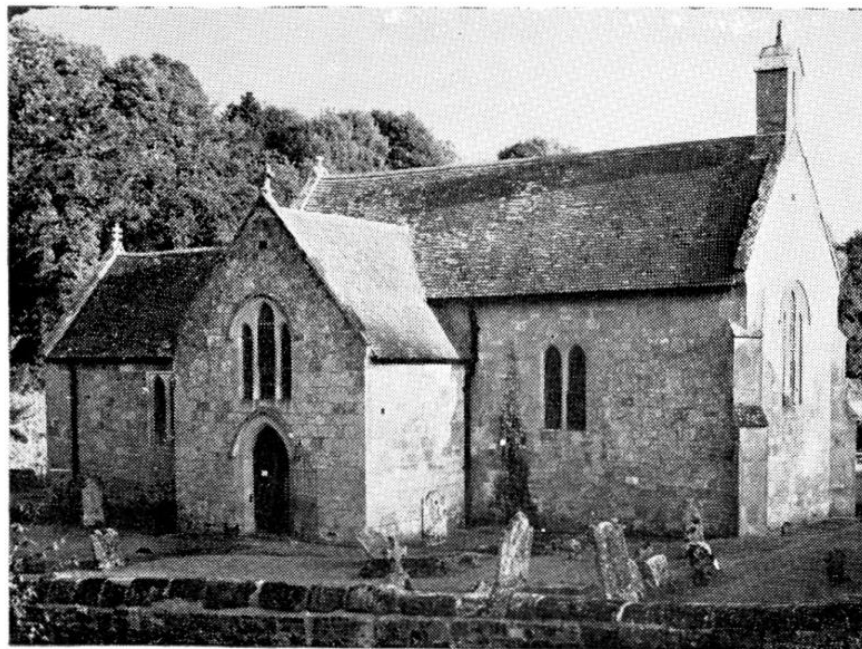


# Bygone Days of Ansty

Below is a facsimile of a little gem of a booklet, printed by The Shaston Printers, Shaftesbury, Dorset in 1963. It outlines some of the history of Ansty, Ansty Church and The Commandery. The document was provided by Mrs M Feltham of Ansty.

Since the 1960s, the congregation of St. James Church has always been relatively small but members are very proud of their church and its ancient history.

ANSTY  
AND ITS  
CRUSADER CHURCH



ST. JAMES'S, ANSTY.

## THE VILLAGE OF ANSTY

The village of Ansty in Wiltshire, 14 miles from Salisbury and 6 miles from Shaftesbury, is small and secluded. In 1963 it had an adult population of only 98, and although its wooded valley below the Downs lies less than a mile north of the busy A30 trunk road from London to the West Country, the village still seems to have an ancient peace.

Ansty has an historic church, a small post office and an inn—The Arundell Arms—but no shop and no garage. The nearest railway station, 2½ miles away at Tisbury, is scheduled to be closed. Many of Ansty's stone cottages are thatched; the local thatcher who lives in the village comes of four generations skilled in this craft.

Ansty has a tall maypole—a larch more than 70 feet high from nearby Wardour woods. The people of Ansty march round the maypole every May Day to the old tune of 'The Oyster Girl' (locally known as 'Cabbages and Boiled Onions') played by the village band whose silver instruments have been handed down from father to son.

There seems to be no record of the date when the first maypole was erected in Ansty, but it is thought to be hundreds of years ago, and old customs are revived when, after some 25 years, the existing maypole needs to be replaced. The new maypole must be put up between midnight and the following noon so that the road is not obstructed for more than twelve hours; by the observance of this tradition Ansty renews its right to keep the maypole in the village road. Digging begins before dawn and all the men of Ansty work voluntarily, in shifts, to complete the task. Barrels of beer are placed on the wall close by, and in 1962 when the present maypole, given by Mr. John Arundell, was put up, the women of Ansty prepared a mid-day meal for everyone. The new maypole, decked with flags and ribbons, was then blessed by the Vicar. After this service, the May Queen was crowned and led her colourful procession through the village, preceded by the band; and, to end the day's ceremonies, children from Wardour danced round the maypole.

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

Ansty has been inhabited from very early days. The name 'Ansty', originally 'Anestige', means 'the way up'. In Saxon times the village bordered a rough track which led up through the valley to join the ancient 'Herepath', on the crest of the Downs, which linked Salisbury and Shaftesbury for centuries before the lower turnpike road was made. At Ansty Water at the north end of Ansty village, the stream was crossed in those days at the 'Old Wood Ford', where the track was joined by a deep cutting, the 'Hollow Path', that led up to the village of Swallowcliffe, or Swealewanclife as it was then called.

Near Ansty, to the north, are the remains of an earthwork now known as 'Castle Ditches' dating from the Stone Age and called 'Wilburg' (or the 'Britons' Fort') by the Saxons. 'Chaldon' (or 'Cawdon') the hill dividing Ansty from Swallowcliffe, means 'Calves Down'; the name indicates that cattle-rearing and dairy-farming thrived in the district from early times. The local outcrops of sandstone were probably used for sharpening scythes, ploughshares, swords and spears; the area known as 'the Red Hone' on the border of Swallowcliffe is mentioned in a charter dated 940 A.D.

In these early centuries, Ansty was a part of the Royal Forest of Selwood. It is said that King Alfred hunted near Ansty in the year 890, and that one of his courtiers was tried for stealing cattle from Fonthill during his visit. Successive Kings of Wessex, with their Courts, came to Ansty and the surrounding forest for a part of each year to hunt and to enjoy the produce of the local farms—for Ansty, then as now, was good farming land.

It is recorded that, during the reign of Edward the Confessor, Ansty (or 'Anestige' as it was then called) was owned by the Saxons Aluric and Ulward. After the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror rewarded Waleran, his Master of the Hunt, by giving Ansty to him. Ansty was then a place of some importance, for the Domesday Survey records that

Anestige contained two mills; and, as a fief of the Crown, the village was bound to provide one knight for the King's service.

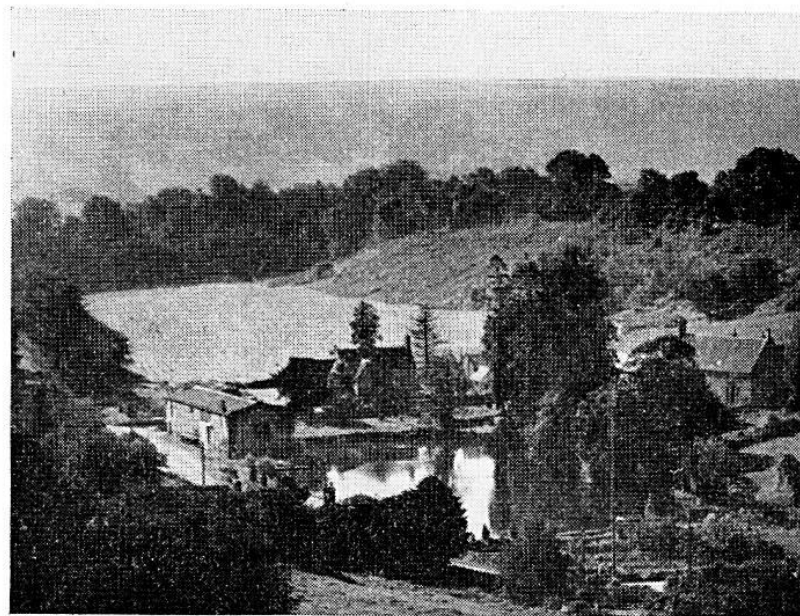
In the following reign William II (William 'Rufus') gave extensive estates and hunting rights, including Cranborne Chase, to Robert Fitz-Haymon, a Norman Knight, as a reward for the part he had played in the conquest of Glamorganshire. One Payne de Turberville who had also fought in the campaign was granted the village of Ansty as his share of the reward. His descendant, Walter de Turberville, in the year 1211 during the reign of King John, gave the Manor of Ansty with 'its appurtenances' to the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It is thought that the gift was made in gratitude for the Knights' achievements in the Crusades and also to ensure that the sacraments would be available when the Court of King John was in residence in the neighbourhood. For between the years 1206 and 1213, England lay under a Papal Interdict and the churches were closed; but the two Orders of the Hospitallers and the Templars were exempted from the Interdict.

### THE COMMANDERY AND ANSTY CHURCH

From the year 1211 the Knights Hospitallers settled in Ansty forming a small Commandery. It consisted of the Commander or Preceptor, two Knights, a Chaplain, three minor clerics, the Commander's Esquire and six servants. This small group and their local helpers then began to build the present church. It was completed in the year 1230, more than a quarter of a century before the main part of Salisbury Cathedral was finished, and it was dedicated to St. James. Quarters were built near the church for the serving men, and a large fishpond was constructed; this small lake is now stocked with rainbow trout and is the home of swans and ducks.

Close to the church, but on the east side of the fishpond, the members of the Commandery built a hospice, probably begun in the year 1230, where they tended pilgrims on their way to the Abbey of Shaftesbury or to more distant shrines,

and also many other travellers. A part of this building was used as a refectory and guest house.



*Ansty today: the Commandery buildings grouped round the pond, left to right: the hospice, the church, the manor farm.*

*The Ansty maypole can be seen in the foreground.*

The hospice still stands. It is solidly built of stone and measures 110 feet by 30 feet. Inside, set into the west wall, are two pairs of stone seats with stone canopies above them, each side of the large fireplace; raised stone mouldings, still to be seen on the walls, were probably the frames of murals. The windows in the west and north walls were added in Tudor times and are now partially bricked up. The original steeply-pitched roof of the hospice was destroyed by fire in 1923 (some say in 1921), and now the thick outer walls are roofed with corrugated iron. The building was used for many

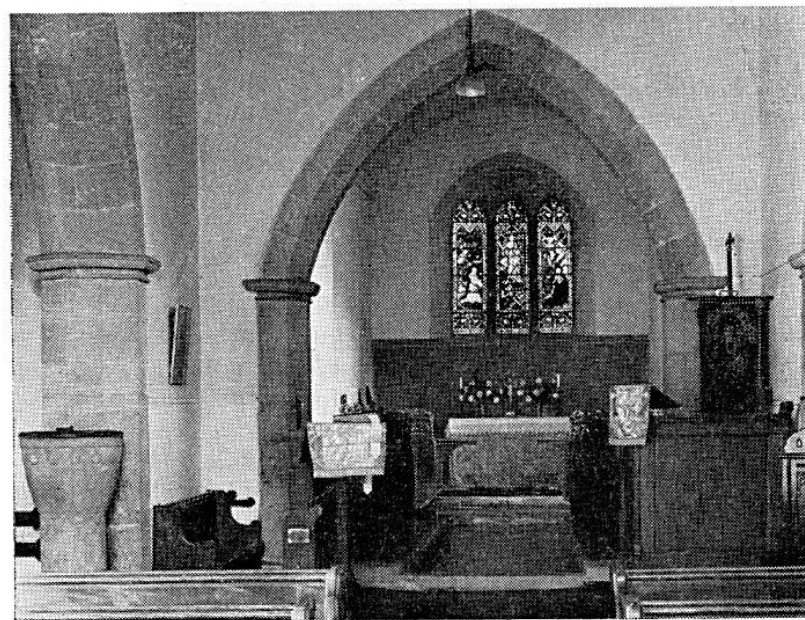
years as a wheelwright's workshop, and is now used by the present owner of Ansty Manor Farm, a fine stone house bordering the west side of Ansty Pond. This manor house is thought to have been the domestic building of the Commandery, and although much of it was rebuilt after the Reformation, some massive stone walls inside the house may be a part of the Saxon manor given to the Knights Hospitallers in 1211. Stone foundations near the house are thought to be those of another building of the Commandery that seems to have contained one large room, possibly a second refectory. The Commandery probably comprised eight buildings in addition to the church, for, by charter, Richard II confirmed to the Hospitallers their possession of 'the Hermitage of Ansty' and of 'eight dwellings built thereon'.

The Knights Hospitallers, who were exempted from episcopal control by Papal authority, held independent ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Ansty church and the surrounding buildings of the Commandery for over 300 years. Their successive chaplains conducted daily services in the church which the members of the Commandery were obliged to attend. Their stalls bordered each side of the chancel, then screened off from the nave which, unusually, is only slightly larger than the chancel and which served as the parish church for the village. Caroline stalls with deeply carved ends were brought from Salisbury Cathedral towards the end of the eighteenth century to replace the original stalls.

The deep stone font in the north transept may be of even earlier date than the church. The stone cross with its two horizontal arms at the east end of the chancel roof is the 'patriarchal cross' frequently used by the Hospitallers and the Templars on their buildings. At the present time one of these crosses can also be seen on the church of the Commandery of Dinemore in Herefordshire.

The blue and gold hangings on the reredos were purchased from Westminster Abbey after their use there at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The stained glass of the east window is a memorial to the Rev. J. H. Samler,

for 32 years incumbent of the parish from 1846 to 1877; at the foot of its central panel a Crusader is depicted.



*Interior of St. James's Church, Ansty.*

In the early years of the Knights Hospitallers' time in Ansty, additional gifts of land increased the extent of their property; in 1251 Henry III gave his chase rights in the local forest to the Commandery, and in 1339 more land was acquired in Ansty, in exchange for 40 acres and a house in Swallowcliffe that had been given by Sir Thomas West in return for the Knights' appointment of a chaplain to Swallowcliffe church. It is thought that the Commandery estate comprised, in all, some 500 acres.

From about the year 1427, the Commandery of Ansty was combined with that of Trebigh, in Cornwall, under one Commander. There are records of sixteen Commanders be-



tween the years 1281 and 1540. Little is known of most of these, but two became Grand Priors of the Order of St. John in England (Robert Botyll in 1440 and William Weston who was the last English Grand Prior) and one, Edmund Ashton, became Prior of Ireland. Three of the Ansty Commanders fought with distinction at the second siege of Rhodes in 1522, John Bouth who was killed during the siege, Edward Hill and Nicholas Hussey. The last of the Ansty Commanders was Cuthbert Leyton; he affirmed in the year 1537, just before the dissolution of the Commandery, that its annual revenue was £90 1s. 9½d., of which the sum of £39 10s. 4d. had been paid to the Master of the Order of St. John.

The Ansty property of the Knights Hospitallers—with its church, hospice and manor house, grouped by the pond—is considered to be the finest example of a Commandery of the Order of St. John that has survived in England.

At the Reformation, when the Order of St. John was dissolved, the Ansty property of the Knights Hospitallers passed to the Crown, and shortly afterwards, in 1542, it was sold to Sir John Zouch for £30 6s. 1d. At the time of the sale, Henry VIII reserved the tithes formerly paid to the Commandery but covenanted to pay £6 a year for the stipend of a curate for the church. Five years later Henry VIII confirmed the sale to Sir John Zouch on a further payment of £100.

After the accession of Queen Mary the Ansty property was scheduled to be returned to the revived Order of St. John, but this was merely a paper transaction, and in 1584 Queen Elizabeth the First confirmed the possession of the Ansty property to the Zouch family. Ten years later, in 1594, Sir Francis Zouch sold his Ansty possessions to Sir Matthew Arundell for £3,250.

For the next three centuries the Lords of Arundell were patrons of the living of Ansty, but being Roman Catholics they were prevented under a statute of Henry VIII from presenting vicars to the living; the presentation was, and still is, exercisable by the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge. Nevertheless, a history of the Parish of Ansty (written by

James Everard, Baron Arundell, and published in the History of Wiltshire in 1829 which he wrote jointly with Sir Richard Colt Hoare) records that two, and possibly three, of the five stipendiary chaplains who held office in Ansty church between the years 1622 and 1822 were appointed by Lords of Arundell.

As the living of Ansty was a donative benefice it was not under the authority of the Bishop of Salisbury, who thus had no power to direct payment of tithes for the maintenance of the church. Its upkeep, therefore, was often neglected and, at one time, it had a bad reputation for clandestine marriages and other irregularities which the Bishop was unable to suppress. The parish registers were kept only intermittently. There are a few entries of births and deaths from 1654 to 1658, and from 1686 to 1744. In 1775 fifteen burials are recorded, of which twelve were those of smallpox victims. The first register of baptisms begins only in 1751.

In 1898, however, when donative benefices were abolished, A vicar was legally appointed for the first time since the Reformation to the parish of Ansty, jointly with the parish of Swallowcliffe.

## RECENT HISTORY OF ANSTY CHURCH

Since 1898 regular services have been held in St. James's Church, Ansty. The congregation is small, for many of the people of Ansty are Roman Catholics, but the church and churchyard are tended voluntarily by members of the congregation who are proud of their church and its ancient history.

On St. James's Day, the 25th of July, 1961, a special service was held in Ansty church to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the granting of Ansty Manor by Walter de Turberville to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John in 1211, the founding of the Commandery in Ansty and the beginning of the building of Ansty church in the same year. The procession, which assembled at the maypole in an afternoon of perfect summer weather, walked to the church headed by the village band. First came the uniformed members of the

St. John Nursing Association, the Ambulance Brigade and the Cadets with the County Commissioner, Major-General D. C. C. Tulloch; then the representatives of the St. John Council for Wiltshire; a Dame of the Order (Mrs. Battye); and two Knights (Sir Hawthorne Lewis and Captain Docwra-Rogers) wearing their black cloaks with the eight-point silver star of the Order. Then came the visiting clergy and the Rural Dean, followed by the church wardens and other officials of Ansty church; the Vicar of Ansty, the Rev. J. Vesey Roome; and, finally, the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr. W. L. Anderson. The procession was awaited at the church by a large congregation. The service included the prayers of the Order and a thanksgiving for the Commandery's work in Ansty. The Bishop in his address outlined the history of the Order of St. John from the Crusades to the present day. After the service, the procession formed again for the return march to the maypole and there dismissed. At the conclusion of this memorable ceremony, tea was served in the garden of Ansty Manor Farm, by the lake.

### THE TASK OF RESTORATION

The restoration now essential to save the ancient fabric of Ansty church is the third major repair scheme to be undertaken in the past 122 years.

In 1848 structural alterations were made to the transept, during which a Norman Arch leading to a chantry chapel was unfortunately removed.

Towards the end of the first world war, extensive repairs were undertaken to eradicate dry rot in the floor timbers, pews and pulpit of the church and a new heating apparatus was installed. During the excavations two stone coffins with elaborately carved lids, probably of the 13th century, were uncovered, but these were reburied unopened. The repairs were completed at a cost of £570; except for a grant of £60 the money was raised by voluntary contributions. The Bishop of Salisbury conducted the service on the occasion of the re-opening of the church on 9th June, 1918.

Now, forty-five years later, major repairs to the roof structure are imperative; a recent survey has shown that the main roof trusses, rafters and purlins are seriously damaged by woodborers. Many of these structural timbers must be replaced and the ceilings between them removed so that the other roof timbers can be treated with preservative before new ceilings are constructed.

Unless this urgent restoration is put in hand speedily, the architect considers that it will be impossible later to save any of the roof timbers.

In addition, much of the exterior stone fabric of the church must be repointed and most of the roof retiled; the panelling and other interior woodwork has to be treated with preservative, and the stone wall surrounding the churchyard needs extensive repair.

Ansty church has no endowment. An application for a grant towards the roof restoration fund has been made to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and to diocesan funds. A grant of £50 has been promised by the White Bequest Fund (which is administered by the Church Commissioners) when the first £1,000 has been raised.

The architect's nine-page survey of the church stresses the urgency of the situation that now faces the few Anglican members of Ansty's small population. They, with their limited means, must now tackle the seemingly impossible task of raising some £4,000 to save and maintain the ancient fabric of their historic Crusader Church.

P. W. Freston  
Ansty.

September 1963.

*The writer of this booklet wishes to thank all those who gave information and lent documents: in particular, Mr. John Arundell, Captain J. Docwra-Rogers of the Order of St. John, the Registrar of Salisbury Cathedral, and the Rev. J. Vesey Roome. Every care has been taken to compile an accurate account from the available records, but no responsibility is accepted for possible errors of fact or omissions.*

*Photographs by I. Kirby, Tisbury.*

# Bygone Days of Ansty

On July 25<sup>th</sup> 1961 Knights of the Order of St John (from Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset), the Bishop of Salisbury, together with local clergy and many other officials crowded into the tiny Church of St James in Ansty to celebrate the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Commandery building in the village. Below is a lengthy report of the preparations and format of the event from the *Southern Evening Echo.*, followed by a report on the proceedings and procession that took place on the day in *The Western Gazette*.

Fifty years on, in 2011, fewer local people turned out to witness a similar event celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary, held on July 24<sup>th</sup> of that year. Fortunately an Ansty resident did take a few photos to mark the occasion to add to the brief report in the *Salisbury Journal*.



# Ansty will be scene of celebration

**K** NIGHTS of the Order of St. John, clad in the traditional black cloaks with the eight-pointed white star of the Order, will visit the tiny Nadder Valley village of Ansty on July 25 to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the founding of the Wiltshire Commandery in that village.

The celebrations will take the form of a special service in the unusual little Church of St. James which, with the Commandery buildings, was built before Salisbury Cathedral was started.

Knights of the Order from Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset will attend and the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr. W. L. Anderson, local clergy and officers of the Order will take part.

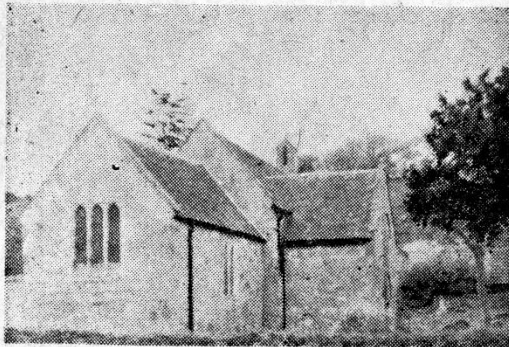
It was 750 years ago this year that Walter de Turberville gave the Manor of Ansty, believed to have originated in Domesday times, to the Knights Hospitallers and thereafter it became one of the Knights' used to fish for eels, stand the remains of the Wiltshire Commandery, which consists of the Early English style Church of St. James, the hospital, now a workshop, and Manor Farm, the home of a local farmer.

## A LEGEND . . .

The hospital has the reputation of being the oldest in Wiltshire, and legend has it that King John was taken there following a hunting accident in the Forest of Selwood.

The hospital and guest house, although of the same date as the church, which is of 13th century origin, have been altered considerably.

The building is a massive one, some 110ft. by 30ft. It was at one time a two-storey building, but the high gabled roof was destroyed by fire in 1923 and has been replaced at a much lower level by one of corrugated iron.



St. James' Church, Ansty, church of the Commandery.

In the interior of the hospital, on the west wall, are two pairs of what appear to have been sedilia, or seats similar to those found in a church; between these is a great fireplace.

The Manor farmhouse has obvious traces of having been the domestic building of the Commandery, but was much rebuilt after the Dissolution.

The estate was given to the Knights Hospitallers in 1210 by Turberville and in about 1427 this Commandery became amalgamated with one in Cornwall. The Order also held land in the adjacent parish of Swallowcliffe that the nave and chancel are of almost identical dimensions, suggesting that the Order used the chancel as their chapel, the nave serving as the parish church.

## A REPUTATION

The church has a curious Norman font and remarkable Renaissance carved poppy heads on the choir stalls which James Wyatt, the 18th century architect removed, from Salisbury Cathedral choir.

During the Middle Ages the incumbent was not under the jurisdiction of the Bishop so in consequence Ansty gained a bad reputation as a place where irregular marriages were celebrated for a considerable time until matters were put to right.

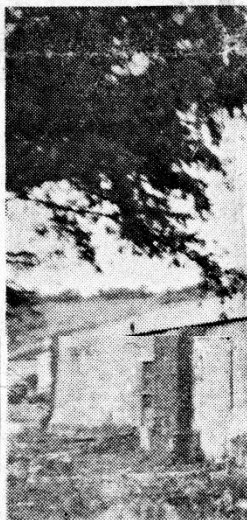
Owing to its peculiar position in church law no stipend was attached to the living. The 17th century Register shows that one could marry there without banns or licence.

The ancient cross of the Knights of St. John, which at one time was affixed to the east end of the roof, is still in existence.

The church has been renovated on two or three occasions through the centuries and in 1919, during restoration, two stone coffins with elaborately carved lids were discovered but reburied unopened in the churchyard.

## . . . A SCOURGE

The scourge of the times is shown up in the Register for 1775 when out of 15 children born in Ansty 12 died of smallpox. The first recorded stipendiary chaplain was in 1622—a William Anderson, who had a salary of £10 and a house lease in Wardour Park.



The hospital and guest house of the Order at Ansty.

This was a last vestige of the rights of hunting given to the Knights. Henry VIII richly endowed the Commandery, which was only one of the vast number of manors the Knights had acquired during their first two centuries of existence in England.

At the beginning of the 17th century the old Manor House, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Davis, was occupied by some of the Arundell family, who still live in Wardour.

In 1894 the Zouch family, who owned the property and had bought it for £30 6s. 9d. at the Suppression, sold it to Matthew Arundell of Wardour for £3,250.

There is a farm at South Damerham reputed to have been given to the Order by the Abbot of Glastonbury in exchange for hospital service for himself and his brethren at Ansty Hospital, so that they might convalesce at the farm.

This fine barn is still in existence and is probably contemporary with the date of this gift.

## NEAR APPROACH

The lay-out at Ansty is the nearest approach to be found of a

complete County Commandery, where within a small space there is a church, hospital and domestic buildings.

There is a list in existence showing the Commanders from 1281 to 1530. One of them became Grand Prior and another, John Bouth (1517), was killed at Rhodes. He was a Turcopolier or commander of the light horse, known as the "Pillar of England." He was one of the senior officers always serving abroad and responsible for the fortifications at Rhodes.

In the present day Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the fine work of these early Knights Hospitallers lives on.

In July some of its members will visit Ansty to mark the 750th anniversary of the Commandery foundation and give thanks for the work which was done there and will go on in the future.

Leading the modern Knights will be Capt. J. Doewra-Rogers, of Bournemouth, a Knight of the Order and the Order's Sword-bearer, who is also engaged on research into the history of the Order.

D.M.

Newspaper cutting from the Southern Evening Echo, 1961  
Newspaper item from Mrs M Feltham.

*Goodness gracious me,*

*Mr. Jackson!*

"And goodness gracious me!" I said. "A dummy at Jacksons! It's unheard of."

"Please don't be hard on Sam, Mr. Jackson," said my customer. "I only brought him to help voice my appreciation of this suit. My girl friend says her heart goes boomba-de-boom every time she sees me in it. That's more of a compliment than you know, because I wasn't making any headway until I came to Jacksons. I never realised



**K**NIGHTS of the Order of St. John, clad in their black cloaks, joined members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in the celebrations held in Ansty on Tuesday to mark the 750th anniversary of the granting of the title deeds of the Manor of Ansty to the Knights Hospitallers in 1211.

Today the old Manor House, still occupied, and what is thought to have been the guest house of the Commandery, now a workshop, with the church which was built about the same time, are the principal buildings left standing.

At the service in the little church of St. James, held by invitation of the Vicar of Swallowcliffe with Ansty (Rev. J. V. Roome), the preacher was the Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. W. L. Anderson) and among the company present were the Sword Bearer of the Order (Capt. J. Docwra Rogers), Sir Hawthorne Lewis, Wilton (Knight of the Order), Mrs. E. M. Battye (Dame of the Order) and the Brigade County Commissioner for Wilts, Major General D. D. C. Tulloch.

Miss G. Sturmer, assistant county superintendent represented the County Superintendent (Lady Fuller) and among the members of the Brigade were staff and divisional officers, and members from the ambulance, nursing and cadet divisions. There were also members of the Order's Council and Auxiliary.

#### History traced

The Bishop in his address traced the history of the Order of St. John and the Crusades, emphasising the piety and humanitarianism of the Knights and their helpers, the Order in England and the foundation of the Commandery at Ansty.

They built and maintained the hospice and the church at Ansty for over 300 years, he said, and the successive Commanders with their chaplains and serving men cared for the spiritual and physical needs of pilgrims journeying along the old bridle road from Salisbury to Shaftesbury Abbey and further afield.

They probably also entertained and gave medical assistance to the Royal Keepers and hunting parties during the reign of King John and furthermore rendered services to the quarrymen and masons who were engaged on seeking out and preparing the stone for building Salisbury Cathedral and many of the other local churches.

#### Led by band

The processions were headed by Ansty Silver Band and after the ceremonies tea was provided at Manor Farm by Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Davis.

Among the clergy were the Revs. B. C. D. Palmer (Rural Dean); F. H. Phillips, J. H. Westcott, R. J. Beale, C. Kettle, C. D. Job, A. Fellows and L. V. Porter. Members of the Mother's Union were also present, as well as St. James's Church officials.

## Knights of St. John join Ansty procession

THE WESTERN GAZETTE, FRIDAY, 28 JULY, 1961

### 750th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED



Newspaper cutting from The Western Gazette, July, 1961  
Newspaper item from Mrs M Feltham.

The procession at Ansty on Tuesday to mark the 750th anniversary of the granting of the manorial title to the Knights Hospitallers. Inset: The Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. W. L. Anderson), who conducted a service at St. James's Church.



# 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated in Ansty. July 24<sup>th</sup> 2011

A PROCESSION from Ansty's maypole to St James Church on Sunday marked the 800th anniversary of the Knights Hospitaller's connection with the village. The Order of St John of Jerusalem, or Knights Hospitaller, was one of the two major orders – the other was the Knights Templar - established to help capture and retain Jerusalem and the Holy Land during the Crusades.

In 1211 Walter de Turberville gave the Manor of Ansty to the order, which built the church in about 1230, together with a hospice, and created the village pond to provide fresh fish.



The Hospitallers held Ansty until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541 when it was sold.

The ceremony was conducted by the Archdeacon of Sarum, the Venerable Alan Jeans, assisted by the vicar, the Rev Andrew Staley and other members of the Nadder Valley team ministry.

Among those present were the former Bishop of Bath & Wells, John Bickersteth, and Lord

Talbot, who are both members of the Knights of St John, and representatives of the St John Ambulance from Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire. **From the *Salisbury Journal***







800th Anniversary celebrated in Ansty



1211 - 2011







St. JAMES,  
ANSTY

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING  
FOR RESTORATION

MAY 1st 1966 6 p.m.



In 1963, the booklet 'Ansty and its Crusader Church (St. James)' highlighted the urgent need for major repairs to the church roof structure as well as other important maintenance to the fabric of the building and its surrounds.

A sum of £4,000 needed to be raised to achieve what was in effect a third major repair scheme to be undertaken since 1848.

In 1966, there was a service of thanksgiving for this latest restoration phase.