

REPORTS

modern day, and his approach to government can be embraced by reformers with confidence in its soundness. Investigations into Gladstone the man still have scope for discovery and amplification. Despite the strong foundations laid by those like David Bebbington, much remains to be done to integrate the various components of his personality. Gladstone the Homeric scholar was also Gladstone the tree-feller, and Gladstone the firm defender of Bradlaugh was also

the champion of the Anglican faith just as much as Gladstone the Home Ruler was Gladstone the Unionist.

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1 The main papers were published as D. Bebbington and R. Swift (eds.), *Gladstone Centenary Essays* (Liverpool University Press, 2000) and the subsidiary papers as P. Francis (ed.), *The Gladstone Umbrella* (Monad Press, 2001).

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death in 1891, ownership passing to his son, William G.C. Gladstone (born 1885) who was the last Gladstone to serve in the House of Commons, as Liberal MP for Kilmarnock Burghs (Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Port Glasgow, Renfrew and Rutherglen) from 1911 until his death in action in 1916.

Accordingly, with W.E. Gladstone being effectively 'Squire' of Hawarden for the last twenty-four years of his life, and thus with a site at Hawarden being freely available, there was never any question of the Library being located elsewhere. Another of the Prime Minister's sons, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone (1844–1920) was Rector of Hawarden when he inherited the Hawarden Estate in 1916 and his descendants also inherited the Gladstone Baronetcy and Fasque House and Estate in Kincardineshire in 1945 after the deaths of all the Prime Minister's elder brothers and their sons.

Further, although a High Church Anglican from the mid-1830s, William E. Gladstone was born as a Presbyterian in association with the Church of Scotland. Indeed, his father, John Gladstone (a Baronet from 1846) contributed to the cost of building the first Scots Kirk in Liverpool, which opened in Oldham Street in 1793. It was only later that John Gladstone and his family adhered to the Church of England – not, I would suggest, for any ecclesiastical reason but because of the then political and educational restraints on nonconformists in England.

However, the Gladstones' 'interest' in the Church of Scotland continued for some time thereafter. After the purchase of Fasque in 1829 the family supported the local (Fettercairn) Parish Church until the opening of an Episcopal Chapel in the grounds of Fasque in 1847. Further, in 1838–39, contrary to the expectation that new urban congregations would elect their

LETTERS

How long was Lloyd George an MP? (continued)

Kenneth O. Morgan's letter (*Journal* 63, summer 2009) states that David Lloyd George ceased to be a Member of Parliament on 1 January 1945, when his peerage was conferred. But Erskine May has this: 'If a Member be created a Peer, his seat is not vacated until the letters patent conferring the dignity have passed the great seal.' According to *Burke's Peerage*, the earldom of Lloyd George of Dwyfor was created on 12 February 1945, which presumably was the date of the letters patent. The writ for the by-election to fill the vacancy, which took place on 26 April 1945, could not have been issued until after that date.

The rules for payment of salaries to Members of Parliament (which of course were not in force in 1890, although they were in 1945) allow for payment from and including the day following that on which the poll is held. The salary of a Member who is created a peer is payable up to and including the day

on which his letters patent are granted.

The custom for establishing who is Father of the House of Commons (as Lloyd George was from 1929) uses the test of the date on which a Member first took the oath.

Patrick Mitchell

Gladstone, St Deiniol's and the Church

Having spent a week at St. Deiniol's Residential Library at Hawarden in Flintshire when researching for my PhD (Church History) I have to suggest the basic reason for William E. Gladstone selecting the site in 1889 was not any of the reasons suggested by the Rev. Peter Francis, Warden of St. Deiniol's (*Journal of Liberal History* 63, summer 2009).

The Hawarden (Castle) Estate, previously owned by W.E. Gladstone's wife's family, was inherited by the Prime Minister's eldest son, William (Willy) in 1874 with, on his

own ministers, John Gladstone agreed to finance the building and endowment of a new Church of Scotland Church (St. Thomas') in his native Leith on condition that its patronage (the right to present ministers) was vested in himself with reversion to his son, William. (The Congregation of St. Thomas' united with another Leith Congregation in 1975 with the former St. Thomas' building being reopened as a Sikh temple in 1976!)

Then, when the last political attempt to avert the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843 was made by Fox Maule (then an opposition Whig MP and later, as 2nd Lord Panmure, Secretary of State for War in Palmerston's Whig/Radical/Peelite Cabinet of 1855–58), W.E. Gladstone (then Vice-President of the Board of Trade in Peel's Tory administration) voted with the majority (211–76) in the House of Commons on 8 March (1843) against Fox Maule's motion, although it was supported by a majority (25–12) of Scottish MPs present and voting. The Disruption of the Church of Scotland (with the departure of 480 ministers to form the original Free Church) was then inevitable and followed some ten weeks later on 18 May (1843).

W.E. Gladstone published his own views on the Disruption in 1844, stating that as all Presbyterians had rejected the prelate 'apostolic succession' – the only true basis of ecclesiastical authority – none of them were capable of resisting the Erastian doctrine that authority over their churches' spiritual functions lay ultimately with civil authority. The future Prime Minister had clearly not understood the assertion that the Presbyterian form of church government is agreeable to the Word of God or that in the New Testament the words bishop, presbyter and elder are used to refer to exactly the same office in the Church.

Although in later life, and then depending on the votes of nonconformists in England and Presbyterians in Scotland, W.E. Gladstone came to modify his views on Church–State

relations, it really is somewhat perplexing to know how he ever came to secure such support.

Dr. Alexander (Sandy) S. Waugh

REVIEWS

An extraordinary life

Paddy Ashdown: A Fortunate Life: The Autobiography of Paddy Ashdown (Aurum Press, 2009)

Reviewed by **Duncan Brack**

THE ONLY real problem with this book is that its readers are likely to end up feeling a little inadequate. By the time he was my age, Paddy Ashdown was on to his fourth main career, having spent thirteen years in the Royal Marines and Special Boat Service, four years as a diplomat and spy, another seven years in a variety of jobs (or unemployed) while trying to win Yeovil, and a further seven years as an MP, including almost two years as the first leader of the Liberal Democrats. After standing down as leader in 1999 (the only Liberal Democrat leader to date to resign entirely of his own volition), he had another two years as an MP before becoming, effectively, governor of Bosnia & Herzegovina for four years – and he is still carrying out a variety of jobs and roles while being a member of the party's team in the House of Lords.

The huge degree of energy and commitment this demanded shine out from this highly engaging autobiography. In fact only five chapters (out of

sixteen) cover Ashdown's political career, from 1976 to 2001, and much of the material in the three chapters dealing with his leadership will be familiar to anyone who has read his *Diaries* (reviewed in *Journal of Liberal History* 30 and 41). Nevertheless, the earlier chapters are of course relevant to the story of Ashdown the politician, in helping to explain why he became the MP and leader he was. His father, for example (ex-Indian Army, argumentative, politically radical and never afraid to hold a minority opinion) was clearly a key figure in his life; indeed, he claims that 'if there has been a single driver during what I suppose has been a pretty driven life, it has been to do things which would have earned the approval of my father' (p. 28). His upbringing in Northern Ireland left him with a dislike of sectarianism (reinforced by a period of soldiering in the province in 1970–71), and his years at boarding school in Bedford gave him self-confidence and self-discipline, together with an enquiring mind and a drive to

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