

A churchwarden is buried in style.

In late February 1884, a private Lancashire & Yorkshire train from Cheshire pulled into Lightcliffe station. The coffin (unpolished oak with brass furnishings) was taken to the first class waiting room and the family mourners waited until a second chartered train arrived from Bradford Exchange station. The latter brought dignitaries from the town to attend the funeral of Mark Dawson, JP a former Mayor of Bradford from 1869 to 1871 and Alderman. The coffin was transferred to the hearse, covered by many floral wreaths, and ready to be pulled by two horses to the new parish church.



The procession was headed by the Chief Constable, the superintendent and about a score of constables. There followed the Mayor of Bradford and 4 Aldermen, the Town Clerk and many gentlemen of Bradford. Mrs Dawson and her immediate family and friends together with a large number of local dignitaries: John Foster (Priestley Green), Messrs George Ackroyd, Fred Ripley, Rhodes Sowden (Brighouse), Richard Kershaw (Crow Nest), A.B. Foster (Northowram Hall), Henry Longbottom (Ingley Hall, Wakefield) and Alderman James Booth (Ovenden Grange).

The procession was met at the church by the Vicar, Rev V.R. Leonard and the choir in surplices. The choral service included "O, rest in the Lord", "A few more years may roll." & "God of the living in Whose eyes." As the coffin was borne out of the church the organist, Mr Cook, played "The dead March in Saul."

The funeral procession reformed and walked to the old churchyard where the body was interred in the vault where his first wife, Elizabeth, was buried. This part of the service was conducted by Rev Mr Wawm (Vicar of Cowley(sic)), the Vicar, the Curate (Rev F King) and Rev Mr Stork of Hipperholme Grammar School. The hymn "When the toil of day is done." The mourners then left, many by train.

Mark Dawson had moved from Manchester to Bradford in the late 1840s, owned a woollen spinners company and lived for some time in Lane Ends and Woodside Hipperholme.



He was a churchwarden at St Matthew's for “many years” and a President Governor of Hipperholme Grammar School.

Notes:

1. A fuller story is available on our website: [lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/About our churchyard >People of Interest](http://lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/About%20our%20churchyard%20>People%20of%20Interest).
2. His memorial needed some minor restoration so that the inscriptions can be read; unfortunately the cross is missing.



3. His second wife, also Elizabeth, died in Bournemouth but is buried in the Dawson vault.
4. The organist, Mr Cook, was possibly the Headmaster at the National School opposite to the station.
5. His memorial says that he was from Dunnam Massey, the village next to the National Trust hall.