

HOLTON-ST-MARY.

The Early Village.

[Many extracts and quotations are copied as written and/or as quoted].

Holton St Mary is a small village near the Suffolk/Essex border, often confused with another Suffolk Holton (St Peter) which is towards the north of the county.

The name is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon "Holan Tun" - Holar's Farm. Another, in our case less likely meaning, is "the farm in the hollow".

Other spellings to be found are Haleghton, Haleton, Halton, Holedon, Holetun, Holetuna, Holetune, Holiton, Holoughton, Holtun and Houlton.

It is likely that Holton experienced some Roman influence, being very close to the main Roman road north from Colchester approximately along the route of the present day A 12; and there is another surmised Roman road from Stratford St Mary through Hadleigh to the junction of established Roman roads at Bildeston. There have been some very minor finds of Roman coins and pottery in the parish, and it is claimed that there are some Roman tiles in the Church fabric.

The village in Saxon times was in the Samford Hundred, many Hundreds continuing to function into the 19C.

Holton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as having a population of 19, including 4 slaves. As an indication of its status it had a church, 24 acres of meadow, 2 horses, 2 cattle, 18 pigs and 68 sheep. The number of pigs was related to the extent of woodland in the parish.

The only manor mentioned by name and clearly the main one was Holton Manor. It was described as being 6 quarentines (furlongs) long and 4 quarentines wide, and of 2 caracutes in area (a caracute is in fact a measure of work - the land that a team of 8 oxen could plough, but it is generally accepted as being approximately 128 acres). There is also reference in the Survey to other holdings of land in Holton of 38 acres, and 33 acres of meadow.

Immediately prior to the Survey some of the adjoining manors in Raydon were held by Ausgar, the same freeman as held Holton, so border changes could account for area discrepancies. After 1066 King William I appointed Geoffrey de Mandeville to many Suffolk manors including Holton.

In following years names of owners included, in 1258 Robert Raydon, and in 1309 Alicia wife of John de Holbrook. During Henry VI's reign in the mid 15C the Fastolfes (Shakespeare's Falstaff) held the Manor until the Mannocks became owners.

The first references to a second Holton manor named Boytons, quoted as a sub-manor, was early in 13C. It was held first by Robert de Stratford, and then the de Boyton family. In the late 13C the manor of Boytons is quoted as providing the right of free warren - hunting rights both on the owner's and his tenants land of all small animals - to William de Boyton.

The names of other influential people holding parish land in these early days were Robert de Stratford, Robert Raydon, John de Holbrook and Richard Withermarsh, all with local connotations being place names.

John Mannock, son of Philip who purchased Giffords Hall Manor, Stoke, in 1428, died in 1476 at which time he was Lord of Holton Manor. The Mannock family together with "The Master and Fellows or Scholars of Benet College (Corpus Christi and of Blessed Virgin Mary)", Cambridge, were to be Lords of Holton Manor for just over 500 years until 1979 when the College sold Holton Hall Estate to one of the large commercial pension funds. One can well imagine that much of Holton would be very different if there had been different and more owners during this period.

At the time of the Tithe Act in 1838 the area of the village was established as 810 acres, of which 682 were cultivated, 68 were meadow or pasture, 25 were woodland and 35 were Glebe.

In 1894 after the establishment of District and Parish Councils, Holton St Mary became part of the Samford Rural District Council in the county of East Suffolk, and in 1974 became part of the Babergh District Council in the newly established County of Suffolk.

In times past, under separate tenancy or ownership, there were farms known as Ablewhite's, Holton Hall, Holton Place, Dewlands, Fullers (Blakes), Lampitts and Fishers, Lates (Skinges), Mynotts, Noakes, Oakes, Squirrels Hall, and Ravens, parts of some of them extending into neighbouring parishes.

Whilst reference has been made particularly to Holton Hall Manor and its relative stability, Boytons seems to have become more fragmented with many owners of smaller parts. Names of owners and tenants, mainly of farms, which have appeared over the years include de Boyton (Boytons Manor), le Fullere (Fullers Farm), del Brok, atte Noke (Noakes Lane), de Bradmere (18C Bradmore Tye), Bennet, brigges (Bridges), Page, Payne, Daye, Glamfield, Rande, Wyles (Willis), Breed (Brett), Lewes, Gosnall (Gosling etc.), Hicks, Browning, Browne, Powell, Partridge, Maxey, Butcher, Fisher, Skinges, Lates, Cook, Harrison, Lawson, Rumsey, Muriel (one time Doctor in Hadleigh), and recently Moore (Holton Hall), and currently Johnson (Holton Place) and Pearce (Lates [Laits] and Dewlands).

The older existing buildings in the village are stated in various records to be

- 16C - Lampitts.
Lark Hall (Lates or Skinges Farm).
The Old Schoolhouse (the school rooms were added in 1746/1748).
- 17C - The Old Post Office.
Mayfields (Fullers or Blakes Farm).
Holton Place (additions were made in 18/19C).
- 18C - Holton Lodge (The Old Rectory).
- 19C - Rose Cottage.

A noteworthy villager was Ann Chandler who in her later years was an authoress. Among her works were the History of Joseph, the Life of Elizabeth the Prophet and several poetical pieces. She died in Holton in September 1814 at the age of 74.

Clearly, Holton has always been a small village as indicated by the numbers of houses over the years gleaned from a number of sources

1327 - 9; 1524 - 9; 1640 - 13; 1674 - 14; 1790 - 25;
1841 - 41; 1871 - 41; 1956 - 47; 1962 - 56; 1971 - 76
and today, following boundary changes and some additional building, 82.

and the population, at the time of the survey 19, as shown by the censuses:-

1801 - 190; 1811 - 196; 1821 - 213; 1831 - 194; 1841 - 187;
1851 - 192; 1861 - 167; 1871 - 167; 1881 - 169; 1891 - 176;
1901 - 144; 1911 - 173; 1921 - 185; 1931 - 171; 1951 - 152;
1961 - 149; 1971 - 205; 1981 - 206;

Adjoining villages were concerned with cloth making and in 15C East Bergholt was the most important clothing town in the Samford Hundred. The Mannock family were said to have become wealthy as clothiers, and there was reference to spinning in the Holton School constitution printed in 1759 (see Appendix C). In 1731 a field just across the boundary into Stratford St Mary, near Wheatlands Farm, was called "Tainters Field", suggesting that cloths were stretched there, but apart from there being one clothier in the village in 17C there is little evidence to suggest that Holton was ever other than agricultural. There were husbandmen and yeomen in the 16C and 17C, and a fellmonger who was a dealer in hides.

There were farmers of course, and other occupations recorded in 19C and 20C in addition to agricultural labourers were a shoemaker, butcher, sub-postmaster, school mistress and a shopkeeper.

The local government Parish has long been established, possibly before Saxon times, and was later defined as being the area assigned to a single priest to whom its tithes were paid. With the loss of importance of the Hundred and the Manor Courts in the 17C, parishes gained in importance themselves, being only answerable to the Magistrates at Quarter Sessions, the Magistrates being nominally appointed by the King.

The Vestries (the governing bodies of the parishes) appointed the parish Constables, Surveyors or Waywardens, and Overseers and were responsible for collecting rates from the occupied parish properties and distributing much of the proceeds to the poor in the parish. In many parishes poorhouses were built to provide necessities and even work for the poor; one in Holton had been demolished at a relatively early date. Inspection of the Churchwardens' accounts reveals names of recipients of relief.

When it was found that the financial burden was too great for the parishes, the old rustic poorhouses, which were quite benevolent institutions, were sold off. In the early 18C legislation provided for unions of parishes to be formed and Workhouses to be built. They were often known as Houses of Industry, and were administered by Boards of Guardians, many still being in use into the early 20C.

Very soon after 1834 when responsibility for the poor was removed from the parishes, the treatment meted out became progressively more harsh and the poor dreaded having to "go to the Union". The feeling held by so many was well expressed by the work of a young author of the time, Charles Dickens,

in his "Oliver Twist". Holton was part of the union served by the workhouse at Tattingstone which, as St Mary's Hospital, remained open until the 1980's.

In Suffolk opposition to workhouses locally first showed in 1765 when 7 were in operation or under construction. Whilst there is no local evidence of violent unrest as was occurring in many parts of the country, a copy of a letter came to light apparently emanating from Raydon, addressed to the members of the Board of Guardians of Tattingstone Workhouse worded as follows:-

"Gentlemen, this is to acquaint you all of you, concerning the Billing of this workhous think to starve the poore theare Stephen Wite stratford Lews of Barfield Wile of Tatason Loyd hintlesham but let them tak Care of their Selves for farit that is hap on shall there Brains be Blown out and that as sure as death and fail not and the hous shall not be bilt a toyle for theare shall be 500 planted soon and will di all it and pull Wiles hous down".

It is not easy to translate every word of the above but it clearly bodes ill to the officials named who nevertheless survived this episode.

Charities were set up in most parishes and there were several providing for the poor of Holton, in some cases shared with neighbouring parishes indicating the donor's (the Rector) multiple responsibility, even in those days. They included the Glanville Charity, originally a cottage in Higham later sold and the proceeds converted to Consols, the Rowley Charity - Consols, the Bread Charity - Consols, land called the Town Pightle now the Charity Field, and a small area of land the income from which was devoted to the upkeep of a Well. There was also the Rector's Dole Charity and of course the Charity School.

Immediately after the 1870 Education Act the school and its charity became the responsibility of the Education Authority, and in 1914 most of the other charities were amalgamated into the Holton United Charities.

In December 1949, the Village Hall, referred to at length later, was put into a charitable trust.

With hindsight it would have been better had more of the property of the charities been in land or buildings rather than money in view of appreciation of the value of the one and depreciation of the other.

The following has become available too late to be part of the appropriate text, but I think it should be included.

On 17 May 1996 through the good offices of the Rev. Terry Wells, my mentor Nadine Mallam and I had the pleasure of meeting a member of an old Holton family who were in the village from the 1830's until the 1980's. He is Fred Bloomfield, now living near Tonbridge in Kent.

We had an all too brief couple of hours chatting with Fred, (christened Alfred but he disliked being "little Alfie"!). I think there must be another visit to see him to do justice to his store of knowledge acquired in 91 years.

His father to be, William, lived with his family at Rose Cottage, and mother Kate Tuffin at The Barns as it is now known. Both left Holton in disgrace, getting married at Kingston-on-Thames before settling at Brixton in London.

He and his immediate family, parents and sisters Lily and Rose and brother William, enjoyed many holidays in Holton. One he recalled entailed the 6 of them travelling by ?hansom? cab from Brixton to Liverpool Street Station, by train to Manningtree, and by Walter White's horse drawn waggon (Walter was the Holton carrier) clip-clopping up the hill to Bergholt and on to uncle.

Fred spent some years at Holton with Uncle George at the old Post Office at Holton, apparently returning to Brixton at the age of 11 in 1915. Uncle George was rejected for service during the first World War as being unfit, but lived to the age of 92, dying in 1967.

How well Fred remembers kneeling on the so hard flag stone floor at evening prayers, and how Uncle George read from the Bible. He read without pause passages with several "hudwoods" interjected where there were hard words which he had difficulty in pronouncing.

Brother William emigrated to Canada where he died. Sister Lily returned to Suffolk and was living in East Bergholt as widowed Mrs Wesley in the 1980's.

Fred showed us a farewell letter from Headmistress Mrs A. M. Skeet, written in 1915. He also confided to us how he had a "crush" on Belle Skeet, later Holton teacher Mrs Mabel Rice, who taught there briefly until the school closed in 1923.

Perhaps there will be more to add at a later date!

Church.

The Church is built of Flint and Stone, and has Saxon features, quoted as such by some experts but disputed by others, of Batter (inward sloping walls), and having no Chancel Arch. There are also said to be a few Roman tiles visible in the walls.

Whatever the truth of the above there was certainly a Church in Holton St Mary at the time of King William I's survey in 1086 as recorded in the Domesday Book.

Holton was in the Diocese of Norwich until 1914, when the Suffolk Bishopric of St Edmundsbury was created.

The Church is of Early English, Decorated style, with Chancel and Nave, a low 15C brick embattled west Tower apparently collapsed and not rebuilt (but see below), with one bell.

The dates of various parts of the Church quoted in old records are

Nave and Chancel	- 14C
(Pevsner claims the Chancel is 13C)	
Tower	- 15C
Font - 15C on a base	- 13C
Bell - pre-reformation	- ?15C
(The single bell currently hanging in the tower bears the sole marking "1881" - possibly the date when it was recast or replaced - see below).	

The Vestry on the north side was described in 1932 as being new, and on the south side, stated to be modern in 1907, is the Porch.

Some noteworthy recorded dates are

1211. There was a law suit in connection with the Church (about which there are no details) between William de Bromford, petitioner, and Hubertium de Monte Canisu, defendant, of Holetun.

1291. Taxatio Ecclesiastica Engliae and Waliae. Norwic Bp., Decanat Sampford, Holtone. (Ecclesiastical Taxation Return for England and Wales, Norwich Bishopric, Samford Deanery, Holton).

Taxatio - £4. Decima (Tenths - Tithe) - 8s. (40p).

1340. Inquisitiones nonarum curia saccarū. (Rolls of the Ninths in the Court of the Exchequer).

Total VI marks (£4). Portion belonging to St John's Abbey, Colchester - IV marks (£2.13.4d. - £2.66p).

(The Ninths. "In 1340 this stated that the ninth of Sheaves, Fleeces and Lambs is worth 6 marks and no more. The Church is endowed with 40 acres of land worth 20/0d. (£1), and the altarage (offerings made upon the altar during offertory

providing maintenance of the priest) is worth besides wool and lambs, 2 marks 'as is found by John of Dedham, Henry Starchout, Ra. Smith and Thomas Drake, jurors of Holton'." [1 mark was equal to 8oz. of silver at 20d. (10p) per oz. - 13/4d. (67p)].

1349. Patron - Sir Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk.
Prior - William de Holton.

All of the above dates are earlier than the date of the first recorded Rector.

1434. Philip Mannoock, Lord of the Manor, gave $\frac{1}{2}$ mark (6/8d. - 33p.) for the repair of the Church.

1509/1547. At the time of Henry VIII the Rectory was valued at £7.14.7d. with 33 acres glebe.

1536. At the Reformation there was much unrest. Commissioners were appointed to receive goods and chattels of the smaller priories. Early in the reign of Edward VI (1547 - 1553) enquiries were made about plate, jewels, bells and other "ornaments". In some parts of the country (Kent was particularly mentioned) such goods were embezzled by Churchwardens. Much was sold, some were declared.

Certificates were demanded from Churchwardens, in Suffolk in November 1547. ("Holton. 11 November Rich Wylys and Jn Benet, Churchwardens, sold a pair of Shalys XXs. (20s. - £1). Spent on wytyng church Vis.VIIId.(6s.8d. - 33p), pulpitt XIIIIs IIIId (13/4d - 66p)).

In 1553 the Commissioners summoned the Churchwardens before them the outcome not being recorded. In 1554 it was noted that Holton had "Church goods Chalyces one, pcell gylt wayinge VI (6) oz., Great Bells II".

1554. Thomas Stubbard, Rector, Holton, evidently would not renounce the Protestant faith so was deprived of his living on the accession of Mary. He is shown as holding office until 1583 so it is assumed he was reinstated when Elizabeth was enthroned.

1584. There were recorded "Communicants - 35, Recusants - Nil".

1603. There were recorded "Communicants - 80, Recusants - Nil".

1643. William Dowsing "brake down 6 superstitious pictures" (usually stained glass windows). It is also thought that he defaced the Font. [There is some doubt as to whether he lived at one time at Stratford St Mary or at Stratford St Andrew].

1748. Hanging on the south wall of the nave is a painting, originally in the school, commemorating the opening of the school.
1773. There is a monument of note in the Church to the Rev. Stephen White, M.A., Rector of Holton, who died on 12 April while officiating in Church. He endowed and was very much involved in establishing Holton School in 1746, and several other charities.
1863. The east end of the Church was rebuilt.
1881. It is recorded that the Church "suffered extensive restoration" by public subscription raised by the Rector. The interior work cost £500.

Under the tower there are two tombstones both commemorating members of the Maxey family - John and his wife Bridget, of Holton Place, and Bartholomew Wall and Elizabeth his wife, and their son Bartholomew, an apothecary, and daughter Mary. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Maxey.

It was said that at the Bishop's visitation in 1665 John Maxey was presented. He had kept the utensils of the Church, so communion could not be administered. One wonders why?

No one of lower status than Gentleman was buried in a Church. A tombstone in a Church does not always indicate that a body is interred under the stone, the coffin often being in the adjoining Church yard.

Many of the grave stones in the Church yard are difficult to decipher, but a magnificent job was completed by Mr & Mrs C. Haste and family in compiling in 1990 a complete detail of graves and their location. Some of the old stones refer to the Partridge family, at Holton Hall between 1674 and ?1753, the Cook family also at Holton Hall between 1778 and 1863, the Rev. J. Dobree and family, he probably being curate during the time of the Rev J. Rowley, and later himself the Rector until 1878.

There are also to be seen many old family names perpetuated in the locality today. These include Alderman, Bloomfield, Crisp, Deeks, Double, Farthing, Goodchild, Hammond, Pryke, Pettingale, Rushbrook, Sallows, Scott and Stiff. A name of a parishioner first appearing in Holton in 17C, whilst not recorded in the burial register is Pickers (?Pickess). Could our organist's family be descendants of this villager?

One unusual stone bearing a skull and crossed bones indicates that Mary Partridge died in 1738 of the plague (?small pox).

Chancel.

In the south wall there is a Clergy Bench and in a Niche a C13 Piscina. In the north wall there is another Niche.

Nave.

There are quatrefoil headed windows with very old Stained Glass Shields containing Coats of Arms - in the north wall the Morley family, and in the south wall the Bohun family. The doorways have small quadrant mouldings with big hood-mould head stops. In the south porch there is the Patron Saint's Niche over the south door.

Tower.

Although a learned opinion expressed above suggests it had collapsed, no record has come to light to explain if the Tower was never completely built or was damaged and restored with its brick battlements. In the tower there is hanging the Achievement of Royal Arms, GHR, often displayed in Churches after the Reformation.

Beneath the tower are two tomb stones each commemorating members of the same family - the Maxeys, who owned land on the Holton/Raydon boundary, as referred to above.

Font.

One record describes the Font as being "ancient, of somewhat rude workmanship, with bowl octagonal with sides quatrefoiled, containing carved figures". An octagonal shaft supports the bowl, placed on an older base with sockets for 8 smaller pillars.

The sides are

Blank Shield.
Female Head in Square Head-dress.
Another Female Head.
Blank Shield.
Female Head.
Fleur-de-Lys.
Rose.
Man emerging from a font.

The carved figures have been mutilated, supposed by some to have been done by William Dowsing.

Bell.

It is on record that when Commissioners appointed after the Reformation to receive Church goods summoned the Holton Churchwardens before them in 1554, there were among other items, "Greate Bells -ii". Also as late as 1674 there was mention of 2 Bells.

The single bell in the tower in 1996 has only one marking on it - "1881". Restoration work was carried out on Holton St Mary Church in 1881, and one record suggests that the Bell could have been cast or recast by Moore, Holmes and Mackenzie, of Redenhall Foundry, Norfolk, who started casting bells only in 1879. The bell cradle still has provision for two bells.

Stained Glass.

In the decorated Nave windows there are as referred to above, shields containing very old stained glass Coats of Arms. Also, in the tower there is a beautiful window commemorating Edith Maria Burton the wife of Lyngen

Burton, whose connection with Holton is somewhat obscure, but he was apparently in residence at Oakes Farm for a time.

Organ.

The organ has been described as "a very useful, pleasing organ of Victorian date". It is a tracker organ with mechanical action, one manual with pedals covering 8 octaves. The pipes are of metal and wood, only the metal ones being visible. It is possible that it dates from the time of the major restoration in the 1880's.

Pews.

In the Vestry are carved Stuart Pews of the early C17.

Of more recent date there are in the Vestry awards showing the successes of the Church Choir in the Suffolk Musical Festivals of 1924, 1925 and 1926 when they were placed 1st, 2nd and 1st in their particular groups. These certificates were in effect a memorial to Miss Amy Lott who worked so hard for the Church and the Choir during the years of the early part of the present century. She lived at various addresses in Holton St Mary and died in 1936 at the Old Post Office.

Terriers.

Terriers which have been preserved date from 1698. They can be considered as periodic stocktaking records of the assets of the Church, prepared by the Rector and Churchwardens. They are revealing and show how diligent or otherwise the various Rectors were, some even recording items which debatably should not be included. That for 1845 is set out in Appendix A.

Restoration.

It is most fitting to conclude this brief history of the Church by outlining the efforts of Martin Favell and the Committee who have worked so hard and long in the 1990's to raise the sum of £71,000.

All manner of events were arranged in the village, and with other incidental items, £19,500 was raised. Church funds provided £2,500, and covenants and donations from members and friends of the village produced the considerable sum of £17,500.

Grants were received from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, English Heritage, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

The money raised has been spent on the restoration as distinct from repair of the Church from 1991 to date. It included major structural repairs to the masonry of the Tower, re-roofing of Nave, Chancel, Porch and Vestry, and extensive lowering of the ground level around the Church and masonry repairs. Masonry repairs were also carried out to the Priest's Door and the South Nave Window, and the interior walls were refurbished. At the appropriate time the organ was also completely overhauled by Mr Peter Jackaman of Nordens of Bramford, to whom I am obliged for details mentioned above.

It is planned to mark the conclusion of this mammoth task by holding a week of festivities in the village in June 1996. A job well done indeed!!

SCHOOL

Holton St Mary School was established and endowed by the Rev. Stephen White in 1746 and was thought to have occupied rooms added in 1746/48 to an existing Jacobean or Georgian building. (In 1906 the size of the schoolrooms was stated to be 22' x 15' and 21'9" x 14'9")

In 1749 Sir Francis Mannock conveyed the school-house with a garden of 10 poles to trustees.

The following is an extract from Whites Directory of Suffolk, 1844 :-

"In 1755 the Church-wardens and Overseers demised the Town Pightle of 6 acres to the Rector and his successors for 99 years for the use of the school, the yearly rent of 18/- (90p.) to be distributed to the poor at Easter.

Dock Meadow in Stratford St Mary, consisting of 3 acres and let for £6 per annum was given by the Rev. Stephen White in trust, 'that rents should be applied in raising premiums to be given in October to children in school, or those who have been taught there and could bring certificates of good behaviour'

At a later date two cottages let for £3 each were built by trustees on the site of one granted by the Lord of the Manor, on lease, at a yearly rent of 1d.

The sum of £200 contributed by The Rev Stephen White and others was held by the Rector, producing 5% interest. Trustees also held £100.13.4. (£100.67) 3% reduced annuities purchased by the Rev Stephen White, and in 1787 £129.6.3 (£129.32) 3¹/₄% reduced annuities, all from surplus income.

The yearly income from these schemes is £35.5.10. (£35.29).

The master has £12.12.-. (£12.60) a year and the use of the school premises, for which he instructs as free scholars 16 boys and 9 girls in reading, writing and arithmetic.

The remainder of the income is applied in furnishing, books and rewards for children, and a suit of cloths for each on leaving school".

Information about the teachers is incomplete but the following has been gleaned from a variety of records:-

1785. Samuel Langham, schoolmaster, was buried on 3rd April.

1805/11. Mary Doubel, teacher, received 13/- (65p.) for teaching 13 children, 12 weeks @ 1d per week.

1814. Susan Double, Wenham, was paid £3.15.-. (£3.75)

1838. School house and garden, 1 rod 22 poles, and orchard and pightle, 1 rod 32 poles, occupied by William Hammond.

1883. James Hammond, schoolmaster.

1890. John George, 2nd Class C.T. (?Certified Teacher) took charge of the school, 11 October. (is this an indication of one of the requirements of the Education Act, 1870?)
1907. Annie G. Hollier, probationer. Her admission as a Pupil Teacher was later approved.
1908. Mrs. Jane Hollier, teacher.
1909. The Headmistress terminated her engagement. Alice Mary Skeet commenced as Headmistress, remaining in this position until the early 1920's. She died in 1922. Later in 1909 Dorothy Skeet was appointed Monitoress.
1910. Eleanor Mulley from Otley was appointed temporary Headmistress, and a month later George William Skeet took charge. On the same day Miss Mulley ended her engagement as a Supply Teacher. (The above item leads one to wonder if there was some staff unrest).
1911. Dorothy Skeet resigned as Monitoress on obtaining a post at Capel. Daisy Lingley succeeded her.

As a result of the Education Act, 1890, on 9th January 1891 the Rev. Hunnybun announced that the Education Department had accepted the school for 3 years, at which time the average attendance was 41.

On 25th November 1892 Dr. George Sampson, the local Medical Officer, visited the school, following which the headmaster was requested to send home all children from families suffering from diphtheria.

On a lighter note (for the reader!) it is noted that in 1890 Albert Stiff was cautioned for swearing and Charles Fenn was caned for being late, after several cautions. Further, in 1891 Fred and William Baker, William and Walter Madden, Herbert Norton and George Lock were caned for loitering on the road and being 15 minutes late. Was the new head master getting into his stride?

On yet a different lighter note, on 5th October 1891 Mr. H.Cooper who farmed at Holton Hall, gave the children a dinner on the occasion of his daughter's wedding and the school was closed for the afternoon, and on 12 September 1906 the day of the Flower Show, the children were given a half day's holiday, entertainment being given by some of the children.

An interesting insight into the financing of the school is given by the following accounts:-

1906. Grant for the year ended 30 April.	
Mixed average attendance 20 @ 22s.	22. - .-
Infants " " 9 @ 22s.	9.18. - .
Principal Grant	31.18. - .
Small Population	25. - .-

Fee Grant on 29 @ 10/-	14.10.-.
Deduct Instalment paid	11.12.6.
Balance of Fee Grant	2.17. 6.
Total	59.15. 6.
Deduct for Superannuation Deductions	2. 4. -.
Net amount payable	£57.11. 6.

Certified by the Rev J. A. de Candole

1906. Sale of Garments. (Were these made by the girls?).	
2pr Stockings @ 10d. per pr.	1. 8.
6 pinafores @ 10d. ea.	5. -.
2 shirts @ 7 1/2d. ea.	1. 3.
2 scarf @ 5d. ea.	10.
3 Pillow Case @ 3d. ea.	9.
3 Petticoats @ 1/-d. ea.	3. -.
Total	12. 6.

Other out of the ordinary items are:-

1907. On 9th September the school was painted and the children stayed away. The School was closed from 11th - 16th "because the paint was injurious to the children".
1908. The School was closed for the whole of January due to whooping cough. Fire Drill was introduced.
1911. In February children (9) living in other parishes were warned they would have to leave. The School was closed for Coronation Week.
1912. The School was closed from 21 February until 15 April for sickness. On 29 April 9 children were transferred to Raydon School. There were now 28 children at Holton St Mary School.

Educational Charities were transferred to the Ministry of Education after 1899. The painting in the Church was originally in the school-room on the north wall. It depicts "A School and a Church with a boy with a book and a shovel", and the text reads "Opened 29 Aug 1748. 'Not slothful in business. Serving the Lord'". One critic early in the century has put on record "Varnished unfortunately in the 20's".

VILLAGE HALL.

The official opening of the Village Hall took place on 7th November 1929, as indicated below.

The land was donated by Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, but there is no firm evidence as to how provision of the building and contents was financed. However there is a strong possibility that the Moore family of Holton Hall had more than a hand in it. During their tenancy of Holton Hall from 1917 to 1979 they were much appreciated benefactors to the village in many ways.

The following account of the opening of the Village Hall is taken from the Samford Diocese Magazine of the time:-

"The hall was built by Mr A. Dunningham of Raydon, the site being a gift from the Master and Council of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

The opening ceremony was carried by Sir Joshua T. Rowley, Bart., and Mrs. Rowley at 3pm on Thursday 7th November 1929.

After the opening, a Sale of Work followed, organised by the members of the Holton St Mary Branch of the Mothers' Union, under the leadership of Mrs Joan Whitby, assisted by Mrs Freeman. Mrs Rowley declared the Sale open.

A vote of thanks to Sir Joshua Rowley was proposed by Mr W. White, seconded by Mr F.H. Moore, and supported by Mr M. Johnson. This was followed by a vote of thanks to Mrs Rowley proposed by Mr John Whitby, and seconded by Col. Hasted. Miss Sylvia Greaves presented Lady Rowley with a beautiful bouquet of pink carnations on behalf of the Mothers' Union.

The stalls were in the care of the following ladies:-

Refreshments: Mrs W. White, Mrs W. Willis, Mrs Scrivener, Mrs R. Crisp, Mrs Sowman, and Miss F. Moore.

Provisions: Mrs Edwin Whitby, Mrs Moore, Miss Shiela Stuart and Miss Connie Moore.

Plain and Fancy Work: Mrs J. Whitby, Mrs W. White and Miss Cobbold.

Pottery and Fancy Work: Mrs Hasted, Mrs Howard, and Miss Hasted.

Sweets: Mrs Freeman, Mrs Westgate and Mrs Goodchild.

Pound and Household: Mrs Read, Mrs C. Tuckwell and Mrs Rice.

Bran Tub: Mrs Rumsey.

Sale of Work: Mrs Walter Boreham.

Sales were excellent and the substantial sum of £35 was the happy result.

In the evening an entertainment arranged by Miss Lott was given to a packed house. The first part of the programme was a concert in which the following took part:- Holton Choir,

Mrs Howard, Miss Downs, Miss Hasted, Miss Beneworth, Mrs R. Sharpe, Miss W. Tricker and Miss Nina Willis. Miss Lott accompanied.

This was followed by a musical play, "The Madcap Months", a musical travesty on the English weather. The performance was splendid and the setting very pretty. Miss Shiela Stuart is to be congratulated on her successful work in the costumes department. A charming item was the pretty dancing of the Fairy Princess, Miss Sylvia Greaves.

The winners in the competition arranged by Mr W. White and Mr M. Johnson were:-

1. Mrs B. H. Double (Hadleigh).
2. Mrs W. Abbott
3. Mrs C. Hammond
4. Mrs F. Tricker (all of Holton).
5. Mrs A. Ellis (Dedham)

Altogether it was a marvellous day for the small village of less than 200 people".

A provisional Balance Sheet drawn up on 30th January, 1930, showed

Sale of Work	30. 17. 3.	
Entertainment	6. 11. -.	
Competition	8. 11. -.	
Subscriptions	24. 5. -.	
Whist Drive and Dance	13. 5.	
Total Receipts	£70. 18. -	"

In the three decades since 1970 considerable renovation work and improvements have been carried out. The work, much of it financed from Village Hall funds and completed with voluntary labour, included a new roof, a new heating system, installation of a refreshment bar, and a false ceiling, and more recently a new kitchen. Grants were received from Babergh District Council.

Later, financial support was given by the Village Club and the Parish Council.

With continuing support proposed work at an estimated cost of £14,000 is planned to build a new toilet block and to remove the permanent stage, with the intention to use a demountable stage in future if required.

The Church; Terrier

Terrier - 1845.

Glebe. 36 acres 3 rods 31 poles.

Parsonage. Garden and yards abutt to the North East, on premises belonging to Robert Lawson, to the South East on Great Birch Field, to the South West on Little Birch Field, to the North West upon the road from Raydon to Higham.

An Enclosure, Great Birch Field - 8 acres 1 rod 4 poles, bounded on the North East by the lands belonging to Robert Lawson and Corpus Christi College, on the South East by lands belonging to Corpus Christi College, on the North West by Little Birch Field and the Parsonage Garden.

A piece of Pasture Land called Little Birch Field bounded by the Parsonage Garden and grounds on the North East, by Great Birch Field on the South East, by lands belonging to Corpus Christi College on the South West, and by the road leading from Raydon to Higham on the North West.

A Field called Pin Pitts, 6 acres 3 rods 9 poles, bounded on the South East by the last mentioned road, on the South West by the lands belonging to Robert Lawson, and on the North West by Hadleigh Charities land.

Two Fields called 8 acres and 4 acres bounded on the North and the East by the road from Wenham to Hadleigh, on the South by Robert Lawson's lands, and on the West by Raydon Glebe lands.

A Plantation - 5 acres, at the North corner of Pond Field.

33 Timber Oaks, 82 Timber Elms, and 4 Ash Trees valued at about £80.

Tythes were commuted in 1838 for a Rent Charge of £220.

A School.

Land called Town Land, leased to the school for 18/-d. (90p) per annum, and two cottages with gardens belonging to the school.

There are also Two Town Stocks - £25., late held by the executor of John Cook, interest given to the poor at Easter, with 18/-d. rent of Town Land, and £10, late held by the executor of John Cook, the interest given to the poor in Bread at Christmas. Both sums have been paid by the executor of John Cook and are in Hadleigh Savings Bank in the names of Joshua Rowley and Robert Cook in trust for the poor of Holton.

Also a Cottage at Higham, 1/3rd part of the rent belonging to Holton and is divided equally among widows being parishioners.

The Parish is charged with the repair of the Church and Church Yard Fences, and the Rector with the repair of the Chancel.

The Clerk's and Sexton's wages are paid from Church Rates, and they are appointed by the Rector and Churchwardens.

Footnotes.

The following pieces or parcels of land containing in the whole 4 acres was sold to William Hicks some years since to redeem Land Tax Charges on the said Glebe Lands, Parsonage Houses etc.,

- 2 1/2 acres in a field called Common Haylands.
- 1 other piece called Newgate Acre and a Driftway containing 1/2 acre.

The timber standing or growing upon Glebe Land is of little value.

After a long dispute between the then Rector Nathaniel Hudson and the parishioners of Holton St Mary a number of ancient customs were settled and established on 6 May 1689. (One wonders what they were!)

Joshua Rowley, Rector.

Robert Cook, Churchwarden.

Rectors of Holton St Mary.
1429 - 1996.

1429 - 1430	James Passmere
1430 - 1454	William Milys
1455 - 1457	Richard Bottisham
1458 - 1534	Stephen Goodman
1535 - 1553	Rolph Bollum
1554 - 1567	Thomas Stubbard
1568 - 1571	Baldwin Dearcham
1571 - 1583	Robert Buirkes
1584 - 1599	Nicholas Yonge
1600 - 1601	Samuel Pigbon
1601 - 1616	John Farror
1617 - 1624	William Croxton
1625 - 1628	Thomas Teversham
1629 - 1656	John Bird
1657 - 1669	Francis Deynes
1707 - 1719	Henry Shaw
1719 - 1732	Robert Morsing
1732 - 1773	Stephen White
1773 - 1820	William Colchester
1824 - 1853	Joshua Rowley
1854 - 1878	John Gale Bobree
1879 - 1898	James Hunnybun
1899 - 1901	Joseph Calvert
1902 - 1908	J.A.C.V. de Candole
1908 - 1917	W. G. Hodges
1918 - 1938	Charles J. Howard
1939 - 1943	Ernest J. Salmon
1944 - 1950	Walter Edwards
1951 - 1969	Rowland H. Haste
1970 - 1976	G. Leslie Justin
1977 - 1987	Wilfred S. Herrington
1987 - 1991	M. Hamilton Sharp
1991 - 1993	Brian Etlinger
1995 -	Terry Wells

Constitution
HOLTON ST MARY
Charity School

The STATE and Principal Rules of the
CHARITY SCHOOL, at Holton, in Suffolk.

"Not slothfull in Business:- serving the Lord".
Rom. xii. ii.

IPSWICH:

Printed by W. Creighton,
in the year 1759.

The STATE, &c.
of the
Charity-School at Holton.

In the year 1746, a Charity-School, supported by Subscriptions, was opened at Holton, for the Benefit of Twelve poor Children of any Parish.

In the year 1748, a convenient School-House was built for the Master and Mistress, and intended likewise for the Reception of the Six best Readers, if ever the Subscriptions, &c., together with their Work part of the Day, shall be sufficient to pay for their Maintenance: For the Accomplishment of which, the Promoters of this Charity put their Trust in Divine Providence.

The Boys are Taught to read and write a plain Hand, and the two first Rules in Arithmetick only: The Girls to read, knit, and sew. They constantly attend Divine Service on Sundays and Holidays, and daily Prayers in the School.

The biggest Boys are sometimes employed in raising White-Thorn Quick, which is sold for the benefit of the School.

A yearly Subscriber, for every Ten Shillings in his Subscription, nominates one Child in every Course or Round of Nominations. If several Subscribers offer Children at the same Time, the eldest Child has the Preference.

The Six best Readers are cloathed throughout every Easter.

A Bible is given to each, when dismissed, or signing the following Note to be written in the Bible, viz.:-

"I promise, with the Consent of my Parents, if ever it shall please God to make me worth Fifty Pounds, to give Ten Shillings for the Use and Improvement of Holton School, where I received my Education and this Bible, with several other Gifts; for which I bless God, and thank my Benefactors, stedfastly purposing, by the Assistance of Divine Grace, to make good and religious Use of these advantages; and particularly to be charitable, in proportion to my Abilities".