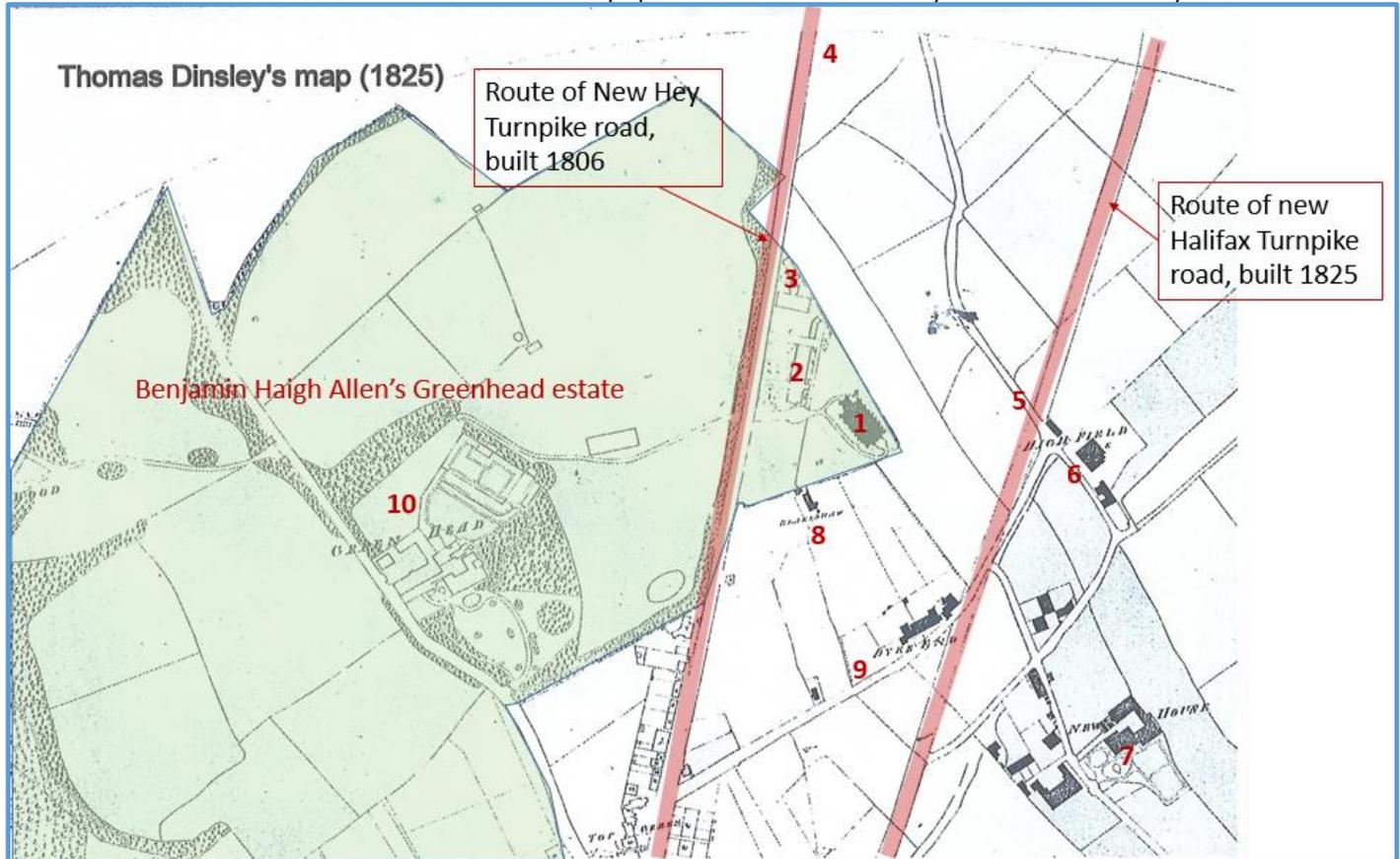


No. 32: 'Holy Trinity – the church that was swallowed up'

I base this month's blog on the excellent local history walk, led by David Griffiths of the Huddersfield Local History Society on May 21st to help mark the church's 200th anniversary.

David based much of his walk on a map published in 1825 by Thomas Dinsley.



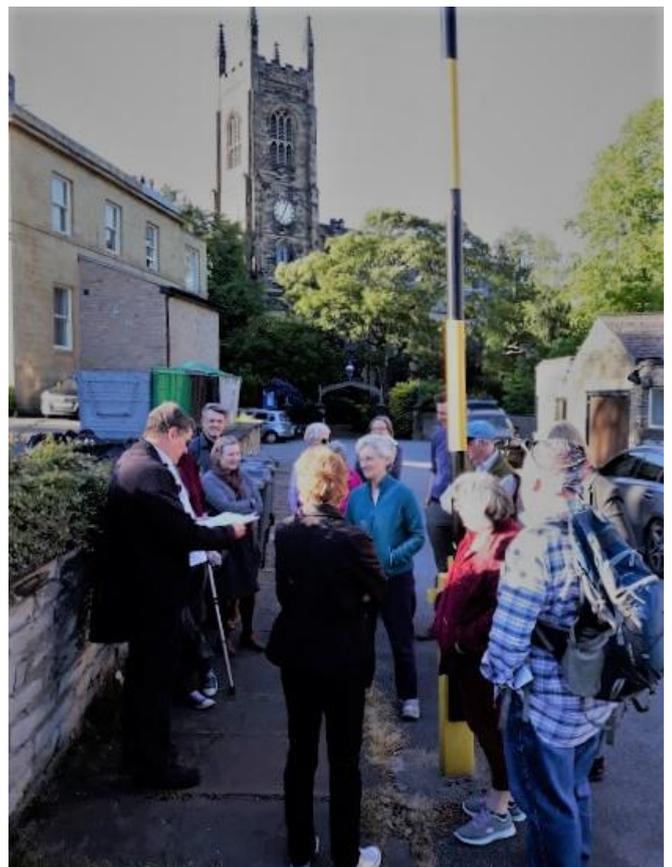
The numbered places on the map were mentioned on the walk and are described in the text below.

When the map was drawn, the current A629 New North Road to Halifax had just been constructed, just 19 years after the current A640 Trinity Street, which was the turnpike road to New Hey, near Rochdale. The road to New Hey dissected the Greenhead Estate and it was on this small triangular section of his estate that Benjamin Haigh Allen had Holy Trinity built in 1816-19.

[1] Holy Trinity was built on a greenfield site. Indeed it was surrounded by fields and was some distance from the edge of the town at the time.

[2] Following the building of the church, Allen developed the rest of the triangular plot, having the terrace called Westfield (now Trinity House) and West Place built in 1825.

Rev. Henry Mithy, Trinity's third minister (written about in the June '19 blog), lived at Westfield in



1830 and probably in the house next to the church as this was known to be the home of Rev. Naason Maning by 1839. This house, No.1 had a rather grand entrance with a raised up porch from the church's driveway. In 1861, No. 4 Westfield was purchased as the first 'Vicarage', the wording can still be made out on the gatepost. Another church link is that Nicholas Bayldon, the church sexton (a church officer charged with maintaining the church building and churchyard) lived in one of the houses until his death in 1843. He is buried in our churchyard.



[3] West Place was the family home of John Allen, Benjamin Haigh Allen's brother. John however was not to live there long, only out-living his older brother by a year. He died in 1830, aged 35. His widow, Sarah was to remain at West Place for a further 50 years. West Place is now Highfield Funeral Home. It is shown on the 1851 map as being two homes.



The cottage behind West Place is built at an angle to Trinity Street, following the historic boundary of the edge of the Greenhead estate. In 1840 this cottage was described as being the home of John Garnes, who was Trinity church's clerk and sexton. I surmise from this that he was either the successor of Nicholas Bayldon (of Westfield), or perhaps that Bayldon was sexton of a different church (and I'd guess of the Parish Church in town). The photo of the cottage and neighbouring stables below, is taken from a Kirklees photographic survey undertaken in 1975 and now available at the 'Huddersfield in Old Photos' Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/383318128415882/?ref=group_header



[4] After walking up Trinity Street we walked down Vernon Avenue, which might possibly have been named after Archbishop Edward Venables Vernon, who consecrated Holy Trinity in 1819. We then proceeded down New North Road to Highfields.



[5] New North Road was built in 1825 and partly followed the old track to Marsh, which ran along the lower course of Trinity Street, then along what was originally known as Dyke End Lane (later Portland Street). The old track, replaced by Trinity Street, can still be partly followed behind Mountjoy Road (pictured below). New North Road to Halifax replaced the old route, Halifax Old Road, which is still a beautiful drive through the Grimescar valley, especially when the bluebells are out in the spring.



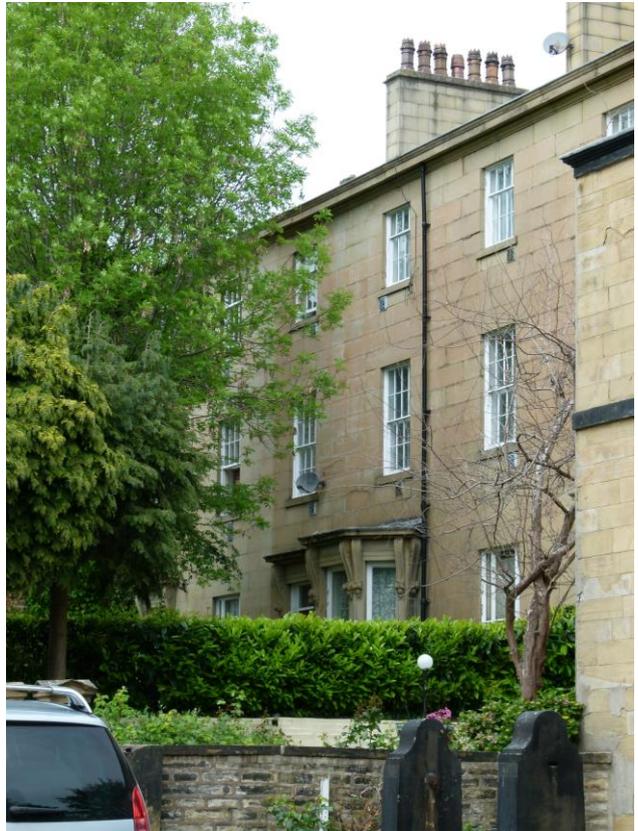
[6] At the time of Holy Trinity being built, High Field was an important centre of non-conformist worship in Huddersfield. The independents had built a chapel there in 1771, a manse (clergy house) in 1774 and a Sunday school in 1812. The site was chosen as being the closest proximity to the town on land not owned by



Highfields Chapel c1800

the Ramsden family, who were staunchly Anglican and forbade the construction of other places of worship on their land. The three buildings were all later replaced with larger versions which can still be seen, in alternative uses on Highfield Road. The Huddersfield College was opened in 1839, for more details see the February '19 blog.

Highfields is now a conservation area and many of its buildings are listed. The chapel and manse were replaced with the current buildings in 1844. Highfields is an early 'Georgian-style' middle-class suburb. David Griffiths is currently researching it with the possible idea of publishing a book to follow on from his excellent 'The Villas of Edgerton' published in 2017. Many of the Highfields residents, as they became more affluent, later moved to the newly developing area of Edgerton from the 1850s onwards.



The photos above, taken on Highfields Road and Elmwood Avenue show houses of the 1840s. Some of these homes in early times housed teachers and boarders of the Huddersfield College.

[7] Newhouse was built c1720 and though much altered, can still be seen on Belmont Street. It was home to the Bradley family who were fulling mill owners and ran a salting business, supplying salts and chemicals to the textile mills. The earlier parts of the home

was fashionably built of brick, which would almost certainly have come from the local brickfield, part of the Bradley family's estate. The photo below shows part of the oldest remaining portion of Newhouse.



In the 1820s Newhouse became home to the Dyson family, several of whom are buried in Holy Trinity's churchyard. The Dysons were drapers. Also resident in Newhouse (though whether in the house itself or in the surrounding area, I'm not certain) was Mary Haigh. She was related to the church's founder Benjamin Haigh Allen as she was the sister of his father's second wife, Elizabeth. The two sisters, Martha and Elizabeth are buried together, also in the churchyard. Martha died in 1827, aged 70. It is possible the Dysons were related to the Allens, as there are also Dysons recorded living at West Place.

Newhouse passed to Thomas Mallinson in 1842 who had Claremont Hall (which backs onto Belmont Street) built for his son George in 1843. The Mallinsons were wool merchants and heavily involved in local politics and public office. Claremont (pictured right) is now apartments all named after local locations and connections. It lost most of its front garden to the construction of the slip-road from New North Road onto the ring road.

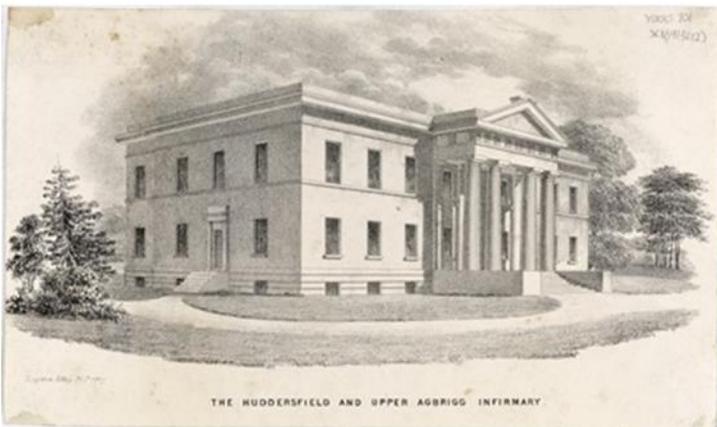




Elmwood Terrace - looking towards Newhouse

Beaumont Taylor acquired Newhouse in 1863. Taylor ran a dry-salting and chemicals business. He was responsible for building a number of mid-Victorian houses in the Elmwood Avenue area. Part of Newhouse was demolished to construct the attached Elmwood Terrace.

The Highfields area was dissected in the 1970s with the opening of the ring road and many of its housing converted into apartments. We continued our walk across the footbridge over the ring-road slip to the lower part of New North Road. This part of town was developed in the early 1830s with the construction of the Royal Infirmary and the first Roman Catholic Church in the district – St Patricks.

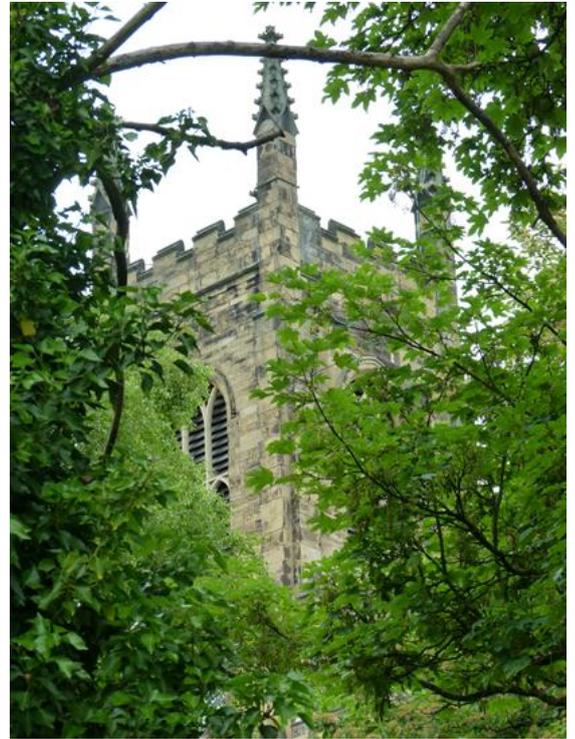


[8] At the time of the building of Holy Trinity, its nearest neighbours, located next to the Allen estate was Blakeshaw, consisting of 2 farm cottages. The photo below, was most likely taken in the 1850s or 60s, when Blakeshaw was demolished to make way for the construction of Wentworth Street. Back Wentworth Street was originally a track that led up to the cottages. This is a very early photo and the first known of the church. It was perhaps taken by William Henry Sikes at the start of his career.



The first house on what was to become Wentworth Street was built before 1851 but its handsome terrace of ashlar faced Georgian-style houses were built in the 1860s. The road cut the garden of West Field House, on nearby New North Road in half. The back of the garden became part of the churchyard and the lych-gate later built as an entrance way. Previous to this there had been some steps down from the churchyard and down a path alongside the garden of West Field. The top part of this became part of Back Wentworth Street and the rest of the path can still be followed.

Wentworth Street and neighbouring Fitzwilliam Street are named after Earl Fitzwilliam of Wentworth Woodhouse in South Yorkshire. The Fitzwilliams and Ramsdens were related. For 13 years after the death of Sir John Ramsden, the 4th Baronet, the estate was managed in trust (with Fitzwilliam as a leading trustee) until Sir John William Ramsden, the 5th Baronet came of age. The photo below was taken from the 1975 survey.



***Holy Trinity from the site of
Blakeshaw***



[9] Our walk continued onto Portland Street, which was originally known as Dyke End Lane and was part of the route out of town towards Marsh, mentioned above. Dyke End consisted of a few cottages which were on the site of what is now Waverley Road and the neighbouring houses.

Not long after the opening of the Infirmary, there was a cholera epidemic in Huddersfield and a temporary hospital opened in the grounds on Dyke End Lane. After the epidemic had passed the temporary hospital was used for worship while the Parish Church in town was being rebuilt and once vacated was used by Trinity as a boys 'day' school. Classes for girls were held above the stables at Greenhead. After Greenhead was vacated by the Allen family it was decided to build a permanent school building opposite the temporary one. Trinity Church School was opened in 1840. It was designed by William Wallen who also designed the Vicarage for the Parish Church on Greenhead Road in 1844, which is now the Princess Royal Health Centre. He later redesigned the church interior in 1845.

The school was opened with 4 classes for 400 pupils. It was extended 3 years later to provide an infant class.



The school building served the local community for nearly a century. It is still in educational use today as the First Class Nursery. Today it serves 92 children rather than over 500 at its peak.

[10] The walk continued into Springwood before returning to church via Greenhead College, built on the site of Greenhead Hall, the home of Benjamin Haigh Allen. Allen had Greenhead rebuilt in more contemporary late-Georgian, neo-classical style. The 30 acres of the estate were later to become Greenhead Park. David Griffiths has also written on Greenhead in his book 'Huddersfield's Best Address', published in 2015. The image below is taken from his book showing Greenhead in 1820.



I hope this virtual walk around the district of Holy Trinity from the first half of the nineteenth century has been of interest. There are still many hints of past-times around the area despite the massive amount of change since then. When the church was built it stood in almost glorious isolation, like a beacon on the hillside overlooking the town. By the 1860s the town had swallowed it up. The church was no longer the vision of one man overlooking his town, it had become part of the community it was built to serve. May it continue to be a base serving the area with the love of God in the next two centuries. I wonder if any of these buildings will still be standing then?

Andy Barber
July '19

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- Kirklees Image Archive <http://www.kirkleesimages.org.uk/> for the photo of Blakeshaw, used with permission
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Mountjoy Road photographed winter 2013.

The houses in this street date mainly from the 1860s and completed the surrounding of the church.