



St Peter and St Paul

There has been a church in the village of Shelford for a thousand years. A priest and a church are recorded in the Domesday Book, and there would appear to have been a centre for Christian worship on the present site as early as the ninth century. The existing church contains a fragment of a Saxon Cross from that period. The cross is well preserved and is probably the most important Saxon artifact in Nottinghamshire. The church is a Grade II* listed building.



As well as visually dominating the village, it remains of central importance to the inhabitants of Shelford, a crucial part of community life.

Church Building



The church building itself is ancient. The nave was first constructed (in the Early English tradition) in the thirteenth century, circa 1250, at a time when the church, together with the village of Shelford and an extensive estate on both sides of the river, was in the possession of an order of Augustinian monks. Their priory was situated about a mile away from the church along the River Trent. The aisles and some window tracery date from the fourteenth century, while the outstanding feature of the church is generally reckoned to be

the tower, the original construction of which was probably in the late fifteenth century. Originally it had a spire but this was lost in the most violent incident in the church's history. The fire scars of the siege of the church by Roundhead forces from Nottingham are still apparent (see also information board 5 - Shelford Manor).

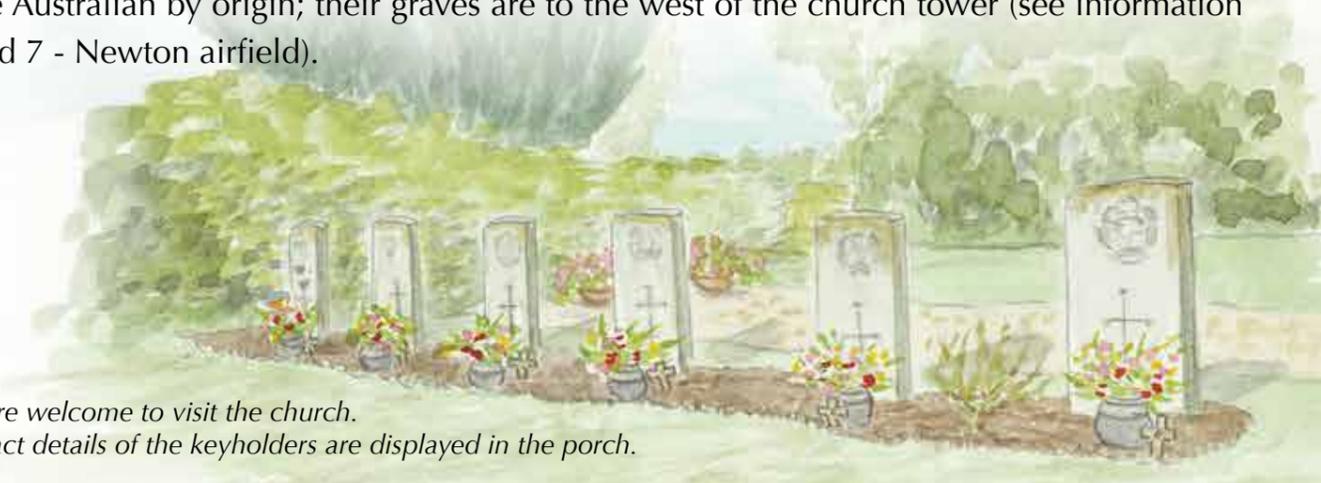
In 1878 a major rebuilding of the church was undertaken. The restoration of the chancel includes a stained glass window at the eastern end in the form of a triptych, with Christ on the cross, flanked by St. Peter and St. Paul.

This was created by Charles Eamer Kempe, the famous Victorian stained glass designer. The crypt, in which successive generations of the Stanthorpe family were interred, was blocked off at this time. Monuments in the chapel bear witness to the family's long association with the village.

The Churchyard

The Churchyard contains a listed monument (No.320044) – a hollow which was the emplacement for a Civil War gun battery (much cherished by the Sealed Knot in their re-enactments of the skirmish at Shelford), located southwest of the church. There are earthworks defining a horseshoe-shaped bank up to 0.6 metres in height and 5 metres in width.

There are also a number of war graves, still maintained by the villagers under the auspices of the Women's Institute. These include that of Private Flint of the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment, who died in 1920, and those of six airmen, two of whom were stationed at RAF Newton. Two of the six were English and four were Australian by origin; their graves are to the west of the church tower (see information board 7 - Newton airfield).



*You are welcome to visit the church.
Contact details of the keyholders are displayed in the porch.*

Village Hall

The current village hall was originally the village school, the first purpose built school in the village following the Foster's Education Act of 1870 which aimed to give every child the chance of an elementary education.

Prior to this school being built and opened in 1873, the earliest evidence of children being taught in the village is at Hawthorn Farm, where boys were taught upstairs and girls downstairs. This is now Hawthorn Farmhouse situated on Main Road (See information board 8 - The Pinfold).

However, there are records in the churchwardens' accounts that children were being formally educated during the mid-18th century and by 1832, the local landlord, the Earl of Chesterfield, employed a schoolmaster to teach 30 poor children in the almshouses (now demolished, see information board 4 - Alms Houses).



In the early days parents supplied books, slates and pencils and paid 2 pence a week for each child to be taught. The school was divided into 6 "standards" (or classes) and children were taught reading, arithmetic, dictation, repetition, physical geography, grammar, spelling and poetry. Older children undertook physical activities such as marching and drill, and practical skills such as table-laying. Discipline was strict and pupils would have the cane on their hand for things such as chattering too much (photograph of school children

c.1930/1940). The dual desks in the picture replaced earlier long desks which had tip-up seats and held 4 or 5 children. On cold mornings the children would gather around a coal or coke fire to keep warm.

The school frequently closed for epidemics such as measles (1894) and whooping cough and scarlet fever (1897). It was not until 1896 that hygiene was improved by the provision of a wash-stand and water jug. Moreover, poor attendance often coincided with agricultural demands when pupils were absent to help with fruit harvesting and potato setting and picking. Boys would be absent to beat for the local shoot.

In 1913 the Parish Council wrote to Nottinghamshire County Council complaining that too much money was being spent on TWO teachers when there were only between 35 and 36 pupils. Dwindling numbers and expensive sanitary improvements led to the closure of the school in 1964 and by which time there was only one headmistress and a part-time assistant.

Time off school was given for such events as Royal Jubilees, to "meet the hounds" at the local hunt, to celebrate the relief of Mafeking in May 1899 during the Boer War, and to watch an aeroplane "passing quite near" in July 1911.

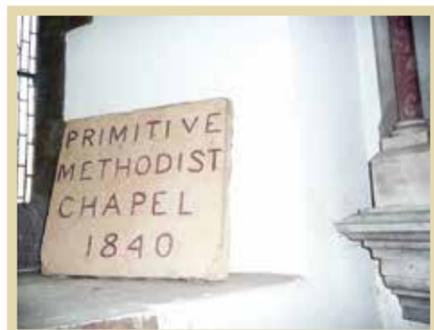


Photograph of children in school yard c.1906

The Earl of Chesterfield Arms Public House

The present Earl of Chesterfield pub incorporates what was once three separate structures; a beer house, a Methodist Chapel and a Methodist Hall. Before this the site was occupied by two small attached cottages.

The Methodist Chapel



In 1840, one of the cottages was sold off to the Primitive Methodist church, who proceeded to convert it into a chapel, marking the successful culmination of a long search by the 'Prims' for a place of worship. How much of the original cottage was incorporated into the chapel is unclear, but the latter was available for a first service at the end of May 1840. It remained a thriving presence for well over the succeeding century, so much so that a loft

(the beam of which remains today) was added in 1859. In 1930, a hall, generally known as the Methodist Room, was opened at the side of the chapel and in 1932, the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists were united (there had been Wesleyans in Shelford from the early nineteenth century).

The pub

The other structure on the site went through a series of changes of ownership in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1851 however, although the exact date of its use as a pub is unknown, the tenant, John Hall, was running it as a beer house. It was he who named what became the public house, firstly the Chesterfield Arms and then the present title of the Earl of Chesterfield Arms, in a tribute to the owner of the surrounding estate.

In 1870, the pub was bought by Edward Brewster, a cattle dealer from Burton Joyce. His son, Samuel, also a cattle dealer, owned and ran the pub from 1871, being succeeded by his sons, Samuel and Edward.

The Primitive Methodists were vehemently against 'strong drink', with many taking the 'pledge' of total abstinence. Nevertheless, relations between pub and chapel on the same site seem to have been harmonious, with the local lay preacher, Reuben Fisher, sharing the Brewsters' interest in cattle dealing.

Pub and Chapel together



In 1950, the pub was bought by Arthur Marshall of East Leake, eventually passing into the ownership and management of David Marshall. It was under David's management that the pub reached the height of its popularity, requiring the two small rooms to be extended.

However, the reverse could be said for the chapel which saw attendance numbers dwindle from the 1950s onwards. By the end of the 1960s, the trend had led to its closure and in 1975 the building was sold – to the pub! Although the buildings of the Methodist Chapel and Hall provided further opportunity for the pub to extend this never materialised and the pub declined dramatically following David Marshall's death in 2002.

After a decade of uncertainty and further decline for the Earl of Chesterfield, concerned residents of Shelford decided to do something about it. Today the pub is owned by the villagers of Shelford, through the Shelford Pub Company, and was reopened in April 2012 under new management.

Why don't you visit for a good hearty meal or a refreshing pint!

Shelford's Alms Houses

This is the site of the Alms Houses, which had stood here for over 300 years until the last traces were demolished around 1982.

The dissolution of the monasteries saw Shelford Priory disappear in 1536 and with it, the only source of poor relief in the Parish. This loss was not unique to Shelford and was recognised as a national issue with the passing of legislation in the same year, requiring the collection of alms by the clergy every Sunday and Holy Day.

An example of an early pedestal alms box can be found in the village church (see photograph to the right).

In 1694 a major scheme was established by Sir William Stanhope (1626 – 1703), a kinsman of the Earl of Chesterfield. By this time an almshouse had already been built on the site, "for six poor men to have continuance for ever".

The photograph of the Alms Houses from 1903 shows a chapel in the middle, with two wings in which the six men were housed. The interior was reputed to be wainscoted in oak and outside were gardens and a small orchard.



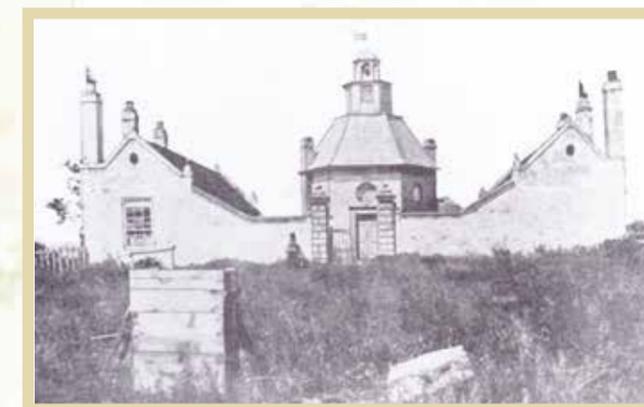
The Deed of 1694 added a further benefit to the accommodation by lodging a sum of £1200 (a very significant amount of money), the income from which was to maintain the houses and to provide for the livelihood of the inmates.

Such benevolence required rules as it was assumed that the poor were likely to cause trouble and needed to be controlled. These were displayed in the chapel and covered misdemeanours such as

- Breaking the curfew (9pm in the spring and summer and 8pm in autumn and winter)
- Being away from the almshouses for more than a week at a time or a month in a year
- Frequenting alehouses, cursing or swearing, drunkenness or keeping bad company
- Failing to attend daily prayers
- Scolding, brawling or fighting except in self-defence
- Failing to wear the uniform outside the "liberties" of the almshouses
- Damaging almshouse property (including willows, trees and hedges)

All the above were punishable by a fine ranging from 4 pence to 1 shilling. However marrying would cause the inmate to lose his place forever.

Although Sir William's vision was to provide care in perpetuity, his death in 1703 saw the start of the end of his legacy. Over time the almshouses fell into disrepair and the field they occupied was used by a herdsman to graze cows.



Photograph of Alms Houses 1903

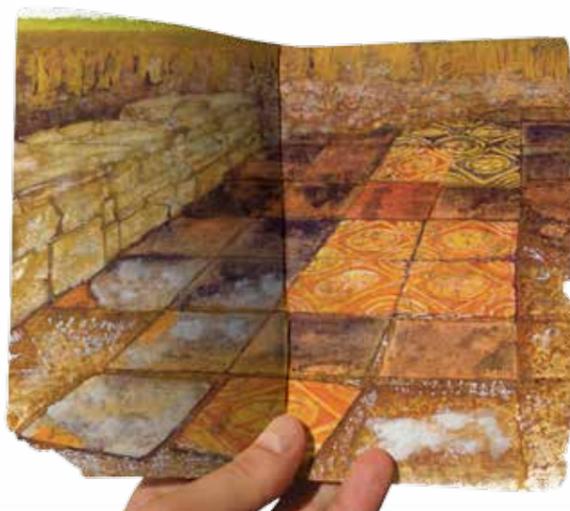
Shelford Manor

The site of Shelford Manor has had a long and varied history, showing evidence of occupation dating back to the Iron and Romano-British ages. However, the first substantial building on the site came in the 12th century when an Augustinian Priory was established here.

The Augustinian Priory

The Augustinian Priory was founded during the reign of King Stephen, probably by a member of the Bardolph family. By the 14th century the Priory owned property, not only at Shelford but also in other Nottinghamshire parishes as well as in Lincolnshire and Derbyshire.

Little is recorded of Shelford Priory's history except when it attracted the attention of the church authorities – usually for the misdemeanours of the Prior or his monks. Today a tiled floor, temporarily uncovered in 2001, still marks the site of the Priory (picture of mosaic below).



After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 the Priory was briefly coveted by Thomas Cramner for his brother-in-law. However, it was then granted, along with all its property, to Sir Michael Stanhope, brother-in-law to Edward Seymour, the brother of Henry VIII's third wife Jane and uncle to Henry's only son.

The tiled Priory floor uncovered by archaeologists in recent times (from a picture by David Tharme of Shelford).



Although Sir Michael Stanhope's property acquisitions marked the beginning of the family's fortunes, the fate of the founder himself was hardly auspicious as he was beheaded in 1552. It was his widow, Lady Anne, and his eldest son, Sir Thomas Stanhope, who made Shelford Priory the centre of a considerable estate in the second half of the 16th century. It was they too who rebuilt and extended the original priory building to make a country house, Shelford Manor, worthy of their status. The main house, with its Great Hall, was surrounded by other buildings, including a gatehouse, a brewhouse and a bakehouse, that made the property self-sufficient and apart from the village.

During the Civil War

The Manor saw troubling times during the mid-17th century when the Civil War raged through the county. The Manor, under Philip Stanhope son of the first Earl of Chesterfield (also Philip), was held for the King until 1645. When the Parliamentarians decided to eliminate this Royalist outpost after the battle of Naseby, they found the Manor House heavily fortified and defended. It was taken only after a fierce fight which left Philip Stanhope dead among a hundred and more of the garrison. The Manor House itself was almost completely destroyed.

After the Restoration, Shelford Manor was rebuilt and occupied by Sir William Stanhope of Linby, a half-brother of the First Earl, and his eldest son of the same name. It later reverted to the Earl and was occupied by a succession of factors or land agents on what came to be known as the Bingham estate. Passing through the hands of other significant families over time and much reduced in size, the house eventually was passed to the Chatterton family during the early 1940s, whose third generation currently live here.

The Mill

This was the site of the Newton mill, first referred to in a written account in 1660 when John Askew the miller was noted as owing £10 and £14 in rent arrears to the Stanhope Estate.

The mill originally had four shuttered sails, operated by springs which were set by the miller. The axle of the sails was made of wood with a stone neck bearing and there were two sack hoists. The mill had to be rotated and fixed in position to take advantage of the prevailing wind. The sails would stop quickly if the wind dropped or changed direction and if they were driven too fast they could damage the machinery. The large mill stones (see photograph of one of the original mill stones) had to be regularly maintained and care taken not to allow stones to be ground up into the grain.

Millers at Newton

- William Newcombe and family milled at Newton from 1789
- John Driver 1881 – 1906
- Walter Harrison 1906 – 1910s



When Walter Harrison took over the mill, he was a baker by trade and knew little about milling. Walter initially made his living by farming but as there was a demand for produce from the mill, he restarted production with the help of a relative who was a miller.

The top half of an ancient hand-operated stone quern for grinding corn. This was discovered locally and is on display in the church.

To increase the income from farming and milling, the family encouraged visitors for outings where people could stop and admire the views over the Trent Valley. They served teas and mineral waters to cyclists and passers-by. The mill became popular for trips from Radcliffe by foot or horse and trap and was a regular venue for Sunday school outings. Lord Carnarvon's shooting parties visited a couple of times a year when they ate their meal out of wicker baskets in the middle room of the house. The keepers ate in the washroom and the beaters in the barn.

The success of the Newton Mill was hindered by unreliable wind power and in the 1910s Walter Harrison supplemented the production from the mill by renting a barn in Bingham where he could grind and roll grain using portable steam engines. Gradually the mill deteriorated and by the 1920s its operation had been abandoned.

By the end of the Second World War the mill had become unsafe and the wooden structure was dismantled in 1951. Some parts of the mill are in the Science Museum in London and the two millstones are in the garden of Newton House farm.





Newton Airfield

South-east from this spot is an old airfield. The threats arising from aggressive Nazism in the 1930s led the British Air Ministry to purchase land across the United Kingdom to build aerodromes; one of these was at Newton.

The station was officially opened in July 1940 to accommodate two squadrons, the 103 and 150. The first operational aircraft to use the grass runways (metalled runways were not built) were Fairey Battles. They took part in raids bombing ports, harbours and oil storage facilities in Belgium, Holland and France.



The Bloodhound missile

This stood for many years by the Guardroom. These missiles were used for electrical and instrument training in the 1960s.

In October 1940 a new aircraft arrived at Newton. This was the Vickers Wellington, a twin-engine bomber whose mission was to concentrate on targets in Germany, including Dusseldorf, Hamburg and Berlin.



Wellington bomber

The twin-engine Vickers Wellington bomber

From July 1941 bomber aircraft and personnel were gradually moved out to other RAF stations and Newton began its new role as a training station. In particular Polish airmen serving with the RAF came here to train. This led to the station adopting a Polish badge as its emblem : a Polish eagle holding a flaming torch in each talon and with the motto “DOCEMUS ET DISCIMUS” (translated as “We Teach and We Learn”).



Polish badge

The training role for Newton continued and has been varied over the years. This included the RAF Police and RAF police dogs. This activity remained until the mid 1990s.

The iconic control tower, which was unusual in that it remained substantially unchanged from World War II until its closure, was latterly converted into offices and finally closed on 29th November 2000. The RAF ensign was lowered for the last time on 27th of that month. Newton was officially closed as an RAF station on 1st March 2001

Newton Control Tower

The control tower remained virtually unchanged from WW11 until its closure in 2000



For further information see “Last Post at Newton” by Timothy O’Brien (Tobbit publisher)

The Pinfold and War Memorial

Before you is the old pinfold, a place where strayed animals were kept until their owners paid a fine to reclaim them. During medieval times, agriculture and animal husbandry around Shelford were organised collectively in an 'open field system' where three or four very large fields were divided into strips, each strip allocated to a tenant to farm. Some of these fields were used for crops and others were common land where livestock could be grazed. Behind you, as you face the memorial, is the former school house (see information board 2 - The Village Hall).



Former school house:
Hawthorn Farmhouse

Pinfolds were once very common, with every village in Nottinghamshire having one. They were also used to pen animals overnight on their way to market.

By the 20th century the site of the pinfold was derelict and was given to the village by the Earl of Carnarvon for the erection of a war memorial. This was built in 1920 at a cost of £170, and the work which involved carting materials and erecting fences, was carried out voluntarily by parishioners. Of the 12 men from Shelford and Newton who died in the First World War, many were in their early twenties and included the sons of local farmers and gamekeepers. There is also a War Commission Grave in the churchyard commemorating a soldier who died of injuries sustained during the war (see information Board 1 - Shelford Church).

As well as raising the money for the war memorial the parishioners undertook to restore the bells in the church as a commemorative project. This included recasting the fifth bell in 1919, which dated from 1754 but was in very poor condition. Parishioners continued to donate to various good causes (such as the Red Cross) until the 1930s, focusing mainly on the relief of those injured during the war. There is a Roll of Honour board in the chancel of the church which testifies to those who fell in the war.

Past farming systems and Shelford's ridge and furrow

As you walk up Pinfold Lane to your left, the public footpath takes you to some fields that are now used as paddocks. The fields are Shelford's finest example of ridge and furrow, an enduring feature of the landscape caused by ploughing until the 16th century.



At this time, ploughs had fixed plough shares and could only be used in one direction. The strips were narrow rectangles, ploughed up one long side and down the other. As the same strip was ploughed over the years, the soil built up into the middle of the strip to form a ridge, with furrows forming between the ridges. The resulting pattern in the fields is called 'ridge and furrow' and can still be clearly seen in the field, known as Shelford Moor.

Medieval
farming systems

During the 14th century this field was possibly a sheep run because around this time Shelford Abbey exported wool to the continent. Because of the value to the landowner of keeping livestock such as sheep, much common land was taken out of the open field system and 'enclosed' by erecting fences. Shelford Moor was enclosed by Thomas Stanhope in the 1570s, breaking 200 acres into 3 large areas or closes.

