

Samuel Holbrooke

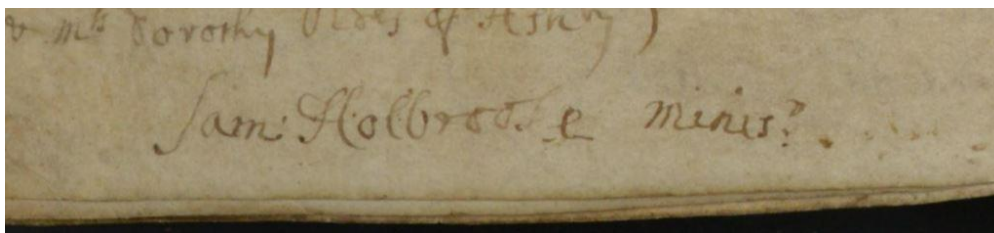
Vicar 1721-1729

Samuel Holbrooke was baptised in the parish church of St Andrew at Stanton upon Hine Heath in Shropshire on 1st August 1689. He was the son of Samuells and Mary Holbrooke. His father was the vicar of Stanton upon Hine Heath from 1678 and married Mary Browne there on 17th October 1682. Samuells Holbrooke senior died in 1711 and was buried at Stanton upon Hine Heath¹. He died intestate.² His goods and chattels were recorded on an inventory in September 1711, valued at £66 13s 10d. The inventory mentions a 'house at Wem' as well as goods in the house at Stanton.

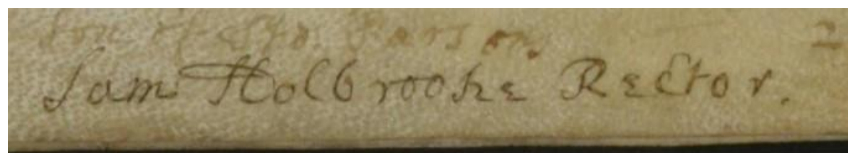
Before Samuel junior, two daughters were born; Maria in 1684 and Anne in 1686. Elizabeth was born in 1692, John in 1696, Margaret in 1698 and William in 1704. Samuel's will in 1748 mentions another sister, Lucy, but searches so far have found no record of her baptism. However, a Lucy Holbrooke, spinster, died in Oswestry, Shropshire in March 1754. Samuel's special provision for Lucy – ten pounds each year, to be paid quarterly – is much more generous than his single £10 bequest to each of his other sisters, suggesting that she was in greater need.

Samuells senior was educated at St Mary Hall College, Oxford. Samuel junior entered Christ Church College, Oxford in March 1707 and graduated with a BA in 1710 and an MA in 1713. His ordination is not recorded on the clergy database³, but he was appointed vicar at Ashby de la Zouch on 5th June 1721. His signature can be seen at the foot of most pages in the Ashby Parish Registers during his tenure.

*Holbrooke's signature in the Ashby Parish Marriage Register, 1721.*⁴



In August 1721, Holbrooke responded to a 'Paper of Queries' from Edmund, Bishop of Lincoln. He was clearly only recently arrived in Ashby, as he commented 'refer to my predecessors answer' to most questions and added that although there was a vicarage house, he hadn't yet been able to move in as his predecessor's widow was still there.⁵



*Signature from the Osgathorpe Parish Register, 1736.*⁶

¹ Stanton upon Hine Heath is 6 miles south east of Wem.

²

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=gbprs%2fstaff%2f007622981%2f00476&parentid=gbprs%2fstaff%2fwills%2f395071>

³ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/search/index.jsp>

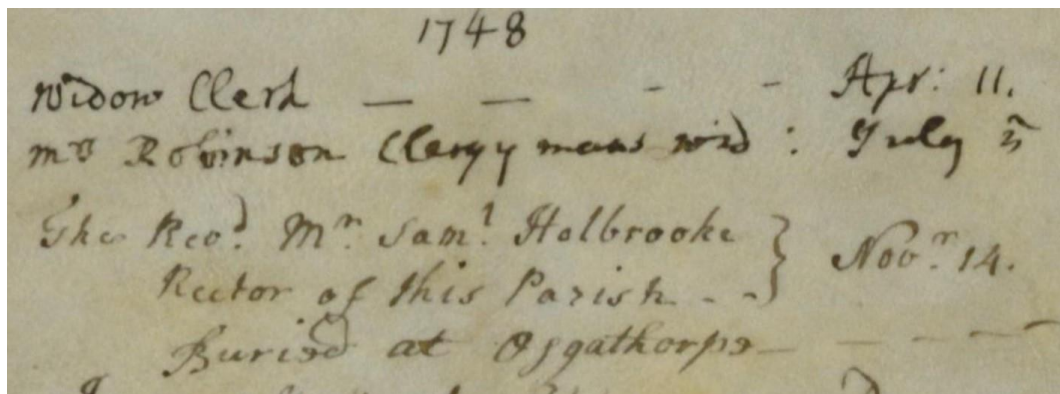
⁴ <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=s2%2f gbprs%2fleics%2f15-0818-gb-lec-ashby--de1013-1-baptisms-marriages--burials-1561-1721%2f00248>

⁵ Lincolnshire Archives.

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<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F102169976%2F00042&parentid=GBPRS%2FLEICS%2FBAP%2F00339536>

From Ashby, Samuel moved to Osgathorpe, as Rector, in June 1729. There he remained until his death in November 1748, at the age of 59 years.



*Holbrooke's burial at Osgathorpe in 1748.*⁷

Little more is currently known about Samuel Holbrook. The Clergy Database records that his brother, John, also graduated from Christ Church, Oxford, in 1716 and was ordained deacon in that year, but there are no records of him as a parish priest. The only other details we currently have of John's life come from Samuel's will⁸, written in April 1748. In it, he refers to his brothers, John and William, and to his sister Lucy by name.

John is given his books and, for his lifetime, Samuel's freehold estate 'known by the name of the French Croft in the Parish of Wem⁹,' though these revert to brother William after John's death.

Samuel bequeaths his copyhold estates in Tilley¹⁰ and Wem to his nieces, Elizabeth and Sarah Holbrooke, the daughters of his brother William. They are also made his executrices. There is a final rider, however, as all Samuel's estates will go to 'an heir male,' should his brothers John or William produce one, rather than to his two nieces.

There are various marriages of a Samuel Holbrooke recorded in the correct period, but none that can be confirmed to be 'our' Samuel Holbrooke. His will seems to confirm that he has neither wife nor children at the time of his death.

Samuel's younger brother William qualified as a surgeon and practised at Loughborough, very close to brother Samuel in Osgathorpe. Perhaps he came to Loughborough to be close to his elder brother – or perhaps Samuel moved to Osgathorpe to be closer to William and his family. Born in Wem in 1704, William married Mary Hubbard in Loughborough in 1732 and they had several children, some of whom died in early infancy. William lived to the age of 81, though his wife predeceased him by some twenty years and his daughter Sarah – one of Samuel's executrices – only outlived Samuel by a few months. Their family grave is at All Saints Church in Loughborough.

Julie Starkey
November 2021

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<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F102169976%2F00068&parentid=GBPRS%2FLEICS%2FBUR%2F00219531>

⁸ Find My Past - S2_GBPRS_LEICS_102840705_00452

⁹ Wem is a market town in Shropshire, 9 miles north of Shrewsbury.

¹⁰ Tilley is a village, less than a mile to the south of Wem.