



Charities of The Parish

Biddestone

Unknown Benefaction

In 1884 a Commission on the motion of Lord Boughan was ordered by Parliament to ascertain the various charities throughout England. The report contains the following account of an unknown benefactor of North Wraxall.

It is believed in the parish that about fifty years ago five pounds was annually received by the Churchwardens on account of this charity; that it was paid by the then Mr. Methuen's steward, and distributed among the second poor.

There are no documents in the parish which make any mention of the charity, but it is believed in the parish that the donor was either a Mrs. Cecilia Wallis, daughter of Isaac Selfe, who died in January, 1760 or Thomas Methuen, Esquire, who died prior to 1795, both these persons having been noted in the parish for their charitable acts. Paul Methuen, son and heir of Thomas who married a Selfe, died in 1795.

Nothing has been received on account of any such charity for twenty-three or twenty-four years past. The present Churchwarden Isaac Holborow, remembers the sum of five pounds having been annually paid to the parish officers by the former steward of Mr. Methuen, which sum was equally divided between Biddeston and Wraxall Parishes. No account of its applications appears to have been kept, except a list of persons who received the charity, which was immediately after distribution of the money transmitted to the steward of Mr. Methuen.

Mr. Holborow was Churchwarden from 1833 to 1888. He or his father of the same christian name had held the office preciously from 1824-1828.