

** .Source Terence Dixon. 219723.
.Born 43 Old Street, Kirk.

.SOME FACTS ABOUT NEWCHURCH VILLAGE IN BYGONE DAYS.

A church was first built here in 1511, the datestone is said to be at Lower Lench Farm, Roughlee, Waterfoot.

However the church has a genuine date stone of the year 1561, it is situated just inside the porch, on the south side. In early days it was a chapel of ease, the name was different, it was not known as St. Nicholas but the "Church of our Saviour", this was in the reign of Henry VII.

It was rebuilt in the reign of Elizabeth in 1561, and served the area for almost 200 years and was known as "The Chapel of Holy Trinity".

Was enlarged in 1753 and had seating for 850, continued in use till 1824.

At this time it was decided that a rebuild was necessary, but would take in the region of 2 years to finish, the Bishop of Chester, in whose diocese Newchurch then was, issued a licence for divine service to be performed in the Old Grammar School in Bridleway.

During the period of re-building, some 156 weddings are said to have taken place in the Old Grammar School, these are said to have been recorded in the church register according to the book "The Sentinel" printed in 1976.

On the Tower of the old church grew a tree or large bush, this was said to have been moved to Seat Naze, and a stone wall built around it, this was locally called the "Round Ring" about 50 feet in diameter, but other tales say the tree was Mountain Ash and was nicknamed "Wicken" and was replanted down towards Thistle Mount, which became known as Wicken Bank.

Stone for the church was quarried on Seat Naze, and the job was finished in March 1826, the cost of the building including the organ was in the region of £2,500 pounds.

The Tower which is 80 feet high, consists of 4 storeys, one floor blowing apparatus for the organ, the ringing chamber, clockworks, and the bells, these consisted of 6 bells, but were later in 1874 changed to 8, the first service was Easter Sunday, and a celebration dinner was held in the Boars Head Hotel just across the lane.

In Kirk church graveyard it is estimated that up to 25,000 people have been buried there during the last 300 years, it was first enlarged in 1829, land was later purchased for £365 to extend the yard this is known as "Lower Chapel Croft" and was consecrated in 1901. One outstanding memorial is for Methusel Yates better known as "Old Thu" leader of the hunt for 25 years, a life size hound lies on top of his grave, died in 1864 aged 78.

Newchurch village in the old days was a hive of activity, especially Saturday night, when people would come from miles around to stock up for the week, to local folk it was known as "Kirk", according to the dictionary this word means new church, to be a "Kirker" was not just to live there, you had to be born in the village.

There was lots of shops of every description, 12 pubs, and if you include Bridleway 15, made sure there was plenty of choice for the boozers, and when "Kirk Fair" time arrived, it was lively.

There was a cattle fair on the 29th April, but the original "Kirk Fair" started on the First Monday after Midsummers Day, and generally lasted 2 weeks.

They were stalls that were selling just about everything, pots, pans, etc, and side shows which consisted of fortune-tellers, and see the big fat lady shows, tents with pea soup kitchens, cockles and muscles which were eaten out of blue hankchiefs, card sharps, with the find the lady trick, jugglers, all these thronged the village throughfares, right down past Thistlemount.

The pleasure fair which consisted of Roundabouts, "Dryland Sailors", "Velocipedes", Hobby Horses, Circus, Ghost Shows, Swings, Shooting Galleries, etc!, this was situated behind the "Odd Fellows Hall" in a farmers field.

First record of any school in the district was 1701, when a John Kershaw of Boothfold left in his will 2 estates, one at Heald Bacup, 30 acres of land with instructions to his executors that they were to build a school and the income from the land would pay the master.

His wife died in 1709 and their tombstone at Newchurch reads as follows: " In memory of John Kershaw, of Boothfold, the beneficent doner of the estates at Heald, in Bacup booth, for the benefit of Newchurch school. He was buried on the 1st Feb 1701, at the age of 85. " Anne Kershaw, his wife, buried 4th Jan 1709:-

" They lived long beloved,
And died bewailed,
And two estates,
Upon one school entailed."

The school at Boothfold was built in 1701 and continued in use until 1787, when it was converted into cottages. There was a Latin inscription in the gable end which is now in Whitaker Park Museum which has been translated as follows:-

"What is it that destructive time does not diminish?
What that gnawing time does not consume?
Gentle reader,
If you know better than this, kindly inform,
If not agree with me."

Another school opened a few years later, in the same area known as "Old Mary Mcgowans" in what is still known as Gutter Booth.

The first school however was transferred to the top of Bridleway at the junction with Turnpike in 1787, it was built by a man called John Bentley and was known as Kershaws school it was rebuilt in 1830, when it became known as Newchurch Grammer School.

It was again rebuilt in 1889, according to the "Rossendale Free Press" 7th December 1889, fees for boys next term, beginning 19th September, under 10 £6; under 14 £9; all above £12;. Headmaster Rev R.W.Hay M.A., plus 5 assistant masters and a drill sergeant. A gymnasium was added in 1898 and the old school building lasted till August 1979 when it was demolished. The date stone of 1889 is in the wall outside the house known as "Ellenby" which is on site.

Another school quite close by, at the bottom of Bridleway, this was known as "Old Mechanics Institute" Edgeside Holme. A famous father was schoolmaster here, William George, father of Prime Minister Lloyd George, this was about 1860. He lived at Crabtree Buildings, the school was founded by the Munns family who ran "Lolly Mill" just across the way.

On the 13th September 1913 at 2.30pm Bacup and Rawtenstall Technical School was opened in Miller Barn Lane by Lieut Col J Craven Hoyle, the headmaster Thomas Ernest Jackson being the last at Newchurch and the first at the new school.

The building eventually was then used by the Roman Catholics as a chapel and day school, next door, in Turnpike, was a grocers shop a family called Stansfields ran it, along side stood the Inn "Volunteers" just below was the the headmasters residence Grammer school house.

Across the road is the bottom of Old Street, known locally as Kirk gates "Th Owd Gate", there was plenty of shops in this street in the old days.

In 1873 the first one was the boot and clog repairs, No 53 "Owd Richardson", the first ale house was the "Cloggers Arms", it was in business in 1872 but closed in 1907. Higher up the beer house "The Dolfin" open in 1829, just off here was known as Sooty Fold.

Further up was the splendid residences of Lower House and Higher House, the first mentioned was the home of Deborah Ashworth of the "Dickie Debs Era" she was born here in 1820 and past away here in 1904 she lived in the reign of five monarches, George 3rd, George 1V, William 1V, Queen Victoria, Edward VII. Later in the early 1900s the Weir family lived here, they orginated from Scotland a family of footballers.

Higher House was Dr Law's home, this fronted on to Chancel Street. At the rear was an excessable stone stair case, which led to an upper room, occupied for a time by a breakaway group from the Westleyans Methodists, and this was known as "The Up Steps School" this was about 1822.

In 1828 they removed to another upper room in Turnpike which sufficed until 1836, when Mount Tabor Chapel in Turnpike was built. this building was used till 1876 these folk were the forerunners of the Bethesda Methodists who built their chapel in Bridge Street in the same year, this closed in March 1957.

The Old Mount Tabor Chapel was eventually used by the Roman Catholics for their school and place of worship, in 1882 there were 93 pupils registered, in 1890 the headmistress was Ellen Occleshaw, the infants mistress was a Lucy Caley according to Slaters Directory.

In 1891 the old chapel was purchased with the direct intension of forming a catholic mission, the man leading this venture was a Canon Mussley parish priest of St James the Less in Rawtenstall, and the chapel was dedicated to St Peter.

The following year the mission was attached St Josephs parish Stacksteads, the first mass was said on November 27th in the same year, the building had a threefold function, primary to celebrate mass and during the week serve as a day school, and thirdly the cellar to be used as a institute for social gatherings.

The first parish priest was a Father Cashell he was appointed in February 1915. About this time the old chapel in Turnpike was looking worse for wear, enquires were made as to the purchase of the old grammer school, difficulties arose, some of the trustees where against as to the intended use of the school.

Nevertheless these problems were overcome and finally it became the property of the Diocese in October 1916.

Eventually the great day arrived for on Sunday 24th December 1916, Newchurch Grammer School was re-opened as St Peters Church and School.

There were about 400 parishioners about this time, settled mainly in the Bridleway area and in the village it self.

In November 1921 Father Cashell died suddenly in Holyhead enroute to Ireland for a holiday, his remains were brought back to Rawtenstall to be interred in the grounds of St James the Less church.

The present church in Turnpike had its foundation stones laid on the 1st October 1927 by Right Reverend Doctor Henshaw (Bishop of Salford) and assisted by Father Keely (parish priest of St Marys Bacup) Father Mills (parish priest of St Josephs Stacksteads) Father Hunt (parish priest of St Marys Haslingden) and Father Lineen BA, (curate of St James the Less Rawtenstall).

Opening day was on 15th July 1928, the cost of the building was in the region of £8,300 plus a further £1,000 for furnishings, it was built by Mr Chris Bradley of Stacksteads, the first priest at the new church was Father Francis Magill who came to St Peters in 1924, he served at St Peters for 33 years, died on September 22nd 1957 aged 77.

Another worth recalling, Mill End Chapel going in 1761, this was on the site of Thistlemount Terrace, John Wesley himself preached in this chapel on August 26th 1766, this chapel stood till 1806 when it was sold and a new one erected in Turnpike. The 2nd one stood till 1867 when it was demolished to give way to the present chapel, the foundation stone of which was laid on April 10th of the same year.

In 1806 Rossendale Methodism was included in the Rochdale circuit and the circuit minster was the Rev Joseph Cooke. The teaching of this minster being regarded as unorthodox, he was expelled from the Westleyan ministry, and this expulsion had some what important consequences in the district.

About 30 members of the local Wesleyan body seceded and began to hold services in a cottage at Mill End, calling themselves "Methodist Unitarians" and this was the beginning of the Unitarian denomination in this district.

In 1808 a chapel was built at the bottom of Old Street, in 1815 it was described as Bethlehem Unitarian Chapel, a local preacher Parson Ashworth took charge and held the position for over 40 years till his death in 1852.

The original chapel is now used as a Sunday school, a new chapel was built further up Turnpike in 1864, but was demolished about 1983.

As mentioned earlier about 1822 there was a dispute amongst the Wesleyans as to whether handwriting should be taught in the Sunday school, and the teaching of it was eventually forbidden, consequently those who wished to continue took a upstairs room in Old Street above where Dr Law lived in Higher House.

In the 1930-40s era, a family called Buckley resided here and their father was the village grave-digger.

Further up Old Street, the village Post Office was situated just below the "Blue Bell" pub. Opposite are 3 Tudor cottages, one used to be the old sextons residence, a sun dial mounted above the door. Up the side of these cottages was an alley way of steep steps which led to the Co-op stores, one can reach the village Square using this route.

During the Second World War young men of Kirk village were on active service, two particular guys were captured by the Germans, Bob Cunliffe who lived in the Square and Ted Dugdale of Co-op House, the latter being taken prisoner while defending the French port of Calais in May 1940. It must have been a strange sensation when they came face to face in the same P.O.W. camp in Pozen, Poland and even more so when a young man from Cloughfold called Frank Heys turned up. Ted Dugdale stayed there for the duration 5 years in all. Twentyfive years on became Mayor of Rawtenstall (1970-72).

Almost at the top of Turnpike in the old days was the hostilary known as "Sawyers Arms" a beerhouse, had a datestone of 1740, in 1836 "Dick o' Jimmes" kept this place, at Kirk Fair time large numbers of pigs were sold in front of the house and up the side of this place was Newdyke. Further up, Church Street begins at the junction with the top of Old Street, Turnpike, and Church Lane, this is where the "Big Lamp" was situated, Church Street runs right through the village as far as Top Barn Lane.

Opposite is the "Boars Head Hotel", this is 69 Church Street, in 1900 the landlord was a Henry Simington Mckie, the premises has a date stone of 1674. This was a Free Mason's house in the 1800s (Tranquilty Lodge 274), an interesting old house with low ceilings and wandering passages, a cosy comfortable old inn, it is rumoured a secret passage from the celler ran across to the church, now sealed up. At the rear a bowling green built in the 1800s, used as a tennis court from around 1900.

At one time the Post Office faced the "Boars Head", later, was on the same side, next door but one, the postmaster here in 1945 was a Ralph Kershaw he had it for 50 odd years, in all to the present day it has had 6 different locations, 4 times in Church Street, once in Back Street this would be about 1850 and kept by a gent known as "Old Johnnie Post" who rode on horseback to Rochdale daily for the mails, and as mentioned earlier once in Old Street.

Almost facing the pub was Dick Halsteads, the village undertaker and gravestone cutter, this was 62 Church Street, in 1910 his family had completed 100 years in business at this address.

Next door was the hatters, he was Denton born John Schofield, born in 1800 and over his front door was a large date plaque and a rampant Lion, "J.E.Lord 1781". This trade-mark was sewn into every headgear made there. But this plaque may have been, or was on the site of the old "White Lion Inn", but the genuine location is unknown. The plaque is now in the wall in front of the bungalows.

At the bottom of Church Lane, stood the old National School, it was opened Sunday June 27th 1830, a generous donation in those days of £500 towards the cost of a new school, came after the death of a Waterfoot man in 1823 a Mr Robert Haworth of Warth House.

The old school survived for 145 years, at the bottom where the school yard was, lived the headmaster, further on, the footpath known as "Heys" which leads down to Waterfoot.

The new school came into use on 23rd June 1975, and was officially opened by the Mayor of Rossendale Councilor Joseph Connolly on the 7th April 1976. It is situated off Dark Lane with an entrance on Staghills Road.

Back to Church St No 61, was the village butcher, a family named "Rothwell" had these premises for 65 years, started butchering in 1875 at 7 different local locations, finished trading in 1978, 103 years, it was founded by John Richard Rothwell who was Rawtenstall mayor in 1913-15 at this time his home was Dark Lane House. Directly opposite was the chip shop, "Old Janie" had this place in the 1920s, then a chap called "Heys Hoyle" had it for quite some time, but previously he had the chip shop just below the "Blue Bell" in Old Street, which he purchased from Mrs Barritt in 1932.

It was at this point in the village that the road was so narrow that wide and tall vehicles were a menace. Just about 10 feet wide, with quite a bad camber on the road, no footpath on the chip shop side, and just 12 inches on the "butchers" side, it was not unusual to see workmen replacing the troughs on the chip shop side after a corporation "double decker" bus had dragged it off.

It was April 29th 1925 that buses started running from Rawtenstall up to Kirk village, and the Waterfoot service commenced June 1st 1930. This highway from Mill End to Tup Bridge was Turnpiked in 1789.

Twentyfive yards further on where the "Little Park" now is situated, is the site of the old "Black Dog Inn", this was 57a Church Street. In 1900 the landlord was a John Edward Howarth, built in 1767, changed to a beerhouse in 1800, formally was a "Stage Coach Inn", originally a 4 stalled coaching house, closed in 1909.

But on the night of January 19th 1922 the building collapsed during a storm. Most of the damage was at the rear and spilled over into next door which was "Plane Tree House", a Mr Baker lived there at the time and was headmaster at Thistlemount Continuation School. Not long after the rest of the building had to be demolished for safety. The "Little Park" came into being in 1927, the site was given to Rawtenstall Corporation by the owner Mr H.H. Bolton J.P. and was opened in March.

Directly opposite stood the old parsonage, high railings fronted this large grand building, had a datestone over the front door 1720, on this appeared a Lion, 4 Doves, 8 Roses, 2 Hour Glasses, and over the top of them was a Sun Dial, inscribed on this (Monco Dum Moveo) this latin writing means "I record or tell, whilst I move". The stone is now situated at Whitaker Park Museum.

It was a well known saying, tread softly as you pass that old house, it was known to be haunted and when the bewitching hour of midnight pealed from the church tower, the rustlings of robes, from a ghostly vistant may be heard in its dark passages.

Another parsonage was built off Newchurch Old Road, just before one arrives at the gates of Heightside Drive on the opposite side of the road. This was around 1855, a massive 3 storey house in extensive grounds just below where Priory Close is today, it was demolished in 1968.

Going back to Church Street next door to the vicarage was the Mansion House, a large gracious house, plenty of bowed windows, this was supposedly where the squire of the village lived, looked like a hall, a family of Hargreaves lived there for decades, one of them "Tourney Hargreaves" was the village lawyer.

At the far end of these buildings on the corner is where the Post Office stood, the post mistress in the late 1940/50s was Mrs Hitchen, a right turn here took one on towards Back Street and Home Farm. Back Street ran parallel with Church Street as far as the rear of the childrens home. About midway stood the offices and headquarters of Hargreaves Collierys, but during World War Two, the local Home Guard used this as their communication centre. Going towards Turnpike a well known chap called Jimmy Higgins noted for his home made ice cream, he sold this around the area from his horse and cart.

Directly opposite the Mansion House was the hostilary known as the "Duke of York", this was where local inquests were held, in 1854 a gent called Solomon Holt was the landlord. This part of Church Street was quite narrow and one could almost jump from one footpath to the other. At the back of these premises was the area known has Mill Fold, which had its beer house known as "Mill Stone Inn", a private house now to this day, a date here of 1725.

Making our way further along Church Street we arrive at Dark Lane, almost at the top was the village lock-up. At the back of these houses running parallel with Church Street, open stone stair cases ran to the top of the 3 storey buildings. This is where the wollen hand loom weaving took place, and workers would enter and leave by this route, they would take their wool to the larger mills in the area, who had water wheels and get it carded, bring it home and spin it with "jacks" and was then woven into bockins.

Going further down Dark Lane one arrives at the football field, where the Rossendale team have played there for over 100 years, in the 1890s their headquarters was the "Blue Bell Inn". Opposite in a field was the church institute cricket pitch. Along here was "Bottoms Farm" and "Heys Cottages".

In the mid 18th century cock-fighting took place at Newchurch, its not known exactly where in the village, but it was a famous ground, county matches took place here, and it looks likely by the time of the year, that it was at Kirk Fair time.

The follwing advertisment appeared in the "Manchester Mercury" newspaper in June 1764, "To be fought at Newchurch in Rossendale, between the Gentlemen of Lancashire and the Gentlemen of Yorkshire, a main of cocks for 4 guineas a battle, or 40 pounds the main or odd battle. To weigh on Monday 25th Day of June 1764, and to fight on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the same week. The Yorkshire cocks to be fed at Laurence Whittakers and the Lancashire cocks at Robert Schofields. There will be a ball for the Gentlemen and Ladies on 28th June".

Further on down the lane you would finally arrive at Holt Mill Bridge, this is the route in the old days that the worshippers from the south-side of the River Irwell would have taken to get to Kirk Church, because in the 18th century not many bridges exsisted in this area Making our way back up into the village, you could see the enormous allotments on the left, or plots as they were known, where greenhouses and cold frames grew vegetables and flowers in abundance by the green fingered local inhabitants, these large grounds stretched right over to Top Barn Lane.

Staghills Hall was a large building it was built between 1861-71, at that time a Richard Ashworth owned it. But in the old days this estate dates back to 1757 and was known as "Slipper Hall" it was here that the first slippers in this area were made.

In 1887 a Mr E.Ashworth installed electric light into his main rooms, the power coming from his mill at Holtholme which had a waterwheel, this electric power was carried by a insulated copper wire on telegraph poles 350 yards. The daughter of the above Richard Ashworth Miss Mary Jane Ashworth, she was the doner of the clock in the tower at St Nicholas church, she died in Bournemouth on the 26th March 1910.

The hall stood in a forest, had a "South Lodge" down by the River Irwell, in fact only this together with "North Lodge" remain of "Keiru Don" the hill of Stags. In 1915 the house was converted into flats and in 1939 the house was demolished.

The council estate "Staghills" now covers where the hall stood, in fact the bottom of Top Barn Lane is the exact location. The first 48 houses to be built were on the west side of Staghills Road, they were of the orlit type in December 1947.

Going back to the top of Dark Lane, almost directly opposite, was the locally known "Marble Arch" a tunnelled passage way that led to the rear of the houses on the other side of the street.

On the same side we arrive at the childrens home still there to this day at number 22, but as a home for the elderly and known as "Holly House". On the 5th January 1895, the home was opened, 12 girls were housed there, the governess was a Miss Jackson. Her brother Thomas Ernest Jackson M.A. came to the valley in 1892, and lived in grammer school house in Turnpike till 1912, he was the last headmaster of the old grammer school, and the first at Bacup and Rawtenstall Technical School.

Around 1920 this place was also used as presbytery for the Roman Catholics.

Staying on the same side of Church Street, the next noteable house would be Forest House. One gentleman who did live here was "Deputy-Lieutenant" of the County of Lancashire a James Rushton, he died on 14th February 1893 and he is buried in Kirk Church graveyard along with his daughter Mary Luisa Rushton who was drowned off the coast of Guernsey when the steamer she was aboard floundered.

In later years was the home of chemist Leonard Blakeley, his shop was at Mill End for almost 40 years, noted for having a very untidy dispostion, died in January 1947.

Now we arrive at the 3 storey building "Odd Fellows Hall" built in 1854. Odd Fellows friendly society "Hope Lodge" was in existence in 1818 somewhere in the village. This society held social events on the top 2 floors, on the 20th July 1921 it was opened as a institute for the mens fellowship of St Nicholas. Newchurch Old Brass Band practiced in this place, but folded up in 1889, most of the musicians then formed Whitewell Vale Band. As the years went by the society folded, the building was then used for various businesses including manufacturing footwear.

At the rear of the old hall was Back Church Street, only 4 houses here, at the side of the gardens, a relic of World War 2, an underground Air Raid Shelter, the only one constructed in the village, still there to this day, sealed up.

Directly opposite the old hall, is the big house where Doctor James Wilson resided in Victorian days. He was born at Preston in 1828, came to Newchurch in 1847 as assistant to Doctor Cockcroft of Turnpike. The doctor resided here for 40 years up to his death in 1895, he had 2 sons, who were both doctors and 3 daughters. In April 1877 the youngest son James, had a accident with a horse and trap and was killed. Of more recent times it is the home of Granada T.V. presenter Jim Pope.

On to what was the last Post office, 11, Church St, closed Saturday October 3rd 1998, last postmaster/postmistress Joe & Margaret Ainsworth. At the rear North St and South St, but in bygone days the first premises on the row was Messrs Lonsdale printers here for 60 odd years but eventually became the Co-op stores, next door Olive Walls kept a mixed business for decades, directly opposite was Naze End lane.

It was in 1962 that Kirk village was decimated, quite a lot of the property needed urgent repairs, they were no grants like we know of today, so the town council decided that quite a lot of old property would have to go. In all 160 dwellings were condemned, and it wasn't long before the bulldozers etc! were in action.

It had been planned to build 64 new houses and 16 garages in the Church Street and Old Street areas.

It would not have happened in this day, with all towns trying to improve prospects for tourism.

Just slightly outside the village down Clough Lane as it was known in bygone days, now Newchurch Old Road, we come to the gates and long drive of that magnificent home "Heightside House".

Built about the time of the American War of Independence, in the reign of George 3rd. Local cotton baron Richard Ashworth and his wife Lettice, had the mansion erected in 1783, in all comprises 15 acres, they owned Hareholme Mill at that time.

Later the mill, plus Heightside were purchased by the brothers Dockery.

The 3rd generation to make a home at the mansion, and make a living at Hareholme, was a Mr Fort, his mill was the first in Rossendale to be lit by gas.

A tragedy struck the mill one winters day, the mill lodge became frozen and during the break for refreshment, some mill hands started to skate on the ice, which suddenly gave way, tipping them into the freezing waters, 16 persons perished that day. Mr Fort never recovered from this accident, later became ill, and soon the sale of his empire was imminent, sold up, went to live at Thistlemount.

Next owner of Heightside was a widow, Mrs Francis Strong, the large pulpit and the reading desk which now has been made into a font in Kirk Church was donated by her. Also in her will she left £1000, the interest from it to be distributed annually on her birthday to the poor of the village. She departed this world on January 22nd 1859, her name lives on in Kirk Church, in the form of a stained glass window.

In 1862 Mr and Mrs Henry Hargreaves Bolton became the proud owners of the residence. They had come from Australia, had a son there who now was 4 year old, and was called after his father.

Later the Boltons transformed "Heightside House", they added 2 gothic wings and new stables attached, the house had 26 rooms. They also planted 6000 trees over the 15 acres of land, the various saplings included limes, beeches, riacarias, elms, ash, oaks, and countless varieties of rhododendrons and other evergreens.

Heightside cottages stood in the wood on the west side of the house 4 in all. One well known local dentist to be born there a Geoffrey Wood who had his surgery in Waterfoot for over 40 years.

Mr H.H.Bolton was a civil engineer by profession and a colliery proprietor by occupation. Hargreaves Collierys employed over 1300 men in East Lancashire, mainly in mines. It was a regular sight in the valley to see the bright red lorrys delivering sacks of coal to the inhabitants.

In World War 1 the family lost two sons 29 year old Captain Harry Hargreaves Bolton and 26 year old Lt John Bolton both of the East Lancashire Regiment.

Around 1920 the house was offered for use as a conference centre and guest home for missionaries and full-time church workers. Eventually European Christian Mission and the European College of the Bible became occupants. In 1956, Col Bolton impressed by the missions achievements, made Heightside an outright gift to the mission.

This ends our short historic look at Newchurch "Kirk" in days goneby.

.NEWCHURCH PUBS AND INNS.

"SAWYERS ARMS" "BOARS HEAD" "BLACK DOG" "DUKE OF YORK" "CROSS KEYS"

"BLUE BELL" "MILL STONE INN" "HOLLAND BEER HOUSE" "WHITE LION"

"DOLFIN" "CLOGGERS ARMS" "VOLUNTEERS"

(Bridleway)... "DRUIDS ARMS" "FORESTERS ARMS" "PHEASANT BEER HOUSE"

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