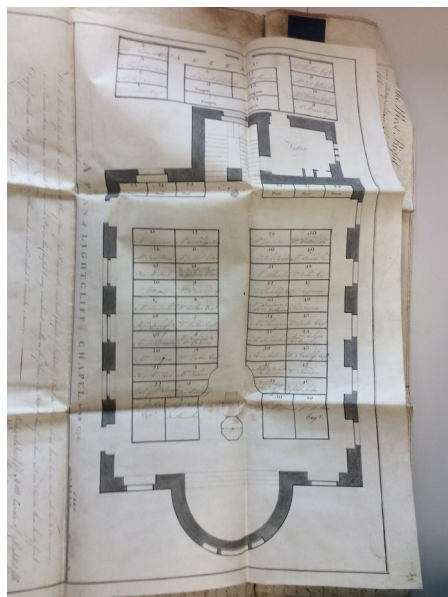


The ownership of pews at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.

At the time the church was being rebuilt a faculty was applied for the arrangements of the pews [West Yorkshire Archives, St Matthew's Lightcliffe. WYA]



The pews were sold to people of wealth and a brass plaque was attached. The plaques, in 1779, cost 1s 6d for one name, 2s for two and in proportion for more. The engraver was John Butterworth of Leeds.

As an example, William Rookes paid £8 7s 9d for pew number 45 in 1779 which included the 2s for the engraved plate. The receipt was issued by William Walker as churchwarden after it had been processed through the Archbishop's Ecclesiastical Court. Rookes allotted it to his farm at Norwood Green. By 1867 it had been transferred to directors of the Low Moor Company.

Thomas Thornhill bought a pew, also in 1779, for £10 15s, which was allotted to his farm also in Norwood Green. Again it was William Walker who organised this. The letter agreeing to this was sent from Berkley Square, London on February 23rd and sealed with his coat of arms. He lived locally at Fixby Hall which is still part of the Thornhill estate. The pew is not identifiable.

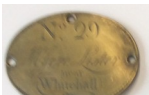
Some of the plaques are the originals, some were added when there was a change of ownership.

Note the plan shows a central pulpit rather the dual arrangement of 1863 onwards. There is a gallery with further numbered pews. There is no sign on the plan of the galleries on either side of the church. The pews, certainly from 1863, were boxed. Quite possibly they always were.

Most of the plates survive and are in the W.Y.A. Often when a house or farm was sold the pew was part of the sale. When the Crow Nest Estate went for auction in 1867 26 lots (out of 280) included a pew at St Matthew's. Several more included pews at St John's Coley. The former are detailed at the end of this article. When Joseph Armytage was selling Green House to Ann Walker (and renting it back) it included Pew 31.

Anne Lister rented the gallery pew allocated to Mytholm (The Stag) for a guinea per year. From the descriptions in the Diaries it was front row on the north side nearest to the west gallery. This is the pew that she had upholstered in green.

The table below relates to the plan from the 1779 faculty.

Gallery							
4						8	
3		5		12		9	
2		6	Singers	13	Singers	10	
1 possibly Banks Farm		7	Singers	14	Singers	11 Organist	
Main body of the church							
23 Curate		24 Curate	25 <i>illegible</i> Norwood Green	26	27	28	
		 					
Poor		Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	
13 <i>illegible</i>		12 Curate		29 Lister? Whitehall		50	
14 Curate Mrs Carter Hill Top	 	11 Japhet Lister Hill Top		30 Richard Riddlesden Upper Rooks		49 Sunderland Haugh Edge Nether House	
15 <i>illegible</i>		10 Wm Stocks, Till Carr	 	31 Joseph Armytage Green House Crow Nest		48 J Foster, Cliff Hill	
16 Lister Sutcliffe Wood Organist (or could be Gallery)	 	9 J&T Aspinall, Hove Edge Mann's Farm	 	32 Radcliffe Townend Farm		47 JSmithson, Lidgate	
17 Mr Smith ?		8 Curate &		33 Sam Armytage		46 Fourness ? Lower Rooks	

		William Walker, Upper Cliff Hill					
18 Curate <i>illegible</i>	 	7 William Walker, Crow Nest then Thomas MacCauley Laverack Hall	 	34 Matilda Tate Yew Trees 1861		45 Dawson, Hardy Low Moor Works	
19 Richard Riddlesden Upper Rooks		6 William Walker, Knowl Top		35 Suderland Lower Green		44 Nicholls & Macauley	
20 William Priestley German House Farm & Rev Rob Wilkinson White Hall Farm		5 Samuel Armytage then J Foster, Cliff Hill 1867	 	36 Smith & Hoyle House		43 William Radcliffe, Upper Crow Nest	
21 Lister? Lower Crow Nest?		4 Curate Mrs Holmes Smith House	 	37 Nicholls & Macauley		42 Walker Norwood Green	
22 Langtry? Priestley		3 Curate & Master of Hipperholme Free School	 	38 Curate (half) <i>illegible</i> (half)		41 <i>illegible</i>	

1 William Walker		2 Curate Nicholls & Macauley Slead Hall		39 Mrs Holmes Smith House		40 Walker Crow Nest	
							

Altar

In addition, the following brasses have no pew number.

James Walker Ledgate		John Holland Slead House	
Longbottom Lower German House. 1871 census Thomas.			
J Foster Cliffe Hill 1867		This is 19 Gallery. Tied to Cliffe Hill in 1867 Auction.	

PEWS included in the 1867 Crow Nest Estate Auction.

Many of the lots didn't sell at the auction. Presumably the tenants could continue to use the pews. By 1875 pew ownership ceased to be relevant when the new church opened and the old church ceased to be used regularly.

Lot number	Pew	Owner or tenant	Property	Notes including whether sold at auction or not.	
78	21	Binns	Croft & 6 days; Harley Head		
81	1 & 7	ECSW, Samuel Pickles, Joseph Cordingley	Crow Nest Mansion	Sold soon after to Sir Titus Salt. £28000 including Lot 93 at bottom of Coach Road.	
82	5, 48 & 19 (gallery)	ECSW & John Foster	Cliffe Hill Mansion	Sold to Jonas Foster £15,800.	
84	½ of 38	William Berry & George Haigh	Sun Inn	Sold to Whitaker Brewery £870.	
85	31	Harry Robinson & Hannah Walker	Green House	Sold to J Foster. Subsequently demolished for site of new St Matthew's Church and the terrace known as Greenhouses. Small strip of land between Cliffe Hill and Wakefield Road.	
87	15	Joseph Cordingley	Sawood Farm	Bought by James Hinchcliffe for £265. This was at Hill Top (St Giles's Road) also called Sawood House.	
94	36	William Marsden, ECSW, William Pearson, George Hemingway, Thomas Dearnly & John Foster	Hoyle House, Crow Nest & Cliffe Hill	Did not sell. It is on the corner of Stoney Lane & Smith House Lane and was a small farm alongside Lot 93 which was sold to Titus Salt as part of Crow Nest Mansion. That field contained the gas works which provided gas for lighting to Crow Nest, Cliffe Hill & Smith House (possibly also Hoyle House).	

95	½ of 36	Widow Pearson & Mahala Hall	Sheard Green & Well Green	Did not sell. Sheard Green was in Hove Edge diagonally opposite to Nether House. It had been owned by Rev Rich Sutcliffe and provided a benefaction of 20s per annum to the poor.	
96	1 (gallery)	Widow Pearson, widow Sibbald & John Hall	Well Green	Did not sell. Hove Edge. Pew plate might be No 1 Gallery. Allotted to Bank Farm.	
99	7	Abraham Turner	Laverack Hall	Did not sell. The Hall (farm) was on the north side of the road down to Brighthouse by the same name. The next land was called Huntrock Farm. It butted on to the Macauley estate.	
114	39	Marsland Tankard, Thomas Dearnally & ECSW	Smith House	Did not sell. Was expected to sell for £3000.	
135	37	John Greenwood & Levi Shaw	Little Smith House	Did not sell. On the south side of Smith House Lane and slightly east of Smith House. Demolished in 1960s to make way for housing. Nicholls & Macauley.	
144	4	F E Schlesinger	Lightcliffe House (just behind Smith House)	Did not sell. Built around 1740 behind Smith House. Demolished to build part of Stoney Lane development. It was recorded as still in existence in early 1960s but had gone by 1970 or thereabouts. Schlesinger was a silk manufacturer.	
153	43	ECSW & James Charlton	Lower Crow Nest, Mann's Farm & Hoyle House	Did not sell. Was on east side of Smith House Lane nearer to junction with Wakefield Road. Road now bears its name. Originally built in 1620. Also known as Upper Smith House & Hirst's Farm. Radcliffe Upper Crownest	
187	9	Rev Jno Thompson & ECSW	Mann's Farm	North side of Wakefield Road close to Holme House. Adjoins the Ripley estate and was bought for HW Ripley for £850.	
190	32	Wigglesworth Hanson	Townend's Farm	Sold for £860 to HW Ripley. Stretches down slope to the stream at Bailiffe Bridge.	

194	45	Low Moor Company, George Hanson & ECSW	Upper Rooks	Did not sell. Mineral rights leased to Low Moor Company for 50 years. Between Leeds Road, the railway, Wyke boundary and land owned by the company just south of Pickle Bridge station.	
201	40	William Holland, James Harrgreaves, ECSW & William Barraclough	New House	Bought for £3500 by Mr G Buckley on behalf of Mr McCrea (who bought & gave Shibden Hall to Halifax). Subsequently owned by Brookes brothers and now new housing. Opposite St Matthew's Church.	
202	3	ECSW, James Hargreaves, widow Aspinall, John Bell, John Midgley, Richard Wheeldon & William Naylor	Lightcliffe estate, New House & cottages	Cottages and land bought for £315 by Buckley for McCrea.	
206	6 (gallery?)	Marion Walker, Jonathan Sykes, Dolly Cordingley, John Mallinson & William Barraclough	Knowl Top, cottages & Farmhouse	Bought by James Dearnely for £670.	
239	47	Joshua Smithson	Lidgate House	The reserve was £5000 but bidding only reached £2250, withdrawn. Subsequently sold to Joshua Smithson.	
241	50	Joshua Smithson	Lidgate House	Bought for £520 by Mr Longbottom. North of Wakefield Road, possibly now Stoneyhurst House.	Not found. Is this the one Mike Wood took into ...
266	½ of 20	Ann Sinclair	German House	Did not sell. This is 'Upper German house' on Wakefield Road just before Victoria Road. Moravian settlement in 1742 but not for long. Calvert's ironmongers?	
280	6	ECSW & John Fearnley	Horse Shoes Inn	Did not sell. Opposite to the Stray, alongside entrance to St Giles's Road. Double fronted house. Converted to private dwelling soon after sale. Last licensee Hannah Walker(1845) or Emmet 1867. Now The Poplars. Said to have been a toll booth for 1741 turnpike.	

Additional notes to be followed up.

- The Macauley family of Slead Hall (7)
- The Nicholls. (37 with Macauley of Crow Nest)
- Were the Radcliffes of Smith House related to William Radcliffe (Pew 9 & 32)?
- Japhet Lister of Hill Top (11) & Yew Trees (41) and William Lister of Sutcliff Wood (16). A common surname but possible relatives of Lister's of Shibden Hall. Sutcliff Wood part of the Lister estate and Hill Top joining a part of that estate. Miss Lister, Lower Place (21) and Jere Lister near Whitehall (29)
- Richard Riddlesden of Upper Rooks (30 & 19) There was a Samuel Riddlesden
- d. 1721 lived in Rookes Hall & married Diana Fourness. Richard Riddlesden of Upper Rooks appears on the Assessment for the Poor taxed at 13s 0d in 1692. A Mr Riddlesden of Norwood Green owed £1½ for a wood in 1769.
- Law Mortimer (38) a Cleckheaton family?
- Lamplugh Hird – wife buried in SMC.
- William Stocks (10) of Till Carr. Link here with Lumb Stocks RA – memorial in present church - also connected to Gawbert Hall (Hill Top) which was demolished & became a quarry of same name.
- Why Curate of Woolley (10)? Woolley is near Darton which is where Rev G Fenton was vicar who was son in law to Rev Robert Wilkinson and preached often at St Matthew's.

Ian Philp & Dorothy Barker
Nov 2019