

## Malton Worship

### Introduction

In general terms, Victorian life in Malton was strongly influenced by religious beliefs. The Anglican church began to lose its strong position and non-conformist movements strengthened their following. In wider terms, the general level of education was rising and scientific knowledge expanding (for example Charles Darwin's theories regarding evolution) leading to a gradual questioning of religious beliefs. Malton had always been an agricultural centre but industrialisation provided different opportunities and the advent of the railway had an increasing impact of life. Nevertheless, those who wished to maintain their

relationship with religion had a wide choice of where to worship as trade directories of the period show.

The situation was summarised well in the York Herald of 8 June 1839 which reported that 'it had heard that a new Catholic chapel is about to be erected in New Malton . . . When this is effected there will be no less than nine different places of religious worship . . . in the town, which will be thus well provided, seeing that there is only a population of about four thousand.'

### 1851 Religious Census

At the same time as the 1851 Census was conducted, a 'Religious Census' was carried out. This surveyed all places of religious worship of all denominations. The quality of the returns is a little variable, those completing them (usually the minister) choosing not to provide certain information or boosting attendance figures to create a more favourable 'picture.'

Digitised copies of the returns can be found at the National Archives reference HO 129/526 and can currently (January 2021) be downloaded without charge. The following summarises the information from the Malton returns but is not exhaustive. Slightly different information was asked in respect of a 'Place of Public Religious Worship' to 'Church or Chapel belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland.'

					Estimated number of persons attending a service on Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 1851		
	Where situated	Denomination	When Erected	Number of Sittings	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
St. Michael's	Market place			623	372	X	X
St. Leonard's	Church Hill			709	251		
Wesleyan			1811	800	250	240	460
Primitive Methodist Chapel	Spittle street	Primitive Methodist	1822	355	X	140	230
Unitarian Chapel	Behind Wheelgate	Unitarian	Before 1800	180	28	X	62
Ebenezer Chapel	Saville street	Independents or Congregationalists	1814	500	104	X	163
Back Street room		Christian Brethren	1849	90	13	X	65
Society of Friends	Greengate		1823	500	37	24	X
St Marys	Low Street	Catholic	1841		100	X	200
Baptist Chapel	Malton	Baptist	1824	500	0	45	100

# St. Michael's



St. Michael's stands in the Market Place and has Norman origins but very few parts from this date remain. The tower was added in the 1400s and there have been a series of restorations since. Two of the three main bells date back to the late 17th century. Not surprisingly there have been a number of restorations over the years.

St. Michael's re-opened after a major restoration, in May 1858. This was funded largely by subscription and the names of the subscribers appeared in the final statement and was published in the local paper – see newspaper image on the right. The scope of the work, some controversial, and criticism of the final result, is described in the newspapers of the time [1].

It included replacement of the pews and floor. During this work, excavations revealed vast quantities of human bones close to the surface, indicative of the former practice on interring the dead in churches.

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, NEW MALTON, AND THE APPLICATION THEREOF.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.				
The Archbishop of York	15	0	0	J. Harrow...	1	0	0				
The Earl of Carlisle	10	0	0	J. Rievely...	1	0	0				
Lord Middleton	10	0	0	W. Wrangham	1	0	0				
Right Hon. J. E. Denison, M.P.	50	0	0	John Shepherd	1	0	0				
Hon. Chas. Wm. Fitzwilliam, M.P.	80	0	0	T. Frowsdale	1	0	0				
James Brown, Esq., M.P.	100	0	0	T. Langstaff	1	0	0				
The Ven. Archbishop Long	10	0	0	George Spencer	1	0	0				
The Ven. Archdeacon Churton	7	10	0	Chas. Marshall	1	0	0				
Lady Sykes	5	0	0	Wm. Flint	1	0	0				
Rev. J. Peach	10	0	0	George Hardy	1	0	0				
Rev. T. H. Croft	5	0	0	G. C. Bond	1	0	0				
Gen. Northcote	5	0	0	Thos. Meyrick	0	10	6				
Col. Cholmley	5	0	0	Walter Taylor	0	10	6				
Edmund Robinson, Esq., London	14	14	0	James Speven	0	10	0				
Robert Bower, Esq.	5	0	0	Paul Hickey	0	10	0				
Rev Canon Dixon	1	0	0	Tobias Field	0	10	0				
Rev Wm. Found	5	0	0	Miss Bounding	0	10	0				
Rev. I. Fish	5	0	0	Thos Smith	0	10	0				
Robt. Ward, Esq.	5	0	0	J. Snarry	0	10	0				
Wm. St. Quintin, Esq.	1	0	0	Jas. Hall	0	10	0				
Rev. C. Symptom	2	0	0	John Hudson	0	10	0				
Dr. Rogers	2	10	0	G. Dinsdale	0	5	0				
Rev. — Parker	1	0	0	T. Pearson	0	5	0				
Rev. — Wilkinson	1	0	0	Mackeath	0	5	0				
Rev. — Fawcett	0	10	0	John Race	0	5	0				
Mr Taylor, London	1	0	0	Miss Vindall	0	4	0				
J. Scott, Esq.	1	0	0	By Incorporated Society's Grant	200	0	0				
Rev. — Richardson	0	10	0	By Ladies' Collecting Books	140	18	0				
				By Col-edin at opening	49	19	1				
LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.											
W. C. Copperthwaite	64	9	3	By payment from rates on account of repairs to the Fabric							
James Smith	45	0	0	Amount collected by Messrs Jefferson and Long							
Rev. G. A. Firth	37	0	0	botham							
Alfred Simpson	30	0	0	Do. by Mr J. Rutter							
Bower, Hall, and Co.	25	0	0	Do. by Mr W. Taylor							
I. Priestman	15	0	0	Sale of old materials							
Edward Rose	15	0	0	Interest on cash in hand, 1857 and 1858 allowed							
Edward Longbotham	15	0	0	by Bank							
M. Taylor and Son	12	0	0	£1209 17 9							
John Smith	10	0	0	PAYMENTS.							
Dr. Wright	10	0	0	J. C. Teale, Mason	567	19	10				
Miss Spence	8	0	0	Gibson and Scarry	311	14	1				
Henry Jackson	7	10	0	John Gibson	37	0	0				
J. Harley	6	0	0	James Moon	96	8	3				
John Jackson	5	0	0	J. Shepherd	37	10	6				
City and County Bank	5	0	0	Jackson and Son	31	10	10				
York Union Bank	5	0	0	John Hudson	19	14	4				
J. Wrangham	5	0	0	— Fossil, Organist	15	12	0				
Wm. Wright	5	0	0	— Bolton, for stone	14	16	0				
R. Jefferson	5	0	0	C. W. Strickland, Esq., for stone	12	2	6				
Jas. Metcalfe	5	0	0	Mr Strickland kindly contributed a quantity of stone towards the restoration.							
Wm. Colby	5	0	0	H. Smithson	8	5	6				
H. Smithson	5	0	0	Carriage of stone	7	5	9				
T. Walker, Jun.	5	0	0	Pretors for Faculty	0	11	2				
Thos. Reed	5	0	0	Paid expenses of Singers at opening	2	0	0				
Mrs. Key	3	0	0	Paid Canon Stowell's expenses	0	18	0				
Chas. Barliff	2	0	0	Paid for collecting books, &c.	0	18	0				
Mrs and Miss Rose	2	0	0	£1209 17 9							
Mrs Wilson	2	0	0	HENRY JACKSON, } Churchwardens during the Restoration. ALFRED SIMPSON, }							
John Rutter	2	0	0								
Mrs Sellarby	2	0	0								
J. S. Mallett	1	0	0								
H. Souby Jun.	1	0	0								
Martin Dodsworth	1	0	0								
Wm. Snow	1	0	0								

©British Library NEWS9027 Malton Messenger 10 December 1859

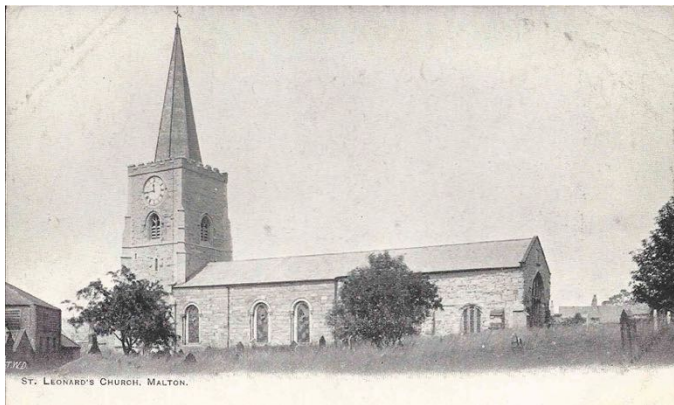
A further restoration, costing £2,500, commenced in 1882, the church re-opening in September 1883 [3]. In January 1886 there was still a debt of £850 [4]

More detailed information about the history and design of St. Michael's can be seen in many of the trade directories of the era and at the [Historic England website](#).

### References:

- [1] Yorkshire Gazette, 22 May 1858
- [2] Malton Messenger, 10 December 1859
- [3] Yorkshire Gazette, 15 September 1883
- [4] Yorkshire Gazette, 16 January 1886

## St. Leonard's



St. Leonard's is of late 12th century origin but did not get its' spire until the 19th Century. Like St. Michael's it was a lesser church to St. Mary's in Old Malton. Located on Church Hill, it passed to the Church of England on the dissolution of the Monasteries and was 'returned' to the Roman Catholic church in 1971. Inevitably there have been a number of restorations.

The scope of the 1855/56 restoration of St. Leonard's is described in the Yorkshire Gazette, 15 November 1856.

The leader of the Malton Messenger of 23 June 1860 referred to the scheme to restore the clock

faces on the tower of St. Leonard's Church and announced that the MP of the time, James Brown had presented £100. As a result of this it had been decided to include a wooden steeple in the plans. The whole height of the structure was proposed to be 130ft from the foundation to the pinnacle. The church previously was notorious for the ugliness of its spire and due to that unsightliness and its unsafe condition it was pulled down some six years ago. [1]

There was a public meeting in May 1896 to discuss the dangerous state of St. Leonard's tower. Earl Fitzwilliam agreed to contribute £500 if the parishioners could raise £500 to effect the repairs [2]

More detailed information about the history and design of St. Leonard's can be seen in many of the trade directories of the era and at the [Historic England website](#).

### References:

[1] Malton Messenger, 23 June 1860

[2] Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 29 May 1896

## Primitive Methodists



The Chapel has moved around a bit! The chapel then in use had 'become far too small' when the Borough Bailiff, Jno. Hopkins, a Quaker, laid the foundation stone for a new chapel on 11th July 1866. The site was provided by Earl Fitzwilliam, in Wheelgate, next to the Cross-Keys [1] Services in the new Chapel started on Wednesday 22nd May 1867 [2]

The first Primitive Methodist Chapel at Malton was opened on 22 October 1822, there being 96 members. The interior cost £225. Earl Fitzwilliam built the shell and charged £10 a year rent. There was no lease, and the Earl could claim back at any time. It stood in Spital street, and was later used as a Parish Hall.

The cost of the chapel in Wheelgate was £1,834, and the original and subsequent cost being £2,250, there being a debt on the building when finished of £984. Under the Rev. P. Gibbon's ministry the freehold was bought for £250 [5].

The Reverend Gibbon was also instrumental in remodelling the steps at the front of the chapel and installing new iron gates and unclimbable iron rails to take the place of the 'old clumsy work', and an entrance made direct into the chapel. The alterations, together with the erection of the new Post Office building were said to 'make a decided improvement to Wheelgate'. The gates were opened on Thursday 26th August 1909 [3]

The Sunday school was started on 12 October, 1825. The first school was held in a small day school in the Back Lane near the Cattle Market used by Mr. Coates, then in a day school used by Mr. G. Haley until 1834, when a new school was built behind the old chapel. In 1844 there were 30 teachers and 160 scholars, and in 1921 12 teachers and 83 scholars.

In 1872 Mr. W. Gibson was asked by the Quarterly Meeting to try and organise a singing class out of the Sunday school. For some years a string band supplemented the choral efforts. Later a harmonium was bought and afterwards a pipe organ. The chapel at Norton was built in 1864, and that at Old Malton in 1857, the latter costing £172, being leasehold [3]

In 1892 it was reported that there was still a debt of £460 on the chapel [6]

In 1906, it was said that the school was in the basement of the chapel 'Four feet below the level of the street, with no light from the rear, and very little from the front, and overshadowed on each of its longer sides by adjoining property, even at noonday in midsummer it requires artificial light' [7] The chapel was demolished in the 1950s, exact date and reason for demolition not known.

[1] York Herald, 14th July 1866

[2] York Herald, 25th May 1867

[3] Malton Messenger, 28th August 1909

[4] Taken from a cutting, possibly Yorkshire Gazette 24 Nov 1928

[5] Malton Messenger, 16 October 1909

[6] York Herald, 27 October 1892

[7] Christian Messenger, 1906 no 328

## Unitarians

The original chapel was built in 1715 in Wheelgate in the grounds of the house of William Strickland (MP for Malton 1708-1715, and later Carlisle and Scarborough) according to the Unitarian Historical Society), partially restored in 1824 and thoroughly restored in 1877. Early in 1878 there was a three day bazaar in aid of the restoration fund [1]. In 1715 the chapel was known as the 'Wheelgate Protestant Dissenting Chapel' During the ministry of the Rev. John Bartlett, 1784-1829 the congregation moved from Independant Ayrrianism to Unitarianism - denial of the Trinity, denial of the doctrine of original sin, denial of the divinity of Jesus. The change in theology to Unitarianism, caused c.1812 a split in the congregation. The Independents left to form their own congregation, their new chapel opening in 1815.

A report late in 1837 [2] states that ' . . . delivered the first of a series of five lectures on the Unitarian doctrine of Christianity, in Wheelgate chapel, Malton . . . '

Following Rev. John Bartlett's tenure, the congregation was overseen by Rev. William Hincks and then: 1838 – 1851 Rev. Marmaduke Frankland; 1851 – 1855 Rev. John Naylor; 1861 – 1875 Rev. William Sutherland; 1875 – 1880 Rev. John Sutcliffe;

## Independents/Congregationalists

Recollections of the early Independent movement were published in the Yorkshire Gazette in 1908. They sprang from the Presbyterians who worshipped in Greengate. [1]

The North Yorkshire County Record Office has church records dating from 1771.

The first minister to receive "a call" from Malton was the Rev. W. Greenwood followed by the Revs. E. Gatley, G. Schofield, JT Shawcross, D. Senior, Wm. Clark, T. Milnes, L. Hartley, RC (afterwards Dr.) Scurrah, WH Fox, FJR Young and J. Haigh [1]. The Rev J. Hancock was pastor for 3 years prior to his death in 1912 [2]

1882 – 1891 Rev. John Boughey; 1892 – 1901 Rev. Samuel Jenkinson.

The Rev. Rodger Smyth preached his farewell sermon in October 1905 [3] In October 1888 Rev. J. Boughey was pastor [4] The Rev. S. Jenkinson of Manchester accepted the pastorate in February 1892 [5]

The 1953/54 Malton Town Guide refers to 'a Unitarian Church in Greengate close to the Friends' Meeting House'.

The Earl of Carlisle joined the Unitarian Church shortly after closing the Church of England chapel at Castle Howard. He and two of his sons drove from Castle Howard to attend services at Malton Unitarian Chapel [6]

The Unitarian Chapel closed c1955

[1] Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 12 January 1878

[2] York Herald, 4 November 1837

[3] Leeds Mercury, 2 October 1905

[4] York Herald, 24 October 1888

[5] Leeds Mercury, 13 February 1892

[6] Carlisle Patriot, 28 June 1889

Thank you to Paul Lindsay Dawson, Unitarian and historian for providing much of the information included here.

The foundation stone of the Independent chapel was laid on 30th June 1814, by Mr. Joseph Rider (a merchant in Yorkersgate), 'on a site liberally granted by Earl Fitzwilliam for 999 years on a pepper corn rent, when asked for' [3] This site is at the top end of Saville street.

The one-time Minister of the Malton Independent Chapel, the Rev. George Schofield emigrated to Newfoundland, Canada, in approximately 1849 according to an 1857 newspaper report [4]. Four columns in the publication 'Newfoundland Express' of April 29th 1857 are devoted to testimonials as to his life there. He was Minister of the Queens Road Independent Chapel, St. John's.

[1] Yorkshire Gazette, 2 May 1908

[2] Hull Daily Mail, 20 July 1912

[3] Yorkshire Gazette, 9 June 1888

[4] York Herald, 6 June 1857

## Baptists

The origins of the Malton Baptist Church were in a plan submitted in 1821 to the Baptist Itinerant Society (of North and East Ridings) in 1821 for commencing preaching in Malton. Later in 1821 six people were baptised in the Derwent by the Rev. John Hithersay, of Hunmanby.

In 1822 the church was formed, regular services were taking place and an effort to raise funds for a chapel were made. A site was secured in Wells Lane and a foundation stone laid in 1823 for a building to seat 250 to 350 persons. The Rev. C. Morrell was ordained the first pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Wells Lane, Malton in 1823. In 1857, membership of the church was reported as 42, with attendance in the morning of 40 and for the evening service of 80 [1]

### Baptist Pastors:

Rev. C. Morrell 1823 to 1827

Rev. L. Shaw 1827 to 1831

Rev. E. Godson 1831 to 1832

Rev. J. Rouse 1833 to 1840

Rev. Boyce 1840 to 1843

Rev. W. Hardwick 1843 to 1850

Rev. J. Bane 1853 to 1855

Rev. B. Shakespeare 1857 to 1863

Rev. J. Clough 1863 to 1865

Rev. W.H. Allen 1866 to 1868

Rev. W. Turner 1869 to 1870

Rev. J. Chadwick 1870 to 1872

Rev. R.J. Beecliff 1874 to 1875

Rev. W. Smith 1875 to 1879

Rev. J. Rigby 1879 to 1893

Rev. J.O. Ogilvy 1894 to 1902

Rev. E. Smith 1903 to ?

In August 1860, 3,000 people gathered in the railway goods warehouse to hear the preachings of a Reverend C. H. Spurgeon. [2]

In 1863, the chapel was re-opened 'having been closed for some time for alterations.' The Rev. J. Clough was ordained at the service [3]

[1] A Brief History of the Malton Baptist Church, 1908

[2] Yorkshire Gazette, 28 October 1905

[3] York Herald, 12 December 1863

## Wesleyans

John Wesley visited Malton and preached in the first Methodist Chapel which was in Old Maltongate. This Chapel was bartered to Earl Fitzwilliam for the ground on which the present Chapel now stands in Saville street, and which was built in 1811. At the same time two ministers houses were built, one each side of the Chapel. These were used until houses were built on The Mount. The architect of the building was Mr. J. Jenkins of London. During the building work a slater fell from one of the ceiling joists to the chapel floor, Mr. John Temple, surgeon, was paid £4 4s for services in attending him [1]. On Wednesday evening the Wesleyans of Malton celebrated their chapel anniversary ' . . . the public

meeting was held in the chapel, Saville street . . . ' Mr. W. Wilson mentioned that it was 76 years ago last month since their chapel at Malton was opened [2]

A History of Wesleyan Methodism in the Malton Circuit during the last thirty years: its past and present financial position, fluctuation of members, with various suggestions for placing the circuit on a more substantial basis. Author J. Collier, 1864.

[1] Malton Wesleyan Circuit Magazine, May 1911

[2] York Herald, 22 June 1888

## Religious Society of Friends

Quakers have worshipped in Malton since George Fox came to speak in the town in the early 1650s. They acquired their first Meeting House in 1677, in Spital Street. This was replaced by the Meeting House in Greengate in 1823. Many prominent traders and industrialists in the town were members of the Quaker movement. The University

of Hull has some early documents regarding the Quaker movement in Malton including the Monthly Meeting Account of Sufferings 1737-1787 which can be expected to have recorded the circumstances in which local Quakers were persecuted. Also included are references to the Rowntree and Priestman families.

## Catholics

The York Herald of 8 June 1839 reports that 'it had heard that a new Catholic chapel is about to be erected in New Malton . . . When this is effected there will be no less than nine different places of religious worship . . . in the town, which will be thus well provided, seeing that there is only a population

of about four thousand.' This chapel was opened in 1841 City and Topography of the City of York and North Riding of Yorkshire by T. Whellan & Co, 1857 In 1971 the church of St. Leonard's was gifted to the Catholics and the congregation transferred from the Wells Lane chapel.