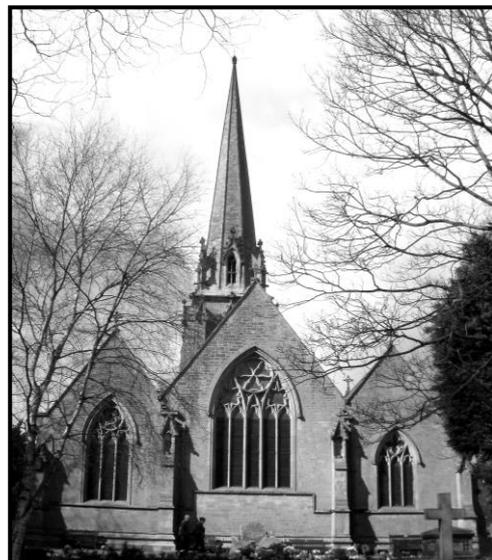
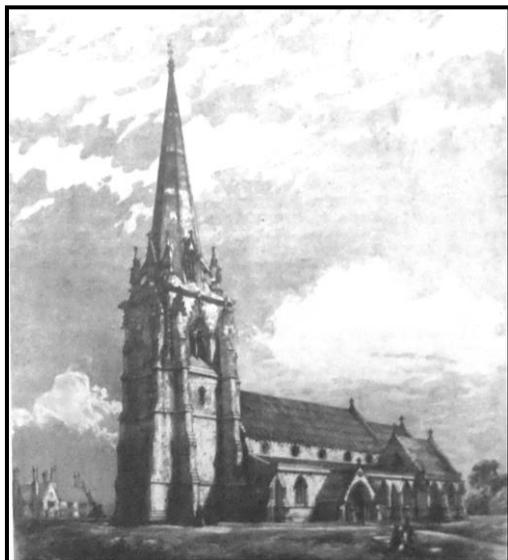
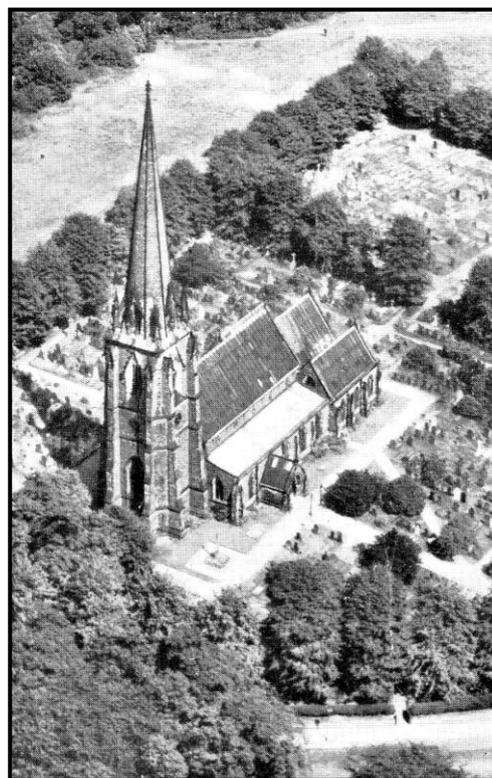
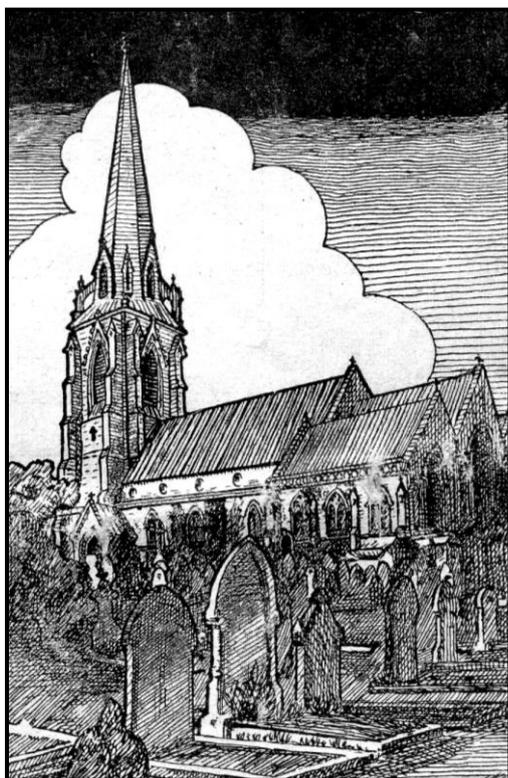


A Timeline



of St. Mark's Church

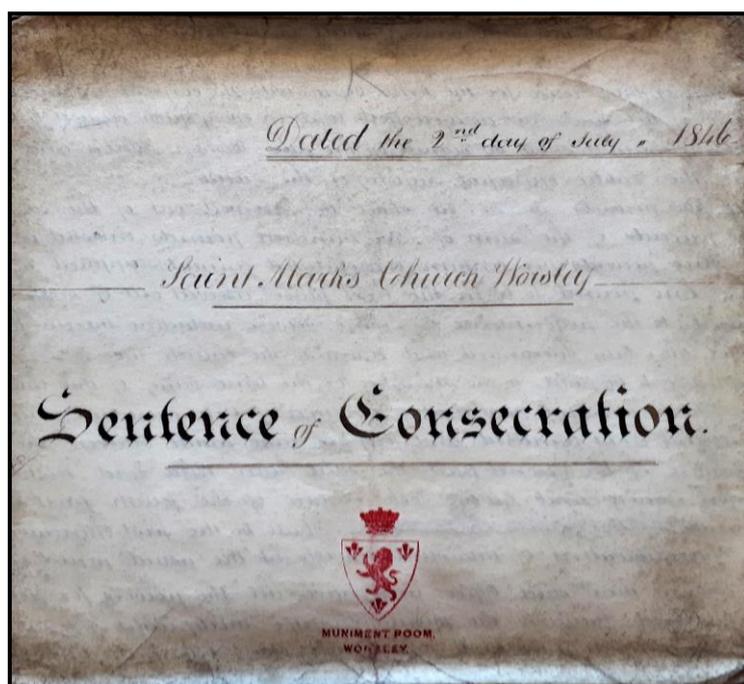


1846 - 1946

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, TIMELINE

1846

Consecration of the church on 2 July 1846



Just 2 years and 17 days after the laying of the foundation stone, the new parish church of **St. Mark, Worsley**, was consecrated on 2nd July 1846. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. John Bird Sumner, then Bishop of Chester and later Archbishop of Canterbury. Sadly, there seems to be no contemporary account of the service in 1846. However, from an

account in the national press of a provincial grand meeting of Freemasons held at the Temperance Hall, Bolton, on 2nd July, a few facts can be deduced. The weather that day "*was exceedingly unpropitious*". Lord Francis Egerton [provincial grand master] "*had been prevented from attending as early as was expected in consequence of the consecration of the new church at Worsley*". The business of the lodge was conducted and the Earl arrived at 1.30pm. Clearly, the consecration service must have been held in the morning. The weather by early afternoon "*fortunately had now cleared up*".

The piece of land "*measured ten thousand four hundred and three square yards or thereabouts, ... called or known by the name of Cross Field ... bounded on the west south west and south by the Turnpike Road leading from Bolton to Manchester and on all other sides by the remainder of the said field called Cross Field ... and to be devoted when consecrated to Ecclesiastical purposes for ever*"

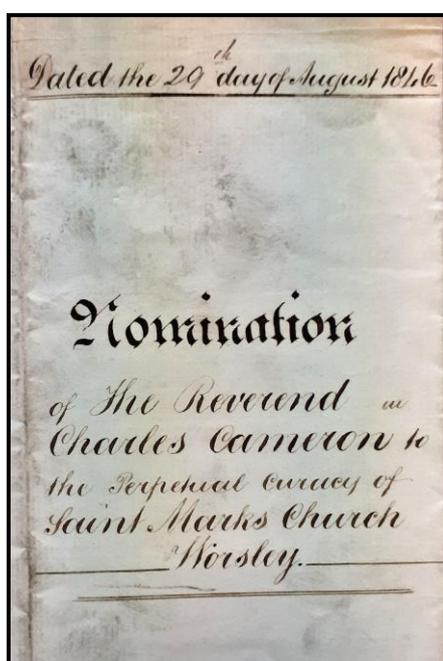
The first *baptism* in the church took place on 5 July 1846, when **John Harrison**, the son of John and Sarah Georgina Harrison, a Canal Agent of Worsley, was baptised by the Rev. Charles Cameron. He had been born on 26 August 1845.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Worsley</u>						
in the County of <u>Lancaster</u> in the Year 18 <u>46</u>						
When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1846 July 5 th	John	John	Harrison	Worsley	Canal Agent	Rev. Charles Cameron
No. 1	son of	Georgina	(born August 26 th 1845)			Parish Clerk

The first *burial* in the churchyard took place on 10 July **1846**, when the body of **Oliver Eckersley** was interred. He was of Shaving Lane and was only 2 years of age. He died of the Croup.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Worsley Sect. St Marks.</i> in the County of <i>Lancaster</i> in the Year <i>1846</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Oliver Eckersley</i> <i>(died of the Croup)</i>	<i>Shaving Lane</i>	<i>July 10th</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>Chas. Cameron</i> <i>Perpetual Curate</i>

1846



The reverend **Charles Cameron** was nominated as the first minister to the Perpetual Curacy on 29 August **1846**. As Patron of the new church and parish, the Earl of Ellesmere exercised his right to the Bishop of Chester, "praying that your Lordship will be graciously pleased to grant him your licence for serving the said cure and to invest him with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereinto belonging."

1847

The Manchester Courier - Wednesday 14 April **1847**

THE IRISH SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Patron, the Right Reverend the **LORD BISHOP** of **CHESTER**. - On **SUNDAY MORNING NEXT**, a **SERMON** will be Preached at **Worsley Church** in aid of this Society by the Rev. **IRWIN LLOYD**, Secretary to the Parent Society. Service commences at half-past ten.

1848

Church & State Gazette (London) – Friday 27 October **1848**

CONFIRMATION - The Bishop of Manchester held a confirmation in **Worsley Church, Lancashire**, on **Tuesday, 24th inst.**. Notwithstanding the severity of the weather the attendance was large, and three hundred and fifty young persons presented themselves as candidates on the occasion of this highly interesting and imposing ceremony. The **Worsley Church** has been recently built at the sole expense of the Earl of Ellesmere, and is a most beautiful and elaborate structure -

his lordship thus showing his interest not only for the temporal, but also for the spiritual, concerns of the neighbourhood.

1849

The Manchester Courier - Wednesday 2 May 1849

Licensing of Churches for the Solemnization of Marriages - The Bishop of Manchester has licensed, under the act 7 and 8 Vic. cap. 56, the two following churches for the publishing banns and solemnization marriages, namely - St. Simon and St. Jude's, Manchester, and **St. Mark's, Worsley**.



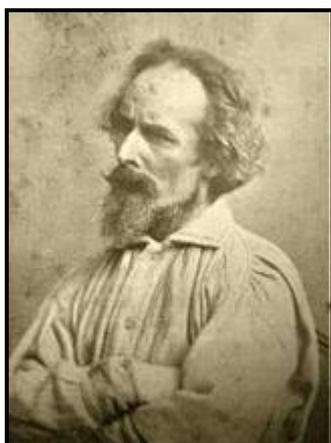
St. James's Chronicle – Tuesday 8 May 1849

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

The Rev. Bolton Waller Johnstone, B.A., to the Curacy of St. Mark's, Worsley, near Manchester.

The first solemnised *marriage* at the church took place on 19 June 1849, between **John Smith**, a Bachelor of full age, and **Isabella Cook**, a Spinster of full age. The fathers of both were Farmers, of Worsley. The celebrant was the **Rev. Bolton W. Johnstone**.

1849. Marriage solemnized at the Chapel of <i>St. Mark's</i> in the Parish of <i>Eccles</i> in the County of <i>Lancaster</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
1		<i>John Smith</i> <i>Isabella Cook</i>	<i>Full age</i> <i>Full age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Groom</i>	<i>Worsley</i> <i>Worsley</i>	<i>James Smith</i> <i>William Cook</i>	<i>Farmer</i> <i>Farmer</i>
Married in the <i>Church of Worsley</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>Bolton W. Johnstone</i> or after <i>Business</i> by me, <i>Bolton W. Johnstone</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>John Smith</i> <i>Isabella Cook</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>A. Hall</i> <i>John Hall</i>		



Frederick James Shields

Frederick James Shields was a young budding artist, born in 1833, who migrated to the north-west with his father in 1848 when the latter was in search of work as an engraver or bookbinder. Times were tough for both of them and the young Frederick moved from Newton-le-Willows to pursue his life as an artist. He

began to keep a diary about his life in Manchester. Then, one day he wandered to Worsley and sketched the church. He wrote to his father, who was gradually becoming infirm:

MY DEAR FATHER, August 2nd, 1849

*... I intend to go down to Worsley in the course of two or three days with my drawing of the **church**. I hope that I may see the Earl or the **Rector**.*

MANCHESTER, October 2nd, 1849

*MY DEAR FATHER, I received your kind letter of the 27th ult. (but I thought I would not answer you until I had seen either the Earl or the **Rector**. I went yesterday to Worsley, and saw the **Rector**; he told me to make him another drawing of the **church**, in addition to the one I have already done. He gave me a shilling.*

MANCHESTER, November 18th, 1849.

*MY DEAR FATHER, ... In the meantime his lordship wishes me to do a drawing of the **Church** for him in pencil.*

MANCHESTER, November 27th, 1849

*MY DEAR FATHER, ... Upon my entrance he rose, and bade me good morning. I returned his salutation. We then proceeded to business. He seemed to like the view of the **Church** very well and took it in to show his lordship. He returned with the gracious information that his lordship was very well pleased with it, and that I was to execute two more views of the hall, to be sent down to the house in London, 10 Belgrave Square, where they intend proceeding on Friday. He then gave me £2 for the view of the **Church**.*

1850

***The Manchester Courier* - Saturday 19 January 1850**

Testimonial of Respect to a Clergyman.

*On Monday, the churchwardens and congregation of **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**, presented the Rev. B. W. Johnstone, on his retirement from his duties as curate of the above church, with a handsome silver communion service, silver inkstand, gold pencil-case and pen, together with a purse and 12 sovereigns, as a testimony of their high esteem for his character and ministry. The congregation assembled by appointment at the Court-house, where refreshments had been provided. A deputation, consisting of Mr. S. Fletcher, and Mr. P. Nightingale (churchwardens), Messrs. T. Evans, T. Pickup, Geo. Sutcliffe, Charles Kent, and Thomas Stone, members of the congregation, was appointed to wait on the Rev. Mr. Johnstone, at his residence, and Mr. P. Nightingale, in a few appropriate remarks, made the presentation; The tribute was highly appreciated by the reverend gentleman, who replied in suitable terms. The following was engraved on the inkstand :- "Presented, together with a communion service, to the Rev. B. W. Johnstone, by the churchwardens and congregation of **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**, in testimony of the affection and care which he has displayed during his ministry amongst them, and as an expression of their respect and esteem for him as a neighbour and friend."*

***Liverpool Standard* – Tuesday 26 March 1850**

The Rev. Charles Cameron, M.A. has resigned the incumbency of **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**. The living is in the gift of the Earl of Ellesmere, the patron.

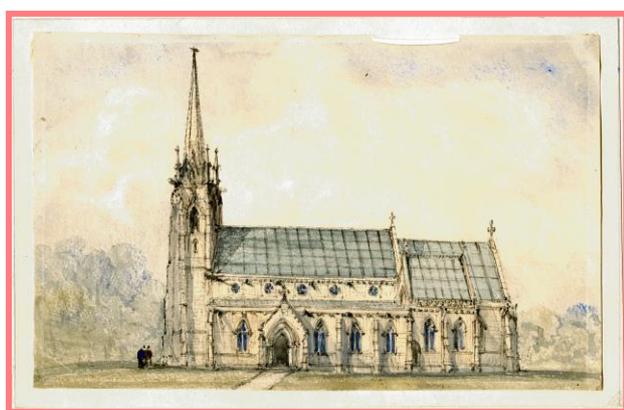
The Manchester Times - Saturday 20 July 1850

The Earl of Ellesmere has nominated the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey to the Perpetual Curacy of Worsley, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Charles Cameron.

As for the parish of Worsley, when he was invited to come to here, the income was doubled and a new parsonage was proposed for him and his family. [The former vicarage, now the home of the Bishop of Bolton, bears the year 1851 above the doorway].

1851

The **1851 Religious Census** was a unique survey of all identified places of religious worship then in existence, including Nonconformist and Catholic chapels and Jewish synagogues as well as Church of England churches. Ecclesiastical census returns of churches and chapels, endowments, sittings, estimated attendances on 30 March 1851 and average numbers during the preceding twelve months.



The record shows that ...
St. Mark's Church, Worsley, a district church under the parish of Eccles, built under 1&2 Wm. IV c. 38.

*It is a Consecrated church, in the township of **Worsley**, Eccles, Lancashire. It was erected in 1846, by the Earl of Ellesmere at his own expense. No rents are charged for the pews, the space*

available for public worship being 650 free sittings.

The census was recorded on Sunday 30 March 1851. For the morning service there were 250 in the general congregation and 400 Sunday scholars (650 in total). In the afternoon, there were 260 (adults) and 440 (children) (700 in total). [Note that this was in a smaller church than the one we have today!] Within the remarks, it was observed that the Sunday School children occupied less room than the adults, and in contrast the church was very crowded in the summer. The average number of attendants is given as 750 in the morning and 770 in the afternoon. The return was certified by St. Vincent Beechey, Incumbent, and Sam^l. Fletcher and Peter Nightingale, Churchwardens.

(National Archives: Ref. HO129/470: 1851)

Three giants of church art and architecture in the mid-nineteenth century all met in the church on 22 August 1851. They were Augustus Pugin, Charles Barry and John Hardman.

Installation of the panels in the east windows

*On 7 June 1851, **Barry** wrote to **Hardman** from Westminster to tell him that Lady Ellesmere asked about the glass for St. Mark's and **Barry** did not know what to answer; his letter survives in SGL. In response to Hardman's immediate report of delay, **Barry** decided to halt any work and have all cartoons and instructions sent*

to him so that he could show Lady Ellesmere what was proposed. After notifying **Hardman** to this effect on 9 June, he explains on 12 June why he is anxious: 'If it were possible I would much like you to see the old glass already in the window in order that you may not fail of harmonizing the new with the old;' white glass is to be avoided, and a 'dark rich tone of colour produced'.

By 16 June **Barry** gives **Hardman** the order to proceed as Lady Ellesmere approves of what is intended, and on 7 July he urges **Hardman** to dispatch a workman to fix the glass at Worsley as soon as possible. SGDB enters to Lady Ellesmere at 12 July **1851** an east window for £35 and a smaller east window costing only £10; there is a note of Barry's name at the foot of the entry.

Lady Ellesmere sent a letter on mourning paper from 'Worsley' on 'Wednesday', probably 13 August; her letter is preserved in SGL 1851; apparently she wrote to **Barry**, who forwarded her communication to **Hardman** with a covering note on 15 August.

"The Window in Worsley Church is completed & I am sorry to say unsuccessful. The execution is pretty in itself but wholly unsuited to the rest in colouring. It has the effect of a gown of which the skirt is crimson, & the body pink.

Now the question is can anything be done to improve it. Who is the executor of it? Did he ever see the window?

I should be inclined to have him down to look at it; but before determining upon this, should like to know his name & address."

(v. Belcher, Margaret: The Collected Letters of A. W. N. Pugin. OUP. 2015)



Visit of Queen Victoria on 10 October.

On 16 August **1851**, it was announced that Queen Victoria would visit Worsley, Salford and Manchester from 9 to 11 October and that she was to spend her two nights here in Worsley with the Earl and his family.

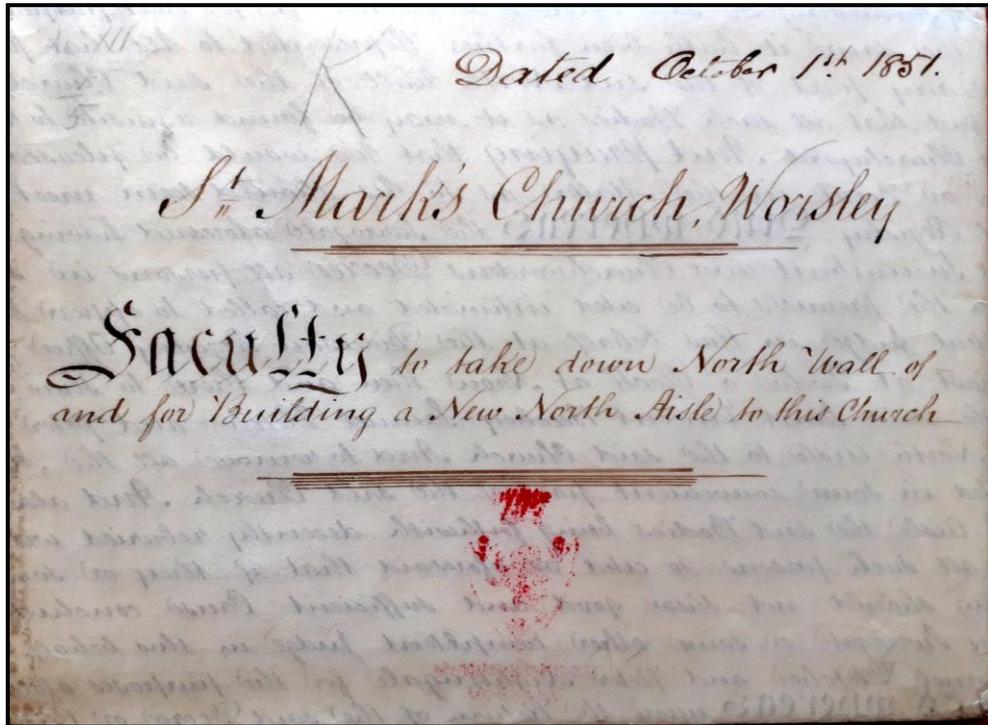
After visiting Salford and Manchester on Friday 10 October **1851**, the Queen wrote in her journal:

"At 4 we walked out with the Children and the whole party, 1st visiting the Church, built by the Ellesmeres, which is very pretty, then the Parsonage and Poultry Yard, a nice little house built near a pretty piece of water and afterwards through a wood, along a little stream round by the Dispensary to the old house, in which the Duke of Bridgewater lived, now occupied by the Agent, M^r Locke, and in which the Ellesmeres lived till 5 years ago. There were a great many people out, who frequently rather crowded upon us, but were very well behaved. We lastly went to the Garden, on the other side of the house. Came home a little after 6."

(Queen Victoria's Journals: Friday 10 October **1851**: vol.32 p.144)

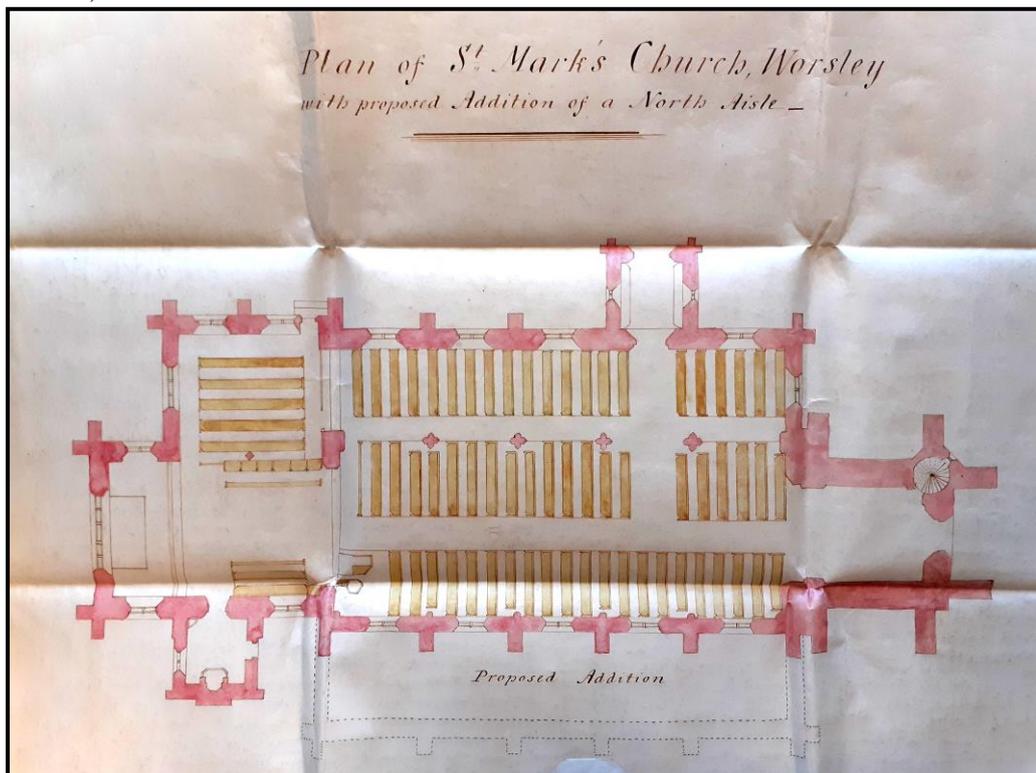
This is how *The Morning Post* began its article which covered specifically Queen Victoria's visit to Worsley Church. "There was a large party accompanying the Queen as she made her way across the road and into the church grounds at about 4 o'clock. The royal party consisted of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, the Countess of Ellesmere, the Viscountess Brackley, the Ladies Alice and Blanche Egerton, the Marchioness of Westminster, the Earl and Countess of Wilton, together with other members of the party at the Hall. The Queen and the Prince

Consort were greeted at the church door (south porch) by the incumbent, the Rev. St.V. Beechey, and they proceeded down the main aisle. Victoria seemed very pleased by the architecture and sculpture of the church, and its rich stained-glass windows".



1852

Since St. Mark's was having regular large attendances [often in excess of 700], it was decided to apply for a faculty (1851) to enlarge the church by adding a north aisle. This was granted and the extension was opened in 1852. "The most striking difference [between the church of 1846 and the one in existence today] was the absence of a north aisle, to balance the one that had been erected to the south of the nave. In its place there was a north wall with five double-light windows, into which the present pillars and arches were built in a manner that would allow for its easy demolition should a north aisle be decided upon in the future" (H. T. Milliken, 1976).



1853 *The Albion* – Monday 31 October 1853

On Friday next the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, incumbent of Worsley, commences a course of four lectures on the Moon and the Tides, which will, no doubt, be copiously illustrated by means of those superior dissolving views which render Mr. Beechey's lectures so interesting and instructive.

1854 In 1854, the Earl offered **Rev. St.V. Beechey** the donative of Ellenbrook, with an increase in his stipend and, with it, the ability to engage a curate.

The Manchester Courier - Saturday 2 September 1854

Great Literary Institutional Assembly at Worsley Hall.—On Saturday, the members of institutions connected with the Literary and Mechanics' Institutions of Lancashire and Cheshire had a trip to Worsley, the seat of the Earl of Ellesmere. There were special trains from Manchester, Macclesfield, Stalybridge, Stockport, Oldham, Burnley, Bury, Bolton and Heywood. For the visitors from Manchester alone three special trains were required, and when all the company were assembled, there could not be less than 3,000 persons present. On alighting at Patricroft station the excursionists proceeded direct to the Bridgewater Foundry adjoining the station, where Mr. Nasmyth had ordered his original steam hammer, and all his wonderful machinery, to be exhibited in operation. ... The visitors then proceeded by the canal side ... and were admitted into the ornamental grounds of the New Hall. The noble earl was absent from home, but the Countess and some of the younger members of the family were at the hall. The very interesting Old Hall, the residence of Mr. George Loch, situated behind the New Hall, was also accessible to the company. This beautiful and quiet retreat, which was formerly the residence of the Worsleys, the Masseys, the Stanleys, and the Egertons, was very much admired. From the Old Hall, many of the company visited **Worsley Church**, which was also thrown open to inspection. _

1855 *The Manchester Courier* - Saturday 27 October 1855

THE EARL OF ELLESMERE ON THE WAR.

On Tuesday evening, the Earl of Ellesmere opened the lecture season for 1855-6, of the Worsley Literary Institution, by a lecture on " The present war." The address was delivered in the Court House, which was well filled, chiefly by the most influential persons in the neighbourhood; although in the gallery and the back part of the room there were considerable number of artisans present. The Noble Earl, who appeared to be suffering from indisposition, delivered the lecture seated, very low tone of voice, and at times was almost inaudible where the reporters sat. ...

*... upon the motion of the **Rev. St. Vincent Beechey**, a vote of thanks was passed unanimously to Lord Ellesmere, for his interesting and instructive lecture, and the assembly then separated.*

This article refers to the annual gathering of the 'Institutional Associations of Lancashire and Cheshire,' an event enjoyed by several thousand members within the two counties. Each year a trip was arranged to some pleasant locality and in that year the trip was to Worsley. This extract reads:

*... In this delightful neighbourhood the past and the present, ancient legend and modern practicality, pleasantly unite, the evidences of the great Duke of Bridgewater and his scientific Magician Brindley being everywhere apparent. The underground canals and tunnels alone of Worsley are said to be eighteen miles in length, and to have cost nearly £170,000. Worsley Old Hall contains some extraordinary specimens of ancient wood carving brought from Hulme Hall, Manchester. It is a charming retreat, and is at present worthily occupied by the **Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, M.A.**, incumbent of Worsley. The rev. gentleman had kindly prepared his large telescope, with 12in. lenses, for viewing distant points of interest in the landscape, and also for a view of the moon, which was at the full, but the weather proving unfavourable the visitors were disappointed in this anticipated treat. The day was fine and genial, but hazy; still with the unassisted eye wide extent of country was visible from the terraces, and finer landscape, one more richly wooded, pleasantly diversified, it would be difficult to find. The visitors had the privilege of inspecting the foundry of Mr. Nasmyth at Patricroft, with the mighty yet gentle steam hammer at work, and the great gun, which "went off" too soon. The steam hammer is appropriately called "Vulcan," and might be suited to forge Jove's thunderbolts. The workshops and machinery were inspected with much interest by the visitors, to whom the intelligent workmen imparted information very willingly. We must not forget to mention **Worsley Church**, which forms so fine a feature in the landscape, and which was open to the inspection of visitors. It is a gothic edifice, with a graceful spire. The oak carvings in the interior were much admired, as well as the font, the stained windows, the communion service, and the brass monument to the memory of the fifth son of Lord Ellesmere, who was killed on board the Meander by the accidental discharge of a gun. The pulpit is a curious piece of workmanship, and contains two compartments taken from a rostrum at Athens from which St. Paul is said to have preached, and which cost the Earl of Ellesmere £600. ...*

*The remains of the late **Earl of Ellesmere**, lord-lieutenant of the county of Lancaster, were interred on Thursday the Church of **St. Mark's, Worsley**. Although it had been determined that the funeral should be as private as possible no fewer than four thousand persons were present.*



*The mortal remains of **Francis Egerton**, late Earl of Ellesmere, were on Thursday, interred in a vault in the burial ground of **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**, which stands near the principal lodge of Worsley Hall, the seat in the north of England of the Ellesmere family. As we anticipated would be the case, the funeral was not in any sense a public one ; the family having, in*

reply to applications, intimated that any efforts on the part of public bodies to join the procession must be declined. In addition to members of the family, relatives and a few friends, the funeral procession comprised only the leading agents and tenantry connected with the extensive Bridgewater Trust estates. But several thousand persons from the neighbourhood, and from Manchester, congregated in the churchyard, and along the road from the lodge to the church ; and altogether the assemblage showed the general and high respect in which the deceased nobleman was held. The road from the lodge to the vault, was essentially kept by lines of workmen from the timber yard at Worsley (for the canal business) ; the estate yard, the coalmines, &c; all business on the estate being suspended for the day. The tenantry formed three or four abreast along the carriage drive to the hall.

1858

The Manchester Courier - Saturday 8 May 1858

Opening of the New Organ in St. Mark's Church, Worsley. — On Sunday last, the new organ presented by the Earl of Ellesmere to **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**. It was opened for the first time since its completion, with great success, by Mr. David W. Banks, the well-known organist and conductor at the Free Trade Hall. In external appearance, the organ is one of the most beautiful and unique we have ever seen. The case is made entirely of old oak panels, purchased by the late Earl, we believe, abroad, of ecclesiastical character, to correspond with the much-admired pulpit and desk. The design, which is that of an antique cabinet approaching to gothic, is said to owe its originality and beauty to the taste of the Countess of Ellesmere. It has been executed entirely under the direction of Mr. Adams, the house carpenter at the hall, and is really a specimen of beautiful workmanship. It has one large centre and two smaller lateral arches, which are filled with pipes most skilfully gilded and diapered by our townsman, Mr. Dobson, from designs in Peterborough and Ely Cathedrals. The instrument itself, though by no means a large organ, is amply sufficient for the church, and possesses an unusually sweet tone and many useful appliances, by which the compass is much increased and readily varied. There are three rows of keys of full compass, for the great, choir, and swell organs, with two octaves and half of pedals, which act upon a bourdon (8 feet) of remarkably fine and full quality, and can be coupled to the bass of the great and choir. In the great organ, there are only three stops — harmonic flute, open diapason, and principal; but an octave coupler adds a fifteenth and doubles all, whilst couplers to the choir and swell produce a combination of great power. In the choir organ there are only three stops—stopped diapason, dulciana, and clarionet; but both the dulciana and open diapason are carried through to 8 feet in metal, the combined bass being exceedingly rich. In the swell there are six stops—stopped and open diapason, principal, twelfth, fifteenth, and oboe, with a tremulando. The object has been to secure at moderate cost a few very good and readily combined stops, rather than the great variety which is, we think, somewhat too generally considered necessary. The ground work of the instrument was originally made for the private use of an eminent organist, and is consequently of very superior workmanship; but all the metal stops, the general arrangements, and the entire swell organ, have been made in a first-rate manner, by Mr. Tarr of this city, who is justly celebrated for the superior voicing of his pipes. On Sunday, Mr. Banks certainly brought out the beauties of the instrument in a very pleasing manner. The services were Jackson's, in F, and were sweetly and devotionally sung by the choir, which is entirely composed of amateurs, assisted on this occasion by one or two gentlemen in the bass and alto. Sermons were preached in the morning by the

Rev. S. Vincent Beechey, the Incumbent, and in the afternoon by the Rev. T. R. Bently, of St. Matthew's, after which collections were made in behalf of the Clergy, Widow, and Orphan Charity, at Warrington, which amounted to upwards of £20. None of Lord Ellesmere's family, we believe, were present. We heartily congratulate the people of Worsley upon this admirable addition to their all but perfect church, for which they ought to feel fresh debt of gratitude to the present Earl, who is already treading so liberally in the steps of his lamented father.

1859 *The Manchester Courier* - Saturday 28 May **1859**

*Choral Society Trip.- Saturday next the mentors of the Manchester Choral Society intend availing themselves of permission to visit Worsley Hall and grounds, the residence of the Earl of Ellesmere. The programme for the day includes a cricket match between members of the society and the Worsley Club, dancing, singing - both in the open air and in **Worsley Church** where there is a fine organ - and "substantial tea."*

1860 On Friday 10 August **1860**, a damp and miserable day, a very large crowd assembled in Wren's Wood to the west of the church to witness the inauguration and presentation to the family of a monument to the memory of the first Earl of Ellesmere. On the day of his funeral in 1857, a meeting was held in the Court House to approve the raising of subscriptions, amounting to nearly £1,800. The winning design was by Messrs. Driver and Webber. The height was to be 132 feet, with a spiral staircase of 125 steps. The Bolton Chronicle carried a full account of the ceremony, and the article concluded with these words:

The Bolton Chronicle – Saturday 11 August **1860**

*As the work proceeded, he [St. Vincent Beechey] became reconciled to the change, and now his conversion and gratification were complete. Besides, his other desire had been fulfilled by the filial affection of the son of the good and virtuous and accomplished Earl of Ellesmere, whose features would be perpetuated in that place, of which he was with reason proud, by means of the admirable statue from the hands of one of this country's finest sculptors, which had been placed this week in the chancel of **Worsley Church**. Having alluded in graceful terms to the many virtues which adorn the character of the Dowager Countess of Ellesmere, he concluded by the hope that a worthy successor might never be wanting to support the honour and character of the noble house of Ellesmere.*

This is a clear reference to the installation of the memorial tomb in the church to the first Earl, at some point in the week leading up to the above ceremony.

Armagh Guardian – Friday 21 September **1860**

*Monument to the late Earl of Ellesmere. This elaborate and costly monument has been recently placed in **Worsley Church**, near Manchester, by direction of the present Earl of Ellesmere. The body of the tomb is of Caen stone, enriched with panels, foliated, and bordered and filled in with foliage, exceedingly well executed. Columns divide each side into three; these columns are of Devonshire marble, the capitals being of Caen stone. The plinth of the tomb is also of Devonshire marble. The slab upon the top is of the same material. An effigy of the deceased nobleman reposes on this. It is of statuary marble, and is a dignified*

personation of the late earl, in the robes of the order of the Garter. It is from the studio of Mr. Noble. The design of the monument is Mr. G. G. Scott, and the carving on it was executed by Mr. Philip, of Vauxhall bridge-road. - Builder.

The Illustrated London News on Saturday 15 December 1860 added the following:

The noble Earl is represented in the robes of the Garter,, with his hands crossed upon his breast; the face wears a calm but solemn aspect, being more that of a sound, prolonged sleep than of death, so happily is all suggestion of pain, weakness, or infirmity avoided in it. The carving in every part is of the most delicate finish, the flesh surfaces being full of softness, and the drapery, which is broadly treated, sufficiently defined to its rich texture.

1861 **Leeds Mercury** – Tuesday 5 February 1861

MARRIAGES

Same day, [31 January] at St. Mark's Church. Worsley, by the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, EDWIN, eldest son of Mr. SAMUEL BROADHURST, of Great Sankey, near Warrington, to BETSEY, fourth daughter of Mr. THOS. RIDYARD, Walkden Moor, Worsley.

1862 **The Daily News (London)** – Tuesday 30 September 1862.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE EARL of ELLESMERE - *On Saturday the remains of the late Earl of Ellesmere were conveyed to the tomb, amid the fervent grief of his family and friends, and the silent and respectful homage of a numerous body of tenantry and dependents, who felt that they had lost a considerate landlord and a benevolent patron. The obsequies were conducted as privately and unostentatiously as possible, but many thousands of persons residing in the locality assembled in and around the church at Worsley, where the ceremony was appointed to take place. The interior of the sacred edifice was hung with black cloth. The ladies of the congregation ordinarily attending the church were admitted in the morning, and occupied the aisles. They were attired in deep mourning. Shortly after eleven o'clock, the tolling of the muffled bell announced the preparation for the ceremony; about noon the funeral procession left the hall. As it entered the church, the organ pealed forth Dr. Calcott's beautiful trio "Forgive, blest shade, the tributary tear." The solemn and impressive service was read by the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, and the scene was a very affecting one, the whole congregation being moved to tears. As the body was conveyed from the church, the "Dead March" in Saul was played by Mr. Whittington, who officiated as organist. The churchyard throughout the whole of the ceremony was crowded, but a most decorous silence was maintained. The coffin, on the head of which was placed the earl's coronet, was deposited on a marble slab, immediately adjoining that on which the body of his illustrious father rests. After the ceremony the family retired to the hall, accompanied by the tenantry and servants. The widow of the deceased and the dowager countess were at the hall. The present earl, who is sixteen years of age, was at Eton when he received the intelligence of his father's death. It was stated that he would return again to his studies, and it is expected that during his minority the establishment at Worsley Hall will be broken up. The younger brother is only eight years of age. A muffled peal was rung on the bell of the Manchester Cathedral on the occasion of the funeral. [Manchester Guardian].*

1863

Manchester Courier - Saturday 12 December 1863

WORSLEY and ELLENBROOK. - *On Saturday evening the congregations of Ellenbrook and St. Mark's, Worsley, assembled in Ellenbrook Sunday School, to testify their attachment to the Rev. T. A. Morley, M.A., who has departed as curate for nine years, Mr. Morley having been appointed by the Bishop to the incumbency of St. George's, Charlestown. The testimonial consisted of a handsome gold watch, of the value of twenty guineas, bearing an appropriate inscription. The presentation was made by Mr. Henry S. Crir, of Booth Hall, the Rev. S. Beechey being prevented from attending, and was feelingly acknowledged. Teachers and scholars evinced their attachment three weeks ago, by presenting richly chased tea of the Louis Quatorze pattern, worth ten guineas. Both testimonials were supplied by Mr. Simmons, silversmith, St. Anns-square.*

1864

From *Changing Scene*, by H. T. Milliken:

It was at a parish meeting in 1864 that it was decided "to erect an inner porch to the south door in order to prevent the great draught and cold so generally felt in the church." (page 19)

1865

The Preston Chronicle – Saturday 20 May 1865

In an article entitled *Worsley and the Neighbourhood*, the journalist gives a full account of the history of the area and how things have changed since the construction of the canal. Writing from a vantage point at Worsley station, he stated: *From many points on this ancient shore may be seen a vast extent of flat country, far off hills, woods, villages, church steeples, and tall chimneys, not all smokeless. The scenery is not magnificent, but expansive, and varied enough to attract and charm. ... Just in the rear of the seat of Lord Ellesmere is Worsley Church, an edifice which cost about £20,000 and is an ornament to the country.*

1866

From *Changing Scene*, by H. T. Milliken:

And another meeting in 1866 decided to install gas jets to replace the candle lighting that had been in use for twenty-two years. Gas has been installed as early as 1861 but its use had been confined to the Ellesmere vault. (page 19)

The Chester Courant – Wednesday 2 May 1866.

FUNERAL OF THE DOWAGER COUNTESS OF ELLESMERE. - *The remains of the Countess Dowager of Ellesmere were on Tuesday, April 24th, deposited in the family vault, St. Mark's Church, Worsley. The deceased was the relict of Lord Francis Egerton, who was created in 1833 Lord Ellesmere, [in 1846] and at the time of her death was 63 years of age. The deceased countess had, together with her husband during his lifetime, been a constant friend and supporter of various public establishments in the district. It was under the auspices of the earl and countess that the parish church was built and endowed, and they afterwards built the personage and doubled their former endowment. The body of the deceased countess was brought from London on Monday night, and the funeral on Tuesday was conducted with as much privacy as could have been expected with regard to a lady of her large and*

general benevolence and liberality. The chief mourner was Captain the Hon. F. Egerton, the eldest son of the deceased, and there were also in attendance Viscount and Lady Enfield, the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, the Hon. A. Egerton, M.P. and Mrs Egerton.

1867 **Manchester Courier** - Thursday 11 July **1867**

*JUST Published, by request, price 2d., "The Responsibility of the Members of Trades' Unions ;" a Sermon, preached in **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**, June 23rd. by the **Rev. St. V. Beechey**, M.A, Incumbent of Worsley and Chaplain at Ellenbrook. Hale & Roworth, Manchester; Shuttleworth, Eccles; Fryer's, Worsley*

1868 In June **1868**, **Rev. St. V. Beechey** was nominated by the Bishop of Manchester to be an honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral and this was confirmed on 4th August at the Diocesan registry. He thereafter occasionally performed baptism and marriage ceremonies at the Cathedral, on one occasion officiating at 3 weddings on the same day [2 Nov. 1871].

1869 **Bolton Evening News** - Saturday 2 October **1869**

***HARVEST SERMONS.** - Harvest thanksgiving sermons were preached at Worsley Church, on Sunday last, and collections made for missionary purposes*

1870 **Salisbury and Winchester Journal** – Saturday 9 July **1870**

***The Bishop of Manchester on Family Bonds.** - The Bishop of Manchester, preaching at **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**, on Sunday, said that his opinion was that the greatest peril of England at the present moment was in the relaxation of family bonds between man and wife, between father and children, and between master and servant. A heathen poet, describing the course of degeneration and corruption which marked the age in which he lived, said the first step was breaking up and corrupting the sanctity of the nuptial bond, and from that came the whole tide of evil which made each succeeding generation more corrupt than that which went before. He did not think that the relation between parent and child and child and parent was now what it was when he was a boy, or was what it ought to be under the influence of Christian training with care and watchfulness. There was not that reverence that there ought to be on the part of the child. Less, it seemed to him, now than ever could we afford to dispense with what was called "the religious element" in education.*

1871 **DEATHS**

Liverpool Mercury - Tuesday 6 June **1871**

***JEFFRYES** - June 3, at Southport, aged 68, **Mr. John Jeffryes**, auctioneer, of Ormskirk and Manchester; deeply regretted by a large circle of friends. His remains will be interred at **Worsley Church**, Manchester, on Thursday morning next. (Friends will please accept this intimation.)*

Liverpool Mercury – Tuesday 1 August 1871

BARTON - July 27, suddenly, at Capel Curig, aged 51, **James Barton**, Esq., formerly of Mexico and latterly of Manchester. The funeral will leave Ordsall-lane station on Wednesday. the 2nd instant, at eleven a.m., for **Worsley Church**. (Friends will please accept this intimation.)

1872

Manchester Evening News - Tuesday 12 November 1872

At the Diocesan Registry, to-day, the Bishop of Manchester, on the nomination of the Right Honourable the Earl of Ellesmere, the patron, duly licensed the Honourable and Rev. Constantine Charles Henry (Phipps), **Earl of Mulgrave**, to the perpetual curacy of **St. Mark, Worsley**, void by the cession of the Rev. Canon Beechey, the last incumbent there.



The Sun & Central Press - Thursday 14 November 1872

THE PROSPECTS OF THE CHURCH.

The Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave**, eldest son of the Marquis of Normanby, has just been inducted as perpetual curate of **St. Mark's Church, Worsley**. The Bishop of Manchester, in an address on the occasion, said though Providence seemed to point out for another destiny, and what the world called a much higher one, the **Earl of Mulgrave** had thought it to be the highest honour that could be held by mortal man, to be a herald of the Message of Christ. He had come amongst them with an earnest desire to do his duty, following the call of God's providence - a call dictated by circumstances of nature and affinity. Alluding to the position of the Church of England, his lordship expressed his belief that she would be maintained as God's Church in this land though perils seemed to threaten her on every side, if her ministers one and all devoted themselves earnestly to the discharge of the functions of their great office. That day he had been asked to become a member of a Church defence association, and his reply was that he did not desire to be a member of any such human organisation; that he believed God Himself could and would defend His Church if His Church was faithful and loyal to Him; and that the truest and surest defence in times of trial was for every one of her ministers and everyone who professed to belong to the Church to endeavour to do their duty faithfully and earnestly wherever they happened to be placed. So he asked them to welcome their new pastor, and give him their confidence, sympathy, and co-operation in every good work that he desired to set forward. **Lord Mulgrave** had brought with him a good name from the diocese in which he had been working hitherto, and he (the bishop) did not think that things would go back in Worsley under his ministrations.

Another early innovation of Lord Mulgrave's was the introduction of a robed choir to St. Mark's in 1873. This was followed shortly afterwards by the introduction of a parish magazine, in which he was able to explain his changes and his future ambitions for the parish. ...

... [The parishioners' contributions towards costs] had earlier been evident when the £30 required for the new surplices for the choir had been obtained 'without effort or difficulty ...

... A church Improvement Fund had also been opened, and one of the first calls on the Fund came in 1873 when £31 had to be found for the purpose of connecting the gas main to the south door and for the provision of two lamp standards. Shortly afterwards a further £25 had to be found for gas lights at the west door. (page 21)

From the first **Parish Magazine**: January 1873

MY DEAR FRIENDS

*It will be necessary for me to explain the reason for my wishing to introduce a **Monthly Magazine** into our parish, inasmuch as the usage is so common, both in neighbouring parishes and in parishes generally throughout England; that our being without one here is rather a singularity, than our introduction of one, a novelty. I would wish you, however, to understand that the success of our Magazine depends upon the number of our subscribers and readers. ... Incidents of local interest, in connection with this parish, will be very gratefully received by me, or by Mr. Peter Nightingale, jun., Lady Hill, Worsley, who has kindly consented to assist me with the local portion of our Magazine; and these will be inserted from time to time, according to the space that is at our disposal. All contributions must, however, be sent in not later than the 22nd of every month.*

*... Some changes that I have made since my coming amongst you may perhaps have caused a little misapprehension in some minds, because they were "novelties", I am sure for no other reason, since there has been nothing done in the way of alteration of the Services, or of their increase, which my predecessor and friend, Canon Beechey, did not himself thoroughly approve of when I first told him of my intentions regarding my future work at Worsley. ... I hope soon to be assisted by two brother workers, but I am very anxious to gather round me a good band of **lay helpers**, who will strengthen our hands by rendering us assistance in our labours. Several ladies have already kindly consented to act as District Visitors, but our numbers are by no means complete. I am anxious, as soon as an occasion offers, to form a "**Guild**" for the men and young men of this parish, by which means I hope, under God, to obtain a little more unity and reality amongst us. ... Our **Sunday Schools** are in want of teachers, and our schools themselves, of reality, we are not doing in them the work we ought to be doing, or even are professing to do. ... I shall be both grateful and glad to receive names of teachers for the Sunday Schools of Edgefold, Roe Green, or Worsley. ... I shall be always grateful, if in cases of extreme sickness, I am sent for, and not allowed to learn first of a parishioner's death by the presentment at the Church gate of the body for burial. ... It surely cannot be a very hard matter for anyone who is really wishful to help on the work of God ... to send word to the Vicarage that the presence of the clergyman is required at some particular spot by some particular person.*

*I am desirous, should it meet the approval generally of the congregation of St. Mark's. to have some day a **surpliced choir**, but beyond this, and the infusion of a spirit of more general co-operation with me in the work of my Master and my Lord, I know of nothing that I do not feel I now possess.*

*As your affectionate friend and Servant in Christ,
Mulgrave*

The Vicarage, Epiphany, 1873

From ***Changing Scene*** – by H. T. Milliken

The year 1873 was eventful in another respect. Following a Faculty that had been granted in 1872, the peal of bells at St. Mark's was increased from three to eight at a cost of £583. Three of the new bells, ordered from John Taylor of Loughborough, were the gift of the Third Earl of Ellesmere as a thanksgiving for the birth of his son, Lord Brackley. The two smaller bells, costing £129, were paid for by subscriptions from the tenantry and parishioners. The bells were dedicated on Ascension Day, 1873, and to celebrate the occasion a company of ringers from Bolton Parish Church executed a peal of Grandsire triples – the Worsley ringers not being accustomed to change ringing. (page 21)

Manchester Evening News – Wednesday 21 May 1873

Opening of the New Bells at Worsley Church. - *The formal opening of the new bells which have been presented - three of them by the Earl of Ellesmere, and two by the parishioners - to the Church of St. Mark, Worsley, is fixed for to-morrow (Ascension Day), when there will be a special dedication service. The bells will be rung for the opening at 12.30 noon, by the ringers from the Parish Church, Bolton. The peal to be rung is taken from Mr. W. Shipway's "Campanologia."*

1874 ***Bolton Evening News*** - Monday 29 June 1874

FUNERAL OF JOSEPH EVANS.

On Saturday, the remains of the late Joseph Evans, botanist and herbalist, were interred at St. Mark's, Worsley, amid signs of universal regret. About 200 botanists and Oddfellows walked in front of the coffin, which was carried members of the last-named order with which the deceased was connected, to the church, a distance of two miles. The Rev. John Herbert, M.A., vicar of St. Paul's, Walkden Moor, impressively performed the funeral ceremony.

From ***Changing Scene*** – by H. T. Milliken

There was a call on the Organ Fund in 1874 for £20 to repair the organ, and to add a Bassoon Bass to the Tenor C of the clarinet. (page 21)

1875 ***Hour*** – Friday 1 January 1875

AN ASSISTANT-CURATE, Priest, WANTED for the parish of ***Worsley*** near Manchester. Stipend £140. - Address Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, Worsley, Manchester.

Bolton Evening News – Monday 14 June 1875

INAUGURATION OF THE EVANS MEMORIAL AT WORSLEY.

*On Saturday, the public inauguration of the Evans' memorial took place in St. Mark's churchyard, Worsley. The monument, which is situated near the west end of the church, is composed of polished red granite, and stands 9 feet high, on a polished red granite plinth, 2ft. 10in, square, upon which stands a moulded base, above this base is the plain part of the monument for the inscriptions, of which there are four, one on each side, viz., on the east side, "Joseph Evans, botanist, Boothstown, born July 5th, 1803, died June 23rd, 1874;" west side, "He bringeth forth grass for cattle, and green herb for the service of men " - Psalm civ. 14;" north side "This monument was erected by public subscription, as a tribute of respect and esteem;" south side, Plants I love and cherish, in them the wisdom and goodness of the Creator are manifest." Over these lettered plates is a beautiful rich moulding, from the top of which the monument is carried from square to an octagonal form, from which rises a spirelet forming the upper part the monument. This spirelet is ornamented at its base with four gablets, and terminates with an ornamental cross. The whole is encircled by plain, blue stone coping, and planted all round with flowers, the design on the east side being "Faith, hope, and charity." The monument was supplied by Mr. Samuel Derbyshire, of Worsley. At about four o'clock the memorial committee, accompanied a large number of subscribers and friends, proceeded in procession from the Court House to the churchyard, and after inspecting the monument entered the church, where the usual evening service was performed, and the Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave delivered an address appropriate to the occasion.***

[A longer report, including a short biography of the man and his work, appeared in the Preston Chronicle on Saturday 19 June 1875].

The Witney Express - Thursday 4 November 1875

Mr. R. F. COULES, New College, Oxon., organist to the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, Worsley, Manchester, and Fellow of the College of Organists, London, has passed his first examination for the degree of Bachelor in Music, in the University of Oxford. Mr. Coules is a son of the late Mr. H. Coules, who was organist to the Bishop of Ely, when rector of Kempford.

1876

Wigan Observer – Saturday 6 May 1876

*Crowning of the May Queen at Worsley. On Monday afternoon, in a field near Worsley Church, a deeply interesting spectacle was witnessed in the crowning of May Queen. There were hundreds of persons present, and the Hon. and Rev. the **Earl of Mugrave**, vicar of Worsley, is to be congratulated on providing such a profitable recreation. The scholars and teachers of Worsley, Ellenbrook, and Boothstown Sabbath Schools were assembled in an enclosure, and when the procession of the queen's attendants appeared, the strains the of the Worsley military band added greatly to the charm. The large concourse of persons were on the highest pitch of excitement. In due time the May queen appeared seated in a gaily decorated palanquin, carried on the shoulders of fresh looking youths. Ascending a throne, splendidly upholstered and decorated, the Countess of Ellesmere advanced, and a floral crown having been handed her, she, in the most charming manner possible, performed the duty of the day, saying "Ada Berry, I crown thee Queen of May." The utterance of those words by the Countess was a signal for a load burst of cheering, again and again renewed, and as Miss Ada*

Berry, a lovely child, beautifully attired, remained on the throne, the observed of all observers, a picture was presented that baffles prosy composition to describe. The proceedings concluded with dance around the May-pole, and, though the weather was not the most propitious, still all departed to their homes highly pleased with their visit to Worsley on the merry May-day.

1877 *Manchester Times* – Saturday 5 May **1877**

WORSLEY. *About 6,000 people witnessed the crowning of the May Queen at Worsley, on Tuesday. The scholars of Worsley Church and its branches, to the number of 1,000, were present, and out of these had been chosen 200 Maypole dancers, and those who acted as body-guards, archers, shepherds, &c. The trades of the district were very well represented by the male scholars. The proceedings were under the management of the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, and with the exception of the march past of the Queen (prevented by the spectators breaking through the barriers) the programme was well carried out. The pole was beautifully decorated, and an artistic mound, surmounted by a throne and covered in with shrubbery, was erected under the superintendence of Mr. Upjohn, of Worsley Hall, for the crowning of the May Queen.*

1878 *London Evening Standard* – Thursday 26 September **1878**

MARRIAGES: **MARTIN – WHITTLE.** *Sept. 19, at St. Mark's, Worsley, by the Hon. and Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, vicar, assisted by the Rev. Charles Heath, B.A., vicar of Walkden, and the Rev. J. Cater, curate of Worsley, Dr. William Young Martin, of 'The Limes', Walkden, to Sarah Elizabeth, only child of William Whittle, Esq., of 'Park House', Worsley. No cards.*

1879 *The Globe* – Thursday 7 August **1879**

CHURCH NEWS. *The Rev. Acton Windeyer Sillitoe, M.A., consular chaplain at Darmstadt, has accepted the offer of the new bishopric of New Westminster, in British Columbia. Mr. Sillitoe is a graduate of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and was ordained the Bishop of Lichfield in 1869. He was curate of Brierley Hill, Staffordshire, from 1869 to 1871; from 1871 to 1873 he was curate in charge of All Saints Mission District, Wolverhampton: and from 1873 to 1876 he was curate of St. Mark's, Worsley, under the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, and had charge of the Donative Chapel at Ellenbrook. Prior to his appointment at Hesse Darmstadt, he was chaplain at Geneva for a short time.*

1880 *The Manchester Courier* - Saturday 22 May **1880**

The Bishop of Manchester at Worsley. *On Monday the Right Rev. Dr. Fraser, Bishop of Manchester, preached at St. Mark's, Worsley, in aid of the funds of that church. The sacred edifice was filled to overflowing. The font, communion table, and the recesses of the windows in the Ellesmere Chapel were decorated with a number of beautiful flowers. His Lordship preached from the text, "If ye be led the Spirit." He said that when they found people doing something which to their consciences was not quite right and square they got rid of their uncomfortable reflections by saying, "I know it is not quite right, I know it is dishonest, but*

everybody does it; I cannot afford to be better than my fellow-men, and, if I do not do such things, I shall not be anywhere in the race for wealth." No man, he said, who was being led by the Spirit of God would allow himself to say this thing for a single moment.

1881

It was reported in the Church Magazine for **June** that the Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave** has adopted the Sarum Usage for the sequence of Colours at the church. Furthermore, a very valuable piece of lace had been presented to Lord Mulgrave for the altar frontals by a member of the congregation.

Hyde and Glossop Weekly News – Saturday 17 September **1881**

SERIOUS FIRE AT AN ORGAN FACTORY. *On Monday night a fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Alexander Young and Sons. organ builders, 27 and 29. Eldon-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. The works were closed at six p.m and the fire was discovered by a man passing along the street. The burning had originated on the ground floor in the flue connected with the beating apparatus. which is in the basement. An alarm was given, and Mr. Superintendent Tozer, with the whole of the brigade from the central fire station, reached the works about twenty minutes to nine. The flames were got under by about ten o'clock. Serious damage was done, the roof and upper floor being destroyed. and considerable injury being done to the second storey. An organ in course of construction for **Worsley Church** and four or five second-hand instruments were consumed, together with a large quantity of valuable timber. The damage is estimated at between 1,300 and 2,000.*

The Bolton Evening News – Tuesday 11 October **1881**

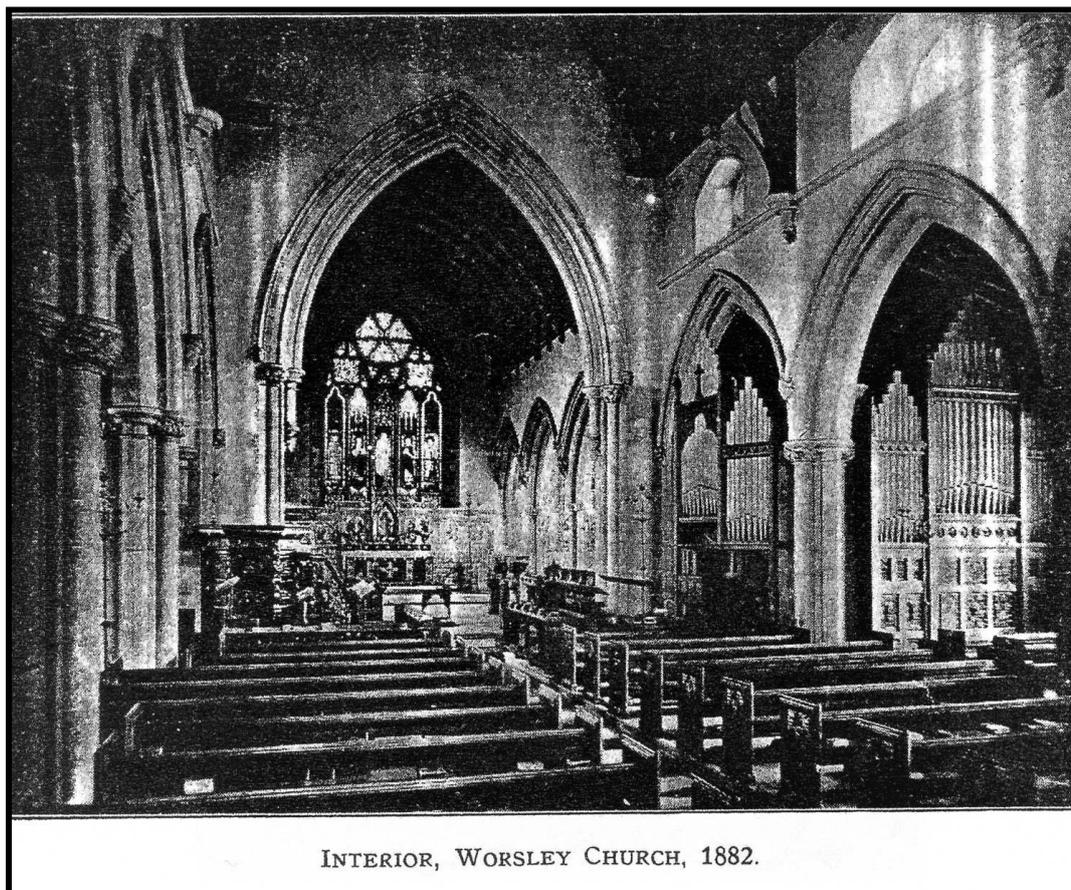
*The Earl of Ellesmere is giving a new and handsome oak case of Gothic design for the new organ which is being built by Messrs. Young and Co. for **Worsley parish church**. The instrument is expected to be ready in November, and will cost about £800.*

The Manchester Courier - Monday 21 November **1881**

OPENING OF NEW ORGAN WORSLEY CHURCH. *Yesterday the new organ built for this church was dedicated to service of God by the vicar, the **Earl of Mulgrave**, and was immediately afterwards used for the first time to accompany the service. Builders of this splendid instrument (Messrs. A. Young and Sons, of this city) are to be congratulated on having supplied the parishioners of Worsley with as fine an organ as any village church can ever wish to own. The organ is one of exquisite purity, mellowness of tone, delicacy of touch, and possesses also remarkable fullness of harmony. The organist of the church, Mr. R. F. Coules, Fellow of the College of Organists, has long been desirous of possessing an organ of greater purity and expression than the one just removed, and we understand he has taken unusual interest in the work as it approached completion. The parishioners have provided nearly sufficient funds for defraying the cost of the new organ, the Earl of Ellesmere bearing the cost of the case. The entire cost of the organ is £635. Its position is exactly opposite to that of the old organ, and presents an imposing view towards the north and south as it fills up the chancel end of the south aisle. It is well known that the eminent organ builders acquire a name for certain peculiarities of tone in their respective instruments, a mannerism which organists are accustomed to recognise*

immediately they hear any instrument played upon. This feature is likely to appear in the Worsley organ in a marked degree. At morning prayer yesterday morning there was a crowded congregation. As the choir advanced from the robing-room at the western entrances to their stalls they paused for few minutes in the middle of the nave while the vicar offered the form of dedication of the organ for the service of God, the whole the clergy, choir, and congregation standing all the time. The form of dedication commenced by the vicar saying "In name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." The dedication prayer was then offered, and the first sound of the organ was in accompanying the choir to the "Amen," which was done with nearly the full power of the organ, and produced marked effect on the listeners. The 150th psalm was then chanted with full effect, the varied accompaniment to the jubilant expressions of this fine Psalm on the organ had a good effect, and the volume of sound seemed to fill every part of the church. There was a full choral rendering of the service, this mode being now much followed in many churches as best fitted for festivals of the church or on any occasion of special thanksgiving. The Vicar intoned the prayers, the Rev. W. H. Baynes, the curate, read the lessons; and the Rev. Canon Beechey, M.A., vicar of Hilgav in Norfolk, and for many years vicar of Worsley, preached. The text he chose was Genesis 4, 21, "And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ." At the close of the service Mr. Coules played the "Hallelujah Chorus" in which the power of the organ was fully displayed.

1882



INTERIOR, WORSLEY CHURCH, 1882.

From *The Parish Magazine* - 1882

Considerable improvements have been made in the chapel during the last three months. Lord Ellesmere has lighted the chapel with gas, in place of the old oil lamps. This change has greatly improved the chapel in appearance, comfort and

usefulness. The congregation subscribed to make another alteration, which has also been very beneficial, viz. the raising of the floor in the choir and chancel by 14 inches. Formerly, the choir seats were on the same level as the pews, and the chancel was only about six inches higher. This was not good for either seeing or hearing, and not in accordance with the general plan on which churches are now arranged and which is found more conducive to reverence. The pew levels are now arranged as in nearly all churches. The chancel has been recarpeted (the old one being quite rotten), and a new altar-cloth and altar-linen have been bought.

1883

The Belfast Telegraph, Monday 5 February 1883.

PANTOMIME BY A REV. EARL

On Thursday evening a pantomime, adapted by the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, entitled "Humpty Dumpty and Little Boy Blue," was performed in the Courthouse, Worsley, before a full audience, including the Hon. A. F. Egerton, M.P., and Mrs. Egerton, the Misses Egerton, and the local clergy and gentry. The chief feature of the pantomime was the introduction of the Wardley Hall ghost. Wardley Hall is an ancient moated hall in the parish, and contains the skull of an unknown person, which is kept in a box. This and the stories associated with it formed the basis Mr. Roby's tradition of the "Skull House." The representation was much appreciated by the audience. The object of the entertainment was to raise funds for the alterations in the choir of St. Mark's Church, Worsley, and the parts were taken by the choir men and choir boys.

Manchester Evening News – Friday 29 June 1883

The Proposed Alterations at Worsley Church. - Last evening a public meeting of the congregation and parishioners of **St. Mark's, Worsley**, was held in the Court House to consider the proposed alterations in the above church, which include the erection of a north chapel or organ chamber, the removal of the choir stalls and organ, and the repavement of the chancel, plans for which have been prepared by Mr. Freeman, of Bolton. **Lord Mulgrave** presided, and stated that the proposed alterations would cost £2,200 and increased accommodation would be given for 140 persons. To raise the necessary funds it was proposed to hold a four days bazaar in the girls' schoolroom, which would probably be opened by Lady Ellesmere on the 25th of July. The boys' playground, which adjoins the Cross Fields, would be turned into a recreation ground, and old English games would be provided on the evening of each day of the bazaar. On the Saturday following (the 28th) there would be coronation of the Rose Queen. The grounds would be lighted by Chinese lanterns. On the motion of Mr. Thomas Jackson, seconded by Mr. Robert Timperley, the suggestions of his lordship were agreed to, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Lancaster Gazette – Wednesday 19 September 1883

The Worsley Yeomanry at Church. - On Sunday morning the Worsley troop of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry attended divine service in the Worsley Church. They were in command of Lord Ellesmere, and marched in uniform from Worsley New Hall. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. W. Burridge, rector of Catmore, Kent. The Hon. A. T. Egerton, M. P., was also present. After service Lord Ellesmere entertained the troop at dinner at the Grapes Hotel.

The Manchester Evening News, Wednesday 10 October 1883.

...Since its production [Humpty Dumpty and Little Boy Blue] last winter, the piece has been revised and improved Lord Mulgrave, and a second act added. The music was by Mr. R. F. Coules, F.CO. The performance will be resumed every evening this week, excepting Friday.

1884

The Manchester Courier – Tuesday 1 July 1884.

St. Mark's, Worsley. - *In connection with the alterations at this church, Lord Mulgrave proposes having a Rose Queen Coronation ceremony on the afternoon of Saturday, August 2nd. There will be a fête of the nature of an old country fair on the evenings extending from July to August (Bank Holiday).*

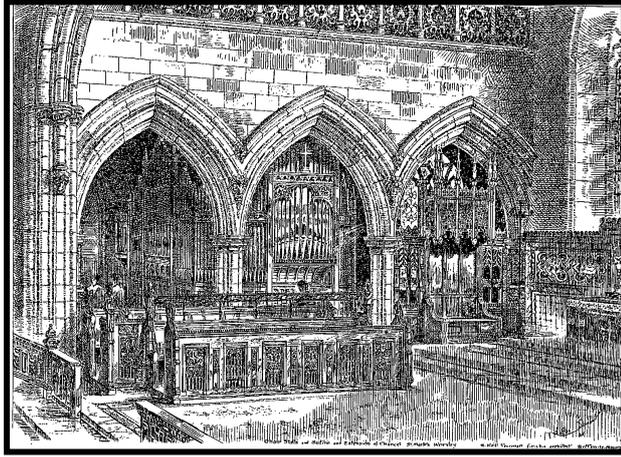
Leigh Chronicle – Friday 8 August 1884

Rose Queen Coronation at Worsley. - *For a few days the village of Worsley has presented an animated appearance, and has been the scene of several fêtes. A sale of work was opened on Thursday afternoon, by Lady Algernon Egerton, and sports were held in the afternoon, and the other days of the week. The object of the festivities was to raise a sum of £600 to clear off the balance of the cost of a new organ chapel in **St. Mark's Church, Worsley.** On Saturday afternoon the Rose Queen coronation and children's fête were the attractions. This is the second year that a coronation of this kind has taken place at Worsley, and it bids fair to become an annual event. The whole of the arrangements were under the superintendence of the Very **Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave.** Although the sky bore a very threatening aspect in the morning, towards noon the sun shone brightly. There were between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators present, and amongst these may be mentioned the Hon. and Lady Algernon Egerton, the Misses Egerton, and the Hon. Francis and Thomas Egerton, Lord Hervey Phipps, Viscount Brackley, Capt. Heaton, Mr. J. Laycock; the Rev. H. R. Hopwood and the Rev. W. G. Harland, curates of Worsley; the Rev. W. H. Baynes, vicar of Warton; the Rev. R. Hosgood, curate of St. Luke's, Cheetham Hill; the Rev. J. H. Watmough, curate of Ellenbrook; and the Rev. R. Harland, curate of Walkden. The queen was Miss Hester Pollitt, of the Crescent, Worsley, and nearly 300 children, who represented various characters, took part in the procession. The Worsley Brass Band headed the procession, which marched round the lawn, and shortly afterwards the ceremony crowning the queen was performed by Lady Algernon Egerton, the band playing the "National Anthem." Dressing the May-pole was the next item, and after this the procession reformed and marched out of the field. In the evening dramatic performances were given in the schoolroom attached to the church, after which there was a brilliant display of fireworks, the grounds being beautifully illuminated by some hundreds of coloured lights; two rows of Japanese lanterns were placed in front of the throne, and the whole of the wood close by was illuminated with coloured fire.*

The Manchester Courier - Saturday 23 August 1884

Alterations at St. Mark's Church, Worsley.

These works, now completed, were undertaken with a view of providing better accommodation both for choir and congregation. A new aisle has been introduced, corresponding in detail and general treatment with the Ellesmere Chapel on the south side of the chancel. It will be used as organ chamber and choir vestry, and will also give a number of additional sittings. The removal of the organ from its position at the end of the south aisle, and of the choir stalls into the



chancel has likewise resulted an appreciable improvement both as regards accommodation and appearance. The whole of the woodwork is in oak, the screen, sedilia and choir stalls being elaborately carved, and bearing emblems the Passion and other ecclesiastical devices. It may be mentioned that the choir stalls were exhibited at the Building Trades Exhibition, held in

Manchester last year. The floor of the chancel is of ceramic Mosaic of appropriate character. Messrs. Statham and Sons, of Pendleton, were the contractors for the whole of the work, of which the cost is about £2,000. The carving was executed Messrs. Earp and Hobbs, of London and Manchester; the Mosaic flooring by Mr. Ludwig Oppenheimer, Manchester; and the stone work by Mr. Darbyshire, of Worsley. The designs were supplied by **Mr. R. K. Freeman**, architect, Bolton-le-Moors, who also superintended the carrying out of the extensions. The church will be re-opened to-morrow, when Canon Hoyle is announced to preach in the morning and evening.

From *Changing Scene* – by H. T. Milliken

*The alterations were extensive and involved the taking down of the chancel north wall and the erection in its place of a choir aisle and organ vestry. In addition, the singers' benches were removed, and the Ellesmere stalls were transferred from the chancel to the private chapel in order to make room for new choir stalls designed by **R. Knill Freeman**, a Bolton architect. ... (page 22)*

... During the alterations the sanctuary and the chancel floors were repaved with the present marble and mosaic tiles, and a new marble pace was added to the altar. The staircase to the pulpit was also altered, and evidence suggests that the oak sedilia to the north of the altar was installed at the same time. (page 23)

1885 *Manchester Courier* – Saturday 17 October **1885**

*On Sunday the annual harvest thanksgiving services were held at **Worsley Church**, the sermon, morning and evening, being preached by the Rev. Allen Whitworth, vicar of St. John's, Hammersmith, London, and the offertories were given in aid of St. Mary's Homo for Penitents, Manchester.*

1886 *Manchester Courier* - Saturday 26 June **1886**

***St. Mark's, Worsley.**- By permission of the Vicar, the Hon. and Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave**, a retreat for clergy will held at St. Mark's Vicarage, Worsley, near Manchester, commencing on Monday, July 12th, and continuing to the 16th. The "retreat" will be conducted by the Rev. John Wylde, M.A., Vicar of St. Saviour's Church, Leeds, who is well-known as a successful mission preacher.*

Manchester Courier – Saturday 17 August 1886

*The Hon. Alfred Egerton, M.P. for the Eccles Division of South-East Lancashire, will shortly inaugurate a three-days fête which has been organised in connection with the parish of **St. Mark, Worsley**. The movement, which will be under the superintendence of the Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave**, and the other parochial clergy, is under the patronage of the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, &c. An active interest is shown by the parish of Worsley in the missionary work of the distant diocese of New Westminster, British Columbia, the Bishop of which (the Right Rev. Dr. Sillitoe) was formerly curate of Worsley, with charge of St. Mary's Chapel, Ellenbrook, in that parish.*

Manchester Courier – Saturday 21 August 1886

***St. Mark's Worsley.**- The village of Worsley was en fête on Thursday on the occasion of the opening of a bazaar, to liquidate debt incurred by the erection of an organ chamber and the execution of other alterations in connection with the church of **St. Mark, Worsley**. The interior of the girls' school was well filled and tastefully arranged with ornamental and useful articles, usually seen at bazaars, and other attractions, indoor and outdoor, had been provided, and will be continued during the three days the bazaar remains open. The Hon. Alfred Egerton, M.P., had been announced to perform the opening ceremony, but owing to the assembling of Parliament he was unable to be present. In the honourable gentleman's absence, Lord Henry Phipps, brother to the Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave**, vicar of the parish, declared the bazaar open, and in doing so expressed regret at his sister, the Countess of Ellesmere, being prevented from attending in consequence of illness. His lordship hoped there would be no difficulty in raising the £380 required for the extinction of the debt, and he was sure the handsome articles offered for sale would realise that amount. The Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, who followed, said he was sincerely thankful to the ladies and children who had contributed so largely to making the bazaar so pretty and so successful, and although it was possible for something to be said as to the propriety of holding bazaars, yet he considered they were the only means of bringing out or extracting from the people that sympathy for their church which was known to exist. Among the other ladies and gentlemen present at the opening ceremony were Viscount Brackley, Lady Henry Phipps (who presides at one of the stalls), - the Hon. Mrs. Algernon Egerton and the Misses Egerton, the Rev. H. R. Hopwood. Rev. W. G. Harland, Rev. Robert Harland, Mr. T. Grundy, Mr. R. J. Williams. Mr. R. Timperley, and others. Each evening the bazaar remains open there will be dancing in the grounds attached to the school, and a musical and dramatic entertainment, entitled "The Orphan Slave," will be given in the schoolroom, by the choristers of St. Mark's Church. The proceedings will close with a grand display of fireworks.*

From **The Parish Magazine** – September 1886

***The Vicar**, in the absence of Lord Ellesmere, opened the new **Ellesmere Bowling Green**, adjoining the Worsley Cricket Ground. His lordship expressed the hope that the Bowling Green might be successful, and he had no doubt this would be the case if the committee adhered to the bye-laws which were framed to provide strictly for temperance in language, conduct and taste. A resolution was passed with acclamation: 'That **Lord Mulgrave** be desired to convey to Lord Ellesmere the thanks of this assembly on behalf of the district for his gift of a Bowling Green, and to express to him their confident expectation that his lordship's*

kindness will meet with the return most agreeable to him by the continual evidence of the general use of the green as a means of sober and healthful recreation'.

1887

From *The Parish Magazine* - April 1887

*There was a very lamentable occurrence at Worsley on Wednesday, March 16th. A little boy, named **Samuel Higginbottom**, of Roe Green, was drowned in a pond between the Vicarage and Roe Green, on his way from school, at mid-day. The little fellow had ventured, in company with other boys, on some ice, which proved treacherous. We are sorry to say that we cannot, with one marked exception - that of a plucky boy, who did all he could to effect a rescue - comment the bigger boys who witnessed the accident. Perhaps it would be as well to say here what steps are usually recommended to be taken to restore animation in cases of drowning, as we fear complete ignorance of what ought to be done prevailed on this sad occasion.*

[The article in the magazine then went on to explain the steps and measures to be taken in cases of drowning, stressing two points in particular: to restore breathing, and then circulation and warmth. Samuel was buried by Lord Mulgrave on 19th March. He was said to be 10 years old. Samuel had been baptised at St. Mark's on 2 December 1877, the son of Samuel and Martha].

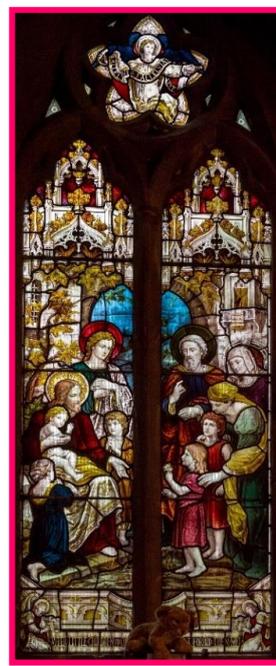
***Manchester Courier** – Wednesday 1 June 1887*

***THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.** In the parish of **St. Mark's, Worsley**, it has been decided to hold the following celebrations in commemoration of the jubilee year of the reign of Her Majesty :—**Monday, June 20**, tea party and entertainment to every parishioner whose age is about Her Majesty's - 68 years and upwards - given by the Countess of Ellesmere ; **Tuesday, June 21**, by the kind permission of the Earl of Ellesmere the beautiful gardens and ground of Worsley Hall will be thrown open to the employees of the Ellesmere and Bridgewater estates, tea in the church school, illumination of Warke dam, and a grand display of fireworks ; **Thursday, June 23**, tea party to children attending the day schools the parish, ascent of fire balloons, and other outdoor amusements; **Saturday, June 25**, grand temperance demonstration in large marquee, to be addressed by eminent speakers. In addition to the foregoing celebrations, special thanksgiving services will be held in the parish church, a large marquee being provided in case the church is crowded.*

[N.B. Jubilee Day was 20 June 1887]

From *Changing Scene* – by H. T. Milliken

Although the beauty of the church had been enhanced by the alterations to the chancel and its services had been enriched by the increased use of music, severe draught and cold continued to worry the congregation. An inner porch to the south door and a screen had already been erected but in 1887 a new screen across the nave, in a position where the seating ended, was installed to keep those elements at bay. (page 23)



St. Mark's Church, Worsley.- *A beautiful stained glass window has just been placed in the east end of the Parish Church. Worsley, to perpetuate the memory of Peter and Rebecca Rasbotham, former residents in the locality and worshippers at the church. The window is emblematic of Jesus Christ blessing little children, and the bottom are the words, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not."*

From *The Parish Magazine* – November 1888

The **Earl of Mulgrave** [Vicar, 1872-1890] spent three winters in San Remo, Italy, for health reasons (1884 to 1886). In October 1888, he became ill again and was strongly advised to move from Worsley to convalesce. He chose to go to Connemara, co. Galway, to stay at Kylemore Castle. The castle was the home of Mitchell Henry, a business tycoon, surgeon and politician who originated from Manchester. The Parish Magazine announced it as follows:

The Vicar has been ordered by Sir William Jenner to leave Worsley for three months, and to give up all work. The cause is not any return of delicacy of the chest, but merely that his general health is out of order, and for the establishment of health and strength Sir William thinks that such rest is now absolutely necessary.

The Bishop of Manchester wrote to agree to his absence for three months.

[Sir William Jenner was a hard-working, gifted and ambitious doctor. During his time at the London Fever Hospital (for infectious diseases), he showed that typhus and typhoid were two distinct diseases, with differing causes. He was a major supporter for the foundation of the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, where he became its first physician. He only gave up his position when he was appointed physician to Queen Victoria in 1862, following his treatment of Prince Albert throughout his fatal encounter with typhoid in 1861. He also attended the Prince of Wales when he too contracted typhoid ten years later. For his services to the royal family, he was created a Baronet in 1868. Mulgrave returned to the parish on Wednesday 20 February 1889].

The Red Frontal

The *Church Magazine* of May 1889 recorded that:

On Easter Day, (21 April) Holy Communion @ 6.30 (209 communicants), 7.30 (61), 8.15 (26), 67 after Morning Prayer. "Considering the scattered homes of the communicants and the distances from the church, this was considered not to be unsatisfactory".

Church beautifully decorated for Easter. "Altar vested in its new superfrontal of rich Sarum red velvet, exquisitely worked in scroll patterns of passion flowers, was exceedingly effective". The Vicar presented the superfrontal. "It forms part of a new Altar cloth of Sarum red velvet, which is to be ready by Whitsun-Day".

In the following month, June 1889, it also reported:

"The new Altar cloth, the gift of the Vicar, will be used on Whitsun Day". (9 June)

ILLNESS OF THE MARQUIS OF NORMANBY.

*We learn that the Marquis of Normanby is lying seriously ill at his residence at Brighton. The Marquis has spent several winters in New Zealand, but was prevented from undertaking the voyage last year through a severe attack of bronchitis. The Marquis is the father of the Countess of Ellesmere and the Rev. the **Earl of Mulgrave**, Worsley, and his lordship is at present staying with him at Brighton.*

The Daily Telegraph - Friday 4 April 1890

DEATH OF LORD NORMANBY

*We regret to announce the death of the Marquis of Normanby, whose serious illness was mentioned a day or two ago. His lordship, who died last night at Brighton, at 8.30, and was the second marquis, was born July 23 1819. He sat as M.P. for Scarborough from 1847 to 1851, and from 1852 to 1858. He was comptroller of her Majesty's household in 1851-52, and treasurer from 1853 to 1858, when he was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, which position he occupied until 1883. Subsequently Lord Normanby became successively Governor of Queensland, New Zealand, and Victoria, relinquishing the latter position in 1884. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire. In 1844 he married Laura (who died in 1885), daughter of the late Captain Robert Russell, R.N., and leaves two sons and two daughters. He is succeeded in the title by his eldest son, the **Earl of Mulgrave**, who was born in 1848.*

The Manchester Courier - Thursday 10 July 1890

*St. Mark's, Worsley. The **Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson**, Curate of All Saints', Margaret-street. London, has been offered by the Earl of Ellesmere, and has accepted, the living of **St. Mark's, Worsley**, which will next week become vacant by the resignation of the **Marquis of Normanby**.*

Leigh Chronicle – Friday 18 July 1890

FAREWELL OF THE REV. THE MARQUIS OF NORMANBY. *The Rev. the Marquis of Normanby, who has been Vicar of St. Mark's, Worsley, for a period tending over nearly eighteen years, took leave of his parishioners on Sunday. No set farewell sermon was prepared, but his lordship taking advantage of the annual school sermons, preached to large congregations morning and evening. At the evening service he alluded to his forthcoming departure. His lordship, as already announced, is about to leave Worsley to take charge of All Saints' Church, San Remo, where his brother Lord William Phipps, died some time ago. His absence from the parish where he has so zealously laboured for so long a period, will be deeply regretted, and already the parishioners have taken some steps to perpetuate his good work, and his revered name, there. As his lordship declined to receive any personal present from the congregation, it has been decided, in accordance with his wishes, to fill the west window of the nave of St. Mark's Church with stained glass, in commemoration of his past work. With*

this object a committee, with the Hon. Algernon Egerton, the vicar's warden, at its head, has been formed, and the estimated cost of the window is £200. ...

[In a valedictory address to the parishioners, issued through the parish magazine, the Marquis wrote of his deep attachment to the church and the parish, and expressed the hope that the parishioners would work with the new incumbent to make his work easy and happy, and to make him feel most welcome, concluding with the words "This must be accepted as my farewell. I hope that we may often meet again, as will be always a real joy to to renew acquaintances and strengthen friendships which have become so interwoven with my life. - Your affectionate friend and pastor in Christ Jesus, Normanby."]

The Manchester Courier - Wednesday 30 July 1890

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. F. K. HODGKINSON

*Diocese of Manchester. - At the Diocesan Registry, yesterday, the Bishop of Manchester, on the nomination of the Earl of Ellesmere, licensed the **Rev. Frederick Karlake Hodgkinson, M.A.**, to the perpetual curacy of St. Mark's, Worsley.*

1891

The Manchester Guardian - 10 March 1891

STAINED GLASS:

The unveiling of the stained-glass window, which contains representations of Faith, Hope and Charity, erected in the west end of Worsley Church in commemoration of the 18 years' ministerial labours in the parish of the Rev. the Marquis of Normanby, took place [on 8 March], with Masonic honours. Monies were raised by public subscription. The window was unveiled by the Hon. Algernon Egerton, vicar's warden, and beneath it is the inscription:

*"To the glory of God, and as a record of the 18 years, 1872-1890, during which **Constantine Charles Henry**, third Marquis of Normanby, was vicar of this parish. This window was placed in the church by his parishioners and friends, 1890."*

The Marquis of Normanby having been Chaplain of the Worsley Lodge of Freemasons (1814), several members of that lodge were present and a sermon was preached by the Rev. C. H. Knowlys, rector of Southport, and provincial grand chaplain. A collection was made on behalf of the fund now being raised to provide a new lectern. There was a large congregation."



The Manchester Courier - Saturday 11 April 1891

The Dowager Countess of Ellesmere has made a very handsome gift to the churchwardens of St. Mark's, Worsley, in the shape of a beautiful altar cloth. [We wonder which?]

The Manchester Courier – Thursday 16 July 1891

The Late Hon. Algernon Egerton, J.P. *The interment has been fixed for Saturday at 1.30 at St. Mark's, Worsley. The body of the deceased will be brought from London by special train to-day or to-morrow, and conveyed to the Old Hall. It is not yet decided whether the funeral will be of private or public character. The Earl and Countess of Ellesmere and family are expected to arrive at the New Hall to-day. On nearly all the political clubs in the Eccles Division, Liberal as well as Conservative, and on the public buildings, flags are hoisted half-mast. Last evening votes of condolence were passed at several Conservative clubs, including Brackley Club, Moorside, of which the deceased was president, and the Salisbury Club, Pendlebury, which the hon. gentleman opened in January last.*

1892

The Manchester Courier - Saturday 9 April 1892

"Yesterday two memorial tablets were placed in St. Mark's Parish Church, Worsley, by the widow of the late Hon. Algernon Fulke Egerton, J.P., of Worsley Old Hall, deceased, for many years being Vicar's warden. The tablets, which are beautiful works of art in Venetian enamel mosaics, are representative of angels, each holding a scroll, upon which are the words "Glory Be to God on High." "And on Earth Peace Good Will Towards Men". The following words are inlaid at the base of the tablets:

*+To the Glory of God+, and in loving memory of
+Algernon Fulke Egerton+ Born Dec.13th, 1825; died July 14th, 1891."*

The contractors are the Venice and Murana Company, of London. [sic - should be Murano].

From ***Changing Scene*** – H. T. Milliken

In 1892, the church was cleaned repainted at a cost of £120. In the same year too the stone steps leading to the chancel were replaced in Carrara marble, the cost, £25, being borne by the children of the parish and Sunday schools. (page 26)

1893

Manchester Courier - Thursday 16 March 1893

Barton Rural Sanitary Authority. *- A meeting of this authority was held yesterday, the Rev. R. Martin presiding. ... The Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson, Vicar of Worsley, wrote that 911 grave spaces remained in St. Mark's churchyard, and it was probable that sufficient burial room was left to last 30 years. They opened 25 new graves last year, of which only three were non-parishioners. He had no wish to have non-parishioners buried : and did what he could to stop it. He looked upon the churchyard as ground for the burial of the parishioners of the ecclesiastical parish of St. Mark's. If spaces were filled up by non-parishioners their own people would in a few years time be compelled to use a cemetery. In 1892 there were 97 funerals and in 1891, 130. He should welcome a cemetery for*

the township, as it would take off some of the pressure there. It would perhaps relieve them of some Nonconformist funerals as well as the applications from non-parishioners, and would allow the churchyard to remain open for a longer period to their own people. The authority having regard to the statements in the letter decided to defer the further consideration of having a cemetery for the township for a period of 12 months.

1894 From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

*In 1894, the present lectern, with its figure of **St. Mark**, was made for the church at a cost of £50. Designed by J. Douglas and executed by E. Griffiths of Chester, it was the gift of W. E. Bousketz. (page 26)*

1895 *The Manchester Courier* - Wednesday 2 October **1895**

*Considerable alterations are to be carried out at **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley. The organ is to be moved in a westerly direction into space at present unoccupied. The screen which now occupies the arch at the east end of the north aisle will be moved and placed across the arch. It is also proposed to make in the larger space left vacant on the east side the organ a vestry. The cost of the proposed improvements will be about £260, towards which the Earl has promised £100.*

1896 *The Manchester Courier* - Saturday 18 July **1896**

*The jubilee celebrations in connection with **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, were continued on Saturday afternoon, when the scholars, who number between 800 and 900, had procession through Worsley village and Worsley Hall gardens, which had been kindly thrown open for the occasion by the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere. Subsequently the children were entertained to tea in the schools.*

1897 Incandescent gas lighting replaced the older jet system. Following this, there were complaints that the heat was unbearable at times!

1898 *The White Frontal*

A regional magazine, of unknown date or origin, printed a series of 10 articles entitled '*The History of Worsley Church.*' From certain aspects and comments taken from the articles, it is thought that this probably appeared around 1942. In the 'third instalment,' there is a brief mention of the altar frontals. The article states:

*The first altar frontal was embroidered by the first Lady Ellesmere, but is not now in the church. There is a full set of five frontals, the white one being the work of the second Countess of Ellesmere. On **Christmas Day, 1898**, another beautiful altar frontal was used for the first time. It was designed by the Reverend Ernest Geldart, rector of Little Braxted, Essex, and was worked by some ladies of the parish, under the direction of Miss Harvey, of Kensington. The design springs from a golden pot, and bears upon its branches, besides leaves and conventional clusters of grapes*

crowned with golden crowns, shields displaying the emblems of the Passion or the Sacred Monogram. The whole is laid upon a white silk ground, and has a most rich effect. There is only one other church in England which has the same design, and this is much smaller. The frontal is used today on the Greater Festivals only. Mr. Hodgkinson, writing about this frontal in 1899, said: "I am sure that you will be glad that such a splendid addition has been made to your parish church for glory and for beauty."

The designer and the person responsible for its manufacture was the Rev. Ernest Geldart. He was a prolific and gifted 'priest-architect,' one of many who flourished in the 19th century. A High Churchman, he combined his clerical career with that of architect, mostly but not exclusively of ecclesiastical buildings, and was particularly known as an expert on church furnishing and decoration.

1899

The Manchester Courier - Friday 3 February 1899

Bishop Moorhouse last night conducted a confirmation service in St. Mark's Church, Worsley. There was a large attendance of local clergy. There were close upon 200 candidates from Worsley, Walkden, Boothstown, and other neighbouring parishes.

The Manchester Courier - Tuesday 7 February 1899

Lloyd. - On the 2nd inst.. at his residence Brackley House, Worsley, in the 74th year of his age, Abraham Evans Lloyd. J.P., Alderman of the City of Manchester.—The interment will take place at St. Mark's Church, Worsley. this day (Tuesday), at 12.15, the cortège leaving Brackley House at 11.30. - No flowers - a special train will leave Exchange Station for Worsley at 11.15 am., returning at 1.30 p.m. It is requested that communications to Messrs. Satterthwaite and Company, St. Ann's Square.

[Abraham Evans Lloyd was the second Lord Mayor of Manchester]

The Morning Post of Monday 21 August 1899 announced the death of St. Vincent Beechey at Hilgay, aged 93, in common with several other regional and national newspapers. ***The Huddersfield Daily Chronicle*** referred to him as the 'oldest clergyman in England.' He was buried at **St. Mark's** on 23 August 1899 by the Rev. Hugh Bryan, vicar of Stoke Golding (and former curate at Hilgay 1872-1880).

Manchester Times – Friday 25 August 1899

INTERESTING CAREER. *News reached Worsley on Sunday of the death of the Rev. Canon St. Vincent Beechey, Rector of Hilgay, Norfolk, at the ripe age of 93 years. Deceased had been remarkably vigorous for his years, and had enjoyed good bodily health up to the end of his days. He had seemed to lose strength all at once within the last fortnight, and died quite peacefully on Saturday in the presence of his daughter, Miss Emily Beechey, with whom he lived at Hilgay Rectory. Six weeks ago, while on a visit to Mr. R. F. Coules, Worsley, his grandson-in-law, he preached in St. Mark's Church, Worsley, of which he was many years Vicar, and visited many of the old parishioners. Deceased was born on August 7th, 1806, at 13, Harley-street, Cavendish-square, London, his father being the late Sir William Beechey, the most eminent portrait painter of his day. The late Canon often recounted his father's friendship with Nelson. Before he left*

for Trafalgar, Canon Beechey has more than once related, Nelson called upon his father, and said: "Beechey, I'm off after the French again! What shall I leave my godson?" His father replied: "The cocked hat in which you fought the battle of the Nile." Nelson replied that he should have it, and the hat is now in the possession of the late Canon Beechey's niece. He was sent early in life to a large school at Sidcup, the father of Mr. Sheridan Knowles, the author of "The Hunchback," &c., being the master. At 16 he entered Caius College, Cambridge, where he obtained two scholarships, and was presented three years later by Dr. Davy, master of Caius, with the travelling bachelorship. He was fond of rowing, and nearly all his college years was bow-oar in the Caius crew, which at that time was second on the river. Dr. Burrows was his first private tutor, and afterwards Buckle, of Sydney, with whom he spent, a long vacation at Barmouth, and paid a village schoolmaster 2s. 6d. a week to teach him Welsh, which he never regretted, he ever afterwards regarding Welsh as a very classical language. He interspersed divinity studies with medicine. In 1829 he was ordained by the late Bishop of Rochester to the curacy of Aylesford, Maidstone. His second curacy was at Hilgay, whither, after 31 years in Lancashire he returned as rector. While at Hilgay, as curate, he married the widow of the eldest son of Sir Francis Ommaney, and afterwards was offered the living of Fleetwood, then a newly-formed town and harbour, together with that of Thornton, four miles off, where the vicarage was erected. He was at Fleetwood just nine years, and there he was the happy instrument of founding Rossall School. The cause of his leaving Fleetwood was the receipt of a letter on behalf of Lord Ellesmere, who offered him the living of Worsley, with the promise that he would double the income and build a house for his family. He accepted the offer, and received a testimonial of a hundred guineas on leaving Fleetwood. "If," he says, in a brief sketch he issued a few years ago, "I had not worked at Worsley, I should indeed have been unworthy of my sacred office. Everything I asked for in behalf of the parish was provided by good, kind Lady Ellesmere." A new aisle was added to the church two years afterwards, at a cost of £4,000, and on the Donative Chapel of Ellenbrook becoming vacant, he was pressed by Lord Ellesmere to accept it, and engaged a curate, with whom he used to exchange Sunday duties. In 1872, just 22 years after his presentation to Worsley, he was offered by the trustee under the will of the late rector of Hilgay (Mr. W. J. Parker), who was also patron, the living of Hilgay, which he accepted when 66 years of age, where he has laboured to the time of his death. The late Canon took a delight in annually visiting Worsley, where he invariably preached at one service, and Rossall School, where he almost regularly gave the annual address, doing so only last month. By his death one of the eldest and most respected clergymen in the Church of England has passed away "full of years and honour." His son, of the same name, has just vacated the Vicariate of Bolton-le-Sands, and accepted the living of Denver, which is the adjoining parish to the one in which his father has laboured so successfully for many years. The funeral of the late Canon Beechey took place on Wednesday at Worsley churchyard and was largely attended by clergy, relatives, and friends. The service in church, which was fully choral, was **conducted by the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson**, Vicar of Worsley, assisted by the Rev. W. J. Clarke, curate, and the Rev. J. E. Soden, who read the lesson. The Dean of Manchester (Dr. Maclure) would have been present, but was away in Scotland. Messrs. Kendal, Milne, and Co., had charge of the arrangements.

From Changing Scene – H. T. Milliken

In 1899, a third attempt was made to combat the draught and cold. The screens at the west end of the church were moved to the position they now occupy under the gallery and were fitted with swing doors. (page 26)

1900 *Manchester Courier* - Wednesday 4 April 1900

*Arrangements have just been concluded, a correspondent says, for the division of the boundaries of **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, and **St. Paul's**, Walkden. Under the new arrangement Edgefold, a district lying between Walkden and Worsley, but much nearer to **St. Paul's** than to **St. Mark's Church**, has been included in the last-named's parish, whilst Parrfold, another minor district, which is almost in the Little Hulton township, is included in **St. Paul's** Parish. The new system is said to have given satisfaction. Both livings are in the gift of the Earl of Ellesmere.*

1901 *Manchester Evening News* - Tuesday 9 April 1901

FUNERAL OF LORD ELLESMERE'S DAUGHTER. *The funeral of Lady Helen Constance Egerton, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Ellesmere, whose death occurred last Wednesday, took place this morning at **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, the remains being laid to rest in the family vault. Lord and Lady Ellesmere and several members of their family were the mourners, the funeral being private. The coffin, buried in beautiful wreaths, was carried from Worsley Hall to the church by Lord Ellesmere's workmen. The **Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson**, vicar, officiated.*

Manchester Evening News - Wednesday 17 April 1901

SACRILEGE AT WORSLEY. *A correspondent learnt this morning that a daring case of sacrilege has occurred at **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley. The robber, or robbers, had obtained a ladder from an outhouse and reared it against the vestry windows and taken a pane of glass out, and thus obtained ingress. An offertory box was broken open and the contents abstracted. The communion plate, which is exceedingly valuable, was locked up and was found intact.*

Manchester Evening News - Monday 18 November 1901

DEATH OF VETERAN SCHOOLMASTER. *On Saturday afternoon, the funeral took place at **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, amid many signs of esteem and sympathy, of Mr. John Baldwin, Ivy Cottage, Worsley, who for a period of half a century was schoolmaster at **St. Mark's Boys' School**, Worsley. He was in his 83rd year, and on the jubilee of the schools, thirteen years ago, a hundred guineas and other gifts were presented to him by old scholars. Three generations of scholars passed under his tuition, he being regarded as one of the best schoolmasters in the United Kingdom. A number of old scholars attended the obsequies, **the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson**, vicar, conducting the service.*

1902 *Manchester Courier* - Saturday 9 August 1902

*Mr. James Roscoe, of Chaseley, Worsley, has presented two handsome seats to **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, for the use of the sidesmen (now used by the wardens).*

1903 *Manchester Evening News* – Monday 7 September 1903

THE CONFETTI NUISANCE AT MARRIAGES. THE VICAR OF WORSLEY'S REQUEST. *The **Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson**, vicar of Worsley, writing*

*in this month's parish magazine, particularly requests that neither rice nor confetti be thrown near **Worsley Church** or churchyard. If these things must be used he hopes they will be reserved until after the newly-married pair have reached the house to which they go from the church. Many brides, he states, "come to be married with their dresses quite disfigured by the abominable little bits of paper which foolish friends have thrown over them, and the church and churchyard are littered with the rubbish. The throwing of confetti is absolutely meaningless in itself, and can only suggest to one's mind frivolity, which is about the last thought that ought to be suggested in connection with the Celebration of Holy Matrimony. If persons persist using this abomination, the clerk's fee for a wedding where confetti is thrown will have to be considerably increased to pay him for the extra labour which involves."*

1904

***Sunderland Daily Echo* - Monday 28 March 1904**

*The parishioners of **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, Manchester, propose putting a stained glass window in the church to the memory of all who have been baptised there since the church was opened sixty years ago.*

***London Evening Standard* – Friday 22 July 1904**

*Lord Ellesmere has contributed four hundred pounds towards the cost of restoring **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, near Manchester, the parishioners providing remaining six hundred.*

***Manchester Evening News* – Thursday 8 September 1904**

*Yesterday afternoon Mr. N. H. Hacking, architect, Manchester, ascended the spire of **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, and found it was in a worse condition than was expected. It will be necessary, in connection with the restoration of the church, to re-point at least five sides of the octagon forming the spire.*

***Westminster Gazette* - Friday 16 September 1904**

FUNERAL OF HON. REGINALD EGERTON. *The funeral of the Honourable Reginald Arthur Egerton, fifth and youngest son of Lord and Lady Ellesmere, who died on Tuesday at Mulgrave Castle, near Whitby, from pneumonia, after two days' illness, took place to-day at **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley, Manchester, the remains being placed in the family vault. Deceased, who was only eighteen years of age, took part, three weeks ago, in amateur charitable theatricals at Worsley Courthouse.*

1905

The window in the Ellesmere Chapel, from a design by Edward Burne-Jones and executed by William Morris, was installed in memory of Helen (Lady Helen Constance Egerton, 1884-1901) and Reginald (The Hon. Reginald Arthur **Egerton**, 1886-1904) Egerton by their brothers and sisters in 1905. They were the youngest children of the 3rd Earl. Both are buried in the churchyard.

WORSLEY, Lancs	St Mark
1905. Ellesmere Chapel (SE corner of church), s wall, c window; 2 lts and tracery.	
L FORTITUDE (Sir William Wallace, BJ 501).	
R HUMILITY (BJ 440).	
Both against dark blue drapery backgrounds, with foliage above and below; scroll labels below.	
Tracery:	
4-foil at top: HL Angel with scroll (WM 178); 2 3-foils below: Seraph heads with blue wings (adapted from Salvator Mundi, BJ 131).	
Inscribed: 'To the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for the Lives of Helen and Reginald Egerton this window is erected by their sisters and brothers A.D. 1905'.	
Doc. The entry in the Catalogue of Designs, dated 16 March 1905, names the glass-painters as follows: Fortitude by Titcomb; Humility by Bowman; tracery Angel and seraphs by Stokes; curtain, grisaille background and inscription by Wren.	

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. THOMAS HARRISON

Lord Ellesmere has presented the Rev. Thomas Harrison, vicar of Dewsbury Moor, to the vicarage of Worsley, near Manchester. Mr. Harrison is one of the best-known clergymen in the diocese of Wakefield. The fine church at Worsley was built by the first Earl of Ellesmere, at a cost of twenty thousand pounds, from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott. It contains an effigy the founder in white marble, and the reredos is a memorial of his wife, who was the sister of Mr. Charles Greville. The living of Worsley was held for a number of years by Lord Normanby, who is a brother of Lady Ellesmere.

Farnworth Chronicle - Saturday 1 December 1906

WORSLEY CHURCH CHOIR. *At the choir practice at Worsley Church last week-end, the members received a special word of thanks from the Vicar [Rev.F.K. Hodgkinson - Ed.], who commented upon their greatly improved singing since he entered upon his duties there, and said he was only sorry he could not take the choir to his new living. Mr. R. F. Coules, F.R.C.O., the organist, expressed the choir's sincere sorrow at their having to part with the Vicar.*

Manchester Evening News – Tuesday 12 February 1907

MARRIAGE OF SIR WILLIAM STEPHENS. *This afternoon the usually quiet village of Worsley wore a very animated appearance on the occasion of the wedding of Sir William Stephens, ex-Mayor of Salford, and Miss Emily Wilson, second daughter of Mr. William Wilson, J.P., auctioneer and valuer, of Old Warke, Worsley, and Manchester, at St. Mark's Church, Worsley. The sacred edifice was crowded by guests and ticket holders long before the time fixed for the ceremony, and hundreds of people gathered in the precincts notwithstanding the inclement weather. As the guests assembled Mr. R. F. Coules played 'Erotik,' by Greig, and 'Serenade,' by Alidor. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. W. E. Stephens (son) as best man. The bride entered church leaning on the arm of her father, by whom she was given away. She was attired in a dress of ivory satin, relieved with chiffon, with an accordion pleated Court train lined with chiffon, and roses and shamrocks. She was accompanied by four bridesmaids, the Misses Edith and Ella Wilson, nieces of the bride; Miss Alice Stephens, niece of the bridegroom; and Miss Tongue. They each wore pretty dresses of ivory satin trimmed with lace and tassels, and had large white picture hats, with long white feathers. Their bouquets were of pink carnations and lilies. The opening hymn was 'Fight the good fight,' and after the ceremony 'O perfect love.' [Also, Psalm 67, and the anthem, 'How lovely are Thy dwellings fair' (Sphor), Mendelssohn's Wedding March]. Among those present as guests were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester, the Mayor and Mayoress of Salford, Alderman and Mrs. Gibson, Alderman and Mrs. Briggs, Alderman and Mrs. Edward Holt, Councillor and Mrs. Thewlis, Councillor and Mrs. Royle, Sir T. T. Shann, Mr. and Mrs. Dempster, the Mayor and Mayoress of Eccles, Councillor and Mrs. Hurrell, Mr. T. Stuttard, Councillor and Mrs. Higson, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Atcherley. The ceremony was performed by the Lord Bishop of Manchester, assisted by Canon Hicks, the Rev. T. Harrison, vicar of St. Mark's, and the Rev. S. T. Rees, vicar of St. John's, Pendleton. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Lord Bishop gave a brief address on 'love,' and the wedding party then went to the residence of the bride's father [Old Warke, Worsley]. Sir William and Lady*

Stephens, who received many congratulations, will spend their honeymoon in Egypt, and on their return will reside at Fairhope, Eccles Old Road. The bride's travelling dress was light beaver, with a large pale blue hat trimmed with [blue ostrich] feathers, roses, and wallflowers, [and a magnificent set of Russian sables. Presents were received from the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, Sir William Bailey, Sir Bosdin Leech, junior members of the staff of Messrs. Stephens and Southern, the Bishop of and Salford Corporation officials, Directors of Burnley Self Help Company, of which the bride-groom is a Director (silver salad bowl), Mr. and Mrs. George Agnew (silver candlesticks), and many others. The present of the bridegroom to the bride was a diamond hair ornament of two wings caught with a heart.. The bride gave the bridegroom a gold watch and fitted dressing case].

***Manchester Evening News* - Wednesday 6 March 1907**

The Rev. the Marquis of Normanby has consented to take the evening lantern services at Worsley Church in Holy Week, to conduct the three hours' service in the church on Good Friday, and also to preach the sermon on Easter-day evening.

1908 ***Morning Post* – Wednesday 30 September 1908**

This newspaper carried a story about a ship, the *Argonaut*, a well-known tourist steam yacht, which had just left Tilbury bound for Lisbon, and had been sunk in a was no loss of life.

A Tribute the Passengers. The Rev. Thomas Harrison, vicar of Worsley, near Manchester, and Mr. Wilfrid Harrison, of Keble College, Oxford, one of his sons, were passengers on the Argonaut. Interviewed by a Morning Post representative Mr. Thomas Harrison said: 'My son and I were seated at breakfast when we heard the sound of the hooter of vessel in our vicinity. My son remarked to me : "That sounds near," and shortly afterwards he saw through the portholes the bows of a vessel coming right angles to us for'ard. Immediately afterwards the crash came, and the Argonaut heeled over to the side opposite that on which she had been struck. I myself, in company with a few other passengers, rushed up the stairs, and saw the bows of the Kingswell recoiling from the impact, and noticed that they were all smashed in.'

[The full report in the *Post* is nearly 3 columns long].

1909 ***Manchester Courier* - Thursday 26 August 1909**

Funeral of Mr. Herbert Edgar Birley. The funeral Mr. Herbert Edgar Birley, second son of the late Mr. Herbert Birley, and of Mrs. Birley, of Spring Bank, Pendleton, took place yesterday St. Mark's Church, Worsley. The chief mourners were: Miss Beatrice Birley Mr. and Mrs. J. Harold Birley, sister and brother and sister-in-law; Rev. H. H. Birley, sen., Mr W. H. Birley, Mr. Frederick H. Birley. et al ...household servants, and others. The cortège from Spring Bank proceeded via Monton and Ellesmere Park, Lord Ellesmere having granted permission to use the private drive of Worsley Hall. The floral offerings included many from the members of the family, Sir Lees Knowles, and the household staff. The service was fully choral. The officiating clergy were, the Rev. Thomas Harrison, Vicar of Worsley, and the Rev. Herbert Birley Beckwith (cousin). The coffin was placed in the family vault, beside the remains Mr. Birlev's father, who died in 1890, and his uncle Mr. Henry Birley, who died in

1894. The arrangements were entrusted to the care Messrs. Satterfield, Bye and Company.

1910 ***Eccles & Patricroft Journal*** – 15 July 1910

*The churchyard at Worsley, one of the few villages in this part of Lancashire which has the distinction of occasional royal visits and military displays, was a fitting scene for the final chapter in the history of so distinguished a servant of King and country as the late **Sergt.-Major Richard Hall Williams**. He was laid to rest there on Monday afternoon in his coffin wrapped in the Union Jack in the presence of a large number of people who had been proud of his friendship, and with tokens on every side of the respect in which he was held in the community. One of his comrades-in-arms in Balaclava's famous charge, in the person of Capt. Gribben, late of the 14th Hussars, represented the deceased's old regiment, the 17th Lancers – known as the "death or glory boys," and he and another Crimean veteran in the person of ex-Staff-Sergeant Colley of Peel Green, gave a distinction to the assembled mourners which is probably unique even for Worsley. [The surnames above may have been Gribbin and Coley. Mr. Coley was probably Richard Coley, born Worcester in 1831, who was a Boarder and Widower, aged 81 in 1911. He was residing at 9 Elizabeth Street, Winton, and was a Retired Army Pensioner, Sergeant-Major].*

The Northampton Mercury - Friday 23 September 1910

RECTOR OF TURVEY RESIGNS.

*To the great regret of the inhabitants of Turvey. the **Rev. C. B. Hulton** announced at the morning service Sunday that he had placed his resignation as Rector of Turvey in the hands of the Bishop of Ely, and that he had appointed to the Vicarage of Worsley and the Chaplaincy of Ellenenbrok, in the Diocese of Manchester. The living, we understand, is in the gift of Lord Ellesmere, and comprises a population of about 5,000. Mr. Hulton has been the popular Rector of Turvey for the past 5½ years, previous to which he was Curate of Melton Mowbray for two years. ... He will possibly leave Turvey before Christmas.*

TRUTH - Wednesday 28 September 1910

*Lord Ellesmere has presented the **Rev. C. B. Hulton**, rector of Turvey, Bedfordshire, to the vicarage of Worsley, near Manchester This living was held for many years by Lord Normanby, who is Lady Ellesmere's brother. The beautiful church at Worsley was built by the first Earl of Ellesmere (Lord Francis Egerton), at a cost of over £20,000, from designs by Sir Gilbert Scott.*

He conducted his last services at Turvey on Sunday 18 December 1910. There were large congregations, especially in the evening. The good wishes of all the parishioners were passed to the Rector and Mrs. Hulton to their new sphere at Worsley.

Birmingham Daily Gazette – Tuesday 1 November 1910

CAREER OF A FAMOUS PICTURE DEALER. *Sir William Agnew, one of the proprietors of 'Punch,' and the 'doyen' of picture-dealers, died at his residence*

in Great Stanhope-street, London, yesterday, after a short illness, at the age of eighty-five.

Sir William was the eldest son of Mr. Thomas Agnew, who was Mayor of Salford in the Great Exhibition year, when the borough was visited by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. In 1880 he became one of the Liberal members for South-East Lancashire. Five years later he defeated Sir John William Maclure in the Stretford Division, and retired from Parliament in 1886. Sir William was a member of the firm of Thomas Agnew and Sons, the well-known art publishers, and he was also a partner in Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew, and Company, the proprietors of 'Punch.' He acted as honorary secretary of the Fine Art Committee of the Manchester Jubilee Exhibition of 1877, and for some years was president of the Printsellers' Association of Great Britain. He became a baronet in June 1895. Sir William was the purchaser of many notable works of art. In 1876 he bought Gainsborough's 'Duchess of Devonshire' for £10,000. It was stolen from the Agnew Gallery eighteen days later, the carcasse being cut from the frame with a penknife. It will be remembered that a reward of £1,000 was offered for its recovery, which was finally accomplished twenty-five years afterwards, the personality of the thief remaining a mystery.

Sir William presented in 1893 Walker's 'The Harbour of Refuge' to the National Gallery. An anecdote of the first meeting between Fred Walker and the great art dealer is recorded in 'Pen and Pencil Sketches' by H. S. Marks, B.A. It was in 1884 that Walker's 'Spring' was shown at the exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, and Mr. Agnew was persuaded by an admirer of the young artist to look at his work. Sir William recognised the true touch of genius at once, and speaking in high terms of the drawing, said he would purchase it. In the meantime Walker was pacing to and fro in nervous suspense. At last he was led forward and introduced to Mr. Agnew, who complimented him upon his work. The pleasure and excitement overcame Walker so completely that he burst into tears, and gasping out, "I must go and tell my mother" rushed from the place. Sir William succeeded in the baronetcy by his son, Mr. G. W. Agnew, Liberal M.P. for West Salford.

Westminster Gazette – Friday 4 November 1910

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM AGNEW. *The casket containing the ashes of Sir William Agnew was removed from Golder's Green Crematorium yesterday afternoon and this morning was, entrained, without ceremony, for Worsley, where the interment is fixed for this afternoon. Travelling by the same train - the 8.30 from Euston - were Sir George Agnew, the new baronet, and a number of relatives. [His ashes were indeed interred that same day. The service was performed by C.W. Montgomery Bromley, Curate].*

INSTALLATION OF THE BAPTISMAL WINDOW

This window is found in the north-west corner of the church, facing west. It represents the baptism of St. Augustine by St. Ambrose.

This event took place in Milan at dawn at Easter in the year 387. Ambrose was then Bishop of Milan and was a gifted speaker and preacher. Augustine, (also known as Augustine of Hippo, where he served as bishop), now 33 years old, was a teacher of rhetoric (the art of persuasive public speaking). He hailed from a region located in today's Algeria.

These two saints are both remembered today as invaluable Fathers of the Church. Augustine is the patron saint of brewers, printers and theologians. Ambrose is patron saint of (among others) beekeepers, bishops and candle makers.

Beneath the glass is the inscription: *'To the Glory of God. Dedicated by those who have been Baptised and Confirmed in this Church. A.D. 1910'*

Christopher Parkinson of the CVMA thinks that the window was possibly the work of A. L. Moore.

1911 ***Manchester Courier*** – Tuesday 12 January **1911**

INSTITUTION OF NEW VICARS. *At St. Ann's Church, Manchester, yesterday, the Bishop of Manchester instituted the following clergymen: ...*
... The Rev. C. B. Hulton M.A., to the vicarage of St. Mark, Worsley. ... et al.

From ***Changing Scene*** – H. T. Milliken

In 1911, another outstanding problem, the extension of the churchyard, was also solved when the Earl of Ellesmere made a gift of 7,840 square yards of land for use as an additional burial ground. He also made two further gifts to the church in 1913, one of £348 towards the cost of installing electric lighting in St Mark's and providing an electric motor for the organ, and another of a plot of ground for the construction of a permanent church to replace the iron one that had been in use at Winton since 1902. (page 28)

Banbury Guardian - Thursday 19 October **1911**

*The infant daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Brackley was christened on Saturday at **St. Mark's Church**, Worsley. The child received the name of Mary, and the godparents were Lady Dunglass, Lady Mabel Egerton, and the Hon. Thomas Egerton*

1912 ***Leigh Chronicle*** - Friday 17 May **1912**

ASTLEY PARISH CHURCH. *Large congregations attended the school sermons on Sunday at the Parish Church. The morning preacher was the Rev. F. H. Burrows, vicar of Christ Ohnrch, Ashton-under-Lyne; in the afternoon, the Rev. C. F. Ockford, vicar of St. John the Baptist. Little Hulton; and the evening the **Rev. C. B. Hulton, vicar of Worsley**, occupied the pulpit. The anthems, "I was glad when they said unto me," " Now we are ambassadors," and " O, give thanks unto the Lord," were excellently rendered by the choir. The duet in the afternoon anthem was ably given by Messrs. A. Shaw and A. Lowe. Mr. S. Unsworth led the choir with his usual ability, and Messrs. S. Stockton and Harry Hodson respectively accompanied on the organ. There was a gratifying advance in the collection, which amounted to £63 6s.*

Leigh Chronicle - Friday 27 September **1912**

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY OCTOHR 6th. *Preachers: 10-30 a.m. The **Rev, C. B. HULTON, M.A.**. Vicar of Worsley. 3-0 p.m. THE VICAR. (Cantata, "THE TWO HARVESTS."). 6-30 p.m. the Rev. A. B. W. WOODHOUSE, M.A., Assistant Curate of Worsley, Collection for the Assistant Curate's Fund.*

1913

Manchester Courier – Saturday 19 July 1913

ST. MARK'S, WORSLEY. To construct a chamber under the vestry, and to place therein an electric motor for the organ, and to replace the gas fittings in the church with electric light.

Saturday 10 May 1913

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.	
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.	
<i>On Saturday, May 10, 1913, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,</i>	
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,	
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;	
A VARIATION OF BROOKS'. Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr 14 lb.	
TITUS BARLOW Treble	JOHN BAGGLEY 1
FRED DERBYSHIRE 2	PERCY DERBYSHIRE 6
JOHN WELSBY 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD 7
JOSEPH H. RIDYARD, JUN. .. 4	WM. GRUNWELL Tenor
Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.	
<p>This is the conductor's 150th peal, a list of which appears elsewhere. Rung on the 44th anniversary of the conductor's birthday, and the 73rd birthday of the eldest sister of the ringer of the 3rd, who celebrated her golden wedding at Walkden three weeks ago.</p>	

1914

Manchester Evening News – Thursday 16 July 1914

The funeral of the 3rd Earl of Ellesmere took place today at St. Mark's, Worsley. The service was choral and the three officiating clergy were the Rev. the Marquis of Normanby (the Earl's brother-in-law), the Rev. C. B. Hulton, vicar, and the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson, former vicar. Mr. R. Froude Coules presided at the organ. At noon, when the service began, the church was full and hundreds of people who could not find room gathered in the churchyard and about the gates.

The eight Bridgewater collieries were represented by a number of the managers, officials, and miners from the various pits. The Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation was also represented. At the conclusion of the service in the church, the Earl was buried in the family vault under the Ellesmere Chapel at the south-east end of the church. It was approached from the outside, and the sides of the graves leading to it were lined with purple cloth, sweet peas, white carnations, and greenery. On the wall of the church over the grave was hung a large cross and trumpet lilies, lilies of the valley and white roses.

1915

Sunderland Daily Echo – Wednesday 24 March 1915

The Rev. C. B. Hulton, vicar of Worsley, Manchester, has sent to the Mayor of Grimsby a cheque for £3 9s, the amount of the annual expenditure in prizes in connection with Edgefold Sunday School. The scholars have given up prizes in order that the amount might be handed to the minesweepers' fund.

Mertoun Owner's Heir. The baptism of Viscount Brackley, infant son and heir of Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, took place at **Worsley Parish Church**, quietly, owing to the absence of Lord Ellesmere with his regiment (3rd Royal Scots) in Edinburgh. The child was given the names John Sutherland, and the sponsors were Lady Edith Trotter, the Earl of Dalkeith, and Lord Dunglass. The service was conducted by **Rev. C. B. Hulton**, Vicar of Worsley.

1916

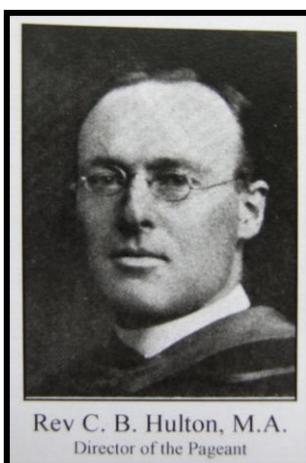
From *The Parish Magazine* – January 1916

The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I have been attested: I am therefore liable to be called up for military duties if and when my class is needed.

I do not wish anyone to believe that I have hereby done anything heroic. I shall be satisfied if you think that I have done my duty.



The clergy have had no easy task to decide what is the right thing to do in the dilemma in which with which they have been posed., and if I give my reasons for taking this step I hope you will not assume that I am suggesting that those of the clergy who have solved the problem differently (and they are a huge majority) have failed to solve it correctly.

In the first place I have obeyed my conscience. This, to me, is quite clear. It may be said that conscience is not infallible, that the conscience of a priest should suggest another course, all I can answer is that in my case it did not, nor do I suffer from its reproaches. In the second place, I desire to take my share, however small it may be, in the universal sacrifice that is being demanded from Englishmen at this time. And this desire is the keener, because in private and public, I have urged my hearers to take up, each one of them, their share of the burden. Were I not ready to practice what I preach, my only decent course would be to maintain a discreet silence, whereas I now can continue to speak boldly as I ought to speak. In the third place, I cannot persuade myself that my services are indispensable to the Church life at Worsley, or that if I am called up, the cause of the Church in this parish must necessarily be put in jeopardy.

For many years now Church people have been indulging in religious luxury. A large staff of clergy, a multiplicity of services, a full catalogue of clerically conducted week-day organisations are assumed to be essential to the religion of a parish. The result has too often been that personal religion and house religion have lost their place, the laity have become inert and uninterested, and the privileges offered have been valued in inverse proportion to their number. In effect I believe that Church people in such a parish as this might very well spare one of the clergy at the call of the nation, accepting willingly the sacrifice entailed. Such a sacrifice made in this spirit would be more likely to strengthen their attachment to their Church than lessen it.

Lastly, the fate of Worsley, its Church, its Church life, its clergy, its all, is in the balance, but it will not be decided within 100 miles of its steeple. It is committed, under God, to the care of our sailors and soldiers across the seas. If those trenches in France and Flanders go, Worsley goes with them.

Thus, whatever be our duty in time of peace, and wherever it lies, can there be any question now, that a paramount duty is laid upon all of us who have received the call, to answer it readily, and willingly, and to go, if need be, to take our place in those very trenches which mark the frontiers not only of civilisation, but also of Christianity.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

CAMPBELL B. HULTON

Manchester Evening News - Thursday 20 July 1916

MOORES.—Died wounds, July 18th, Sergt. MOORES, Manchester Regt. (Pals), beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Moores, Hazlehurst Cottage, Deeply regretted by FAMILY and FRIENDS. One of the best. Service at Holy Rood Church, Moorside, Swinton, Saturday, July 22nd, at two o'clock. Burial at Worsley Church at three o'clock.

From a newspaper article dated 11 August 1916. This was most likely a local newspaper.

WORSLEY'S SOLDIER VICAR

Typical Day's Work in France

The Vicar of Worsley, the **Rev. Campbell B. Hulton**, who is on active service in France with the Hospital Motor Ambulance Section, has addressed through the "Parish Magazine," a letter to his parishioners descriptive of "a typical day's work" with an ambulance. "Eight-thirty a.m.," he writes, " finds me on a motor ambulance with a companion en route to one of the military hospitals served by our convoy. On the way we pass the car which has spent the night at the hospital, ready for a call if needed. On arriving we find ourselves in the courtyard of what, before the war, was a country house, but now a hospital filled with soldiers, suffering in some way from the effects of the war. There we wait until the doctors have finished their morning round, and then, taking on board two or three convalescent soldiers able to return to the trenches, and very often the local chaplain, off we go on a round of some 40 miles. We have not gone very far before we notice certain arrangements carefully planned and arranged to give the Hun a little trouble if he ever thinks of attacking in this section. Overhead we see the observation balloons, five or six of them, at intervals along the line, keeping watch and ward over earth and air. If it is a fine day we shall see a French aeroplane or two on scouting duty, and sometimes a German Taube on a like mission, whose course is marked on the sky by little white puffs of smoke, showing us that the anti-aircraft guns are seeking their prey. At each village we pull up at the 'Poste de Secours' to inquire if there are any sick or wounded, and we exchange our convalescents for those who are in need of treatment in the hospitals. Two or three times perhaps on the round we shall go closer to the lines

where the 'Poste de Secours' will be in a dug-out, carefully concealed and covered, and we shall notice that the last part of the road is screened by high hurdles, covered with dry boughs, sometimes on one side, sometimes on both, sometimes even overhead, so that we appear to be motoring through a tunnel. If the road is dusty we must go slow here, for the enemy is watchful, and a cloud of dust makes him suspicious. At 11-30 or so we are back again at our hospital to deposit our patients for medical examination, and then go off to lunch. At 1-30 we return, and there will be a job of some sort for us. Perhaps we go back to the lines for a wounded man, who has been brought in after we left in the morning, perhaps to evacuate patients to the clearing hospital in the big town some 30 miles away, perhaps to take a patient who is very badly wounded, to a special hospital, where all serious cases are catered for. Our duty does not finish till 8-30 next morning so the car is left at the hospital all night, and my companion sleeps in it with orders to call me if a telephone message comes through requiring our ambulance. Of course, not every day is equally busy, and our duty is to wait in readiness for any special calls that may be made. It is well that it is so. The activity of the convoy is a sort of war barometer. When we are busy it means that the enemy has succeeded with an attack or a bombardment. When we are idle it means that for the time, at any rate, he is content to attempt nothing. You will understand, therefore, that it is well that sometimes we go our rounds only to return empty, and sometimes a whole day passes in which no call comes over the telephone to summon an ambulance to the lines."

In concluding his letter, Mr. Hulton remarked that, if the munition workers could just see what one could do, - never mind 1,000 shells - they would not waste 20 minutes of their time, and would gladly postpone their holidays.

Northampton Chronicle – Monday 27 November 1916

The funeral of the Dowager Countess of Ellesmere will take place very quietly at St. Mark's Church, Worsley, at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning. There will be a memorial service at St. Andrew's Church, Cobham, at the same hour.

1917

The Farnworth Chronicle – Friday 16 March 1917

EN PASSANT. Last Sunday evening I was at **Worsley Church**, and the thing that seemed most apparent was the absence of young men. I don't think that there were half-a-dozen men of eligible age. **Worsley Church** is a little "high." but I enjoyed the service, and listened appreciatively to a very interesting sermon. Talking of Church service reminds me of the following, which is an extract from a letter received from one of our gallant lads on the Somme : - "We've had a Church service this evening, and as I was not on duty I took the opportunity of attending - reminds one very much of 'Blighty' being able to go to Sunday evening service. The Chaplain's room acted as our church - lighted by candles."

I heard a good story the other day from one of our men who has been out in the East. He possesses a set of false teeth, and pulled these out one day in the presence of a few of the natives, and for about ten minutes afterwards the latter were trying their hardest to pull their teeth out, and they could not understand why this was not possible. I believe about a dozen of our "chaps" were killing themselves laughing

Presentation to the Rev. H. W. Thorne. - The Rev. H. W. Thorne, diocesan inspector of schools, who for the past nine years has been assistant priest at St. Mary's Church, Stafford, was on Tuesday evening presented with a cheque, subscribed for by members the congregation, on his leaving Stafford to take the living of Worsley, near Manchester.

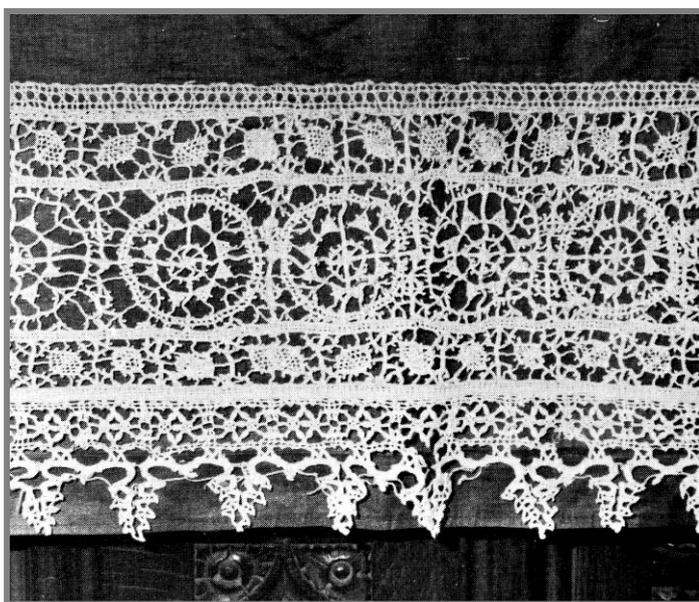
The website of St. Mark's Church says this of his time in the parish:

"Canon Thorne came to St. Mark's on 19 November 1918 as Vicar. Like others who returned to parishes after serving as chaplains in the First World War, he came with shocking experiences of suffering and a deep sense of the importance of prayer for the departed; they also realised as never before the ignorance and alienation from the church of 'ordinary' men. This was a time of social change. Women got the vote – and a say in the councils of the churches too. Locally, his ministry saw the separation of the new parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Winton, and the departure of the Ellesmeres – both with heavy financial implications. Father Thorne (as he asked to be called) introduced a controversial high church style which divided the parish. He left to become Director of Religious Education in Rochester Diocese, later becoming Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral, Rector of Leybourne in Kent, and a Proctor of Convocation. He died in 1948."

TRUTH – Wednesday 25 December 1918.

Lord Ellesmere has presented the Rev. H. W. Thorne, C.F., late Diocesan Inspector of Schools in the diocese of Lichfield, to the vicarage of Worsley, near Manchester, which is worth about £500 a year, with residence. This church, designed by Sir G. Scott, was built for the first Earl of Ellesmere, and cost about £22,000. Worsley Hall (built in 1840-41) and Worsley Old Hall (the former residence of the Duke of Bridgewater) are in this parish.

The Sebastopol Lace



Milliken writes that it was presented to the church by Captain Heaton's relatives about 1920. He further notes that it is believed to date from the beginning of the 19th century and is of Italian origin. It is described as being worked in Needlepoint and Renticelli. It is a section of a lace altar 'drop', looted by a sailor from a church in Sebastopol and purchased from him (for 1s.) by the Captain.

British sailors were quick to get in and plunder, and a huge mobile marketplace sprang up out of the ruins. *The variety of articles was astonishing, and from valuable silver plate to the most worthless of old books, which no one could read, everything seemed to meet with some purchaser.* (The Times - 5 October 1855).

1922



One of the first tasks of the recently appointed Parochial Church Council (after the "Rules for the Representation of the Laity" was adopted in 1919 by the Convocations of Canterbury and York) was to consider a suitable monument to remember the gallant soldiers from the community who had lost their lives in the 1914-1918 war. On Sunday 10 April 1922, the Cross which today stands near the west door to the south-west of the church was unveiled. The octagonal base contains the names of 105 local men.

1922

The new parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Winton, was created. This meant that the population of Worsley parish diminished.

Birmingham Daily Gazette – Monday 29 May 1922

At a special service in the Cathedral [Lichfield], the Rev. H. W. Thorne, vicar of Worsley, Manchester, and formerly Diocesan Inspector in the Lichfield diocese, was the preacher.

1923

The Ellesmere family finally left the district. The patronage of St. Mark's and Ellenbrook transferred from the Earl of Ellesmere to the Bishop of Manchester

From ***Changing Scene*** - H. T. Milliken

“In the simplest terms these changes meant that the parish, with a greatly reduced population and income, had then to support and maintain two churches, three day schools, four Sunday Schools, a Vicarage at Worsley, and a Curate's house at Boothstown.” (page 31)

1925

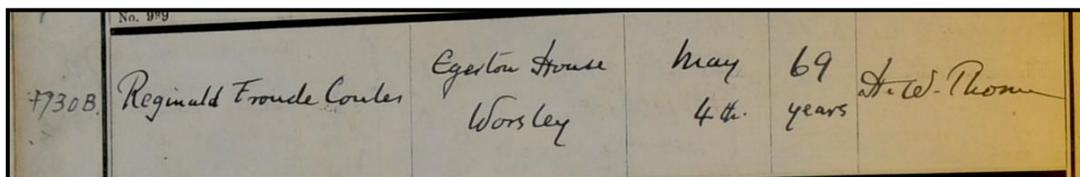
Manchester Evening News – Saturday 31 January 1925

CRICKETERS BEREAVED. Death of Mrs. Tyldesley at Worsley.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Tyldesley, the mother of the two well-known Lancashire cricketers, Mr. J. T. Tyldesley and Mr. Ernest Tyldesley, at her home, Aigburth, Lumber Lane, Worsley, last night at the age of 70.

*Mrs. Tyldesley had been in ill-health for two years. The funeral will be on Tuesday next at **Worsley Church.***

Ernest Tyldesley is at present on tour with Mr. Joel's team in South Africa. J. T. Tyldesley is the Lancashire \county Cricket coach.

Funeral of Reginald Froude Coules.

[In November 1922, **R. F. Coules** completed 50 years' service as organist. On 16 December 1922, Lord Ellesmere presented him with a purse containing over £100 as a mark of appreciation.]

[Part of an Obituary by *Granville Hill*, Musical Critic of the Manchester Guardian (from an early parish magazine)].

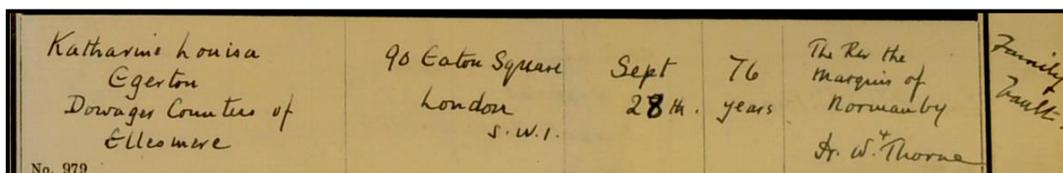
I often wonder if the world has ever known a more industrious musician than Reginald Froude Coules, organist of Worsley Church from 1873 to 1926. When, as a schoolboy some fifty years ago, I became his pupil in piano-playing, organ-playing, harmony and counterpoint, he was giving over a hundred lessons a week. His studio was a spacious, well-furnished room over the Coffee Tavern, standing near the canal bridge. A year or two, however, before he married Miss Emily Beechey, who was one of his pupils, he settled in a house in Broad Oak Park, and from that time all his lessons except, of course, those on organ playing, were given at home. Only on Thursday evenings in the winter months, when he attended the Hallé Concerts, was any break performed in the regime of lesson-giving. A few words about his teaching may not be inappropriate here.



Sheffield Daily Telegraph – Wednesday 29 September 1926

SORROWING VILLAGE. *Countess of Ellesmere Buried at Worsley.* There were many manifestations of public sorrow at Worsley, yesterday, when the funeral of the Dowager Countess of Ellesmere took place. Katharine Louisa Countess of Ellesmere died on Thursday at 90, Eaton Square, the residence of her brother, the Rev. Lord Normanby, at the age of 76. She was the second daughter of George, second Marquess of Normanby, successively Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and Governor of Queensland, New Zealand and Victoria. She was married in 1868 to the third Earl of Ellesmere. In addition to the private mourners (who included the Earl of Ellesmere) there were numerous representatives of the district and a large number of parishioners. The pretty church of **St. Mark's** was quickly filled, and the congregation overflowed into the churchyard. The service was of a simple character, but a large number of floral emblems were deposited at the graveside. These included wreaths from "Wilfrid and Thomas," sons, Lord and Lady Rochdale, the Marquis and Marchioness of

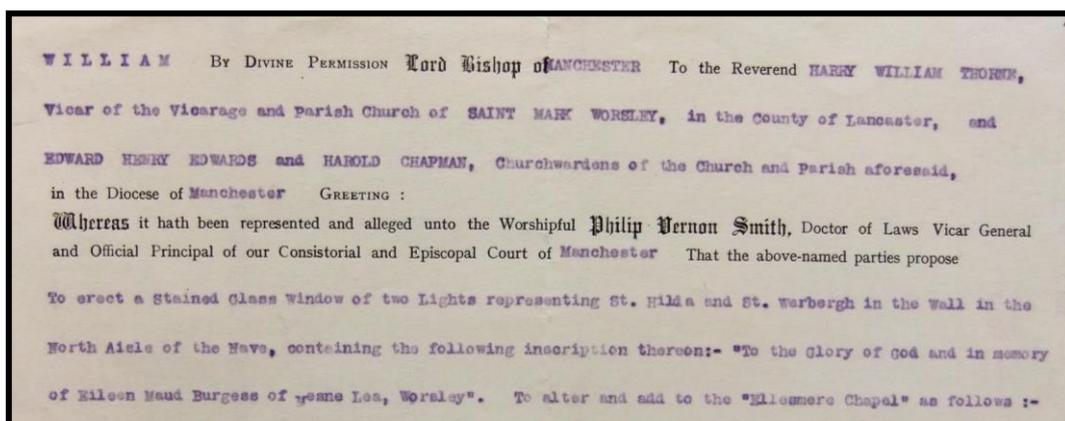
Normanby, Lord and Lady Hawke, Lady Mabel Egerton and Lady Florence Onslow.



1927 From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

“In 1927 members of the family and others set aside a sum of money, through the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to increase the church’s Assistant Clergy Fund by about £120 a year. The gift was in memory of Katherine, Dowager Countess of Ellesmere, who died on September 23rd 1926. Two years later in 1928 a scheme was put forward by the parishioners to convert the private chapel into an Ellesmere Memorial Chapel. A faculty was obtained to furnish the chapel with a Holy Table and Candlesticks, and to erect altar rails in the position then occupied by the wrought iron screen. The screen was moved to its present position between the chancel and the chapel. Almost the whole of the work was carried out by craftsmen who were members of the congregation and the cost of the materials was defrayed by public subscriptions. The cost of the altar was defrayed by the Marquis of Normanby.”

1928 Faculty to erect a stained glass window representing St. Hilda and St. Werbergh in the north aisle of the church. Dated 28 March 1928.



“To erect a Stained Glass window of two lights representing St. Hilda and St. Werbergh in the wall in the North Aisle of the Nave, containing the following inscription:- ‘To the Glory of God and in memory of Eileen Maud Burgess of Mesne Lea, Worsley.’

In addition:

“To alter and add to the Ellesmere Chapel as follows:- To furnish the Chapel with a Holy Table, Cross, two Candlesticks, and altar rails, to remove the wrought Iron Screen to a new position between the Chapel and the Chancel of the Church, and to alter the position of the Pews in the Chapel, and to remove three Brass Tablets from the East Wall to a position on the South Wall of the Chapel.”

1929 In October **1929**, the Rev. H. W. Thorne announced that he was leaving the parish to take up duties as Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of Rochester.

Whitstable Times – Saturday 9 November **1829**

*The Bishop of Rochester has appointed the **Rev. H. W. Thorne**, Vicar of Worsley, near Manchester, to be Director of Education for the Diocese of Rochester.*

1930 **Burnley Express** – Saturday 29 November **1930**

WORK PEOPLE ESTEEM. *The workpeople at Messrs. J. Stuttard and Son's Cobden and Victoria Mills have subscribed to floral tributes to be placed on the grave of the late Mrs. Thomas Stuttard in Worsley Church to-day. Owing to both mills being closed last Monday, the workpeople were not able to show their appreciation for the deceased lady and her family at the funeral, and so took the first opportunity of doing so.*

From **The Parish Magazine** – November **1930**

We are grateful to all those who sent gifts for the Harvest Thanksgiving, and to those who assisted in decorating the church and to those who distributed the gifts to the sick. It rained heavily in the evening, but there was a full congregation. The collections amounted to £23.

On Sunday, November 9th, the Sunday nearest Armistice Day, we shall have services of remembrance, and on Armistice Day, there will be a short service of Intercession at 10-45 and the two minutes' silence will be observed at 11 o'clock.

1931 **Burnley Express** – Saturday 10 January **1931**

DEATHS.

JOHNSON – *On the 6th inst., at Bournemouth, Thomas Henry, late of Burnley, aged 69 years. Interred, Worsley Church, near Manchester, Friday January 9th.*

1932 **Belfast Telegraph** – Thursday 22 September **1932**

INSTONIAN ORDAINED TO A LANCASHIRE PARISH. *Rev. Arthur T. J. Mackrell, B.Sc., who was ordained by the Bishop of Manchester as deacon to the parish of **St. Mark, Worsley**, Lancashire, on Sunday last, is a son of Mr. Robert J. Mackrell. Chief Examiner of Estate Duties in the Northern Ministry of Finance. Rev. Mr. Mackrell was educated at Mountjoy School, Dublin, and at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, entering the Queen's University as a Hyndman scholar and graduating in the Faculty of Science. When in Belfast Mr. Mackrell was a member of the Belfast Branch of Toc H, and assisted in the formation and working of the Malone Training School Rover Scout Troop*

SUNDAY		
12.30—	Daventry	National Programme.
3.55—5.30—	London	Regional Programme.
7.55—	A Religious Service, relayed from Worsley Parish Church, Manchester, conducted by the Vicar, the Reverend I. Renshaw. The Bells. Hymn, Jesus shall Reign (Ancient and Modern, No. 220). The Lord's Prayer and Versicles. Psalm 84. Scripture Reading. Nunc Dimittis (Stanford in B flat). The Evening Collects. Anthem, O ye that love the Lord (Coleridge-Taylor). Hymn, Come, let us join our cheerful songs (Ancient and Modern, No. 290). Address by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Middleton, Dr. C. W. Wilson. Hymn, Light's above, Celestial Salem (Ancient and Modern, No. 200). The Blessing. At the Organ, A. Taylor.	
8.45—	Daventry	National Programme.
8.50—	The News followed by North	

A RELIGIOUS SERVICE, conducted by **Rev. I. Renshaw**; address by the Bishop of Middleton; relayed from **Worsley Parish Church**, Manchester. A. Taylor at the organ.

NORTH REGIONAL 625 kcs. (480 Metres).

12.30.—National.

3.55-5.30.—London Regional.

7.55.—Religious service, conducted by **Rev. I. Renshaw**, address by Bishop of Middleton, A. Taylor at the organ, from Worsley Parish Church, Manchester.

8.45.—National.

8.50.—Weather and news, North Regional announcements

(time at 9).

9.05.—London Regional.

10.30.—Epilogue.

Radio Times - Programme

The bells: Hymn, Jesus shall reign (Ancient and Modern, No.220): The Lord's Prayer and Versicles: Psalm 84: Scripture Reading: Nunc Dimittis (Stanford in B flat): The Evening Collects: Anthem, O ye that love the Lord (Coleridge-Taylor): Hymn, Come let us join our cheerful songs (A&M No. 290): Address by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Middleton, Dr. C.W. Wilson: Hymn, Light's above, Celestial Salem (A&M. No.200): The Blessing: At the organ, A. Taylor: (Time 7.55 – 8.45)

H. T. Milliken added to this: '*It was after one service, broadcast by the B.B.C., that a Bournemouth listener and a former pupil teacher at St. Mark's School, Mr. Walter Cooke, presented the church with two wardens' wands. These wands were used for the first time at Schools' Sermons in 1933.*'

From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

Rev. Isaac Renshaw "raised £1,000 to acquire three acres of land that the Bridgewater Estates had offered for sale. The land was to the north of the church and he considered its acquisition essential in order to preserve the fine setting of the church from the attacks of speculative builders. The negotiations were long and protracted, with difficulties concerning its future positive use. ... A final agreement was signed in 1933."(page 32)

From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

"During the time the lengthy negotiations had been going on, a disturbing report had been received on the state of the church itself. This indicated that urgent action would soon have to be taken on the steeple and tower. This was in danger

of cracking because of the swinging effect of a loose and rotting beam that carried the bells.” (page 33)

1934 From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

“In the meantime it had been decided that in addition to the repairs to the stonework of St. Mark’s, the bells should be dismantled, recast and mounted on an iron frame capable of carrying two extra bells. This would bring the peal to ten and make it one of the finest in the North of England. ... By May 1934 the sum of £1,059 had been obtained in money or promises and a Faculty to carry out the work was granted.” (page 33)

Nelson Leader – Friday 19 January 1934

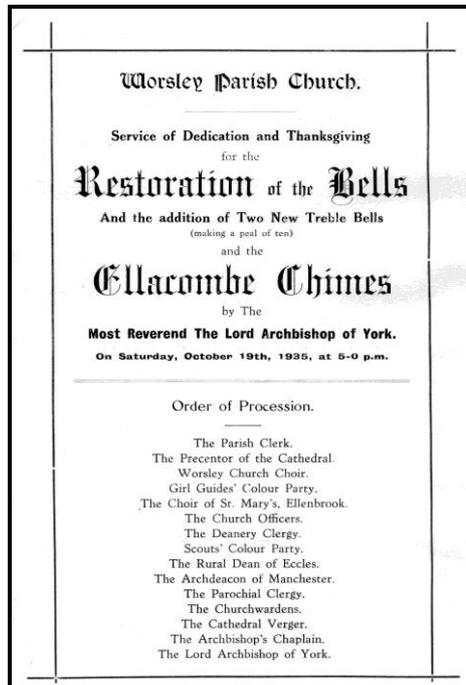
Higham Mill Director Bereaved. *Mr. James Stuttard, managing director of Clover Croft Mill, has sustained a bereavement by the death of his sister, Mrs. Nash, wife of the Rev. F. P. Nash, M.A. Vicar of St. John’s Church, Blackburn. Mrs. Nash, who was 68 years of age, died suddenly at the vicarage last Friday, and when the sad news reached Higham the flag at Clover Croft Mill was hoisted to half-mast by the management. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Stuttard, J.P., of Lawnswood, Swinton, and was noted for her charitable disposition. Like the other member of her family, she took a keen interest in the village church, and was a generous supporter of all its affairs, giving practical service in many ways, as did her husband, who occupied the pulpit on main occasions in connection with special events. A lady of great charm and endearing manner, Mrs. Nash was well-fitted for her part in life, and her sudden death will lie lamented over a wide area conscious of its indebtedness to her kindly influence. On Monday, when the interment took place at **St. Mark’s Church**, Worsley, the mill at Higham closed from twelve to two o’clock, and at one o’clock a short service was conducted in St. John’s Church by Mr. Hartley Duerden.*

1935 *Halifax Evening Courier* - Wednesday 16 October 1935

WORSLEY BELLS. *Dr. Temple to Dedicate Enlarged Peal.*

*The Archbishop of York will visit **Worsley Parish Church**, Manchester, on Saturday, to attend the service of dedication and thanksgiving for the restoration of the bells and the Ellacombe chimes.*

Two new treble bells have been added to the eight old bells. On the advice of the Rev. Canon Elsee, vicar of St. Georges. Bolton, who is President of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers, the scheme of restoration made provision for the entire recasting and remodelling of the eight bells and the addition of two new bells, the entire peal being increased in weight. The peal, which is in the key of D natural, is hung in a strong and massive framework mounted on a grillage of steel girders capable of carrying a load of 200 tons.



When the eight old bells were taken down last June, it was discovered that old supports which took the weight were in a serious condition because of attacks by beetle and dry rot.

A feature of the new bells is the installation of the Ellacombe Chiming apparatus, the gift of friends at Ellenbrook and Boothstown. It will enable tunes to be played from a manual. The band of ringers much reduced the cost of the work by undertaking all the carpentering in the belfry.

After the Vicar, the Rev. I. Renshaw, has asked the Archbishop to dedicate the bells and chimes and the dedication has taken place, there will be a short ring of the bells, followed by an address by the Archbishop.

Yorkshire Post – Monday 21 October 1935

ST. MARK'S PARISH CHURCH, WORSLEY. New Bell System Dedicated By Archbishop of York. *Two of the most brilliant things in the world are coloured windows and bells, said the Archbishop of York (Dr. Temple) at a service on Saturday to dedicate the bells of St. Mark's Parish Church at Worsley, near Manchester. Where coloured glass was beautiful in design and execution, and where bells were well cast and well tuned, there were no things more suggestive and exhilarating, he said. The eight old bells have been recast and retuned, and two new ones, subscribed for by parishioners, added. Ordinarily, ten ringers would be required to ring the peal, but the manual system known as "Ellacombe Chimes," has been installed, enabling one ringer to play them. Hymns and other tunes can be played in addition to the usual peals. The first three bells were installed in 1848, the next three in 1873 by the Earl of Ellesmere to commemorate the birth of the heir, Lord Brackley, now the present Earl, who has defrayed the cost of remodelling these three bells, and two were installed the Marquess of Normanby when vicar at Worsley. The cost of alterations and additions is £931. St. Marks, designed by the late Sir Gilbert Scott, was built 1846. and one the finest specimens of Gothic architecture in the North. The Rev. I. Renshaw, of London, is the vicar.*

South Yorkshire Times – Friday 13 December 1935

HOYLAND. *Many readers in this district will be interested to learn that a broadcast of the bells of Worsley (Lancashire) Parish Church is to be given on Sunday afternoon at 5-30, followed by a talk about the bells by the Vicar, the Rev. Isaac Renshaw. Mr. Renshaw and his family are well known in Hoyland and Elsecar: he is a son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Leonard Renshaw, who for many years were in business in St. Helen's Street, Elsecar, and a brother of Mr. Renshaw. Mr. S. L. Renshaw. is now in business in Church Street, Elsecar. The late Mr. L. Renshaw was for some years under-manager at the Hoyland Silkstone Colliery and a member of the Urban District Council. There are ten bells in the tower of Worsley Church.*

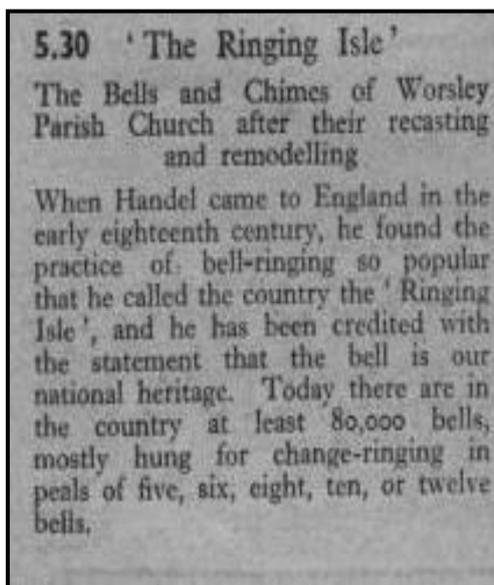
Sunday Sun (Newcastle) – Sunday 15 December 1935

Northern Rediffusion Services

The week's programmes

5.30: "The Ringing Isle": the bells of Worsley Parish Church.

Radio Times – 13 December 1935 (page 25)



[Handel called Britain 'The Ringing Isle' because when he came to live here, he heard bells ringing everywhere: great bells in towers, and handbells in some of the first houses he visited. The sound of people ringing the changes is a peculiarly British sound of celebration, and it is the sound of communal music-making.]

1936 *Louth Standard* – Saturday 15 August 1936

MOORBY. THE PARISH CHURCH repairs carried out by Messrs. Allen and Son. were completed in time for the anniversary and the worshippers are pleased with the improved appearance of the church. Thanks are recorded to **Rev. I. Renshaw** (Vicar of Worsley, near Manchester) and his parochial council for the kind gift of an altar frontal, and others for the gifts of a carpet and pair of vases which have greatly added to the dignity of the sanctuary.

1937 Copy of the Will of **Martha Shirreff** 1 February 1937, relating to maintenance of the graves.

1938 From *The Parish Magazine* - January 1938

VICAR'S NOTES

Acting on medical advice, I shall be away from the Parish from the 19th January until the beginning of Lent.

The Bishop has given me leave of absence, and Mr. Lewis will be in charge of the Parish. As I shall be abroad, I shall be glad for all correspondence relating to the Parish to be sent to Mr. Lewis at Ellenbrook House, Boothstown. All cases of sickness can be communicated to him by telephone (Walkden 2494), and to the

Parish Clerk, Vicarage Cottage, Worsley. May I also ask all secretaries of organisations to let Mr. Lewis know of events that are taking place. During my absence I have made all arrangements for the carrying out of the work of the Parish, and I have also invited some friends who always get a welcome from you.

Daily Mirror – Monday 4 April 1938

CHURCH FLYING SQUAD ROUNDS UP CONGREGATION LAGGARDS.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. Salford (Lancs.) Sunday.

I 've just been held up by the Worsley Flying Squad. I didn't resist. I promised to go quietly. And I was taken - to church ! For this is a rather special kind of Flying Squad. Its members are all young people belonging to Worsley Parish Church. After the evening service at this church the Flying Squad sets out, and holds up other young men and women who are strolling around. They are asked to come to a "good-night service" which only lasts fifteen minutes. And they're coming - in scores!

Credit Rev. I. Renshaw for this bright idea. "We started the idea as a special Lenten feature," he told me. "But the good-night services have become so popular we must continue them now. "More than a hundred people come each week. The special service – a couple of hymns, a short address, shorter prayers - only lasts a quarter of an hour. Gentle persuasion is the motto of the Squad. The pretty girl who handed me an invitation to the service on a small piece of paper just smiled winningly and said, " Why not come along?" Sure," I said , "we'll go together – hey, where are you going?" She was away after a couple she saw strolling down a lane: duty called! Executive chief of the Squad is the Rector's son, Mr. Robin Renshaw, now studying for Holy Orders at Cambridge. During his vacations he trained his spiritual sleuths to speak in public. Next Sunday night the Squad will hold a torchlight procession at Worsley. It's a smart idea. WHY NOT TELL YOUR OWN VICAR ABOUT IT?

H. T. Milliken recounted this initiative when referring to Canon Renshaw's church services, describing them as "the cause of widespread interest to both the local and national press." He wrote about 'the Good Night service which was held after Evensong after every Sunday during Lent. The service lasted about half an hour and was designed to attract the attention of young people making the traditional Sunday night parade up and down Worsley Brow. Sometimes as many as two hundred young people attended the service.'

1939

Rochdale Observer – Saturday 2 September 1939

MARRIAGES: HIGGINBOTTOM – PENNINGTON. *On August 30th, 1939, at St. Mark's Church, Worsley, by the Rev. I. Renshaw, Wynne Higginbottom of Lagos, Nigeria, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Higginbottom of Worsley, to Mary (Mollie), only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pennington of Worsley.*

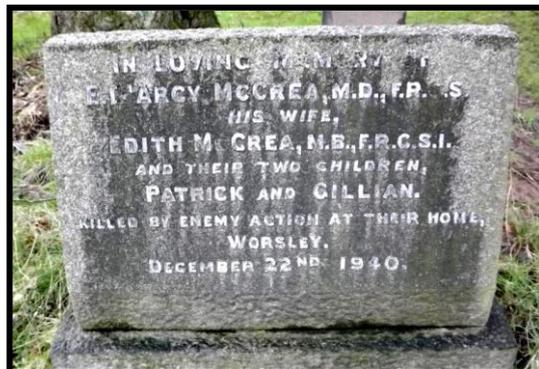
From **The Parish Magazine** – August 1939

Miss Chapman, the Headmistress of our Infants' School, is retiring at the end of this term. She has done splendid service for many years, and many young men

and maidens in Worsley will have happy memories of their days at school with Miss Chapman. I have found Miss Chapman a most excellent Headmistress, always happy and willing to co-operate. I am glad to say that she has offered to do anything she possibly can, as a labour of love, for our Church. I am sure many will join with me in wishing her many years of happiness in her retirement.

1940 *Funeral of the McCrea Family.*

On 22 December **1940**, during an air raid that was focusing on Trafford Park, a large bomb (believed to be a parachute bomb) fell on a detached house, The Cottage, on Barton Road - a large house with an orchard in its substantial grounds. There was a house party taking place at the time of the explosion. Nobody survived. **Dr. E. McCrea** and his wife, Dr. Edith, together with their two children, were killed. Numerous other people, including their housemaid, were also killed. The site of the house remained derelict for several years, and then in the mid-fifties the land was taken over by North West Water. That ground was later redeveloped in the nineties and a retirement home, Elmwood, was built. The grave of the family is in the churchyard of St. Mark's Church, Worsley.



1941 *Manchester Evening News* – Thursday 27 March **1941**

DEATHS. ROBINSON – *On March 26, 1941, at 78 Parrin Lane, Monton, JOHN, the beloved husband of Emily Robinson, and dearest father of Stan and Kitt. Interment at Worsley Church on Saturday at 2pm. Inquiries Eccles Co-op. Society, Ltd.*

1942 From *The Parish Magazine* – November **1942**

The two hundred years' old chair which used to be in the Vestry, and which has been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Brockbank, and placed in the Sanctuary, was used for the first time as the Bishop's Chair on All Saints' Day. An addition has been made to the chair, again by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Brockbank, this being the Bishop's Crest in carved oak, decorated in red and gold.

From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

"On Christmas Day, 1942, a day that was wet and when lighting restrictions made it difficult to read in church, the Vicar reported that a larger number of communicants than at any time during his twelve years at Worsley, had attended the services." (page 34)

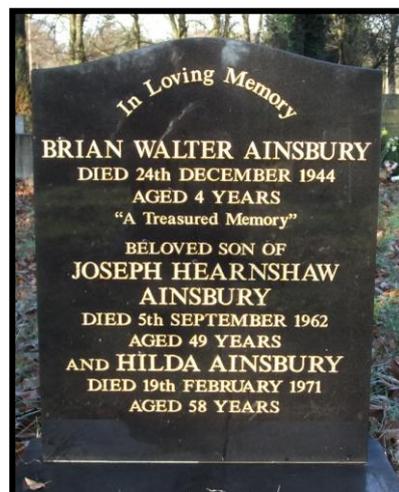
1943 From *Changing Scene* – H. T. Milliken

"In 1943, there were over 500 hundred communicants at the Easter Service. A striking example of the social effect of the War in the parish was illustrated by the Vicar when he said that of the 223 weddings at which he had officiated since the

War began, he could only think of six newly married couples who had a home of their own.” (page 35)

1944

There is a second civilian burial recorded at the church, of a young boy who was also tragically killed by enemy action during World War II. Another overshoot from Trafford Park (a V1 'doodlebug') in 1944 hit and destroyed a house about a third of the way up the right hand side of Woodstock Drive in Worsley. This was not very far from the site of 'The Cottage', where the McCrea family had been killed four years earlier. The house was the home of **Brian Walter Ainsbury**, who died on 24 December 1944, aged 5 according to official records. He was buried in the churchyard on 28 December 1944, where his age was recorded as 4½ years, a more accurate record. Brian was the son of Joseph Hearnshaw and Hilda (née Shaw) Ainsbury. The Ainsburys had two other children: David A., born in the second quarter of 1942 and Carole B., born in the first quarter of 1948. Joseph and Hilda were married locally in the third quarter of 1937.



1945

From *The Parish Magazine* – January 1945

For four years our church bells have not been able to ring in the New Year. This New Year's Eve they rang out a merry peal. It was a silent frosty night, and the bells were heard as far as Barton. They were heard at the Vicarage, very much so. Sleep had to be postponed until the ringing ceased. It was, however, excellent ringing.

After a very disturbing morning we had, after Evensong, our Carol Service. It was really most helpful bringing to us all a peace and serenity.

The Farnworth Journal, after describing it as an inspiring act of worship, said: "The service was well attended, and the singing of Christmas hymns and carols by the congregation, led by a well-balanced choir, did much to relieve the present anxieties of war. The music sung included the anthem, 'Christians Awake,' the hymns 'The First Nowell,' 'Sleep, Holy Babe,' 'Glorious Beauteous, Golden Bright,' 'Silent Night' and the carols, 'What Child Is This?' 'Good King Wenceslas,' and the Christmas lullaby, 'Little Baby, Good Night.' The service was conducted by the Rev. I. Renshaw, and Mr. W. E Lawton, who had trained the choir, officiated at the organ."

* * * * *

We are glad to see in the New Year's Honours List the name of Wm. Harry Champion, of Crossfield Drive, son of a former President of our Bowling Club. He has been made a C.B.E. Mr. Champion is engaged in important work in the Statistical Offices of the War Cabinet. We extend to him our congratulations.

Centenary Celebrations

The church of **St. Mark, Worsley**, was consecrated on 2 July 1846 by the Rt. Rev. John Bird Sumner, Bishop of Chester. In July 1946, the monthly parish magazine was a special Centenary Number, which contained a lot of detail about the centenary celebrations held around the parish. This edition contained the following prayer:

The Centenary Prayer

O God of the generations of men: we thank Thee for all who have walked humbly with Thee. More especially do we thank Thee for those who, through one hundred years, have served and worshipped in this Holy Place, and of whose rich endowments we, today, are heirs. Inspire us, by Thy Holy Spirit, so to cherish this our goodly heritage, that we may pass it on, yet richer and more lovely, to those who shall come after. We ask this in the Name of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The celebrations took place on two successive Sundays – the 16th and the 23rd. On the first occasion, the Bishop of Croydon [son of a former Curate of Worsley, 1882-1890], with the Bishop of Manchester, officiated at “*the Order of Morning Prayer, so adapted as fittingly to enshrine the occasion’s special intent – Thankful Remembrance; Purposeful Re-dedication. The Lessons, read by Lord Ellesmere, are those of Solomon’s blessing of his people after the sanctifying of that first Temple, with his plea that God ‘will be with us as He was with our fathers’; and St. Paul’s imagery of the temple not made with hands, indwelt by the Spirit, which temple are we*”. His Lordship preached from the words of St. Peter, ‘*Ye are a chosen race*’.”

[Bishop Maurice Henry Harland was the son of the Rev. William George Harland. He later became Bishop of Lincoln, then Bishop of Durham].

The two evensongs were so tightly-packed that the congregations spilled out of the pews onto chairs and benches placed on every available inch of floor space. And still, on and on poured in the people, till finally it was a case of standing-room only, and not much of that! ... Two of the hymns at the afternoon service were accompanied by the Boothstown and Ellenbrook Prize Band. ... Rain curtailed the Clipping of the Church, but failed to deter a goodly throng from gathering in and around the South Porch to listen to Lord Ellesmere, as he told of his very real pleasure in being at Worsley that day. He declared that his one criticism of his ancestor was that he lacked a measure of foresight in not building a larger church! The Bishop of Manchester pronounced the Blessing, and immediately after came a Salute from the bells.

The Bridgewater Clock

The clock on the West face of the tower is known as the Bridgewater Clock, and is famous because it strikes 13 at 1 o'clock. This device was invented by the Duke of Bridgewater when his workmen excused their lateness at returning to work after the dinner hour because they maintained they could not hear the clock strike once at 1 o'clock.

The clock was originally sited in Worsley Works Yard (now Worsley Green) and was presented to St. Mark's Church in **1946** by the Earl of Ellesmere to mark the Church's Centenary celebrations. *“The Earl of Ellesmere, descendant of the old Duke, who built the Worsley to Manchester canal, with its network of underground tributary canals, offered the clock to the church, and the vicar, Canon I. Renshaw, gratefully accepted the gift”*.

The clock winding mechanism can be viewed in the bell ringing chamber. *“[The clock] now graces the tower of Worsley Parish Church, the centenary of which is being celebrated this year, and it was dedicated on Sunday afternoon by the Dean of Liverpool, Dr. F. W. Dwelly”*.

