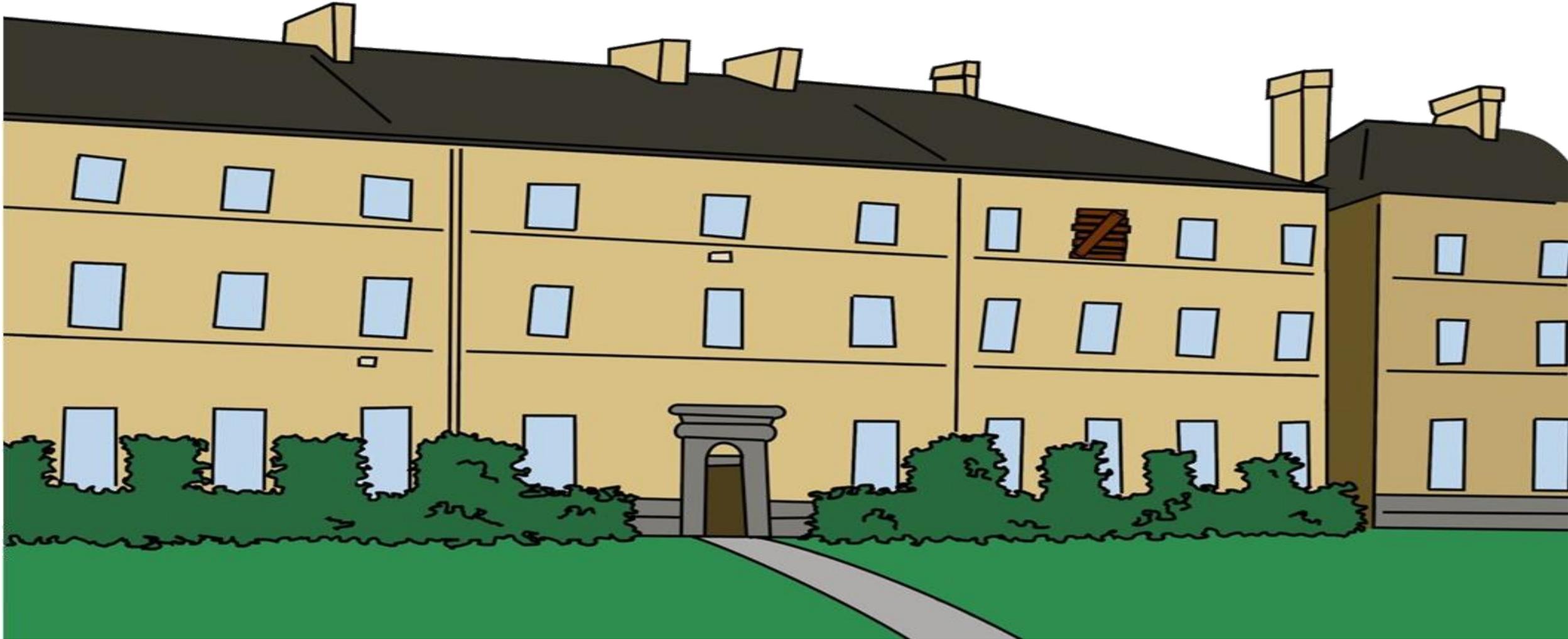


Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A047 -- PARSON, VICAR, OR RECTOR? -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 047... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT THE CLERGY IN OUR ADVENTURES.



**EIGHT OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES
REFERRED TO MEN OF THE CLOTH, WITH FOUR
STORIES EACH USING EITHER THE TERM 'VICAR'
OR 'PARSON.'**



*IN THE VALLEY OF FEAR, YOU USED A LOCAL
RECTOR'S LIBRARY FOR RESEARCH.*



WHILE BOTH YOU AND I CALLED J.C. ELMAN IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RETIRED COLOURMAN' A VICAR, I USED AT ONE POINT 'PARSON' INSTEAD.



ALL THREE OF THESE TERMS INDICATED THEY WERE ANGLICAN. THE TERM 'PRIEST' APPEARRED ONLY ONCE IN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES, AND WAS USED FOR A FOREIGNER (CATHOLIC OR OTHERWISE).



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WAS, AND CONTINUES TO BE, THE ESTABLISHED, OR STATE, CHURCH, LINKING THE TWO THROUGH THE MONARCH WHO SERVES AS THE SUPREME GOVERNOR OF THE CHURCH.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



WHEN TAKING THE THRONE, THE NEW KING OR
QUEEN PROMISES TO MAINTAIN THE CHURCH
DURING HIS OR HER CORONATION OATH.





THE CHURCH STRUCTURE INVOLVES TWO ARCHBISHOPS (ONE IN THE NORTH, YORK, AND ONE IN THE SOUTH, CANTERBURY) WHO OVERSEE FORTY-THREE DIOCESES (EACH WITH A CATHEDRAL, THE SEAT FOR THE ASSIGNED BISHOP) WHICH, IN TURN, ARE DIVIDED INTO ARCHDEACONRIES (RUN BY ARCHDEACONS).



THE ARCHDEACONRIES ARE DIVIDED INTO DEANERIES, WHICH COVER A GROUP OF PARISHES.



21 Jan 1869
Matthias. Richmond. Surr

**IN OTHER WORDS, FOR EVERYONE IN ENGLAND,
THERE IS A PARISH CHURCH AND A RECTOR OR VICAR.**



THE ARCHBISHOPS AND TWENTY-FOUR OF THE BISHOPS ALSO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES AS STATE WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, AND CORONATIONS.



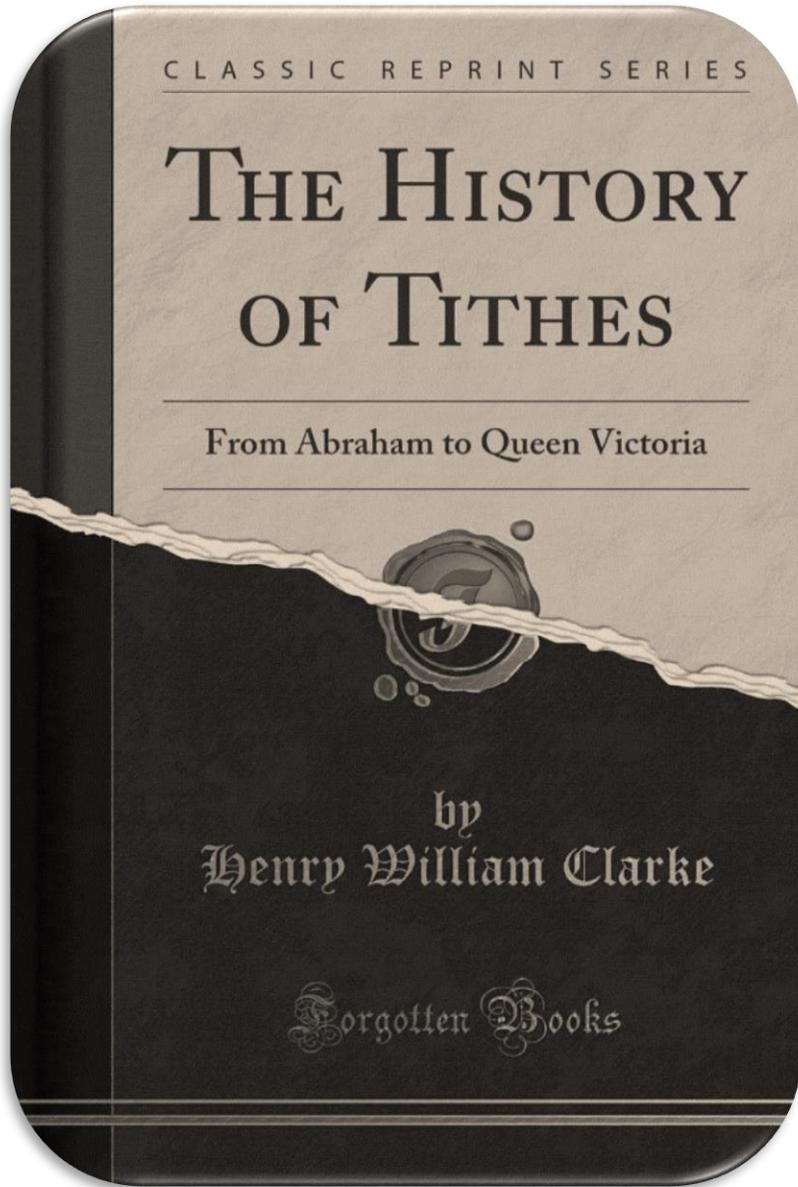
WHETHER THE LOCAL CHURCHMAN IS A 'VICAR' OR
A 'RECTOR' DEPENDS ON HOW THEY ARE FUNDED,
ALTHOUGH THEIR DUTIES ARE THE SAME.





VICARS ARE PAID THROUGH TITHES ON MAJOR CROPS COLLECTED AND MANAGED BY A LAY CORPORATION OR INDIVIDUAL... RECTORS RECEIVE TITHES DIRECTLY.





THIS IS CALLED A 'LIVING' AND EXPLAINS THE NOTE 'LIVING OF MOOSMOOR' AT THE END OF ELMAN'S SIGNATURE IN THE TELEGRAM I SENT IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RETIRED COLOURMAN.'



IN ADDITION TO THE TITHES, THE RECTOR OR VICAR ALSO HAS A 'GLEBE'—A PIECE OF LAND HE CAN FARM OR LEASE OUT.



SUCH POSITION AND FUNDS ARE FOR LIFE, AND, AS SUCH, THOSE WITH MORE LUCRATIVE RESOURCES ARE HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND QUITE COMPETITIVE.



THOSE WITH THE BEST PATRONAGE AND CONNECTIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO THE GET BETTER POSTS.



APPOINTMENT IS DECIDED BY AN INDIVIDUAL, THE LAY CORPORATION, THE BISHOP, OR A COLLEGE AT OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE, DEPENDING ON WHO CONTROLS THE SPECIFIC PARISH OR CHURCH.



WHILE THE PARISH PARSON IS EXPECTED TO BE MARRIED AND CAN BE ORDAINED AT AGE TWENTY-THREE THEY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR APPOINTMENT COMES THROUGH TO HAVE THE INCOME TO DO SO—OFTEN AT MUCH OLDER AGE THAN A RECENT GRADUATE.

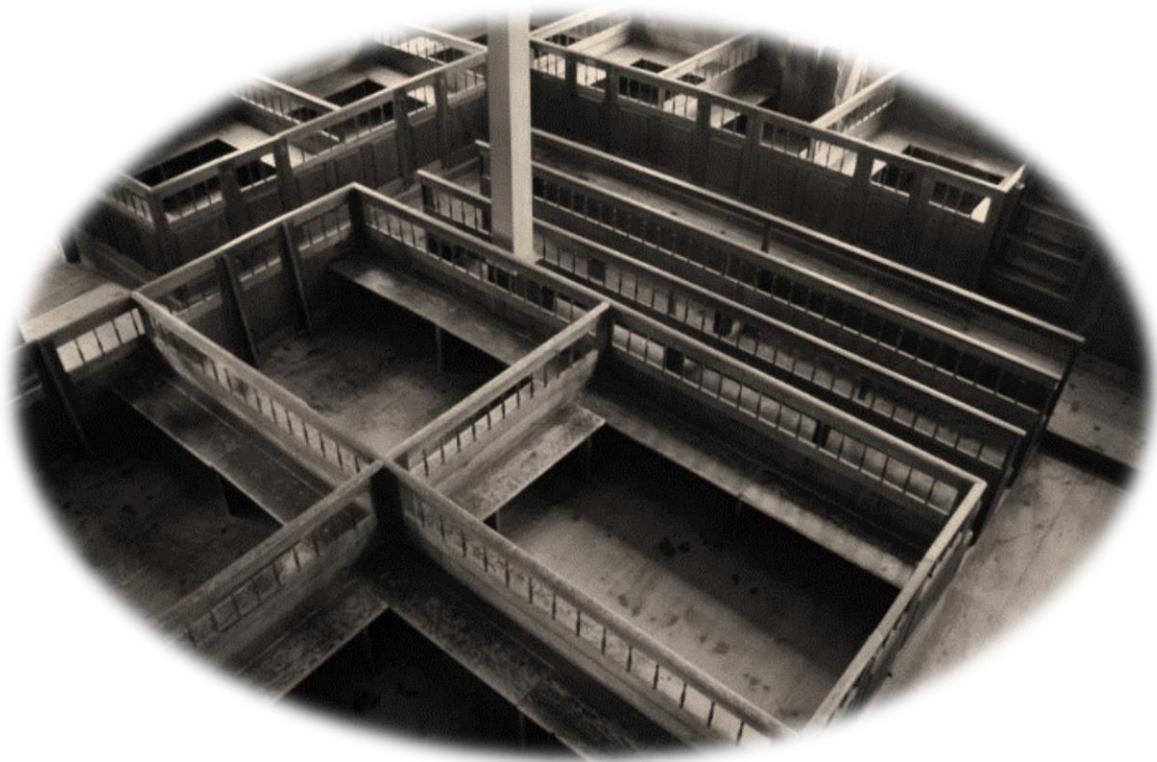




WHILE THIS SYSTEM WAS WELL SUPPORTED WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS PRIMARILY AGRARIAN, THE SHIFT TO AN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY WITH MOST MOVING TO THE CITY LED TO MAJOR SHIFTS IN THE CHURCH.



*TITHES AND GLEBES DIMINISHED, LEADING TO A
DEPENDENCE ON FEES, PEW RENTS (FOR THOSE WHO
DON'T WANT TO SIT AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH)...*





**...AND COLLECTIONS... CHURCH ATTENDANCE
DECREASED, AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS AND
RELIGIONS GREW.**



BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION DID NOT ATTEND SERVICES AND THE DECLINE CONTINUED OVER THE NEXT CENTURY... IN 2002, ABOUT 1% ATTENDED CHURCH ON SUNDAY.



DURING VICTORIAN TIMES, THE INDIVIDUAL PARSON HAD A GREAT DEAL OF FREEDOM WITHIN THE PARISH WITH RESPECT TO HOW SERVICES WERE RUN, WHAT OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES (SUCH AS SUNDAY SCHOOLS TO TEACH POOR CHILDREN TO READ) WERE OFFERED, AND OVERSIGHT OF ANY LOCAL RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS.



OFTEN ONE OF THE FEW LOCALS WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION, THEY WERE SOUGHT FOR ADVICE ON ANY NUMBER OF SUBJECTS — A TRAIT NOT IGNORED BY YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED TO CONSULT SOME REFERENCES CONCERNING VERMISSA VALLEY TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF A MURDER VICTIM IN THE VALLEY OF FEAR.





AS A PERSON OF LEARNING WHO WAS WELL-CONNECTED TO VILLAGE LIFE, I RECOGNIZED THE ROLE THE PARSON PLAYED AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION BOTH LOCAL AND REFERENTIAL.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 047 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 048, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE ROLE PUBS PLAY IN THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

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