

The Empsall family of Bailiffe Bridge part 2

From the Halifax Evening Courier 29th July 1937.



50 YEARS A CHURCH

CHORISTER

Lightcliffe Presentation

to Mr. Leonard Lee

Served Under Seven Vicars and Six Organists

To mark the completion of his 50 years' membership of the choir at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, a presentation was made to Mr. Leonard Lee, at a social gathering at the vicarage, last night.

Canon H.L.Taylor, M.A., making the presentation of a gold watch on behalf of the other members of the choir, said that Mr. Lee had a wonderful record in his service to the Parish. It was a remarkable fact that he had been a chorister for so many years, and it was also remarkable for the way in which he had given that service.

PILLAR OF THE CHOIR

He had been a real pillar of the choir. It was possible for people to be attached to the choir and in course of time got slack in

attendance and to think that practices were not much use. Though Mr. Lee had a very good knowledge of music, had always turned up at practices, and had set a good example, both during the week-days and on Sundays. Col. R.H. Goldthorpe, one of the churchwardens, said that he had been connected with the church for 30 years and during that time, Mr. Lee had very rarely been absent from the choir. He had given a large amount of this spare time for the church and the present was richly deserved.

A HAPPY ASSOCIATION

Mr Lee replied and said that his association with the choir had been very happy. When he did not attend the church, he felt that there was something missing.

He recalled that he had served under seven vicars and six organists. They had heard of choirs going on strike and of trouble because one member could not sing a solo, but that had never happened in Lightcliffe choir. Mr Lee also mentioned that at one period – when they had paid singers in the choir – he attended five practices each week and two services on Sundays.

Alice Owen, daughter of Wilfred and Florence, married George Whitlam Q4 1933. Their son Roger L Whitlam was born 1934. Then her sister Lena Owen married Harry Wright Q4 1935. The Wright daughters' dates of birth are on the 1939 register as well as the surnames they took when they married.

1939 register

Leonard Lee	03 Aug 1880	Male	Poultry Farmer	Married	311	1
Alice Lee	02 Nov 1876	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	311	2

Address 1 East View, Lightcliffe, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Walter Lee	10 Mar 1906	Male	Grocer & Provisions (Dealer)	Married	177	1
Jean I Lee	16 Jul 1905	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	177	2

Two closed records

Address 7,5 Holdsworth Road, Halifax, Halifax C.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Wilfred Owen	22 Jul 1886	Male	Carpet Weaver	Married	78	1
Florence Owen	07 Mar 1888	Female	Domestic Duties	Married	78	2
Robert E Owen	23 Mar 1916	Male	Steel Window Fitter	Single	78	3
Ralph M Owen	25 Sep 1921	Male	Window Fitter	Single	78	4
Lloyd G Owen	05 Sep 1924	Male	Yarn Hand	Single	78	5
Alice Whitlam	03 May 1909	Female	Domestic Duties	Married	78	6

One closed record

Address 60 Highfield Avenue, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Harry Wright	01 Apr 1912	Male	Carpenter & Joiner (Journeyman)	Married	216	1
Lena Wright	15 Dec 1913	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	216	2
Elizabeth M Wright (Walls)	12 May 1937	Female	Under School Age	Single	216	3
Marjorie Wright (Radcliffe)	17 Mar 1939	Female	Under School Age	Single	216	4

Address 2 Common End, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Willie and Mary Ann Lee registered the birth of eight children in the Halifax district between 1919 and 1934. On the 1939 register Mary Ann and six children were in Middlesborough. Again, although Mary Ann was recorded as being married her husband Willie Lee was not at the same address and has in fact not been found. He was alive as he died in Preston, Lancashire in 1973. His wife may have been the 64-year-old who died in the Cleveland district in Q3 1964.

Brothers Ralph M. and Robert E. Owen married sisters Doreen and Margaret Annie Gawthrop in 1942. Four Owen children were then born to Gawthrop mothers in the Halifax and Calder district but matching them to the right parents would be a guess. Robert Emsall Owen died 11th April 1994, his brother Ralph Marsden Owen 29th January 2010 and their unmarried brother Lloyd Garfitt Owen, who continued to live at his parents' house 60 Highfield Avenue, on 20th March 2010. They were some of the many, many great grandchildren of John and Susannah Emsall.

16 January 1953 - Halifax Evening Courier -
Halifax, Yorkshire, England

CHORISTER FOR OVER 60 YEARS

Lightcliffe church worker's death

Choir member at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, for more than 60 years, Mr. Leonard Lee, 1 East View, Lightcliffe, died suddenly to-day. He was 72.

It was in 1887, when he was seven, that Mr. Lee joined the choir, and in 1937 he was

presented with a gold chain to mark this half century of membership. It was said at this presentation that Mr. Lee had "a wonderful record in his service to the parish". He continued this service with his regular attendance. His knowledge of music was wide, and for many years he was treasurer of the former Lightcliffe Choral Society.

Mr. Lee served St. Matthew's in many ways, including work on the Church Council and in the former Young Men's Society.



Leonard Lee's plaque is in St. Matthew's choir stalls on the right in the image below.



Leonard Lee was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 19th January 1953 in plot NY T6 where his wife Alice would join him five years later. The plot has no headstone but its position, in the new section, is marked in the image below.

Deaths

LEE --- On April 24 1958, at Hillworth Lodge, Keighley, Alice, in her 82nd year, dearly loved wife of the late Leonard Lee and loving mother of Walter, formerly of Lightcliffe. Service on Tuesday April 29, at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, at 3 pm, prior to interment at Lightcliffe Old Church. Friends, please meet at the church and accept this as the only intimation. Flowers to the church please.



It looks as if son Walter Lee died Q3 1968. His wife was definitely the Jean Isabella Lee who passed away Q1 1977 again in the Halifax district.

Leonard's sister Florence Owen and her husband, Wilfred Owen, were buried in plot F83 on 23rd September 1971 and 28th October 1969 respectively with their young son. Their daughter Alice Whitlam is named on the headstone, but she was actually cremated, and her ashes interred at the back of St. Matthew's new church.



Alice Whitlam's sister Lena Wright née Lee and her husband Harry are also remembered at St. Matthew's new church. Harry died on 22nd March 1987 and Lena on 27th March 1997. Their daughter, Elizabeth May Walls(12th May 1937 - 13th November 1995), and son in law Kenneth George Walls (15th October 1935 – 9th June 1993) are also remembered there.



Now read

The Empsalls, Pinders Harrisons and other related families

with more Lightcliffe connections.

D. M. Barker
November 2022