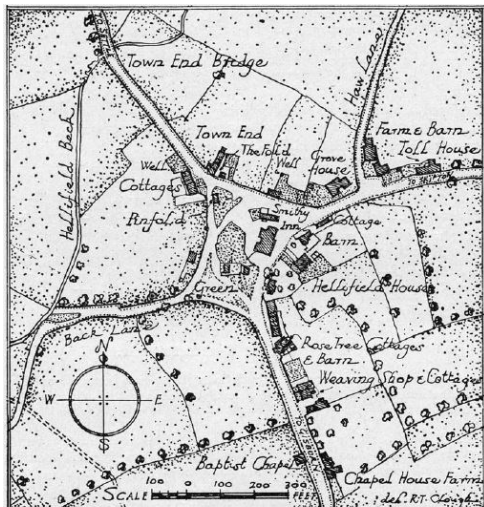


Hellifield Baptist Chapel

Hellifield's Baptist chapel located on Gisburn Road and now a private residence was the first public place of worship to be opened in the village. Its actual date of opening is unclear. Sources give three dates, 1804, 1805 and 1808!

The chapel is visible on the attached sketch map of 1831 from Tom Merrill's History of Hellifield (1949).



The Village of Hellifield in 1831.

early 1970's before opening briefly again in the guise of Hellifield Evangelical church. Records show its licence for marriages was cancelled in 1974.

The photograph below shows the chapel with a fine gas lamp over the entrance door and the windows of the gallery visible. The mock Tudor building in the centre was the railway mission, known by locals as the Tin Tabernacle! This mission was provided by the railway companies for the spiritual well-being of the workers constructing the new railway junction prompted by local concern over several drunken incidents amongst the navvies including a stabbing and attempted shooting! In later years the mission was run jointly with the assistance of the Baptist chapel.

John Percy, February 2020

The chapel was originally home to a group of Baptists known as Particular Baptists. This was a group of the Baptist faith that followed the teachings of French theologian John Calvin.

I attended the Sunday school here in the mid to late 1960's which was run by "Auntie" Bell Coates ably assisted by Bobbie Earnshaw. The chapel featured a gallery which was out of bounds to us pupils as it was deemed unsafe although several furtive forays were made to explore this feature, luckily without incident!

The chapel closed round about the

