



## John Meyler Williams

John Williams was Priest in Charge and then Rector at Campsea Ashe, along with Hacheston, Marlesford and Parham, from 1984 to 1995. (The Parishes formally became one Benefice in 1987 when he became Rector). He was based at Marlesford Rectory where he lived with his parents. His mother, Florence Mary (nee Molly McConnell), died whilst he was at Marlesford in 1993 and is buried in the Churchyard.

He was born in 1934, his father, Arthur Warriner (1905 – 2005) was a physician and he worked in Uganda and Kenya, as did John, who was a teacher in a boarding school there. John had two sisters and two brothers, Jane (b1935), Martin (b 1939), Rachel (b 1940) and Andrew (b 1942).

John was educated at Cambridge where he was awarded an MA in 1960. In 1979 he attended Sarum and Wells Theological College and was ordained as Deacon in 1981 and as a Priest in 1982. His first post as Curate was at Hadleigh with Layham and Shelley from 1981 to 1984 before moving to this Benefice.



In 1995 he moved to Kedington Parish as Priest in Charge and in 1997 he became Chaplain at St Katherine's Parmoor, Oxford. He retired in 1998 and now lives in a retirement home near Cheltenham

John is fondly remembered by those who knew him and is described as a gentle and kindly man. He was fond of Wales, especially St David's Cathedral, and probably had Welsh roots. He was interested in calligraphy and maps and is responsible for developing the cover of the Parish Magazine that is still used today.

As well as his mother, John's father, uncle (William Gerald (1907 – 1993)) and aunt (Anne Meyler Williams 1898 – 1995) are buried in Marlesford Churchyard. The name Meyler comes from his grandmother who's maiden name it was.

Tim Holmes

January 2015

*(With thanks to some of John's parishioners for their memories of John.)*

The Rev John Williams, Rector, Campsea Ashe, Marlesford, Parham and Hacheston: to be Priest-in-charge, Kedington, w pastoral care and responsibility for the parishes of Barnardiston, Great and Little Wrating, Great and Little Thurlow and Great and Little Bradley (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

**The Times 1 July 1995**

# Arthur Warriner Williams

*b.28 Aug 1905 d.2 Sept 2005*

*CBE(1961) BA Cantab(1926) MRCS LRCP(1929) DTM&H(1931) MB(1931) MD(1938) MRCP(1946) FRCP(1955)*

Arthur Williams played a significant role in the development of medicine and medical education in East Africa. He was born in Haltwhistle, Northumberland, the son of George James Williams and Joanna Williams née Meyler. His father was a single-handed country GP in the days when home visits to outlying hill farms were made by horse and trap across the fells. Williams was educated at Oundle School and then went on to St John's College, Cambridge, and Westminster Hospital, qualifying with the conjoint diploma in 1929.

He held house posts at Westminster Hospital, and gained his diploma in tropical medicine in 1931. In the same year he joined the Colonial Medical Service and was sent to Uganda as a government medical officer, initially in posts in remote areas. He then began work at Mulago Hospital, Kampala, where he developed an increasing interest in medical education, and was appointed as a lecturer in medicine and therapeutics. Between 1947 and 1949 he worked in neighbouring Tanganyika, as a medical specialist in Dar es Salaam.

In 1949 he returned to Uganda and was appointed as medical superintendent and physician at Mulago Hospital. During this period he helped initiate a scheme for a new 900-bed hospital. Two years later, in 1951, he became head of the department of medicine at Makerere University College, later becoming its first professor of medicine. He was a member of the Uganda Medical Board, a consultant physician to the Ugandan government, a member of the council of the University College of East Africa and, in 1957, a founder member and president of the Association of Physicians of East Africa. He fostered close links with medical schools in the UK.

His main research interests were in heart disease and pulmonary tuberculosis. He was largely responsible for initiating and organising the Medical Research Council's East African tuberculosis chemotherapy trials.

In 1961 he was awarded a CBE for his services to medicine in Uganda and returned to England, becoming director of postgraduate medical studies at Oxford. He was a founder fellow of St Cross College and, among his many commitments, was on committees advising the government of Tanganyika on the future of its health services and on low-priced books for developing countries. He finally retired in 1971 and moved to Northumberland.

Outside medicine, Williams was interested in natural history, small boat sailing and book binding. In 1932 he married Florence Mary McConnell ('Molly'), a nurse at Westminster Hospital and the daughter of a clerk in holy orders. They had three sons and two daughters, all of whom grew up and were educated in Uganda and Kenya. One of his sons, Martin James Williams, also became a fellow of the RCP.

RCP editor

[References: *Oxford Medical School Gazette*, Trinity Term, 1962, p.102-3; *The Times* 1 October 2005; *Brit.med.J.*, 2005 331 1085]

**Obituary from Royal College of Physicians website**