

CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH OSSETT 1851 - 1964

Brief extracts taken from the VICARS LOG BOOK begun by Rev'd John H. Ward

THE FORMATION OF THE PARISH

[Written by Rev'd John H Ward soon after he became Vicar in 1884 - some of the information was given to Mr Ward by C.E. Priestley, who was living at Highfield Cottage, at the time. The Document was found in the Boxes deposited at the WYAS Ref. WDP 189]

The parish of South Ossett is an Ecclesiastical District originally taken out of the Parish of Dewsbury. It comprises the southern portion of the township now under the jurisdiction of the Ossett Local Board, the boundary between South Ossett and Ossett cum Gawthorpe running as follows – from the river by Healey Old Mill up Runtlings Lane and along West Wells Rd., to the end of Bank Street, down Queen St., as far as Prospect Rd., along Prospect Rd., by Little Town End and Great Field Lane, across the railway and down the little lane towards Teall-town, the beck that flows from Spring Mill to Spring End being the East boundary, dividing South Ossett from the Parishes of Alverthorpe and St Michael's.

The history of the formation of this Parish is as follows: - The parish of Ossett cum Gawthorpe which is represented now by the Ossett cum Gawthorpe Local Board Dist, though not as large as many parishes were 50 yrs ago (notable for instance the neighbouring parish of Thornhill), was yet too large a district to be supervised spiritually by one Vicar and his curate (if he had one). There were a few houses on "The Common", in the quarter now known as Teall-Town, a few in "Happy Land", a few by the side of Horbury Lane and various others at this south end of the parish. In these scattered dwellings were not less than 600 – 700 souls.

The spiritual provision for this part of the Parish of Ossett was almost entirely in the hands of Non-Conformists. There was an Independent Chapel on "The Green". On the same site as the present Chapel was a Baptist Chapel, on the "Low Common", a disused Barn, which stood besides the present brick building and is, I believe, now used as a school. The Primitive Methodists also had a meeting in a "chamber" over a house in the now named South Parade, now occupied by William Ward. But the Church had hardly awakened in those days to a full sense of its duties to all sorts and conditions of men gathered within the limits of its parishes, and if anything had been done by the Vicar in this part of the parish before 1840 it was only by way of occasional visits which, I am told, were not very warmly welcomed. In those days Ossett, and especially Ossett Common deserved the reputation for roughness, which it had earned, and it has not yet quite lived down. Many are the tales that we are told of the rough treatment of strangers who ventured "down the common" when the unruly element was at large. The intrusion of such, no matter for what purpose, was deemed an offence to be punished by stoning and there was not as sufficient respect for the Vicar of Ossett, or any Curate of his to save them from the attention paid to strangers by the inhabitants of the Common: but, in spite of this the Vicar of Ossett the Rev. O.L. Collins (whose memory is justly held in respect by old Ossett people and whom we must revere as the founder of our Parish with a devotion which was somewhat rare in those days) held meetings in the house of Jesse Teall (in what is now Teall street). This house is used at present by Jesse Teall's son as a school.

About the year 1845, as the result of consultation between Mr Collins and the Rev. Aubull, Vicar of Dewsbury, the resolution was found to make a bolder beginning here with a view, if events were favourable of the "parish" [*Ossett was a Chapelry of the Parish of Dewsbury and not a parish in its own right*] of Ossett being divided. Facility had been provided for such sub-division of parishes under the "New Parishes Act" passed by Sir Robert Peel. In 1846 the division was effected and South Ossett became a provisional Ecclesiastical District (i.e. a district which would be a parish as soon as a Parish Church was built). The Rev. George Bayldon was ordained as Curate of Ossett in charge of the new

district. Mr Bayldon changed the place of the meeting from Jesse Teall's house to the chambers previously used by the "Prims", [*Primitive Methodists*] who had vacated it for the little Chapel built by them which now stands within the Wesleyan Burial Ground.

The chamber was an inconvenient place, only to be entered by a flight of steps fixed outside. Mr Bayldon, an earnest, though eccentric, person, failed to get hold of the people. He lived for some time far away from the scene of his work, first at Streetside, then Hostingley Lane, Thornhill and then at Sowood Farm. For some time in order to be near his work he lodged at the house of Mr James Mitchell in South Parade, but even then the work did not prosper or develop itself. Mr Mitchell, who gave what help he could, states that there were seldom many persons present at meetings- often not more than 10 - 12. At one time during his Curacy an effort was made to raise funds for the building of a school on the Common but his and Mr Mitchell's salutation met with little response.

In 1848 Mr Bayldon resigned his Curacy. He was succeeded by Rev. D.C. Neary. BA of Trinity College Dublin, who, I believe, had already been Curate of Ossett. He was ordained by the Bishop of Ripon in 1847 and he at once undertook, with the characteristic energy & determination of an Irishman, the work which Mr Bayldon had laid down. He began in the same 'chamber' which his predecessor had used; but it soon seems to have been felt that there was little hope of success on the Low Common, with its 2 chapels which was quite at the extremity of the parish, and would never be suitable for a Church. Meanwhile more houses had been built higher up towards the 'Green', in the region now known as 'Happy Land' and so Mr Neary took a weaving chamber belonging to Mr. Geo. Wilby (*father of Mark Wilby of Manor House and Manor Mill*) in that neighbourhood the chamber is still standing though now made into cottages. It was not much more convenient than the previous chamber, having no other entrance than steps outside. Here, however, Mr Neary soon gathered a congregation around him, almost entirely of the poor. His ready speech and natural shrewdness, which were not without some cultivation, pleased the ears of the people, while his earnestness, his quick sympathy and his somewhat rough & ready humour, appealed to their hearts. The room was crowded out. The sacraments could not, of course, be administered, but the teaching of the zealous Curate - in - charge would not have led the people to feel the lack of them very keenly. The room was used not only for service but also as a school on Sunday and a large number of children attended it and thus as far as a Congregation went the nucleus of a promising work was formed. This incipient success which bade fair to develop itself roused the anger of the Dissenters who had always considered "the south end" as a kind of preserve. Rough words were freely used & people coming to the 'chamber' would sometimes be hustled, pushed off the pavement or subjected to ridicule, chiefly by the Independents of the Green Chapel. But this opposition which, of course, had no justification, could not injure the work already set up for and perhaps it only operated upon the strong will of the Irish Curate - in - charge a stimulant to greater exertion.

At last it became clear that there was hope of making the work permanent, and a subscription list for a Church was opened. Mr Neary was often heard to say that the first contribution he received for it was a florin from a poor widow!

But first a site had to be procured and he prevailed upon Mr Joseph Thorns of Green House to give him a piece of ground, bordering on Horbury Lane, and measuring approx. 2 acres which would suffice for a Church, Churchyard and Vicarage. The piece of ground was a rough field, in the centre of which, stood a small straw thatched cottage in the possession of an old woman named Martha Giggall, who used to boil size for use in cloth weaving. Her fireplace was just where the pulpit now stands. The old woman was extremely reluctant to leave her home; although she was to receive a handsome sum (£22 was put down in the Balance Sheet, paid to Martha Giggall and Mr T. Mitchell's expenses). However, all was arranged satisfactorily and a Building Committee was formed consisting of Messrs Joseph Thorns, Philip Briggs (the first Churchwardens of the parish), David Dews and

Jacob Archer. Their canvassing for subscriptions met with a most liberal response. The Architects appointed were Messrs Mallinson & Healey of Halifax and they did this work creditably for the Church, though without much decoration, is a thoroughly Church like building, well proportioned and quite convenient – though if objection be made it would be to the Chancel which is small & somewhat cramped. With all dispatched the contracts were let and the work began.

On Wednesday, Jan 1st 1851 the Feast of the Circumcision, the Foundation stone was laid by the Rev. O.L.Collins with a service of prayer in the presence of Mr Allbutt, Mr Neary, and a large company of people both from Ossett and neighbouring places. In the evening there was a public tea in the Parish school at Ossett, which was largely attended and produced a good balance for the building fund.

The building proceeded rapidly, the weather being invariably favourable. The wall stone came from Newmillerdam, near Wakefield and the ashlar (*square hewn stone*) from Brighouse. The cost of the building was incredibly small – the actual cost of the fabric, including £120 for the architects and clerk of Works, was only £1641.13.8p & 1 halfpenny! But building was unusually cheap at the time. The mason, however, failed almost before he had finished; and the joiner said that he lost a considerable sum by his contract. The whole expenditure, including every requisite (though an old Register of Vestry Meetings shows that the Church was in many aspects but ill-provided for with many things now termed requisite) was only £2120.11.1 & a halfpenny. Recent work done at the Church (1885), which involved breaking into the walls, has revealed the ‘ekalliance?’ of the original builder’s work. Mr Neary is said to have worked constantly with his own hands at the Church, and one of the masons employed (Mr Eli Mercer) has told me that he made a daily inspection, that he was quick in detecting anything like “scamped” work and firm in insisting that such work should be pulled down and re-done properly.

In the wonderfully short space of 9 months the building was finished and the Church ready to be opened.

The Consecration took place on Thursday Oct 16th 1851. The ceremony was performed by Dr Longley, first Bishop of the restored See of Ripon (and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury).

A large number of clergy, and many friends from the neighbourhood were present, and the day was one of much rejoicing. A copy of the Bishop’s sermon was printed and placed in the Church safe.

The collections and donations sent amounted to £66.2.3. At the same time the Churchyard was consecrated and the first interment took place the next day.

Amongst others was the dispute about Church rates, the payment of which was a sore grievance to many people before they were abolished in 1865. The collections of these rates produced an animus against the Church, in many places besides South Ossett, but here on one occasion extreme measures were used to enforce the payment. The furniture of Mr Greenwood, the Surgeon was seized and publicly sold, in consequence of which he and his family left the Church and I understand many others did the same. This added to other & grave causes of unease which lasted over a period of many years did much to destroy the influence of the Vicar, and his work never fulfilled its early promise – indeed it almost collapsed. In saying this let me add that Mr Neary was always in secular matters a good friend & advisor to the poor of his parish & he was diligent – visiting the sick & very kind in administering to their bodily needs. He transacted many little matters of business for his people gratuitously and with much shrewdness & ability, and for all this, in spite of everything, many of his people remember him with something like affection.

When the Church was opened there was no organ. Mr David Dews (a member of the building committee) hired one at his own cost, with the ready consent of the Vicar and Churchwardens, and it

was placed in the gallery. Mr Dews' nephew, Benton Wilby – a lad of 15 yrs of age was the first organist, but he died in April 1852.

Subsequently a subscription list was begun to buy an organ, which was successful and one was ordered to be built by Foster & Andrews of Sheffield at a cost of £200 including fixing. Unfortunately inferior metal was used and after 20 yrs it showed signs of wearing out. By 1880 it was unfit for use. The sum of £139 7s had been left after the building of the Vicarage. *[A note was inserted on the facing page by Rev A. L. Burnham, Vicar from 1911 – 1925] “This money does not seem to have been placed to the credit of the Vicarage Building Fund, as foretold in the published Balance sheet. At any rate this amount as shown in the Trust Deed, was invested a few days after the Consecration of the Church in 3% “Consols?” The interest to be spent on the repair of the fabric & furniture of the Church” – signed ALB.*

Mr Neary set about raising funds – no details of these, as there was no Committee, Mr Neary keeping the matter in his own hands entirely. The work was soon accomplished, for the date on a stone in the west front of the house is 1853, and in the following year Mr & Mrs Neary came to reside in it. When the Vicarage was first built the windows in the front commanded a fine view towards Bretton Park but subsequently Mr Neary had some differences with 2 persons named **Hey & Hemingway**, who avenged themselves upon him and upon all future Vicars of South Ossett by building the semi-detached houses which stand in front of the Vicarage and completely block the view. *[CLARENDON VILLAS]* Both these persons afterwards failed and the property passed into the hands of the Wakefield & Barnsley Bank in 1879.

After the Vicarage was built the next thing was to provide Schools. Mr Neary transacted the whole of the business himself; no balance sheets were ever published. I apprehend that the parishioners contributed to a great part of the cost. The Schools were opened very soon after the appointment of Dr Bickerstaffe to the See of Ripon (1856). *[Written on the facing page; “Since this was written I have rec'd from Mr Edmund Holt, solicitor of Dewsbury the Conveyance and it is now deposited in the Church safe”. Signed- JH Ward]*. There was a large gathering on the occasion and at the service held in the Church the Bishop preached the sermon.

“Article in the **OFFICIAL HANDBOOK** of the Dedication Festival Bazaar Sat Oct 13th and Monday Oct 15th 1928.

The Day School, as started in 1850, the year of Mr Neary's Appointment as Curate in Charge, with a view to building up the new parish of South Ossett. It was held in a long room previously used as a weaving chamber in what are now called Fawcett's Buildings on Middle Common, when there were only footpaths where Station Rd. now is, Sowood Lane and Horbury Lane being little more than occupation roads and Manor Road was the one main road from Ossett to Horbury.

New Church Schools were erected in **1856 – 7 and opened 15th April 1857**, close by the church. A pair of small cottages occupying part of the site was converted into a Schoolmaster's House and it was to this house that **Mr Joseph Cox** * came as Master in 1858, **Miss A. Ainley** (known to many later as **Mrs Ben Priestley**) at the same time taking charge of the infants then in the north end of the big room. Many people think that the Church of South Ossett was financed by the State – this was not so. The Ecclesiastical Committee, from which the Vicar got his stipend was only appointed by Parliament to secure the best administration of Church funds in public investment, had much the appearance of a State Department, whilst the Government Grants based on the average attendance of scholars did help to finance the school the same grants were made to others e.g. the Wesleyan School in Wesley Street, Ossett.”

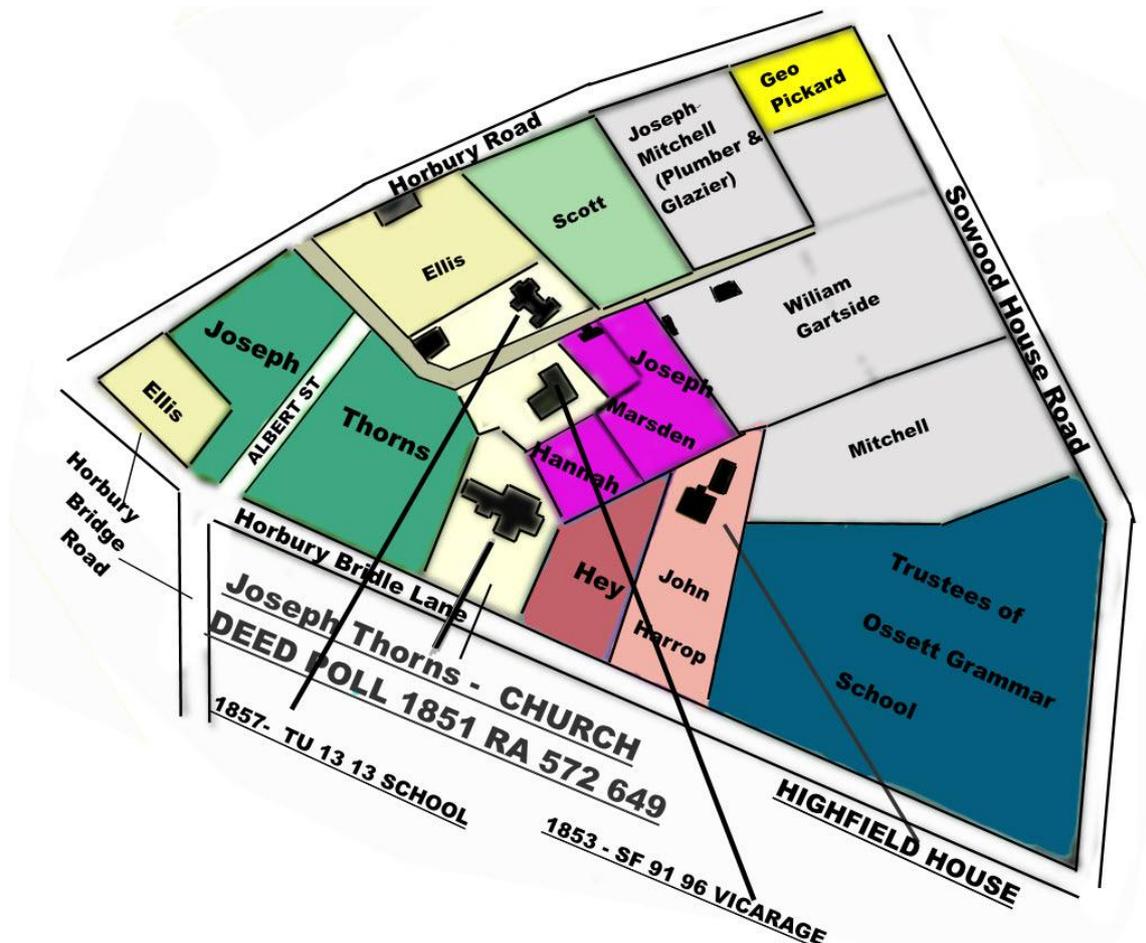
SOUTH OSSETT.

NEW SCHOOLS.—On Monday last was laid the chief corner stone of new day and Sunday schools for the parish of South Ossett. The torrents of rain that literally poured down most of the afternoon, prevented many from witnessing the interesting ceremony. A procession headed by the incumbent, churchwardens, and Sunday school teachers arrived on the site at four o'clock, when after prayer had been offered up to Almighty God for His blessing on the undertaking, and an hermetically sealed bottle deposited, the stone was duly laid by Joseph Thorne, Esq., to whom a beautiful silver trowel (with a suitable inscription) and mallet were presented on the occasion. In consequence of the inclemency of the weather, the address which was to be given by the Rev. J. Paine, incumbent of Dewsbury Moor, was dispensed with. A public tea meeting was held in the evening in Ossett Church Sunday school, and never did Ossett witness such a goodly company at tea, except on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of South Ossett church in 1851. After a splendid and substantial tea, generously provided by the ladies, who kindly gave the trays for the benefit of the building fund, the evening was pleasantly and profitably spent, in listening to excellent addresses from several speakers, clerical and lay, and to some choice pieces of music sung at intervals, by the Ossett choral society. The musical performers were everything that could be desired; such, indeed, as might be expected from native talent on an Ossett orchestra. The vast and delighted audience separated at ten o'clock. During the evening the chairman announced that the tea had realised the large sum of nearly £30.

The schoolhouse is an old cottage renovated and enlarged. It was secured about the same time as the schools were built. The land on which the buildings stand was purchased from Mr Dews "but I cannot discover anything as to the whereabouts of the Deeds of conveyance, though I have made enquiries in all likely quarters". (*I think that 'Dews' should be 'DAWSON' and the Deed (WYAS 1853 SF 92 97) is deposited in WR Reg. Of Deeds*)

The first schoolmaster only stayed a short time, but in 1859 Mr Joseph Cox [*more information about Mr Cox may be found in the author's "History of Highfield House and Sowood House and on the Ossett.net website"*], a native of Holme in the East Riding, occupied the position, and with only an interval of 1 year from 1870 to 1871, when he was working in Bradford, Mr Cox has retained his position until the present time (1888). I do no more than justice when I place upon record the service which Mr Cox has rendered to the Parish. Quite apart from the School Work, which has always been conducted with success, though in the face of many adversities and conditions, as regards Government requirements, Mr Cox was a most valuable and trustworthy servant and friend to Mr. Neary, often discharging many kind offices for him & looking to Parochial matters in his absence, illness or incapacity. In addition to this his consistent Christian life and his admirable bringing up of a large family, has been a power for good in the place which has entitled him to the response from his fellow townsmen, recently accorded to, when they elected him twice to the Chairmanship of the Ossett Local Board, and I have to say that to myself Mr Cox's service has been very great, and the help which he has most readily rendered with good works of all kinds and invaluable from his long acquaintance with the people, and the affairs of the parish, has placed me under a great deal of gratitude. I have omitted to state, in connection with the Schools, that The Diocesan Board of Education contributed to their cost a sum of £200, which added to the £500 contributed towards the cost of Church by the Diocesan Church Buildings Society,

place the parish under an obligation of £700 to the Diocesan Society, in return for which an annual offertory is due to them.



[1868] Mr Neary purchased 2 plots of land adjoining the Churchyard, formerly belonging to Mr Joseph Thorns of South Ossett and John Ellis of Horbury (the Deed of Conveyance has been sent to me by Mr Messrs Chadwick Dr. Neary's Solicitors, and is now deposited in the Church. On one of these Plots, the nearest to Albert St., in the year 1876 the present Infant School, Reading Room & Cottage were erected, at a cost of £300 including the land.

[Written on the facing page to Page 12 has been written the following "The Building was erected for a Reading Room some years before but was not used as an Infant school until Jul 24th 1877, when the Log Book has an entry "removed into the New School this morning"". Before this the building had been used for sewing to relieve the congestion in the old School). [Not sure who wrote this!]

From the opening in 1851 until 1881 the sittings in the body of the Church, but not the transept or gallery were at an annual rent, latterly £1 per yr for each seat of 5 sittings. The income received by the Vicar as part of the stipend, but in late years I believe that £20 per annum was paid to the Vicar, anything over paid to the Churchwardens for Church expenses, for which collections were also made at intervals of 1 month.

In 1881 differences arose between Dr Neary and the Churchwardens, the rents were duly collected in May, but previously to the half yearly payment in November the Vicar posted a notice in the Porch that the Pew rents then due were to be paid to him on a certain day. The Churchwardens considered it their duty to remove the notice and to post one of their own instead, to effect that the Pew rents to be paid to them and NOT the Vicar. Dr Neary, hearing of this on Sunday morning immediately before service, was much vexed and before his sermon he gave notice from the pulpit that the Church was

henceforth free, and for the future no rents at all would be paid. From that time forward a weekly offertory was collected, but the result was very little, the ordinary Sunday offertory being on an average from 10 – 12 shillings, a totally insufficient sum to provide for the necessary expenses of the Church & services.

Until the latter part of 1883 the Choir had occupied seats in the gallery, in front and beside the organ. Efforts were made in the direction of a 'surpliced' Choir and it was understood that it had the sanction of the Vicar. The first two pews in the Chancel were occupied by the Vicar's family and the other by Mrs Parker of Carr Lodge, in Horbury. Three pews were removed to make room for proper Choir stalls. The money was raised for surplices and the material procured when the Vicar suddenly withdrew his sanction and so the proposal fell through for a time but thence forward the mixed Choir occupied the new stalls in the Chancel and continued to do so until the introduction of a surpliced Choir after the death of Mr Neary. He died on 15th March 1884 aged 63. His body was laid to rest in the same grave as his wife and child on the south side of the chancel. A granite monument was erected by their daughter later.

Income of the Benefice

On the Constitution of the provisional District of South Ossett the Ecclesiastical Commissioners assigned from the Common Fund £150 payable half yearly May 1st and Nov 1st. In 1884 another £50 was added – total £200.

Church Repair Fund

£144.6s 7d was invested in 3% Consols, annual interest received by Wakefield & Barnsley Banking Co. and to be applied as a repair fund for the maintenance of the fabric of the Church. On my coming to the Parish the fund was invested in the name of Mr Neary & Others. I have suggested that it should be in the names of Vicars and Churchwardens of South Ossett but am informed it is necessary to give definite names. As all the original trustees are now dead except one it has become advisable to substitute other names. I have given my own name and Mr J.T. Marsden, Rag Merchant, Mr George Hemingway, Book keeper and Mr John Henry Gawthorpe, Bankers Clerk.

Upon the decease of the first Vicar the appointment fell to the Crown, Dr Neary having been nominated by the Bishop, Dr Longley. On April 16th 1884 I received from the Prime Minister the offer of the living, being then Assistant-Curate to the Rev. John Sharp, Vicar of Horbury; the post to which I was appointed when I was made Deacon on 13th July 1879. On April 19th I accepted the charge but was unable to take up the post for some months owing to the Vicar of Horbury being ill. I was instituted at Ripon by Very Rev'd the Dean, acting as Commissary for the Archbishop of York on July 14th.

Shortly after my appointment the income of the living was raised from £150 to £200. I had various necessary renovations done to the Vicarage.

In September I called a general meeting of the Congregation to discuss a Surpliced Choir and it was resolved almost unanimously. Suggestions were made to remove the doors from the pews. There were one or two objections, namely Messrs Edwin Wilby and Edmund Briggs. The panels from the doors were used in the new Vestry. I was asked several times if I would endeavour to restore the old (and evil) system of pew rents!

In October a Sewing Society was formed – 26 members joined, meeting on alternate Mondays in the Parish Room at the Vicarage. Despite some differences with some of the members it was continued until the Bazaar in October 1885. During this month the surplices were made, the linen supplied

wholesale by Mr P. Nettleton, cut out by Mrs Hall of Ossett and sewn by the members of the Sewing Society. The result was fairly satisfactory!

In November I formed a Children's Temperance Guild. About 100 members joined. It prospered during the winter months but flagged in summer, owing to a lack of helpers. Mr H. Wilby the Assistant Master very kindly helped me for some time by playing the harmonium, but Temperance principles are not fully recognised by the Church people & I could not obtain further assistance.

Soon after, I made an application to the Additional Curates Society for a grant towards the stipend of a Curate. I applied for £80 or £70, undertaking to raise £50 or £60 locally. I gave details of the need but in April 1885 received notice – not successful.

Surplices were first worn on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day there was an early celebration at 8 am – the first in the history of the Church. There were 36 Communicants.

The Choir were carefully trained and taught by Mr Arthur Clegg (appointed Choir Master shortly after I came to the Parish). One member of the Choir (Mr J.T. Marsden) resigned in consequence of wearing surplices. He made no objection to me & there was some inconsistency in his action, as he had sometimes sung in the Choir of Ossett Holy Trinity and worn a surplice!

1885

At the beginning of this year I published a Parish magazine localising the "Banner of Faith" issued by the Church Extension Association. We began with a circulation of 210 which rapidly increased to 250 at which number it remained for the rest of the year.

Acting on suggestions made to me by a few persons I began a clothing club, which for this year was fairly successful having 26 members.

On Jan 10th I gave notice of a Confirmation Class and this was formed with 21 boys and 17 girls attending most regularly.

At the beginning of Lent I began regular Holy Communion Services

All these, except the last, are Ossett tradesmen. No opposition put up against these. The work was begun in October.

In May active preparations were made for a bazaar, to raise funds for the Organ and a committee was set up:

The Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Victoria was celebrated in Ossett with much loyalty and enthusiasm. At Matins that morning Jubilee prayers and thanksgivings (issued by Royal Command) were said. In the afternoon a public procession took place, the children were carried on wagons, kindly provided by Messrs Marsden Bros. and Abraham Marsden & Sons.

During the summer a request was received from Mr A H Clegg - organist & Choirmaster, for an increase from £5 to £12 per year.

On Sep 20th the first of a series of "cottage" meetings was held "on the common". Mr James Mitchell kindly gave the use of his house for the purpose.

On 13th October a Mission room at Healey was opened. Mr King of Horbury Bridge provided a house at the rental of £5.10s per year and seats were made by Mr Stubbs for £4. 12s. A Harmonium was hired. The Mission was to be called 'The Mission of the Good Shepherd' in the charge of Rev J Blew.

On Sep 29th James Bentley resigned the post of Sexton & Clerk owing to incapacity for work. Charles Hampshire was appointed in his place at the same salary £10 plus fees & other payments, approx £12, per year.

1888

In my predecessors time the Churchyard had been much neglected and I have had great difficulty in dealing with it. The plan of graves was not properly kept- 300 burials were omitted entirely and several entered wrongly, so as to be useless for reference purposes to the yr 1876, since which time no entries were made. The rows of graves had not been kept, coffins being placed so as to be half in one row and half in another. Space was wasted by graves being dug only 5 - 6ft deep. I have had serious complaints of bodies having been buried in other people's graves, and it has been very difficult to find room for new graves. All this coupled with the fact that over 1900 bodies had been buried in the Churchyard led me to apply to the Home Secretary for the inspection of the Churchyard with a view to it being closed. Eventually Dr Hoffman, HM Inspector of Burial Grounds visited and in accordance with his suggestions the Churchyard was closed to burials after 31st Mar 1889, with certain reservations. (Copy of document in the safe).

On May 11th Rev Blew offered his resignation on health grounds and this was much regretted. In his place Mr Edward King a student, who hopes to be made Deacon later this year was appointed.

1890

At the end of April I left South Ossett for 3 months holiday on medical advice. The Bishop readily agreed & obtained a grant of £20 for a locum, Rev. D. Proctor to assist Rev. King who was left in charge of the parish. He discharged his duties most zealously and was much loved by the parishioners. I returned to the parish on Jul 25th and was most kindly welcomed.

[Mr Ward writes much about the decrease in baptisms & Communicants which worry him greatly and the attitude of the young men especially.]

In the early part of 1891 my attention was brought to an old joiners shop in Teall St, recently used as a reading room, which would make a serviceable Mission Room. I at once secured the room and furnished it. It was opened on Jan 27th.

1892 BUILDING OF VICARAGE CLASSROOM

For many years a suitable place had been needed for the Vicar to hold classes and meetings etc. I *[Mr Ward]* resolved early in 1891 to provide such a room, together with a storeroom. Plans were drawn up by W.R. Kendall, Architect of Ossett. The building was to be placed at the east side of the Vicarage.

The plans were passed by the Town Council.

The whole cost of the work was £199.7.2d. £15 left over from the Curate's endowment fund, £10 from Mr John Harrop, £64 was contributed by private friends and the remainder by me.

I wish to leave on record:-

- 1) That the room is the property of the Vicar of the parish for the time being and only to be used with his consent
- 2) On the other hand it was not built for the Vicar's own private & domestic purposes etc. but for the furtherance of the parish work.

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*The following topic was written by **Rev'd KIRK in 1910**, on the facing pages of the entries for 1892*

VICARAGE CLASSROOM

After a residence of 18 and a half years at the Vicarage I feel bound to express my candid opinion with regard to the classroom. I thoroughly appreciate the circumstances which influenced my predecessor, for whom I have a most profound respect, to build the classroom, in a large measure at his own cost. But experience has shown that it has not been for the comfort of the occupants of the Vicarage, and that the money laid out on it might have been more profitably spent. A little more than a year after its completion additional rooms were provided at the mixed school and, much more recently, provision has been made to divide the large room there into 3 parts, by moveable partitions. There is ample room in the school for classes and meetings of all sizes available in the evenings, the best time for such gatherings. Moreover the classroom is sadly deficient in 2 important matters 1) ventilation 2) heating. Practically no ventilation – just 2 small inlets are provided in 1 wall only and there is no outlet for vitiated air. The consequence is that when the gas is alight and the room moderately full of people, the atmosphere soon becomes most unhealthy and unbearable. The fireplace is quite inadequate to heat the whole of the room. While I have tried various things to remedy these defects, which have been quite unsuccessful, I can only express my conviction that structural alterations are required, which would entail an expense few men would undertake.

Further I greatly regret that I am unable to agree with my predecessor's remarks as to "a breach of confidence". [*Not sure to what this refers*]. The expense of fuel, light and cleaning for parochial purposes ought not to fall upon the Vicar – If they are met by parishioners, the room will be considered Parish Property and will mean the destruction of the privacy of the Vicarage. Of this we have had frequent and unpleasant experiences and, for some time all meetings etc., have been held in the school, and I have more recently been compelled to refuse the use of the room for social purposes. Early in 1910 I consulted the Archdeacon (Norris) as to the possibility of removing the structure, but he was of the opinion that I had no right to do so.

It was unfortunate that Mr Ward left so soon after the classroom was finished and before he had experienced the defects of it, one other of which is that the Vicarage is filled with smoke every time there is a fire lighted in the classroom. If the place could be pulled down, and the materials used elsewhere, say to extend St. Aidan's, they would be put to more profitable use.

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On Tuesday January 26th the anniversary of the Teall Town Mission Room was celebrated.

***[Here Rev. Ward ends his extremely informative notes in the Log Book
He was instituted to the living of Earlsheaton on Wed Jul 13th 1892.]***

In 1892 John Henry KIRK - BA Cambridge was instituted to the living at South Ossett

[Fortunately, he carried on writing up the Log Book for the next 18 years.]

1893

On 26th February Mr Fred Hallas SENIOR B.A of Trinity College Dublin, was ordained at Thornhill Lees Parish Church.

Before my appointment a Committee had been set up regarding the enlargement of the mixed schoolroom. Plans had been prepared and sanctioned by the Education Department and contracts were let – Masons - R. Oldroyd £338; Joiners - Charles Lockwood £105; Slater/Plasterers - Fawcetts £47; Plumbers – J. Snowden & Son £37.10.

A sum of £60 had already been promised towards this fund.

[The next entry in the Log Book, written by John Henry Kirk, refers to a Dispute with Holy Trinity Church, Ossett]

“Canon Addison, Vicar of Holy Trinity died in the spring of this year. The living had been vacant for 3 months when the patron appointed Rev. H.C Cradock of Mirfield. After his institution he styled himself ‘Vicar of Ossett’ and the Church as ‘Ossett Parish Church’. Some notes in the Dewsbury Parish Church Magazine led to doubt the rightfulness of these terms and we entered into a friendly dispute – ultimately referred to Mr S.T Chadwick, Solicitor of Dewsbury who is well acquainted with the local Ecclesiastical history.

His findings were: -

There is evidence from Wills in the York Registry of the existence of a Chapelry and Curate at Ossett in the 16th century.

Ossett is mentioned as a Chapelry (and is to remain a Chapelry) in the Parliamentary Survey taken in the time of the Commonwealth and it to have then had an income of £2 per annum. Also mentioned in ‘Whitaker’s History of Leeds’, published in 1816 and ‘Lawton’s Collections’, relating to the Diocese of Ripon, published 1842, calls it a ‘Perpetual Curacy’ under the patronage of the Vicar of Dewsbury and of the net value of £162. Several other instances are mentioned in Lawton’s confirming the definition of a Chapelry.

Ossett was never quite independent of Dewsbury, although efforts were made by the Curate of Ossett in 1753 Rev. J. Earsham? Church rate was levied on the 3 townships of Dewsbury, Ossett and Soothill as recently as 1852 and was presumably levied on the whole of Ossett

On the whole it seems that Holy Trinity Church had, prior to 1846, a substantial claim to be considered as the original Chapelry of Ossett and if the Incumbent of Ossett in 1846 had looked after his interests and that of his successors there would probably have been no doubt of a legal claim – but he allowed the new Parish of South Ossett to be formed without asserting and protecting the rights of the old Church and on referring to the Order in Council, dated 14th Nov 1846, I find no mention of the Chapelry of Ossett but ‘the District of South Ossett’ is thereby constituted in order to relieve the Parish of Dewsbury, which is stated to be of great extent and to contain a large population and it further states ‘the provision for public worship and for pastoral superintendence therein is insufficient for the spiritual wants of the inhabitants’. The Chapelry of Ossett is therefore entirely ignored – and again in 1858 the Chapelry was formed by Order in Council into a District Chapelry, instead of being declared by the Bishop to be a separate and distinct Parish, under *1 and 2 Vic C107*, in which case the early status of the Parish or Chapelry would, to some extent, have been endorsed

and ratified and it would have had a fair claim to rank as the Mother Church of the Township. Under the circumstances I think the Vicar of Ossett cum Gawthorpe has no such rights moral or otherwise, as the Vicar of Dewsbury claims, over the daughter Parishes and I think South Ossett is quite independent of Ossett cum Gawthorpe and the two Parishes may be termed sisters, rather than mother and daughter.

I had satisfied myself beforehand that the Vicar of Ossett cum Gawthorpe could not substantiate his claim – comparison of the data show me that South Ossett was a Parish for 14 yrs before the Parish of Ossett cum Gawthorpe.

The dispute was of a perfectly friendly nature and we felt it was our duty for the sake of our successors, as well as ourselves, that things should be definitely settled. We, therefore, decided to style ourselves 'Vicar of Ossett cum Gawthorpe' and 'Vicar of South Ossett and the Parishes 'Ossett cum Gawthorpe Parish and Parish Church' and 'South Ossett Parish and Parish Church', but all claim to the title 'Vicar of Ossett' and 'Ossett Parish Church' was abandoned – as certain rights belong to Vicars of Parish Churches it behoves all Vicars of South Ossett to assert their independence of and equality with the Vicar of Ossett cum Gawthorpe."

1894

The Bazaar raised £218. 9s 3d net for the school Fund.

Rev. F.H. Senior was ordained as Priest, much against my own judgement. I placed before the Bishop my reason for thinking he should wait; but the Bishop held that there was no moral or doctrinal fault. My great objection was Mr Senior's absolute incompetency and unsuitability for the work, as well as the discovery that he had not gained the respect, or was likely to, of the parishioners. There was no brotherly sympathy between us that there should have been, which I attribute to him being older than me and unwilling to submit to my counsel. The Bishop promised that he could leave at the end of his second year. Unhappily I believe that Mr Senior has endeavoured to create a feeling against me in the parish and acted deplorably.

On February 22nd of this year my revered predecessor John Henry Ward was called home, his illness being of long duration borne most patiently. Of his work here one cannot speak too highly, it was so thorough and real. Undoubtedly this book itself tells of a humble, zealous priest who strove to fulfil his priestly office faithfully in the right of God.

SCHOOL

For some time it has been apparent that there was not enough room for the infants. The average attendance was 108 but the accommodation was for only 99. It was proposed to enlarge the present room but I strongly persisted that it was not adapted for educational purposes and was originally erected as a reading room. Eventually the managers resolved to purchase all the vacant land in Crown Street and with Mr John T. Marsden I waited on the other owners in the street and gained their permission to enclose the whole, leaving an entrance at both ends of what is now known as Crown Street. Mrs Neary and Mr Ellis agreed to sell at 1s 9d a yard and the purchases were completed. Plans were then prepared for a new school to accommodate 200 children. I issued an appeal to our people for help, estimating the cost at £1400. A new Sewing Society was formed and a good beginning made.

1895

On Tuesday Jun 18th the Foundation Stone for the new Infant School was laid by Archdeacon Brook - a very large number of parishioners & several neighbouring Clergy were present.

Autumn 1895. About this time it became necessary to remove Albert Laycock from the office of Clerk and Sexton. He had been absenting himself from the Choir and, after ringing the bell, leaving the Church. He was spoken to by the Churchwardens and me. We had complaints that the Church was not being kept clean and that a young girl of 13 was turning out the gas & locking up the Church. When remonstrated with Laycock was insolent and we were compelled to give him notice to leave at Michaelmas. William Hemingway, Painter, and a Choir man was appointed out of several applicants. After 6 months he has proved himself a thoroughly fit man for the office and the Church is much sweeter & cleaner than before.

On Holy Innocents Day [*late 1895*] the new Infant School was dedicated by the Bishop. When we were about to take possession of the new schoolroom the question came as what was to be done with the old one. For years the men have claimed that the building belonged to them and they seemed to be under the impression that it would now become their absolute property – there is, however, in the safe a Trust Deed conveying the property to the Vicar and Churchwardens and empowering them to exchange or sell the property. Mr Moys and Mr Burdekin agreed with me that it was desirable that the room should be used as a Billiard Room and Reading Room, with proper safeguards that the Vicar and Churchwardens were still the owners. We accordingly met the Committee of the Reading Room and laid out our terms before them – negotiations followed, heated at times. Eventually an agreement was reached and the Conditions and Rules placed with the Trust Deed. I very strongly advised the change of name to the “Church Institute” as a safeguard against the heirs of the late Dr. Neary claiming the property as not being used in connection with the Church at South Ossett. For my own part I have no doubt that Dr Neary’s heirs can claim possession legally, if any were minded and this is the opinion of the lawyers by whom the Deed was drawn up!

The Churchwardens had the school altered and painted and the members of the Institute have furnished it as a Billiard Room and Card Room, the old Reading Room being retained – the bedroom above will be ‘thrown’ into the cottage at the next vacancy of tenancy!

Members joined rapidly until 100 was reached – that the Institute will do good so far as keeping the men from worse influences I am sure of, but that it will help to make them loyal Churchmen I despair! Like my predecessor I am unable to do anything with the men.

In February this year I was compelled to close the Teall Town Mission Room. The services were only poorly attended and as the Fund was £38 in debt I felt it could no longer be maintained. The furniture I have stored in the Vicarage Classroom in the hope that the Mission may be revived at some future time.

In August the Diocese was shocked to hear of the sudden death of the first Bishop. In the short time of his Episcopal oversight he had done so much for a Diocese which presented very grave difficulties. To this parish, and doubtless many others, he was a true Father in God, a devout humble man, whom it was a great privilege to know. Requiescat in Pace!

Dr Rodery Eden, Bishop (Suffragen) of Dover was appointed in his place.

An application having been made for the use of the schools for the purpose of dancing, a strongly worded note was put in the magazine that under no circumstances whatever would the managers let the schools for dancing. This is not the result of bigotry on the part of the managers but is in the best interest of the Parish. Some years ago, when dancing was last allowed, a most scandalous &

disgraceful midnight scene occurred, and the managers will not again run the risk of a repetition thereof. The decision is much resented by some of the young people, who plead it is an excuse for neglect of the Church Sunday Schools. I am satisfied that the managers are right in their refusal.

1898

In 1894 I had agreed to unite with Holy Trinity & Gawthorpe in the publication of a joint magazine – after 4 years trial I am convinced that it is better for each parish to have its own and in 1898 returned to the old method of the South Ossett Magazine. Subscribers had frequently urged me of the desirability of this.

On March 15th the Right Reverend G.R Eden, Lord Bishop of Wakefield held a Confirmation in our Church. There were 44 candidates Confirmed singly.

The Curacy having been vacant 10 months, and the dearth of Curates very great I was unable to meet with a suitable man until the ordination of Mr H.I. Rayner B.A. Cambridge, on September 25th.

On October 25th & 26th another Bazaar was held to reduce the outstanding debt on the infant School. £240 was raised – this was a record for a 2 day event and reduced the debt to £30.

On the death of Rev. Ward in 1894 a meeting had been held regarding the erection of a suitable memorial in the Church. Owing to the costs of erecting a new Infant School subscriptions were slow to come in. 4 years later in 1898 a more energetic move was made and the committee decided on a Reredos. The memorial was dedicated by Canon Lowther Clarke on December 4th, an address being given by Canon Grenside, in place of Canon Sharp, who was unable to attend. The cost of the Reredos was £65, raised entirely by subscription. In March the costs of the School Building had been paid off - £2125.19s. 5d.

The subject of ventilation had cropped up regularly. In 1898 the Churchwardens decided to set aside the collection on one Sunday evening of each month towards the fund. During September 1899 a ventilation shaft was placed in the tower, at a cost of £30, for the purpose of carrying off the vitiated air, and it has apparently been successful, at any rate the oppressiveness formerly felt on Sunday, especially in the evening, is no longer experienced.

The debt on the Infant School having been cleared, the most pressing necessity was for a school in Teall Town, which had closed on the death of the Master, Mr Teall. The journey for the young children up to the schools here was a difficulty. Enquiries were made as to the possibility of acquiring a suitable site to erect a building which should serve as a Mission Church, Day School and Sunday School. Her Majesty's Inspectors, whom I consulted, advised that the school should be for Infants and Standard 1 only. Mr Charles Wheatley promised to give a site on Junction Lane measuring 1500 sq yards, and £50. Other promises of help were given and the Committee employed Messrs. Marriott, Son & Shaw to draw up plans for a building to serve the purpose, with Chancel properly screened off, the whole to cost about £800. The employment of Messrs Marriott was contrary to my judgment, in which events had since proved I was right. The building was more costly and the office calculations were sadly deficient as the cost was nearly £1500. A meeting of Church people living on the common was then held and I explained the scheme to them, showing the plans. They were all very enthusiastic & promised to work to do their best. The immediate result of the meeting was the re-opening of the old Mission room on Tuesday evenings and the formation of a Sewing Society. The preliminary papers were signed by the Bishop and the Mission named after St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne. The name of the Patron Saint was suggested by the Rev. E.B. Ward, in a sermon during the Dedication Festival.

1900

The Board of Education having established a scheme for Superannuation of teachers over 65 yrs, offered Mr Cox, who had passed that age (1) to allow him £40 yearly if he retired at once (2) that he might continue as Head Master so long as he was efficient but without any pension. Mr Cox decided to retire upon the pension and Mr Henry Lister, who had been Assistant Master, was appointed Head Master. A testimonial which took the form of an illuminated address and a purse of £40 was given to Mr Cox as an appreciation of his long and faithful service over 40 years.

On Easter Monday the Foundation Stone for St Aidan's was laid by J.O Greaves Esq. There was a very large attendance. The sum of £44 was raised that day. From the commencement there had been a wonderful heartiness and enthusiasm, the like of which I have never before experienced since I came to the Parish.

The Grants awarded to schools at that time was dependent on the attendance figures and achievement of the students. The Grant to the school had now been reduced and this was accounted for by the opening of an Undenominational School at the Baptist Chapel on the Common. This was the Non Conformist Counter blast to St Aidan's!

On 27th October 1900 the Mission Building of St. Aidan's was dedicated by Dr. Eden, Bishop of Wakefield, as a School - Chapel, who also licensed it for Public Worship and the administration of the Sacrament. Gifts were received from St Mary's Gawthorpe, an Altar with Cross, Candlesticks and set of frontals, Font, Pulpit, Lectern and Foldstone; from the House of Mercy in Horbury Altar Linen; from the Parishioners - Chalice, Paten, Cruets, Bread Box; and from various individuals Alms Dish, Altar Book, Cassocks, Veils and Burses (?) and Sanctuary Chain. The Church was crowded to the door and many were unable to get in.

The Cost of St. Aidan's Mission

Mason (Oldroyd & Son) £560. 19s. 5d: Joiner (J. W. Harrop) £418.17s.11d: Plumber (Shepley) £134. 9s. 0d: Slater (Thompson) £ 73.10s. 0d: Heating (Truswell) £35. 0s. 0d: Plasterer (Parkinson) £34. 0s. 0d: Ironmonger (Squires) £26. 1s. 0d: Painter (Jubb) £18. 2s.10d: Screen (Peace & Norquoy?) £33. 0s. 0d: Furniture £ 37. 10s. 0d: Street repair £15. 6s. 4d: Printing £12. 9s. 8d: Incandescent £5.10s. 0d: Legal charges £15.18s. 0d: Architect (Marriott & Shaw) £75. 0s. 0d:

TOTAL £1495. 4s.2d.



Sunday Church Services commenced with the help of laymen; The Day School opened on December 31st and the Sunday School on 6th Jan, 1901.

As stated earlier I had consulted with H.M.I (JB Loft Esq.) before undertaking the St. Aidan's scheme; I also received promises of help & support towards the provision of a school, which was badly needed in the district; the Board of Education, after consultation with the Inspector sanctioned the erection of the building to be placed on the Grant List. No sooner was it known that a real beginning had been made, tenders were let etc., than the Non conformists formed an Undenominational Council. They proposed to enlarge and adapt the Baptist Sunday School for boys & girls mixed and infants and sent up plans to the Board of Education, without consulting the Inspector. These were likewise accepted by the Board - under a Conservative Government - and the alterations were made in time to open the School after the summer holidays. The consequence was that many children left the Parish Church School; and only a small number, about 40, joined the St. Aidan's School when it was opened. Some of those who had been enthusiastic supporters of the scheme withdrew their promises and I was left with a substantial building; much too costly for a Mission Church, without a school; to raise the money as best I could. An error of judgement on my part, in recommending the appointment of a Head Mistress who proved to be quite unsuitable did not improve School matters!

1901

A re-arrangement of the Municipal Boundaries between Wakefield & Ossett; and also the formation of the Parish of St. Mary's Gawthorpe, partly out of Holy Trinity, made it desirable to reconsider the boundaries of the Parish of South Ossett. After much correspondence and red tape, the 'London Gazette' of May 17th contained the official notice of the alteration and ratification, approved by the King in Council. A copy was put in the Church safe, but it may be convenient to quote the following:-

"On November 14th 1846, a separate district for spiritual purposes, by the name of the District of South Ossett, was constituted out of the parish of Dewsbury. On February 26th 1858, another part of the said Parish of Dewsbury was assigned as a District Chapelry to the Consecrated Church of the Holy Trinity, situate at Ossett cum Gawthorpe, within the limits of Dewsbury. On Jan 2nd 1862 the consolidated Chapelry of St. Michael, Westgate Common, Wakefield was formed. Each of these, under the provision of various Acts has become a new Parish, and it is expected that the boundaries should be altered, the consent of the Bishop, the Patrons and Incumbents being given" etc..

The new boundary between South Ossett and Holy Trinity is: "The railway from the centre of the bridge over Runtlings Lane to the centre of the railway crossing in Great field Lane. The new boundary on the Wakefield side was extended from Haggs Hill Rd., to the limit of the new Municipal boundary of the borough of Ossett - West Wells Rd., Queen St., Prospect Rd. and Great Field Rd., with the streets leading towards the railway were transferred to the Parish of Holy Trinity".

It was anticipated that there would be an increased amount of building in that part of Wakefield which was included in the Borough of Ossett, but such did not follow.

During the spring of this year I endeavoured to persuade the parishioners to commemorate the 50th year of the consecration of the Church in a worthy manner. After many meetings and much unnecessary disputation, it was decided to thoroughly clean and paint the Church inside, except the Chancel; to overhaul & improve the organ – a long delayed need – and to endeavour to fill the two Chancel windows with stained glass. A section of the parishioners loudly proclaimed in 1898, when the Reredos was erected to the memory of the late Rev. J.A, Ward, that there should be a memorial to the late Dr. Neary, the first Vicar, and I suggested that they should take the present opportunity to carry out their own wishes. With some difficulty sufficient money was raised to fill one window on the north side, the corresponding on the south side was given in memory of Mrs Neary by her daughters.

The Church was closed for 5 weeks and a licence was granted by the Bishop for services to be held in the schoolroom.

On October 15th the Church was re-opened. The new windows were unveiled by Miss Neary and were dedicated by the Rev. J A Seaton? Vicar of Cleckheaton and rural Dean of Birstal. Next day the Harvest Festival was held and collections amounted to £31. 15. 2d, everything being paid for at the close of the Festival.

1902

The beginning of this year brought with it a breakdown in my health. For nearly 15 months I had been working practically single handed. There had been the organisation of St. Aidan's, and as I have sufficiently indicated, a large amount of anxiety and labour attached to it. During January I was at Brighton, but the change and rest was not effectual. I struggled on during Lent, with the assistance on Sundays of the Rev. F.W. Hatfield, who had been Curate at Emley. All the usual extra services were suspended including the 3 hours service on Good Friday.

In April I left home for 3 months, the first part of which was spent on a cruise in the Mediterranean and the remaining in visiting friends in different parts of England. On my return, being somewhat benefited by the rest and change I was strongly advised to take things quietly and do as little visiting as possible, which, as the doctor said is very trying and tiring. Mr Hatfield who had been in charge during my absence was at once licensed as Curate by the Bishop. Now that I had again got a Priest as assistant it was necessary to make arrangements for the work in future, keeping in mind the advice of Dr. Greenwood that I must spare myself. Some changes to services were made so that more time could be given to St. Aidan's.

In November we commenced morning service on Sundays, with two celebrations a month. The King's (Edward V11) Coronation, so long postponed was the occasion of great rejoicing and the splendid and stately function gave an opportunity to emphasise the dignity of the Holy Eucharist.

1904

On April 1st the Town Council adopted the Education Act of 1902 and constituted themselves as the Local Education Authority, with two Ladies whom they co-opted. We were invited to transfer all three schools to the Authority but declined to do so. The old Managers now being done away with [*sic*] the following were elected as Foundation Managers: Mr J.T. Marsden, Mr J. Brown and Mr M. Wilby with the Vicar as Chairman and Correspondent. Representatives of the L.E.A., Councillors Bentley and Stead, required certain alterations to be made to the premises and the Board of Education insisted on them being carried out – many were of small importance but the provision of Automatic Water Closets for boys and girls at the Mixed Department was a serious item. It was decided to carry them out in order to save the schools.

From October until the end of the year there was a scourge of small pox throughout the town. Day and Sunday schools were closed and all meetings abandoned. Several of our people were smitten, though none of them died from it. The epidemic was worst amongst the unvaccinated people, the few deaths being amongst these. In this Parish the Undenominational School on the Common greatly contributed to the spread of the disease owing to an outbreak amongst the children of "conscientious anti-vaccination". The small pox hospital was totally inadequate and temporary additions were made, those convalescing being removed to Park House, which the Corporation purchased. No one who lived during those three dark and anxious months is ever likely to forget it.

1905

Shortly before Easter a Pipe Organ with two manuals, pedals etc., was given to St. Aidan's by the Rev. H. R. Manders, Vicar of Horbury Junction, subject to these conditions (1) that it shall never be sold (11) that it shall never be used save in the Church of England. This most acceptable gift has greatly helped the singing. On August 28th the managers agreed with great regret to the closing of the infant school at St. Aidan's. The number of children had been reduced to less than 30 and it was not possible to resist the Board of Education's suggestion that it should be discontinued. The school furniture and apparatus was sold off and the premises will only be used for purposes in connection with the Church Sunday School.

1908

A stained glass window, representing the Good Shepherd was placed in the East wall of the South Transept in memory of the late Mr Cox – 40 yrs Schoolmaster. It was purchased by subscription, Messrs Kayll & Co. of Leeds being the artists.

By an order of Council dated 26th September and published in the London Gazette on October 6th the value of this living was increased to £215 p.a. and the patronage was vested in the Bishop of Wakefield and his successors forever.

For a long time the condition of the pews had been very unsatisfactory. They had previously been painted & especially in warm weather were very sticky. The PCC undertook to have them scraped, cleaned, stained and varnished at a cost of £25. Other repairs were also dealt with.

Since the Bazaar of 1909 we had been steadily plodding at the last £100 due on St. Aidan's and on September 30th the last payment was made, which balanced the account. At the Communicants gathering on October 15th it was stated that, thanks to the Free will offering Scheme all the Parochial funds (Curate, Schools and Church repairs) were free from debt.

About the end of November the Bishop of Wakefield (Dr. Eden) offered me the living of Wrenthorpe, nr Wakefield and, after taking time to consider the matter, which involved the laying down of work in South Ossett where it appeared that affairs, which had at times been very difficult were approaching a period of smoothness, as well as taking up work in a country parish – which would be entirely different from any of my previous experiences – I decided to accept the offer. I told the parishioners on the following Sunday of the impending change of minister and, during the weeks following I received the genuine expression of regret at my departure, not only from Church people, but also from Roman Catholics and Non Conformists. On February 10th 1911, The Bishop instituted me as the Vicar of Wrenthorpe and the rural Dean indicted me.

I have, for the last time, read over again this resume of the Parish History, commenced by my predecessor the Rev'd J.H Ward, whose memory I shall ever hold in veneration, and which I pass on to my successor to continue. The book has been valuable to me as an authentic record of happenings that ought to be recorded. People are often confused in memory, or are quite forgetful of past events, and a good deal of misapprehension can be avoided by a reference to what is written in these pages.

My Vicariate has extended over a long period of 18 and a half years - 10 yrs longer than that of my immediate predecessor, and, like him, I feel that it is not desirable that one should set down the feeling with which one lays down so sacred a charge. My prayer is that the work of my successor may be even more abundantly blessed than mine has been, and that the people may be prayerful, loyal, willing helpers in Christ Jesus.

Signed: J.H. Kirk

(There were 6000 parishioners at this time)

NO FURTHER ENTRIES UNTIL 1956

1956 Note by the 7th Vicar of South Ossett Henry Rosslyn HAWORTH

On becoming Vicar of South Ossett in 1956 I found that this very valuable Parish record had not been continued since the Rev. J. H. Kirk left in 1911. I hope, with the help of news contained in old Parish Magazines, to bring the record up to date by recording what appears to have been the main events during the intervening years, and then to continue it during my ministry, though more briefly than in the earlier and therefore, more interesting years of the Parish's youth.

H. R. Howarth

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1911

Rev'd A.L. Burnham M.A. Oxford, Curate of Almondbury instituted by the Bishop of Wakefield 15th March.

The Coronations of King George 5th and Queen Mary were celebrated by special services at 7.30 and 11am on Thursday 22nd June.

The Church Institute gave a Union Flag for the Church Tower to mark the Coronation.

1914

The coming of war in August was marked by holding weekly intercessions at both Churches on several days each week, in addition to existing Parish Church daily services. The Harvest Festivals were held on September 20th & 21st, whilst the Rev'd J. Blew, 1st Assistant Curate preached at both morning and evening services on the Sunday after the Dedication Festival on October 15th.

1915

Many young men from the Parish had enlisted in the forces, mostly in the 4th Battalion K.O. Y.L.I. or in Lord Kitchener's Army. A Roll of Old Boys of South Ossett School in the forces reached 62 by May 1915. The Parish had been active in holding missionary meetings for some years and had a Home and foreign Missionary Association, with monthly intercession and a Missionary guild (U.M.C.A) meeting monthly.

1916

To comply with defence orders, beige curtains running on iron rods were fitted to the Church windows, made by the ladies of the Sewing Party, to enable services to continue. The Church was insured against damage by aircraft for £5. A sale or work on Easter Tuesday raised over £166, of which £50, as previously promised, was given to build a Log Mission Church in Western Canada, in the diocese of Calgary. The balance went to improving the organ and it was completed on Sunday Oct 14th, just 30 yrs after it first opened.

1917

From April the Rev. W.R. Keeler was allowed to spend part of his time helping in North Ossett as the Assistant Curate there was sent to take charge of Gildersome, the Vicar there having gone as a Chaplain to the Forces. "Soldiers Day" was observed on Sunday Aug 5th and Postal orders were sent to the 44 Teachers and Old Scholars of both Sunday Schools, serving in the forces

Some land at the junction of Manor Rd and Spa lane was given by the owners, Mr W. Brookes & Mr R.J Tidswell, to be consecrated as a Churchyard for burials. Donations of £100 each were given by Mr O. Nettleton and Mr J.T. Marsden to put the ground into suitable condition. £50 War Loan stock was given by Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Read to provide an income for the maintenance of the Parish Churchyard, with special reference to the graves of their parents, Dr. And Mrs Neary.

1918

A Day of National prayer was held, by proclamation of the King, on Sunday Jan 6th, the collection being given to the Red Cross Society. Over £16 in Lent offerings was given to the Church Army War Work. By May the roll of Honour included all the names, eight of them being killed since the year began.

Rev. W.R. Keeler was placed in charge of Gawthorpe in July, the Vicar there having enlisted, but continued to do some work for St. Aidan's.

Thanksgiving Service for Victory was held in both Churches on Sunday November 17th, followed by a United Service of Thanksgiving at the Town Hall, later in the evening.

1919

Rev. Keeler returned to full time work in the Parish and his stipend was raised to £220 p.a. in view of the increased cost of living. An Eagle Lectern was given to St. Aidan's, in memory of Mr. Joseph Marsden in March.

A Sale of Work was held on Easter Tuesday for the "New Churchyard Fund" and raised almost £500. Several generous subscribers enable the living to be raised to £300 p.a. It was decided to build a War Memorial School in Healey and to buy some land for it in Healey Rd., opposite the Gas Works. As a Memorial to the 91 men killed from the Parish of South Ossett it was decided to erect a Monument bearing their names in the new Burial Ground. Sunday July 6th was observed as Peace Thanksgiving Day. Mrs R. Dixon Smith gave the cost of the land for the Healey War Memorial School.

Healey Mission War Memorial School was dedicated on Saturday July 10th by Archdeacon H. W. How,



The South Ossett Parish War Memorial, costing about £280 was dedicated by Archdeacon How in the Burial Ground, in the presence of the K.O.Y.L.I. the Mayor and corporation and many others, on October 29th. Some £80 further would be needed for a Memorial Tablet for the Church.

Mr Oliver Davies became Headmaster of the Day school in November, on the retirement of W.H. Lister, after 35 years service.

Rev'd A.L. Burnham, after 24 years service as Vicar, left to become Vicar of Stotterdon, in Shropshire, on Feb 14th, leaving the Rev'd J.A. Simpson in charge during the vacancy of the living. Rev'd D. Oxby Parker M.A was installed as Vicar on May 1st by the Bishop of Wakefield 1936

The Choirboys trained by Mr. O. Davies, with Mr J.W. Hewitt as Organist, gained 1st Place in the Pontefract Festival



The King's Coronation Day, on Wednesday May 12th was observed with Holy Communion at 7.30 and 9.00am.

Rev. D.O. Parker left, to become Vicar of Acomb, York, on January 22nd. after 8 and a half years as Vicar. The Rev. John Firth L Th was instituted as Vicar on February 26th. A cheque for £50 was given to Rev. D.O. Parker on leaving, raised by subscription. A welcome evening to the Rev'd & Mrs J. Firth was held on Saturday, March 4th at 6.30pm in the School. The Bishop of Wakefield, Dr C.R. Howe, preached at St. Aidan's on May 7th at 6pm and at the Parish Church on October 22nd at the Dedication Festival, at 10.30am. The Rev. P Smith left in the autumn to go to Broadfield. A Confirmation was held at South Ossett on Saturday, December 9th at 3pm.

Mr C.P Roberts succeeded Mr O Davies as Headmaster of the school. A midnight Eucharist was held on Christmas Eve at 11.45pm.

1946

The new Bishop of Wakefield was enthroned on February 16th. The Choir gave "Stainer's Crucifixion" on good Friday, April 19th at 7.30pm. The new Bishop was welcomed to Ossett Town Hall, May 7th at 7.30.

1951

The great event of the year was the celebration of the Centenary of the Parish Church. The preacher at 10.30 on 14th October (*the author's 15th birthday*) was Canon D. Oxby Parker, Rural Dean of York. The Mayor and Corporation attended the service, whilst the Bishop of Ripon preached at Evensong. Services were held daily during the week. Canon J. Butterworth, Rector of Castleford preached at the Mothers Union service on Wednesday afternoon and the Archdeacon of Halifax at the Men's service on the Friday evening. A Birthday Party was held in the school on the Saturday evening. The Celebrations concluded on Sunday October 21st. The Bishop of Wakefield preached in the morning and the Bishop of Pontefract in the evening. A Centenary Bazaar was held on Saturday October 27th.

Rev. J. Firth left to become Vicar of Clifton, near Brighouse on 10th December 1955.

The Rev. Henry Rosslyn Haworth MA (Cambridge) BA (London) BD (Leeds), Vicar of Featherstone for the past 8 years was instituted as Vicar on Tuesday 17th April 1955 by the Bishop of Wakefield. In 1964 he was married to Miss Veronica Henwicke, Bursar's Secretary at St Bees School at Gosforth Parish Church, Cumberland

Rev. Haworth carried on writing a brief account in the Log Book until 1966 when he left on 30th January to become Vicar of Cawthorne.

Tribute must be paid to the Rev. Haworth for filling in the gaps in the Log book, from the time of Rev. Kirk's departure in 1911, until he himself became Vicar in 1955.

Joan P Smith June 2012

Part of a much larger publication entitled "The South Ossett Triangle": copies of which have been deposited in the West Yorks Archives, Newstead Rd., Wakefield; Christ Church South Ossett Parish Centre; Ossett Library and Wakefield & District Family History Society. A separate publication, containing more detailed information entitled "Christ Church South Ossett, Extracts from the Vicars Log Book, is available from the Society.

ILLUSTRATIONS, SOURCES OF INFORMATION ETC

BUILDING LAND FOR SOUTH OSSETT CHURCH

First part of the Deed (Ref WYAS 1850 QN 630 712)

to and concerning to Thomas — Reg May 6 1850 at Five in the afternoon	To the Registrar of the West Riding of the County of York or his <i>Deputy</i> Memorial to be registered of an Indenture bearing date the seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty and made Between the Right Honourable William Pitt Earl Amhurst the Right Honourable Henry Thomas Earl of Shrewsbury and the Reverend William Alderson Clerk Rector of Aston in the County of York of the first part Sackville Walter Lane Fox Esq. of Saint James's Square in the County of Middlesex Esquire of the second part and Joseph Thorns of Green House in Ossett in the Parish of Dewsbury in the said County Esquire of the third part Of and concerning all that Building used as a Barn with the Fold thereto belonging and a parcel of land thereto adjoining allotted and awarded to the late Duke of Leeds by the Commissioners executing the Ossett Inclosure Act containing with the site of the Buildings thirty three perches (be the same more or less) and now in the occupation of the said Joseph Thorns also all that piece or parcel of land or ground also allotted and awarded by the said Commissioners to the said Duke of Leeds containing two acres and sixteen perches (be the same more or less) now in the occupation of the said Joseph Thorns also all that cottage or Dwellinghouse near to the said last mentioned piece or parcel
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1850 6th May

AMHURST TO THORNS Memorial to be registered of an Indenture bearing date 17th April 1850 and made between the Rt Hon. William PITT Earl AMHURST the Rt Hon Henry THOMAS Earl of CHICHESTER and the Rev. William ALDERSON, Clerk, Rector of Aston in the Co. of York of the 1st Part. Sackville Walter Lane FOX Esq. of St James' Square in Middlesex of the 2nd Part and Joseph THORNS Esq. of Green House in Ossett in the Parish of Dewsbury in the said County of the 3rd Part.

Of and Concerning all that Building used as a Barn with the Fold thereto belonging and a parcel of land thereto adjoining allotted and awarded to the late Duke of Leeds by the Commissioners executing the Ossett Inclosure act containing with the site of the buildings 33 perches ? (be the same more or less)

and now in the occupation of the said Joseph THORNS also all that piece or parcel of land or ground also allotted and awarded by the said Commissioners to the said Duke of Leeds containing 2 roods and 16 perches approx. now in the occupation of the said Joseph THORNS also all that cottage or dwellinghouse near to the said last mentioned piece of land and now in the occupation of (long gap)? Laycock and all those two cottages or dwelling houses with the garden and parcel of land thereto adjoining allotted and awarded by the commissioners, containing with the site of the buildings 1 rood and 35 perches approx. now in the occupation of Martha GIGGAL and also all that piece of land or ground adjoining to the last above described premises also allotted and awarded to the said DUKE of LEEDS containing 29 perches approx. now in the occupation of the said Joseph THORNS all which said premises situate at Ossett Green on Ossett aforesaid and are more particularly described and delineated upon a *plan drawn in the margin of the now Memorializing Indenture and coloured blue together with all and singular the appurtenances to the said premises belonging save and except and always reserved unto the said parties hereto of the 1st part their heirs and assigns etc... Re. Rights of minerals etc. (Ref: WYAS 1850 QN 630 712) (*unfortunately very few of these drawings or plans have survived).

JOSEPH THORNS MEMORIAL DEED POLL.

Signed August 6th 1851, Registered September 16th 1851 Ref: RA 572 649

<p>Thornshaw Deed Poll — Regd. Sept 16th 1851 at five in the afternoon</p>	<p>To the Registrar of the West Riding of the County of York or his lawful Deputy.</p> <p>Memorial</p> <p>To be Registered of a certain Deed Poll bearing date the sixth day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty one under the hands and seals of Joseph Thorns of Ossett in the parish of Dewsbury in the County of York Esquire. The Right Honourable William Pitt Lord Amberst the Right Honourable Henry James Earl of Rochester The Reverend William Anderson Clerk Rector of Ashton in the County of York and Suckville Walter Esq. of St James Square in the County of Middlesex Esquire.</p> <p>And reciting All that piece or parcel of land or ground containing by measurement One acre and ten perches situate at or near Giggal Hill in Ossett Common in Ossett in the parish of Dewsbury in the said County of York bounded Westward by a Road leading from Ossett to Horbury</p>
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and northward and eastward by other property belonging to the said
 Joseph Thorns and southward by land belonging to David Hey and
 Deed Poll comprises certain cottages and Inclosures and an Allotment late
 of the Duke of Leeds and other Allotments and parts of Allotments under
 the Ossett Inclosure Act of the said Joseph Thorns late part of the
 waste called Ossett Common and is delineated on the Plan drawn
 in the margin of the said Deed Poll and is therein tinted pink
 and all and every of the Right Title and Interest of the said Joseph
 Thorns William Pitt Earl Amhurst Henry Thomas Earl of Chichester
 William Alderson and Sackville Walter Lane Fox to and in the said
 piece of Land intended to be by the said Deed Poll conveyed and every
 part thereof and as to the Execution of the said Deed Poll by the said
 Joseph Thorns was witnessed by John Widdop and William Berry Clerks to
 Messrs Lamb Sons & Stewart Solicitors Wakefield and the re-execution thereof by the
 said Joseph Thorns was witnessed by Denis Creighton Neary Clerk and John
 Widdop Clerk to Messrs Lamb Sons & Stewart Solicitors Wakefield and as to the
 Execution thereof by the said Earl Amhurst was witnessed by James Swift Green
 of the Chambers to Earl Amhurst and as to the Execution thereof by the
 said Earl of Chichester was witnessed by John Smith Gentleman Lawer and
 as to the Execution thereof by the said William Alderson was
 witnessed by George Swindell Butler to the Reverend William Alderson
 and as to the Execution thereof by the said Sackville Walter Lane
 Fox was witnessed by Wolloughby Raskham & Co Solicitors
 Wakefield.

Joseph Thorns (Sd)

Signed and sealed
 in the presence of
 Denis Creighton Neary

Under the hands and seals of Joseph THORNS of Ossett parish of Dewsbury, Rt Hon William Pitt, Earl Amhurst, Rt Hon Henry Thomas Earl of Chichester, Rev William Alderson Clerk Rector of Ashton Yorks and Sackville Walter Lane Fox Esq St James Square, Co of Middlesex. All & Concerning all that piece parcel of land or ground containing by admeasurement 1 acre and 10 perches situate at or near Giggal hill on Ossett Common, Co of York bounded westward by a Bridle Road leading from Ossett to Horbury and northward and eastward by other property belonging to the said Joseph Thorns and southward by land belonging to *David Hey* and which said piece of land intended to be conveyed by the now memorializing Deed Poll comprises certain cottages and Inclosures and an allotment late of the Duke of Leeds and other allotments and parts of allotments under the Ossett Inclosure Act of the said Joseph Thorns late part of the waste called Ossett Common and is delineated on the plan drawn in the margin of the said deed Poll conveyed and every part thereof and as to the Execution of the said Deed Poll by the said Joseph Thorns was witnessed by John Widdop and William Berry, Clerks to Messrs Lamb & Sons & Stewart Solicitors, Wakefield and the re-execution thereof by the said Joseph Thorns was witnessed by Denis Creighton Neary, Clerk, John Widdop, Clerk (All the other names mentioned earlier are witnessed by various persons, as shown on the actual Deed Poll).

SOUTH OSSETT NEW CHURCH.—This church was consecrated on Thursday, the 16th inst., by the Lord Bishop of Ripon. A considerable number of clergy were present on the occasion. The consecration sermon was preached by the Bishop, who was most attentively heard by the crowded congregation that assembled to witness the interesting ceremony, and to unite in the solemn and deeply affecting services of the day. Nothing could exceed the order and attention of the vast audience both within the walls of the church and during the consecration of the burial ground, with which, we understand, his lordship expressed himself greatly pleased, and to which he frequently referred during his stay at Osset. The church, which is called by the name of Christ Church, is a plain substantial church, capable of accommodating 608 persons—more than 400 of the sittings being free for ever for the use of the poor. It commands a most extensive prospect, and is considered one of the most beautiful country churches in the neighbourhood—its design is cruciform, and its style gothic, of the 13th century. It certainly reflects great credit on the architects, Messrs. Mallinson and Healey, of Bradford. The church is built on a very eligible site given by Joseph Thornes, Esq., of Ossett Green, and, by the provisions of Sir R. Peel's act, henceforth becomes a parish church for all ecclesiastical purposes.



Christ Church Ossett.



THE OLD VICARAGE BUILT IN 1853