

Wesleyan Methodist Burial Ground, Chapel and Sunday School Foundation Memorials

St. James' Green, Thirsk
North Yorkshire



Cover image digitally enhanced from an original drawing by Robert Rodwell - 1908

Compiled by Simon Williamson - 2020

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Introduction

The scope of this report is to record the names and brief details of those who are buried in the St James' Green Methodist Burial Ground before the inscriptions are lost. It also includes the memorials from inside the old Chapel and the Sunday School foundation stones.

Wesleyan Methodist Burial Ground - St. James' Green, Thirsk

The burial ground was created sometime after the completion of the second chapel of 1816, with the first known burial being that of Ann Tebbett in 1840. As no official burial records exist it is not known if any other unmarked burials took place. The burial ground consisted of a narrow strip of land to the side of the current Church and was once enclosed with iron railings. The Graves are set out as shown in the key plan. The last known burial is of Mary Pickering in 1900. Some of the memorial inscriptions are now unreadable so the inscriptions shown have been reconstructed by using the 1991 CNY&SDFHS survey and historical documentation.

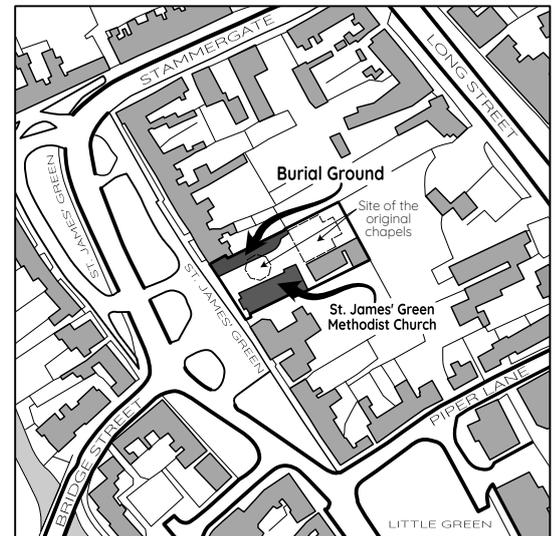
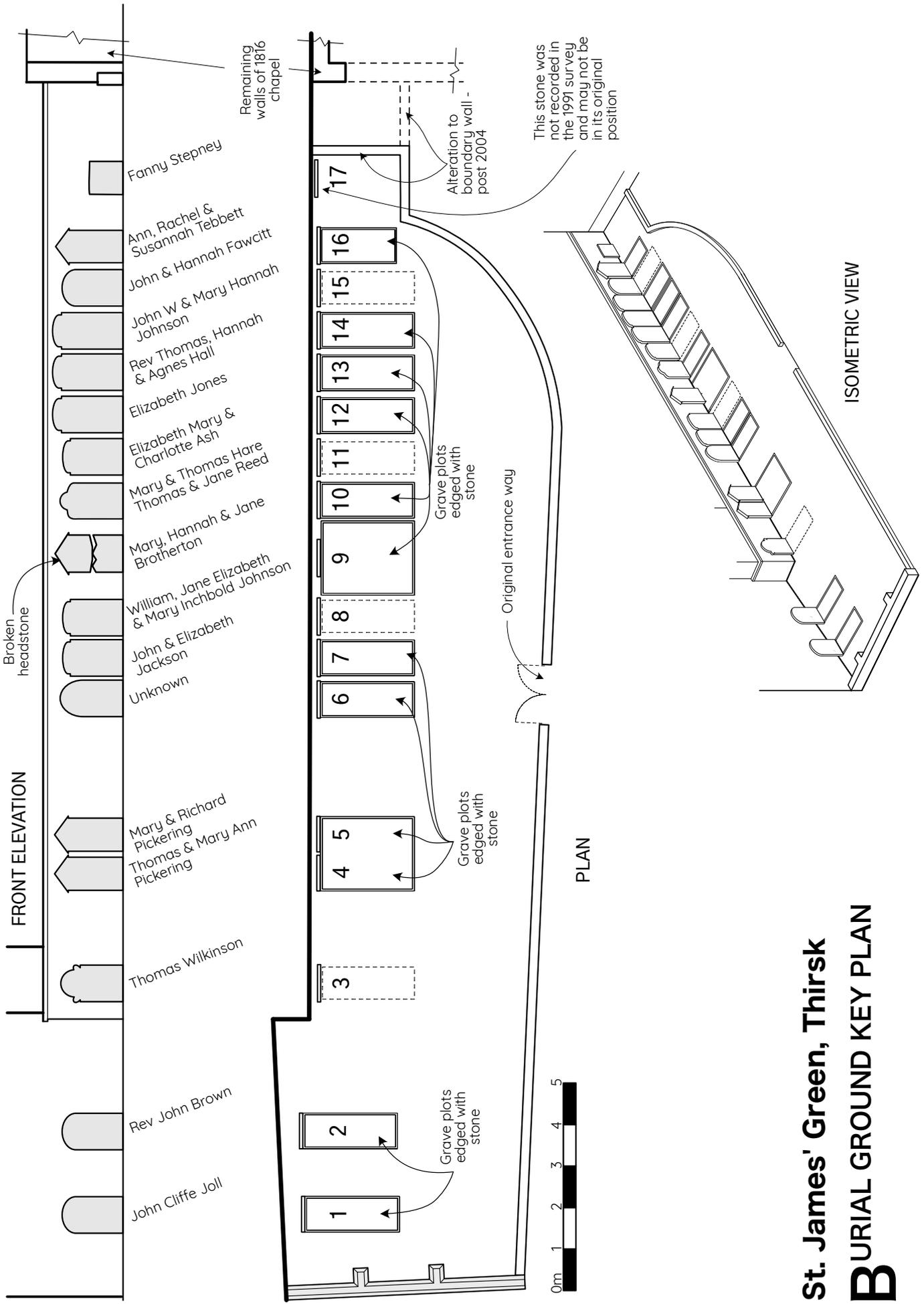


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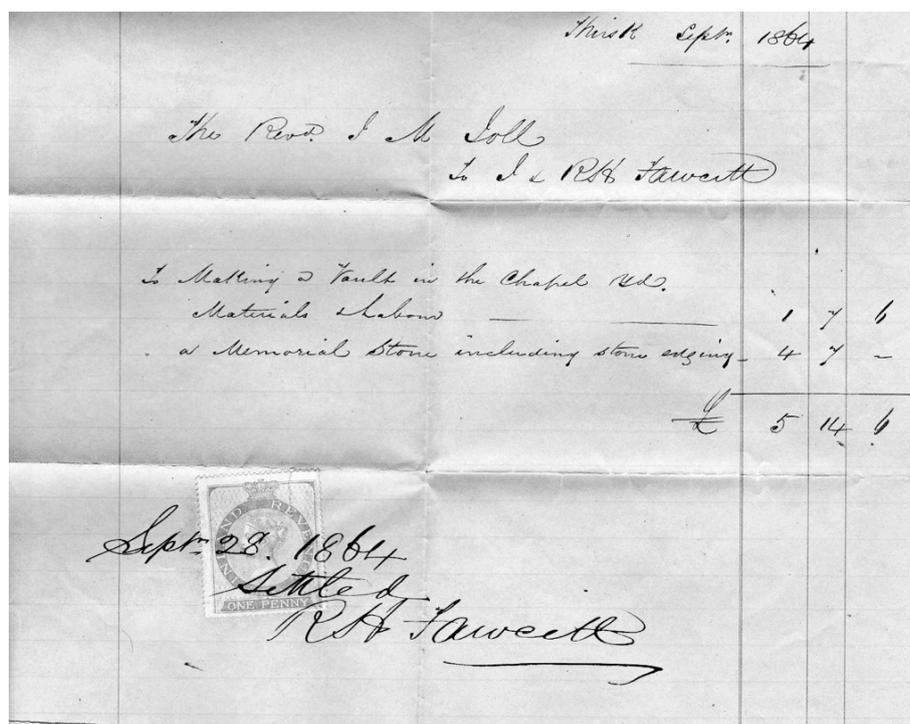


St. James' Green, Thirsk
BURIAL GROUND KEY PLAN

John Cliffe JOLL (1836-1863)

John was born in Swindon, Wiltshire on the 5th August 1836 the eldest son of the Rev John Maw Joll (Wesleyan Minister) and Catharine Louisa Cliffe. His baptism took place on 23rd September 1836 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Swindon and was performed by the Rev Moses Rayner.¹

John was employed as a Bookseller's Assistant and is recored on the 1861 census living in Lowestoft, Suffolk.² He died on the 25th February 1863 at Thirsk, North Yorkshire and is buried in the Wesleyan burial ground at St. James Green Thirsk.



Receipt of payment for £5-14-06 from Richard H Fawcett for the making of a vault, memorial stone and edging.

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1 - NON-CONFORMIST REGISTERS. 2 - PROBATE REGISTER. 1863 page 413

JOHN CLIFFE JOLL
 ELDEST SON OF
 THE REV. JOHN MAW JOLL;
 SLEEPETH HERE UNTILL THE MORNING
 OF THE RESURRECTION. HIS SPIRIT
 WENT TO GOD ON THE 25TH DAY
 OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 1863; IN THE
 26TH YEAR OF HIS AGE; ASSURED
 THAT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST HE
 WOULD "DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF
 THE LORD FOR EVER"

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 1

Rev. John BROWN (1838-1874)

John was born in October 1839 in Carharrack in Gwennap, Cornwall, the son of John Brown (Copper miner) and Elizabeth Opie. He was baptised on the 19th December 1830 at the local Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.³ He followed his father's profession as a copper miner before becoming a Methodist Minister. The following newspaper articles written after his death gives a good description of his life as follows:^{4 5}



THE LATE REV. JOHN BROWN.- Few ministers have passed away in the meridian of life more deeply lamented than the Rev. John Brown, whose death took place at Thirsk last Thursday. He was a son of Mr. John Brown, of Carharrack, in the Gwennap Wesleyan circuit, and at the early age of ten years he was led to join the Methodist society, of which he was happy and consistent member all his future life. The Methodist Recorder states that in his seventeenth year he was engaged as a local preacher, and afforded promise of usefulness, which was amply verified in his future career. Having studied diligently two years at Richmond, he was taken into the ranks in 1862 as a probationer, and in the few circuits which had the benefits of his efficient ministry was in labours more abundant. He was one who was valiant for the truth, while his transparent character, scrupulous honour, and affability and courtesy to all, both rich and poor, rendered him a universal favourite. After a few months of laborious and successful toil in his last circuit, occasional physical languor gave the first symptom of declining health. Disease made further inroads on a constitution that was at first deemed vigorous, and scarce more than a week since it was deemed necessary that he should retire for a time from service. Not the slightest suspicion was entertained of immediate dissolution, when convulsion seized him, which terminated his career in about twenty-six hours. At his funeral, on Saturday, a large gathering of

friends made deep and devout lamentation, and among other ministers who took part in the service the Rev. A.T. Wear gave a touching and appropriate address.

DEATH OF THE REV. J. BROWN - On the 2nd inst., this rev. gentleman, who was the junior minister in connection with the Wesleyan body and was stationed at Thirsk, departed this life at his residence in one of the new houses recently built for the accommodation of the ministers of the circuit, adjoining the road leading from Thirsk to Sowerby. The Rev. J. Brown was native of Cornwall and was appointed to this circuit but last September, his late station having been Brigg, in Lincolnshire. The rev. gentleman had been ailing for some months past previous to his death and had but recently returned from Matlock, where he had gone in hope of being recruited, if not restored to health. After his arrival from Matlock his zeal and labour for the work of the ministry did not seem to be the least abated even in his enfeebled and dying state, for the Sunday previous to his death he was to be found at his post conducting the service at Bagby in the morning and at Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe in the afternoon and on the Tuesday, but two days previous to his decease, we find him attending the funeral of a member of the society at Kirby Wiske. The deceased minister was buried in the Wesleyan Chapel Yard at Thirsk on Saturday afternoon. The funeral was attended by almost all denominations in the town, for during his short stay he had visited the poor and needy of every sect in their seasons of distress and ministered not only spiritual food to the weary-heated but often temporal sustenance. Many of the shops were also closed as the funeral cortege passed through the Market Place. The service in the chapel was conducted by an old friend of Mr Brown's from Keighley, the Rev Mr Dymond; the Rev Mr Jenkins, of Ripon, another of the deceased's Cornwall acquaintances, offered up a prayer in the edifice on behalf of the bereaved relatives of the departed minister; the Rev A. S. Weir, of Sowerby, delivered an appropriate address in the chapel on the solemn occasion. The 52nd hymn from the Wesleyan Hymn Book was also sung. The Rev. E. Pinder, the deceased's colleague in the circuit, conducted the service at the grave side. The departed minister leaves a wife and five little children. The Rev. J. Brown was instrumental in a great measure in establishing the open air services in the town. It was also through his personal efforts that Wesleyan services were held at intervals in the Union Workhouse and it was with the deepest sorrow that the intelligence of Mr. Brown's death was received by the inmates. At the Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday night almost the whole congregation, especially the female portion, seemed to have gone for the time being into mourning for the rev. gentleman. We understand that Mr. Brown's funeral sermon will be preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Thirsk, a week tomorrow (Sunday). - The deceased was but 36 years of age.

He died on the 2nd July 1874 at Sowerby, North Yorkshire and is buried in the Wesleyan burial ground at St. James' Green, Thirsk.

3 - NON-CONFORMIST REGISTERS

4 - West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser Thursday 23rd July 1874

5 - The Richmond and Ripon Chronicle - Saturday 11th July 1874

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF
THE REV JOHN BROWN
WESLEYAN MINISTER
DIED JULY 2ND 1874
AGED 36 YEARS

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 2

Thomas WILKINSON (1780-1848)

There is very little information about Thomas, he may have been a Grocer living in St. James' Green, Thirsk or a farmer living at Balk. He died on the 31st December 1848 at Thirsk, North Yorkshire and is buried in the Wesleyan burial ground at St. James' Green, Thirsk.

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS WILKINSON
WHO DIED DEC 31ST 1848
AGED 68 YEARS.
PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 3

Thomas PICKERING (1830-1871)

Thomas was born in 1830 in Sandhutton, North Yorkshire and married Mary Ann Wright 6th May 1852.

He farmed Wood House Field, a farm of 390 acres and employed 2 men and four boys. Thomas was a well known breeder of pure breed Leicester sheep. After his death all the live stock was sold by auction which included Sheep, pigs, cattle and draft horses.

Mary Ann PICKERING (1827-1900)

Mary was born 1827 in Sandhutton and baptised at the local parish church on 7th July 1827. Her parents were Benjamin and Sarah Wright who farmed land around Sandhutton. Thomas and Mary did not have any children of their own.

After her husband's death she moved to Sowerby Terrace, Sowerby. First living with her widowed father-in-law Richard Pickering before his death in 1885.

Her obituary in the newspaper reads as follows; PICKERING. - On the 6th inst., at Sowerby-terrace, Thirsk, Mary Ann, widow of the late Thomas Pickering, Woodhouse Field, Thirsk, aged 73 years. Interment at the Wesleyan Chapel, Thirsk, July 10th at 2:30.⁶

6 - York Herald 9th July 1900

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF
THOMAS PICKERING
OF WOODHOUSE FIELD
WHO DIED. NOVEMBER 24TH 1871
AGED 41 YEARS.
IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH.

ALSO
MARY ANN PICKERING
RELICT OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED JULY 6TH 1900,
AGED 73 YEARS

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 4

Mary PICKERING (1805-1869)

This is likely to be the grave of Mary Pickering, as the original memorial is now almost totally illegible with the only clues being the name PICKERING and the date of 1869. There was only one death of a Pickering recorded in 1869 Thirsk, that of Mary Pickering who is the mother of Thomas Pickering who is buried in the adjacent grave.

Mary Jordison was born in 1805 at Upsall in North Yorkshire and married Richard Pickering in 1829 at South Kilvington. After her death, her husband Richard retired from farming and went to live at Sowerby Terrace. Richard died in 1885 and is most likely also to be buried in this grave.

Richard PICKERING (1802-1885)

Richard was born in Sandhutton in 1802. His baptism was on 15th December 1802 and shows his parents as Thomas and Hannah. Richard married Mary Jordison on 19th June 1829 by licence at South Kilvington. Before his retirement Richard ran a farm of 200 acres before moving to Sowerby Terrace, in Sowerby. Richard died on the 12th June 1885 and after his death a memorial plaque was placed in

the chapel at St. James' Green. His wife Mary is buried in the Methodist grave yard at St. James' Green where Richard is also buried.

A report of his funeral is recorded in the Yorkshire Evening Press⁷ as follows;

FUNERAL AT THIRSK, - Yesterday afternoon, one the largest funerals seen in Thirsk took place on the occasion of the remains of Mr. Richard Pickering, of Sowerby-Terrace, being placed in the Wesleyan graveyard at Thirsk. Nearly the whole of shops were partially closed and the blinds of private houses drawn. The deceased was one of the oldest tenants on the Thirsk estate and died in his 83rd year. He was a great friend of Wesleyanism in the district and had held all the offices which a layman could hold. On reaching the chapel gates the body was borne into the chapel. The Revs. W. W. Smith and W. Brown took part in the service and the address was given by the Rev. John Kirk of Harrogate (one of the deceased's oldest friends)

7 - Yorkshire Evening Press - 17th June 1885

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF ___ PICKERING
----- 1869

(POSSIBLE LOST TEXT-
IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF
MARY PICKERING
OF ABLE GRANGE
WHO DIED ___ 1869
AGED 64 YEARS)

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 5

Unknown

This memorial is now totally illegible and its occupants unknown, but it would have belonged to a leading member of the Thirsk Wesleyan Circuit, that person being most likely a farmer, tradesman, gentleman, a Minister, or his family. The design of this memorial is similar to one in the St. Mary's cemetery which is dated 1869.



Grave no. 6

John Jackson (1779-1848)

John was born in 1779 in Thirsk. His occupation is shown as Grocer and Flax dresser⁸ and was also a Methodist trustee to at least one chapel. His death / burial was announced in the Yorkshire Gazette⁹ and Leeds Times¹⁰ as follows;

Same day (Friday 14th April 1848), at Thirsk, Mr John Jackson, late grocer and seedsman.

FUNERAL AT THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.-Mr. John Jackson, late grocer, was interred on Tuesday, in the burial ground of this chapel. He was sixty-seven years of age, and had been a member of that connection for nearly half a century.

8 - White's Directory 1840 9 - Yorkshire Gazette 22nd April 1848 10 - Leeds Time 22nd April 1848

Betty (Elizabeth) Jackson (1780-1878)

Betty (Elizabeth) Mann was born on 17th October 1780 in Hawnby North Yorkshire.

DEATH OF THE OLDEST INHABITANT.-On Saturday, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, in her 98th year, relict of Mr. John Jackson, was interred in the Wesleyan Chapel burial ground, St. James' Green. Her husband died thirty years ago and was 68 years of age. Mrs Jackson has lived retired on St. James' Green in comfortable circumstances for many years, and has been a Wesleyan the whole of her life. She was the oldest inhabitant of the town.

York Herald 23rd December 1878

TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN JACKSON
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE 14TH APRIL 1848 AGED 68 YRS.
ALSO OF BETTY JACKSON,
WIFE OF THE ABOVE, DIED ? DECEMBER 1878 AGED 98 YRS

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 7

William JOHNSON (1798-1867)

He was born on 21st November 1797 in Thirsk to parents William Johnson and Elizabeth Sharrow. William was the manager of the Thirsk branch of the Yorkshire District Bank and active member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He had previously been a School Master in 1832, then a Bank Clerk by 1835.

William married Mary Inchbold Clarkson on 18th August 1823 at the parish church in Thirsk. They had eight children, as follows; John William, Ann, Thomas, James, Henry, Charles, Jane Elizabeth and Mary Hannah.

His death notice appeared in Yorkshire Gazette and reads as follows;¹¹

DEATHS - JOHNSON,- On the 1st inst., in the Market-place, Thirsk, very suddenly, aged 69, William Johnson, Esq., Bank manager. .

11 - Yorkshire Gazette 4th May 1867

Jane Elizabeth JOHNSON (1844-1885)

William and Mary's second daughter Elizabeth was born 1844 in Thirsk. After her fathers death she lived with her brother James and his family, but by 1881 she is living with her mother Mary in Kirkgate.

Details appear in two newspapers as follows;^{12 13}

August 18th, Aged 41, Jane Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late William Johnson, bank manager, Thirsk.

12 - Leeds Times - 22nd August 1885

THE FUNERAL OF MISS JOHNSON.-The funeral of this lady, who died after a protracted illness, took place on Saturday, in the family vault, in the grave yard attached to the Wesleyan Chapel, St. James' Green. She was the second daughter of the William Johnson, formerly the manager of the Yorkshire District Banking Company in the town, and died in the forty-second year of her age. The coffin, which had been made by Mr John S. Coulson, was oak, with brass mountings, and on being lowered into the vault was literally covered with floral devices. The "Dead March" in Saul was played by the organist, Mr John Darnbrough. on the corpse being taken into the chapel, and upon it being carried out.

13 - Richmond & Ripon Chronicle. 29th August 1885

Mary Inchbold JOHNSON (1805-1889)

Mary Inchbold Clarkson was born 17th October 1804 at Balk to parents John Clarkson and Jane Eshelby. Her father John was a farmer. When Mary married William Johnson he was a school master.

Her obituary appeared in the York Herald¹⁴- JOHNSON,- On the 25th at 56, Westard-street, Middlesborough, Mary Inchbold, relict of the late William Johnson, of Thirsk, aged 84,- Will be interred at Thirsk, this day (Tuesday), - Friends please accept this, the only intimation

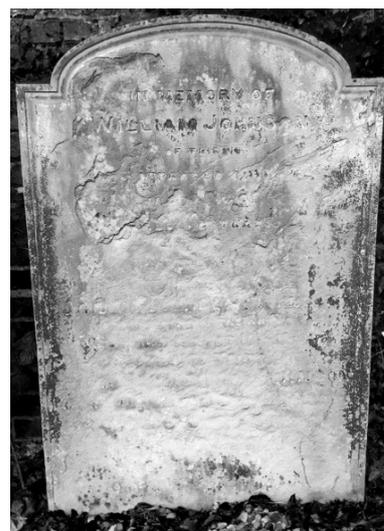
14 - York Herald - Tuesday 29th January 1889

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM JOHNSON
OF THIRSK
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MAY 1ST 1867
AGED 69 YEARS.
ALSO

JANE ELIZABETH JOHNSON DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE

ALSO MARY INCHBOLD JOHNSON

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 8

Mary BROTHERTON (1814-1841)

Mary the fourth daughter of Uriah and Jane Brotherton was born 16th March 1810 at Thirsk. There is little information about her life except she died on the 20th February 1841 and is buried at the Methodist burial ground.

Hannah BROTHERTON (1811-1844)

Mary's sister Hannah who was born 20th July 1807 also in Thirsk. On the 1841 census she is shown along with her mother Jane as hat makers. Hannah died on 1st December 1844 and is also buried at the Methodist burial ground.

Jane BROTHERTON (1772-1851)

Jane Buckle the wife of Uriah Brotherton was born in Grafton in 1772 and married by licence on 27th December 1798 at Marton-in-Grafton. Her husband Uriah was baptised at Hornby-by-Bedale on 24th December 1775 and worked as a Plumber and Glazier. The 1851 census shows the family living and working in Kirkgate Thirsk. As well as Mary and Hannah they also have four more children; William, John, Jane and Elizabeth.

Jane died in 1851 and she shares the same grave as her two daughters and possibly her husband Uriah.

ERECTED IN MEMORY OF
MARY DAUGHTER OF URIAH & JANE BROTHERTON
DIED. FEBRUARY 20TH 1841 AGED 27 YEARS.
ALSO HANNAH DAUGHTER OF URIAH & JANE BROTHERTON DIED
DECEMBER 1ST 1844 AGED 33 YEARS.
JANE BROTHERTON WIFE OF URIAH BROTHERTON
WHO DIED. ____ 1851 AGED 79 YEARS ____

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 9

Mary HARE (1795-1863)

Mary Hare was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Lockey and was born 1795 in Bowes. She married Thomas Hare, a farmer at Bowes on 29th November 1823 and they went on to have seven children. Mary's death in 1863 is reported in the following newspaper article:¹⁵ DEATHS - HARE.- On the 8th inst., at Balk, near Thirsk, aged 68, Mary, wife of Mr. Thomas Hare.

15 - York Herald - 16th May 1863

Thomas HARE (1792-1864)

Thomas was born 1792 in the village of Hambleton. By 1861 he was running a 25 Acre farm and mill (Thistle Field) near Bagby and he was also a Methodist trustee at Skipton, Sinderby, Maunby, Carlton, Sutton, Bagby and Thornton-Le-Beans chapels. Thomas died 28th July 1864 and is buried with his wife and two grandchildren.

Thomas REED (1845-1846)

No records can be found for birth of Thomas Reed, but his death is recorded at Thirsk in 1846. His parents are William Reed (possibly of Yarm) and Elizabeth Hare daughter of the above. He died on 1st October 1846, aged 10 months.

Jane REED (1848-1849)

Jane was born 1848 in Stokesley, Yorkshire and died on 13th April 1849 aged 5 months and is buried with her grandparents and baby brother.

IN MEMORY OF
MARY WIFE OF THOMAS HARE
WHO _____ ETERNAL
ON _____ 8TH MAY 1863 AGED 68 YEARS.

THOMAS HARE
WHO DIED ON THE 28TH OF JULY 1864
AGED 72 YRS.

MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED
ALSO OF THOMAS REED SON OF
WILLIAM & ELIZABETH REED OF STOKESLEY AND GRANDSON OF THE
ABOVE WHO DIED ON OCTOBER 1ST 1846
AGED 10 MONTHS.
AND OF JANE REED THEIR DAUGHTER WHO DIED APRIL 13TH 1849
AGED 5 MONTHS.

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 10

Elizabeth Mary ASH (1822-1853)

Elizabeth was born in Pateley Bridge to parents Revd William Ash and Ann (Appleton). Sadly she died on 9th December 1853 while her father was a minister in Thirsk circuit.

Charlotte ASH (1827-1859)

Charlotte was born 23rd January 1827 Oakham in the county of Rutland and baptised by her father on 11th February 1827.¹⁶ She died on 2nd February 1859 in Colne, Lancashire where her father was now a minister and was buried with her sister Elizabeth at the Methodist burial ground in Thirsk.¹⁷

The Revd William Ash was born in 1785 Danby, Yorkshire and started his Ministry in 1811. He died at Whitby on 8th October 1863 where he was a Supernumerary minister.¹⁸

16 - Wesleyan Methodist - Non-conformist register /RG 5/193. 17 - Burnley Advertiser 12th February 1859. 18 - Preston Chronicle 17th October 1863

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH MARY
ELDEST DAUGHTER
THE REVD WILLIAM ASH WESLEYAN MINISTER
AND ANN HIS WIFE
WHO DIED DECEMBER 9TH 1853
AGED 34 YEARS.
A SINNER SAVED BY GRACE.
ALSO OF CHARLOTTE,
DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE NAMED
WILLIAM AND ANN ASH,
WHO FELL ASLEEP IN JESUS,
AT COLNE, LANCASHIRE
FEB 2ND 1859: AGED 32 YEARS

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 11

Elizabeth JONES (1777-1843)

The Rev John Ward in his book of 1860¹⁹ confirms this grave is that of Mrs Elizabeth Jones, the wife of the late Rev John Jones and mother of the Rev Messers Hugh and T. R. Jones. The original inscription is now almost illegible, but newspapers of the period give a death date of 12th May 1843 and also confirm the above details.²⁰

Elizabeth may have been Elizabeth Parry, who was born in Wales. John and Elizabeth had three sons; Edward (Hull, Tea Merchant), Hugh and Thomas (Wesleyan Ministers). Her husband John who was also Welsh had previously been stationed at Great Driffield before moving to Thirsk in 1842. After Elizabeth's death John moved to Hornsea and lived with his eldest son Edward. John died on 3rd April 1851²⁰ and is buried at Hornsea.²²

19 - Methodism in the Thirsk Circuit, by J. Ward, Wesleyan Minister. 1860. 20 - The Leeds Intelligencer, 20th May 1843
21 - Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette, 11th April 1851. 22 - Parrish burial records, Hornsea - East Yorkshire Archives.

ERECTED
IN MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH
THE BELOVED WIFE OF THE
REV JOHN JONES
AND MOTHER OF THE REV
HUGH AND THOMAS JONES,
WESLEYAN MINISTERS,
WHO DIED MAY 12TH 1843
AGED 66 YEARS.

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 12

Revd. Thomas HALL (1788-1847)

It is not known where Thomas was born, but he entered into ministry in 1811 starting at New Buckingham in the Norfolk district and later serving at Brigg (1837), Wrexham (1838-39), Burton (1842-43), Pickering (1844-1845) before moving to Thirsk in 1846.²³

Thomas died two years into his ministry in Thirsk and is buried at the Methodist burial ground. The following newspaper articles give more information;^{24 25}

At Thirsk, on Tuesday week of affliction of the heart, the Rev. Thomas Hall, Wesleyan Minister, in the 59th year of his age.

On the 19th instant, of an affliction of the heart, in the 59th Year of his age, and 36th of his ministry, the Rev. THOMAS HALL, Wesleyan Minister.

23 - Minutes of The Methodist Conferences. 24 - Carlisle Journal 3rd April 1847. 25 - Liverpool Mail 27th March 1847

Hannah HALL (1831-1848)

Daughter of Thomas and Agnes Hall, who died 26th December 1848 at her mothers home in York.

Agnes HALL (1793-1861)

Agnes Crampton was born in Barnard Castle, Durham to parents Thomas and Elizabeth. She married the Rev Thomas Hall on 16th July 1816 in Barnard Castle. After her husband's death she and her family moved to York. Agnes died on 7th May and is buried in the grave she shares with her husband and daughter.

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REV THOMAS HALL
WESLEYAN MINISTER
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MARCH 19TH 1847 IN THE 59 YR OF HIS AGE & THE
36TH YR OF HIS MINISTRY.

ALSO OF HANNAH 4TH DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE WHO
DIED AT YORK IN GREAT PEACE DECEMBER 26TH
1848 AGED 17 YRS.
ALSO IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF AGNES RELICT OF REV T HALL
WHO DIED. AT YORK 7TH MAY 1861
AGED 68 YRS
THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 13

Mary Hannah JOHNSON (1845-1846)

Mary Hannah was the youngest daughter of William and Mary Inchbold Johnson and was born 1845 in Thirsk.

John William JOHNSON (1826-1855)

John William was the eldest son of William and Mary Inchbold Johnson was born in 1826 Thirsk and baptised on 22nd July 1826. He died on 3rd April 1855 and is buried with his younger sister Mary Hannah.

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN W JOHNSON
OF THIRSK
WHO DIED
ON THE 3RD DAY OF APRIL 1855
AGED 28 YEARS.
LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNTO ETERNAL LIFE
ALSO OF
MARY HANNAH JOHNSON
WHO DIED
ON THE 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 1846
AGED 13 MONTHS

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 14

John FAWCITT (1791-1867)

John was born 1790 in Thirsk and baptised on 29th October of that year. His parents were Thomas Fawcett and Elizabeth Hutton. Two different spellings of the surname appear to have been used; Fawcitt or Fawcett.

John was a builder by trade and had also been a prominent member of the Thirsk Wesleyan Circuit as shown in the newspaper articles below;^{26 27}

FUNERAL SERMON. - On Sunday, the 3rd instant, a sermon was preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, St James Green, by the Rev. Joseph Garrett, superintendent, Thirsk, improving the death of the late Mr. John Fawcett, builder, Thirsk. Mr Fawcett, had been a member of the Wesleyan body above fifty years, and had been one of their officials a greater portion of the above period. A very large congregation listened attentively to the sermon.

DEATHS: FAWCETT.- On the 16th inst., at Westgate, Thirsk, after a long illness, aged 76, Mr John Fawcett, builder and contractor, of Thirsk.

26 - Yorkshire Gazette 9th February 1867. 27 - Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 19th January 1867

Hannah FAWCITT (1791-1880)

Hannah Carter was born in 1790 and baptised 20th August 1790 at Newby Wiske. She married John Fawcett on 12th April 1817 at Thirsk. She died on 21st March 1880 and is buried with her husband in the Methodist burial ground.

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN FAWCITT
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
IN FULL ASSURANCE OF A BLESSED
RESURRECTION
JANUARY 16TH 1867
AGED 76 YEARS.
ALSO OF
HANNAH FAWCITT
RELICT OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED MARCH 21ST 1880
AGED 89 YEARS.
"THE PATH OF THE JUST IS AS THE SHINING LIGHT
THAT SHINETH MORE AND MORE UNTO THE PERFECT DAY"

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 15

Ann TEBBET (1834-1840)

Ann daughter of Brian and Susannah Tebbet who was born in 1834 and baptised on 4th March 1835 at Kirby Wiske. She died on the 1st April at the age of 6.

Rachel TEBBET (1837-1840)

Brian and Susannah's daughter, Rachel was born in 1837 and was possibly baptised at the Methodist chapel as no Anglican record can be found. Rachel died 12 days after her sister Ann on 13th April 1840.

Susannah TEBBET (1804-1869)

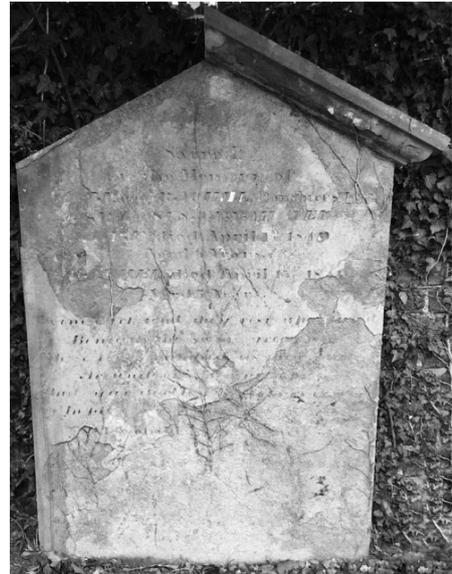
Susannah Haynes was born in Worton, Oxfordshire 1804. She married Brian Tebbit an Irishman by Licence at Evenley, Northampton on 10th November 1828. The family is recorded in the 1861 census running the Pasture Field House farm which consisted of 130 acres of land. Susannah died in January 1869 and shares a grave with her two daughters at the Methodist burial ground. It's not known if Brian is also buried here as no death records can be found.

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ANN & RACHEL DAUGHTERS
OF BRIAN & SUSANNAH TEBBET.
ANN DIED APRIL 1ST 1840
AGED 6 YRS.
RACHEL DIED. APRIL 13TH 1840
AGED 3 YRS.
BENEATH THE SAME GREEN TREE,
WHOSE VOICES MINGLED AS THEY PRAY'D
AROUND ONE PARENTS KNEE!
AND ----- LAST B-----
IN-----

SUSANNAH TEBBETT WHO DIED JANUARY 2(0?) 1869
AGED 65 YEARS

INSCRIPTION BASED ON A POEM BY F D HEMANS

Memorial Inscription



Grave no. 16

Fanny STEPNEY (1848-1848)

Fanny was the daughter of the Rev Richard Stepney (Wesleyan minister) and Ann (Parkin). Her father Richard served as a minister in the Thirsk district between 1847 to 1849 before moving to Easingwold and then to Durham. The memorial stone is not in its original position but it is certain that Fanny is buried in the burial ground and the stone may have been once sited within the 1816 Chapel.

IN MEMORY OF
FANNY DAUGHTER OF
REV RICHARD AND
ANN STEPNEY
WHO DIED NOV 23RD 1848
AGED 5 MONTHS.



Memorial Inscription

Grave no. 17

Chapel Memorials

The following memorials were all erected in the second Methodist Chapel built in 1816, which replaced the original Octagonal Meeting House. The surviving memorials were removed from the old chapel in 1959 prior to its demolition and stored in the cellar of the 1909 Sunday School, now used as the Methodist Church. How they were originally sited in the chapel has been lost except for a written description for the Bumby memorial.²⁸ Some additional marble mouldings also exist but are not shown.

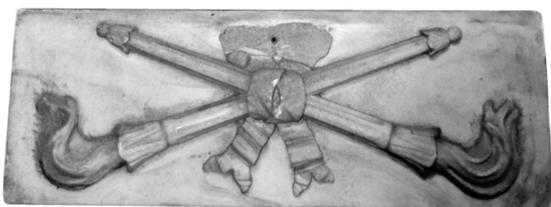
Rev. John Hewgill BUMBY (1808-1840)

John was born on 17th November 1808 in Thirsk. The following newspaper article gives insight to the event and meaning of the memorial.²⁷

THIRSK. - A beautiful marble monument, has been lately erected in the Wesleyan Chapel, Thirsk, bearing the following inscription,

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. John Hewgill Bumby, the first Wesleyan minister, whose life fell a sacrifice to his exertions in the New Zealand field of missionary enterprise. In the thirty second year of his age, he entered the itinerant ministry. Having been eminently successful in various circuits at home, during a period of eight years, he offered himself for foreign work, and in march, 1839, landed in New Zealand, having been constituted by the Conference the chairman of that district, he had just completed his visit to the churches under his care, when by a mysterious dispensation of providence, he was drowned in the Bay of Thames by the upsetting of a canoe. He was born in this town, November 17th, 1808, and departed this life June 26th 1840. "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it" This monument was erected to his memory, by his friends in Birmingham.'

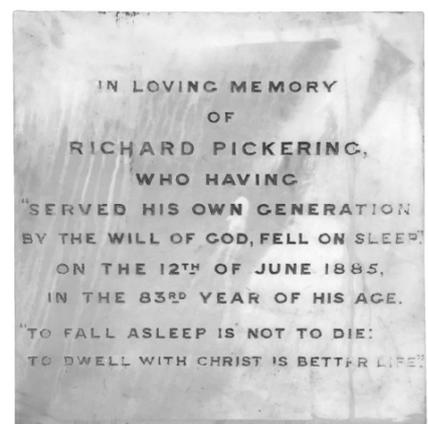
Great credit is due to Messrs Bennett's of Birmingham, who executed this chaste and elegant tablet. At the base are two inverted vases in high relief form which incense is issuing and ascending figurative of the compound nature of man and though his life be poured out, yet he shall rise again. The whole is surmounted by a highly wrought wreath of flowers, expressive of the beauty and short livedness of man. The monument is a great ornament to the chapel.



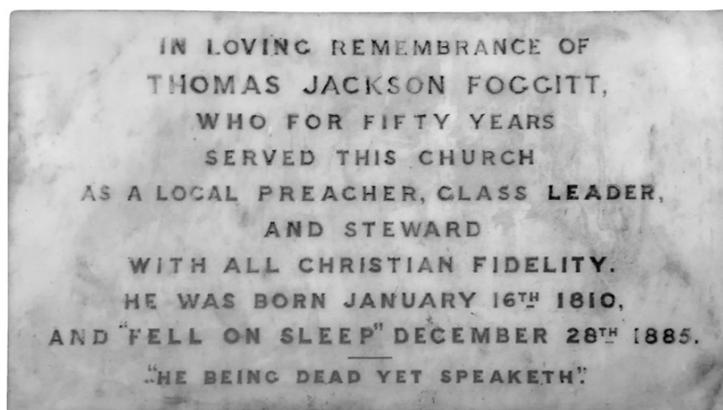
28 - York Herald 18th June 1842

Richard PICKERING (1802-1885)

Richard was born in Sandhutton in 1802. His baptism was on 15th December 1802 and shows his parents as Thomas and Hannah. Richard married Mary Jordison on 19th June 1829 by licence at South Kilvington. Before his retirement Richard ran a farm of 200 acres before moving to Sowerby Terrace, in Sowerby. Richard died on the 12th June 1885 and after his death a memorial plaque was placed in the chapel at St. James' Green. His wife Mary is buried in the Methodist burial ground at St. James' Green where Richard is also buried (see page 7).



Thomas Jackson FOGGITT (1810-1885)



Thomas was born in 1810 at Eaglescliffe, Durham to parents Thomas Foggitt and Ann Jackson. The 1861 census shows Thomas living and working as a Chemist and Druggist in Smiths Yard, Market Place, Thirsk and employing an Assistant and Apprentice. After he retired and passed on the business to his son William, Thomas moved to Sowerby. The Wesleyan Methodist Church Record Magazine of February 1910 describes him as a man who for fifty years served Methodism with

distinction and fidelity. An address he made to the Tea Meeting in the Wesleyan Chapel in October 1860 was so popular that a second reprint of a thousand copies were printed with the title "Methodism Under The Figure Of A Vine".

Thomas' death was reported in the Yorkshire Gazette²⁹ as follows; DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN THIRSK GENTLEMAN. On Tuesday night, Mr Thomas Jackson Foggitt expired at his residence at Sowerby, in his 76th year. Deceased for many years carried on the business of chemist and druggist in the town in connection with his son, Mr William Foggitt, by whom it is still conducted. Mr Foggitt, senior, retired from active life some years ago and for some months has been confined to his room. He was an office-bearer in the Wesleyan denomination and was widely known and very highly respected.

Thomas was buried on 1st January 1886 at St Oswald Church, Sowerby. A memorial plaque to Thomas was placed in the chapel at St. James' Green Methodist Chapel.

29 - Yorkshire Gazette - 2nd January 1886

Jonah WAITES (1811-1903)

Jonah was born 26th December 1811 to parents William and Ann and baptised on the same day at St Oswald Church Sowerby. Jonah and his brother William farmed 120 acres of land and were very supportive of the Wesleyan Connection and other good causes. An example was the setting up of a Coffee House in Thirsk to aid temperance. After his death at his home in Sowerby on 14th January 1903 a memorial plaque was placed in St. James' Green Methodist Chapel. He was buried at St. Oswald Church, Sowerby on 17th January 1903.

An obituary from the Hull Daily Mail³⁰ reads as follows; A YORKSHIRE WESLEYAN BENEFACTOR - By the death of Mr Jonah Waites, at the advance age of 92 years, the Wesleyan Connexion is deprived of a munificent supporter. He was not only trustee of the Wesleyan Chapel in Thirsk, but of every Wesleyan chapel which has been erected in the Thirsk Circuit during the past half-century. He and his late brother William during the past 20 years have given no less than £20,000 for benevolent and religious purposes. Mr Jonah Waites' chief interest was in foreign missions and a few years ago he and his brother contributed £2,000 towards this work.



30 - Hull Daily Mail 15th January 1903

Memorial to Church Members - 1923

This memorial was erected June 1923 to commemorate church workers and members of Thirsk Methodist church. The names of Rachel Ward, Samuel Smith and Mary Morrell were added at a later date.



Name	Born	Death	Burial	Where	No.	Information	Occupation
Rachel Ward (neé Wood)	Thirsk, 1857	1929	18/01/1929	St-Oswald's, Sowerby	G12	Husband; John William Ward Name added after June 1923	
Alice Weighell	Mile House, Thirsk, 1826	1903	07/08/1903	Thirsk Cemetery			Seamstress
Rachel Cowl Manfield	Thirsk, 1838	1923	04/02/1923	Thirsk Cemetery			
James Watson	Thirsk, 1862	1921	31/05/1921	Thirsk Cemetery		Middle name Ralph	Iron moulder
Sarah Stockdale	Tunstall, 1834	1913	06/05/1913	Thirsk Cemetery		Wife of John Stockdale, Master Shoemaker.	
Michael Bulmer	Sowerby, Thirsk, 1841	1921	09/04/1921	St-Oswald's, Sowerby			Slipper manufacturer
Margaret Bulmer (neé Dunning)	Balk, 1841	1903	22/11/1903	St-Oswald's, Sowerby		Wife of Michael Bulmer, Slipper manufacturer	
John William Ward	Sowerby, Thirsk, 1860	1922	13/07/1922	St-Oswald's, Sowerby	G12	Husband of Rachel Ward	
Hilda May Morrell	Sowerby, Thirsk, 1889	1922	27/08/1922	St-Oswald's, Sowerby	A44	Daughter of Mary and sister of Eva Catherine Morrell	
Samuel Smith	Bulmer, Malton, 1859	1926	26/12/1926	Thirsk Cemetery		Name added after June 1923	Police Constable
Mary Morrell (neé Sowerby)	Ripon, 1868	1925	22/04/1925	St-Oswald's, Sowerby	A43	Name added after June 1923. Wife of Charles Edward Morrell, Taylor.	
Eva Catherine Morrell	Sowerby, Thirsk, 1890	1909	15/05/1909	St-Oswald's, Sowerby		Daughter of Mary and sister of Hilda May Morrell	

Sunday School Foundation Stones

The laying of the memorial stones for the new Sunday School building took place on 29th July 1908 at 1:30pm and, as the following photographs show, was well attended. Some of the stones are now hidden or have become difficult to read. A list published in the Wesleyan Methodist Church Record Magazine was used to corroborate the inscriptions and positions. In addition to the stones 76 unmarked Gunica and Scholar's bricks were also laid.³¹

31 - Wesleyan Methodist Church Record Magazine - Thirsk Circuit, August 1908

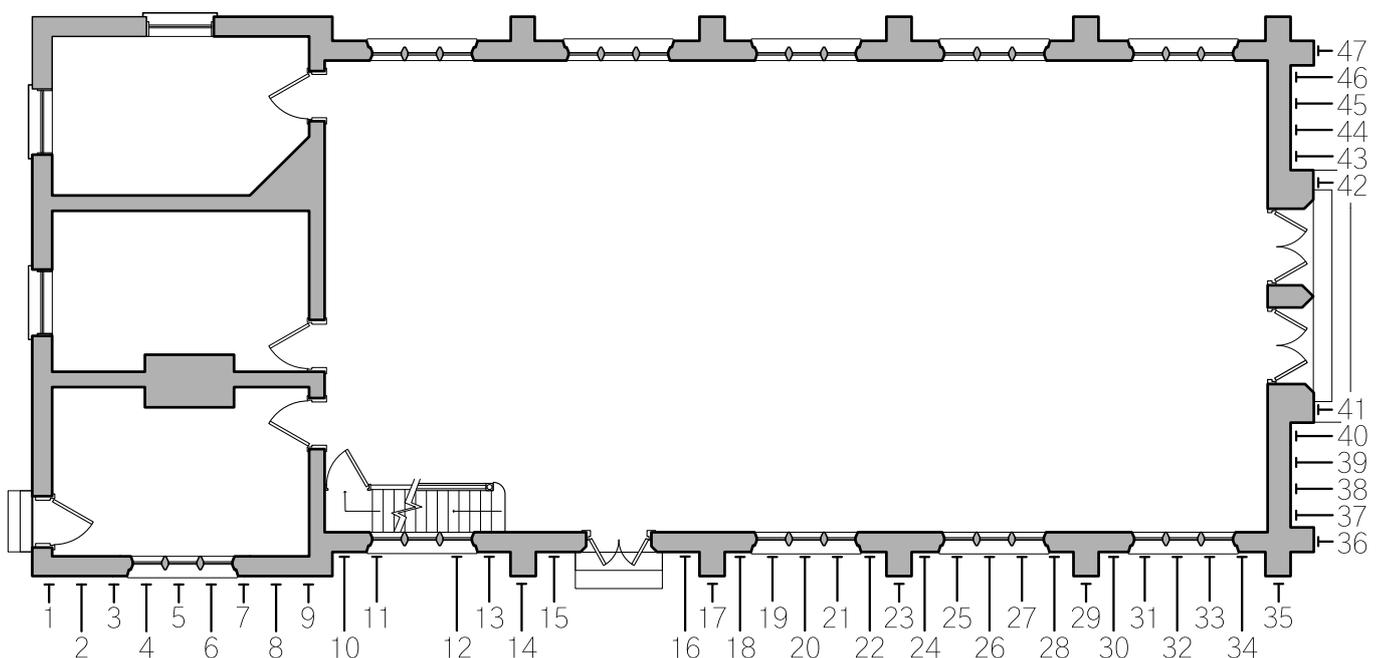


Foundation Stone Inscriptions

Ref.	Inscription	Name	Occupation	Dates	Where born	Other info
1	F. S. BODDY	Miss Fanny Sophia Boddy	Housemaid	1869-1925	Scawton, Yorkshire	Married Thomas Jackson Foggitt in 1919 Thirsk
2	J. W. BOWEN	Mr Joseph William Bowen	Apprentice Jeweller	1893-1971	Sowerby, Thirsk, Yorkshire	Son of William BOWEN, Tailor's cutter
3	M. A. JOHNSON	Mrs Mary Ann Johnson (née Pattison)		1838-1899	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of Edwin Johnson
4	E. JOHNSON	Mr Edwin Johnson	Cattle dealer and butcher	1835-1899	Thirsk, Yorkshire	
5	M. H. WILLEY	Mrs Margaret Hedley Willey (née Walker)		1871-1939	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of George Wiley, Draper / shopkeeper, Milgate, Thirsk
6	S. A. BENTLEY	Mrs Sarah Ann Bentley (née Knaggs)		1850-1922	Great Driffield, Yorkshire	Wife of George Bentley, farmer, Sowerby Parks.
7	J. KENDALL	Mr J Kendall				
8	IN MEMORIAM J. BLACKETT	Mr John Blackett		1803-1874	Northallerton, Yorkshire	
9	T. R. FRANCIS	Mr and Mrs Francis				
10	A. E. CLARK	Miss Ann Eliza Clark		1866	Thirsk, Yorkshire	
11	F.E.THORPE	Mrs Frances Emily Thorpe (née Atkinson)		1865	Heckmondwike, Yorkshire	Wife of Alban Thomas Thorpe, clerk
12	R. DEWSBURY	Mr Robert Dewsbury	Grocer	1870-1949	Etton, Yorkshire	
13	E. J.. DEWSBURY	Mrs Esther Jane Dewsbury (née Gladwin)		1875-1930	Rese Carr, Durham	Wife of Robert Dewsbury
14	IN MEMORIAM F. L. TENNANT	Miss Frances Louise Tennant		1896-1896	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Daughter of RT Tennant and granddaughter of William Foggitt
15	WESLEY GUILD					
16	CHAPEL CHOIR					
17	IN MEMORIAM S. H. INGHAM	Mr Samuel Henry Ingham		1857-1904	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Son of Thomas INGHAM
18	IN MEMORIAM T. INGHAM	Mr Thomas Ingham	Currier	1818-1898	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Currier in Finkle Street, Thirsk
19	A. INGHAM	Miss Amy Ingham		1887	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Daughter of Thomas INGHAM
20	I. STRAFFEN	Miss I (Maria?) Straffen	Boot dealer	1888	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Millgate, Thirsk
21	E. STRAFFEN	Miss Elizabeth Straffen	Boot dealer	1882	Wensley, Yorkshire	Millgate, Thirsk
22	IN MEMORIAM G. MANFIELD	Mr George Manfield	Builder	1833-1891	Thirsk, Yorkshire	
23	IN MEMORIAM J. ACRES	Mr John and Mrs Jane Acres (née Dodgson)	Carpenter	1817-1893	Ripon, Yorkshire	
			Dressmaker	1817-1905	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of John Acres
24	IN MEMORIAM G. MANFIELD	Mrs Grace Manfield (née Gill)	Builder (owner)	1833-1906	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of George Manfield
25	W. B. L. WOOTTON	Mr William Bragg Leighton Wootton	Marine Stone Dealer	1871-1943	Newcastle on Tyne	Son of Joseph and Isabella Wootton
26	IN MEMORIAM J. WOOTTON	Mr Joseph Wootton	Marine Stone Dealer	1837-1901	Bedford, Bedfordshire	
27	IN MEMORIAM I. WOOTTON	Mrs Isabella Wootton (née Leighton)		1843-1906	Newcastle on Tyne	Wife of Joseph Wootton
28	IN MEMORIAM F. WOOTTON	Mr Joseph Frederick Wootton	Chemist / druggist	1873-1908	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Son of Joseph and Isabella Wootton
29	IN MEMORIAM Rev J. M. & Mrs JOLL	Rev John Maw and Mrs Mary Jane Joll (née Richardson)	Wesleyan Methodist Minister	1806-1866	Thetford, Norfolk	Former Minister to the Thirsk Wesleyan Methodist Circuit
				1820-1895	Spilsby, Lincolnshire	Second wife of Rev John Joll and mother of Alberta Joll

30	A. G. JOLL	Miss Alberta Georgina Joll	Teacher in private school	1862-1948	Wainfleet, Lincs	Daughter of Rev J M Joll
31	J. M. BELLMAN	Miss Jessie Maria Bellman		1881-1969	Hastings, Sussex	Daughter of Rev James Bellman, Wesleyan Methodist Minister
32	E. M. BELLMAN	Mrs Ellen Maude Bellman (née Woodcock)		1851-1928	Lincoln, Lincs	Wife of Rev James Bellman, Wesleyan Methodist Minister
33	G. M. BELLMAN	Miss Gladys Mabel Bellman		1887-1965	Kingston on Thames, Surrey	Daughter of Rev James Bellman, Wesleyan Methodist Minister
34	S. E. WILCOCK	Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Wilcock (née POOL)		1852	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of Samuel B Wilcock
35	I. BARNES	Miss I Barnes				In memory by J. Hall
36	IN MEMORIAM J. WAITES	Mr Jonah Waites	Farmer	1811-1903	Sowerby, Thirsk, Yorkshire	See page 18
37	S. B. WILCOCK J.P.	Mr Samuel Beadley Wilcock J.P.	Railway district auditor	1834-1912	Bradford, Yorkshire	
38	ALDERMAN AGAR J.P.	Mr Joseph Agar	Tannery owner and 3x Lord Mayor of York	1832-1920	York, Yorkshire	
39	W. FOGGITT J.P. F.L.S.	Mr William Foggitt J.P.	Chemist / druggist	1835-1917	Yarm, Yorkshire	
40	IN MEMORIAM E. T. FOGGITT	Mrs Elizabeth Thompson Foggitt (née Blackett)		1839-1903	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of William Foggitt
41	G. WRIGHT	Mr G Wright				
42	R. T. TENNANT	Mr Robert Thomas Tennant	Bank Manager	1860-1928	Middleham, Yorkshire	London Joint Stock Bank Limited, Market Place, Thirsk
43	T. J. FOGGITT	Mr Thomas Jackson Foggitt	Chemist	1858	Thirsk, Yorkshire	
44	IN MEMORIAM E. BLACKETT	Mrs Elizabeth Blackett (née Thompson)		1808-1878	Thirsk, Yorkshire	Wife of John BLACKETT
45	SUNDAY SCHOOL					
46	T. CLARK	Mr Thomas Clark	Grocer	1848-1928	Quebec, Canada	
47	IN MEMORIAM L. CLARK	Mrs Lucy Clark (née Foster)		1848-1908	Market Weighton, Yorkshire	Wife of Thomas Clark

KEY PLAN





Credits and Sources

Methodist Records - North Yorkshire Archives.
Baptism, Marriage, Burial, Census and Newspapers - FindMyPast / Ancestry.
Thirsk Museum.
Memorial Inscriptions - Cleveland, North Yorkshire & Durham Family History Society
Photograph of R H Fawcett / Rev John Maw Joll receipt - © Ian Joll 2021.
Photograph of Revd John Brown - © Chris Hardy 2019.
St. Oswald's graveyard records 1883 to 1938.
St. James' Green Methodist Church, Thirsk.
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