



Mere St. Michael the Archangel Benefactions

MERE PARISH. DONATIONS and CHARITIES

On 24th Februy. 1633. WILLIAM BOWER, of Mere, Gentleman, by Deed Poll directed an Annuity or Yearly Rent Charge of Twenty Shillings should be Paid out of two Meadows called Little Lyons and Fishershayes , (part of Chaddenwicke Farm), in this Parish, unto the Vicar and Churchwardens, to be distributed Yearly by them or any two of them , upon three Days in the Year, that is to say. Upon the Feast Day of St. Thomas the Apostle, 6s 8d; Upon Good Friday the like sum of 6s 8d; and Upon the Ascension of our Lord the like Sum of 6s 8d; the said three Payments to be made and distributed in the said several Sums of 6s 8d upon the Days and at the Times aforesaid, to such five Poor People dwelling in Mere, as the Vicar and Churchwardens, or any two of them, should in their discretion think fit at the High Altar in the Chanel of this Church, immediately after Evening Prayer, on each of the said Days, and that the said several Sums of 6s 8d should be always equally divided amongst the said five Poee

People, being sixteen Pence apiece, at every time, and not otherwise, nor more, not lefs, to any of them; and he also appointed that such Poor Housekeepers, or Widows, as have charge of Children, and are ashamed to beg; or shall be otherwise truly in Distrefs should be remembered and relieved before others.

In the Year 1638. The ALMHOUSES in mere, were Built being four in number. The Timber whereof was given by Various Persons, the Carriage done gratis by several of the Inhabitants, and the Expencc thereof defrayed by four Pounds given by ANN LUCAS a Young Maiden of 18 Years Old, and £63, 12, 6 out of the Parish Stock.

20th Janry. 1651. By Agreement made between The Right Honorable THOMAS EARL of ELGIN and others, Owners of the disafforested Grounds of Gillingham, Dorset, of the one part and JOHN AWBREY, Lord of the Manor of Mere and others for themselves and all the Rest of the Tenants, Freeholders &c. of the Town and Parish of Mere, of the other part, It was agreed that Eighty Acres, part of the said Forest Lands, should be enclosed, and for ever after quietly held by the said JOHN AWBREY and others, their Heirs and Afsigns, for ever, Upon Trust that the Rents, Ifsues and Profits thereof should for everafterwards be had, received, and taken by the said JOHN AWBREY and others (thirteen Trustees) their Heirs and Afsigns for the better relieving the Poor from time to time Inhabiting in Mere aforesaid, in such manner as the said JOHN AWBREY and others, their Heirs and Afsigns, or the greater number of them should from time to time in their discretion think fit, and that when Eight if the Trustees be dead, that then the Survivors should convey the said Land to the Use of themselves and of Eight others of the ablest and discreetest Inhabitants of Mere aforesaid such as they should make choice of, and of their Heirs and Afsigns for ever, Upon the like Trust, and for the purposes aforesaid, and so when Eight of the said Trustees should at any time or times thereafter be Dead, the said Land to be for ever Conveyed by the Survivors of them, upon the like Trusts, and in such manner as aforesaid.

By a Decree of the Court of Chancery on the 22nd Day of Janry. 1666 the above Agreement was ratified & Confirmed.

Source: Church of St. Michael the Archangel