

Rectors and Vicars of Middlewich.

1207	Warin, "Parson of Wiehe"	1702	John Cowper, M.A. died
1270	Thomas "Vicar of Middlewich"	1719	John Cartwright, "
1306	Richard Tuchet Rector.	1731	John Swinton M.A. resigned
1329	John de Offord "	1737	Robert Moreton M.A. died
1330	Andrew de Offord "	1780	William Ryfflin "
1342	John de Leyshorp "	1787	Joshua Powell "
1349	John Bele of Assewell "	1797	William Henry Veron, B.A. "
1352	John Folvill "	1811	James Stringer "
1361	Thomas Fraunceys "	1819	Isaac Wood, B.A. resigned Archdeacon of Chester.
1402	John Tuchet "	1864	Henry Goodwin died
1429	John Thickness "	1877	Francis Minton, M.A. resigned
1459	John Heynes "	1902	Hesketh France-Hayhurst, M.A. "
1484	John Bressnell "	1904	Arthur Cascognie Child, M.A. "
1504	William Sutheworth	The last Rector, resigned Aug. 26. 1505.	

Vicars

1505	John Formby. resigned.	1921	Wilfrid Rawdon Ingham, M.A. "
1525	Amer Burdett	1937	Albert William Harrison Varlow "
1562	-- Knightley	1947	George Richardson Kemp, B.D.
1579	William Kinsey. died. Rural Dean of Middlewich	1953	Leslie E Evans, B.A.
1604	-- Wall	1957	Laurence R. Ridley, M.A. Rural Dean of Middlewich.
1616	Robert Halliley died 1641	1969	Eric Alexander Owen, B.A. B.B.
1662	Lawrence Trifkith B.A. Licensed Oct. 15 died March 3 rd 1680.	1971	Eric William Cox, B.A. Rural Dean of Middlewich
1680	Thomas Faulkener deprived as a non-juror.	1996	Stanley Robert Haworth, B.A.
1695	William Handforth. B.A. deprived	2001	Ian Gregory Bishop, B.Sc. B.A. Rural Dean of Middlewich

The list of 'Rectors and Vicars of Middlewich' is an almost complete history of those that served the Norman church of St Michael and All Angels, from its earliest days. The list begins in 1207 and records almost 800 years of Rectors and Vicars in the church. The records may be incomplete for periods like the Civil War and the Plague when records were destroyed or neglected. St Michael and All Angels church is steeped in history and has many tales to tell, the Rectors and Vicars also have their tales to tell.

1329/30 John & Andrew de Offord were brothers. In 1330 John received the archdeaconry of Chester but the position was revoked later in the year as the post was proven to be already filled. John de Offord was constantly employed by Edward III in negotiations with the French and papal courts. Around 1342 John was appointed keeper of the privy seal. John was appointed Lord Chancellor of England in 1345. He was still chancellor when he was named Archbishop of Canterbury by a bull of Pope Clement VI in 1348, and as archbishop elect had the temporalities of his see restored to him in December of that year. John died in 1349 before receiving the pallium or consecration, he died of the plague. He was buried by night at Christ Church, Canterbury. Andrew was his brother's administrator, and had been associated with

him in many of his employments. In 1349 he was employed to treat for a truce with France, and in the autumn 1360 and spring of 1361 was engaged in the negotiations with Louis of Flanders and the French King.⁽¹⁾

- 1616** In 1616 Sir William Brereton presented Robert Halliley to the living of Middlewich. Halliley was a thoroughgoing puritan, being charged at various times with failing to wear the surplice, to use the sign of the cross and for administering the communion to non-kneelers.⁽²⁾
- 1787** Joshua Powell was of Christ Church, Oxford. BA in 1782 and MA in 1785. He was instituted to the vicarage of Middlewich, Cheshire, on the 3rd August 1787, on the nomination of Mrs Wood (grandmother to the late archdeacon of Chester, Isaac Wood, who was also vicar of Middlewich). Joshua Powell died in February 1797.⁽³⁾
- 1819** Isaac Wood was the vicar from 1819 until his death in 1865. During the period of 1847 to 1865 Isaac Wood was the Archdeacon of Chester. He was a respected man and with his then church wardens, undertook the massive restoration of the interior of the church as we know it today. The galleries were removed, the old wooden pews taken out and replaced by the present open ended benches. The present carved roof of the nave was inserted, all the whitewash removed the pillars and walls, the plaster ceiling of the chancel roof removed to reveal the black hammer-beam roof supports, and a heating apparatus was also provided. The Venables screens were removed from the Kinderton chapel and erected in the base of the tower which was being used as the vestry. Newton Hall in Middlewich was built by Isaac Wood. Reverend Isaac Wood died in June 1865 and is buried in the church grounds just outside the south aisle.⁽⁴⁾
- 1937** Albert William Harrison Harlow was a vicar in Middlewich between 1937-40 and 1946-47. He served as a Chaplain during WW2. The Rev A W H Harlow, 1st Airborne Division's senior Chaplain, was posted missing at Arnhem on September 25th 1944 and later found to have been taken prisoner of war. The Rev Harlow had decided to stay behind to look after the wounded where he felt his duty lay. This was the second time during the war that he had been taken prisoner. The first time he was senior Chaplain to the 50th Division in the Middle East fighting a rear guard action towards Alamein.
(Albert William Harrison Harlow – MiD North Africa, Captured and DSO at Arnhem 1944, served Suez Canal 45/6, subsequently parishes at Middlewich, Calstock/Surrogate, St Andrews, Gothenburg, Eastbourne, Essex, Retired to Australia, where he died in 1966) .⁽⁵⁾

Reference

- (1) Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900 Volume 42 – Charles Lethbridge Kingsford.
- (2) Puritanism in North-West England: A Regional Study of the Diocese of Chester By R. C. Richardson.
- (3) Remains, Historical and Literary, Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Cheshire – Chetham Society.
- (4) Middlewich 900-1900 by Allan Earl.
- (5) 89fss – Royal Army Chaplains Department 1st British airborne Division/Officers