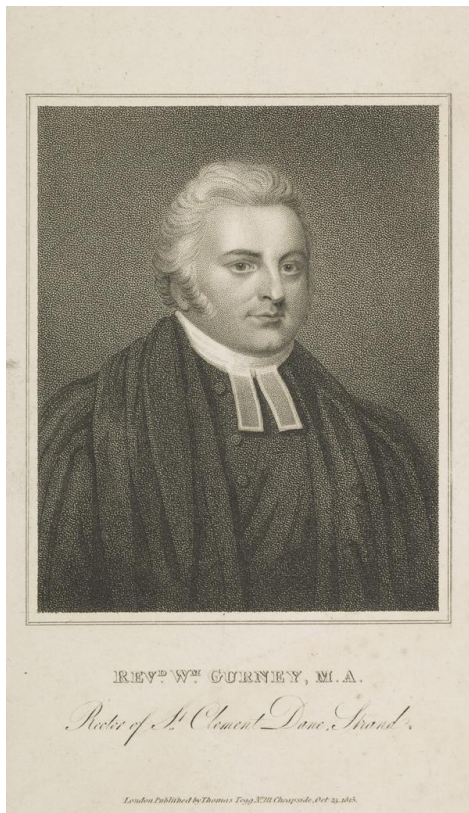
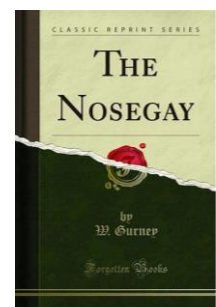
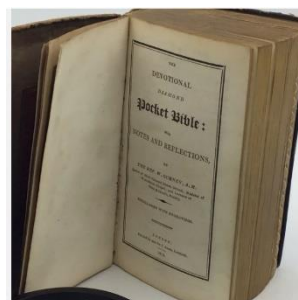


Reverend William Gurney (c1796 – 28th August 1869)

William Gurney was the son of another William, Rev. Dr. William Gurney - pictured below – who was 'Rector of *St. Clement Danes, Strand*' from 1807 until his death in 1843.



Father William Gurney, born about 1767, married Mary Phillips, of Southwark, on 5th May 1791 in Cheshunt where he was from. They had three sons and two daughters. The three sons were all baptised on 22nd January 1797 at Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. From other information it is calculated that Thomas Gurney was born about 1793, then John Phillips Gurney and William Gurney about 1796 suggesting they were twins. Margaret Gurney born 9th September 1801 and Sarah Phillips Gurney born 1st November 1806 were baptised at St. Giles in the Field, Campden, London, on 14th January 1802 and on 2nd January 1807 respectively. Their father was vicar there before he took up his position later in 1807 as rector at St. Clement Danes. It looks as if the family lived at 19, Cecil Street, Strand. The widower – he lost his wife in 1833 – Rev. Dr. William Gurney, died on 23rd January 1843 at Great Canfield, Essex, where his son Rev. John Philips Gurney was vicar. He appears to have produced this pocket bible and written at least one book, the “The Nosegay”.



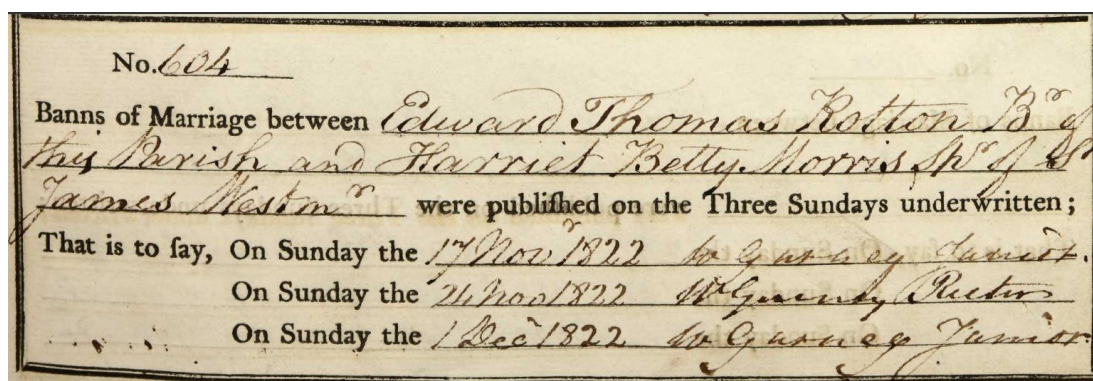
This announcement from *THE MORNING HERALD*, in a paper dated December 25th 1822, gives more information about father and son, two Rev. William Gurneys.

FREE CHAPEL FOR THE POOR, WEST-STREET, ST. GILES

ON SUNDAY NEXT, December 29, this CHAPEL will be RE-OPENED, after an extensive and substantial repair. TWO SERMONS will be preached on the occasion by the late Minister, the REV. WM. GURNEY, A.M., Rector of St. Clement Dames, and Collections made towards the expenses attending repairs. The Prayer will be read by the new licensed Minister, the Rev. WM. GURNEY, junior A.M., of St. Edmund Hall.

Rev. William Gurney senior must have been minister at St. Giles, West Street, before he went to St. Clement Danes which fits with his daughters' baptism records. And then it looks as if his son Rev. William Gurney junior became the Minister at St. Giles too when it reopened in 1822.

Also found from earlier in 1822 were these wedding banns at St. Clement Danes signed by both William Gurneys.



Harriet Betty Morris married a widower Edward Thomas Rotton on 12th December 1822 at St. Clement Danes, presumably with the Rector William Gurney senior officiating. It will become more obvious later in this article why this marriage is relevant, and not just because of the two William Gurneys' signatures.

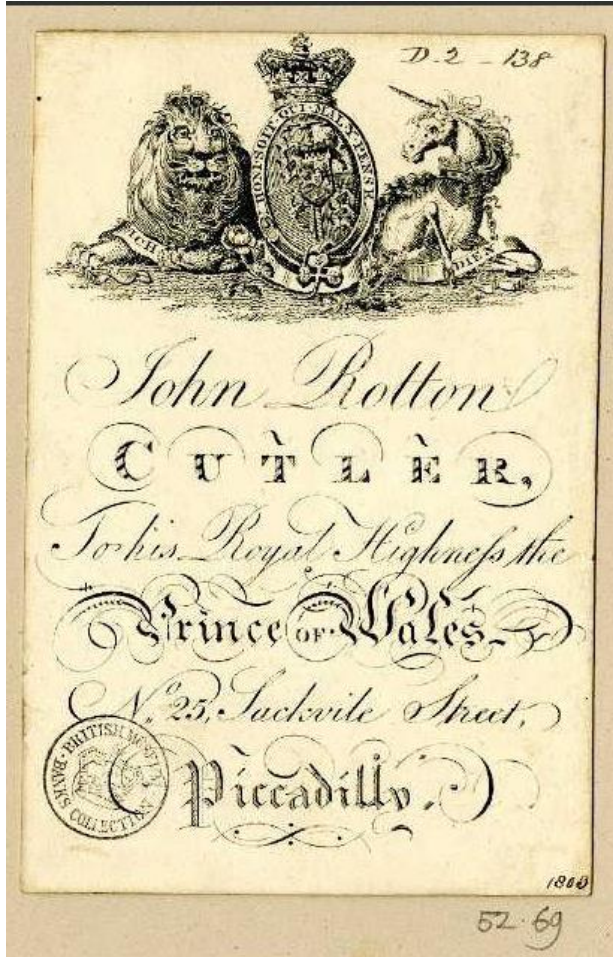
Previously on 1st October 1812 at St. Clement Danes, Rev. William Gurney's eldest son, Thomas Gurney, had married Edward Thomas Rotton's older sister, Elizabeth Rotton. Thomas Gurney was a schoolmaster who had a school in Epsom, Surrey.

And so going off on an apparent tangent, the Rotton family's background will be explored as they were related by marriage to the Gurneys and the connections were continued!

Edward Thomas Rotton was born on 28th January 1797, the fifth child and third son of John Rotton and Elizabeth Rotton née Pavey who had married in Westminster in 1784. He was baptised at St. Martin in the Fields, Westminster on 27th February 1797. His father John Rotton, originally from Birmingham, was a cutler. Daughter Elizabeth was the fourth child and second daughter, born on 21st December 1793, according to the Rotton family tree on Ancestry. Using the birthplaces of the children on this family tree the Rotton family seem to have moved from Birmingham to London at some point between 1786 and 1790.

In 1799 their address was 3, Burleigh Street, London. The trade card below and lots of newspaper adverts say that John Rotton of 25, Sackville Street, presumably the business address, was, from at least 1803, cutler

'To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales'



Hilt detail



Rotton (sp.) & Son Cutlers, 25 Sackville Street, Piccadilly

The difficult to read bit at the bottom of the image on the right - below the detail on the sword's hilt- says "John Rotton & Son Cutlers, 25 Sackville Street, Piccadilly". The son was Edward Thomas Rotton who was in partnership with his father around 1819.



The Rottons also made corkscrews/ champagne taps.

Notice the letters P W and the three ostrich feathers badge above the words

ROTTON PATENT



Edward Thomas Rotton was still in partnership with his father when he married Harriet Betty Morris, but the partnership was dissolved in November 1823 as this announcement confirms.

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between John Rotton and Edward Thomas Rotton, as Cutlers, and carried on at No. 25 Sackville-Street, Piccadilly, in the County of Middlesex, was on the 10th day of November last by mutual consent dissolved: and that all debts due to or owing from the said Partnership will be perceived and paid by the said Edward Thomas Rotton, who continues to carry on the said business on the premises aforesaid: as witness their hands this 28th day of January 1824.

J. Rotton
Edwd. Thos. Rotton

And then a few months later in July 1824, Edward Thomas Rotton died. He was buried at St. Clement Danes on 22nd July 1824 presumably with W^m. Gurney (senior) officiating



A Codicil to Edward Thomas Rotton's (very difficult-to-read) Will named his brother-in-law schoolmaster Thomas Gurney, as one of the executors and William Gurney junior witnessed the codicil.

With a number of provisors – his father John Rotton was still alive – Edward Thomas Rotton left his property '*solely and entirely to my wife Harriet Betty Rotton*' née Morris. And in John Rotton's will of 1833 he made bequests to his daughter '*Elizabeth now the wife of Thomas Gurney*' and to his former daughter in law, Harriet Betty, the '*widow of my late son Edward now the wife of Rev. William Gurney*'.

On 12th August 1825 in Kensington, widow Harriet Betty Rotton née Morris had married '*Reverend William Gurney the younger Clerk*' as the document below states. She was the daughter of William and Mary Morris who had had her baptised at St. Botolph's Church, Aldgate, in the City of London on 26th December 1804.

London Diocese

17 August 82

FACULTY
OFFICE

APPEARED PERSONALLY *The Reverend William Gurney Junior* of the Parish of *St. Mary Abbots Kensington* in the County of *Middlesex*, Bachelor of the age of *Twenty one years* and prayed a Licence for the Solemnization of Matrimony in the Parish Church of *St. Mary Abbots Kensington aforesaid*

between him and *Harriet Betty Kotton* of the Parish of *a Widow*

and made Oath, that he believeth there is no Impediment of Kindred or Alliance, or of any other lawful Cause, nor any Suit commenced in any Ecclesiastical Court to bar or hinder the Proceeding of the said Matrimony, according to the Tenor of such Licence. And he further made Oath, that *he the Applicant*

bath had *his* usual Place of Abode within the said Parish of *St. Mary Abbots Kensington* for the Space of Fifteen Days last past.

William Gurney Junior

Sworn before me,
W. Holman

Just where Rev. William Gurney junior was a minister at this time or where the Gurneys lived after they were married is not known. He may well have remained at St.Giles, West Street, London.

But by 1834 Rev. William Gurney junior was a curate in Halifax officiating at marriages and taking services. Anne Lister attended some of these. On Sunday 19th July 1835 she noted that :-

— I staid at home to go with my father to the old church — siding — till off with him in his open carriage at 10 — Mr. Gurney, 1 of the curates, did all the duty — preached very fairly well 1/2 hour from Romans Xiii. and part of verse 14. 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' — home in 1/4 hour at 1 —

And then after her father Jeremy Lister died at the beginning of April 1836, when funeral arrangements were being made with Rev. Charles Musgrave Anne Lister wrote on 7th April 1836 that she had sent this in a letter to Mr. Musgrave.

Mr. Duncan is requested to send the gloves and biscuits from 'the family at Shibden hall', and to inform Mr. Musgrave that the family is very much obliged to him, but, being anxious that the funeral procession should leave the house at the early hour fixed upon, will be perfectly satisfied for Mr. Gurney to do the duty, whom they will be glad to have breakfast at Shibden hall, or, if any engagement should make it inconvenient to Mr. Gurney to attend, they will be much obliged to Mr. Musgrave to allow Mr. Greatrix to officiate, whom they, in that case, wish to be invited to breakfast at Shibden hall.

In the end it looks as if Rev. Charles Musgrave did not need Mr. Gurney nor Mr. Greatrix to take his place as he appears to have breakfasted at Shibden Hall with Mr Jubb before the funeral on Monday 11th April 1836. Afterwards in her diary Anne Lister noted that

Mr Musgrave did the duty very well

Many of the Shidben Hall tenants who attended Jeremy Lister's funeral, some acting as bearers, were Lightcliffe men. Some would get to know William Gurney very well after his next move.

On 18th January 1840 the following announcement appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* and various other newspapers. [No need in Halifax for him to be known as 'junior' even though his father was still alive.]

INCUMBENCY OF LIGHTCLIFFE, NEAR HALIFAX.—

We understand that the Rev. William Gurney, M.A., the senior Curate at the Parish Church of Halifax, has been presented to the perpetual curacy of Lightcliffe, vacant by the demise of the late Rev. Robert Wilkinson, B.D. The gift of the living is in the hands of the Venerable Archdeacon Musgrave, D.D. as Vicar of the parish.

There was no vicarage or church house available for the Lightcliffe incumbent at this time. William Gurney's predecessor Rev. Robert Wilkinson had lived in Halifax, because he was also Headmaster of Heath School in Halifax, apparently travelling to Lightcliffe on horseback. The Gurneys appear to have taken lodgings in Lightcliffe. At the time of the 1841 census they lodged with [Thomas Robinson Card Maker, Currier and Wire Drawer.pdf](#) .

1841 census

Thos Robinson	50	Card Maker
Frances Robinson	50	
John Robinson	30	Card Maker
Mary Robinson	15	
Eliz Rogerson	15	F.S
James Bates	25	Surgeon
Harriet Gurney	30	
Wm Gurney	40	Clerk
Albert Morris	10	Scholar
Address Hipperholme		

Amongst his parishioners were Ann Walker senior of Cliffe Hill mansion, Samuel Washington and family staying at Crow Nest, the coal merchant James Hinscliffe and his wife at Knowl House and Lamplugh Wickham Hird with his wife and young son at Lidgate House. Then there were the families of some of the Shibden Hall tenants e.g. Abraham Hemingway, Mark Hepworth, Charles Howorth, George Robinson – brother of Thomas - and Samuel Sowden who he would get to know over the years as he baptised the children of the parish and then buried the dead. In 1842 he officiated at the funeral of Samuel Washington's elderly mother Esther née Mann and then when his eldest daughter, Susannah Washington, died in 1846 aged just 22 years. Similarly, he signed the parish burial records for Samuel Sowden's wife Martha in 1844 and then his son Jonas Sowden four years later.

Before then there were these two entries in the 1847 burial records.

<i>George Mackay</i> <i>Sutherland</i> No. 456.	<i>Shibden</i> <i>Stall</i>	<i>April</i> <i>20</i>	<i>4th</i> <i>40</i>	<i>Wm Gurney</i>
<i>Ann Walker</i> No. 488.	<i>Cliffe Hill</i>	<i>Nov^r</i> <i>5</i>	<i>4th</i> <i>90</i>	<i>Wm Gurney</i>

About this time the status of St. Matthew's parish was changed to that of a Chapelry. This would have taken up a considerable amount of Rev. William Gurney's time as he had to list population size, endowments and necessary boundary changes. Then he had to come to an agreement with the Vicar of Halifax about the charging of fees.

In January 1848 Ann Walker junior moved from Shibden Hall back into the then vacant Cliffe Hill mansion, the house she was born in. Presumably Rev. William Gurney visited her there as her parish priest.

By 1851 the Gurneys were lodging at German House with Ann Sinclair. Read [Hannah Denison formerly Marsden nee Sinclair.pdf](#)

1851 census

Ann Sinclair Head 67 Farmer
Martha Sinclair Dau 32 Dressmaker
Ann Marsden Grnddau 17 Servant
William Gurney Lodger 54 Clergyman of the Church of England
Harriet Gurney Lodger 43
Wm Woodward Lodger 26 School Assistant
Address German House, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

William Gurney's name has been found on the *West Yorkshire Electoral Roll*. In 1843 his residence was given as Mann's Farm on Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe. From 1846 to 1856 it was German House which fits with the above census data. His qualifying property was actually land in Lower Green occupied by John Hall possibly of Sheard Green.

In 1852 the Ripon Diocese bought a one-acre site, opposite what is now the Hipperholme and Lightcliffe Stray, from William Priestley who gave £200 to the Queen Anne's Bounty for the maintenance of the Curacy of Lightcliffe. Then this notice appeared in the *Halifax Guardian* on 21st August 1852.

To BUILDERS.—Parties desirous of CONTRACTING for the whole or any portion of the ARTIFICERS WORK required in the ERECTION of the New PARSONAGE HOUSE, at Lightcliffe, near Halifax, may see the Plans and Specification in the offices of Messrs. MALLINSON & HEALEY, Architects, Union Street, Halifax, to whom Sealed Tenders are to be delivered, free of expense on or before 12 o'clock, a.m., on Saturday 28th instant. No allowance will be made for estimates; nor will the lowest tender necessarily be accepted.

Halifax 13th August, 1852.

The Rev. William Gurney must have been instrumental in getting this permanent home for the incumbents of the Lightcliffe parish. Just when he and his wife were able to take up residency is unknown but perhaps before 1856, despite what the *West Yorkshire Electoral Roll* states. From 1857 – 1860 William Gurney's abode is recorded as 'The Parsonage' with the qualifying property still being the land at Lower Green. But by 1861 the abode and the qualifying property was 'The Parsonage'. This house still stands today having been renamed Abbotsford when the new Arts and Craft Vicarage was built.



During the 1850s there were three Washington burials, Hannah in 1852 and Samuel, the Crow Nest land agent and one-time Shibden Hall land steward, and their daughter, Anna Maria, in 1857 which were signed by W^m. Gurney in the parish register. Even though Rev. Charles Musgrave signed the register when Ann Walker of Cliffe Hill was buried on 3rd March 1854 surely Rev. William Gurney would have also been present at this funeral and her internment within his church.

An 1857 directory notes that St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe was a Perpetual Curacy worth £140 per annum. It also records that there was a Sunday school for the children of the township under the superintendency of Rev. & Mrs. Gurney. On census night, 7th April 1861, the Gurneys were in Surrey visiting William's youngest sister Sarah who had married in 1833 as various newspapers reported.

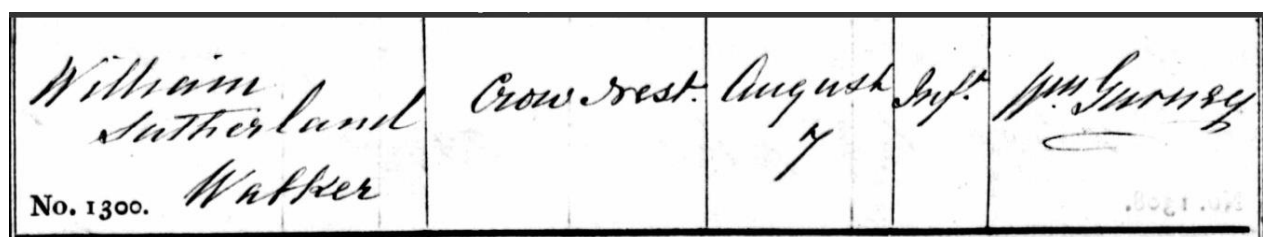
On Tuesday, the 15th January, at St. Clement's Church, Hastings, Mr. Alexander Schlusser, from St. Petersburg, to Sarah Phillips, youngest daughter of the Rev. W. Gurney, Rector of St. Clement Danes, London.

1861 census

Arthur Schlusser	Head	57	Russian Merchant
Sarah Schlusser	Wife	54	
Agnes Schlusser	Dau	20	
Margaret Gurney	Sister	59	
Sarah Gurney	Niece	24	
William Gurney	Brother	64	Clergyman
Harriett Gurney	Sister in law	58	
7 servants			
Address The Priory, Bedford Hill, Streatham, Surrey			

Both William Gurney's sisters died in March 1862 within a few days of one another.

The Gurneys stay in Surrey was a short one as he was back in Lightcliffe by the end of April 1861 taking baptisms and burials including that for the infant William Sutherland Walker.



The little boy's parents were Evan Charles Sutherland Walker, son of Elizabeth Walker and George Mackay Sutherland, and so Ann Walker's only surviving nephew and her heir. In 1859 he had married Alice Sophie Tudor. The Sutherland Walkers – the name Walker was added as a condition of Evan Charles inheriting the Crow Nest estate – moved into the Crow Nest mansion necessitating the tenant Titus Salt - later a baronet – and his family to move out. Titus Salt and his family would move back later when he bought the mansion.

Eighty-four-year-old Samuel Sowden of Sutcliffe Wood Bottom died in August 1863, a year after his son Samuel Sowden junior died. Both were buried by W^m Gurney in the family plot. Two other Sowden sons, who were vicars, Rev. Sutcliffe Sowden and Rev. George Sowden, took services including baptisms and funerals at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe during Rev. William Gurney's incumbency.

[The Howorth family.pdf](#) of Pump and Ireland Farm, Southowram were Shibden Hall tenants. There are many references in Anne Lister's diaries to father and son Charles and James Howorth (C&J). This Charles Howorth – there were a number of others - died on 7th October 1863 aged 75. His parish burial record along with that of [James Hinscliff Lighthcliffe coal merchant.pdf](#) who died in 1867 was again signed by W^m. Gurney.

More detailed information about Samuel Washington, Samuel Sowden and others connected with William Gurney's church e.g. Henry Armytage, Daniel Carter, Mark Dawson and William Widdop, can be found in various articles on our [People of Interest](#) page and then scroll down (quite a long way in some cases!).

Two more Sutherland Walker children, Alic and Alice, were baptised at St. Matthew's Church. W^m Gurney took the baptism of the next son, Alic, on 12th November 1863 but the Rev. Charles Musgrave, Vicar of Halifax, presided over proceedings for the daughter Alice Sutherland Walker on 28th Mary 1865.

During their time at Crow Nest, Evan Charles and Alice Sophie Sutherland Walker had the church his great grandfather William Walker had built refurbished. A memorial brass plaque to his aunt Ann Walker and three of his siblings was placed in a window near the Walker vault. There may have been a similar one to his parents but that has not survived. In 1866 the cottage, which was built in 1634 near the west corner of the then chapel, was moved to its present position so that the churchyard could be enlarged. Rev. William Gurney must have been involved with these new developments to his church and churchyard.

Negotiations were also underway and had been for some time, possibly from the early 1850s, for the establishment of an elementary school in Lightcliffe. Again, it is safe to assume that Rev. William Gurney and his wife who together ran a Sunday School were keen for this to happen. What they needed was a generous benefactor. In 1866 Evan Charles Sutherland Walker stepped forward, giving the land on which the school was eventually built and a donation of £5000 for the building.

And then in 1867 Evan Charles Sutherland Walker put his entire Crow Nest estate up for sale and moved back to Scotland.

The enlarged churchyard had its first burial in 1867 in a row near the west wall. However, many burials still took place in family plots in the old, now closed section of the churchyard. The row, in what is now the middle section of the churchyard, was given the code T and the first plots that were used were odd numbered. There were some burials in the gaps between, in even numbered plots, in the 1870s but many of these in-between plots were not used until early in the twentieth century.

There is an interesting period in 1867 from July to November i.e. not long after this row T was started, when William Gurney was recorded as the owner of some of these odd numbered plots. His name, as you can see, was written under the right hand 'Owner' column. It is unclear why he bought all these plots, if indeed he did.

10	19	July 17	James Flansley	4/6	Wm Gurney
11	21	July 20	James Flansley	4/6	Wm Gurney
12	23	August 4	John Baines	8/1	Wm Gurney
13	25	August 13	James Griston	2/0	Wm Gurney
14	27	August 17	Marj Tomlinson	7/4	Wm Gurney
15	29	October 15	James Drake	4/7	Wm Gurney
16	31	October 18	Ellen Kayler	1/5	Wm Gurney
17	1	November 3	John Seaming	1/9	Wm Gurney
18	3	November 10	John Gledhill	2/2	Wm Gurney

Rev. William Gurney officiated at most of the Lightcliffe baptisms and burials in 1867. But by 1868 his assistant curate Rev. James Wynn signed nearly all the parish registers. The exceptions were the 11th February 1868 baptism of Ethel Jane Foster – who became Baroness Inchiquin - the daughter of Jonas and Hannah Jane Foster of Cliffe Hill and a batch of baptisms in early April 1868. And poignantly on 13th March 1868 W^m Gurney signed the burial record for newborn William Alfred Wynn. The son of his assistant curate only lived for 14 hours.

By then the Lightcliffe incumbent was over seventy and clearly his health was failing. As well as the baptisms and burials his assistant curate was taking services and meetings and attending events on his behalf. Rev. William Gurney died on 28th August 1869. As you can see Charles Musgrave – who had appointed him – took his funeral on 1st September 1869. Unlike his predecessors he could not be buried within his church, but he was buried close by in a plot now given the code X*10 in the old, front section of the churchyard.

William Gurney Incumbent of Lightcliffe Church No. 118.	Lightcliffe	September the 1 st	73	Charles Musgrave Vicar of Lightcliffe
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The following report appeared in the *Halifax Courier* on 4th September 1869.

LIGHTCLIFFE

THE LATE REV. W. GURNEY.—We have to record the death of the Rev. W. Gurney, incumbent of Lightcliffe, an event which occurred on Saturday last; the rev. gentleman having reached the age of 73. The deceased was a son of Dr. Gurney, formerly rector of St. Clement Danes, in the Strand, London, and he came to Halifax as curate in the year 1835; on the death of Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, B.D., incumbent of Lightcliffe and Headmaster of Heath School, Mr. Gurney was appointed to the incumbency, by Archdeacon Musgrave. This was in the year 1840, and he has held the post ever since and up to the day of this death. The rev. gentleman was very staunch in his advocacy of Evangelical principles; in his official and his private life he was much esteemed, and was of a kindly, genial disposition. The funeral took place on Wednesday and was attended by gentleman of all religious denominations resident in the neighbourhood, and by many of the clergy of the district, and the vicar (Archdeacon Musgrave) officiated. The living is set down in official lists at £140 a year, and is in the gift of the vicar.

There is a probate record.

The Reverend William Gurney. 18 September. Letters of Administration (with the Will annexed) of the Personal estate and effects of the Reverend William Gurney late of Lightcliffe in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York Clerk Perpetual Curate of Lightcliffe aforesaid deceased who died 28 August 1869 at Lightcliffe aforesaid were granted at Wakefield to Harriet Betty Gurney of Lightcliffe aforesaid Widow the Relict the Universal Legatee named in the said Will she having been first sworn. Effects under £450

Then this notice appeared in the *Halifax Courier* on 18th September 1869. By then the Venerable Archdeacon Musgrave had already presented the living of Lightcliffe to Rev. George Bagot so there seems to have been some urgency in the need for widow Mrs Gurney to vacate the Parsonage.

THE PARSONAGE, LIGHTCLIFFE SALE OF VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BEDSTEADS, BEDDING, BRUSSELS, SCOTCH AND OTHER CARPETS

MR. BATES has received instructions to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on **MONDAY**, Sep 30th, 1869, at the residence of the late Rev. Wm. Gurney, the Parsonage, Lightcliffe, the whole of the valuable **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** and **EFFECTS**, embracing drawing-room, dining-room, study, hall, 5 bed-rooms, kitchen, pantry, scullery utensils, &c. For particulars see posters. Sale at eleven o'clock and continue until all be cold. The auctioneer respectfully requests an early attendance as the lots are numerous.—Auctioneer's office and salesroom Brighthouse.

Where the widow Harriet Betty Gurney formerly Rotton née Morris moved to is unknown. She has not been found on the 1871 census and she died before the 1881 census was taken. Her death, at Prospect Place, Ramsgate, Kent was reported in January 1881 editions of the *Thanet Advertiser*, *London Evening Standard* and *Pall Mall Gazette* as well as the *Yorkshire Gazette*.

GURNEY – On the 12th inst., at Ramsgate Mrs Harriet Gurney relict of the late Rev. William Gurney M.A. late incumbent of Lightcliff [sic], Halifax.

She was brought back to Lightcliffe for burial with her husband on 18th January 1881.

Harriet Betty Gurney No. 263.	Prospect Place Ramsgate	January 18 1881	Years 77	G. Bayot.
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Their plot, X*10, to the southwest of the tower, has this headstone.



The London born, Lightcliffe incumbent William Gurney was in Halifax and then Lightcliffe at an interesting time. Whilst he was a curate at St. John's Church, Halifax, Anne Lister heard him preach. He was there when both Anne Lister's father, Jeremy, and then her aunt Anne were interred in the church now Halifax Minister. No doubt he knew of Anne Lister's death in Georgia although he had moved to Lightcliffe by the time of her funeral and then internment in St. John's Church.

In Lightcliffe he would have known Aunt Ann Walker of Cliffe Hill and a number of the real characters in the BBC's *Gentleman Jack* programmes including Ann Walker when she moved back to her childhood home. He may well have also known Titus Salt who rented and then bought Crow Nest mansion. His churchwardens included Daniel Carter of Giles House, Samuel Holland, Samuel Washington, Henry Armytage, William Widdop, James Mallinson and Mark Dawson, one time Mayor of Bradford. During his incumbency the parish became a Chapelry and a new parsonage was built.

After Ann Walker died, he worked with her heir Evan Charles Sutherland Walker of Crow Nest on the refurbishment of his church, an extension to the churchyard and then the building of an elementary school in Lightcliffe. By then the Foster family, textile manufacturers from Queensbury had moved into Cliffe Hill mansion. One member of the family, Major Johnston Jonas Foster, would later provide the funds to build a new church in Lightcliffe, but this was after William Gurney had died.

D.M.Barker

December 2024