The 20th Century

**Rectory servants, c.1900**
The 1901 Census records that Elizabeth Bell, aged 65, Bessie Jones, aged 24, Louisa Brentnall, aged 25, Lena Wright, aged 23, and Mary Atkinson, aged 45, were living as domestic servants at the Rectory, Hawarden. Some of these may be the women shown in this photograph, taken c.1900. They were the servants of the rector Stephen Gladstone and his wife Annie.

![Rectory Servants on the Lawn at the Rectory, Hawarden, c.1900 (PH/28(G)/49)](image)

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Workhouse treat at Hawarden Rectory, c.1900
During the time of Stephen Gladstone’s residence at the Rectory, a treat was organised for the people who lived at the Hawarden Union Workhouse. The workhouse inmates are pictured on the lawn outside the bay windows of the Rectory.

Rector’s treat for inmates of the Workhouse at Hawarden Rectory, c.1900
(_PH/28(G)/1_

Canon Harry Drew, rector of Hawarden, 1905-1910
Harry Drew was the rector of Hawarden from 1905-1910. He married Mary, second daughter of W.E. Gladstone (Prime Minister) in 1886. Their only daughter, Dorothy Drew, was born in 1890.43 Harry Drew had previously been the rector of Buckley parish, where he had been very happy, and it was with reluctance that he moved to the much larger and more challenging parish of Hawarden. In a letter to the Bishop of St Asaph, dated 25th May 1904, he said of Buckley: ‘As for this parish, my roots have struck very deep these seven years we have lived in it, and it is no small trial to have to leave it.’44

During rector Drew’s incumbency he lived at the Rectory with his family. He was a very diligent rector, who worked hard on bringing about improvements to schools in the area, and was responsible for a new school at Broughton, extensions at Sandycroft, Pentrobin, Shotton and Ewloe and a new school at Hawarden. He also converted the library of the Rectory (which was housed in what is currently the Record Office searchroom) into a Parish Room.45 He was made a Canon of the cathedral of St Asaph in 1903; and was elected as Councillor for the Hawarden Division in 1907, committing himself to an even more active involvement in the local community.46

During his rare moments of leisure at Hawarden Rectory, Drew enjoyed working in the gardens, in which ‘he found a perpetual source of refreshment and delight.’  

He died suddenly in 1910 whilst still incumbent as the rector of Hawarden. After his death, his wife Mary hoped that, as well as his good works, people would remember ‘his fun, his glorious giggles and dry humour and animal spirits, the vivid contrasts that really constituted his charm.’  

A popular figure, he was commemorated when a school was named in his honour, the ‘Rector Drew School’ on Gladstone Way. His daughter, Dorothy, laid the foundation stone of the school on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1911.

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The Prime Minister's connections with Hawarden Rectory

W. E. Gladstone, Prime Minister of England four times between 1868 and 1894, had many family connections with Hawarden Rectory. His brother-in-law Henry Glynne was rector and lived there from 1834-1872. He was succeeded by Stephen Gladstone, the Prime Minister’s second son, who was rector from 1872-1904. Canon Harry Drew, who was married to Mr Gladstone’s daughter, Mary, was the next rector until his sudden death in 1910. During the Drew family’s residence at the Rectory, ‘Mr Gladstone was a frequent visitor to the Rectory and often called on his way to church. Members of his family stayed in the house and there were frequent social occasions which were attended by guests staying at the castle.’

Gladstone Family group, 1895, showing Reverend Stephen Gladstone and Annie his wife (back row 1st and 3rd from left); Mary Drew and Canon Harry Drew (4th and 5th from left); and Dorothy Drew, their daughter (front row, 2nd from left) with William E. Gladstone and his wife Catherine (centre) (PH/28(A)/11)

Frank Selwyn Macauley Bennett, Rector of Hawarden, 1910-1920

F.S.M. Bennett succeeded to the living at Hawarden in 1910. He continued Canon Drew’s scheme of improvement of schools in the parish, and completed the new boys’ and girls’ school in Hawarden which was named as a memorial to him. He was also active in defence of the Welsh Church against its dis-establishment. The Act of 1919 established the Church in Wales as separate from the Church of England, for which rector Bennett had actively fought. In 1920, he was offered the position of Dean of Chester and left Hawarden to take up his new post. 51

Charles Frederick Lyttelton, Rector of Hawarden, 1920-1929

Born in 1887, Charles Frederick Lyttelton was the son of Charles George Lyttelton, 8th Viscount Cobham. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, he gained the rank of Chaplain in the Forces in 1917. After the First World War, he entered the living of Hawarden in 1920. He was the last rector to live at the Old Rectory, as in 1925 he moved to ‘The Sundial’, Hawarden. The Old

Rectory had become too large for the rector’s needs.\textsuperscript{52} Rector Lyttelton remained in Hawarden until 1929, when he became the rector of Cranley in Kent.\textsuperscript{53}

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\textbf{C.F. Lyttelton as Chaplain in the Forces, c.1917 (PH/28(O)/31)}
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\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{fete.png}

\textbf{A fête in the gardens of the Rectory (Reverend Lyttelton, centre) c.1920s (PH/28(P)/33)}
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Knutsford Test School at Hawarden Rectory, 1927-1940s

After the First World War, a school was set up for candidates who wished to be trained for ordination into the Church. This was a new idea in 1919, and for the first time the Church officially provided and financed a scheme of training for its ordination candidates. The aim was to enable those whose education had been cut short by the First World War to embark on theological training before being ordained into the Church. This was open to all, and meant that for the first time, people of all classes and financial backgrounds could now become ordained without the barriers of poverty or social standing.  

The first 'Test School' for ordinands was set up at Knutsford Gaol, Cheshire, where a large party of candidates began their training after the War in 1919. However, by 1922, the Church had decided that it could no longer fund the Knutsford Test School, and the school had to be moved to a smaller property in Knutsford, called ‘Kilrie’. The school was no longer an official organisation of the Church of England, but was now a voluntary organisation which had to fund itself and also try to offer bursaries to those who could not afford the fees. The school struggled to keep afloat and to accommodate its students in the small, cramped conditions at Kilrie.

In 1925, when Hawarden Rectory was no longer needed as a home for the incumbent rector of the parish, Henry Neville Gladstone, son of W.E. Gladstone, donated the building to the Test School, together with a donation of £3,000 towards necessary alterations. The school re-opened at the Old Rectory in January 1927, after considerable additions had been built (including the wing currently occupied by Hawarden Library).

The school prospered in its new surroundings, which included nearly 8 acres of grounds. The pupils played an active part in local life, taking part in football, rugby and cricket matches against other local schools. A tennis court was laid out in the gardens of the Old Rectory. Fêtes and festivals took place in the Rectory gardens, and in 1931 a pageant play was performed by the pupils of the School.

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A Shelter for Blind and Infirm Evacuees, World War II
During the Second World War, the Old Rectory was requisitioned by Hawarden Urban District Council to accommodate infirm evacuees from Birkenhead and for some blind people. The Test School moved to quarters at Hawarden Castle and did not return to the Old Rectory after the War. In February 1946 the Rectory resumed its function as a training college for ordinands, this time administered by the Central Advisory Council for the Training of the Ministry. In October 1947, it provided temporary accommodation for the William Temple College, a Church of England College for women interested in training for social, education or church work. It was eventually purchased by Flintshire County Council in 1955 to be utilised as a library headquarters and record office. 56