



Rev Mark Meynell Appointed Rector 1950



Reverend Mark Meynell was born on 19 February 1914. He was the son of Colonel Francis Hugo Lindley Meynell and Lady Dorothy Legge. According to one researcher¹, his ancestry can be traced back to Henry VIII. He married Diana Mary Ponsonby, daughter of Colonel Sir Charles Edward Ponsonby, 1st Bt. and Hon. Winifred Marian Gibbs, on 4 July 1940. He died on 5 April 2006 at age 92.

He was educated at Eton College and graduated from Christ Church College, Oxford with a Master of Arts (M.A.). He was the Rector between 1948 and 1956 at Marlesford and from 1950 to 1956 became Rector of the two parishes of Marlesford and Campsea Ashe. The family remained living at the Rectory in Marlesford, although there were efforts made by local people in Campsea Ashe for him to move to the village and to live in our Rectory. The Diocese ruled against this and he remained in Marlesford.

On leaving Campsea Ashe and Marlesford he became the Rector at Cogenhoe between 1956 and 1965, and later was the Vicar at Leamington Hastings from 1965. He also held the office of Canon of Coventry.

Children of Reverend Mark Meynell and Diana Mary Ponsonby

1 Christopher Mark Meynell	b. 18 Aug 1941
2 Reverend Andrew Francis Meynell	b. 6 Nov 1943
3 Peter John Meynell	b. 25 Nov 1947
4 Anna Mary Barbara Meynell	b. 6 Jan 1960

An Obituary to Mark Meynell:

The Rev. Canon Mark Meynell, Canon Theologian of Coventry (emeritus), scion of the Earls of Halifax, died 5 April 2006, aged 92, 11 days after the death of his wife of 65 years, the former Diana Ponsonby, of the Ponsonby Baronets (descended from the Barons De Mauley).

¹ See <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/f/r/e/Alan-G-Freer/ODT8-0065.html>

He was born in 1914, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Hugo Lindley Meynell, DSO (1880-1941), a grandson in the male line of the 1st Viscount Halifax. Mark's mother was the former Lady Dorothy Legge, OBE (d. 1974), daughter of the 6th Earl of Dartmouth.

*He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford.
Career: Canon Theologian of Coventry.*

*He married Diana Mary Ponsonby in 1940. She died 25 Mar, 2006, aged 89.
He was father of Christopher, Andrew, Peter, John² and Anna; & grandfather to Mark, Guy, Francis, Aidan, Francesca, Marten, Anna, Louise, Clea, Alexander, Hugo, Guy and Theo, & great grandfather to Joshua and Zanna.*

*A Service of Thanksgiving for Canon and Mrs Meynell takes place 18 April, 2006,
at Framlingham Church, Suffolk.
Source: Daily Telegraph 8 Apr 2006³*

Mark Meynell's son, Andrew, has been in contact with the Heritage Group and provided some fascinating stories about his father. In particular he mentioned that his father was keen on nativity plays and he remembers his father playing the part of the Angel Gabriel one year. Unfortunately his wings slipped, but no doubt the audience loved it! It is thought the photo below is from one of the nativity performances (but this has not yet been confirmed).



Mark Meynell was in another play where he played the part of a drunken beggar – one can imagine how

² NB Peter and John are the same person, not separate individuals as stated by The Telegraph obituary

³ See http://peeragenews.blogspot.com/2006_04_01_archive.html

his congregation would have enjoyed this!

Andrew also remembers that there was a choir at Campsea Ashe in his father's time and the choirmaster was Robin Graham. He also remembers visiting the Rectory in the village along with his brothers and scrumping apples!

One final memory is a more painful one when his father suffered a slipped disc during a Midnight Mass. Ouch!

A resident at the time⁴ remembers that Mark was a talented artist, in particular painting birds. She also remembers he ran a meditation group.

Letter to *The Times* published Saturday 26th October 1996

A four to remember

From Canon Mark Meynell

Sir, In your obituary of Jack Robertson, the Middlesex and England cricketer (October 19), you recall the Lord's match between the Army and the RAF in 1944 when the flying bomb "cut out" over the ground. I was there and clearly remember the 15 white figures prostrate on the grass.

I have no recollection of any spectator, except this one, who lay in the dusty cement of the top floor of the pavilion. I was impressed with the speed with which all began again. It seemed that the noise of the explosion had not ceased to roll round the stands and the black mushroom of smoke still lay over St John's Wood church when the next ball was being bowled.

I remember the effortless grace with which Robertson dispatched it to the long leg boundary — where the Warner Stand is now. I am grateful to you, Sir, for the reminder of the occasion, and to Robertson for the memory of that four, which made my day.

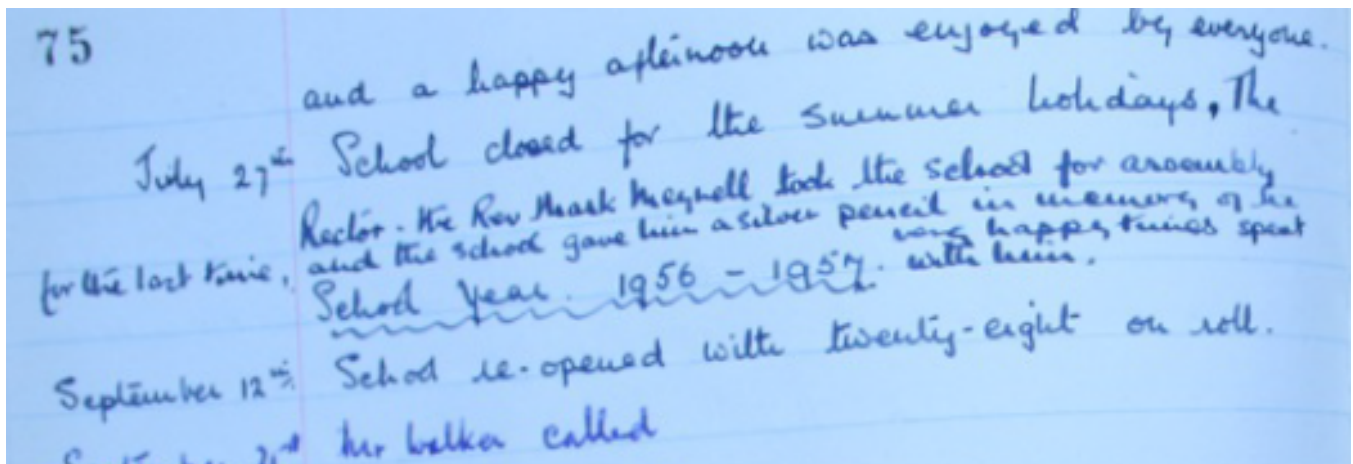
Yours sincerely,
MARK MEYNELL,
2 Double Street,
Framlingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
October 22.

⁴ With thanks to Viola Reade

Summary of his life

Canon Mark Maynell BA MA

Born	1914
Ordained Deacon	1940
Ordained Priest	1941
Curate: St Albans Abbey	1940-1946
Rector: Folkington, Diocese of Chichester	1946-1949
Rector: Marlesford	1949-1956
Rector Marlesford & Campsea Ashe	1950-1956
Rector: Cogenhoe, Diocese of Peterborough	1956-1963
Vicar: Leamington Hastings	1965-1979
Rector: Birdingbury	1974-1979
Canon Theologian Coventry Cathedral	1973-1978
Retired to Framlingham	1976
Died	2006



Taken from School Log Book 1956-57

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Saturday, April 08, 2006

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Source: Daily Telegraph 8 Apr 2006

Posted by [Michael Rhodes](#) at [Saturday, April 08, 2006](#)

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