

# *Land & Buildings*

## *Bradford on Avon*



### *Orpin's House*

This is a small town house-probably built for a clothier in the second half of the 17th century – when the clothing prosperity of Bradford-on-Avon really began to flourish. The doorway is of later date. Until recently, this house had stood empty for many years. It is owned by the Diocese of Salisbury, who a few years ago, managed to obtain Ministry of Works grants towards the cost of its restoration. It has now been completely restored, to designs by the Wiltshire architect James Burford, who specialized in the restoration of historic buildings.

It gets its name from the fact that one Edward Orpin, who was parish clerk of Bradford for a great number of years in the 18th century, lived in this house (which is directly opposite the parish church). It was Edward Orpin who formed the subject of Gainsborough's painting "The Parish Clerk", which now hangs in the National Gallery. Gainsborough came to live in nearby Bath in 1760, and almost certainly visited Bradford. Edward Orpin died in 1781 and is buried in the churchyard, a small stone's throw from his own front door.

The two small, square window opening, glazed with bottle glass, between the centre window and the side windows on the first floor are original windows almost certainly designed to avoid paying the window-tax.

Orpin's House



Edward Orpin

