

Sele Priory

Compiled by Pat Nightingale

The present house, known then as the Priory House, was built in 1788-1790 by the Rev. Thomas Hutchinson, incorporating Caen stone from the ancient priory, as can be seen in the 2005 photograph of the north side of the building. Its history is recounted in the first chapter of "*Beeding - History of a Village*" and in the church guide.



Sele Priory North-Side

The 1841 census lists only two residents at the Priory, both servants. (The previous incumbent, James Ventris, had died on January 31st and Rev. Thomas Calhoun was not appointed until May 28th 1841).

There are numerous references to the Vicarage around this time in Rev. Bloxam's Rough Notices, College Orders respecting Upper Beeding, pages 62-3, 70 (WSRO PAR 16/7/1):

"A.D. 1841 July 26. That Mr Calhoun be authorised to receive from Mr Arthur Loveday £251.2.0. for repairs at the Priory House and Farm Buildings at Beeding due to the College from the executors of the late Mr Ventris. That half the sum necessary for repairs in the kitchen at the Priory, Beeding, valued at £255 be allowed to Calhoun, the same to be paid out of the Living Fund."

"A.D. 1861 Nov. 8. That Dr Bloxam be authorised to receive from the executors of the late Mr Calhoun the sum of £,179.12.0 for the Delapidation of the Priory and Farm Buildings of Upper Beeding..."

Kelly's directory for 1845 says "The benefice is a priory, valued at £12 per annum, and in the patronage of Magdalen College, Oxford." Rev. Thomas Calhoun is listed.

By 1852, Kelly's directory gives the value of the priory as £677 (perhaps because of the repairs and refurbishment that had taken place). The incumbent is named as Rev. Thomas J. Calhoun, M.A. but Rev. R. Lewis Browne is listed at the Priory.

In the 1960s the Priory House (Vicarage) was sold and is now in private ownership and called Sele Priory. The farm house of Church Farm became the new vicarage or Rectory.



Sele Priory 2005