

THE RECTORY

One of the earliest references to a Glebe at Desertmartin is from the time of Rev Charles Colthurst's Incumbency. He preceded the Honourable Arthur William Pomeroy. It states "Mr Colthurst's residence the glebelands of Dromore is beautifully situated and surrounded by a grove which contains some very fine old oaks and chestnut trees. The house is an old one but its well chosen situation, the ancient planting, the recent tasteful improvement of the glebe grounds and the singular neatness of the new Church rank the parsonage of Desertmartin among the prettiest spots in the country".

Dromore Glebe was the residence of the Honourable the Rev Arthur William Pomeroy who built it at his own expense. It cost the sum of £2050 in 1832. The house, elegant and modern, was built of white free stone. The segmental recesses on the ground floor and bracketed eaves were probably to the design of William Joseph Booth a highly accomplished draughtsman and topographical artist.

A whitewashed stable block built to one side of the Rectory is thought to be Booth's design as well.

The building has a feature advanced for its period - a semi-circular balcony over the circular end of the ground floor room.



The Rectory, Desertmartin

There is a basement extending the full ground floor area of the building. Here was situated a large kitchen, from where all the meals were sent to the dining room on the ground floor. The basement underwent major renovations in recent years and was used by the Parish Youth Club for some time.

Here also was sited a hand operated pump which supplied water to storage tanks in the attic. It is said that one Rector sent his guests down to the basement to do a few hundred strokes.

In earlier times the Glebe had extensive lands attached, the greater part of which has been sold off to neighbouring farmers over the years.

Up to eleven servants were employed when the land was mixed farmed. Nowadays the Rectory is managed by the Rector and family with help from the parishioners and the glebe lands are let to a local farmer.

The Curate lived in the residence in the village until after the new Church was built. Some time later a new house was built for him near to the present Church (up lane opposite Church gate.)