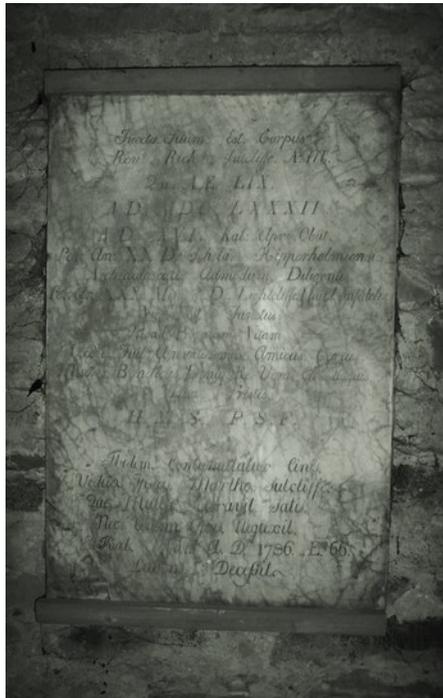


Artefacts from the Old Church

A memorial tablet for **Rev Rich Sutcliffe and his wife, Martha.**



RICHARD SUTCLIFFE, priest, was nominated to St. Ann's, Southowram, in 1746, and on July 18th, 1750, to Lightcliffe by Dr. Legh, Vicar of Halifax. Mr. Watson's date, 1752, is therefore wrong. Thomas Meyrick, the ex-Wesleyan, succeeded him at Southowram in 1750. Mr. Sutcliffe held Lightcliffe for nearly 32 years. His successor states in the Register that he died March 17th, 1782. Mr. Sutcliffe was master of Hipperholme Grammar School for twenty years. By his will he left 20s. to the poor yearly. This gift was charged on Sheard Green, in Hove Edge quarter, and at the time of the Charity Inquiry was in the occupation of Joshua Hall, and the sum of 20s. was regularly distributed. The Church tablet records—

"Juxta situm est corpus Revd. Richd. Sutcliffe, A.M., Qui A. Æ. LIX. A.D. MDCOLXXXII, XVI Kal. Apr. Obit (i.e. March 17th), Per An. XX Schola Hipperholmiensis Archididascoli. Admodum Diligentis. Per An. XXX Minister de Lightcliffe, Haud Infidelis Vice est Functus, Quod Privaia vitam. Uxor is Fuit Amantissimus. Amicus Certus, Miseris Beneficus, Denq. Re Vera Christianus. Vidua Tristis P.S.F.H.M.S. Ibidem Contumulator Cinis Vidue Ipsius Marthae Sutcliffe, Quae Multa Curavit Satis. Nec Ullum Opus Neglexit P. Kal. Mar. A.D. 1786, Æ. 66 Ludens Decessit."

**Near this place lies the body
of [Rev Richard Sutcliffe A. M.](#)
who died at the age of 59
on 17th March 1782**

**For 20 years, Headmaster of Hipperholme School
Always careful.**

**For 30 years, Minister of Lightcliffe.
never unfaithful.**

**As assertive in village matters
as in his private life.**

**He was a loving husband, a true friend.
Kind to the poor.
In short, a true Christian.**

His sorrowful widow

She raised this monument for herself and her descendants

**In the same place are buried the
ashes of his widow Martha Sutcliffe
who amply took care of many things
and did not neglect any duty
28th February 1786, aged 66.
Happily departed**

He is listed on the Incumbent of St Matthew's from 1750 to 1782 and appears on the Benefactors Board (see details below)

Martin Bull, Calderdale Companion has the following on him.

Usher at Heath Grammar School 1744

Curate at Southowram 1746 – 1750

Curate Lightcliffe 1752

Curate Halifax 1756

Master at Hipperholme Grammar School 1770

Perpetual Curate, Lightcliffe 1782

He lived briefly at Cooper House Luddendenfoot.

John Walker: 1753 – 1823



John Walker*, died April 22nd 1823 aged 70 of Crow Nest. Mary*, his wife, died November 13th 1823 aged 60. William*, eldest son, died April 25th 1798 aged 21 weeks. Mary*, oldest daughter, died February 1st 1815.

John was the son of William Walker & Elizabeth Caygill and married Mary Lees Edwards.

The other children including Ann 1803-1854 buried under the pulpit. (see below) and Elizabeth (1801-1844) who married George Mackay Sunderland 1798 – 1847.

Mary Sutherland*, the granddaughter of John & Mary Walker & daughter of George Mackay & Elizabeth Sutherland died 1845 is also buried in the family plot*.

John Walker. 1804-1830

There is a small memorial to a second John who died in Naples aged 26. He was buried in the Protestant cemetery, Corso Garibaldi, Naples. He was the second son of John Walker; brother of William, Ann and Elizabeth. He married Fanny Penfold 2/7/1829, died on honeymoon 19/1/1830. A child

was still born, end of male line, hence Ann and Elizabeth inherited Cliff Hill and Crow Nest. Fanny came from Sussex and was employed by an uncle of John. She became/already was companion to Elizabeth. Fanny married again & died in Dublin.

J. Horsfall Turner's "Old Lightcliffe Chapel" says that Fanny had erected the memorial tablet with the weeping Greek above the named memorial. The two are both in the tower but mounted separately. It is thought that the profile was done by one of the Richard Westmacott RA but there is no mention



in the catalogues of their works. (see Friends of Friendless Churches)

Ann Walker.



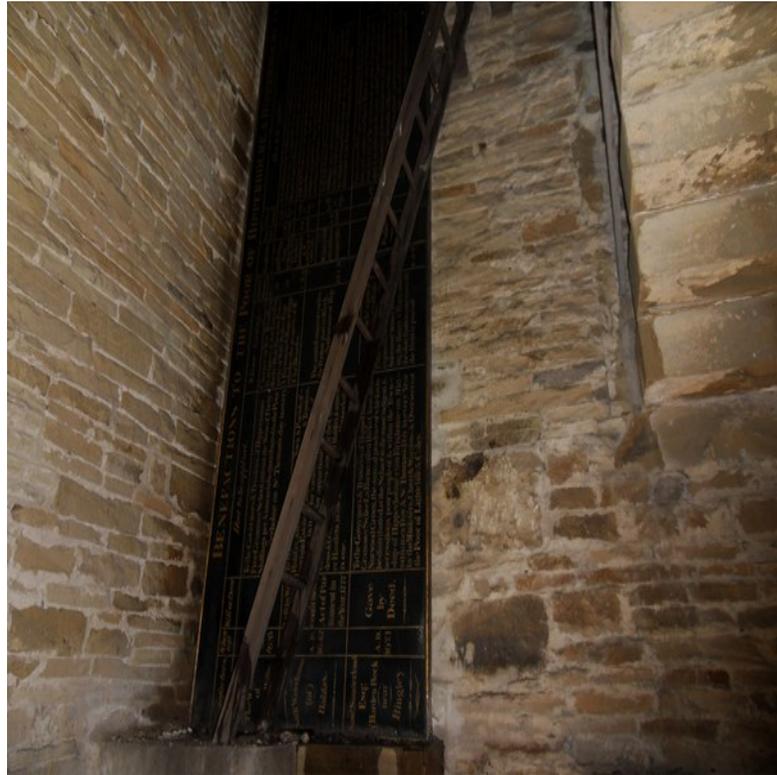
*In memory of Ann Walker of Cliffe Hill who was born May 20th 1803 [all Roman numerals]
and died February 25th 1854 and is buried underneath the pulpit in this church.*

And of her neice, Mary who died June 6th 1845 and is buried in this churchyard.

*and of her nephews George Sackville [Sutherland] who died in 1843 aged 12, John Walker who died in 1836 aged 1 year and are buried in
Kirkmichael, Rosshire the children of George McKay & Elizabeth Sutherland.*

*There is a brass plaque on the south wall of Halifax Parish Church [Halifax Minster] dedicating a window by Evan Charles Sutherland Walker in an
identical style.*

Benefactors' Board.



The Benefactors Board which used to hang on the inner west wall in the old church is now stored within the tower, vertically, and attached to battens. It measures about 12' x 3'9" and looks to be oak. Stained with gold leaf script.

Benefactions to the Poor of Hipperholme & Hipperholme [###]											
Benefactors	When left	Will or Deed	How to be applied	Whence issuing	Amount produce	Benefactors of	When left	Will or Deed	How to be applied	Whence issuing	Amount produce
Mr Tho. Whitely	Nov 17 th AD	Left by Will	To the Governors & Trustees of	Charged on Yew Trees	£. s. d.	Michl. Gibson Esq of	AD 1738	Left by Will	To be distributed by the Ministers &		£. s. d.

of Cinder Hills	1631		Hipperholme Free Grammer School, in trust, the sum of forty shillings per annum to be distributed to the poor of Hipperholme on St Thomas's Day in every year.	Farm, the property of Josh Lister Esq, Harley Head Farm, the property of William Walker Esq. A farm in the village of Hipperholme, the property of Mr Chas Dearden.	10 10 1. 0. 0	Slead Hall			Churchwardens on every Sunday in the year for ever at Lightcliffe Chapel the value of 1 shilling in bread to 12 persons residing at Hough Edge & Upper Lane. This is charged upon the Pear Tree Farm at Lightcliffe.		2. 12. 0
Nath. Waterhouse of Halifax	AD 1642	Left by Will & which has since been confirmed by Act of Parliament in the year 1777	To 16 inhabitants of the Town & Parish of Halifax under the title of Governors & Trustees certain estates lying in the Town & Parish of Halifax in trust for various purposes &, amongst others, one is for apportioning a part of the revenue of the said estates amongst the Churchwardens & Overseers of the town & 9 other Hamlets	The annual amount varies, the Portion paid in March 1809 to the Overseer of Hipperholme was.	22. 0. 0.	The Rev'd Richard Sutcliffe AM late Curate of Lightcliffe	AD 1782	Left by Will	To Mr William Walker at Crow Nest, the Ministers & Churchwardens of Lightcliffe & their successors in trust 20 shillings per annum to be by them distributed at Lightcliffe Chapel on Christmas Day to 20 poor persons residing in Hipperholme cum Brighthouse having no Parish relief.	This is charged upon an estate at Sheard Green.	1. 0. 0
Sam'. Sunderland of Harden Beck near Bingley	AD 1671	Gave by Deed	To the Governors & Trustees of Hipperholme Free Grammer School, a farm called Birks Close near Norwood Green, the annual produce of	This farm was let upon a lease of 200 years at £8 per annum which is expired. The Trustees have borrowed	8. 0. 0.	Mr Jas. Gledhill of Smith House in Lightcliffe	AD 1789	Left by Will	To Mr William Walker of Crow Nest & his successors in trust the sum of 40 shillings, one half to be laid out in linen cloth for 8 poor women & the other half to be applied to the benefit of		

			which is to be distributed at the School to the most indigent of & within the Township of Hipperholme-cum-Brighthouse on Midsummer's Day & St Thomas's Day in every year by the Ministers, Churchwardens & Overseers of the Poor of Lightcliffe & Coley.	money for rebuilding the House & Barn so that the distribution continues until the Debt is paid off.					Sunday Schools but if the Sunday Schools be discontinued then the 20 shillings to be distributed to the poor on Christmas Day in every year.		
					William Walker	AD 1810	Left by Will	Extract from Will: I give my Executors & Trustees & their heirs one annuity clear yearly rent or sum of £10 upon trust that they or the survivors or survivors of them or his heirs shall do distribute the same at the Chapel of Lightcliffe on Christmas Day every year for ever; to & amongst such poor persons of the Township of Hipperholme aforesaid as they shall think fit the sum of two pounds part thereof being the interest of £50 paid to me under the will of the late James Gledhill & the residue thereof I declare to be donated from myself.	This bequest was [###] under the Statute of Mortmain.	10. 0. 0.	

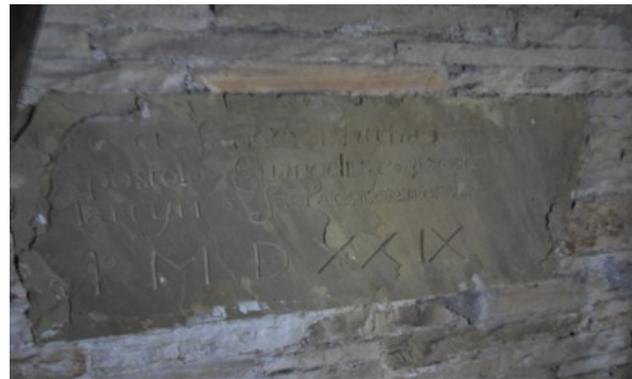
Hipperholme Free Grammer School. "Grammer" is the spelling used in each case.

The **Statutes of Mortmain** were two enactments, in 1279 and 1290, by Edward I of England aimed at preserving the kingdom's revenues by preventing land from passing into the possession of the Church. Possession of property by a corporation such as the church was known as mortmain.

[###] - yet to be read.

The date stone from the original chapel is on the second floor of the tower. From this it shows that the church has always been dedicated to St Matthew.

**Deo et Sancto Matthæo
Apostolo Evangelistæ
Martyri Sacra
A. O. MDCXXIX**



And what is missing. J Horsfall Turner describes other memorials which aren't in the tower.

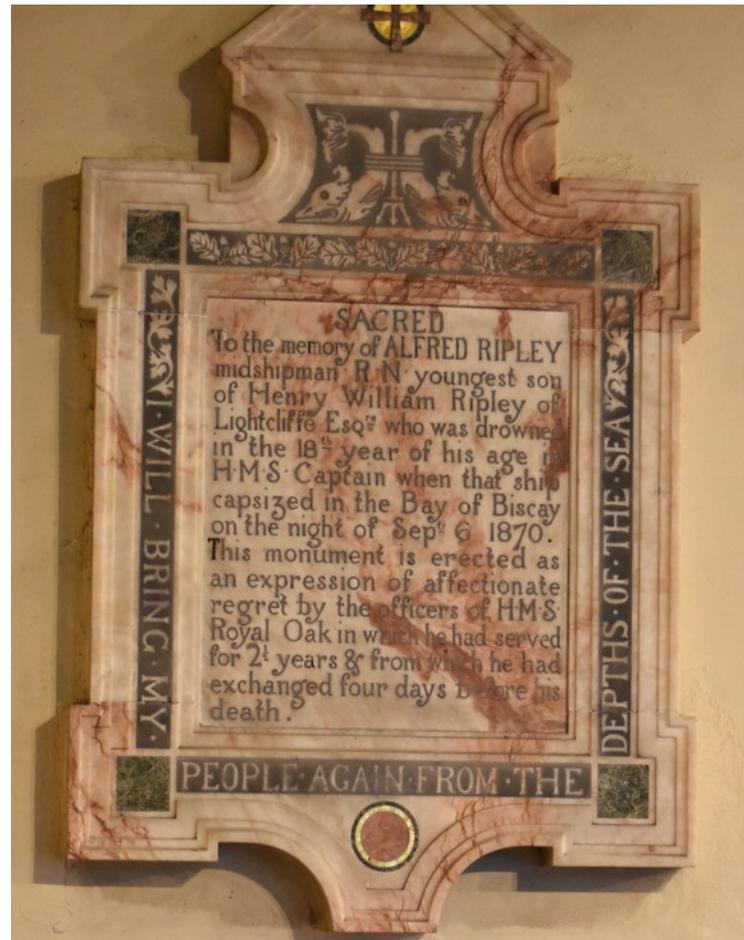
A large brass plaque commemorating George Mackay Sutherland – his chest tomb is the western section of the closed churchyard.

“in memory of **George Mackay Sutherland** of Aberader, Inverness-shire, Captain of Her Majesty's 13th Regiment of Light Dragoons who was born November 19th 1798, died April 22nd 1847 and is buried in the churchyard and of **Elizabeth** his wife, daughter of John Walker of Crow Nest who was born November 10th 1801 and died December 28th 1844 and is buried in Wimbledon, Surrey.”

Described as a mural alabaster monument with classical design. Could this be the monument on the south wall in the photograph which includes pulpit and memorial to John Walker?

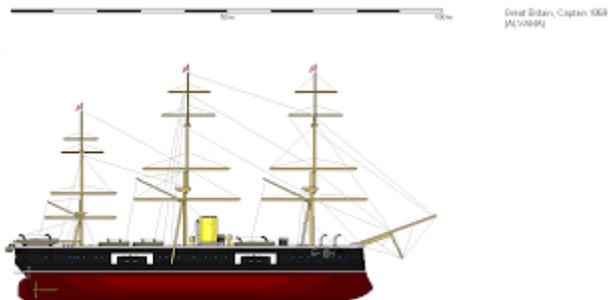
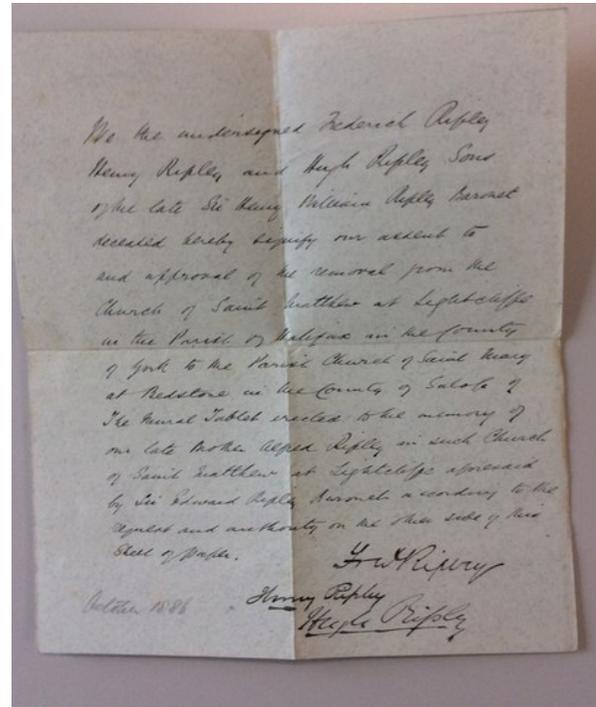
“Sacred to the memory of **Alfred Ripley** late Midshipman RN youngest son of Henry William Ripley of Lightcliffe Esq. who was drowned in the 18th year of his age in Her Majesty's ship 'Captain' when the ship capsized in the Bay of Biscay on the night of Sept 6 1870. This monument is erected as an expression of affectionate regard by the officers of H.M.'s ship “Royal Oak” on which he had served for 2½ years and from which he exchanged four days before his death.”

'I will bring my people from the depths of the sea' surrounding the inscription.'



This memorial is in the church of St Mary's Bedstone Shropshire

West Yorkshire Archives have a letter from the Ripleys seeking permission to transfer the tablet.



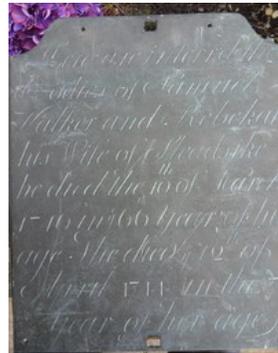
HMS Captain. This was an experimental ship testing turret gunnery. Looking at the gun ports, just above the water line, it is hardly surprising that it

sank.

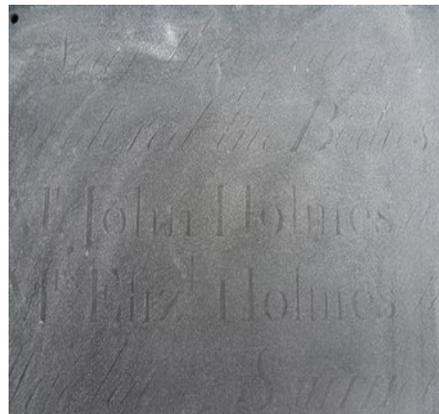
There is a fuller account in the section *People of Interest*.

Brass plates from pews in the middle aisle.

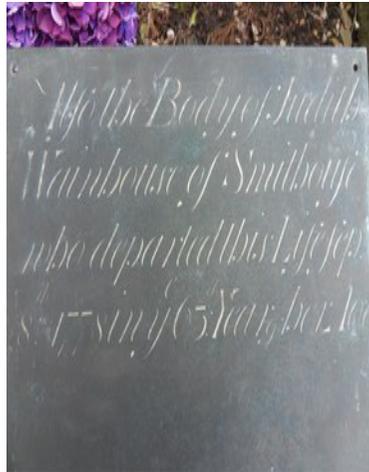
1. Here are interred the bodies of **Samuel Walker and Rebekah**, his wife, of Slead Syke. He died Mch 10 1740 in the 66th year of his life. She died April 12 1744 in 70th year of her life.



2. Near this place are interred the bodies of **Mr John Holmes and Mrs Elizabeth Holmes**, his wife, late of Smith House. He died March 13th 1742 aged 34 years. She died February 25th 1785 aged 73 years.



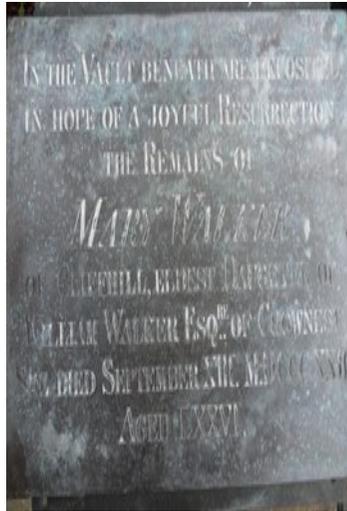
3. **Judith Wainhouse** of Smith House who died September 8th 1778 in ye 63rd year of her life.



4. **John Gill** of Slead Syke who died 1783 aged 70. [the only John Gill in our records died in 1787]



5. In the vault beneath are deposited in the hope of a joyful resurrection the remains of **Mary Walker** Cliff Hill eldest daughter of William Walker Esq Crow Nest She died September XIII, MDCCCXXII Aged LXXVI.



Brass plate, possibly from gravestone to Ann Walker d 1847, aged 90.

What is now in the “new” church:

The **Royal Coat of Arms** which was mounted on the western gallery wall below the organ. Dated around 1840. It is unusual in that there is an imposed coat of arms of the House of Saxony, it had been thought prior to Victoria's wedding that her husband's arms [Prince Albert, Saxe Coburg Gotha] would have been included.



There are also pew labels relating to the paid allocation from 1775 plus a plan produced for faculty approval. There are about 40 kept at the West



Yorkshire Archive department in Wakefield. We have our own photographs.

Other known or assumed church burials: Rev Joshua Hill & Rev Robert Wilkinson. There is an account in the section *People of Interest* under the heading of **Incumbents**. This title is used because until St Matthew's became a parish in its own right in the 1840s, the person in charge was a Curate.

Notes:

The interior:

The walls were painted pale blue.

A pulpit to the SE and a reading pulpit to the NE. The Pulpit Prayer Book, folio size, was presented by Ven Archdeacon Musgrave in 1846.

On the walls of the apse, on each side of a plain deal communion table, The Lord's Prayer and Commandments I – IV (N) and the Apostles' Creed and Commandments V – X.

The East window is crescent shaped and made in Edinburgh, in 3 sections. To the left: Christ blessing the children – W.S.W natus ea renatus, 1861 (William Walker)

in the centre: the Lord's Supper: G.M.S obit 1847: E.S obit 1844 and beneath E C A S W 1862
on the left: the Good Samaritan A W obit 1854 (Ann Walker)

In 1862, EC Sutherland Walker also had the church thoroughly cleaned and a warm water heater installed.

Outside, mainly ashlar local stone. Belfrey contains small bell and a clock facing towards the Sun Inn and still being wound up until near the time of demolition.

Over doors, 1775. actually carved 50 years later by ... for ###

stocks in SW corner removed within living memory (1900) HT.

Area to north of church not used in earlier times for superstitious reasons. Now used elaborately. “ graves with choicest plants in full bloom giving a very pleasing effect, far better than cut flowers, faded wreaths and contemptible artificial wreaths.” AHT.