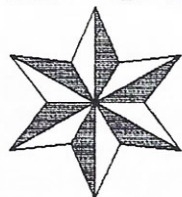
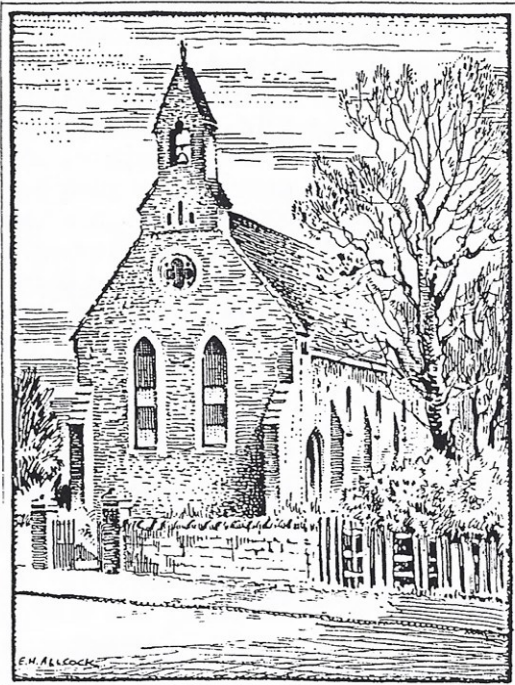


HUCKNALL TORKARD TIMES



Issue 4 September 1997 15p



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH FROM NOTTINGHAM ROAD.

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL NIGHT

Thursday 4th December is the date to remember when many people will be hoping you will support their efforts for the Carnival and make it a special night for Hucknall. Amongst all the other happenings will be the exhibition at Central Methodist Church to celebrate 200 years of Methodist history in Hucknall.

TIMESPAN

As I typed up the list of dates on the back page I started to wonder if or how any of these events would have affected Hucknall people.

For instance:- Do you know if any of your ancestors were amongst the first Methodists? Which Hucknall men were serving abroad in China or India? (It is recorded that John Butler of Hucknall who died in 1914 was at the siege of Lucknow in 1857.) Are there any family stories about treatment by any of the Green family of healers? Did your grandmother work at the cigar factory? Why did Hucknall need a dance hall on Parker Street? What were you doing when the first Sputnik was launched?

Would you like to share any of your memories about these ideas or you may have other more interesting items to tell us about. Please let me have your thoughts or contributions for the next edition of Torkard Times.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

On the southern edge of Hucknall Torkard in 1876, a new estate had been built. The area which was called Butlers Hill, contained at least 415 inhabited houses with about 2,000 residents. Already the School Board had built schools to provide education for the children and nonconformist churches such as the Methodists, Congregational, and Church of Christ, had established places of worship. One acre of land was generously given by the Duke of Portland for a mission church for Church of England worshippers.

Within a few weeks a sum of £800 was donated for the cause which enabled the well known architect Bromley to start with the building. "A young clergyman the Rev. H. C. Hicks was ordained to serve in the district and almost at once began to hold services in a shop in Whyburn Street bought for that purpose." The Nottingham Journal gave information that on Wednesday April 5th 1876 at 3pm the foundation stone of a new church will be laid by the Right Rev. The Bishop of Lincoln, followed by a Tea Meeting and a concert of sacred music.

Newspaper reports of the stone laying say that when the church is complete it should hold about 500 people but first a nave and temporary chancel will be built to accommodate 250 - 300 people. The church walls will be of Linby stone with Bath stone facings in an architectural style called Early French. Eventually the congregation hope to add a tower and spire but for the present a bell turret will take their place. At three o'clock a crowd gathered to watch the stone laying ceremony by the Lord Bishop who opened the proceedings with praise and prayer. Mr. Widdowson handed the Bishop a silver trowel suitably inscribed for the occasion and after he spread mortar under the suspended stone it was lowered into place. The Bishop then stood on the foundation stone to give a short address and after prayers and singing "The Church's One Foundation" the ceremony was terminated.

Eleven months later the new church was opened. "A joyously inspired procession followed their father in God, Bishop Tozer, from the mission rooms in Whyburn Street to their future home. The main body of the church was at this time complete. Bishop Tozer opened and dedicated the building on March 6th 1877". Much interesting information comes from an eye witness newspaper account. "Inside the church the wall at the east end is divided into two alcoves and in the northward recess under the window stands the communion table. Southward is the harmonium. Sitting accommodation is provided by rush bottomed chairs fitted with kneeling boards and book rests at the back. By night the building is illuminated by gas and the heating is by stoves but when funds allow a system of hot water heating will be installed. Mr. Henry Beardsmore has been ordained to act as lay reader". Butlers Hill School log book says "Attendance was reduced owing to the opening of a new church in the neighbourhood." Entertainments and other meetings continued to be held in the school room on Whyburn Street.

Rev. Henry Champernowne Hicks, curate-in-charge at St. John's had worked hard during the past couple of years since his appointment. Building up the congregation, taking care of pastoral duties and watching over the construction of the new church had taken its toll of his health and the doctor ordered rest. He went on holiday to Northumberland, visiting his brother who worked in a bank at Alnwick. One day the two young men caught the 5.10pm train to Alnmouth where they hired a boat, pulled out to sea in front of the sands, undressed ready for bathing and dived in the water.

The Shields Gazette and Shipping Telegraph of Wednesday July 17th 1878 reports "A sad case of drowning, which has cast a deep gloom over the little sea side village of Alnmouth, occurred yesterday afternoon. Every exertion was made to restore life but it was fruitless. As the deceased gentleman was a practical swimmer, it is thought he might have been paralysed by the abrupt change of temperature as the day was hot."

Alnwick Cemetery is a very beautiful and peaceful place where a stone to the Rev. Hicks is included in a family plot No. A377. The wording on the oblong coffin shaped stone is: Here rests the body of Henry Champernowne Hicks, aged 26 years, assistant curate of Hucknall Torkard in the Diocese of Lincoln, 16th July 1878.

The Rev. Hicks had a dream for a new block of schools to replace the Whyburn Street room and at a meeting held at the National School it was decided to erect a building for Sunday School purposes as a memorial to him. Mr. Fred Gratton was asked to draw up the plans for a site between Butlers Hill Board School and St. John's Church. An appeal was made for subscriptions towards this scheme. The building was in "The Gothic style of rough Bulwell stone with facings of Ancaster stone large enough to accommodate 200 children. The estimated cost was thought to be about £400 and thanks to the liberality of leading parishioners, notably Mr. John Godber, Rev. J. H. Godber, Mr. James Hislop, Mr. James Widdowson, Mrs. and Miss Ball, Mrs Jackson, and Mrs. Paget, most of that sum has already been subscribed. The contractors are Messrs. Houldsworth and Green." At the stone laying ceremony a good crowd gathered to watch the Rev. J. E. Phillips conduct the service and Alfred Ellis, Esq. J.P. lay the memorial stone. Afterwards a tea and entertainment was given by the people of Hucknall.

Hucknall Morning Star and Advertiser.
January 18th 1895

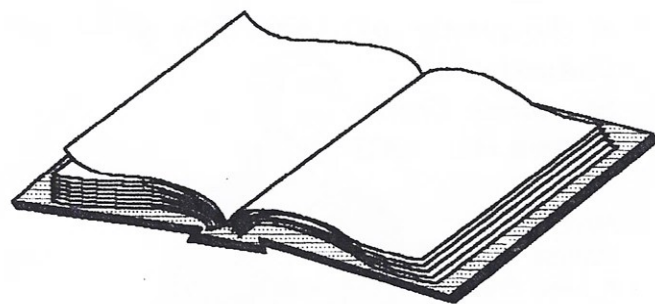
St. John's Church, Butlers Hill,
Hucknall Torkard.

CHANCEL & ORGAN CHAMBER

TO BUILDERS

Tenders required for above works
Apply at my office on or after Monday January 21st
ROBERT CLARKE
ARCHITECT, NOTTINGHAM

So in 1895 the church was extended by building a chancel and this was consecrated on October 1st by Dr. George Ridding, the first Bishop of Southwell. The beautiful window above the high altar shows the crucifixion of our Lord with his parents at each side and was erected as a memorial to the men of Butlers Hill who died in the Great War.



MARRIAGE & BAPTISM REGISTERS

St. John's marriage registers began on January 6th 1884 when John William Jarvis married Elizabeth Ann Ellis followed on February 2nd by John Clarke and Elizabeth Sharratt. Baptism registers start in January 1888 with Sarah Elizabeth Wildig, Joseph Knight Hallam, and John Wilkinson. Early registers have been deposited at Nottinghamshire Archive Office but copies have been put onto microfiche to about 1900. The microfiche copies can be seen at Hucknall Library or Notts. Archive Office.

On Your Behalf, a booklet about St. John's Church published in 1952, states the following: "Things cost less in those days: In 1877, the bill for building St. John's was just over £1,000-- less than the cost of a modern prefab! In 1878 the Hicks Memorial Schools were built for some £500. The parsonage cost £640 in 1892, and three years later the chancel amounted to £1,000. But remember that these were the days when a semi-skilled worker received 30s a week and milk was ½d a pint. Our forefathers certainly gave generously to their church."

SOURCES

Nottm. Journal April 1st 1876
Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser March 9th 1877: July 26th 1878: November 22nd 1878
Hucknall Morning Star & Advertiser
January 18th 1895
Butlers Hill Boys School log Book
On Your Behalf: A souvenir of the 75th year of dedication of St. John's
The Church of St. John the Evangelist 1877 - 1977: A Centenary Souvenir
Alnwick Cemetery Records

Can anyone help with more information about the Rev. Hicks family history? A recent holiday in Northumberland gave the opportunity to search for his grave but the discovery of the family plot threw up more questions. Three other people are buried with him, Emma and Elizabeth Hicks and a man James Hicks who may be his father was Vicar of 'Pydeltrenthide' in Dorset for 41 years. All taken to Alnwick to be buried but no one by the name Hicks was listed as living close to Alnwick in the current telephone directory for the area.

ON YOUR BEHALF
A Souvenir of the 75th year of
Dedication of
St. John's Church,
Butlers Hill. 1952

ADVERTISERS

Hucknall Co-op, Furnishing Dept
F. Lord, Fruiterer & Greengrocer,
147 Portland Rd.
F. Allsop, Grocer
174 Portland Rd.
T.A. & F. Brown, Butchers,
159 & 184 Portland Rd.
Breedon & Wightman, Garage,
Portland Rd.
W. Bexon, Funeral Director,
Lingford St.
A. Wood, Newsagent,
172 Portland Rd.
Eric S. Brownlow, Dairyman,
Woodstock St.
H. Francis & Sons, Bakers,
Allen St.
John Munks, Sports Goods,
17 High St.
J. Wooley, Fish & Chips,
155 Portland Rd.
L.E. Downen, Grocer,
163 Portland Rd.
G. Johnstone, Decorator,
9 Annesley Rd.
F. Allen & Co., Plumbers,
Woodstock St.

BOOTS CENTENARY

HUCKNALL DISPATCH
Friday Sept. 11th 1953

HENRY MORLEY LOOKS BACK

Over 56 years ago I was present at a sale of property at the Station Hotel, Hucknall, the chemists shop of Mr. Buckland's in High Street being up for sale. A local company included a little man who was a stranger to all except two persons. The auctioneer started and after half a dozen bids and things were falling a bit flat, there came a bid from the aforesaid little man.

There was some whispering: Who is he? Then one who knew him answered: It is Mr. Boot. And so it was. The actual gentlemen who started the herbal shop in Hockley, Nottingham, and was branching out as a chemist, destined for a chain of chemists shops throughout the land. Later he became Sir Jesse Boot and afterwards Lord Trent. It was 56 years in July since the shop was opened by Boots.

Hucknall Star & Advertiser April 12 1895

COLLIERY EXPLOSION WYOMING FIVE HUCKNALL MINERS KILLED

On Friday night some commotion was caused at Hucknall by the arrival of the news of the death of five Hucknall miners in the Alma Colliery, Wyoming, U.S.A. Their names were James, Thomas, and Samuel Hutchinson, Harry Lester, and Harry Burton, all married and most of them leaving families. These men left England about five years ago for the United States and formerly worked at Linby Colliery. They have numerous relations in Hucknall. Seventy miners were at work in the pit on the night shift when the explosion occurred and only twenty were saved.

Nottinghamshire County Records of the 18th Century by K. Tweedale Meaby

On 29th January 1774 John Lindley of Hucknall Torkard, Husbandman, was charged for drawing a narrow wheeled waggon on the turnpike at Greasley with five horses being one horse more than allowed by the Act of 1773 was fined £5.

At Nottingham on 2nd October 1797 William Cartwright of Hucknall Torkard, Labourer, was committed to the house of correction for one month in solitary confinement for stealing one silver pint cup value 30s., the property of Wm. Stanley.

BENJAMIN CAUNT

Prizefighter of England

Benjamin Caunt was born in a little cottage to the east of the railway station in Newstead. He was possibly a greater fighter than Nottingham's famous Bendigo - whom he beat and almost strangled to death - but Bendigo wrestled the title from him on a foul and always got the greater limelight. But Ben Caunt's story is a fascinating one. When he was a boy the family moved to a cottage just over the Hucknall boundary and as a youth he was a farm labourer. He recognised his own strength and one day when he was set upon by two ruffians, soundly thrashed them. After he had beaten his pugilist uncle in his first prize fight he was quickly matched for more important bouts and became the greatest name in sport. He was a man of tremendous physique, standing over 6 feet 2 inches and few dared to match their strength with his. Those who did relied upon their agility and cunning to exploit Caunt's clumsy style and cut his face to ribbons with their sharp knuckles. Caunt was transformed into a mass of human fury when his opponents, after inflicting fearful punishment, would slip from his grasp to the turf to end the round and avoid further damage.

It was this blind fury that resulted in his losing some of his most important fights on a "foul" verdict. He first met Bendigo in a 25 round battle at Appleby House, an inn on the Ashbourne Road 30 miles from Nottingham. At the close of the 22nd round, Caunt rushed across the ring, and demanding that Bendigo should "Stand up and fight fair", loosed a terrific backhand that sent his opponent and his second rolling across the 24ft. ring. Bendigo was awarded the verdict on a foul. In his next fight Caunt thrashed Boniford in 16 rounds and this led to a return fight with Bendigo which aroused national interest.

His return match with Bendigo was at Stony Stratford on September 9th 1845 before a capacity crowd of 10,000. Whilst Caunt fought fairly and stood up to his man he rarely landed a blow - for Bendigo constantly fell to the turf. It is recorded that his second Nick Ward became exhausted at having to pick him up and Nobby Clarke had to take his place. It was an extremely hot day and the fight lasted 93 rounds over 2 hours and 10 minutes. It ended after Bendigo had been knocked down. Caunt turned away thinking the round had ended but fell himself and the referee ruled that Caunt in falling had lost on a foul. Bendigo became the champion of England on that unsatisfactory verdict.



BENJAMIN CAUNT, CHAMPION.
BORN March 22, 1815, at Hucknall, near Nottingham; weight, 15 stone;
height, 6 feet 2½ inches.

Caunt now considered his fisticuffs career ended. As a licensed victualler he was content with his lot and happy in his family circle. He was frequently host to his Nottinghamshire friends when they visited London. But tragedy struck in Ben's life. On the night of January 15th 1851, whilst he was visiting friends in Herefordshire, his pub the Coach and Horses was gutted by fire and two of his children, Martha aged 8 and Cornelius aged 6, perished in their bedroom together with a cousin called Ruth Lowe. The newspapers of the time recorded that at the funeral at Hucknall "The grief of the unhappy father excited general commiserations. No one could have suspected that the big rough bare knuckle prizefighter had so tender a heart or so emotional a nature." Ben died on September 10th 1861 after catching cold at a pigeon match which resulted in congestion of the lungs. In the latter part of the last century more people visited the grave of Ben Caunt than visited the tomb of the poet Byron at Hucknall church. It is a different story today. The Prize fighter Benjamin Caunt is a forgotten man.

KEITH MARRIOTT 1, Holbeck Road,
Hucknall.

Thanks to Holgate School for information
file containing the illustration taken from
Sportsman Magazine No. 13 Week Ending
Aug. 16. 1845.

200 YEARS OF LOCAL & NATIONAL "7" EVENTS

Would any of them have affected you or any of your family members?

1797 Methodism first came to Hucknall
Torkard
1837 Queen Victoria succeeded to throne
1837 Civil Registration begins July 1st
1847 Factory Act - 10 hour day for women &
children 13 - 18 years
1847 British Museum opened
1847 Chloroform first used as an
anaesthetic
1857 Anglo Chinese War and Indian Mutiny
begins
1867 Hucknall Local Board elected
1867 No. 1 Colliery on fire
1877 Butlers Hill School opened
1887 Hucknall Cemetery opened
1887 Hucknall Free Library built
1887 Coal Mines Act - No boys under 13 to
work underground
1897 Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee
1897 Zachariah Green died aged 80 in
January
1897 Telephones were installed in Hucknall
1897 Boots store opened on High Street,
Hucknall
1897 Nurses Home opened on Beardall
Street, Hucknall

1907 Godber Memorial Church Hall to be
opened
1917 Russian Revolution
1917 Herbert Buzzard awarded Military
Medal
1917 Hucknall cigar factory on strike
1927 First solo transatlantic flight
1927 Plan to build Cripples Guild, Derbyshire
Lane, Hucknall
1927 Plan to build Dance Hall, Parker Street.
1937 Air raid precautions planned
1937 Frank Whittle invents first jet engine
1947 Coal mines nationalised
1947 School leaving age raised to 15
1957 Sputnik 1 - first space satellite
1967 Francis Chichester sails round world
single handed
1967 Colour T.V. began in Britain on B.B.C. 2
1967 Congregational Church celebrates
centenary
1967 Catholic School, Walk Mill Drive, opened
1977 Centenary of opening Baptist Church,
Watnall Road
1997 No. 1 Colliery site being cleared
1997 Plan to build new college in Hucknall
1997 Hucknall threatened with massive house
building programme

DIARY DATES

9th September 1997 Hucknall Heritage Society meeting "Old Nottinghamshire
Houses" Heritage meetings commence 7.30pm at Central Methodist Church Hall.
14th October 1997 Hucknall Heritage Society meeting "20/20 Vision"
17th & 18th October 1997 The musical "Pharisee" at Central Methodist Church,
Hucknall
14th November 1997 Hucknall Heritage Society meeting "Hucknall Past & Present"
4th December 1997 Hucknall Christmas Carnival.

DIARY DATES

CAN YOU ADD ANY DATES TO THE ABOVE
COLUMN?



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COUNCIL**

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64, Bestwood Rd. Hucknall.
Tel. 0115 9631705

HUCKNALL REMEMBERED

The exhibition Hucknall Remembered seemed to be a great success. We would like to say thank you very much to all who attended and hope you enjoyed your visit. If you have any comments, ideas or would like to help with presenting history "Open Days" please contact one of us - Maureen & John Newton and Ann Krogulec. Thank you again.