

THE ELLESMERE CLOCK

The clock whose faces are set within the south and west sides of the tower is the same clock that once stood in the Duke of Bridgewater's works' yard (now The Green) in Worsley. During his visit to Worsley for the centenary services at the church, the fifth Earl of Ellesmere offered the old clock to the church, a gift warmly received by the vicar, Canon I. Renshaw.

This is the clock that the Duke of Bridgewater had altered for his workmen, who explained their lateness at returning to work after lunch because they maintained they could not hear the clock strike once at one o'clock, above the noise coming from the yard. They could, of course, hear it when it struck twelve to signal the start of their lunch hour! So the clock was made to strike thirteen times at one o'clock - and it still does today! The clock remained in its tower at the Works Yard until the site was demolished in 1903.

The clock was then housed in one of the lodge gate towers. In 1923, when Lord Ellesmere sold the estate, it was taken to Bridgewater House in London and it remained down in the cellars for many years, even throughout the second World War. When Bridgewater House was abandoned by the fifth Earl, the clock came back to Worsley.



The clock was installed in the church tower by Messrs. Potts & Son of Leeds. It did require some adjustments to be made, however. *'The hands of both dials are operated from a single movement, the drive to the second dial being transmitted through shafting by right-angle bevel wheels. But for various reasons it was felt undesirable to cut through the masonry of the tower, and instead to use a window which already existed. This means that the two dials are at different levels, necessitating extra new gearing.'* [from the local Journal].

The clock was dedicated by the Dean of Liverpool, Dr. F. W. Dwelly, in September 1946. The clock winding mechanism can be viewed in the bell ringing chamber.

When the local Journal reported this, a short poem also appeared beneath the article. It read:

After years of faithful service
In the Worsley Yard of yore,
Watching workers who made...
Lo, the clock is home once more.
Marking now these men's descendants
Treading where their forebears trod
truly, clearly, and for ever,
Telling out the time of God.

Let its moving hands remind us
How the months and years roll on
Kindle us to fresh endeavour
Ere our work on earth is done.
Firmly link our past and future
All who serve this hallowed place
May we fill its hours with goodness
Helped and strengthened by His Grace.

