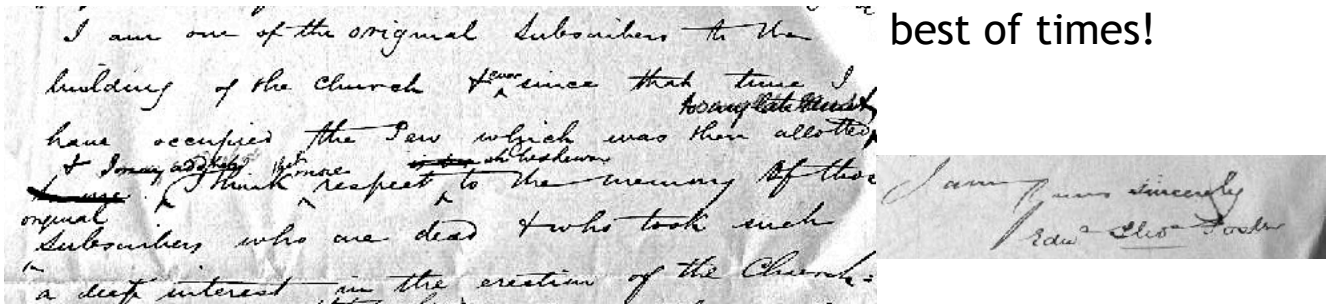


decidedly object to any more alterations. I am one of the original subscribers to the building of this church and ever since then have accepted the pew that was allotted. I think that more respect should be shown to the memory of the original subscribers who are dead but took such a deep interest in the erection of the church'. Edward Thomas Foster had inherited his pew from his aunt. Research shows that Edward was quite a fiery character at the best of times!



I am one of the original subscribers to the building of the Church & since that time I have occupied the Pew which was then allotted & I may say that I think more respect should be shown to the memory of those original subscribers who are dead & who took such a deep interest in the erection of the Church.

I am yours sincerely  
Edward Thomas Foster

A number of sermons were preached to generate donations.

**PROPOSED ALTERATION  
OF SETTLE CHURCH.**

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TWO

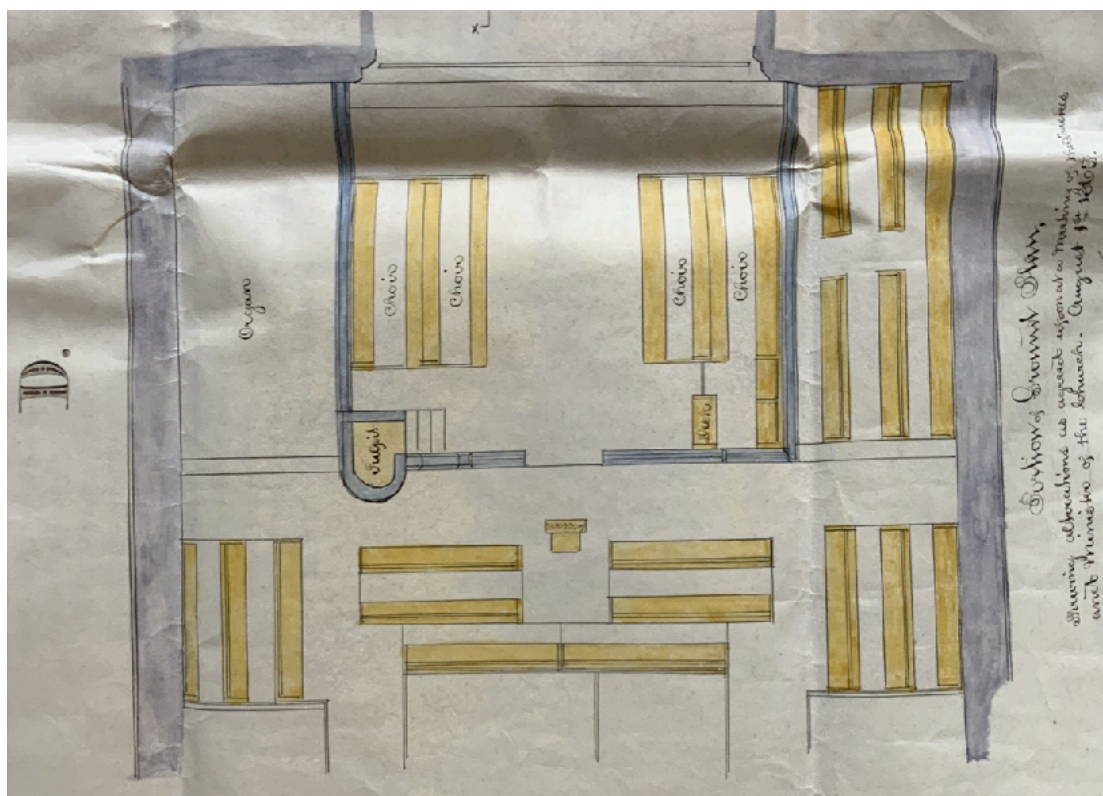
**SERMONS**

Will be preached in the said Church, on  
**SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1865;**  
In the Morning by the  
**Rev. W. F. PIERSON;**  
In the Evening by the  
**Rev. CANON BOYD.**

Collections will be made after each Sermon in behalf of the Fund for carrying out the said Alteration.  
**N.B. The Plans may be seen on application to the Incumbent or Churchwardens.**

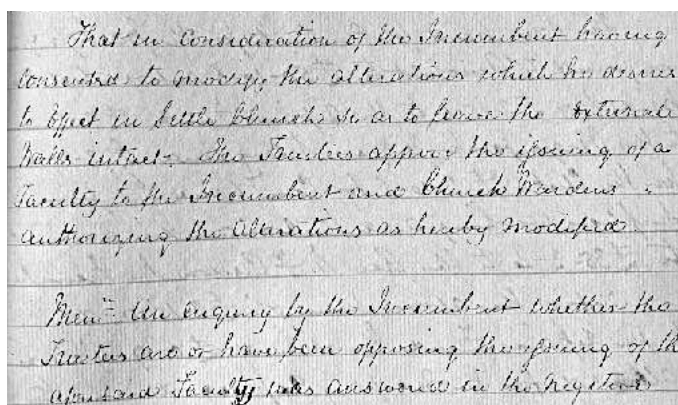
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WILDMAN & SON, PRINTERS, SETTLE.



Option D was selected – the layout we recognise today. About a third of the Pews were taken out for the organ near the altar. In order to get the Trustees to sign off the alterations Rev Pierson had to give up on the idea of the extension for the organ. On **1 August 1865** the Trustees logbook recorded *‘That in consideration of the Incumbent having consented to modify the alterations which he desires... so as to leave the external walls in tact, the Trustees approve an issuing of a Faculty.’*

Sometimes the Trustees took a long time to make a decision, *‘An inquiry by the incumbent whether the Trustees are or have been opposing the issuing of the aforeseaid faculty was answered in the negative.’* This was not the only time this was asked!



The Faculty for making alterations was eventually produced on **21 June 1866**.

Things are never straightforward are they? In **October 1866** the *Settle Chronicle* reported that when preparing the organ for moving downstairs, they found it had been damaged by steam from the heating apparatus and soot from the camphine lamps so that a new mechanism was required.

The great excess of expenditure over the amount subscribed and collected has been occasioned by the great and unexpected outlay which has been made upon the organ. It was originally intended simply to remove the organ from the gallery to its present position. This would have been effected at a cost from £20 to £25. But when the Instrument was examined, it was discovered that the steam which had been allowed to escape into the works from the warming apparatus in former years, together with the soot from camphine lamps, had so injured the mechanism, that entirely new works were necessary.

The work was eventually completed at a cost of £553 15s 3d. **George Wilkinson, John Winskill, and Joseph Jackson** carried out the alterations, with a new floor 'laid with encaustic tiles', and a Reredos (the screen behind the altar), pulpit (and matching font) of alabaster 'at the cost of the incumbent'. **Rev John Robinson** donated a stained glass window at the same time.



Once the work was finished, in 1868, the whole church was painted, whitewashed and

placed on the north side. The pews have been removed for about one third of the whole length of the Church at the east end. These have been replaced by appropriate seats for the choir, and the former organ gallery has been fitted with solid, comfortable, and open sittings: an arrangement which so much commends itself in respect of both appearance and comfort that it cannot be doubted the parish will soon be ready to re-pew the remainder of the church. The floor of the new chancel has been laid with encaustic tiles, and the end of the sac rarium has been enriched with a handsome Reredos of alabaster, with a most elegant pulpit of the same material (both it is said at the cost of the incumbent). The Reredos tho' good in design seems to require either colour well applied or gilding to bring it out to view and to show its real value. The handsome cross in the centre and the appropriate texts and emblems are almost invisible at a short distance. The cost of enlarging and renewing the organ has been heavy, but it is now a most excellent and complete instrument and the fault of its being too large for the place may without difficulty be remedied by the subduing skill of the organist. The amount collected during the day at the morning offertory and at the evening service was upwards of £70.

The following is a list of subscriptions and donations, with an account of the expenditure incurred for the alterations

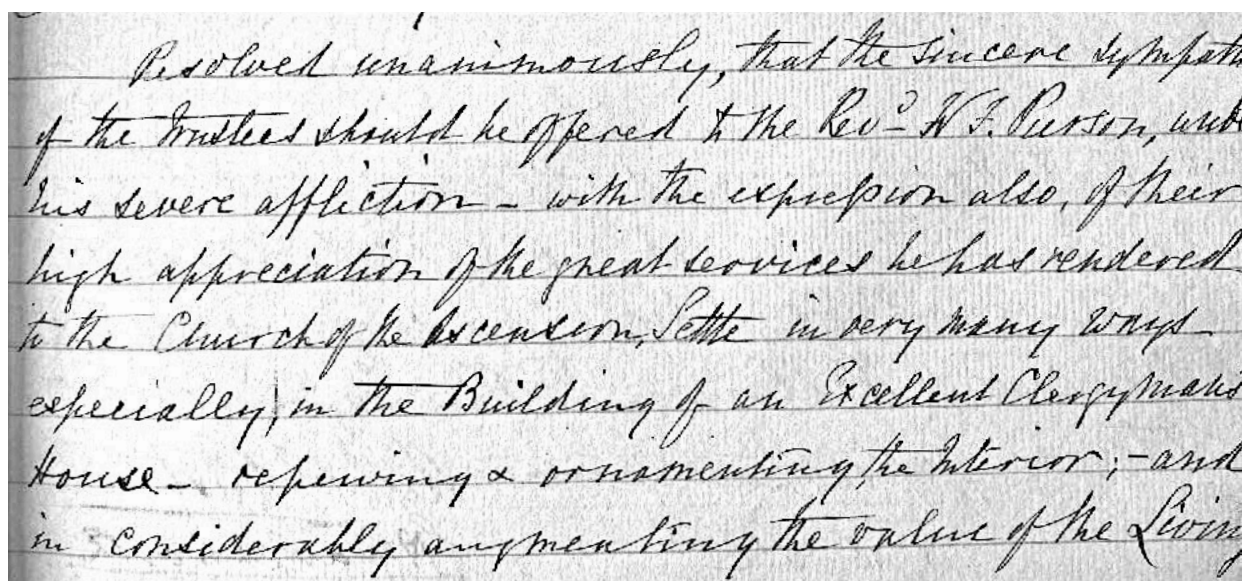
DONATIONS.			EXPENDITURE.				
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Wm. Robinson Esq.,	50	0	0	Mr. G. Wilkinson,	145	0	0
John Birkbeck, Esq.,	50	0	0	Messrs Forster & An-			
Rev. J. Robinson ...	25	0	0	draws, Organbuild-	236	13	0
Miss Lambert ...	25	0	0	ers ... ..			
Geo. Hartley, Esq (the				Mr J Winskill, Mason	84	10	8
late) ... ..	20	0	0	Mr J Jackson, Gasfitter	9	11	7
Mrs. Birkbeck, Anley				Messrs. Maw and Co.,			
(the late) ... ..	20	0	0	for Tiling ... ..	9	0	0
Miss Birkbeck ...	20	0	0	New kneeling Cushions			
Wm Robinson, Jun Esq	10	0	0	for Alter rail and			
Rev J Stausfeld ...	10	0	0	new Superfrontal for			
W. Morrison, Esq M.P	10	0	0	for Altar, &c....	10	0	0
The Misses Jarry ...	5	0	0	Cost of Faculty under			
Do. second				Seal ... ..	10	0	4
donation... ..	3	0	0	Lawyer's charge for			
R. Simpson, Esq ...	6	6	0	copying plans for			
Mr. Harger, (Liverpool)	5	5	0	the same ... ..	5	0	6
Mrs. Birkbeck, (Anley)	5	0	0	Lawyer's Bill in con-			
Mrs. Haughton... ..	5	0	0	nexion with the same	17	9	2
Miss Tatham, New				Architect's Commission			
Street ... ..	3	0	0	and expenses ... ..	26	10	0
Mrs Kempson ...	2	2	0				
Rev A S Porter... ..	1	1	0				
Miss Corsellis ...	1	0	0				
Mr Wilson, National							
Schoolmaster ...	1	0	0				
Proceeds of sale of Photo-							
graphs taken by the							
late W T Burrow, and							
Rev W. F. Pierson.							
printed and presented							
by Mr. M. Horner.	1	10	0				
Sundry gifts ... ..	3	7	8				
Church Collections	26	14	5				
Bank Interest ... ..	9	6	0				
	318	12	1				
Balance required	235	3	2				
	£553	15	3		£553	15	3

Signed,

W. F. Pierson, Perp. Curate of Settle.  
 George Wilkinson, } Churchwardens.  
 John Winskill, }  
 John Robinson,  
 Robert Simpson,  
 John Birkbeck, Jun.  
 Commissioners.

varnished, at a cost of £25, and insured for £2000. Ten years later there were further repairs to the warming apparatus and the church floor. In 1883 the churchwardens, **Thomas Clark** and **John Handby** investigated a regular servicing contract for tuning and servicing the organ.

On **18 July 1883** Reverend Pierson resigned having been in post for 35 years, citing ill health. The Trustees noted, '*the sincere sympathies of the Trustees should be offered to the Rev W F Pierson under his severe affliction – with the expression also of their high appreciation of the great services he has rendered to the Church in many ways, especially in the building of the excellent Clergyman's House – repairing and ornamenting the interior – and considerably augmenting the value of the Living.*' Rev Pierson had increased donations to the church so that his 'take home pay' doubled by the end of his office. Rev Pierson died just a month later, aged 62.



Resolved unanimously, that the sincere sympathies of the Trustees should be offered to the Rev<sup>d</sup> W. F. Pierson, under his severe affliction - with the expression also, of their high appreciation of the great services he has rendered to the Church of the Ascension, Settle in very many ways - especially, in the Building of an Excellent Clergyman's House - repairing & ornamenting the interior; - and in considerably augmenting the value of the Living

In **August 1883** the main walk way to the church was concreted '*under the supervision of the churchwardens*'. In **October 1883** Reverend Jackson Mason was the successful candidate, out of over 20 applications, to replace Rev Pierson. He faced a whole new raft of problems.

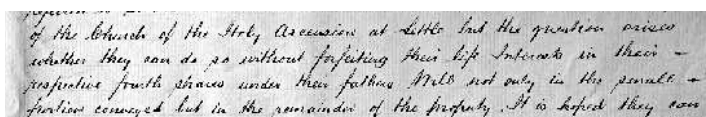
## Urgent – a graveyard extension required!

If Rev Jackson Mason thought Holy Ascension in Settle would be a quiet little backwater in which to end his career he was sadly mistaken. The original 'Ancient' graveyard had been legally closed by the Home Secretary in 1882, being '*dangerously full*'. Since then burials had been at Giggleswick graveyard and families loved ones had to be buried apart from their ancestors (except the wealthy, of course). So, Rev Mason was immediately involved in negotiations to find additional land for the graveyard.

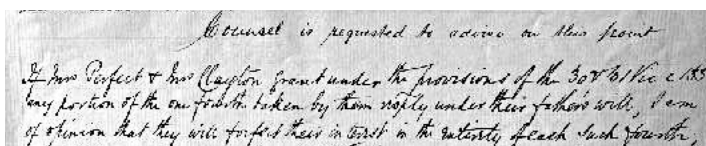
The obvious land for the extension was that adjacent to the existing graveyard so Rev Jackson Mason made enquiries with the descendants of William Bolland of Townhead. They were *Mrs Susanna (Bolland) Clayton* of Townhead and *Mrs Jane (Bolland) Perfect* of Langcliffe Hall. *Mr William Hartley* represented the church as their solicitor.

In December 1884 Rev Mason wrote to Mr Hartley saying, '*If we can induce Mrs Perfect to sell her land it will meet all needs better and (in the long run) more economically than any other plan. Of course the entire scheme would involve the diversion of the footpath, or rather cart road.*' And so the negotiations began.

On 6 August 1885 Mr Hartley wrote to Mr T Wiglesworth, a neutral authority on land and inheritance matters, '*Mrs Jane Perfect and Mrs Clayton propose to sell and convey a small portion of land as an addition to the graveyard of the Church of Holy Ascension at Settle but the question arises whether they can do so without forfeiting their life interests in their shares of their father's will. Counsel is requested to advise on this point.*' Mr T Wiglesworth replied, '*If Mrs Perfect and Mrs Clayton grant any portion of the land taken by them from their father's will I am of the opinion that they will forfeit their interest in entirety.*'



*of the Church of the Holy Ascension at Settle had the question arisen whether they can do so without forfeiting their life interests in their respective fourth shares under their father's Will not only in the present + fraction conveyed but in the remainder of the property. It is hoped they can*



*Counsel is requested to advise on this point  
If Mrs Perfect & Mrs Clayton grant under the provisions of the 30th 6/1/1885 any portion of the one fourth taken by them solely under their father's will, I am of opinion that they will forfeit their interest in the entirety of each such fourth.*

Oh dear. A strongly worded letter to Mr Hartley on followed on 19 August '*of course the opinion you have taken settles the matter*

as to our parting with the Townhead land for the addition to the churchyard. Mrs Clayton and I have no wish to take any further steps into the matter. Will you kindly let Mr Mason know the result of your investigation. Believe Me, yours sincerely, Jane Perfect, Langcliffe Hall'

of your investigation  
 Prelim m.  
 Yours sincerely  
 Jane Perfect  
 Langcliffe Hall  
 August 19<sup>th</sup> 1885  
 I have no wish to take any further steps in the matter. Will you kindly let Mr. Mason know the result

However, negotiations continued. On **19 September** Mrs Perfect wrote to Mr Hartley, 'I hope it will not be inconvenient if I do not return the draft of the proposed conveyance for a week or two. My solicitor is away from home until the end of September.'

On **22 September** Rev Mason wrote to Mr Hartley, 'I am sorry to find there is still some delay in negotiation with Mrs Perfect.... I hope you will impress upon Mrs Perfect that you have no time to lose and that you may persuade her to send her answer by the very first days of October.'

On **24 September** Mrs Perfect wrote, 'I am extremely sorry that I cannot see my solicitor until the end of the month. On his return I will at once let you know my decision about the land.'

On **7 October** Mrs Perfect's solicitors wrote to Mr Hartley, 'I hope to return the draft in the course of this week. Please furnish me with a more detailed plan and what is the amount of the purchase money? Then on **9 October** 'We return Draft Conveyance approved' This sounded so good...

Waltham Deane,  
 near Rotherham.  
 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1885  
 Dear Sir  
 Yours self to Mrs Clayton & Dr Perfect  
 We return Draft Conveyance approved - If

However, on **18 October** the church paid Mr Hartley (yes, the same Mr Hartley, the church's solicitor) the sum of £414 for 2730 square yards, known as Shortcake Field, now the 'Old' graveyard with no mention of the ladies.