

Henry Hooton (1664-1721)

Vicar 1691-1693

When he entered Queen's College, Oxford in December 1682, 17 year old Henry Hooton was listed as the son of John Hooton of Northampton town. He gained his BA in 1686, his MA in 1689. He was ordained Deacon in Oxford in June 1688 and became Chaplain of Queen's College the following year. He was ordained priest in Wadham College Chapel in December 1689 and, in 1691, was licenced as a preacher and instituted as Vicar of Ashby de la Zouch. His patron was Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon.

Hooton was in Ashby for less than three years. He left in February 1694, having been made vicar of St Mary's, Puddletown, Dorset, in 1693.¹ This church too was in the gift of the Earls of Huntingdon, the Manor having been granted to Henry, the 5th Earl, by James I. The Earl later settled the vicarage of Puddletown on Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Henry Hooton was to spend the rest of his life in Puddletown, dying there on 27th January 1721 after 28 years as vicar. He is memorialised by a plaque in the church.



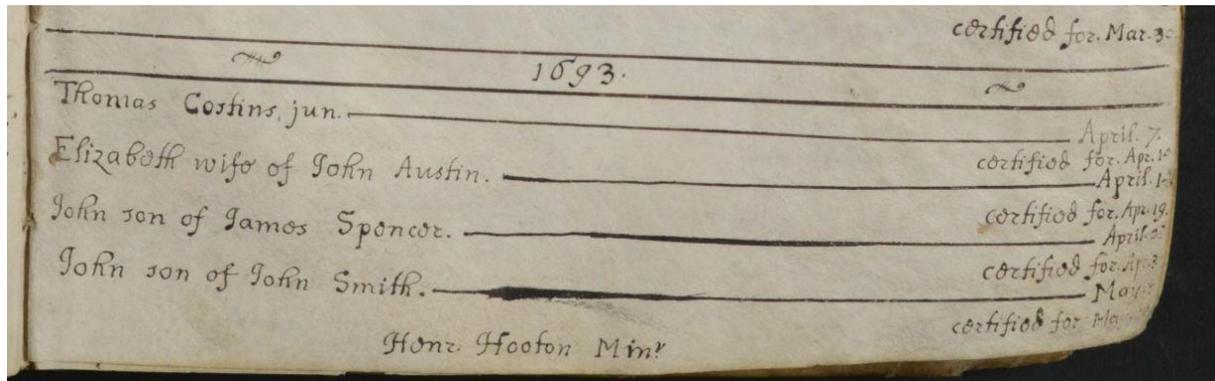
The plaque is in Latin. It gives his date of death and roughly translates: *To the Rev Henry Hooton MA, Chaplain to Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, and for 28 years, 1693-1721, vicar of Puddletown.*²

The left side of the coat of arms is of the Hooton family, the right side for the Arnolds, showing a chevron ermine between three pheons. A pheon is a downward pointing dart or arrow.

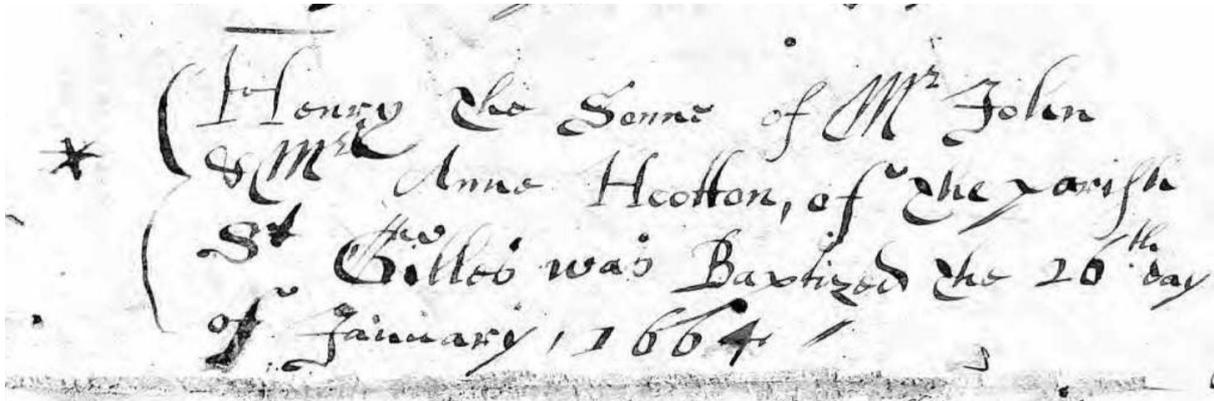
¹ Dorset History Centre. D/RAC/151 (National Archives online)

² pcdorset.org/PiddleFiles/PuddletownPhotos/PuddletownPlaques.htm

Other than very neat handwriting in the parish registers at St Helen's during Hooton's time here, there is very little record of him.³



There is scant information on his life. Henry Hooton was born in Northampton, the son of John and Anne Hooton, and was baptised in St Sepulchre, a Norman round church in the town, on 26th January 1664.⁴



He married Christian Arnold at Puddletown on 27th January 1695. Christian was the youngest daughter of Henry and Edith Arnold and the family lived at Ilsington Manor, next to the church in the village.

At least four children were born to Henry and Christian Hooton, starting with Henry, who was baptised on 16th November 1696. A daughter, Christian, was baptised on 3rd April 1698 and Ann was baptised on 20th September 1699. Ann was buried the following February, just five months old. Charles was baptised on 19th June 1702.

In 1713, in addition to his post at St Mary's, Henry became Rector of Buckland Ripers, a hamlet just north of Weymouth and 12 miles south of Puddletown. He left a will dated 1721, which is in the Dorset Probate Registry at Blandford.

Henry's eldest son and namesake followed his father into the church, becoming Rector of Moreton, Dorset and of Buckland Ripers. Henry's widow, Christian, ended her days in Salisbury, where she died in 1736. Her son Henry was one of her executors, inheriting her land in Milton Abbas. Fond bequests

³ St Helen's Parish Register. 1693. Showing signature of Henry Hooton. Find My Past (FMP).

⁴ Northampton Parish Registers 1566-1723. Ancestry.

made to her son Charles and grand daughter (Charles' daughter) Christian suggest that she was probably living with her youngest son's family. Charles had been apprenticed to William Naish, apothecary of Salisbury, for 6 years from 11th May 1719 and stayed on in the town.⁵ He took on an apprentice of his own in 1723.

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⁵ Wiltshire Social & Institutional records 1123-1968. FMP