

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



Aprons and Gaiters

Costume dramas on TV that are versions of old books like the wonderful *Barchester Towers* with long suffering Bishop Proudie are reminders of an earlier Church of England. At the left is Charles Thomas Longley, archbishop of Canterbury from 1862-1868. Under his coat you can see the **Apron**, a knee length garment, also worn by archdeacons. The illustration below left is of a 19th century bishop wearing the apron, knee britches and **Gaiters** that buttoned up the side and were worn over the vamps of the shoes. Bishops wore these garments as a reminder of the days when they spent considerable time on horseback visiting their dioceses.



Augustus Legge,
the Bishop of
Lichfield
(1897 cartoon
from *Vanity Fair*)

(**Spats** are an abbreviated form of gaiters.
Hercule Poirot wears them.)