Revd Edward Southouse, who lived at Prestbury, had spent considerable sums on the building. In 1818 North Nibley parsonage house was said to be a mere cottage, containing two rooms. The incumbent, the Revd Thomas Jones, lived at Wickwar in a house of his own. The Revd William James, who held the livings of Harescombe and Pitchcombe from 1804 until 1824, reported that the parsonage house was only a cottage, and as there was no suitable house in either parish he lived in Painswick. Notgrove rectory was necessarily occupied as a farm house, and the rector, the Revd Richard Wetherell, who was also rector of Westbury-on-Severn, lived in Bromsberrow rectory, Westbury vicarage being too small for his family of eleven children. His

3. *Gloucestershire Notes & Queries*, iv, 494–5. The bishop added that in view of the poverty of so many incumbents he had resolved to devote a tenth of his income to the augmentation of small livings.

curate, who served Notgrove, lived at Turkdean, while the Revd Henry Prowse Jones, who was curate at Westbury in 1819, lived in the vicarage there receiving sixty guineas a year, and ten guineas towards a sermon at the afternoon service. Mr Jones was also chaplain to the bridewell or prison at Littledean. In addition he had been for many years the non-resident vicar of Llanvihangel Crucorney (Gwent) in Llandaff diocese.

I have found only two instances of attempts to compel residence. In 1784 when the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester presented the Revd Thomas Evans, usher of the King's College School, Gloucester, to the vicarage of Chipping Norton, he gave an undertaking that he would reside there.⁴ Incidentally, his brother, the Revd Arthur Benoni Evans, who succeeded him as usher and was later for many years headmaster, was rector of Coln Rogers and vicar of Barnwood at the same time, but continued to live in Gloucester. The other instance of an incumbent being told to reside was that of the Revd Thomas Talbot, who became vicar of Hawling in 1808, and was ordered in 1817 to proceed to and reside in his parsonage house within fourteen days. At the same time Mrs Timbrell, who was living in the vicarage, was ordered to quit and pay £2 for expenses instantly.⁵

I turn now to a number of incumbents, who lived in their parishes, but not in their parsonage houses—that is to say their non-residence was purely technical, though they still needed licences. Into this category comes the Revd John Sayer, vicar of Arlingham, 1814–36, who lived in the parish in a house called Slowwe House, not half a mile from the church. The vicarage house was being repaired, but Mr Sayer claimed that even when the repairs were completed it would still be seriously inconvenient to live there. The Revd James Phelps, rector of Alderley, 1802–29, lived in Alderley House, a mansion not more than a hundred yards from the church, belonging to a near relative, while the Revd Edward Mansfield,⁶ vicar of Bisley, 1807–26, obtained a licence on 1 January 1818 to reside in a mansion house of his own, Jaynes Court, so near the church that his garden had communication with the churchyard. The Revd Richard Huntley, who was rector and patron of Boxwell, 1817–31, lived not in the parsonage house, which was not big enough for his large family, but in Boxwell Court, his own manor house, which adjoins the church and was nearer than the parsonage house, while the Revd Anthony Freston, rector of Edgeworth, 1801–19, was in the same position, the parsonage house being too small for his family, and he lived in the manor house.

My next parson in this category, the Revd John Neale, was also a pluralist. He was rector of St Mary le Port, Bristol from 1792 until 1841, when he died at the age of 86, and was certainly not resident in Bristol, because from 1794 until his death he was also vicar of Staverton and Boddington, whence he wrote in 1819 to the bishop of Gloucester from Boddington Manor: 'I have lately fitted up at a considerable expence a house belonging to the living in this parish, and have partly resided in it. I thought it possible this might constitute residence. But perhaps it will be the safest way to avail myself of your lordship's kindness & renew the licence for non-residence. If it were not too much intrusion on your lordship's time, I would just remark in recalling your attention to the subject of my being enabled to grant a lease as vicar that if I have no such power beyond the term of the enclosure acts, I must remain an involuntary farmer for life. Possibly your lordship may on further consideration think that a vicar may grant a lease under certain restrictions.' At any rate the vicarage house was too small, and the manor house was larger and more convenient for him and his nine children, though bearing in mind that Mr Neale was then 64 years of age, one wonders how many of his children were living with him.

The Venerable Richard Francis Onslow, son of the dean of Worcester, became vicar of Newent in 1804, archdeacon of Worcester in 1815, prebendary of Salisbury in 1823, and rector of Stoke Edith, Hereford, in 1834. Newent alone brought him in £1,100 a year; his curate the Revd W. Beale only got £75. True, Mr Onslow did live in Newent, though not in the vicarage, which was tenanted by

4. I owe this reference to Mr Andrew Foster.

5. Gloucestershire R.O., GDR D13/6.

6. A tablet to his memory in Bisley church records that he died on 20 July 1826. He was killed when he was thrown from his gig.

the Revd William Bushell. He himself in 1818 got leave to live in the Court House, which belonged to his relative, the Hon. Andrew Foley. It was more commodious for his family and adjoined the churchyard. Fifteen years later he was still living in the Court House, which now belonged to Miss Foley. He stated that the boundary wall of the Court House garden was the boundary wall of the churchyard. The vicarage was still occupied by Mr Bushell, who had been rector of Tibberton for 30 years, and had permission to live in Newent because the parsonage house at Tibberton was a mere cottage, totally unfit for the residence of a clergyman. Mr Onslow's curate the Revd James Archibald was doing rather better than his predecessor with a stipend of £105 a year.

There is one non-resident parson whom we know particularly well. The Revd Charles Coxwell, member of an old county family, has left a delightful account of himself which Esther Moir has printed in her invaluable *Local Government in Gloucestershire, 1775-1800*. His duties as a very active county magistrate prompted him to write to his bishop in 1803 asking for permission to live at Ablington House in Bibury parish, which he inherited in 1754, rather than in his rectory house at Barnsley. By 1803 he had 12 children and explained to the bishop: 'My office as a Justice of the Peace necessarily brings many Persons on that Business to me. This in a small House would be attended with considerable inconvenience, and obstruct those services I would wish to render to the public while my Health and strength will permit.'

Another incumbent who lived in a mansion of his own was the Revd Reginald Wynniatt, rector of Stanton and Snowhill, who succeeded his father in 1819, having been his curate for a long time. The father lived in his mansion at Stanton, the son at Guiting Grange. The parsonage house was too small and unfit for the residence of Mr Wynniatt and his family and we learn that in 1833 it was pulled down and re-built. The neighbouring living of Buckland was held from 1793 until his death at the age of 93 in 1848 by the Revd Thomas Scotman. Writing in 1804 from Risby in Suffolk, where he was stipendiary curate, he says: 'The late Bishop was so good as to excuse my residence. I have not made this application . . . to indulge a disposition addicted to the Society of a Town or with any desire to escape from the duties of my profession, for out of the six and twenty years which I have been in orders, the greater part has been pass'd in a village and in every period of them, when my health would permit, I have been constantly employ'd in the service that belongs to such a station'. Up to seven years before, he adds, he was in the habit of serving two churches, 'but from that time, finding my health in some degree diminish'd I have confined myself to the single duty of this place.' He explains that the parsonage house at Buckland, an exceptional medieval house, is totally unfit for his residence, and there is no house in the parish where he could live. The living, after paying for the repairs of the parsonage house, the chancel, a farm house and a double tenement was a small one.

He built the farmhouse about a mile from the parsonage, and paid for it by yearly instalments, so that for nine of the ten years he had been rector his income had been very small. Fifteen years later he was complaining that the rectory was unfit and destitute of proper offices, though in good and sufficient repair. The living was worth £276 a year, and he paid his curate, the Revd William Riland Bedford £50 a year. Mr Bedford lived in Broadway, the cure of which he was serving.

The Revd John Keble, who died at the age of 90 in 1835, was father of the famous John Keble. He was vicar of Coln St Aldwyn and incumbent of Poulton, but in 1804, though Coln St Aldwyn vicarage house was in good repair, it was very small and unfit for his residence, he having a numerous family of children at home, so he lived in a mansion belonging to him at Fairford, where he made his home for many years. It is a little difficult for us to understand why an arrangement could not have been made whereby Mr Keble became Vicar of Fairford instead of the Revd John Michell, but Mr Michell was a prebendary of Gloucester and Fairford is a Dean and Chapter living. Mr Michell presumably lived in Gloucester and Fairford vicarage was occupied by a curate at £60 a year, with the use of the glebe worth £20 a year.

Ill-health, infirmity and old age provide a fruitful crop of non-residence licences. In the days when no parson retired total incapacity did not prevent a man holding his living till death. This applied even in the case of hopeless lunacy, for resignation meant the execution of a legal

document, and a man of unsound mind was incapable of signing, though not of retaining his living. Thus the Revd John Craik appointed rector of Grasmere in 1743 became insane soon afterwards, but he remained rector until his death 60 years later. I have not so far found a parallel case in the dioceses of Gloucester and Bristol.

The Revd John Burton Watkin, who was rector of Marshfield, 1781–1822, was granted a non-residence licence in 1819, when he was 72 and living at Lockeridge near Marlborough, on the grounds of age and infirmity and being unequal to the discharge of his clerical duties. The Revd John Pettat who held the livings of Stonehouse and Quenington, the latter a Hicks-Beach living, he having married the eldest daughter of Sir Howe Hicks, bart., wrote from Stonehouse in 1804 asking for leave to be absent from Quenington, because of his very gouty habit, the very unhealthy situation of the parsonage house and premises being generally inundated in the winter and his having resided on the living of Stonehouse for upwards of 40 years. He adds 'I employed a physician some time ago to take a view of its [i.e. Quenington] situation and who, if required, will readily bear testimony to what I have here asserted.'

It was not only an incumbent's own illness that enabled him to obtain permission to be absent from his benefice: the illness of wife or children was also a ground for non-residence. Thus the Revd Charles Dewell, rector of Stratton, was allowed in 1823 to live at Malmesbury, because of his daughter's illness, and the Revd Robert Bateman Paul, vicar of St Augustine-the-Less, Bristol, was granted a non-residence licence in 1851 because of the dangerous illness of two of his children. The Revd John Packer, rector of St Mary le Port, was allowed to be absent from his living for a year in 1849, because of his wife's illness, and for the same reason the Revd John Thomas Ludlow, rector of Compton Greenfield, was granted a licence in 1871. His brother, the Revd Arthur Rainey Ludlow—they were sons of Ebenezer Ludlow, town clerk of Bristol—was rector of Littleton upon Severn from 1855 until 1869, and the dangerous illness of his child was the reason for his obtaining leave to be absent from his parish from November 1847 until the following May. A more unusual petition was presented in 1833 by the Revd Hugh Hanmer Morgan, who in addition to being vicar of Lydney, was also chancellor of the diocese of Hereford, a canon of the cathedral and rector of Moccas, Hereford. He prayed leave to be absent from Lydney for six months, on account of a journey he was obliged to undertake into Italy, in consequence of the indisposition of his sister, who was living in that country. As his journey would take a longer period than allowed by Act of Parliament to incumbents to be absent from their benefices, he asked to be allowed to be away for six months, his duty being done by his curate the Revd Henry Hawkins at £150 a year, and the use of the glebe house, not an over generous allowance, when it is considered that Lydney was worth nearly £800 a year.

The small living of Ashley in Wiltshire—its value was £192—was originally in Salisbury diocese, but later transferred to Bristol. One wonders why anyone ever accepted the living. The Revd Randle Henry Feilden, who was rector from 1830 until 1845, obtained a non-residence licence in 1837 which stated it was granted 'because of the ill health of your wife, which renders it needful for you to take her from the cold and bleak situation of Ashley to a milder climate.' In 1840, the illness of Mrs Feilden and their daughter led to his getting leave of absence again. In 1845 he persuaded the Revd Edward Houlditch, rector of Staplegrove near Taunton, to exchange livings with him. One wonders if Mr Houlditch went to Ashley before accepting. At any rate, he was soon a casualty and hardly lived in the parish during his incumbency, partly because of his ill health, and partly because of his wife's illness, on account of which he was allowed to live at Tetbury. Soon after he accepted the living of Matson, and the Revd Robert Anwyl Richardson went, rather rashly, one cannot help thinking, to Ashley, where, predictably, his health was so impaired that he too was granted leave of absence.

Wapley was held from 1804 until 1814 by the Revd Thomas Hardcastle, though it is difficult to see why this Oxford don—he had been fellow of Merton, and Rawlinsonian professor of Anglo-Saxon from 1800 until 1803—should have accepted this living, for he immediately applied for a licence not to reside on the ground that he laboured under illness and infirmity of body. Moreover,

he claimed, the vicarage house was totally unfit for the residence of any ecclesiastical person. He promised that he would try to procure a house as near the church as possible. A later vicar, the Revd Arthur Shakespear, complained in 1818 that because the parsonage house was unfit, and its situation was damp, he was obliged to live at Pucklechurch. A year later he had succumbed to inflammatory rheumatism, and apart from the parsonage house being unfit for a clergyman, because of the situation of Wapley he could not live there or in the immediate vicinity. He was only 35 years old then: he lived to be 80.

The Revd Martin Barry, who was incumbent of St Nicholas, Gloucester, and vicar of Down Hatherley from 1775 until 1827, when he died aged 84, presented a petition in 1804, stating that owing to gout he had not been able for many years to do the duty of either parish. There was no parsonage house in St Nicholas, and Down Hatherley vicarage was too small for his family and he had been obliged to buy and rebuild a house in Palace Yard, Gloucester, whence he regularly visited and tended both parishes. His hope was not to be separated from his family through want of room for them all at Down Hatherley. In 1818 he presented another petition, asking to be allowed to live in his own house in the college precincts for three years on account of his age and bodily infirmity. He had two curates, one living at Maisemore, and the other living in Gloucester, while he himself did duty at Down Hatherley with an occasional assistant curate. He added that he wished to superintend the education of the Hatherley children, whom he taught himself and examined once a week.

Clearly pluralism and non-residence went together. Esther Moir writes: 'The great majority of the clergy held two or more parishes. Few were as hard headed as Joseph Atwell Small who discussed the whole business rather as though it were a matter of bargain and sale'. Small, who was born at Cirencester, went up to Exeter College, Oxford, in 1764 at the age of 16. He became fellow of his college in 1770, retaining his fellowship until 1778. In 1777 he became rector of a moiety of Burnsall in Yorkshire, and held it for 20 years. Clearly he did not reside. In 1781 he became incumbent of St James, Bristol, in 1792 Chaplain-in-ordinary to the king and in 1794 prebendary of Gloucester. He was also an active county magistrate. In 1796 he became incumbent of St Paul, Bristol, and presented a memorial to the corporation of Bristol, explaining that he had been offered two vicarages in Monmouthshire, but if he accepted them he would not only have to vacate his Yorkshire living, but his right to hold his two Bristol livings might be in jeopardy. He asked that the corporation would not deprive him of the livings of St James and St Paul, a request which was granted. He could not, however, hold five livings, and in 1797 he resigned Burnsall. In 1799 he presented a second petition, stating that he wished to exchange St James's, Bristol for Congresbury and Wick St Lawrence. If this wish were granted, he undertook to exchange his two Monmouthshire livings for the rectory of Whitestaunton in Somerset, retaining the living of St Paul, Bristol. To all of this the corporation agreed. Moreover when Dr Small died insolvent in 1814 his dilapidations at Congresbury were defrayed out of the civic purse.⁷ If you seek his memorial, look at St Paul's church, of which he is said to have been the architect.

The Revd Edward Andrew Daubeny, rector of Hampnett and Stowell from 1819 until 1826, coolly wrote from Smallburgh in Norfolk 'both on account of the inconvenience it would give me on moving into Gloucestershire at present, and from the parsonage house not being habitable,' he proposed to remain where he was. He later added to Hampnett and Stowell the cures of Ampney Crucis and Ampney St Peter. From Ampney he wrote in 1833 that Hampnett rectory was unfit for his residence and occupied by his £80 a year curate the Revd John Tordiffe, who was also chaplain of the gaol near Northleach. The Revd Edward Edwards, a contemporary, who was vicar of Pebworth, in 1819 sent a petition from much further away—from Sheerness, where he was chaplain of H.M.S. Bellerophon. Since he was also vicar of Leysdown in Kent and curate of Eastchurch in the same county one understands his reluctance to return to Gloucestershire.

At least the Revd Edward Draper, holder of the livings of Alderley and Leckhampton, lived in the county. In 1818, when he was 83, and suffering from age and bodily infirmity, he said that

7. J. Latimer, *Annals of Bristol in the 18th century*. 518-19.

he had served Alderley, where he lived, for 59 years. He had been rector of Leckhampton for 51 years, the duty being done by the Revd Thomas Nash, another pluralist absentee incumbent. He had been rector of Witcombe since 1769, and was also rector of Salford in Oxfordshire, but he lived in Cheltenham, and served Witcombe and Leckhampton from there, the rectory at Witcombe being too small for him and his family.

The Revd William Prosser, incumbent of Walton Cardiff, in 1818 lived at Tewkesbury, where he was headmaster of the Grammar School. Presumably Tewkesbury was more to his taste than it was to the vicar, the Revd Robert Knight, who is found in 1813 stating that 'there was no vicarage house, and the air and climate of Tewkesbury, from its low and damp situation and its frequent liability to Floods, is so damp as to be very pernicious to the Health of your Petitioner, who is a married Man with a large Family, and unfortunately much afflicted with the Gout. That on the other hand, your Petitioner has every reason to believe . . . that the less humid air of Glamorgan-shire, where he wishes to reside, will be far less injurious to his health under his constitutional Malady and lastly that your Petitioner always maintains a resident Curate in his Vicarage of Tewkesbury.'⁸ The petition was addressed from Newton Nottage in Glamorgan, of which parish his son, the Revd Robert Knight junior, was rector from 1819 until 1854. For part of the time he was also vicar of Mickleton with Ebrington, where he was non-resident because of ill health.

Let me end by coming to more recent times and to a parson of whom I have a very clear recollection, though he died nearly fifty years ago. In the year of my birth the Revd Samuel Ernest Swann went to Bristol as missionary of the conventual district of St Ambrose in East Bristol. The mission was started and maintained by the vestry of St John the Baptist church, under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners which among other things contained a proviso authorizing the removal of St John's almshouses to St Ambrose district. By 1911 this had been accomplished and the church of St Ambrose was in the course of building. In 1915, a new parish was created, and Mr Swann became its first vicar. Before then, in 1907, he married the daughter of the Revd Philip Ashby Phelps, rector of St John. Mr Phelps died that year and Mr Swann succeeded him as rector. St John's rectory was at No 29 Berkeley Square, and Mr Phelps' widow was renting it in 1911, he living in the house in Stretford Road in East Bristol, built by St John's vestry. The licence of non-residence reveals that in 1911 there were fewer than 80 inhabitants in St John's parish, while St Ambrose had more than 6,000. There Mr Swann was assisted by two curates. He remained vicar until 1922, when he became vicar of St James, holding that living with St John's until 1927, when he became rector of Cold Ashton.

Though I have noted later non-residence licences, notably those enabling incumbents to leave their parishes and become chaplains in World War I, they fall outside the scope of my paper and I must leave them to others to chronicle.

Acknowledgement. The Hockaday abstracts in Gloucester City Library have been a mine of information on Gloucestershire parsons and I am indebted to Mr G. R. Hiatt, divisional librarian, who sent me many extracts. Mr Geoffrey Langley, county reference librarian, Central Library, Bristol, kindly answered many questions, and I am under a deep debt of obligation to Mr Brian Smith, F.S.A., Gloucestershire county archivist, and Miss Mary Williams, Bristol city archivist, and their respective staffs. Others, whose help I gratefully acknowledge, are Miss Elizabeth Ralph, F.S.A., Mr Brian Frith F.S.G., Dr H. Temple Phillips and Miss Margaret McCollum.

8. Glos. R.O., GDR D13/3.