

## Ancient Parish of DAUNTSEY, otherwise DANTSEY

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I. The Inquiry in this Parish was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1905

II. the following is the Report on the Charities of this Parish, dated the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1834, of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the Act 1 & 2 William IV, c. 34, to continue the Inquiries concerning Charities in England and Wales (Vol. 29, page 1316). This Report is hereinafter referred to as the Report of 1834.

### PARISH OF DANTSEY.

The Almshouse and School (see page 381)

By Indenture, dated the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1667, made between Henry Lord Viscount Cornbury and others, of the one part, and Robert Davenant, doctor in divinity, and rector of the parish church of Dantsey, and others, of the other part; after reciting, that the Right honorable Henry late Earl of Danby, by his last Will, bequeathed unto his brother, Sir John Danvers, since deceased, and his heirs, that part of the manor of Chittend, which was then his, and his land at Lavington, then rented at £80. per annum, under a proviso or condition therein contained, if the said Sir John Danvers should satisfy £500, then due to one Mr. Edward Flower, then unpaid for the purchase of Chittend, and settle some lands in perpetuity, to the value of £50. per annum at the least, to maintain his almshouse at Dantsey, and keep a schoolmaster to teach boys to read, write and cast accounts with ?????? house in continual repair, in such sort as is therein expressed: the said Earl of Danby did entreat and institute, amongst others, all now dead, Edward Earl of Clarendon, Sir John Fountaine, overseers of his Will, to advise his executors, in all occasions of doubt, with absolute authority to compose or determine whatsoever question should arise between his executors, or with any other person under or within his Will; and reciting that whereas the said manor and lands, charged and chargeable with the same after the Earl of Danby's death, was conveyed by Sir John Danvers unto Thomas Coppin, esq. and others, their heirs and assigns, under divers trusts therein declared; and reciting, that in a suit then lately depending in the Court of Chancery, between the said Lord Cornbury and others. Complainants, and the said Thomas Coppin and others, were defendants, it was ordered, that the then trustees of the Earl of Danby's estate should convey all the interest then unsold unto the said Lord Cornbury, which had been accordingly done; and all the interest then unsold unto the said Lord Cornbury, which had been accordingly done; and that such lands as the Earl of Danby had charged with the said charitable use should remain subject thereunto; and the complainants were to take care that the £50. per annum should be paid as the Earl of Danby had by Will directed; and reciting, that whereas divers statutes and ordinances had been made by the Earl of Danby in his lifetime, touching the said almshouse of hospital and free school, and afterwards allowed by the said Earl of Clarendon and Sir John Fountaine, and that doubts had arisen touching the annual value of lands for maintenance of the almshouse and poor there, and government thereof, and the said schoolmaster, and concerning their stipends and salaries; and thereupon, as well the said trustees of the said Earl of Danby's estate, as the parson, churchwardens and overseers of the poor, and divers of the parishioners of Dantsey, applied themselves to the Earl of Clarendon and Sir John fountain, the surviving overseers of his Will, and desired their advice, composure and determination concerning the premises; and that the Earl of Clarendon and Sir John

Fountaine thereupon. and upon hearing of the said Will, as to what concerned the said almshouse and schoolmaster, read, and upon information of what was acted by the said Earl of Danby in his lifetime, and on his behalf after his death, and upon perusal of the said decree, and heard what was offered in behalf of the said almshouse, the poor and schoolmaster, and of the heirs of Earl Danby, and those concerned in the lands devised by the Earl's Will, for the maintenance of the almshouse, poor and schoolmaster, by a certain writing, dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 1667, did according to the trust and authority committed to them by the said Will, make their determination and sentence, that there should be full £50. yearly secured and settled in perpetuity; for maintaining the said almshouse, poor and schoolmaster, to be paid at the four most usual days of payment by equal portions, to be secured by the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereafter mentioned; and that the assurance thereof should be made, and the said Robert Davenant, and other persons therein named, and their heirs in trust, in regard the said almshouse and poor are not incorporate: It is thereby witnessed, that the Lord Cornbury and others, in performance of the intent of Earl Danby, expressed in his Will, and also in obedience to the said decree, and in pursuance of and according to the said determination and sentence of the Earl of Clarendon and Sir John Fountaine, conveyed unto the said Robert Davenant and others, their heirs and assigns, one yearly rent-charge of £50., issuing out of the manor or reputed manor of St. John A. Goare, or Goare farm, in the parish of Market Lavington, to be paid, without, deduction, at the school-house at Dantsey, with power of entry and distress, if the same should remain unpaid for 40 days after having become due, upon trust, that the said Robert Davenant and others should apply the said £50. for the maintenance of the almshouse, schoolmaster and poor. In the manner directed by the statutes and ordinances in that behalf provided. The deed contains a proviso, that whenever the number of trustees should be reduced to four or five, the survivors or survivor should convey to so many other able, sufficient and honest persons, inhabiting in the county of Wilts, as should fill up the trustees to the original number of seven.

The Statutes and ordinances for the almshouse and free-school, made by the Earl of Danby in his lifetime, contain, amongst other matters, the following orders and directions:-

1. The plot of ground, inclosed near the Barn-bridge, containing, by estimation, half an acre, to remain for gardens for six poor people and the schoolmaster, as it was then divided.
2. The house erected on the said ground, containing six partitions beneath and five above, to be used as follows: the six partitions for the six poor people, one to each; the first partition above towards the south-west, for a school-house; the second, a room for the use of the parish; the other partitions for the use of the schoolmaster, for his hall, chamber and study.
3. For their maintenance they shall be allowed £47.4s; to each of the six poor people £5.4s per annum, and £16 yearly to the schoolmaster, by quarterly payments; the remainder to be paid over to the churchwardens of Dantsey, to be applied as after mentioned: a folio book to be provided for keeping the accounts The accounts to be kept by the schoolmaster, and made up yearly; the book and all other writings concerning the almshouse to be kept in a chest with three distinct locks and keys; one for the feoffees, another for the rector, another for the churchwardens. The chest to stand in the study of the schoolmaster.
4. Out of the remainder of the money, after the yearly payments to the schoolmaster and poor people, the house to be kept in repair and the remainder, if any, to be allowed unto the six poor people every second year, towards their clothing; 34 yards of Bristol frieze, or other yard broad cloth, at the price of

2s.6d. the yard at least, to be proportionally divided among them to make the men coats and the womens gowns, of a plain fashion, against the feast of Easter; and also towards their firing, to be allowed to each of the said six poor people, one wain-load of wood or ten bushels of coals, at or before Michaelmas.

5. If the poor people die before quarter day, the money to be paid to the successor, unless necessary to be otherwise disbursed. The governors may pay the poor people weekly, instead of quarterly, if they think fit.
6. The persons to be chosen into the almshouse to have been born in the parish, or else to have inhabited there for the space of three years together next before the election; and for defect of such, out of other places where the lands lie that secure the maintenance, provided none be chosen but such as by their labour are not able to maintain themselves without being burdensome to others, nor none that are not aged 50 years and upwards.
7. None to be chosen who are not able to rehearse the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, nor such as have not carefully frequented the church.
8. If it may be, there shall be chosen four poor men and two poor women, but always such as may be for the relief and ease of the parish.
9. The poor people to be single, and for want of such, married folks without children. Upon the vacancy of schoolmaster or poor people, the governors shall nominate four persons qualified as aforesaid to succeed.
10. If the heirs of the Lee family fail to elect, the feoffees are to elect.
11. The married folks are always to have the larger rooms and gardens.
12. As often as any of the poor are disabled by age, sickness or infirmity from earning anything towards their maintenance, the governors may make an abatement from the quarterly pay of the other poor, for their better maintenance, not exceeding 2d. per week abatement upon any one person.
13. If any of the almspeople, having any land or yearly pension for life, of the value of £5. yearly, they are to be removed from the house, and their pensions no more to be paid to them.
14. If strife or contention arise among the poor, they are to refer the same first to the governors, and finally to the feoffees.
15. If any of the almspeople shall fall into the crimes thereafter mentioned, they are to be expelled.
16. The parson of Dantsey for the time being is desired to have a tender care of the poor people, and to visit them in time of sickness.

The following orders to be observed, and to be read to the poor people by the schoolmaster every quarter day, when they receive their money:

17. Relates to their attending church.
18. Receiving the Sacrament.
19. Against swearing.
20. Using reproachful words.
21. Giving blows
22. For avoiding idleness, they are to betake themselves to some house of labour, if they are able.
23. Not to frequent the ale-house or keep evil company.
24. Not to beg.

25. Not to lodge out of the house at night without leave had of the rector, or in his absence, of the governors.
26. Not to take any body into their house to lodge.
27. The women and men not to come into each others houses, save in time of sickness, nor by night to lodge.
28. No tipling or victualing to be kept in the house.
29. Against pilfering.
30. Against committing certain crimes or falling into any gross heresy; denying any of the articles of our Christian faith; that person to be expelled the house for ever.
31. Any person marrying without the consent of the governors to be expelled.
32. The women to attend the men, and each other, in time of sickness.
33. Against damaging the house, glass, pales, &c. &c.
34. When the house shall decay, if there be not sufficient stock for that purpose, the repairs to be made at the costs of the almspeople and schoolmaster, out of their yearly stipend; the care of doing it to be left to the governors.
35. Chimnies to be swept once every year, and straw not to be laid in the beds. (Certain fines and penalties are fixed for transgressing the several regulations above mentioned.)
36. All forfeitures to be kept an account of, and registered in a book by the governors, and to be kept back with the stock of the house, and applied for repairs.

#### Touching the School.

1. As often as the place of schoolmaster shall be vacant, if the trustees, or the heirs of the Lee family shall not, within three months, place another schoolmaster, the parson of the parish, or the feoffees, or the major part of them, are to nominate, within one month, two or three men; and if the said trustees or heirs shall fail to elect one of such men within three months, then the parson and feoffees to elect one of the said men, provided that he be a man sober in manners, and conformable to the government of the church of England according to the law of the land, and able to teach arithmetic, both whole numbers and fractions, and also to cast accounts and write a fair secretary hand.
2. Regulates the times and hours for keeping school.
3. Relates to saying prayers.
4. The Schoolmaster shall not refuse any children of any persons residing within the parish of Dantsey, provided such children be severally maintained at the costs of some inhabitants; and shall teach all such children, the males till they can read, write, cipher and cast accounts sufficiently (if their parents shall continue them so long at school), and the females until they can read sufficiently, without requiring anything for the same more than what is hereby formerly allowed, unless any of the parishioners shall resolve to have their children fitted for the university to have them taught the Latin tongue, then in such case he may take a valuable consideration for the teaching of such child, from the time he shall be put into the accidence till the time he shall be taken from the school, provided the schoolmaster put none into the accidence until they come

unto the age of 12 years, nor until he has taught them to read, write, and cipher and cast accounts sufficiently.

5. The rector of the parish is desired every quarter-day to take notice how the scholars do profit.
6. The master not to be absent from school without leave, and not more than eight days in a quarter of a year.
7. A copy of these orders to be ingrossed in parchment, and set up in the school.
8. The master to suffer forfeitures or expulsion for breaking the statutes and ordinances.

The last appointment of new trustees is dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 1796. The trustees therein named are Henry Earl of Peterborough, Richard Long, Thomas Goddard Vilett, Edward Goddard, Ambrose Goddard, John Awdry, and James Long. These trustees are all dead, except Edward Goddard. No regular appointment has since taken place, but it is intended immediately to appoint, as new trustees, the Rev. George Augustus Biedermann, the present rector of Dantsey, Lord Andover, the Rev. Maurice George Fenwick, of Raphoe, Ireland, Horatio Nelson Goddard, of Cliffe Pypard, Thomas Dewell, esq. captain R. A. of Dantsey House.

THE ALMSHOUSE, - The premises are now in the same state as described in the statutes, with the exception that in addition the schoolmaster has one room more, which was rebuilt about 50 years ago. The gardens are also in the same state as described in the statutes, except that they are divided by hedges instead of stone marks. The building is now in tenantable repair. It has hitherto required little repair.

The average annual income and expenditure of the almshouse and school may be stated as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
£. s. d.		£. s. d.	
Annuity	50 - -	Schoolmaster	25 - -
Dividends	21 - -	Almspeople	35 2 -
		Firing for ditto, annually	6 - -
		Cloth	3 12 -
		This is given every two years	
		Amounting to £7 4s	
£71 - -			£69 14 -

This £71 arises from the rent-charge of £50. and the accumulation of stock. The stock is mentioned in the determination of Lord Clarendon and Sir John Fountaine to have stood at £200.

In a letter of the Earl of Abingdon, dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 1690, addressed to the then trustees of the charity, now in their possession, which Lord Abingdon married the daughter of Sir John Danvers, and which Sir John Danvers married the daughter of the Earl of Danby, Lord Abingdon, after stating that the principal stock had

increased to £500, and that it should be continued as a principal stock to be employed according to the intent of the founder of the charity, goes on to say, that he found by the award of the late Lord Clarendon, that the interest of the stock then existing was appointed to be divided with the revenue of £50.

Lord Abingdon, in the said letter then proceeds to direct that the annual interest of £25 then accruing from the stock of £500 should be divided as follows; £8 to the schoolmaster, and £16 to the poor people. The remaining 20s. he desired to be laid out for a dinner for the trustees when they should yearly meet to settle the accounts of charity, which he directed to be held on Thursday in the Easter week, or some other day to be appointed by the trustees within one month after at furthest.

The stock has since gradually increased, and now amounts to £700. Three per cent. Consols, standing in the names of Richard Long, Esq. and the Rev. Edward Goddard. The Rev. Edward Goddard is still living. It is intended to transfer the stock into the names of four of the new trustees as soon as they have been appointed.

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The four men and two women almspeople, for a considerable number of years past have been appointed by the majority of the trustees, and are qualified according to the statutes. The most deserving applicants so qualified have been selected.

A few of the almspeople have not resided, but residence is in future intended to be strictly enforced.

No statues have been made since those originally prepared in the Earl of Danby's lifetime.

The accounts are kept as required by the statutes; they have been examined and found to be correct. On 16<sup>th</sup> April 1834, there was a balance of £13.0s 5d. due to the treasurer, which would in a few days be liquidated out to the next half year's payment of £25.

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The present schoolmaster was appointed by the trustees; he instructs all the children of the parish, boys and girls, in reading, writing and arithmetic, without charge, except for pens and ink, for which a charge of 1d. a week is made. Girls are not taught writing. There have not for many years been any Latin scholars. The school is now conducted to the satisfaction of the trustees.

The parish having entertained a belief that the estate charged with the charity was itself absolutely given to the charity, we have searched in Doctors' Commons for the donor's Will, where it was most likely to be; but none has been found to have been there proved between 1652 and 1667, nor can any copy or account of the Will be traced further than the account of it contained in the deed of the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1667.

III The following is the description of the Charities of this parish contained in the General digest, 1867-9;----

Locality and Designation of Charity	Endowments			Total Gross Income	Total Former Income	Objects of Foundation or Purposes to which the Income is application	
	Real Estate	Personality				Education	Support of Almshouses, their Inmates
		Rents-charge and Fixed Annual	Stock				

	Payments						and Pensioners
Dantsey	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Earl of Danby	50. 0. 0	C 700.0.0	21 0 0	71 0 0	71 0 0	25 0 0	46 0 0

Note C = Consols.

IV. There are references to this parish in the Charity Commissioners' Register of Unreported Charities, the substance of which is embodied in the following Report.

V. Under the authority of an Order of the Local Government Board, part of the area comprised in the ancient parish of Dauntsey, known as Bryant's Farm, was, on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1884 transferred to the parish of Brinkworth. The population of the parish of Dauntsey, according to the Census Returns of 1901, is 362.

VI. The Inquiry was held in Earl Danby's School and was attended by the Rev. Arthur Law, the rector, Mr. R. R. Elwell, trustee of Earl Danby's Charity, Mr. W. S. Lewis, Mr. C. A. Newth, and Mr. W. B. Stanton, master of Earl Danby's School and clerk to the parish council.

*Earl Danby's Almshouse and School (see page 377)*

Mr. John Simons, an Inspector of Charities, reported on the School and Almshouses in 1862, but his Report has been mislaid for many years.

The indenture of the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1667 is not now forthcoming.

By an Order of the Charity commissioners dated the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1862 the rector of the parish of Dauntsey for the time being and five other persons were appointed to be trustees of Earl Danby's School and Almshouse, and the annual rentcharge of £50 and the almshouse and school building, gardens, and land then belonging to the Charity were vested in the official Trustee of Charity Lands.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1852, the sum of £700 Consols (see page 380) was transferred to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

At a meeting of the trustees held on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1862 the following resolutions were passed.

1. That the dilapidated state of Earl Danby's School and Almshouses renders them unsuited and inefficient for the purposes originally contemplated.
2. That a new school-room and almshouses with schoolmaster's house be erected on a new site more eligible for the parishioners.
3. That an exchange of land for the purpose be effected with the consent of the Charity Commission.
4. That the ascertained cost of carrying out this desired plan, being about £1,000. The trustees are willing to guarantee the sum of £500 conditionally that the Charity Commission allow the sum of £500 accumulated over and above the original endowment to be applied to the same purpose.

A copy of such resolutions was forwarded to the Charity commissioners on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1862, and the Commissioners subsequently intimated that they were prepared to authorize any desirable exchange of sites, and to allow part of the stock forming the endowment to be sold for the purpose of rebuilding the school and almshouse.

An exchange of sites was effected under the authority of an Order of the Inclosure Commissioners dated the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1864.

The properties given and taken in exchange by the trustees are described in the schedules to the Order as follows:-

Land and Hereditaments situate in the Parish of Dauntsey in the county of Wilts given in exchange to and taken by Edward Peach Williams in his own right.			Land and Hereditaments situate in the Parish of Dauntsey in the county of Wilts given in exchange to and taken by the trustees of Earl Danby's Charity		
No. in plan	Description	Extent	No. in Plan	Description	Extent
1	Old almshouses and garden	A. R. P. 0 1 38	2	Pasture Field	A. R. P. 0 2 19
			3	Garden land	0 0 38
			4	Garden land	0 0 6
					0 3 23

New buildings for Almshouses, School and Master's house were erected on the site of 3r. 23p., at a cost, after taking credit for the sale of old materials, &c., of about £1,000.

The cost was provide 1. By voluntary contributions, and 2. By the sale under the authority of Orders of the Charity Commissioners of the undermentioned sums of stock:-

£300. sold on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1864, realizing £270.7s6d.

£200 sold on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1865, realizing £177.9s.3d.

By an Order of the Charity Commissioners, dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1865, reciting the sale of £300. Consols, and that the Commissioners had ordered the sale of a further £200 and that the two sales would realize £447. 16s. 9d. of which two third parts amounted to £298.11s.2d., it was ordered that the trustees should set aside in every year out of the yearly income of the Charity, not less than £10., being about one-thirtieth part of the said sum of £208. 11s. 2d. until the whole of the said sum should have been so set aside, and that all such sums so appropriated or set aside should be laid out in the purchase of Consols in the name of the Official Trustees in trust for the Charity.

The Sum of £300 Consols so sold as aforesaid has all been replaced.

After the sales above mentioned, the income of the Charity was reduced from £71 to £56.

The £56 per annum was appropriated by the trustees as follows:-

	£	s	d
Pensions to inmates of almshouses	35	2	0
Clothing for ditto (£7. 4s. 0d in two years)	3	12	0
Coal	6	0	0
Annual replacement	10	0	0
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	£54	14	0

Leaving £1. 6s for repairs and education.

The Charity commissioners had, by letter dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1864, intimated that the reduced income should be apportioned in the proportion of two-thirds to the almshouses and one third to the school. The trustees had subsequently forwarded to the Charity commissioners an estimate of the annual expenditure on the school and the almshouses, in which the expenditure on a schoolmaster was reduced from £25 to £10.

The present trustees explained the appropriation of what was practically the whole net income to the almshouse branch of the Charity, by pointing out that the educational branch had not in any way suffered, as the school had always been maintained in a state of efficiency owing to its having been supported in the first instance by voluntary contributions, and afterwards having become in receipt of Government grants.

In August 1888 the commissioners pointed out that it appeared from the accounts that at that time no part of the income was applied towards education, and inquired of the trustees why the application of a portion of the income to educational purposes had been discontinued. The trustees stated in reply that a certain sum was paid into the school account annually, but was generally entered under the heading 'Repairs for Building'

Particulars of the amounts spent on education and repairs in the last 20 years are given below.

In 1894 a sum of £61. 4s. 6d. Consols was sold under the authority of an Order of the Charity Commissioners dated the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1894 to provide the cost of some repairs.

The sum so sold has all been replaced.

In August 1904 the trustees informed the Charity Commissioners that they required a sum of £97. 10s to carry out certain repairs and alterations at the school, and asked that a sum of £70. New Consols might be sold to provide part of the cost.

The Commissioners in their reply pointed out that it had become their duty to determine, under the Board of Education Act, 1899, and the Orders in Council made thereunder, what part of the endowment of the Charity was held solely for educational purposes with a view to the transfer of the jurisdiction over such part to the Board of Education, and subsequently forwarded a draft Order determining the part of the endowment which was held for or ought to be applied to educational purposes, as

1. The land and buildings now occupied for the purposes of the school of the Charity or foundation
2. Sixteen-fiftieths of the yearly rentcharge of £50 belonging to the Charity or Foundation.
3. A sum of £166. 13s.4d. Consols, being one-third of the sum of £500 like Stock held by the Official Trustees of Charitable funds in trust for the Charity or Foundation.

The trustees objected to the terms of the draft Order, and the Commissioners, by letter dated the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1905, intimated that they did not see how they could determine the educational share of the endowment otherwise than as proposed, but stated that they would be prepared to postpone the completion of the Order until after an inquiry had been held in the parish of Dauntsey.\*

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\*The draft Order was subsequently modified by substituting for the words set out under the heading (2) the following words;- "Until a vacancy occurs among the existing inmates of the Almshouses belonging to "the

Charity or Foundation, ten-fiftieths of the yearly rentcharge of £50 belonging to the Charity or "Foundation, and from and after the occurrence of such a vacancy sixteen-fiftieths of the said rentcharge"

The Order determining the endowment was sealed on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1905.

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The terms of the Order were duly discussed at the inquiry and the following memorandum, which embodies the objections of the trustees, was subsequently prepared;-

The trustees submit that the amount awarded to the educational branch of the Charity by the draft determination Order is excessive.

1. Because it puts an end to the apportionment of income which has prevailed for 40 years without remonstrance from the Commissioners.

In support of the last-mentioned apportionment the trustees point out that the charitable purposes designated by the founder have always been fulfilled, and that when the amount appropriated to education was reduced, the educational branch of the Charity did not suffer because about that date the school became in receipt of Government grants.

2. Because the Determination Order will result in defeating the object of the founder so far as it relates to providing for six almspeople, while in view of the fact that the cost of elementary education is now met out of the rates, the intention of the founder will be fulfilled by determining, as educational, the master's house, school, and a sufficient sum for repairs.

As regards repairs the trustees called attention to Order 34 ( see page 379), and urged that the £16 per annum for the master ought not to be regarded as a fixed payment but as subject to reduction on account of repairs to the whole building,

The memorandum setting forth the objections of the trustees is now under the consideration of the Charity Commissioners.

The property of the Charity is described in the schedule subjoined;-

Description	By whom paid or in whose name invested	Gross annual Income
A piece of land in the parish of Dauntsey containing 3r. 23p or thereabouts, together with the school, schoolmaster's house and almshouse situate thereon.	Mr. J. S. Haines	£. S. d. 50 0 0
A yearly rentcharge of £50 issuing out of the manor or reputed manor of Goare Farm in the parish of Market Lavington	Official Trustees of charitable funds	12 10 0
£500 New Consols.		
		62 10 0

It appears desirable that the legal estate in the site of the almshouses and school should be vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands.

Property tax has for some years been deducted from the rentcharge and has not been recovered.

The Charity Commissioners informed the trustees, by letter dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1898, that so much of the endowment of the Charity as was held for the purposes of the almshouses was to be regarded as an ecclesiastical Charity within the meaning of Section 75 (2) of the local Government Act, 1894, and that the remainder of the endowment would appear to be subject to the provisions of Section 66 of the same Act.

The buildings belonging to the Charity are situate on the road leading from Dauntsey to Wootton Bassett, and comprise the school, schoolmaster's house and almshouses. The premises are built of red brick, with heavy ornamental chimney stacks, and contain the accommodation mentioned below.

There is a garden in front and at the east end of the almshouses, and a gravelled playground in front of the school.

The cost of repairs to the buildings, exclusive of a sum expended in 1904 but not yet paid, has in the last 20 years amounted to £185. 0s. 8d. or an average of £9. 5s. per annum

The trustees are:-

The Rev. Arthur Law, rector of Dauntsey, *ex-officio*

*Appointed by Order of Charity commissioners, dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 1889.*

Col. C. N. Miles. C.B., M.V.O., Malmesbury.

Capt. William Wilson, R.N. Cliffe Pypard.

Mr. R. R. Elwell, solicitor, Highworth.

The present minute book begins in 1862, since which date there are minutes of four meetings only.

The management of the Charity is in practice left in the hands of the rector and Mr. Elwell, who hold informal meetings when there is any business to be transacted.

A banking account is kept at the Wilts and Dorset Bank, Malmesbury. Cheques are signed by the rector, who acts as honorary treasurer and secretary.

### **Almshouse Branch**

The almshouses, six in number, are situate at the east end of the buildings. Four of the houses are for single inmates, the two remaining being larger and arranged for married couples. Each single tenement contains a good sized room, used for living and sleeping room, scullery and coal store. The houses for married couples have two rooms and scullery and coal store. There are conveniences at the back.

There are at the present time 4 single inmates (all women) and two married couples. Each inmate, including in that term a married couple, is paid a pension of £1.9s. 3d. a quarter, £1 a year for coal, and £1. 4s. 0d. every two years for cloth for a gown.

The pensions are paid by Mr. W. B. Stanton, the schoolmaster.

No advertisement is issued in the event of a vacancy, as the Charity is well known in Dauntsey.

The trustees require that candidates must have resided in Dauntsey for at least 3 years and be members of the Church of England and communicants. The allowances to the almspeople have remained the same ever since the Report of 1834, and absorb £44. 14s. per annum.

The amount available for the Almshouse Branch will, if the Determination Order be established in its present form, be £42. 6s. 8d. only, and unless the last mentioned sum is supplemented from voluntary subscriptions or





The endowment consists of a sum of £833. 6s. 8d. New Consols standing in the name of the Official Trustees and producing annual dividends of £20. 16s. 8d.

The Trustees are:-

The Rev. Arthur Law, rector, *ex officio*.

Mr. R. Elwell, of Highworth, solicitor, appointed by Order of the Charity Commissioners dated the 19<sup>th</sup> February 1897.

Mr. William Hitchcock, } Re-appointed by the parish council on the  
Mr. Henry Burgess } 26<sup>th</sup> October 1901.

The dividends are remitted to the account of Lady Bisset's Charity at the Wilts and Dorset Bank, Malmesbury. Cheques are signed by the rector.