



Bletsoe, c1939

The Parish Clerk's Cottage.

This cottage, built c1580, is pictured c1938. It stood on the site of what is now 22 & 24 The Avenue, and had housed many of Bletsoe's Parish Clerks from the beginning of Parish Registers until the abolition of the office at the end of the 19th century.

Pictured at the foot of the page are J C (Cyril) Wilks and his wife, who rented the cottage as a weekend retreat and were the last tenants before it became derelict. Cyril, who was Churchwarden and Lay Reader during World War 2, was employed as a Local Government Officer in Bedford.

Immediately adjacent to the cottage stood an early 20th century laundry-house built at Parish expense to provide an income for the widowed Mrs Haycock, maternal grandmother of Bernard Brown (late of 52 The Avenue).

