

# REVEREND FRANCIS BUTTANSHAW 1887

Reverend Francis Buttanshaw was the last resident Vicar of Cotterstock and was in post for 31 years. He has a commemorative brass tablet on the North wall.

The medieval church cross in the churchyard was restored by Francis Buttanshaw in 1880 in memory of his first born son also called Francis who died at Graham's Town, Cape Colony, South Africa in 1884. The work was carried out by Mr F S Stevens, a monumental mason who lived in the village.



## COTTERSTOCK.

### DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH-YARD CROSS.

A most interesting ceremony was performed at Cotterstock on Wednesday, May 14, viz., the dedication of the churchyard cross after restoration. The old cross was supposed to have been erected in the 14th century by one John Leet and his wife, Jacklen, and is situated just outside the church door. Before the restoration only a remnant of the cross, which was of Barnack rag, remained, and there is no history of it save that already mentioned, and no reason can be assigned for its erection. On the remnant of the old cross were the words—

John Leet et Jack  
len uxor ejus huc  
fecerunt fieri x

(John Leet and Jacklen, his wife' caused this x to be made).

The new cross is composed of Ketton stone, and is about fifteen feet in height, and the restoration has been done at the expense of the Vicar by Mr. F. Stevens, monument builder, of Cotterstock. The design was left to Mr. Steven's own discretion, and he has carried the work out in exquisite style—in fact, it could not have been placed in better hands. The cross is composed of the following pieces:—A new plinth and base, over which the old remnant of the cross; then the shaft, in the Early English style, surmounted by a Latin cross and wheel. On one side of the new base is the inscription:—

Ad majorem Dei Gloriam  
et in memoriam  
Filii primogeniti  
x hanc restituit curavit  
F. B. hujus Ecclæ Vic  
Pascha A.S. 1890.

(To the greater glory of God and memory of a first-born son. F. B., vicar of this church, caused this x to be restored. Easter, A.S., 1890.)

On the other side of the base are the words—

FRANCIS BUTTANSHAW,  
Born at Fobbing, Essex,  
Mar. 16, A.S., 18<sup>th</sup> 5,  
Died at Graham's Town,  
Cape Colony, Nov. 2, A.S., 1884.

“By Thy cross, good Lord, deliver us.”

At six p.m. there was shortened evening prayer in the church, with address by the Rev. C. J. Gordon, vicar of Nassington, who preached in the absence of the Rev. E. T. Sylvester, R.D., rector of Deene, who was unable to be present owing to having injured his ankle. The preacher, in a short address, said there were crosses in all parts of the country, and they had no doubt heard of St. Paul's Cross, from which the Word of God had been spoken in olden times. The cross was not the semblance, but the reality of national life, and here they had a cross, and in Nassington Church there was also one. The one there represented Christ crucified, and there were the spear and the sponge on a reed. There was the representation of the feet of the Lord, the Grave, and the Resurrection, and, in reality, it gave the Gospel. Their church had been restored, and the dedication of that cross might be termed as the last touch in connection with its restoration, and they ought to be thankful they lived in days of restoration. The cross was of stone. What did stone remind them of? It reminded them of stability. Let them remember that the cross of Christ strengthened them. Look again at the cross—it was of stone, ornamented and beautified. What did that remind them of? It told them of the beautiful reality of Christian life, and of the life that was to be. In conclusion, he reminded those present of the strength of the cross of Jesus Christ, and that whatever they asked of the Father in His name it would be done.—After the service the congregation assembled around the cross for the dedication, the following prayer being used:—“O Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst for us endure the cross of shame and madest it a tree of life and glory, accept of and bless, we beseech Thee, this cross, which we dedicate to Thee, in remembrance of Thy passion and of Thy glory. May it point us unto Heaven, and grant that we, continuing instant in Thy service, and crucifying the flesh with its affections and lusts, may by Thy cross attain unto the crown of everlasting life, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end, Amen.”—A hymn brought the proceedings to a conclusion. There is a similar cross erected at Apethorpe.

At the time of the 1881 Census Francis is living with his sister Martha at Smeeton Rectory where he is the rector. He has two children living with him, Francis who is a theological student aged 26 and Emily aged 18.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 3
Civil Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of			
									104	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited or not (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Inebriate or Idiot (4) Lame	
15	Main Street	1	Wm Gooday	Head	Mar	42		W. & A. Malters		
			Margaret Dn	Wife	Mar	40		" " Ribworth		
25	Smeeton Rectory	1	Francis Cottonshut	Head	Wid	52	Rector of Smeeton Rectory	Wid. Ribworth		
			Martha H. Dn	Sister	Wid	46		Wid. New Peckham		
			Francis Dn	Son	Wid	26	Theological Student	Wid. "		
			Emily C. Dn	Daughter	Wid	18		Wid. " Chiswick		
			Ellen Hampton	Servant	Wid	18	Housemaid	Wid. " Lutterworth		
Total of Houses...		11	Total of Males and Females...		12	12				

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet D.

In the 1891 Census we see that Francis is 62 years old, a widower living at "The Vicarage" in Cotterstock with his sister Martha who is 54 and single, living by independent means. A son Charles is still at home, he is 31 and under profession is listed "NONE" in capital letters! His daughter Emily is also at home, she is 28 years old. They have a cook, and a house/parlour maid to look after them.

In the 1901 Census we see that little has changed in terms of Francis's domestic arrangements. He is still living with his sister and his son Charles at Cotterstock vicarage.

### This is how The Vicarage looks today



The Old Vicarage, once called "The Parsonage" is now two dwellings in 2021, but originally it was one house. The date stone on the gable end is for 1651.

It was extended almost 200 years later in 1831 by James Richardson of Stamford.