

John Lord c 1660-1711

Vicar 1693-1711

John Lord was admitted as a 'pensioner' (a student paying fees) to Emmanuel College Cambridge on 5th June 1678. This suggests that he came from a family of some means. He was 'of Derbyshire.' He gained his BA degree in 1681-2 and his MA in 1685. He was ordained deacon in London on 24th February 1688-9 and priest at Lincoln on 21st December 1690.

It is believed that he was a licenced preacher at Souldrop in Bedfordshire after his ordination as deacon, becoming curate at Brington cum Bythorne in Huntingdonshire after he was priested. He was appointed Vicar of Ashby de la Zouch on 15th February 1694 by Thomas Tenison, Bishop of Lincoln. His patron was Theophilus, 7th Earl of Huntingdon.¹

Theophilus, as Lord of the Manor and patron of the living of Ashby de la Zouch, controlled both church and manorial court in Ashby. He insisted that his vicar conformed to the strictures of the Church of England, laying down conditions for Lord's appointment. In 1693, Lord wrote to Theophilus to consent to the conditions he had laid down: "Your Lordship's propositions are soe fair and commendable that I cannot but approve them." He had to promise to read the communion service before and after the sermon at the altar, to wear a surplice in the pulpit, to perform the churching of women at the communion table and to ensure that bodies were brought into church during burial services.²

Of Lord's time in Ashby, little record has been found. He is referred to just once in the records of the town's Grammar School as a 'Lecturer,' in the accounts to 22nd December 1701.³ His signature appears in the parish registers and his death and burial in the church vestry at about 50 years of age are also recorded.

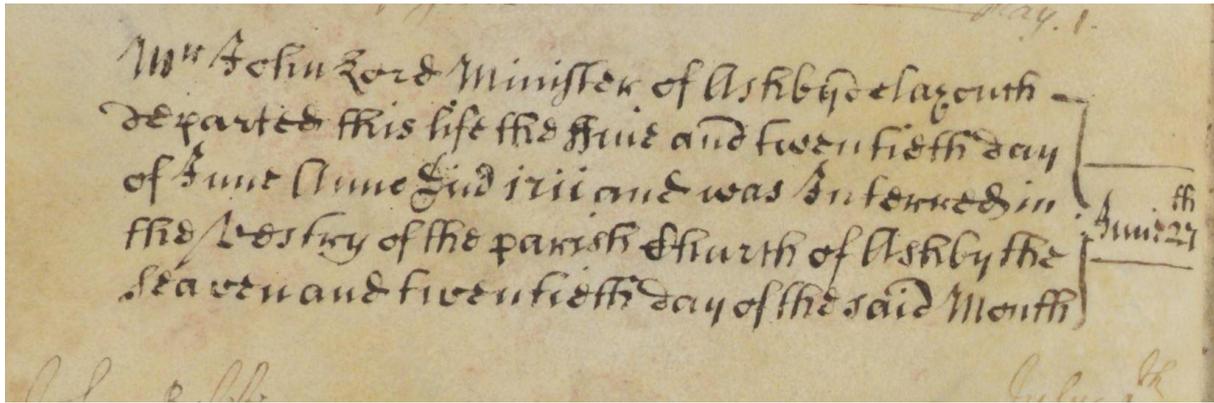
A photograph of a handwritten signature in brown ink on aged, yellowish paper. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted hand and reads "John Lord vicar". There is a small checkmark above the first few letters of the name.

John Lord's signature in the parish register – 1709.

¹ Clergy of the Church of England database

² Direct quotation from British Museum. Mss Carte 78, f.186. Information from pp137-138 of Ashby de la Zouch: Seventeenth Century Life in a small market town by Christopher Moxon

³ A County Grammar School. Levi Fox. P172



John Lord's death in the parish register – 1711. It reads "Mr John Lord Minister of Ashby de la Zouch departed this life the five and twentieth day of June anno dni 1711 and was interred in the vestry of the parish church of Ashby the seven and twentieth day of the said month."

A will exists in the National Archives, written by John Lord on 22nd June 1711, just three days before he died. He leaves his entire estate to his wife Bridget and his daughter Mary and any future heirs.⁴

It is possible that he was the eldest son of John Lord of the Borough of Derby, who died at the end of 1702, naming his wife and his eldest son John as executors. Documents within the portfolio of John Lord senior's will refer to another John Lord and to William Farmer of Ashby de la Zouch.⁵

Julie Starkey
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⁴ Will of John Lord, Clerk of Ashby de la Zouch. PROB 11/529/410

⁵ Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860. John Lord, 1703. FindMyPast.

