

Twenty-five years ago, I moved into St Mary's Walk, Fowlmere and within a few days, I decided to take a look inside St Mary's Church, which I had driven past so many times. I wondered what the area to the south of the church might have been like before it was developed for housing. I now know that my walk to St Mary's would have been a path over the meadow, which adjoined the medieval Round Moat, and past the 17th century Dovecote Cottage and its stables.

In the year 1868, the Revd Arthur Savile acquired the land to extend the churchyard and had the brick wall built with a little iron gate leading to the church. So, each time I walked to church, I would cross Savile Way and through that little gate.

So - who was the Revd Arthur Savile?

When I entered the church that July morning I saw, behind the font, the stained glass window to his memory and that of his wife, Lucy Georgina; their three sons and their devoted nurse, Sarah Jones. But this was not the only stained glass in the church. The chancel, on that bright morning, reflected the deep colours from the stunning Te Deum East Window – *'To the memory of William and Susanna Metcalfe – Dedicated by their children 1860'*. Since that day, I have been anxious to discover as much as possible about the people who gave these windows to St Mary's - and the lives of those in whose memory they were given.

So - who were William and Susanna Metcalfe?

The Revd William Metcalfe arrived in Fowlmere in 1814 (aged about 30) and moved into the old rectory with his new bride, Susanna. Unlike his predecessors, he was to live in the rectory and 'serve the cure himself'. He was the son of the Revd William Metcalfe - Precentor, Registrar and Minor Canon at Ely Cathedral, who also served as Magistrate and Justice of the Peace for the Isle of Ely.

As his father before him, William (Junior) studied Law at Sidney College Cambridge and then, after his ordination in 1810, became curate at Littleport and Downham. Both he and Susanna, whose maiden name was Golborne, were born in 1785 and brought up in Ely. They were married in September 1814.

A year after their arrival in Fowlmere their first daughter, Anna Maria, was born and duly baptised on 1 October 1815 and there would follow a further seven Metcalfe baby baptisms over the next twelve years.

But, the name *Revd William Metcalfe* and the village of Littleport was to go down in history in May 1816, when Littleport, four miles north-east of Ely, was the scene of serious rioting.

After the Napoleonic Wars, the government greatly increased taxation on imports, including wheat and grain and, as a consequence, the cost of grain grown in East Anglia rose in proportion until the price of a loaf of bread was around a quarter of a labourer's weekly wage. Converting this into today's values, a labourer's weekly wage was between £24 and £26 and the price of a loaf of whole-wheat bread was £6.70. Poor Laws were established to help poorer communities but this actually kept earnings low, as farmers knew that the labourers' pay would be topped up by the system. This created widespread social unrest – families were large and children were hungry.

There had already been rioting that year in West Suffolk, Norfolk, Bury St Edmunds and in Downham Market but on 22 May, a group of 56 Littleport residents met at the Globe Inn to see if anything could be done about high unemployment and rising prices. The meeting began peaceably but it got out of hand when, no doubt fuelled by some local brew, some of the men decided to confront a certain wealthy farmer. When a post horn was blown outside the Inn, hundreds of villagers joined the first group - by which time the *Littleport Riots* had commenced. The rioters began to break into the homes of the rich, demanding money, stealing goods and causing widespread damage.

The Vicar of Littleport, Revd John Vachell, also a magistrate and with whom our Revd Metcalfe would have been acquainted as he was curate there, tried to read the Riot Act (which he apparently kept in his hat) but eventually he managed to escape through his back door with his wife and daughter in their nightclothes, arriving at Ely around midnight. They informed the magistrates there that a mob, armed with guns and pitchforks, were on their way.

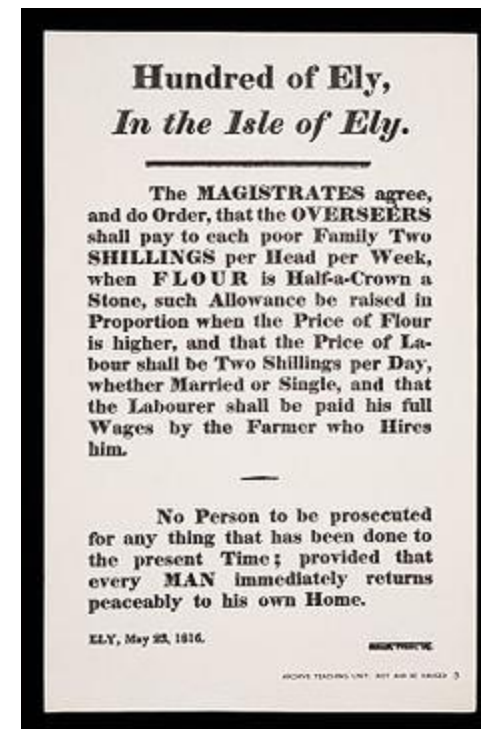
The rioters were met early the next morning by a brave and calm magistrate, Revd William Metcalfe (the father of our rector). He asked the crowd what they wanted and they replied ...

“The price of a stone of flour per day – our children are starving – give us a living wage”!

... and the Reverend agreed.

Recognising the dire need of the unemployed and the low wages of labourers, three Ely magistrates, the Reverends William Metcalfe, Poploe Ward and Henry Law, drew up a Bill about benefits and wages, stating that the Overseers (of the Poor Laws) shall pay to each poor family *“Two shillings per head per week when flour is half-a-crown a stone, each allowance be raised in proportion when the price of flour is higher, and that the price of labour shall be two shillings per day, whether married or single, and that the labourer shall be paid his full wages by the farmer who hires him”*.

They asked the rioters to return peaceably, but unfortunately, troops had to be called in; one rioter was shot and many were arrested.



We hear nothing further of the Revd Metcalfe in our history books, as Special Commission appointed judges were brought in and, at the Assizes, five men were sentenced to death by hanging. Their bodies were buried in a single grave in the churchyard at St Mary's Church Ely, on 28th Day of June 1816 *“having been convicted at the special Assizes holden there of diverse robberies during the Riots at Ely and Littleport in the Month of May in that year. May their awful Fate be a warning to others”*. Sentences on a further 19 rioters varied from 12 months in prison, to transportation to New South Wales for life – a very serious day in the history of East Anglia.

William Metcalfe (Junior) had been, by that time, Rector of Fowlmere some two years and he must have felt that this incident was a little close to home! In small parish communities, the vicar and churchwardens were expected to take responsibility for keeping the peace. Revd Metcalfe was also the Overseer of the Poor Law for Foulmire Parish and it was he who developed a method of accounting, which was soon adopted by many other Cambridgeshire parishes. These duties were extended more widely when Revd Metcalfe was appointed Justice of the Peace for the county of Cambridgeshire.

It was a time of continued unrest. The problem of unemployment and wage rates of agricultural labourers didn't go away. In Melbourn village, the unemployment rate was 33% by 1834 and there was a great deal of discontent and rioting amongst labourers, with a number of farmhouses being set on fire throughout Cambridgeshire, including Melbourn, Ashwell and Bassingbourn; and in Shelford, a certain John Stallan admitted ten acts of arson in the village and he was hanged in Cambridge gaol.

In Foulmire on 20 December 1830, farm labourers went on strike for two days for higher wages. The Justice of the Peace was H Hawkins Esq of Royston. Twenty or so special constables from Royston were sworn in by the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Hardwicke, and they rode on horseback into Foulmire. The striking labourers were assembled in the open space next to the Swan armed with sticks, fire irons and shovels. The Riot Act was read and, fortunately, the incident only resulted in some minor cuts and bruises. Although the ringleaders were escorted to Cambridge gaol, there were no executions on this occasion!

One incident, which did involve the rector in his JP role, is mentioned in the history of the Sherwood Family of Fowlmere. On Christmas Eve 1833, Revd Metcalf officiated at the wedding of Charles Sherwood and Mary Perry. The marriage is recorded in St Mary's Church registers. The 'incident' took place a little over two weeks after the wedding when Charles was charged with assaulting a boy of 13, by the name of Shadrach Hopwood. Charles was 21. What Hopwood did to provoke the assault will probably never be known. The case came to court, held in the

Rose Public House Melbourn, a month later, where Charles Sherwood was convicted by Henry Hawkins and William Metcalfe, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county.

Charles Sherwood was ordered to: *"Forfeit and pay the sum of sixpence and also to pay the sum of nine shillings and sixpence for costs, and in default of immediate payment of the said sums, to be imprisoned in the House of Correction at Cambridge for the space of one calendar month unless the said sums shall be sooner paid"*.

Hopefully, Charles was able to pay his ten-shilling fine and learnt his lesson. Shadrach died when he was 27 years old (whether from provoking further injury or from natural causes, we do not know) and was buried in the churchyard on 28 May 1848.

In addition to his Parish Overseeing and 'peace-keeping' duties, William Metcalfe undertook private education at the Rectory House.

<i>Census 1841 Rectory House, Fowlmere</i>		
<i>Metcalf William Revd</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Rector</i>
<i>Susan Metcalfe</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Wife</i>
<i>Anna Maria Metcalfe</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Daughter</i>
<i>Elizabeth Metcalfe</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Daughter</i>
<i>Emily Jane Metcalfe</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Daughter</i>
<i>Frederick Metcalfe</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Son</i>
<i>Robert Metcalfe</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Son</i>
<i>Henrietta Metcalfe</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Daughter</i>
<i>William Jenkins</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Pupil</i>
<i>Osborne Jenkins</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Pupil</i>
<i>Thomas More</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Pupil</i>
<i>Edmund Cantly</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Pupil</i>
<i>William Cantly</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Pupil</i>
<i>Sarah Browsley</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>Ann Kitson</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>Louisa Matlock</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>Elisa Elbourn</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Servant</i>

There had been a small boarding school in the rectory from around 1810, when the curate was responsible for teaching, and Revd Metcalfe continued the school as the 1841 Census on the night of 6 June confirms. There were five boys ("Pupils") in addition to six of their eight children living at home, plus four servants.

The site of the old rectory was where today's rectory stands - opposite the church. It dated from the 16th century and originally had a medieval aisled hall, which was probably altered at some time in the 17th century. It was recorded around 1650, that 'the Rectory was in such decay that the patron was allowed one third of the benefice's income to repair it for a new incumbent'. The Hearth Tax Roll for Fowlmere of 1674, showed the house as having eight hearths. It was, however, kept in 'reasonable repair' until the mid-19th century - and when Revd Arthur Savile arrived in 1850, he thought it high time the rector of St Mary's had a more modern home.

But, however old and dilapidated the rectory may have been, it was home to the Revd and Mrs Metcalfe for all of their married life. I'm sure there were few 'home comforts' and we cannot imagine how difficult village life in the 19th century could have been. No running water; a large stable block close to the house and chickens and other animals, reared for food.

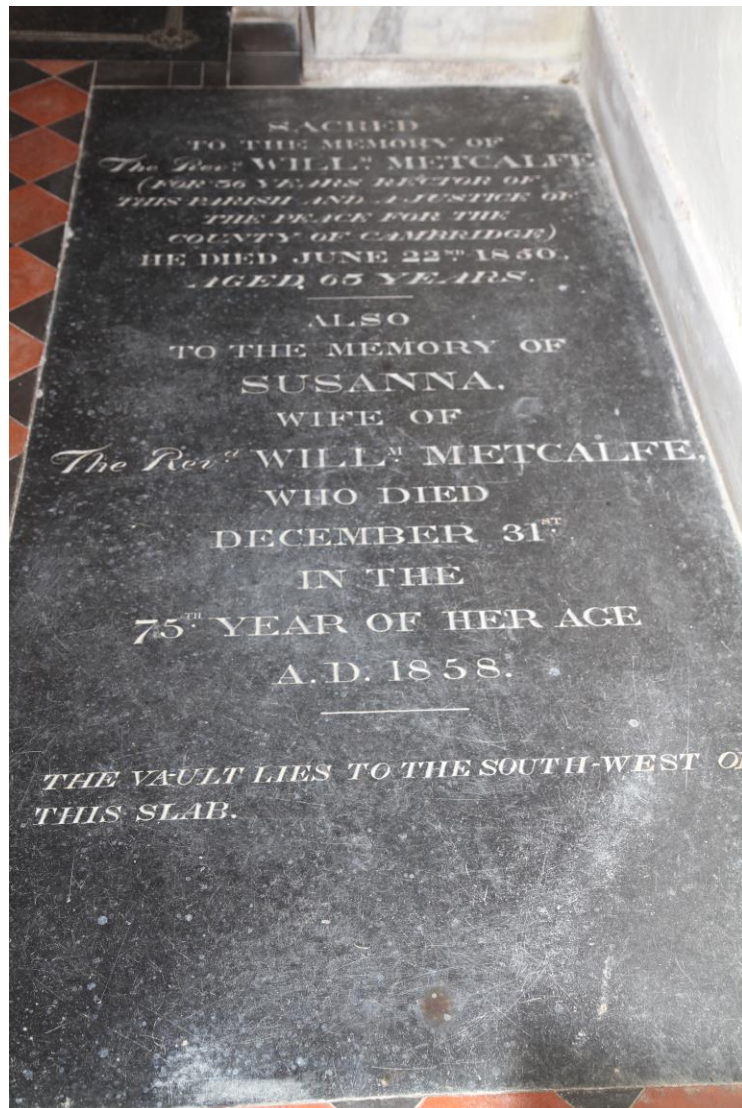
We do know that the Revd Metcalfe took a genuine interest in his home-grown produce. The Horticultural Society of London recorded the following Minute in 1818:

"The Revd William Metcalfe sent some specimens of the Alexander apple from his garden at Foulmire, near Royston... He described it as a Siberian apple, most luxuriant in growth and a free bearer. One of the specimens measured within a quarter of an inch as large as that sent to the Society in a former year by Mr Lewis Kennedy which had been imported from Russia".

William Metcalfe died on 22 June 1850, having served the Parish, the community and the County of Cambridgeshire, for thirty-six years. His body was interred in the chancel at St Mary's on 26 June. Susanna, who was living at 14 Delamere Crescent, Westbourne Terrace, London at the time of her death on 31 December 1858, was laid to rest, also in the chancel, on 4 January 1859.

***Sacred
to the memory of
Revd William Metcalfe
(for 36 years Rector of
this Parish and a Justice
of the Peace for the
County of Cambridge)
He died June 22nd 1850
Aged 65 years***

†



In 1860, St Mary's was to be transformed by the Te Deum East Window, designed by the glaziers, Clayton & Bell.

Clayton & Bell were, at that time, a relatively new partnership but they were to become one of the most prestigious workshops of English Stained Glass in the latter part of the 19th century. Two examples of their famous windows close to home, are the West Window of King's College Chapel (1878) and the 'Last Judgement' in the Chapel at St John's.

So, our wonderful East Window was dedicated to the memory of William and Susanna by their seven surviving children - some ten years after they had left their home in Fowlmere - and I have sought to piece together a little about them.

Unsurprisingly, the boys of the family; William, Edmond, Frederick and Robert, were influenced by the strength of character shown by their father and grandfather – one became a clergyman; one a surgeon given to the relief of the poor; one became a lawyer and one, a County Court Judge. The occupation or interests of the girls was, of course, not mentioned in those days. "Work" to a married lady would simply be charitable or, merely referred to her tapestry which occupied her afternoons!

All families in Victorian times experienced sudden bereavement and William and Susanna Metcalfe were no exception. Although they didn't lose a child in infancy, as did so many families, they had their share of sorrow.

The Metcalfe Children

Anna Maria 1815-1842 - Baptised 1 October 1815

Anna Maria, the eldest of the family, would have been educated at home, taking lessons and helping her younger siblings and the pupils who boarded at the rectory. According to the Census of 1841 she was still living at home, aged 25.

A slate memorial on the left side of the chancel tells her brief story: She married Revd Jonathan Blackburne, a widower, and vicar of Duxford, at St Mary's on 27 July 1841. She departed this life on 8 November 1842, aged 27, leaving an infant son, Thomas William, barely three months old. Her little son died in September the following year and his body was interred with that of Anna Maria.

These words can be seen on the brass border around the slate memorial:

*In memory of Anna Maria Blackburne
the beloved wife of Jonathan Blackburne Clerk
and eldest daughter of William Metcalfe Clerk Rector of Foulmire
who departed this life on 8th day of November AD MDCCCXLII
and of her age XXVII
leaving an infant son Thomas William
who departed this life on the 15th day of Sept AD MDCCCXLIII
aged one year and three weeks*

Sadly, in this short space of time, William and Susanna mourned the loss of their eldest daughter and their first grandson.

Elizabeth 1816 – Baptised 26 January 1817

Very little has been discovered about Elizabeth. She was living at the rectory in 1841, then aged 24. Ten years later, according to the 1851 Census, she was unmarried and a resident at Little Shelford rectory (with the family), where her brother, Frederick, at that time was the curate.

William James 1818-1892 - Baptised 3 May 1818

His Honour, William James Metcalfe QC. MA, was the eldest son of William and Susanna. He studied Law at St John's College Cambridge, became a student of the Inner Temple (aged 24) and was called to the Bar in 1845. His impressive career began with his appointment as Recorder of Ipswich in 1866; Queen's Counsellor in 1873 and Recorder of Norwich in 1874. He then moved from East Anglia to the West Country where he

became Judge of County Courts in Bristol in 1879 and resided there until his death on 8 December 1892.

William James married firstly, Georgina Austin in 1848 and they had two sons, both of whom became Barristers-at-Law. William Austin was born in 1851 and Douglas, in 1854. Sadly, his wife Georgina died in 1855 leaving William with a four-year-old and a young baby. However, he did remarry in 1859. His second wife was Agnes Mary Newall (widow of a Major Newall) and she lived until 1874.

Edmund 1819-1905 - Baptised 1 October 1819

Dr Edmund Metcalfe, became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1841 and a Fellow in 1859. He studied Medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and returned to Royston, where he was Medical Officer to the Union Workhouse. He then moved to Paddington, where he practised medicine until he died, in retirement, on 3 July 1905.

Edmund's wife was Letitia Stanger-Leathes, who was born in 1828 in Ilminster (and was, perhaps, rather 'well-to-do'). Their marriage took place at Holy Trinity, Stratford in 1859. Letitia died in 1892 aged 64.

They had three daughters and one son: Ethel Leathes, born in 1861; Constance in 1865; Annie in 1866 and Edmund Lionel in 1868.

Edmund Lionel was Rector of St Pancras for thirty years. He is remembered for his refurbishment of the church, undertaken to commemorate the Coronation year of King George V, which included the apse being faced with rather special and costly black-veined and white marbles, described at length in "*Urban Geology in St Pancras' Church*".

Bringing us swiftly back to the 21st century, a two-page parchment document was recently sold on ebay! It was a Certificate of Acknowledgement of a Deed by a Married Woman. Until 1882, when the

Married Women's Property Act accorded equal rights to women in matters pertaining to ownership and disposal of property, an Agreement between a man and his wife was often entered into, which protected the woman's rights, preventing her husband selling or disposing of the land or property without her knowledge or agreement. Because most land was owned by rich and influential people, many such deeds were signed by important officials and landowners - whose signatures are now of value to historians.

The Agreement (sold on ebay) was between Edmund Metcalfe FRCS, Medical Officer to the Union Workhouse in Royston, Hertfordshire and his wife, Letitia (nee Stanger-Leathes). It is dated 1866 and related to lands in the City of London. The official signatures for the Commissioners of Oaths were eminent professionals of the day and the other names are on behalf of the Stanger and Leathes families, who may have been purchasing the land in question.

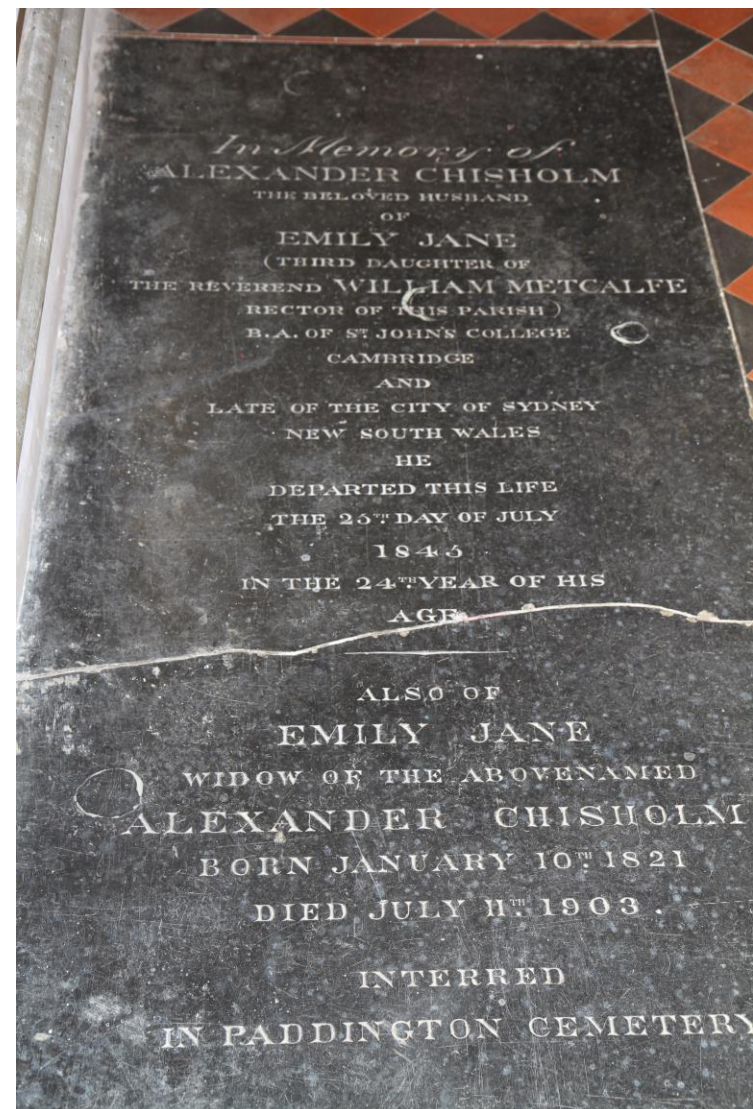
Emily Jane 5 January 1821 - 11 July 1903 – Baptised 28 June 1821

Emily Jane Metcalfe was still living at Fowlmere rectory in 1841, aged 20. Ten years later she had moved with the rest of the family to Little Shelford, by which time she was widowed, with a four-year old daughter.

She married Alexander Chisholm at St Mary's on 27 February 1844, but Alexander died in 1845 before their daughter, Emily, was born. He is buried on the right-hand side of the chancel and his slate memorial reads:

In memory of ALEXANDER CHILSHOLM the beloved husband of Emily Jane (third daughter of Reverend William Metcalfe Rector of this Parish) BA of St John's College Cambridge and late of the City of Sydney New South Wales.

He departed this life on the 25th Day of July 1845 in the 24th year of his age.



How very sad for the Metcalfe family that Emily Jane, aged 24, returned home widowed, approximately six months before the birth of her child. She may have lived close to her brother, Edmund and her nephew, Edmund Lionel in later life as she was buried, as they were, in Paddington Cemetery.

Frederick 1824-1891 – Baptised 2 September 1824

Revd Frederick Metcalfe was still living in Fowlmere in 1841, aged 17. He studied at Corpus Christi College, gained a BA Degree in 1847 and an MA in 1850. He was ordained in Manchester Cathedral in 1849. He was the Curate of St James' Church Stalmine, in North West Lancashire between 1848-1850. It is possible that his father's ill health in 1850 brought him back to Cambridgeshire, where he took the post of curate of Little Shelford and there he stayed for eight years.

The Census of 1851 shows that Frederick, then unmarried, had taken all the family who left Fowlmere when William died, to live with him.

<i>Census 1851 The Rectory*, Little Shelford</i>		
<i>Frederick Metcalfe Revd</i>	<i>1842 Foulmire</i>	<i>Principal Resident</i>
<i>Susanna Metcalfe</i>	<i>1785 Ely</i>	<i>Mother</i>
<i>Elizabeth Metcalfe</i>	<i>1817 Foulmire</i>	<i>Sister</i>
<i>Emily Jane Metcalfe</i>	<i>1821 Foulmire</i>	<i>Sister</i>
<i>Henrietta Metcalfe</i>	<i>1827 Foulmire</i>	<i>Sister</i>
<i>Emily Chisholm</i>	<i>1846 Foulmire</i>	<i>Niece</i>
<i>Robert Metcalfe</i>	<i>1825 Foulmire</i>	<i>Brother</i>
<i>Phoebe Wilson</i>	<i>1830 Duxford</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>Sarah Fuller</i>	<i>1833 Newton</i>	<i>Servant</i>

*The Rectory, known as the Parsonage was taken down in the year 1859 (after Frederick and the family left Little Shelford) and on the same site, next to the church, the new rectory was built.

On 4 October 1853 in Greenwich, Frederick married Harriet Jane Kynaston, born circa 1830 in London and there were twelve, or (maybe) thirteen children:

Frederick Kynaston – born 17 June 1854 Little Shelford
 William Percy – born 29 September 1856 at Little Shelford
 Elizabeth Mary – born 29 November 1857 at Little Shelford
 Kennard Golborne – born 22 May 1858 Little Shelford
 Mildred Harriet – born March 1860 Great Chesterford
 Dora Henrietta – born June 1861 Great Chesterford
 Edith Minna – born June 1863 Great Chesterford
 Hubert Edward – born 9 December 1867 Great Chesterford
 Charles Sanders – born September 1869 Great Chesterford
 Robert Kynaston – born September 1869 Great Chesterford
 Helen M – born June 1871 St Leonards, Sussex
 John Henry – born 17 November 1872 Upper Hardres, Kent

Revd Frederick moved on from Little Shelford (as the listed birth places of their children confirms) to become curate of All Saints, Great Chesterford between 1858 and 69; curate of St Mary Magdalene, St Leonards-on-Sea, 1869-71; and rector of Upper Hardres from 1871 until his death on 9 January 1891. Harriet also died there in February 1874.

Several of Revd Frederick's children (grandsons of Revd William and Susanna) lived rather interesting lives:

His eldest, **Frederick Kynaston Metcalfe** became an Under-Sheriff at the Central Criminal Court of the Old Bailey.

His second son, **William Percy Metcalfe**, possibly surprised the more conventional members of the family by leaving these shores on leaving school and becoming a tea planter in Ceylon; but his grandfather might have approved of the fact that he did hold the position of Justice of the Peace for the village of Punaluoya.

William Percy married in 1884 and here is an interesting link with Fowlmere:-

There are numerous entries for the Nash Family in St Mary's Baptism, Marriages and Burial Records - from as early as 1670.

At the time of the 1841 Census, Thomas Frederick Nash (born in 1817 – whom Dennis Hitch, writing the *Nash Family History*, identifies as “Thomas Nash VIII”), occupied Bury Farm and the Glebe land, owned by the Manor of Fowlmere. He employed 25 men and continued the farming business until his death – although he lived, after he married Sarah Dixon Ridley, in Great Chesterford.

Thomas and Sarah had three children, the third of whom was Mary, born in 1856.

I like to think that William Percy Metcalfe and Mary Dixon Nash, both of whom spent their early years in Great Chesterford, were childhood sweethearts, as on 4 October 1884, they were married at St Peter's Fort, Colombo, Ceylon.

Mary's father, Thomas Frederick Nash (of Bury Farm and Gt Chesterford) had died, aged 40, and was buried in the churchyard at St Mary's on 13 March 1858. In 1859, his widow, Sarah, paid £8.10.0 for new gates and gate posts to be put up in the Churchyard wall (no longer there) to commemorate the fact that she had to give up Bury Farm after her husband's death. Although she did not live in Fowlmere, Sarah continued to contribute financially to the church and was also buried here, on 3 June 1893.

In Ceylon, William Percy and Mary produced tea - and also three children (great grandchildren of William and Susanna):

Cecile Mildred Metcalfe in 1886; **Frederic William Metcalfe** in 1889 and **Margaret Hartley Metcalfe** in 1894.

Frederic William had a really impressive career, which led to the following Obituary being published in *The Times* on 5 June 1965:

Sir Frederic Metcalfe, K.C.B., Clerk of the House of Commons from 1948 to 1954, died on Thursday

Frederic William Metcalfe was born on December 4, 1886, the son of W.P. Metcalfe, of Ceylon and Stone Hall, Oxted and was educated at Wellington and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, of which he was elected an honorary fellow in 1953, a distinction which he greatly valued. He joined the 6th Special Reserve Battalion of the Rifle Brigade in the Great War of 1914-1918 and served in France and Belgium. After the war he was appointed to the Department of the Clerk of the House of Commons as an Assistant Clerk in 1919. After only 11 years he went to the Table as Second Clerk Assistant in 1930, becoming Assistant Clerk in 1937. He was appointed Clerk of the House on the retirement of the late Lord Campion in 1948, and filled that historic office until 1954. His retirement in July of that year was marked by warm tributes to his 35 years of service from all quarters of the House. Patience, courtesy and friendliness were the qualities with which he made himself such a valued adviser on all matters of procedure to successive generations of members, and his service as a private in the Parliamentary Home Guard was affectionately remembered. .

Metcalfe's retirement from the British House of Commons did not, however, end his parliamentary career, for in 1955 he was made Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria, and his long experience at Westminster was of great value in Lagos. His time there was marked by various important events, the most notable being the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to that country in 1956, when it fell to the Speaker of the House of Representatives to read the loyal address. This was followed in 1960 by the State Opening of Parliament on October 3rd by her Majesty's special representative, Princess Alexandra of Kent.

He was made C.B. in 1939 and advanced to K.C.B. in 1949.

In his retirement Metcalfe was a welcome visitor to the House of Commons, where his many friends recall his love of golf, fishing and music.

He married in 1919 Helen, daughter of C.J. Goodman, of Oxted, who survives him.



On VE-Day, 8th May 1945, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, leads the House of Commons 'to give humble and reverent thanks to Almighty God for our deliverance from the threat of German domination' at St. Margaret's, Westminster: Frederic Metcalfe is second from left wearing medals.

William Percy with Mary, his wife, (of the Nash family of Fowlmere) returned to England about 1914 where he built a substantial residence - Stone Hall in Oxted, Surrey - for his retirement. William died there on 8 May 1934 and Mary on 29 October 1942.

To continue with Revd Frederick's offspring:

Kennard Golborne Metcalfe was another Barrister and co-author of *"A Manual of Company Law for the Use of Directors and Promoters"*.

Hubert Edward Metcalfe became a priest and eventually, Rural Dean of Odiham in Hampshire.

Back to the children of William and Susanna – the 'Children' of the window:

Robert 1826 - Baptised 4 January 1827

Robert, their fourth son, was born on 9 November 1826. He was educated at St Paul's School, was admitted to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, at the age of 19 to study Law. He transferred to Jesus College in 1846, gaining a BA Degree in 1849 and an MA in 1854. He became a Solicitor in 1852 and practised in London, operating from the splendid Victorian Chambers, 3 Furnival's Inn, Holborn. Robt. Metcalfe's name appears on many Notices published in *The London Gazette* in the 1880s regarding Wills and Probate, or as Solicitor for the Administrator for Bankruptcy. He acted for his brother-in-law, Henry Hurrell of Newton and for other members of the Hurrell family (see below).

Robert's son, Robert John Golborne Metcalfe, purchased an estate in Florida. (Note that grandchildren still being given Susanna's maiden name).

Henrietta 1827-1866 – Baptised 22 September 1827

Henrietta was the youngest member of the Metcalfe family and 13 years old in 1841. She, of course, moved to the rectory at Little Shelford in 1850 after the death of their father.

She married Henry Hurrell Esq of Harston on 1 August 1855 in Trumpington Church. The Revd Fred Metcalfe MA officiated at her wedding. The Hurrell family were landowners who had farmed within the parishes of Harston and Newton for generations.

Henry and Henrietta had two sons, **Henry William**, born in 1857 and **Arthur**, in 1860. They were nine and six years old respectively when their mother died.

Henrietta's death (aged 39) was announced in *The Cambridge Independent Press* on 24 March 1866:

On March 18 after a few hours' illness, Henrietta, wife of Henry Hurrell Esq of Harston and youngest daughter of the late Revd William Metcalfe Rector of Foulmire.

Henry Hurrell later purchased Madingley Hall (for £12,000) and lived there until his death in 1895. In the Deeds for the Madingley Hall Estate there is a document dated Jan 1872 titled: *Authority granted by Henry Hurrell to pay £12,000 advanced on mortgage of the Madingley Hall Estate to Robert Metcalfe, his solicitor* (who was, of course, his brother-in-law).

Their son **Henry William Hurrell** lived at Great Shelford. He was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire; Hon. Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Militia Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment; County Alderman and Vice-Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions. He died on 20 June 1917 from blood poisoning caused by an injury to his hand whilst gardening.

Arthur Hurrell lived and farmed in Harston and died in 1940.

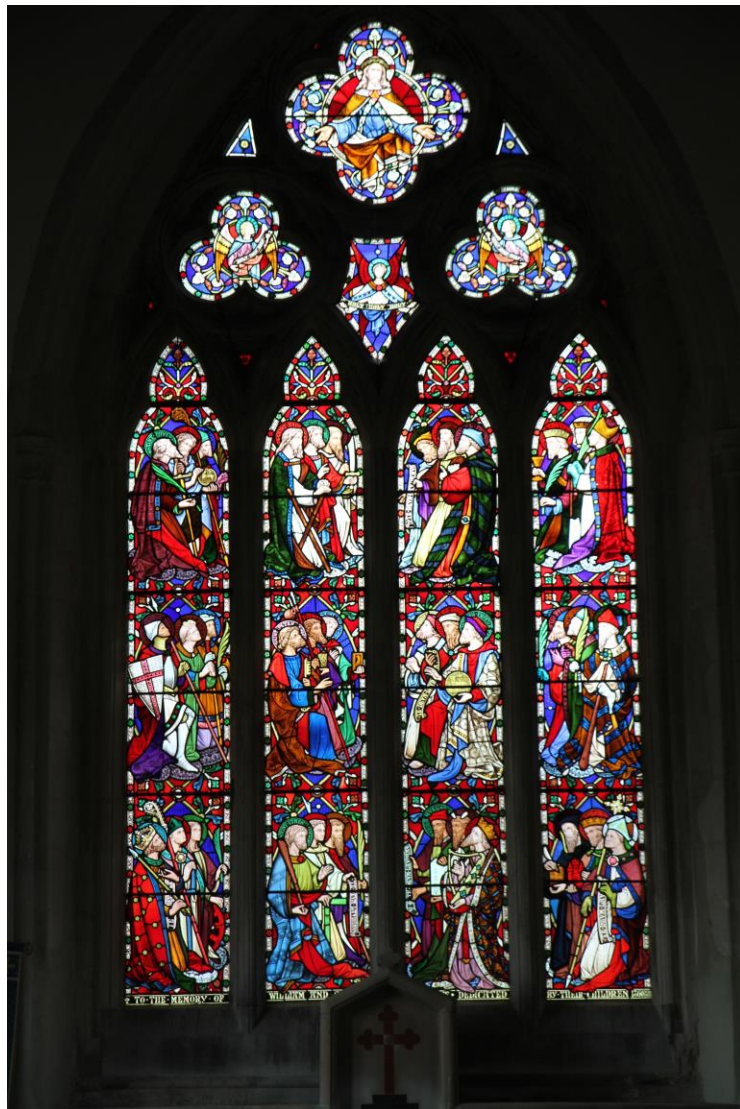
William and Susanna could have been justifiably proud of their family. Looking at their individual achievements, not one (apart from the tea planter!) was in profit-making industry. They served others through the Church, through Medicine and through Justice and I quote from the Obituary written in 1965 of Sir Frederick Metcalfe's years in Parliament: *"Patience, courtesy and friendliness were the qualities with which he made himself such a valued adviser on all matters of procedure to successive generations of members."*

I would like to take a "snap shot" of the Metcalfe's seven children as they would have been in 1860, the year the Memorial Window was dedicated:-

Children	Grand Children
Elizabeth Metcalfe – 43 unmarried	
William James Metcalfe MA - 42 Barrister Agnus Mary Metcalfe - second wife and stepmother	William Austin – 9 Douglas – 6
Edmund Metcalfe FRCS - 42 Surgeon Letitia Metcalfe – 32 wife of Edmund	
Emily Jane Chisholm (nee Metcalfe) 39 - widow	Emily Chisholm – 15
Frederick Metcalfe MA – 36 Priest Harriet Jane Metcalfe – 30 wife of Frederick	Frederick Kynaston – 6 William Percy – 4 Elizabeth Mary – 3 Kennard Golborne – 2 Mildred Harriet – baby
Robert Metcalfe MA – 34 Solicitor	
Henrietta Hurrell (nee Metcalfe) – 33 Henry Hurrell – Landowner husband of Henrietta	Henry William – 3 Arthur – baby

In 1860, the Hon. Mrs Savile, the wife of the Rector, wrote in her diary:

"The beautiful painted window was put in, in June 1860 "In memory of William and Susanna Metcalfe, dedicated by their children". This is a significant memorial and has made the east window of the Chancel worthy of a Cathedral".



*To the memory of William and Susanna Metcalfe
Dedicated by their Children 1860*

The Reverend Honourable Arthur Savile

In the year 1850, a new Rector, Revd Hon Arthur Savile, came to Fowlmere.

In the early nineteenth century the advowson of St Mary's Church, together with the rectory estate, passed to the Earl of Hardwicke (of Wimpole Hall) and descended with his estates. The 4th Earl, Charles Philip Yorke, was therefore, patron of St Mary's at the time Revd William Metcalfe died and it is likely that he would have considered a son of his cousin, Lady Anne Yorke, an ideal candidate to fill the vacant post.

Lady Anne Yorke was the third of the four daughters of Philip Yorke, 3rd Earl of Hardwicke. In 1807, Lady Anne married Viscount Pollington – John Savile – of Methley Park, near Leeds. Upon the death of his father (in 1830), Viscount Pollington succeeded to the title of Earl of Mexborough of Lifford in the County of Donegal. The Earldom had been bestowed upon his grandfather by King George III. Although this was an Irish Peerage, both titles refer to places in England – Mexborough and Pollington in Yorkshire. The King needed all the support the Tory party could give and, as an Irish Peer, the 1st Earl of Mexborough would continue to sit in the House of Commons and, therefore, be able to support the King against the Whig party.

As 3rd Earl, Arthur's father inherited the Methley Estate plus (according to the *History of Parliament*), a sizeable sum of money and an unspecified amount in government stock. I like to think that the Earl was a typical and likeable Yorkshireman but apparently, he was not a favourite with the straight-laced Robert Peel. Writing to his wife during a visit to Lord Hertford's, Peel noted that Pollington had been '*invited here to crow like a cock for the amusement of the party after dinner*'! So when the Earl wrote to Robert Peel in 1835, requesting that he be given an English peerage (which he claimed King George IV had wished to see conferred on his father), the application was refused. So the Earl of Mexborough was never eligible for a seat in the House of Lords, but he did represent Pontefract as MP in the House of Commons for most of his political life.

The Hon Arthur Savile was brought up in the ancestral home of the Earls of Mexborough. The Methley Estate was situated in the Leeds, Pontefract and Wakefield triangle and the saying, "An Englishman's home is his castle" was very true for Arthur and his siblings as Methley Hall was no less. Part of the Hall dated from the early 15th century but it had been extensively altered and extended over four hundred years by the Savile family. The Grand Hall had an enormous window, divided by numerous mullions and transoms. There were high towers either side of the grand entrance; roof parapets and battlements and, completing the picture, herds of deer freely roamed around the acres of parkland in which it stood. An inventory of 1657 refers to a hall, great and little dining rooms, private chambers, a chapel, service rooms and servants quarters.



Sadly, this was to become one of the "*Lost Country Houses of England*" as irreparable damage began to be detected in its structure due to mining subsidence, and the family had no choice but to purchase a new Estate in 1897. This was Arden Hall in Hawnby on the North Yorkshire Moors, and

is the home of the 8th Earl of Mexborough today. As much as possible in the way of fireplaces and furnishings were taken from Methley Hall to Arden Hall and to fund this new building, many of the remaining Savile properties in Methley were sold at auction at that time.

Methley Hall was eventually demolished as recently as 1958 but it is, apparently, still possible to walk along the top of the foundation walls where the underground level floors have been filled in, tracing the lines and size of this vast building – but you do need to obtain permission to do so!



I have taken a brief look into the lives and achievements of the seven children born between 1810 and 1819 to the Earl and Countess of Mexborough. It has certainly made me realise how blessed we were at St Mary's, that the Revd Hon Arthur and the Hon Mrs Savile, both from a truly aristocratic Victorian background, were willing to give so much and dedicate twenty years of their lives to the service of God in this village.



*Opposite: Lady Anne and her first son, John
by Thomas Lawrence, 1810*

*This is a wonderful character study of the Countess,
so demure and beautifully dressed in the fashion of the day
whilst her one-year-old son demands attention by pulling at her hair.*



**The Children of Lady Anne Yorke and John Savile,
Earl and Countess of Mexborough**

John Charles George - born 4 June 1810

Died 17 August 1899 Aged 89

John became Viscount Pollington and the 4th Earl of Mexborough of Lifford. He also inherited his father's 'entertaining characteristics'. He impressed his friends enough to be twice fictionalised. At Eton (between

1821 and 1826) he was renowned for his abilities in the classics, and also excelled at boxing. He was said to have entertained contemporaries by “strutting around the ring, spouting ‘Homer’ between rounds”! From Eton he went to Trinity College, Cambridge - briefly 1827-28. He was elected to represent the borough of Gatton in 1831 at which time he was still under-age. He then left Parliament in 1832 and went on an extensive foreign tour of Russia, Persia and India. [He did keep a detailed diary of his travels and later, in 1841, “*Notes on a journey from Erz-Rum to Aleppo*” was published in the *London Geographical Journal*].

In 1834, John joined his Eton contemporary, Alexander Kinglake, on an expedition through the Ottoman Empire. Kinglake’s novel “*Eothen*” includes a character called Methley, whom he based on John. Methley is a knowledgeable classical scholar with ‘the practical sagacity of a Yorkshireman’. John returned to Britain in 1835 and was elected MP for Pontefract as a supporter of Robert Peel, in the general election. He represented Pontefract from 1835-37 and again from 1841-47.

John married the wild and fun-loving Lady Rachel Katherine, daughter of Horatio Walpole in 1842. Benjamin Disraeli, who was a close friend, featured the couple as ‘Lord and Lady Gaverstock’ in his book, *Coningsby*. Their son, John Horace (who became the 5th Earl of Mexborough) was born on 17 June 1843. Sadly, Lady Rachel died in June 1854.

Seven years later, John remarried – Agnes Louisa Elizabeth, daughter of John Raphael. They had two girls and two boys between 1862 and 1871, the third of whom, John Henry, was to become the 6th Earl of Mexborough when his half-brother died without children, in 1916.

Their eldest daughter, Lady Mary Louisa married Walter Burton Harris in 1898 and was soon divorced in 1905 – which could have ‘ruffled society feathers’ in those days.

Their second daughter, Anne, did make newspaper headlines:- “*A princess’ vain attempt to fly across the Atlantic Ocean*”. Lady Anne Savile was married to Prince Ludwig of Lowenstein-Wertheim-Fraudenberg in

1897 (at the age of 33) in one of British High Society’s grandest weddings of the year. Less than a year later, Prince Ludwig vanished from London and was eventually found in the Philippines playing a shadowy role in the Spanish-American War, thought to be an agent for the German government. He was killed by US soldiers at the Battle of Calocan.

Anne retained the title “Princess Lowenstein-Wertheim” even after war broke out with Germany in 1914. She developed a life-long passion for flying - earning the mantra of “Britain’s first airwoman”. But her ultimate ambition was to cross the Atlantic Ocean, flying from London to Ottawa.

On the morning of 31 August 1927, Princess Anne, by then an eccentric 63 year-old, arrived at the RAF aerodrome at Upaven in Wiltshire in her Rolls Royce, dressed in purple leather and high-heeled fur-lined boots. Her brother John Henry, (the 6th Earl) looked on in dismay as she climbed into the cabin with the help of her two pilots, Capt Leslie Hamilton and Lt-Col Frederick Minchin. She strapped herself into a wicker chair behind the cockpit and placed her luggage, packed in two hatboxes, beneath her chair.

The monoplane was named “Saint Raphael” (Anne’s mother’s maiden name) and was sprinkled with holy water by the Archbishop of Cardiff, before take-off.

Alas, even with its eight extra fuel tanks carrying 800 gallons of fuel, after fifteen hours flying against stronger than expected headwinds, the “Saint Raphael” did not make Ottawa and came down in the sea.

Princess Anne was, of course, a niece of the Revd Arthur Savile.

Henry Alexander - born 12 December 1811 Died 1 March 1850 Aged 39

The Hon Henry Alexander Savile studied at Trinity College, Oxford (unlike John, Philip, Charles and Arthur, who followed their father to Cambridge) in

He joined the Army and gained the rank of Lieutenant in the 10th Hussars. He married Catherine Pennefather, daughter of Lt-Col Kingsmill Pennefather, on 17 August 1840. Their first son, William, was born in 1841.

Whilst they were in Florence, tragically Catherine died hours after giving birth to their second son, Henry, on 31 December 1842. She is buried in the English Protestant Cemetery of Florence and the inscription on the memorial urn, which still stands on her grave reads:

Sacred to the memory of Catherine, wife of the Hon. Henry Alexander Savile who departed this life on the first day of January 1843 aged 24 years – and of Henry, second son of the above, aged 3 weeks.

Henry Alexander lived a further seven years after the death of Catherine, until 1st March 1850. He is buried at St Oswald's Church, Methley.

Their son, William, became a Captain in the service of the 9th Lancers, married Emily Davies, a young lady from Wales with whom he had two children, and later held the office of Deputy Lieutenant of Cardiganshire.

**Sarah Elizabeth born 23 February 1813
Died 16 December 1890 Aged 77**

Lady Sarah Elizabeth married Lt-Gen Hon Sir James Lindsay KCMG, the son of the Earl of Crawford, on 6 November 1845. She held the office of Women of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria from 1859 until her death in 1890. She was invested as a Lady, receiving the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert (VA).

Sir James and Lady Lindsay had two sons, both of whom died young, and three daughters. In the National Portrait Gallery in London, there are portraits by Camille Silvy, of their daughters: Maud Isabella; Mabel (who married Lt-Col William Ramsden) and Mary Egidia (who married John Coutts Antrobus).

**Philip Yorke born 23 August 1814
Died 23 July 1897 Aged 83**

The Revd Hon Philip Yorke Savile (named after his maternal grandfather) was born on 23 August in 1814 and quite possibly was not expected to survive, since his baptism took place at St Oswald's Church, the following day. The rector, Revd Hon Archibald Cathcart (who generally only turned out for events related to the Savile family) would not have known that the sickly infant he was baptising would, in his turn, become rector of Methley some twenty-eight years later. The baptism register shows the parents as "*Commonly called The Rt Honble Viscount and Viscountess Pollington*".

But Philip grew up and followed his father and two elder brothers to Eton. He was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1833; gained his MA in 1836 and was ordained deacon and priest in Lincoln Cathedral in 1837. He was then appointed curate in the tiny parish of Ayot St Peter, near what is now known as Welwyn Garden City. There he met Emily Mary Brand Hale (born 16 August 1819), the eldest daughter of William Hale of Kings Walden - and High Sheriff of Hertfordshire. They were married on 20 January 1842, the marriage being registered at Hitchin.

About two months later, Philip returned to Methley with his new wife, to become the rector of St Oswald's, the church and burial place of his ancestors. It was assumed that he had been marked out for the living well before Revd Cathcart died. The Parsonage was built in 1690 and, although it was a large residence, sufficient for a lordly rector and his household, Revd Philip chose to reside at "The Cedars", which belonged to the Mexborough Estate. However, he soon instituted proceedings to construct a new Rectory House, built of stone by the famous architect, Salvin. (How similar to our own story in Fowlmere).

The curate, Revd Thomas Dawson Lumb, lived (with his wife and family) at "Churchside" and had done since he took up the curacy twenty years earlier. When the Revd Savile arrived and chose to reside in the parish, it enabled him to officiate at weddings and to conduct more funerals and baptisms than his predecessor had done and this, as the months went by,

affected the amount of work the curate was to undertake – and decreased his fees for doing so.

In December 1843, a “*Distressing Occurrence*” was reported in the newspapers. On the night of 10th, Revd Thomas Dawson Lumb didn’t return home to “Churchside” - and there was much speculation as to whether he had been attacked or robbed, when his body was found in the River Aire one week later. The coroner’s verdict was “Found Drowned” and it was supposed that he had fallen into the water, as the night he disappeared had been exceedingly foggy.

However, it was later revealed that Revd Dawson Lumb had been borrowing money from an uncle and he had not been meeting the payments nor covering the interest. It was also suggested that he may have had hopes of becoming rector of Methley himself when Revd Cathcart died and when the Earl’s son, nineteen years his junior, was appointed, those hopes would have been dashed.

So this was not a good start to Revd Philip’s life’s work, but he did remain rector of Methley for 56 years. He and Emily had six children – one girl and five boys. Their names appear in the baptism register at St Oswalds and four of them are buried in the churchyard. One son died young, at 13 years old and one baby lived for only a few hours.

Revd Philip (and his father, the Earl) are remembered in the *History of Yorkshire Chess*. He, apparently, was a very keen player; a supporter of the West Yorkshire Chess Association and known as the “*Chess Playing Rector*” – although when playing in tournaments he tended to lose in the first round – but ‘he presided over the tea which followed’!

Philip’s wife, Emily, died on 9 August 1881, aged 61 and was buried in the churchyard at St Oswald’s. Philip lived a further 16 years and continued as rector, until 23 July 1897, and was buried in the same grave as Emily. The words added to the inscription read:

“UNTIL THE DAY BREAK AND
THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY”

†



Charles Stuart born 24 February 1816

Died 1 March 1870 Aged 54

Charles Stuart Savile was born at Methley Park, the third son of the Earl and Countess and was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He joined the Foreign Office and served for some years as a British attaché in Berlin. Being widely travelled, he began writing fiction and his oriental romance, “*Karah Kaplan*” or “*The Koordish Chief*” was published in 1842. When he left his post with the Foreign Office, he concentrated on his writing and published the following works – some of which are now listed under “Forgotten Books” and are available electronically:-

“*Leonard Normandale*” or “*The Three Brothers*” published in 1850

“*Night and Day*” published in 1860

“*Walter Langley*” or “*The Race of Life*” published in 1862

“*Beating to Windward*” or “*Light and Shadow*” published in 1866

“*Cecil Beaumont*” published in 1863

Charles married on 11 June 1864, Paulina Mary Anne King, daughter of Major William John King. They had one child, Marie Alice Paulina Savile but she died young in 1869. Charles died (aged 54) in Geneva on

1 March the following year – sadly for the Savile family, less than two months before the death of Arthur, who was, of course, only fifty when he died.

Frederick born 17 March 1817

Died 3 April 1851 Aged 34

Lieutenant Hon. Frederick Savile was educated at Eton and joined the service of the Royal Artillery, gaining the rank of Lieutenant, and becoming a Second Captain but he, too, was to die young – in 1851 aged 34.

Frederick married Antonia Lesley Archdall, daughter of a vicar, Revd William Archdall, on 27 May 1839 and they had three daughters – Louisa, Agnes Yorke and Sarah Elizabeth; and one son, Philip Alexander. Their daughters remained unmarried and lived well into old age, but Philip Alexander was only 26 and passed away in 1869, just a few months after the death of their mother, Antonia.

Arthur born 20 December 1819

Died 23 April 1870 Aged 50

The Countess of Mexborough gave birth to her sixth son (and seventh child) at Methley Hall on 20 December 1819. Young Arthur followed in the footsteps of his brothers to Eton and then he studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, gaining an MA in 1841. In 1843, he was appointed Curate of St Clement Danes, in the City of Westminster (claimed to be the “*Oranges and Lemons*” church of the nursery rhyme) and now the Central Church of the Royal Air Force.

Then, towards the end of 1850 (Revd Metcalfe had died in June that year) the Reverend and Honourable Arthur Savile became the Rector of Foulmire, thereby grafting a branch of the Savile story onto the history of the village of Fowlmere. He moved into the Old Rectory with his housekeeper, a maid and a groom, who had come with him from Yorkshire.

The residents listed in the Census on the night of 30 March the following year were as follows:

*1851 Census Rectory House, Foulmire
(Public Record Office Ref H.O. 107 1708)*

Arthur Savile	Head	31	Rector of Foulmire	Yorkshire Methley
Sarah Wilson	Servant	46	Housekeeper	Yorkshire Methley
Sarah Metcalf	Servant	19	General Servant	Yorkshire Methley
John Beeby	Servant	25	Groom	Warwickshire Monks Kirby

Fortunately for us, Revd Arthur didn't bring a wife with him (as Philip, his brother, had done in Methley) as, at this point in our story, the Honourable Lucy Georgina Neville takes centre-stage.

I imagined a Grand Ball at Audley End or at Wimpole Hall where the young rector danced with the baron's blue-eyed daughter - but there is no evidence of this! Revd Arthur may well have been a friend of Lucy's elder brother, Richard, since they were at Eton at the same time. Richard had returned from his five years in the Army and when Arthur came to Foulmire (a mere horse ride away) he may have called at Audley End. The Saviles were a chess-playing family, a game at which Lucy Georgina excelled - so did it all begin with a game of chess? Who knows! There is evidence, however, that on 13 July 1852, the Hon Arthur Savile married the 23-year old Hon Lucy Georgina Neville in St James's Church, Westminster (Piccadilly) a very fashionable part of London at the time, where in fact, the bride's parents were married on 13 May 1819.

So let us now take a look at Audley End and the life of Lucy Georgina before she became the Hon Mrs Savile.



Lucy Georgina was born at Audley End on 2 December 1828, the youngest of the three daughters of Richard Griffin, the 3rd Baron Braybrooke and Lady Jane Cornwallis. Richard Neville legally changed his name to Richard Griffin, when he inherited the title from his father in 1825, and at the same time, removed the chief family seat from Billingbear Park, near Wokingham, to Audley End, which had been left to his father in 1798 by his distant relative, Lord Howard de Walden. The family took occupation of Audley End House just three years before the birth of Lucy.



The third Baron Braybrooke was a scholar and 'man of letters' and after the death of his father, he took pride in completing and perfecting the work started on the Audley End Estate in his father's time. He built new lodges and spent a great deal of money on restoration and significant changes to the house - in particular, the creation of the main Library.

He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, graduating as a Doctor of Civil Laws in 1810. He then took a further degree at Magdalene College, Cambridge, gaining an MA in 1811. Interestingly, since Lord Audley re-founded Magdalene College at the time of Henry VIII, the owners of the Monastery at Walden (later Audley End Estate) have been Hereditary Visitors of the College with the privilege of presenting to the

Mastership. Since 1925 this privilege has been attached to the Braybrooke title, rather than to the Estate.

The third Lord Braybrooke will always be remembered for his part in editing and publishing *Samuel Pepys' Diary* for the first time. The manuscript of this work was in the ownership of Magdalene College. The Hon and Revd George Neville-Grenville, younger brother of Lord Braybrooke, was Master of Magdalene from 1813-53 and it was he who engaged John Smith, an under-graduate of St John's, to decipher the original, written by Pepys in a form of shorthand. Lord Braybrooke was then invited to produce an abridged version of the 'Diary'. He did so, with a selection of Pepys' private correspondence and many useful notes and the work was published in two volumes in 1825. He also published *The History of Audley End and Saffron Walden* (1835) and *The Life of Jane, Lady Cornwallis* in 1842. In 1838 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and between 1853 and 1858, President of the Camden Society. Although his Lordship's interests were predominantly intellectual, the stables remain prominent in both the accounts and his correspondence. He owned and bred racehorses, using part of the large kitchen gardens at Audley End as paddocks. But it was said that, "*he played the part that an English nobleman was expected to play as a sportsman, just as he played it as a politician*"!

So what was his early political career? He became, firstly, Member of Parliament for Thirsk (1805-6); then for Saltash (1807); for the County of Buckingham (1807-1812) and for Berkshire from 1812-1825, at which time he inherited the peerage and took his seat in the House of Lords.

On 13 May 1918, Richard Neville (as he then was) had married Lady Jane Cornwallis, daughter of the second and last Marquess Cornwallis of Culford Hall, Suffolk. Lady Jane's mother was Lady Louisa Gordon, daughter of the fourth Duke of Gordon. When the Marquess died in 1823, Lady Jane inherited the valuable collection of portraits and household treasures from the Cornwallis home, which of course, can still be seen at Audley End today.

The large household, the world into which Lucy Georgina was born, was made up of: housekeeper, governess, lady's maid, three nursery maids, three kitchen maids, three laundry maids, two still-room maids, four housemaids and a dairymaid – a total of nineteen female servants. In addition, there was a butler, an under-butler, two footmen, a houseboy, one or two coachmen, a groom and two stable boys. Lord Braybrooke's pride in Audley End is shown in the household accounts. During the 1830s expenditure was at the rate of £5,000 - £6,000 a year (an extortionate amount in today's figures) much of which was spent on improvements, because his housekeeping was not extravagant. Detailed accounts were kept of household expenses, fuel, candles, wages, stables, gardens etc; and inventories of household linen, silver plate, china, books, pictures, wearing apparel, horses and carriages – all of which gives a valuable insight into the management of such a residence in Victorian times.

Lord and Lady Braybrooke's eight children were cared for by the nursery maids and taught by their governess, Miss Dorma, (with whom they kept in touch into adulthood). Their dayroom and bedrooms were at the top of the house. The bedrooms had little shutters in the doors so that the nursemaids could keep an eye on the sleeping children. Food and coal was carried up several staircases - and chamber pots were carried down!

There was a schoolroom on the floor beneath, where the children took daily lessons with their governess. The boys had a separate male tutor from the age of eight, until they left for Eton. The curriculum included Latin, Greek, Natural Sciences, Art and Music, and prepared them well for adult life. On one of my recent visits to Audley End, I spoke with a member of staff about the wonderful dolls' house and I was told that it was made for Lord Braybrooke's daughters – but not merely as a toy, as a 'visual aid' to teach them how to run a stately home.

Once every day the children were taken down to Lady Braybrooke's sitting room to spend a little time with her. Apparently, Lady Jane rang a little bell to call them down. She often sat in on their lessons and took great interest

in their education (she was, herself, an artist). On special occasions, of course, the family would dine together.

The Children of Lord and Lady Braybrooke

Richard Cornwallis Neville born 17 March 1820 in the Parish of St George's Hanover Square. Died 4th Baron Braybrooke 21 February 1861 Aged 40

The Hon Richard Cornwallis Neville was educated at Eton from 1830-1837 and then joined the Grenadier Guards, serving with that regiment in Canada. He was promoted to Lieutenant and then to Captain but despite his great-grandfather, General Sir Charles Cornwallis, he left the regiment in 1842 after five years' service.

He had been brought up from childhood to take an interest in the antiquarian and topographical studies that were his father's passion, and on his return, he devoted himself to the study of natural history and to the excavation of Roman and Saxon sites at Audley End and surrounding Essex villages. He collected fossils and antiquities from his excavations and also accumulated a vast collection of stuffed birds - still displayed at Audley End. Although very young, the Hon Richard held a distinguished position among archaeologists of his day. As his father before him, he was elected (in 1847) a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He became Vice-President of the British Archaeological Association in 1850, and President of the Essex Archaeological Society. He frequently contributed to the archaeological journals of the day and issued several valuable studies on the results of his excavations.

The Hon Richard married Lady Charlotte Sarah Graham-Toler, the 6th daughter of the 2nd Earl of Norbury (in the County of Tipperary), on 27 January 1852. Lady Charlotte was born into a large and rather mysterious family. Her father held the Irish title and owned land in various parts of Ireland, including Darrow Abbey in the County of Offaly, where it is reported that he had been murdered in January 1839! The Hon Richard and Lady Catherine had two daughters, born in 1855 and 1858. There is a

memorial window to their first daughter, Catherine Elizabeth, in Littlebury Church.

In March 1858, Richard Cornwallis succeeded as 4th Baron Braybrooke, and for three years was Visitor of Magdalene; Vice-Lieutenant for the County of Essex and High Steward of Wokingham – but he died at Audley End on 22 February 1861 at the age of 40, and is buried in Littlebury Churchyard. Lady Catherine later remarried and she is buried at Upper Norwood, in Surrey.

Mirabel Jane Neville born 8 April 1821 in the Parish of St George's, Hanover Square. Died 14 January 1900 Aged 78

The Hon Mirabel Jane was, apparently, quiet and studious. She was a talented artist, particularly of watercolour landscapes. In her teens she was a motherly influence over her younger siblings, but she never married and had children of her own. She lived much of her adult life in Mayfair, London, where the family's old governess would go to stay. I would also imagine that 'Aunt Mirabel' was a frequent visitor to Fowlmere, as various gifts are noted in St Mary's Church records. In 1858, she gave a silver alms plate and in 1864, when restoration work on the north transept was in progress, the Hon Mirabel, donated £6.10.0 (value now well over £250).

She was buried in Littlebury Churchyard. Her memorial shares the stone of her brother, Richard Cornwallis, and reads:

*Also of
Mirabel Jane Neville
Eldest daughter of
Richard Griffin
3rd Baron Braybrooke
Died January 14 1900
Aged 78*

Louisa Anne Neville born 18 July 1822 at Audley End

Died 10 May 1889 Aged 67

The Hon Louisa Anne, the Baron's second daughter, was close in age to Mirabel but seven years older than Lucy Georgina. It is fascinating to see that all three shared their love of painting. English Heritage have a wonderful collection of watercolour interiors, which show the rooms at Audley End at the time. Several of Louisa's paintings of buildings as they were in the mid-19th century, such as the Stable Yard and the Aviary at Audley End, are now of historical importance and are in the Essex Record Office. It is said that although Louisa was hard of hearing, she was always full of conversation and very pleasant. She was also very interest in botany and, at the age of 16 she was elected a life member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. Its archives hold a number of plant specimens (such as a red clover, *Trifolium Pratense*, found at Audley End in 1838). It was Louisa who assisted her brother, Richard, to catalogue his natural history collections.

Louisa married Sir Henry Mervin Vavasour, 3rd Baronet of Spaldington in Yorkshire, when she was 31. Their wedding took place on 30 June 1853 at St James's Church, Piccadilly (where her younger sister had been married the previous year).

Louisa's first baby, Blanche, was born on 6 June 1854 at their home, Spaldington Hall, near York. But, sadly, Blanche lived for only six weeks and died on 14 July. News of her birth had reached Lord Braybrooke's sons in the Crimea, since Blanche is mentioned in one of their letters.

Constance, Louisa's second daughter was born at Hatherton Hall, Stafford on 16 March 1856. Constance married the Revd Alfred Bertie Hobart-Hampden in 1902. He was Rector of Cottered, near Buntingford, between 1907 and 1915. Constance then lived in Bishop Stortford and died on 2 August as recently as 1927.

The Hon Lady Louisa Vavasour died on 10 May 1899.

**Charles Cornwallis Neville Born 29 August 1823 at Billingbear House
Died 5th Baron Braybrooke 7 June 1902 Aged 78**

The Hon Charles Cornwallis Neville was educated at Eton and graduated from Magdalene College, Cambridge in 1845 with an MA. He married the Hon Florence Priscilla Alicia Maude, daughter of Cornwallis Maude, 3rd Viscount Harwarden, on 9 October 1849 at St James's Church, Piccadilly – again the 'Braybrooke wedding venue'!

Charles became the 5th Baron Braybrooke at the age of 38 (in 1861) when his elder brother, Richard, died so young and with no male offspring. He held the title and the estate for forty years and all of that time he was content to live the life of a country squire, serving his county as Deputy Lieutenant; Vice-Lord-Lieutenant; Justice of the Peace for Essex and High Steward of Wokingham.

He was seen as a prosperous landowner and agriculturalist (owning circa 13,500 acres in Essex and in Berkshire) and during those years, the Audley End Estate flourished. He was a regular winner of prizes at county shows for his Southdown Sheep and 'Audley End Jerseys'. Financial accounts and immaculate records kept by the estate are still archived today. The weekly average amount of milk per cow was calculated; the percentage of cream and the average weight of butter per gallon of milk was logged and from this was deducted cattle feed, labour and veterinary costs, plus wear and tear of utensils - and the average value of each cow's produce per week, including manure, was worked out!

Charles had been a member of the Eton eleven, and he never lost interest in cricket. Back in 1842 it was he who had the lawn in front of Audley End House levelled for a cricket pitch.

Like many gentlemen and noblemen farmers in Victorian times, the 5th Lord achieved prosperity through enterprise in both animal stocks and agricultural methods.

Charles and Lady Florence had just one daughter, the Hon Augusta Neville, born on 19 January 1860.

The 5th Baron died as peacefully as he had lived, on 7 June 1902 at the age of 78 – whilst at breakfast. He is buried at Littlebury, as is Florence Priscilla Alicia, who died in March 1914, aged 88.

**Henry Aldworth Neville Born October 24 1824 at Billingbear House
Died 5 November 1854 in Active Service Aged 30**

The Hon Henry Neville was educated at Eton and joined the Grenadier Guards. He gained the rank of Captain, and died aged 30, killed in action at the Battle of Inkerman.

He was buried on Cathcart's Hill and his memorial reads:

*"Sacred to the memory of Captain The Honourable Henry Neville,
Grenadier Guards, who fell at Inkerman November 5th 1854."*

Below is the text from a plaque on the wall of Saffron Walden Abbey.

The Hon Henry Aldworth Neville

He was the son of Richard Griffin, 3rd Lord Braybrooke, Baron of Braybrooke and Lady Jane Cornwallis. He fought in the Battle of Inkerman, Russia, and was killed in action aged 30. He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the Grenadier Guards.

Letters written to Lord and Lady Braybrook from the Crimea are now published in book form.

**Latimer Neville born 22 April 1827 at Audley End
Died 6th Baron Braybrooke 12 January 1904 Aged 77**

The Hon and Revd Latimer Neville was educated at Eton and then entered Magdalene College Cambridge in 1845, at the age of 18. He pursued an unusual degree course for a nobleman's son, the 'Cambridge Classical

Tripes' (Latin, Greek, Classical Literature, Ancient History etc), in which he gained a high place.

He was ordained in 1850 and after a year's curacy in Berkshire, was appointed Rector of Heydon with Little Chishall at the age of 23, and he was there until his succession as 6th Baron Braybrooke in 1903.

As mentioned previously, George Neville-Grenville was Master of Magdalene (and subsequently Dean of Windsor) from 1813 until his death in 1853. Revd Latimer succeeded his uncle as Master at the age of 26 and exceeded his number of years – holding the mastership for over fifty, (which will probably never be surpassed). His portrait can still be seen in the Hall at Magdalene College.

Six months before he became Master, the Revd and Hon Latimer Neville had married Lucy Frances Le Marchant, daughter of John Thomas Le Marchant and he continued to balance his work and responsibilities, between the Rectory at Heydon and the Master's Lodge - also in 1859-60, he served a year as Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Revd Latimer and Lucy Frances had two sons and one daughter: the Hon Henry Neville (later the 7th Baron Braybrooke), and the Hon Grey Neville, who became Rector of Bluntisham. Their daughter, Alice Mirabel Cornwallis Neville, kept a book of newspaper cuttings, now held in the Essex Record Office. It contains numerous items relating to her father which include:-

The restoration of the chancel of Heydon church 1866
Jubilee of the Rector of Heydon 1851-1901
University Address of Congratulation 1903
Peerage Entry for the 6th Baron 1903

and the mention of two hymns written by Revd Latimer Neville:

Jubilee Hymn 1887 (Queen Victoria)
Coronation Hymn 1902 (King Edward VII)

In 1903 two 'Jubilee' events were held at Magdalene. The golden wedding of Lord and Lady Braybrooke was celebrated with a concert and reception in the College Hall and, to mark his fiftieth year as Master, the senate conferred on him the unique compliment of an Address of Congratulation which was read by the Vice-Chancellor of the University in the presence of the member of Parliament, the public orator, the masters of seven colleges and many friends. Lord Braybrooke, impressed this learned assembly by replying at length in Latin, without the aid of notes and without once hesitating. It was, however, to be his last public appearance.

Latimer died on 12 January 1904 and an obituary in the *Cambridge Review* paid tribute to his scholarship, his simplicity and his goodness...
"He was one of the men who may be truly numbered among 'the pure in heart' for such his life had been from the beginning".

**Grey Neville Born 15 October 1830 at Audley End
Died 11 November 1854 in Active Service Aged 24**

The Hon Grey Neville left Eton and joined the 5th Dragoon Guards. He gained the rank of an officer and was wounded at Balaklava on 25 October 1854, from which wounds he died on 11 November.

He was buried at Scutari and his memorial reads:

"Sacred to the memory of Honourable Grey Neville, 5th Dragoon Guards. Youngest son of Lord Braybrooke. Died at Scutari November 1854 of wounds received at Balaklava 25th October 1854 Aged 24 years. Surviving by only six days his brother the Honourable Henry Neville Grenadier Guards. Killed at Inkerman 5th November 1854. To the dear memory of those so loved and early lost their sorrowing Family inscribe this stone."



This was a sad ending to the fulfilling life of the 3rd Lord Braybrooke. His final years were shadowed by the loss of many members of his close family, to whom he had been devoted. They included Lady Braybrooke herself, who died on 23 September 1856 and was buried at Holy Trinity, Littlebury; his brother, the Dean of Windsor and Master of Magdalene; his sister - and finally, the loss of his two young sons within a period of six days. The third Lord Braybrooke died on 13th March 1858 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard.

His own life and the individual lives of his children, had achieved distinction in:-

Architecture and Agriculture
Archaeology and Antiquity
Academia and the Arts

Of his three sons who succeeded him as the 4th, 5th and 6th Baron, it might have been said that they were “in the right place at the right time” but, tragically, this was not so for Henry and for Grey.



Now I would like to return to Lucy Georgina who, of course, was born between Latimer and Grey - Lord and Lady Braybrooke's seventh child. She had enjoyed her childhood and teenage years with two older sisters – she painted, played the piano and was good at chess! She arrived in Fowlmere in July 1852, the Hon Mrs Savile, wife of the Rector.

A year or so into Revd Arthur's incumbency, the recorded attendance at church services was circa 50 adults on Sunday mornings and 95 in the afternoons. Holy Communion was held monthly. The church pews were rented by families and individuals, creating a regular income but, I suspect, a 'pecking order' with servants sitting well at the back. Interestingly, (in 1858), three new 'sittings', each to contain about four persons were erected by Mr George Negus, the carpenter, in the southwest corner of the church. They were intended for the use of servants and labourers from Chrisall Grange who came to Foulmire Church as, 'especially in the afternoons, there was not enough accommodation for them without inconveniencing the Parishioners!' Mr Jonas, the occupier of Chrisall Grange, who was a communicant, together with his numerous family, kindly gave £5 towards the cost of these new pews, but the remainder was defrayed by the Rector – total cost £12.

Of course, the Congregational Chapel was attracting even higher numbers on Sundays than those at the church and they also charged pew rents!

So, Lucy settled into her role as Rector's wife and we have no reason to doubt that she was not blissfully happy in her new home. She painted a watercolour sketch of the interior of the church (dated August 1853 – before the arrival of her first baby) and also, detailed watercolour paintings of “*The Front*” and “*The Back*” of the Old Rectory in 1858. It is wonderful to still have all of these displayed in St Mary's. The Old Rectory was sold in 1853 (for £60) and eventually demolished – but not before Lucy had painted it for posterity!

In addition to Lucy's watercolours, we have much information about the church and detailed financial accounts, started about this time. This small notebook is held by the Cambridge Archives entitled, *"Diary by Unknown Persons" (Churchwardens)*. Having visited the Archives and seen this "Diary", I am convinced that it was the writing of the Hon Mrs Savile herself, as a male churchwarden would not have written in such a way! It begins by stating that two new communion chairs had been placed within the rails in 1851 and the chancel roof stained; then a new chancel carpet was laid within the rails in 1852 (The chairs and the carpet were Gifts).

I would like to quote from the document (using Italics) as it gives such an insight into what was achieved and how much was funded by the Rector during his twenty years' incumbency.

"The tower of the church was repaired and put into safe condition 1853, which it was not previously; the money, about £105 being advanced from the Fund for the Repair of the Fabric in the Church Warden's keeping, and to be repaid to the lenders without interest as they have money to spare".

In September 1853, Revd Arthur and Lucy's first daughter, Elizabeth Jane, was born and her baptism registered on October 31st. With the impending arrival of their first child, they had made plans for their new home. It was to be constructed opposite the church, to the east of the old one on the site of two barns and a small farmyard, in the 'Italianate Style'. The architect's drawing for the house is still exhibited, next to Lucy's own paintings in St Mary's.

The archived document continues – and it is thought that this section was probably written by the Rector himself, in answer to questions put to him at a later date by the Bishop:

"Tithe Barn and Home Barn pulled down and farmyard removed. A wall built by the turnpike road". (The turnpike road was the road from Barley to

Cambridge with appropriate milestones). The letter of authorisation from the Tithe Commission to remove the barn also still exists.

"Rectory House commenced building (partly where the Home Barn stood) June 8 1853. Arthur Savile Rector. H E Kendall Jnr Architect".

(The architect, Henry E Kendall, had been employed in the 1840s by the 4th Earl of Hardwicke, for considerable extensions and modifications to Wimpole Hall, plus the re-building of the entrance lodges, the gateway and the stables, which are dated 1852).

"Went into residence in the new Rectory House June 13 1854, the Hon and Revd Arthur Savile having borrowed from the Governors of Queen Ann's Bounty Office the sum of £1,000 at £4 percent (chargeable above the Living and to be repaid in about 30 years interest and principal) and having sold the Old House for nearly £60 procured the remainder of the money required, on his own responsibility and having received no assistance from the Patron or any other person. Total cost of the house and architect's percentage – about £1,600. (Hand-written mortgage documents are in the Cambridgeshire Archives).

Revd Savile also built a Laundry and Wash House and other outbuildings and made the garden in front of the house bringing in a quantity of soil and turf. He had previously built a cow shed and cart shed and a carriage house. A quantity of trees were planted about the premises and improvements made".

Arthur and Lucy's second daughter, Mirabel Anne, arrived on 8 December 1854 and was baptised on 4 January. But 1854 had ended in sadness as it must have been November when they heard of the death in the Crimea of Lucy's brothers, the Hon Henry and the Hon Grey.

It may have been around this time (or even earlier) that Sarah Jones was appointed as a nurse. Both the Yorke and Braybrooke families had houses in London (county of Middlesex) and this is where Sarah Jones was said to have come from. She could have been already known to the family, but

we do know that she was devoted to Lucy and the children and she stayed with them for the rest of her life.

On 11 March 1856 Alethea Maude was born and duly baptised on 18 April and then later, on 23 September, Lucy's mother, Lady Jane Cornwallis Neville passed away, no doubt still grieving the loss of her two sons.

But life had continued at St Mary's and it was recorded that:

"In 1855, the singers' pew was removed from the west end of the church and the north transept appropriated for their sittings. The singing and chanting were much improved and the congregations much increased, morning and afternoon. More accommodation was required in 1857".

"In the month of November 1857 a new west window was inserted in lieu of a very dilapidated one. Rattee & Kett of Cambridge were the persons employed to do it, and the cost of £45 was defrayed by the Rector, for the most part raised out of a sum raised by the publication of a small volume of sermons on 'The Lord's Prayer'. The window was a perpendicular one. The stone (Casterton) a facsimile of the old (church) one".

"The Rector's wife, the Hon Mrs Savile presented a fine toned harmonium by Alexander to the church and it was played for the first time on Christmas Day 1857 by Mr George Negus, the leader of the choir having offered his services gratuitously". (Notice that the term used for "the singers" is now "the choir").

Early in 1858, Arthur and Lucy celebrated the birth of a baby son, whom they named after Lucy's two soldier brothers, Henry and Grey. Sadly, Grey Henry was born on 23 February; baptised on 23 March and he died on 16 April. He was buried on the north side of the church, in a little grave as close to their home as was possible. Lucy must have had the support of her elder sister at this difficult time, as in April – perhaps in memory of the baby - the following was recorded:-

"In the month of April a beautiful silver alms plate to be used at Holy Communion was presented by the Honourable Mirabel Neville (sister of the Rector's wife)".

Later that year Revd Arthur undertook to repair the South Transept roof.

"Mr Jonas (of Chrisall Grange) gave £5 towards repairs of the church, that of the roof in the South Transept. Mr Henry Dean of the Black Horse gave £2 and the Rector hopes to be able to raise a sufficient fund to restore it entirely as it is in a bad state of repair and in wet weather the rain comes through. Mr Papworth gave £2; Mr Johnson £1, the late Mr T F Nash and Miss Nash £5 and the Earl of Hardwicke £10. In consequence of this subscription the work was commenced. A new roof was placed over the South Transept roof. Mr Negas was the carpenter and Mr Freeman, the plumber and the work was completed in June 1858 at a cost of £51. The remaining portion was defrayed by smaller subscriptions and by the Rector".

Towards the end of 1858, "the paint was taken off the Font" and:

"A vestry porch and a buttress were created on the north side of the church by Rattee & Kett. This was the gift of the Countess of Mexborough, the mother of the Rector; the draining and some alteration in the pipes on the east side of the North Transept were also done by the Rector to remedy the prevailing dampness on that side".

In 1858 a small addition was made to the Churchyard:

"A piece of land was presented by the Lord and Ladies of the Manor, Captain and Mrs Douglas and Miss Mitchell having belonged to a field south of the churchyard, besides the small addition which was made necessary. It enabled the boundary fence to be carried in a straight line instead of the old crooked one. A brick wall was built at the expense of the Rector; the farmers, Messrs Wedd and Messrs Nash carting the bricks. Several yews were also planted around the old churchyard and hollies and limes by the side of the new wall. The old trees were left to mark the old boundary. A new gate was placed in the wall for the benefit of foot passengers.

As yet, the ground has not been consecrated owing to the great expense due to the Registrar from fees etc, besides the Conveyancing. This was put in order at the beginning of 1859”.

“On Tuesday 4 January 1859 Mrs Metcalfe, the widow of the late Rector was interred in her late husband’s grave. This is supposed to be the last interment to take place within the church. The members of the family have signified their intention of filling the east window in the Chancel with good stained glass as a memorial to their former connection with the Parish. This is to be a great improvement to the appearance – Laus Deo!”

On 11 May 1859, a fourth daughter was born at the Rectory and baptised Georgina Lucy, on 16 June.

The Rector decided to replace the north transept roof as he had done to the south transept the previous year. This time he did not ask for donations:

“In the month of June 1859 a new roof was completed over the North Transept of the church, the expense of £50.5.6 being entirely defrayed by the Rector. Mr Negus was the carpenter and Mr Freeman, the plumber.

In the month of August and September 1859, new gates and posts were put up at the entrance of the churchyard at the expense of Mrs Nash of Bury Farm, Gt Chesterford, Essex as a memorial owing to her giving up the farm after her husband’s death (but she desired that her name should not appear). It is therefore mentioned here (not publicly) in justice of her liberality. The cost was £8.10.0. George Negus was the carpenter”.

(Mrs Nash – the anonymous donor - was, of course, Sarah Dixon Nash, who would become the grandmother of Sir Frederick Metcalfe).

In early 1860, the church interior was altered significantly: *“The square pews which were in the church, were removed and long ones substituted. Four new bell ropes were purchased out of church funds”* and even more

importantly, *“the beautiful painted window was put in, in June, ‘In memory of William and Susanna Metcalfe, dedicated by their children’. Messrs Clayton & Bell of London were the artificers. This is a significant memorial and has made the east window of the Chancel worthy of a Cathedral.”*

Now let us look at the residents of Rectory House, High Street, according to the Public Record Office Census of 1861. Ref RG 9/814

Arthur Savile Revd	Head	41	Rector of Foulmire	Yorkshire Methley
Lucy Georgina Savile	Wife	32		Essex, Audley End
Elizabeth Jane Savile	Daughter	7	Scholar	Cambs, Fowlmire
Mirabel Ann Savile	Daughter	6	Scholar	Cambs, Fowlmire
Alethea Maud Savile	Daughter	5	Scholar	Cambs, Fowlmire
Georgina Lucy Savile	Daughter	1		Cambs, Fowlmire
Vere Philippa Savile	Daughter	3 mths		Cambs, Fowlmire
Sarah Jones	Servant	43	Nurse	Middlesex, London
Emma Frank	Servant	24	Cook	Cambs, Fowlmire
Ann Shelton	Servant	22	Parlourmaid	Bedfordshire Northill
Ann Smith	Servant	24	Nursemaid	Cambs, Wimpole
Clarissa Benton	Servant	22	Housemaid	Wilts, Ramsbury
Emma Smith	Servant	14	Housemaid	Cambs, Wimpole

Sarah Jones is given seniority. Maybe she had been the longest serving, as the remaining five employees are much younger than Sarah. The Smith sisters, Ann and Emma, come from Wimpole.

Back in 1845, a recreation ground was ‘allotted at inclosure’, which the villagers required to be large enough for a cricket ground. Then in 1861, the Rector took on a new challenge!

“In January 1861 a site of ground for the building of a School to be in union with the National Society was conveyed over to the Rector and the Church Wardens of the Parish for the time being, by the Trustees of Captain

Douglas and Miss Mitchell, the Lord and Ladies of the Manor. It consists of a quarter of an acre of ground facing the Recreation Ground at the top of Ward's Close. A good situation only unfortunately no way of access was allowed to the School from the Shepreth Lane, and from the road up to it, a very inconvenient and long way round for the Shepreth Lane inhabitants. The building was commenced at the end of April 1861.

H.E. Kendall Junior was the Architect and Mr Bell of Cambridge the Builder. The building was completed and the School opening took place on October 10th 1861. Divine Service was held in the Church at 12.00 am, the sermon by the Revd Frederick Metcalfe, curate of Great Chesterford, and son of the late Rector of Fowlmire.

The collection afterwards amounted to nearly £20. At 2.00 p.m. the children (Day & Sunday) 160 in number, marched up from the Rectory to the School in procession with flags. The School was opened with prayer and a short address by the Rector. Then the children had dinner under a large marquee. The fathers had bread, meat and beer. The company had luncheon and afterwards a tea. The day was most beautiful and everything went off well. The names of the School Mistresses are Miss Lydia Bavey for the Upper School and Miss Sarah Bavey for the Infant School. The two sisters who occupy the School House and under whose kind firm and judicious management it may be confidently hoped that, with the blessing of God, the Schools will flourish and the Parish be greatly benefited. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to men".

The estimate of the School building was £730. Towards this sum £264.17.0 was collected, including a grant from the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church of £35; and a grant from the Cambridge Board of Guardians of Education of £40. For the whole expense of the building the Rector was responsible. Every child that is admitted into the School has been baptised, either in the Church or the Independent Meeting".

The words 'Day' and 'Sunday' in the text above referred to Sunday School children joining the new Day School pupils in the procession. The school was built to accommodate 100 pupils - who were expected to pay "school

pence". This, of course, would exclude some very poor families. In 1864, Revd Arthur completed a diocesan survey where he stated: "The population of Fowlmire is 520, 112 above the labouring class. 20 paupers - no real severe cases of poverty. Physical condition of labouring classes - I should say satisfactory as regards health, cleanliness and clothing".

But school attendance did tend to fluctuate with family cash flow.

Revd Arthur reported the number of children attending Day School and Sunday School as follows:

	Boys	Girls	Infants	
Day School	36	38	53	127
Sunday School	43	32		74

Sunday School children not attending Day School – 18

Day School children not attending Sunday School – 56

There is a Dissenting Sunday School with 46 children attending from Foulmire.

During the winter months we have an Evening School in the Rectory with a class of older boys – there has been improvement in behaviour and on the whole the Parish is well behaved.

I was most interested to read that in the 1860s, the church choir consisted of the schoolmistresses, the school children and a few male singers. The harmonium was played by the Rector's wife.

Continuing the Rector's survey: "The number attending church is 210 besides about 40 non-parishioners. Except infants and those who are prevented by illness, there are no more than 10 who habitually neglect all public worship. Church holds 294". (Note the congregation numbers back in 1852 - 50 in the mornings and 95 in the afternoons).

"There are two services each Sunday – 11.00 am and 3.00 pm with a sermon after each. The Sacrament of the Last Supper is instituted the last Sunday in each month. Present number of communicants is 60. The

average attendance is 30. I distribute the Sacrament amongst the sick persons of the Parish as occasion requires”.

No further work to the fabric of the church was noted whilst the school building was under construction and the school itself prepared for its opening day - and there was no addition to the Savile family until early in 1862.

Blanche Audley arrived on 16 February 1862 and was duly baptised on 28 March.

The following year (1863) another little sister, Florence Augusta, was born on 2 May and baptised on 2 June. By then, the North Transept of the church was in need of serious attention and noted in the Diary is:

“In November 1863, the North Transept window was taken down and a large portion of the North Transept wall, which was very unsafe.

The singers were removed to the Chancel. Mr Bird, Carpenter, put up a very neat screen of wood until the window was completed. Mr Whitehead, Stonemason of Royston was employed in the work. The estimate was about £85. The whole work was completed in January 1864 and with the restored battlements and new crosses outside, is a great improvement. The flooring inside was made good and as there were several other small matters done, the cost was altogether £97.2.0 detailed as follows:-

	£ s d
Collection	15.13.5
Dowager Countess of Mexborough (Revd Arthur's mother)	30.0.0
Church Fund for 1863 placed in Post Office Bank until needed	16.17.0
Interest on it	2.10.0
Lady Stuart de Rothesay (Revd Arthur's aunt)	5.0.0
Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford (Revd Arthur's cousin)	3.0.0
Mr Johnson	2.0.0
Mrs Nash of Gt Chesterford	2.0.0
Captain Douglas	5.0.0
Miss Mitchell	5.0.0

Hon Mirabel Neville (Lucy's elder sister)	6.10.0
Hon Revd Arthur Savile	5.18.9
Total	97.2.0

“An entirely new clerestory window was inserted by Mr Whitehead, Stonemason of Royston, on the south side of the Nave in August 1864, paid out of Church Repairs Fund (Mr Henry Dean Churchwarden) the expense was about £12.10.0”.

Whilst the work was taking place on the North Transept of the church, on the other side of the road, another addition to the Savile family was welcomed on 20 July – their 8th daughter, appropriately named, Octavia Louisa. Nurse Sarah Jones certainly had her hands full with eight little girls, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth Jane, was still not quite eleven! Octavia Louisa was baptised on 18 August.

The very next year, on 6 October 1865, the Rector (at last!) became the proud father of Arthur Cornwallis, giving him his own name and that of Lucy's maternal grandfather. Arthur's baptism took place on 7 November. *“The remaining two windows on the south side of the clerestory were added in 1866; a new South Transept window was placed in the church in the year 1868. Mr Whitehead, Stonemason of Royston – at a cost of £49.*

Mid-1868, the Savile family may have realised that they had out-grown their Rectory and the following paragraph appeared in the Diary:

“In the latter part of the summer and autumn of 1868, two additional bedrooms and a lobby were built over the larders of the Rectory House. One of which was added at the back. The cost was defrayed by the Ladies Cornwallis, aunts to the Rector's wife. Mr Gimson of Royston was the builder and Mr Kendall was the architect at a cost of £200”.

Lady Elizabeth and Lady Louisa Cornwallis were the sisters of Lady Jane, Lucy's mother. Lithographs of these two aristocratic Victorian ladies, dated 1837, are in the National Portrait Gallery. How fascinating to find that they paid for the Rectory House extension!

Then, as if to fill this newly acquired space, on 9 September 1868, baby Latimer arrived, and his is the last Savile family name to be added to the baptismal register. Latimer was baptised on 21 September.

April 1869

"The Thorough restoration of the fabric of Fowlmire Church outside and inside was commenced on 5 April 1869. Whilst the Nave was under repair Divine Service was carried out in the Chancel, the two Transepts and the Central Tower. When the Nave is completed it is proposed that the congregation adjourn hither as the remaining works be carried out. The cost of the restoration is undertaken by a generous donor, whose name is not to be mentioned".

The 'generous donor' is believed to be the Rector himself, as no name confidentially appears in the diary.

Expenditure 1869-70	£	s	d
Nave	366.16.9		
North Transept	60.0.0		
- ditto -	49.19.0		
Porch	78.11.0		
Chancel	191.2.0		
Tower	230.0.0		
 Mr Whitehead for Repairs to:			
Pulpit and desk			
Platforms, communion rails, pillars, churchyard wall and crosses	41.15.9		
Nave seats	10.10.0		
Transept seats	83.15.0		
Varnishing seats	10.18.6		
Mr Bird extra for roof	3.00		
Repairing old seats	7.5.0		
Flagon, mats and carpets	11.15.6		
Pipes, gutters and windows	23.2.0		
Gates to porch	10.0.0		
Desk	7.13.6		
Total	£1,185.6.9		

This account does not include the hire of chairs and repair of stove, which was defrayed by the Rector, nor the lectern, which was his gift. The cost of fixing new seats in the two transepts (£45.5s) was paid by the Hon. Revd Latimer Neville, Rector of Heydon, brother of the Rector's wife.

In order to fund the cost of the restoration a subscription list was drawn up from 5 April 1869 to 25 May 1870

and added to the anonymous gift of £1,000.

	£	s	d
George Wedd	25	0	0
W Nash Woodham	10	0	0
W Nash Woodham Junior	10	0	0
Edward Nash Woodham	10	0	0
Samuel Jonas	10	0	0
Mrs Agnis	10	10	0
Mr and Mrs Dean	10	0	0
Mr Papworth	10	0	0
Mrs Pyne	5	0	0
Miss Dormer	5	0	0
Miss Finlay	1	0	0
Mrs Jones	1	0	0
Mr Bird		10	0
Mrs Bird		10	0
Miss Bavey		10	0
Miss Lydia Bavey		10	0
Mr and Mrs John Goode		10	0
Miss Elizabeth Savile		10	0
Miss Mirabel Savile		10	0
Mr John Haywood		10	0
Mrs John Haywood		5	0
Mr and Mrs Stephen Crook		3	0
Maria Job		2	6
Mary Ann Rider		2	6
Annie Morley		2	6
Mary Ann Richardson		2	6
Mrs Warren		2	0
Mr Thomas Burgess		2	0
Mr Frederick Burgess		2	0
Church Fund per Mr Freeman	20	0	0
From Church Restoration Box			

February – December 1868	11	12	5
April – September 1869	8	3	1

Total	£1,163	1	6
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Works commenced April 5 1869

*The porch from the foundations outer door rebuilt
New iron gates hung; Inner doorway restored
Two windows rebuilt
Cross to porch gable presented by W Woodham*

Transepts:

*External walls cleansed and restored
Two east windows restored
Internal walls coloured and restored*

Chancel:

*Exterior wall rebuilt from the foundation with buttresses
The Sanctuary lined with Ancaster stone, cornice and tile cross
Piscenae thoroughly restored
New cross to east gable*

Nave and Aisle:

*Walls externally cleaned and restored
Internal walls restored and coloured
Buttresses, stringcourse and parapets rebuilt
New windows inserted in North Aisle
South and north doorways
New North clerestory windows inserted
New cross to west gable
All internal stonework thoroughly cleansed from paint and restored
Roofs to nave and aisle thoroughly restored with
part new rafters and lead re-laid part new*

Tower:

*Tower arches and columns thoroughly restored
The whole of the external face rebuilt from the lead roofs*

Lancet windows restored, two opened and glazed.

In carrying out the foregoing works, where old work has been replaced with new, in every case the old details have been strictly adhered to.

Easter Day 1870

The congregation was reassembled in the whole of the interior on Easter Day 1870, the two Transepts having been re-seated with open seats after the model of those in Great Shelford church.

The Chancel has been repaved and restored, the chairs cleaned and covered with new work. Two faldstools also presented covered with a new work of the same pattern as the chairs. A new flagon (electro) was given instead of the black bottle, which had the wine for Holy Communion; pede mats and a kneeling carpet for the stone communion step. The rail and standards were new, also the Reredos, reading desk, pulpit base on which the old pulpit with the paint removed was fixed; and a lectern from which the lessons could be read, as owing to the cruciform shape of the church, it is rendered necessary for worshippers in the aisle and nave.

On Easter Sunday, 17 April, the Rector read the Word of God from the new lectern, his last gift to St Mary's.



The external works on the central tower would complete the total restoration of 1869-70 but Revd Arthur was not to see the final stage of the work, as he died on Saturday April 23rd after a few hours' illness.

A stone parapet on the north side of the tower, overlooking the Rectory House, bears this inscription:

THE RESTORATION OF THIS CHURCH THROUGH
THE RECTOR, THE LATE HON. REV. ARTHUR SAVILE
WAS COMPLETED MAY 28 AD 1870
EDW. N. WOODHAM, W FREEMAN WARDENS
THOMAS WHITEHEAD CONTRACTOR

Below, and close to the North Transept are two matching gravestones:

In memory of
The Hon and Revd
Arthur Savile
for nineteen years
Rector of this Parish
Sixth son of John, Third Earl and
Ann, Countess of Mexborough
Born December 20 1819
Died April 23 1870

For as in Adam all die
even so in Christ
shall all be made
alive

In memory of
Grey Henry Savile
Infant son of the Hon and Revd
Arthur Savile
Rector of Fowlmere
Born February 23 died April 16
1858

For of such
is the
Kingdom
of Heaven

The receipts for the total restoration amounted to £1,163.16. Payments totalled £1,185.69 leaving a deficiency of £22.5.3 – *which was defrayed by Mrs Arthur Savile as Executrix.*

Lucy couldn't leave without paying the final penny – and in fact, the records show that the Executors of Revd Savile gave a further £218.6.3 for repairs and restorations in September 1870.



The Hon Mrs Savile, still only 41 years old, with her family of ten children, their nurse, Sarah Jones, and domestic servants, left the Rectory House in Fowlmere and moved to the village of Heydon where her brother, the Hon and Revd Latimer Neville (Master of Magdalene) was the Rector.



I decided to drive up to Heydon to see what I could find.

Heydon House was Lucy's home for almost fifty years. It is a lovely Georgian manor house, set in fifteen acres of gardens and partly-moated grounds. The house, built in 1820 on the site of the old manor, was in the ownership of the Audley End Estate and Lord Braybrooke - who (in 1870) was, of course, Lucy's second brother, Charles.

Revd Latimer and his wife, Lucy Frances, lived close by in the Rectory beside Holy Trinity Church with their children, Henry, Grey and Alice. I noticed a path across the road from Heydon House running through the churchyard, which I imagine was well trodden by the Savile family over the years.

In the churchyard, on the south side of the church, I discovered three stone crosses – I just knew that was where I would find Lucy's grave. The inscriptions are as follows:

In loving memory
of
Lucy Georgina
Widow of
Revd Arthur Savile
and
Daughter of
3rd Baron Braybrooke

25 May 1919

LGS

In loving memory
of
Latimer
Son of Revd Arthur Savile
and Lucy Georgina

27 December 1916

LS

In loving memory
of
Sarah Jones
Died 24 August 1886

Well done good and
faithful servant

Latimer, Lucy's youngest son, just eighteen months old when Revd Arthur died, is buried close to Lucy and Sarah Jones. Not only is the memorial on the grave of Sarah Jones similar to that of Lucy and her son, Sarah is honoured by the family in the window at St Mary's.



The window by Clayton & Bell, in the style of the Arts & Crafts Movement of the early 20th century is in the north-west corner of the Nave, behind the 15th century font. The left side of the mullion depicts the seated Jesus with a child on his knee whilst a little girl kneels beside him looking up at his face. On the right side of the window a mother with five children is also looking into the face of the Lord. Across the window are the words of Jesus, *"Suffer little children to come unto me"* and below, the memorial:

"To the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Savile Rector 1851-1870 and of his wife Lucy Georgina; and of their three sons Grey Henry ◦ Arthur Cornwallis and Latimer ◦ and of their devoted nurse Sarah Jones ◦"

The window was given by their daughters - the Misses Savile - and dedicated on 9 September 1928. How well chosen is the wording of the memorial to their parents, which begins: "To the glory of God"; omits the title, "Honourable" and includes the name of a servant.

Revd Arthur and Lucy's children were baptised at this font and I would like to name them here:

Elizabeth Jane Born September 1853 - Baptised 31 October 1853
Unmarried. Died 13 May 1925, aged 72.

Mirabel Anne Born 8 December 1854 - Baptised 4 January 1855.
Married William M F Schneider 15 August 1877
Died 10 August 1938 aged 84 at her home in Kensington.

Alethea Maud Born 11 March 1856 - Baptised 16 April 1856
Unmarried. Died 11 February 1947 aged 90.

Grey Henry Born 23 February 1858 - Baptised 23 March 1858
Died 16 April 1858 aged two months. The text on the memorial window: "Suffer little children to come unto me" is completed by the words on Grey Henry's grave, "for of such is the kingdom of heaven".

Georgina Lucy Born 11 May 1859 - Baptised 16 June 1859
Unmarried. Died 28 August 1936 aged 77.

Vere Philippa Born 1 January 1861 - Baptised 6 February 1861
Married William Blackburn 17 November 1887 – Lived in Fort William
Died 19 November 1932 aged 71.

Blanche Audley Born 16 February 1862 – Baptised 28 March 1862
Unmarried. Died in Bournemouth on 14 April 1950 aged 88.

Florence Augusta Born 2 May 1863 – Baptised 2 June 1863
Unmarried. Died 18 December 1954 aged 91.

Octavia Louisa Born 20 July 1864 – Baptised 18 August 1864
Unmarried. Died 4 December 1939 aged 75.

Arthur Cornwallis Born 6 October 1865 – Baptised 7 November 1865
Unmarried. Died 19 August 1922 aged 57

Latimer Born 9 September 1868 – Baptised 21 September 1868
Unmarried. Died 27 December 1916 aged 48 Buried at Heydon

It has been difficult to trace the lives and individual interests of the Savile daughters, especially of the six who remained unmarried, but I have pieced together the following:-

The Savile daughters:

Elizabeth was, clearly, involved in the purchase and the design of the memorial window, but she passed away before it was installed in the church. She will certainly be remembered as the eldest of the 'Misses Savile'.

Mirabel married William Schneider at Holy Trinity, Heydon, when she was just 24. He was a Shipbuilder and Marine Engineer and certainly 'climbed the career ladder'.

At the time of the 1881 Census, they were at Yewbarrow Lodge, East Broughton in Lancashire with their two-year old daughter, Ulrica, (born in 1878 in Guildford). Listed as 'visitors' were Blanche Audley Savile (19) of no occupation; and Henry Neville (25) MA of Cambridge. Henry was, of course, Revd Latimer's eldest son (later 7th Baron Braybrooke) and may have accompanied his cousin, Blanche, on a visit to Mirabel. But (and this is mere speculation), Henry could have been a college friend of William Schneider and might well have introduced William and Mirabel. Also resident in Yewbarrow Lodge were; a butler, a cook, a nurse and a housemaid.

Ten years later, the Schneiders had a home in Stanhope Gardens, Kensington. They now had two daughters – Ulrica (12) born in Guildford and lone (5) born in Brompton. They employed a butler, a kitchen maid, a cook, a housemaid and a nurse. By 1911 they had moved to 32 Queens Gate Terrace – a residence with 19 rooms. Mirabel had a lady's maid; William a butler; and they also employed a cook, a housemaid, an under-housemaid and a kitchen maid.

William died on 3 May 1918 but Mirabel lived a further 20 years.

So Ulrica and lone Schneider were Revd Arthur and Lucy's only grandchildren:

Ulrica Schneider born 1878

She married when she was 33, a widower aged 67. He was the Revd Thomas Gurney Little and their wedding took place on 27 November 1912 at St Stephen's Church, Kensington. Thomas died five years later and Ulrica lived until 6 August 1933 (Aged 55).

lone Schneider born 1885

Died unmarried in 1965 aged 80 – her death brought the branch of the Savile/Neville Family Tree to an end.

Although **Alethea** was only 14 when she left Fowlmere, she must have been a frequent visitor to St Mary's as her name is mentioned in the book of donations. When Elizabeth died in May 1925, it is recorded that Miss A M Savile gave a pair of beaten brass vases and a brass cross in memory of her sister, Elizabeth.

Georgina Lucy not only shared her mother's name, but her artistic talent. A watercolour of Ryder's Cottage and Strethall Village Pond is in a collection of documents on the History of Uttlesford. The painting is stated to be by G L Savile and is dated November 1876. It is thought that the artist was Georgina Lucy, granddaughter of Lord Braybrooke, who would have been 16 at the time the picture was painted.

Vere Philippa married William Blackburn Esq, a Barrister-at-Law, and they lived in Fort William. Her name is quoted (as the widow of Wm Blackburn) in an article published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* as having made 'observations under almost perfect conditions' - so she and may be William too, was interested in meteorology.

Although **Blanche** is described as having “no occupation” in the 1881 Census, I would have thought that she, **Florence** and **Olivia** had many interests and friends. Blanche was certainly well known towards the end of her life as her death was announced on 5 May 1950 in the *London Gazette*, stating: “*Blanche Audley Savile Spinster who died 13 April at ‘Tregen’, 7 Gervis Road, Bournemouth*”. I was interested to discover that Lord and Lady Braybrooke had a house in Bournemouth where they and their children spent summer holidays. It could well have still been in the family’s ownership and where Lucy’s unmarried daughters lived or visited.

All eight of the ‘Misses Savile’ lived to an advanced age. Florence, being the last to depart this life, died when she was 91.

The Savile Sons:

In 1890, **Arthur Cornwallis** was employed as a Clerk at a firm of Chartered Accountants, Jackson Pixley Browning, Husey & Co, at 58 Coleman Street, London. In 1904 Arthur qualified as a Chartered Accountant and eventually, became a partner of the business. The firm was dissolved in January 1921 by mutual consent between Arthur Cornwallis Savile and Arthur Edward Parker. Hence, Arthur retired from business but died in August the following year.

Latimer is a little more of a mystery. The address he used was Isthmian Club, Piccadilly, established in 1882 for “Gentlemen who have been educated at one of the universities or public schools, and for officers of the army and navy.” Membership was by election and subscriptions were costly but its gentlemen members participated in rowing, cricket and other sports. Latimer’s Club may have merely been his London base but his death in 1916, was registered in the Rural District of Marylebone. His funeral and burial took place at Holy Trinity, Heydon, just three years before Lucy’s own.

†

Lucy had much in common with Susanna, the wife of Revd Wm Metcalfe. They had both spent the whole of their married life in Fowlmere, arriving as a new bride and leaving newly widowed. The children of both families were born at the Rectory House and baptised at the font - and when these ladies moved on, they took with them their memories of ‘Foulmire’ and left here, the grave of their husband and of one child.

Lucy and her children were provided for by her brother Charles, 5th Baron Braybrooke; supported by her brother, the Revd Latimer Neville, Rector of Haydon and 6th Baron Braybrooke; and cared for by their devoted nurse, Sarah Jones.

†

Revd Arthur and Lucy Georgina Savile are a perfect example of Victorian English aristocracy, whose privileges were balanced by responsibilities. They accepted what they had inherited and took it upon themselves to restore and preserve it for future generations.

Above all of this, was their deep devotion to the service of God and to his people.

I am sure that Revd Arthur often prayed the ancient prayer of Ignatius Loyola (1548):

*Teach us good Lord to serve Thee as Thou deservest
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward
save that of knowing that we do Thy will.*

Amen

*"To the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Savile Rector 1851-1870
and of his wife Lucy Georgina; and of their three sons Grey Henry °
Arthur Cornwallis and Latimer ° and of their devoted nurse Sarah Jones °*

