

Being a Rector

The **rector** was the priest in charge of an area called a parish and his income included all the tithes.

Tithes were a payment each year of one tenth of all that was made by the farms and businesses in the parish.

Where it was difficult to give a tenth part then the same value goods or services was made.

The rector and parishioners agreed that some tithes could be paid in money instead of objects. In the 13th Century these cash payments often became the main way of paying tithes. In the 14th century, after the Black Death, tithes stopped being a tenth of actual harvest or profits.

Loughborough's rectors got a large income.

The rector had two ways he was expected to spend some of his money from the tithes.

1. He had to pay for repairs to the chancel. The chancel was the east part of the church where the main altar was.
2. He had to provide basic things to poor or ill people who had no money.

Some priests were called a **vicar**. He only got what was called the small tithes. These were a share of people's animals and dairy foods. Vicars did not have to repair the chancel or help the poor.

The needs of the rector and other priests and servants who lived with him were paid for from income from his farm which was called the Glebe.

In 1601 the Poor Law said how the poor in parishes had to be helped. In 1834 the Poor Law Amendment Act stopped parishes having to look after their poor people.

The Rector still had to repair the church buildings but wealthy people helped him. In the 1860s All Saints church in Loughborough was made better by the rector called Henry Fearon and William Perry Herrick gave money to help him.

In Loughborough the rector's house called the rectory has changed many times in the past. Today you can only see the very early part which is 800 years old. The last rector to live in the rectory moved from the house in 1958.

