

# **A Brief History of the Church and Village of Thorpe Salvin, West Riding of Yorkshire**

**Harry Garbett 1958**

## **INTRODUCTION**

All places have had a beginning; some origins are exactly dated, others are obscure, and some can be assigned definitely to a period. Thorpe is in the latter category. Its name dates it as having been first settled during the Danish Invasion. This invasion began in 802 A.D. and continued to about 880 A.D. Thorpe is far inland and would be a late settlement, so to place the advent of Thorpe into history around 860-870 A.D. is a fair logical conclusion. The word "Thorpe" was the Danish for a village; wherever the Danes settled they called the place their "thorp", "ham" or "by", the two latter being other Danish place names. The Danish made settlements in many places, so there were, and are, many "Thorpes" — so many indeed that it was necessary, to save confusion, to give each one an additional name—so it was that we ultimately arrived at the lovely name of Thorpe Salvin.

## **THE VILLAGE**

We first became historically aware of Thorpe in that great survey of lands, the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror, which was compiled circa 1085 A.D. We are told therein, that Thorpe was part of the 'sockage' (land held for services rendered) of the great manor of Laughton, in the Honour of Tickhill, whose chief lord was a Norman knight, Roger de Buisli. He, having assisted The Conqueror at Hastings, received the village as part of his reward. Domesday says, " In Thorpe de Buisli had 6 caracates (240 acres of ploughed land).

Previous to 1066 A.D. Thorpe was owned by the great Saxon Earl Edwin.

We next hear of Thorpe in 1284 A.D. in Edward I's reign, in a great survey known as Kirkby's Inquest. Therein it says Here for the first. time we have Thorpe recorded with another name—Rikenild Thorpe, and in later records, Torp Ryonild. It was so called after the Roman road, the Rykenild Way, which under its present name of Packman Lane, is the Western boundary of the parish. A few years later, in 1295 A.D., there is a record which says that Adam Salvain, for the same land as held by his father Ralph, had to pay in tax:

" 5d. for Sheriff's aid, 20d. for Wapentake fine, 10d. for ward fee, and 8d. for waytemete ".

Walter Chambleyne who had 1 caracate (40 acres ploughed) here, had to pay 8d. tax for the same.

Thomas de Furnival of Wrykensoke (Worksop) held a quarter of a Knight's fee here, and had to pay 20d. fine, and 5d. for Sheriff's Aid.

The next we hear of Thorp Ryonild is in Edward III's reign, 1339 A.D., when Edward the king granted Anketin Salvain free warren in all his domesne lands of Thorp Salvain. This is the first time Thorpe is referred to as Thorp Salvain, but for many years after this records refer to Thorp Ryonild. Thorp is last recorded as Torp Ryonild in 1545 A.D., Henry VIII's reign. Free warren meant the right to hunt, rear, and preserve game.

One of the great events of English History was the Poll Tax of Richard II, 1378 A.D. This tax, one on the poll or head of all adults in the kingdom, led to revolts all over the country; the most notable being that of Wat Tyler, and the men of Kent. There is a surviving record of the tax placed on the inhabitants of Thorpe Salvin; the following is an extract:

"Edmund Sandeforth and Idonia his wife 20/-  
William Herryng (smith) and Magota his wife 6d.  
Thomas Colyere and Felissia his wife 4d.  
Elias Milner (souter, i.e., shoemaker) and Margaret his wife 6d.  
William Smyth and Margaret his wife 4d.  
Margaret Laundere (washerwoman) 4d."

Note, here is the first record of another leading Thorpe family, the Sandeforths, or Sandfords, who eventually succeeded the Salvains as lords of Thorpe Manor. The Salvain family house was one which stood on the same site as the present ruined hall. Around 1400 A.D., the Salvain family left Thorpe, maybe they went either to Doncaster or London, in both of which they had large holdings. The Sandfords then resided in the hall, and becoming prosperous, one of the family, Brian, had it pulled down and built a lovely Tudor house in Queen Elizabeth's reign; the present ruin is a remnant of this house. Before building this house, Brian Sandford's father, Brian, had disposed of Thorpe Manor, the advowson of the Church, and the chantry within the Church, to William Huett of Wales and Shireoaks; this was in 1545 A.D. This William Huett (Hewitt) had a daughter Anne, who married Edward Osborne; from these two descended the famous Thomas Osborne, who became first Duke of Leeds. William Hewitt's manorial lands, etc., passed to the Osborne (Leeds) family in 1636 A.D. The Edward Osborne who acquired Thorpe was a descendant of the first Edward Osborne and his wife Anne Hewitt. The Sandfords, at an unknown date—probably around 1600 A.D.—disposed of the hall to the Osbornes. Here Thomas Osborne, future Duke of Leeds, spent his early married life; his son, also Thomas, was baptized in Thorpe Church on the 15th April, 1655. The Osbornes resided at the Hall for many years, but Sir Thomas, the greatest public figure after the King, Charles II, successively became Viscount Latimer, Earl Danby, and Duke of Leeds, and to match his rising fortune built a palatial residence at Kiveton Park, and left Thorpe Hall to reside therein in 1697 A.D. The Hall was never afterwards occupied, and has become the sorry, but interesting, ruin we have today.

Returning somewhat in our history here to draw attention to Peck or Peke mill. This mill is mentioned in records of the 12th Century and the Pokes or Pecks lived there for hundreds of years

as tenants of the lords of Thorpe Manor; eventually they purchased it themselves in the year 1546 from a Brian Sandforth, lord of Thorpe.

In 1743 A.D. Archbishop Herring of York sent out a questionnaire to all incumbents under his sway. From it we learn that in that year Thorpe Salvin:

1. Had 29 families of which one was Papist (R. C.).
2. Had no Nonconformist meeting-house.
3. Had no school, and no charities or alms-houses.
4. Sacrament was administered quarterly.
5. At Easter there were forty communicants.

There is a reference to Thorpe Salvin in Whites Gazeteer 1838. We are told that Thorpe had an area of 2,180 acres and that 233 people resided there. There were four public houses: Henry Holmes the Bug Trap, Canal Side; William Jackson at the Boot and Shoe; Sarah Holmes and William Marshall each kept an ale house. Some others here were Francis Atkin, Sheffield carrier; John Broomhead, brickmaker; John Parkin, carpenter; John Stone, schoolmaster; John Peat, tailor; Robert Rogers, mason; Mark Hydes (Peck mill), corn miller. Farmers: Guest, Childs, Wilks, Goodall, and others.

At the time of the Civil War (Charles I v. Parliament), Sir Edward Osborne, who, as previously stated, owned and inhabited Thorpe Hall, was deputy Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire to the Earl of Strafford, who was beheaded in Charles I's reign. Osborne was an ardent Cavalier and raised a band of local men to fight against Cromwell.

Once during the war, with a small band of followers, he returned to Thorpe Hall to visit his family. A band of Cromwell's Roundheads encamped near Bolsover, heard of this, and made a sortie to try and capture Osborne. The Rev. John Hewitt (the second) of Harthill, said they advanced along the old Ryonild way, via Whitwell Common, and that as they approached Thorpe they met Osborne's retainers on the " Flatt " between Harthill and Thorpe, where an indecisive combat took place. This would be on the present-named " Street Flatt " on the Ordnance map, adjacent to the Jaw Bones corner (Packman Lane crossroads). Tradition has it that the only casualty was that of a Roundhead who had his hand cut off, the said hand being buried in Thorpe churchyard.

I have in my possession a cutting from the Nottingham Guardian journal dated 19th February, 1957, of an article signed "It is as follows:" The peace of Shireoaks hamlet was rudely disturbed by the Civil War. Autumn was disastrous for Charles I, and the Earl (not yet Duke) of Newcastle had garrisoned Welbeck in his support. A detachment of its defenders met Roundhead forces quartered at Worksop, and after a sharp engagement just outside the village (Shireoaks) was defeated. The Royalists lost forty men in the affray, some of whom were slain after surrendering, and the registers of Thorpe Salvin are reputed to contain an entry recording the burial in its churchyard of eleven men killed in this skirmish ".

Sir Edward Osborne, it is said, died of a broken heart at Thorpe caused by the defeat of the Royalist cause, and the financial worry of having to pay, what was then, the huge fine of £1,649. The

authority for this fine is from the Rev. Thomas's "Deanery of Handsworth". He was buried in the family vault at Harthill, and his helmet, lion crest and banner, and gauntlets hang there in the Leeds Chapel.

Mr. Charles Bradley has lent me an old diary kept by his grandfather of day-to-day events in Thorpe. It is written in a beautiful hand, and both grammar and spelling are remarkable, for in those days even those who attended school left at eight or nine years of age. Here are a few random extracts:

Nov. 22nd 1898. Mr. Herbert Hall and Sam Atkin, Frank Atkin, Fred King, Joe Kirkby, Gamekeeper Hills, and William Jackson ferretted Losker Wood through. Charles Bradley took lunch. We had a good fire and burnt a tablecloth. Next day, the 23rd, it snowed all day pell mell.

June 17th, 1899. Charles Bradley met Mr. Turner's man from Aldwick Hall for a red calf, and came across a black nurse staying at Morthern Hall; she was from Japan.

Oct. 5th, 1900. Great fire at Welbeck Abbey, £300 damage done.

Jan. 17th 1886. Mr. Herbert Hall got his thumb blown off with a powder flask.

28th January, 1898. I Charles Bradley saw a bat hovering about in the air at Thorpe Salvin, and the Primroses, Polyantheums, Hollyhocks, and Gillivers were in full bloom. (Surely a striking comment on our freakish weather).

1895. John Ward, Mason, of Harthill, and Sam Atkin, Joiner of Thorpe, altered Thorpe School and built new classes to it.

Mr. Frank Ward of Harthill, whose ancestors resided in Thorpe Salvin until about a century ago, has given me a copy of an old poem written by a Thorpe resident. It is doggerel, but has a ballad-like rhythm and swing; it is in praise of local wothies' prowess at cricket, when, as the local saying went: " Chief pleasures for t'Chaps was cricket i' summer, coortin' an' singin' i' winter ":

"When I was young and in my prime, I remember very well,  
The life I led for fun and glee would take a month to tell,  
I oft look back on those bright days with feelings of regret,  
And changes daily taking place, amongst that jovial set.  
Ah, Thorpe! thy name stood No. 1 for many miles around,  
For cricketing and music no equal could be found;  
We seldom mentioned politics, cared not for Whig or Tory.  
Content we lived, in happiness, to share each other's glory.  
No settled priest in the good old days to teach us good or bad,  
Or stewards with discharges to drive the people mad;  
How well we pulled together—like one family were we,  
If times like those could come again, I'd soon be there to see.  
We had two English gentlemen—His Reverence, and Captain Staveley

Oft witnessed catches made and called out, " Bravely, bravely! "  
With neighbours' petty grievances would never interfere,  
Or cast a family out of doors for drinking home made beer.  
The name of Froggatt then stood high, he now is dead and gone,  
Would do his best, and all the rest, depend your life upon;  
Rich and poor alike to him, no partiality shown,  
A man like him nowadays is rarely ever known.  
Two Girdlers next, two fine young me, and Thorpe men too beside,  
Would find the cash, bang up, slap dash, for cricket was their pride.  
Joe Stocks, another on the list, I'll not say much about,  
Though bowlers often he broke down before they got him out.  
The next, Ned Frith, another dread, to those who threw the leather,  
Two calculating devils were when they were together.  
Then Johnson Bill, of bowling fame, you never knew a better,  
His pitch was straight, his pace was good, he did it to the letter.  
Tom Moseley then, a lad more true to Thorpe ne'er doffed a shirt,  
Now he could bat and bowl as well with actions free from dirt.  
Old Charlie Highfield, in his day a rattling good batter—  
He played till years grew on apace, and every day got fatter.  
Immortal Bill as bat was called, no stumper could excel;  
And had he played at Marylebone, would show them so as well;  
His brother Charles could bat and bowl, throw, catch, and wickets keep,  
And when he got his bat in hand, no field could go asleep.  
Then Ben, the homespun cricketer, I ne'er could place him wrong,  
His heart was kind, his temper mild, and kept a civil tongue;  
And Tom Holmes, then a rare good bat, good bowling he resisted,  
He often bowled peculiars, and very much they twisted.  
George Robinson, oft stole a run, much against the law,  
He played a short and merry life, a game of touch and go.  
Then scientific Marshall, a lesson taught us all  
With perfect ease, just as he pleas'd, could bat the best of balls.  
Old Slasher Guest, among the rest—my eyes how he could hit—  
Knocked Harry Wright quite out of sight, that day was well and fit.  
Bill Ashmore's balls like lightening flew, from one end to the other,  
And when the bails flew in the air, called out — " Lads that's another "  
Collywobbleum long stop Ward stopped balls howe'er so fast,  
He's gammond many a one the ball has gotten past.  
Jack in the Box persuaders sent, twisted and broke so queer,  
Then liberties the batsmen took, oft paid for it most dear.  
Fuller Highfield bound to play, for half a Peat was he,  
Was bred for cricket, dad and mum, with me you will agree.  
If the old lot I've named was fit and well, a wager I would bet  
Would conquer any country club, you never need to fret."

Practically all the names mentioned in this old poem are still to be found in either Thorpe or Harthill. It was written around 1885-90.

## THE CHURCH

KEATS wrote " A thing of beauty is a joy for ever "; this assertion is fittingly apt to our Church, which is indeed a gem, of which the village may be proud. As Domesday Book tells us, Thorpe was part of the great parish of Laughton. The great men of the time (Normans) built Chapels in parts of the great parishes too far from the Parish Church so that they could worship nearer home. In our case, Laughton had the Parish Church and Thorpe Church was a Chapel thereof, served by a Curate provided by the Incumbent of Laughton. Such Chapels were called " Perpetual Curacies ", fulfilling all the rites, and having all the Privileges of the Parish Church except the collection and use of the Tithes. This remained the case until 1868 when, by Act of Parliament, these perpetual curacies became " vicarate"; their Incumbents no longer Curates, but Vicars in complete charge of their new parishes. The " living " is now in the gift of the Bishop of Sheffield.

It is interesting to know, however, that the Chantry Chapel at Thorpe, although within the precincts of the Church, was entirely independent of the great parish. It had its own Priest, who daily chanted Mass for the souls of the dead.

The Church is dedicated to St. Peter and is built of Magnesian Limestone, a stone found in all coal-bearing areas.

It has a Chancel with a North Aisle; a Nave with a North Aisle; a Chapel, a Tower; and a medieval porch (Tudor). The Chancel, tower arch, and massive pillars are all part of the original Church which was erected about 1130 A.D. (Henry I).

The division between Nave and Aisle consists of two round Norman arches with an octagonal pier between them, and is also part of the original building. The South Wall of the Nave is probably a renovation of the early 15th century, its two windows with two lights each and flamboyant tracery bear out this conjecture. The clerestory windows are rectangular shaped at the top.

The Clerestory is probably Edwardian. The North Aisle is certainly fairly modern (circa A.D. 1850). It was re-roofed in the time of the first Vicar, the Rev. R. F. Hartley (1835-79) who brought windows to fix in the wall from Worksop Abbey (Priory) which was being renovated at the time. Incidentally, it was this same Vicar who built the present Vicarage " at his own expense " to quote an entry in the fly pages of the marriage register.

The East Window is of the Decorated period and has three lights.

The North side of the Chancel has a very narrow doorway of considerable charm.

Above the Chancel on one of the beams there is a " boss " on which is carved a curious figure in the form of a " demon ". On the South side of the Chancel are three Sedilia with trefoil work. On the North Floor of the Sanctuary is a slab of Chellaston alabaster (of Howden, Eastington and

Harpham in the East Riding of Yorkshire) on which is incised a woman in horned head-dress, together with fifteen children (eight boys and seven girls) on the hem of her dress. Her head rests on a tasselled cushion, and her hands are in prayer. The strange position of the children is paralleled, on a brass, in the memorial to Lady Ann Norbury (d. 1464) in Stoke d'Abernon church, Surrey. Round the rim (the omissions are filled up from Hunter): Orate pro anima (Katherine) Sandford, nuper uxoris loh(ann)is Sandford, armigeri, fili(i) et heredi(s) D(omi)ni Briani Sandford,) militas, (quondam) filie D(omi)ni loh(ann)is (P)ickering; que obit tercio die mensis " Augusti anno D(omi)ni millesimo CCCC(L)X(I).

The translation of this appears to be: "Pray for the soul of Katherine Sandford, lately wife of John Sandford, knight, son of the Lord Brian Sandford, soldier (once) daughter of the Lord John Pickering, who died on the 3rd day of the month of August in the year of the Lord 1461."

There was a gallery in Thorpe Church, says the Rev. Thomas in his " Deanery of Handsworth ". It was erected in 1836 as the Churchwardens' accounts show: "To loft putting up as per contract £5 10s. 0d., making seats and steps 7/-." Five years later, he says the Churchwardens' accounts showed embellishment of the Gallery: 1841. Bill, Graining gallery £4 11s. 3d. Painting back of gallery £6 16s. 11d. Nails, timber, etc., for the work were additional costs. It is to be noted here that these extracts were copied down in 1922 by the Rev. Thomas, so the Churchwardens accounts which are no longer to be found, must have disappeared during the past 36 years. If anyone reading this should know of any old documents that may be such accounts, we should be glad to rediscover them for posterity This gallery was later pulled down.

The Chantry Chapel, which, up to the Reformation, was the Chapel of St. Mary, has decorated windows, each of two lights, a piscina and a niche. It is sometimes known as the Sandford Chapel because a Sir William Sandford, a Cantarist and Priest, erected it within the Church A.D. 1380. He endowed it with the income from property in London realizing £10 per annum. At that time a good cow was worth 3/- and a horse 4/- to 5/-, so it was a good sum for the time.

The South doorway, one of the gems of the Church, is a very fine one with characteristic Norman moulding of lozenge and chevron. It has been wisely protected for many years by the Tudor medieval porch, a rarity in this district, more frequently to be found in the South. The Porch is of timber, a charming example of village medieval craftsmanship. In the early 19th century a young apprentice knocked off the ball ornaments of one of the decorated arches of the porch and it is recorded of this event that " He was suitably dealt with."

It has been averred that part of the South Wall, high up to the left as you enter the Church, is Saxon work. This is very doubtful, for no reference is found to a Saxon foundation here in Domesday Book, which was compiled some twenty years after the close of the Saxon era. It is more probable that the window in this position is the only true Norman window left. There is some indication that another similar window at the other end of this wall at one time existed.

Another of the beauties of the Church is the remarkable font chiselled out of a block of lovely marble-like Caen stone. Caen was one of the foremost Norman towns. Similar stone is quarried there to this day. The Font is cylindrical in shape, and, on the outside is divided into panels by

carved pillars. Each panel has a bas relief carving of activities of the day as follows: 1. A Baptism. 2. Reaping (Summer). 3. A Man on Horseback (Hunting and so Autumn). 4. Sowing (Spring). 5. An aged person before a fireplace (Winter). 6. Two Zig-Zag columns supporting a head. Some say that "Sowing", "Man on Horseback", "Reaping" and "Old Person before Fire" represent the seasons. Baptism speaks for itself, but the meaning of the Zig-Zag columns supporting a head is obscure. Some say that these columns represent serpents with a "death" head. Since the first panel represents the beginning of spiritual life it is not unreasonable to suppose that the last represents the end of life.

The Chained Bible is interesting. It is a "Bill's Bible", so called because it was printed by Charles Bill of London. The following is the note in the Bible:

*"This Bible was bought for the Parish of Thorpe Salvin, and cost the sum of fifty-eight shillings at Gainsborough Market in Easter Week in the year of the Incarnation of our Blessed Lord and Saviour 1641.*

*Ralph Langton (Minister)  
Brian Binnie  
Roger Shepston, Churchwardens."*

The Church has three ancient bells of antique value, which, fortunately escaped the Cromwellian vandals. The first is inscribed C X (Christ crucified?), h x o (Henry Oldfield, Nottingham Bell founder), Maria Sanctus (The bell which rang the Angelus). This is the oldest bell, certainly prior to 1590 A.D. The second bell is inscribed "Jesus be our speed" 1595. The third bell has quite a number of initials on it. These are most probably those of local people who subscribed towards the purchase.

The quaint Sundial in the Churchyard is not so ancient as supposed. It was fashioned in 1838 A.D. by Robert Rogers, the village mason.

The Church Plate is very interesting, it was examined and listed as follows by the late Rev. Thomas, Vicar of Todwick:

<i>Silver.</i>	Cup with Paten cover, a Paten, two Offertory Plates, Almsdish, and a Baptismal Vessel.
<i>Plated.</i>	A Flagon.
<i>Pewter.</i>	A (Paten and) Plate.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ABOVE.**

1. The cup has a bell-shaped bowl with a belt of dotted ornaments interlacing four times round it. Height 6", diameter of bowl 3 1/2", of foot 2 1/2", depth of bowl 3".
2. The Paten Cover has also the interlacing dotted pattern upon its dome. It is 2" in height, and the diameter of the bottom is 1". There are no marks of any sort to be discovered on cup or



cover. If made in London, perhaps product of Queen Elizabeth's reign (say during period 1580-1603). If Yorkshire-made they would be later.

3. The Silver Paten: Modern; diameter 7", interlacing resembles that on the old Paten Cover. Inscription: Given by William A. Baker, Rural Dean of Handsworth 1928; marks (1) M & W (2) Cr (3) Li (4) Small Roman L (Mappin and Webb, Sheffield 1928).
4. Two Silver Offertory Plates, (1) Inscribed: To the Glory of God, in memory of Harriet Hall, wife of Marriott Hall, died 1928. This plate is the gift of her son Sidney, of Shireoaks Hall 1928. (2) The other plate is inscribed: "To the Glory of God, in memory of Arthur Cecil, and Thomas Edgar Hall sons of Marriott and Harriet Hall. This plate is the gift of their brother, Sidney, of Shireoaks Hall 1928." Diameter 11". Inscribed underneath, St. Peter's Church, Thorpe Salvin.
5. Almsdish (Silver). Inscribed: " To the Glory of God in memory of Marriott Hall, for many years Churchwarden and Benefactor of this Church. Died 1909 aged 76 years. This plate is the gift of his son Sidney, of Shireoaks Hall, 1928. Diameter 11". Inscribed underneath, St. Peter's Church, Thorpe Salvin.
6. Baptismal Vessel or Small Font; is a silver bowl 44" in diameter at the top, 21" at bottom, and is inscribed Baptisterio in Ecclesia de Thorpe Salvin hoc vas sacrum Johannis Coates pater Maria uxoris Ricardi Henrici Fleming Hartley pastoris ibidem Anno 1842. Hall marks: (1) P. E. (2) Li hd er. (3) Brit. (4) Cap Roman L. These marks make us suspect London, 1718, probably Edmund Pearce. (A point of interest here is that the Latin inscription was engraved on the font in 1842 when the Rev. R. H. F. Hartley was resident priest at Thorpe Salvin, which was 124 years after the font was made; if the Rev. A. Thomas is right in his deduction as to date of origin-1718).
7. The Plates Flagon is a plain tankard with raised lid, curved handle and a spout. It is modern and 13f" in height. Marks: M. H. & Co., etc.
8. The Plate is of pewter, plain, 11" in diameter. The pewterer's name " Raymond " and a crowned rose, are on the back. Churchwarden's account entry dates it 1723, March 26. Paid for Pewter Salver to gather offerings in at ye Sacrament £00. 2s. 2d.
9. The Pewter Paten is now missing.

Although very ancient the Parish was part of a plurality until 1868. Consequently, there was no Vicarage in the legal sense. However, Curates-in-Charge certainly resided here in the Church House at the North-Eastern corner of the churchyard, now occupied by Mr. H. Wardle. and family. Ultimately, in place of this the present Vicarage built, as has been said, by the Rev. R. F. Hartley in 1840, became the legal Vicarage. The older building is a medieval one of the Edwardian type and is well preserved and well cared for. It completes the picture of Church and homestead.

The Church has been made more complete by the installation of a chiming clock, the gift of Mr. Willis Helliwell in memory of his wife. The tower holding the clock is beautifully designed to tone

with the general exterior of the fabric. It was designed by Mr. George G. Pace, the Diocesan Architect. The work was completed in 1957 and dedicated by the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Rev. G. Gerard, Vicar of Rotherham.

Some further extracts from the Diary of Mr. Charles Bradley relative to the church rather than the village:

July, 1893.—Thorpe Salvin Parish Church re-opening by His Grace the Archbishop of York after being eleven months in restoration, and the collection was £15 10s. 0d.

***An entry about the Sundial:***

Feb. 3rd, 1894.— Charles West of Worksop, foreman mason at the Thorpe Salvin Restoration put up a Sundial in the South Side of the Church. It used to be in a garden at the top of Thorpe Hill occupied by the late Robert Rogers. Taken down and took to South Anston by Mr. William Kirkby but brought back and placed where it is by the Rev. P. Blakeney, Vicar of Thorpe Salvin. Cost £1 5s. 0d.

***Steps in the restoration of the Church from the diary:***

Aug. 8th, 1892.—Sam Atkin began to take down the gallery and pews in Thorpe Salvin Church, and the organ and pulpit, and cleared all out of the Church by Aug. 13. Then the Masons came on Aug. 15th and pulled all the flags up and sank the floor 18 to 20 inches (apparently of Nave and Chancel). Levelled the Churchyard from the down (door?) to the schoolroom as far as the soil would go (allow?).

Then took down one of the memorial monuments from the South wall, and put it up in the opposite corner facing the other one (monument). Then got the foundations out on the South side for the organ, and there came across a brick vault, with an oak coffin, with a silver breastplate and the name was William Laurie 1841 aged 76 years.

Dec., 1892.—The arch for the new organ chamber was finished, and the new roof on the North side was also finished.

Dec. 12, 1892.—The new Organ chamber slated and spouted, finished off, and new conductors put up the steeple (tower?) same day.

Dec. 17, 1892.—Put up the Sedilia again at the' right hand side at the east end of Thorpe Salvin Church.

Dec. 23rd, 1892.—The font fixed in front of the belfry, and the Belfry floor relaid same time.

The brick channel round outside Thorpe Church finished at same time.

(Note.—The Font before this was probably situated near to the Chancel.)

Jan. 7, 1893.—Put the new Communion steps in Thorpe Salvin Church.

July 13th.—Thorpe Salvin Church re-opened by His Grace the Archbishop of York.

These extracts from the Diary of an old countryman who loved his Church are of distinct value to all interested in the layout and structure of this beautiful village church.

The Rev. A. Thomas, in his "Deanery of Handsworth", gives the following list of known Curates and Vicars of the Parish.

1635 John Willson (died here).  
1635 Thomas Andrew.  
1641 Ralph Langton  
1657 William Beckwith  
1663 James Butler  
1669 Jeremiah Adhead (died here).  
1670 William Radcliffe (also Rector of Dinnington).  
1728 William Hyde (also Curate of Wales).  
1755 John Hewitt (also Rector of Harthill).  
1762 Christopher Alderson (also Curate of Wales).  
1763 Alan Hall (also Curate of Wales).  
1763 (?) Brown.  
1773 George Whitehead (also Curate of Wales). 1776 David Holt.  
Richard Burton (also Curate of Wales).  
1777 Henry Smithson or Dixon (also Curate of Wales).  
1785 Issac Sewel (also Curate of Wales). 1785 William Dixon.  
1791 Richard Powley (also Curate of Wales).  
1798 Benjamin Burkett (also Curate of Wales).  
1810 Matthew Dixon (Junior Curate).  
I. Holt.  
1818 W. H. Downes (also Curate of Wales).  
1835-1868 Richard Henry Fleming Hartley (also Vicar of Wales). 1  
868-1879 Richard Henry Fleming Hartley (first Vicar of Thorpe under the new Tithe Act).  
1879 Henry Sandwith.  
1889 William Purdon Blakeney.  
1917 Bertram Bernard Thompson.  
1927 Arthur Easter Lewis.  
1956 Reginald Kingsley Wood (present Vicar).

### **Memorials in the Church**

To Hearsie Sandford Esq. of Thorpe Salvin and Margaret his wife whose ancestors came from Westmorland in 1420.

To Sir Roger Portington of Barnby Dun and Dame Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Hearsie Sandford.

Note. Roger Portington and Dame Mary (nee Sandford) were married at Thorpe Church, 1595, and their initials are on a bell in the church tower.

To Catherine Sandford wife of John Sandford 1461 (see further note on this elsewhere).

### **Missing Records**

A notable deficiency in the records of Thorpe is that of the Churchwardens accounts, covering many centuries. At some time they may have been " borrowed " by some Churchwarden or person of influence. Reference has already been made to this matter, but it cannot be emphasised too much that if anyone knows of their whereabouts it would be an act of grace to return them to the Vicar. Churchwardens accounts are the most prolific source of material illustrating social village history of the past.

Finally, I should like to thank the Vicar, the Rev. R. K. Wood, who was accessory both before and during the fact, for his help in supplying various facts, and going to great trouble in arranging, as near chronologically as possible, the various haphazard sheets as I supplied them. Cost barred a full and complete Village and Church record, but we trust that this brief survey will interest all those who have a place in their hearts for beautiful villages and their churches.

The Vicar thinks that all villages should have a simple explanatory record of their churches and their historic past. I agree and hope you do, too.

## GLOSSARY

Oxgang	Amount of land that a team of oxen could plough in a season, e.g., Harvest to Winter.
Carucate	Ploughland of approximately 40 acres.
Fine	An assurance by reference to a record that the owner had a right thereto.
Inquest	An inquiry into death or into land or property owned.
Sockage	Land held in return for a specific service.
Demesne	Land of the King held at his direction by Lords of the Manor.
Plurality	The holding by Priests of more than one living.
Wapentake	Yorkshire name for a territorial part or division of the County.
Sedilia	A seat or seats near the Altar for those officiating or assisting at the Mass or Holy Communion.
Piscina	A basin or sink for washing out and purifying the sacred vessels, and Priests' hands at the Communion.
Knights fee	The amount of land which was assigned to him by the King on his entry into Knighthood.
Sheriff's aid	Money paid to the Sheriff for transmittal to the King (really a land tax).