

Douglas, J. D., Comfort, P. W., & Mitchell, D. (1997, c1992). *Who's Who in Christian History*.

ALFORD, HENRY (1810–1871)

Church of England minister; New Testament scholar

Born into a long line of Anglican clergymen, Alford lived with his widowed father in Wiltshire. Having shown remarkable talent in classical languages and in history, at the age of eighteen he entered Trinity College, Cambridge. Following a brilliant undergraduate career, he was ordained in 1833 as assistant to his father. Two years later he married and became vicar of Wymeswold in Leicestershire, where, along with his pastoral concerns, he continued scholarly research and even produced several books of poetry: *The School of the Heart* (1835) and *The Abbot of Muchelnaye* (1841). Alford returned to Cambridge in 1841–1842 as a visiting lecturer, giving the prestigious Hulsean Lectures on the doctrines of redemption. Moving from his rural isolation in 1853, he became minister of the fashionable Quebec Chapel in London and four years later became dean of Canterbury. He stayed at Canterbury until his death, executing moderate reforms at the cathedral.

Alford translated the *Odyssey* (an ancient Greek epic poem) into blank verse, edited a literary journal called *The Contemporary Review* (1866–1870), wrote music for piano and organ, and composed a number of hymns, including “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” and “Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand.”

He is best known for his four-volume commentary on the New Testament in Greek (1849–1861). Placing before English readers the latest continental research on the meanings of Greek words, he led the way from the traditional homiletical commentary toward a more exegetical approach. Although weak in spots, Alford’s careful commentary on the Greek text of the New Testament was often reprinted and is still useful.

See: Henry Alford. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*.

[Henry Alford](#)