

**WILLIAM ASPLIN:
An obscure Vicar of Banbury, 1717-1734,
and his later career**

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William Asplin was Vicar of Banbury from 1717 to 1734. Beesley (p.513) dismisses him in one line. At least he gets a paragraph in *Banbury Baptism and Burial Register, 1653-1723* (BHS 9), p.ix:

William Asplin was inducted on 6th September 1717, and his signature in the margin of the registers occurs that autumn. He was born about 1688, son of William Asplin, a Worcestershire gentleman. He graduated B.A. and M.A. (in 1707) of St. Alban Hall, Oxford, and before coming to Banbury had been chaplain to a regiment on foreign service. He married Mary, daughter of John Myster of Hoson(?), Oxon. Two of his children were baptized in 1721/2 and 1723. He also became Vicar of Horley and Hornton in 1723. He resigned from Banbury in 1734, and became Rector of Burthorpe, Glos., dying in 1758.

In the recently published *Eastleach: A History of a Cotswold Village*, we discover something of his life before and after Banbury. Eastleach is a Gloucestershire parish on the Oxfordshire border, south-west of Burford. Eastleach Martin (part of the whole) is also known as Bouthrop and here we find our man (pp.89-90):

One eighteenth-century parson and his wife were obviously held in high esteem by their parishioners as the latter caused a handsome memorial table to be erected on the south wall of Bouthrop church recording the lives of the Reverend William and Mary Asplin. William (1687-1758) was a man of parts; educated at Trinity College, Oxford, and awarded BA in 1707, he rapidly became the vice-principal of St Alban's Hall and was ordained in 1709 to become an army chaplain. By 1717 he was vicar of Banbury where he met his wife, Mary Myster of Hornton [the will of William Mister, yeoman, of Hornton, was proved in Banbury Peculiar Court, 1683]. He was a man of considerable learning and a prolific writer of very scholarly and extremely obscure tracts on theology, one of which, published in 1728, had the splendid title *The Kebla: Or a Defence of Eastward Adoration*. He was in correspondence with many of the great men of his day. Furthermore, he was very much a pluralist parson, having an incumbency at Horley and Hornton with the addition of an aristocratic chaplaincy; he served Bouthrop from 1734 to 1758.