

An illustrated history of  
**The Protestant Dissenting  
Church**

**Potterspurvy & Yardley Gobion  
Northamptonshire, 1690-1920**



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## Potterspurvy in the Evangelical Revival: 1778-1825

By the time of Heywood's death, the church membership had reduced to sixteen women and one man and all were aged. The church was without a Pastor until 1782 although John Goode, a student at Newport Pagnell Academy, deputised for a greater part of this time, as he had done some time before Mr Heywood's death. During this period, the old Meeting House (which had originally been a barn or outhouse) with the adjoining residence of the Minister, was pulled down and the present chapel, which Coleman<sup>49</sup> describes as having walls of brick in Flemish bond with blue headers at the front, rubble at the back and a tiled roof, was built in 1780. Pevsner<sup>50</sup> describes it as "a very pretty two storeyed brick range with dark chequered pattern." Apparently, the manse was built later in the same year. Although the two buildings abut each other and are of similar construction an inspection shows that there is no physical joint between the two buildings and in fact the brick courses do not even line up and each roof has a different pitch. With no pastor and a small, elderly membership one wonders how this mammoth task was financed and carried out, but the fine buildings they had erected still stand, with very few changes, as a memorial to their efforts.

John Goode was ordained Pastor in October 1782 and he was apparently very much respected by all who knew him and soon greatly increased the declining congregation. He remained in Potterspurvy until 1794 when he removed to the Independent

<sup>49</sup> Thomas Coleman (1853) *Memories of the Independent Churches in Northamptonshire*

<sup>50</sup> Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, Northamptonshire*