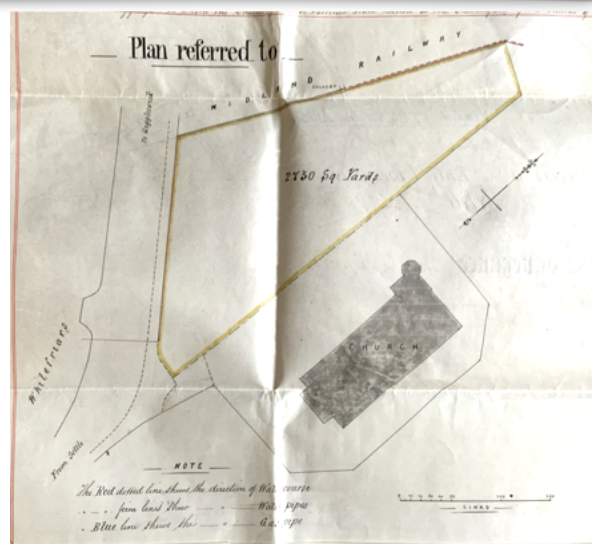


Newspaper reports suggest the ladies backed out at 'the eleventh hour', despite it being 'obvious to all' that their land should be added to the rest to make the scheme complete. 'A further resolution was passed requesting Mrs Perfect and Mrs Clayton to reconsider their refusal to sell their property.' They didn't!

The ladies' nephew, **William George Perfect** (who was the managing director of Langcliffe limeworks) tried to diffuse some of the criticism by writing to the newspapers. Do you think that worked?

assenting. Mr Win. Hartley had consented to name a price for a piece of land called "Shortcake," which adjoins the churchyard, and until the eleventh hour it was understood by the church officials that Mrs Perfect and Mrs Clayton, of Townhead, were willing to dispose of a portion of Townhead Meadow, which it was obvious to all should be added to the rest to make the scheme complete. Those ladies had, however, now declined to part with the land, and those who were acting in the matter were reduced to the more limited scheme.

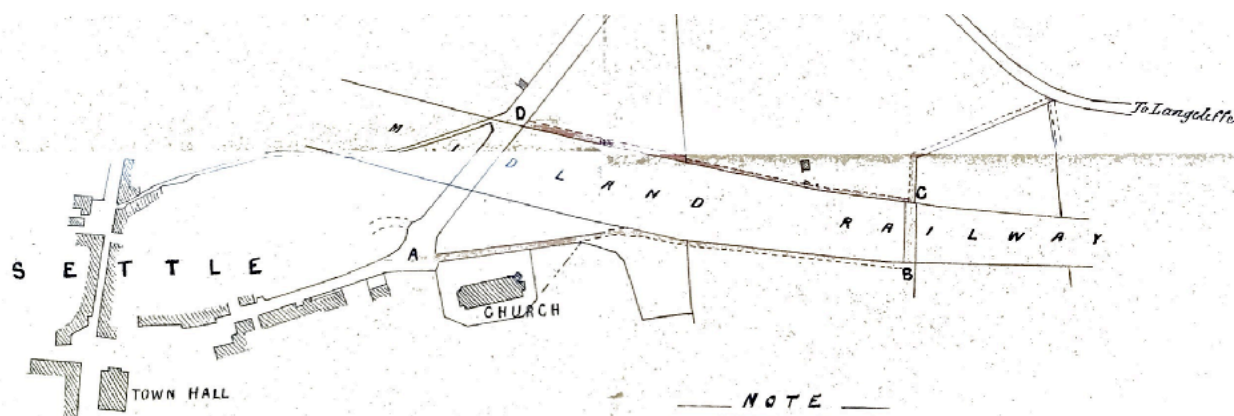


**SETTLE CHURCHYARD EXTENSION.**  
*To the Editor of The Yorkshire Post.*  
 Sir,—The statement made by the Rev. Jackson Mason at the vestry meeting held at Settle on Monday evening last, as reported in your paper of Wednesday the 31st ultimo, is calculated to mislead. So far from ever having given their consent to sell a portion of the Townhead Meadow for the purpose of enlarging the churchyard, now closed, the owners, on the 29th of July last, and again later, wrote to Mr Mason distinctly declining to do so; and upon further solicitation have since written to the churchwardens to the same effect. — Yours obediently,  
 Stainforth, January 2d. **W. GEORGE PERFECT.**

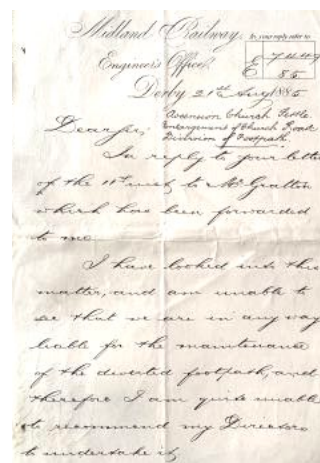


## What about Occupation Road?

Unfortunately, this was not the end of the problems. The original churchyard was bordered on the West by 'Occupation Road' the path used by the workers at Langcliffe Mill to get to and from work. As part of the conditions for buying the land for the railway in the 1860s, the Midland Railway had agreed to build and maintain Occupation Road and build a tunnel under the railway to preserve the workers' right of way. This Occupation Road would be swallowed up by the graveyard extension so needed to be diverted. The obvious route was to go down Church Street, under the railway and along Mains View (which had no buildings on it at that stage).



There followed a very long, complex procedure to ensure this could take place. Audaciously, Mr Hartley wrote to the Midland Railway asking of they would continue to maintain the diverted pathway. Unsurprisingly, their representative was 'unable to see that we are in any way liable for the maintenance of the diverted footpath, and, therefore I am quite unable to recommend my Directors to undertake it'!



After a preliminary hearing at the Quarter sessions:

**23 March 1885** – Rev Jackson Mason informed William Hartley, who was also the clerk to the Highway Board of the Settle Highway District, of the proposed changes and instructed them to give notice to the churchwardens to call a public (vestry) meeting

**24 March** – The Highway Board instructed *John Lister*, clerk to the Settle Union to call a public meeting

**28 March** – John Lister called a public meeting at the National School on **2 April** at 8.30pm to consider the proposal. Copies of the letter were sent to all the other churches during the hours of morning divine services on **29 March 1885**. Over 55 local businessmen and tradesmen attended. Rev Jackson Mason was in the chair. *'It was resolved without a single dissentient, that the footpath be diverted as proposed'*. Rev Mason was tasked to request that the Office of Surveyor of the Highways should put the plan into effect.

**THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHURCHYARD.**—A  
numerously attended ves:ry meeting was held at the  
National School, on Thursday evening, the 2nd inst.  
The Rev. Jackson Mason, M.A., presided. The  
business of the meeting related to the diversion of a  
footpath running past the churchyard, and for which  
another road has been provided. It was resolved with-  
out a single dissentient, that the footpath be diverted  
as proposed, and application made at Quarter Sessions  
for the usual orders to close it.

**2 April** – After the public meeting the Order was given to the Highways Board. Rev Jackson Mason asked two Justices of the Peace to view the proposal. The justices were Mr **Hector Christie**, owner of the Langcliffe Mills and *Rev Swale*, the first incumbent, now returned to Settle.

**6 April** – Consent was given by (the same) William Hartley and Jane Perfect, landowners and *George Metcalfe*, an occupier.

**14 April** – The Justices of the Peace directed the Highway Board to proceed, posting notices etc.

**18 April** – *Charles Bygrave* put a notice up in each church and at each end of two paths concerned on the Sundays of the following 2 months. *John Snell* was the Chairman of the Board.

**21 May** – Justices issued a formal certificate and deposition of approval.

**June** – after all the above procedure having taken place, a summary was sent to Bradford sessions for 'rubber stamping'.

# NOTICE

Is hereby given,

That on the 29th day of June, 1885, application will be made to Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace assembled at Quarter Sessions in and for the West Riding of the County of York, at Bradford, in the said Riding, for AN ORDER for DIVERTING and entirely STOPPING UP A CERTAIN PART OF A CERTAIN

## PUBLIC FOOTWAY,

Leading from Settle aforesaid to Langcliffe, in the said Riding, to wit, that portion of the said Footway which is situate wholly in the said Township of Settle, in the Settle Highway District in the said Riding, and commences at the Junction of the Highway leading from Settle to Giggleswick in the said Riding, and near to the entrance gates of the Church of the Holy Ascension at Settle aforesaid, and leads in a Northerly direction past the Churchyard of the said Church, for the distance of Three hundred and ten yards to the under Bridge or Archway of the Midland Railway, and thence in a Westerly direction for a further distance of Forty one yards under the said Archway to the West of the said Railway, and also for opening in lieu thereof and in substitution for the same a new PUBLIC FOOTWAY, to commence at a point out of the said Highway from Settle to Giggleswick immediately adjoining the Western side of the said Railway, and to lead in a Northerly direction by the side of the said Railway, over land belonging to and in the occupation of Mr. William Hartley, and over other land belonging to Mrs. Jane Perfect, and in the occupation of George Metcalfe, for the distance of Two hundred and fifty and a half yards, to a point where the same will join the said Public Footway from Settle to Langcliffe, on the Western side of the said Railway.

And that the certificate of Two Justices having viewed the said portion of Public Footway proposed to be diverted and stopped up as aforesaid, and also the said New Public Footway proposed to be opened in lieu of and substitution for the same, and that the said portion of Public Footway so proposed to be diverted and stopped up as aforesaid may be diverted in manner aforesaid so as to make the same more commodious to the Public by the substitution for the same of the said New Public Footway, so proposed to be made and opened as aforesaid, and the reasons for the same together with a plan of the said portion of Public Footway proposed to be diverted and stopped up, and also of the New Public Footway proposed to be opened in lieu and substitution for the same will be lodged with the Clerk of the Peace for the said Riding on the Twenty-ninth day of May 1885.

Witness the Common Seal of the Highway Board of the Settle Highway District, executing the Office of Surveyor of the Highways of the Township of Settle, in the said Riding, affixed the Seventeenth day of April, 1885.

In the presence of



Presiding Chairman of the Board



**23 June** – **Berthold Robert Stansfeld** and **Harold Eugene Stansfeld** apologised that they didn't reply by return but reassured Mr Hartley that they would be at the Bradford Quarter Sessions.

**29 June 1885** – the Bradford Midsummer Quarter sessions issued an Order for the new footpath, signed B R Stansfeld.

This long complicated procedure was never going to fail as Hector Christie and Rev Swale were both Trustees of the Church and the Stansfeld brothers were the sons of **George Stansfeld** and his wife **Sarah Birkbeck** of Settle. William Hartley owned the land to be used and was also the clerk to the Highway Board of the Settle Highway District and the solicitor acting for the church.

In 1887 eight bells were hung as a mark of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

Rev Jackson Mason died in 1888, aged 54. He had had a stressful five years in post. The Trustees '*placed on record the heartfelt appreciation Mr Jackson's faithful discharge of his duties in Settle*'. They placed an advert for his replacement and **Rev Richard Craven Garnett** was the successful applicant.

In December 1894 '*the church roof was elevated during the summer with pleasing results*'.

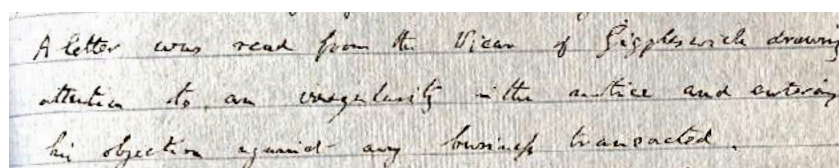
In November 1897 The Trustees agreed to pay the cost of the umbrella stands affixed to the pew ends, £8 13 sh 9d [cheque]. Where are they now?

iii. The Trustees agree to pay the cost of the Umbrella stands affixed to the pew ends; viz £ 8.13.9. [cheque.]

In May 1898 the church steeple was repaired by **Mr John Handby** who was also the churchwarden.

Relations between Settle and Giggleswick were not as harmonious as they could have been. In December 1900 '*a letter was read from the Vicar of Giggleswick drawing attention to an irregularity in the notice and entering his objection against any business transacted*'. The new Vicar of Giggleswick was **Rev Theodore**

**Percy Brocklehurst** who seemed quite happy to get into arguments with numerous parishioners and church workers alike.

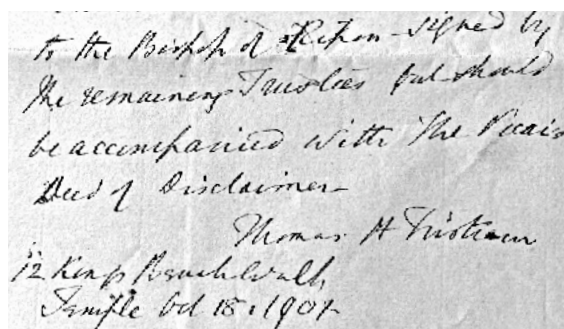


A letter was read from the Vicar of Giggleswick drawing attention to an irregularity in the notice and entering his objection against any business transacted.

## How long does it take to appoint a new vicar?

Relations with the Vicar of Giggleswick were to come to a head soon afterwards. On **22 August 1901** it was reported that Rev Garnett had resigned. There were no gracious thanks on this occasion. Some 33 candidates applied to take his position and the Trustees decided to ask five to their next meeting. On 21 September it was reported that five candidates had visited and met some Trustees and they decided to ask some other candidates to visit too. There were several other references to individuals over the next few weeks.

On **8 October 1901** the Vicar of Giggleswick wrote, 'I have decided to take no further part in the appointment of an incumbent in the present vacancy.' Oh dear – he obviously wasn't getting his own way. The Trustees decided to write to the Chancellor of the Diocese to confirm they had the power to nominate a minister without the Vicar of Giggleswick's agreement. **Thomas H Tristram** decided this was acceptable as long as the Vicar of Giggleswick signed a disclaimer.



to the Bishop of Ripon signed by the remaining Trustees but should be accompanied with the Vicar's Deed of Disclaimer  
Thomas H Tristram  
12 King Street, York,  
15th Oct 1901

The Trustees prepared a disclaimer, ready to proceed with the appointment of a vicar without involving the Vicar of Giggleswick. However, on 2 November it was reported that the Vicar of Giggleswick has returned the form of renunciation unsigned but had said 'under all the circumstances the only way in which I am able to help you in this if you will be good enough to let me know as soon as you have unanimously decided upon a suitable nomination ... then I can give my preferred confirmation'.

That doesn't sound great. Several more candidates were asked to come to Settle. On 7 December Rev E Storrs was offered the post but he declined. Several other applicants considered. Understandably, the parishioners were getting a bit fed up. On 26 February 1902 'A petition from the inhabitants of Settle, pewholders and officials of the church in favour of the Rev H Mayall was carefully considered but no decision was arrived at and the meeting was adjourned until Tuesday 11 March.'

*A petition from the inhabitants of Settle, pewholders and officials of the Church in favour of the Rev. H. Mayall was carefully considered, but no decision was arrived at, and the meeting was adjourned till Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11.15.0.10*



On 11 March 'it was agreed by the trustees present that the appointment of a vicar for the present vacancy be placed in the hands of the Bishop if the other Trustees consented.' They did and so it was and **Rev Walter Edgar Linney** was eventually appointed.

Rev Linney arrived in November 1902, some 15 months after Rev Garnett's resignation, to find the church in significant debt. He wiped out the debt within six months of his arrival.

In May 1906 Rev Linney requested 'that the Trustees of the Benefice of Settle be asked whether they would consent to declare the church free and unappropriated so soon as the money invested under the Pew rents redemption Fund should reach a sufficient amount to produce an annual income of £100.' This was eventually achieved on 1 May 1908.

*That the trustees of the Benefice of Settle be asked whether they would consent to declare the church free and unappropriated, so soon as the money invested under the Pew rents Redemption Fund shall reach a sufficient amount to produce an annual income of £100.*

# Contact the Graveyard Project:

The project is ongoing and it's always great to hear comments and ideas from interested people, especially if you happen to be a descendant of one of our churchyard burials.

Email [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com) to contact Sarah Lister with any queries about the project and to receive the latest information and Tuesday Tales

Go to **Settle Graveyard Project Facebook Page** for latest news, events and Tuesday Tales



Research findings are posted on this website. Follow the link to Settle Graveyard Project on the home page. These pages are updated weekly.

[www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk)

Findings are being added to the church burial records which are now available to the public online at

[www.settlechurch.uk/hagryd](http://www.settlechurch.uk/hagryd)

