GB 0198 Church of Our Father

Rotherham Archives and Local Studies

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The Church of Our Father derives from a community of Dissenters who followed an ejected minister; the first meeting house was built in 1704 by the generosity of Thomas Hollis, founder of two charities, the one in Sheffield and the other in Rotherham. In 1704 the minister and congregation were termed Presbyterians; by the end of the eighteenth century Unitarianism was established there, and has continued since. The present building was named the Church of Our Father at its opening in 1898.

The Church continues to be administered by the Hollis Trustees.

There are now no records of historical interest in the Church. The Registers were sent to The General Register Office. These, and other documents, were used and printed by William Blazeby in his "Rotherham Old Meeting House; Rotherham, 1906."

The records remaining are all the property, and relate to, the Hollis Trustees for the Rotherham Charity (a section of the Trust created by Thomas Hollis with separate provision for Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster).

Contents of first box
1. Probate of the will of Thomas Shore of Sheffield, freemason. Will, 3 May, 1658; probate, 6 October, 1658.
2. Inventory of the goods of the said Thomas Shore. 19 June, 1658.
4. John Elye, Sarah his wife, and Thomas Elye of Utterby esquire, to John Shore of Sheffield, freemason; Jerom Phillips of Sheffield, also being a party. Cottage and premises in Westgate. 4 November, 1669.
5. Bond for performance of No. 4.
6. Agreement between Miles Stocks of Tickhill, husbandman, and John Shore about the provision of lime and stone for a building at Misterton. 7 April, 1671.
7. Bond, in which John Shore undertakes to pay £10 to Richard Nutt of Sheffield, blacksmith. 7 April, 1674.
8. Authorisation by John Eyre for certain persons to kill deer in certain woods [Shirecliffe, etc.] in the parish of Sheffield, for fifteen years. 26 October, 1675.
William Stanley to John Shore. The premises in No. 3, for

10. Statement by Dorothy Ellis. 9 April, 1679.

11. Bond.
Sarah Shore of Rotherham, widow, is bound to pay £5 to
Margaret Barley of Sheffield, widow. 25 December, 1683.

12. Bond.
Sarah Shore, widow, bound to pay £10 to Annie Rickett of
Sheffield, widow. 6 November, 1684.

William Willburne of Rotherham, innkeeper, and Sarah his wife,
to William Aslabie of Rotherham, gentleman. Two messuages
in Westgate, Rotherham, and two in Sheffield, for £20.
3 December, 1686.


15. Bond.
7 February, 1687-8.

William Willburne and Sarah his wife, to Thomas Fowler of
Tinsley, yeoman. The same premises, for £20. 5 March,
1687-8.

17. Bond for performance of No. 16.

18. Mortgage.
William Willburne and Sarah his wife to Thomas Fowler.
A cottage in Blind Lane, Sheffield, for £36. 22 June, 1688.

19. Mortgage.
William Willburne and Sarah his wife to Joseph Browne of
Treeton, gentleman. A third part of messuages in Westgate,
Rotherham, and Blind Lane, Sheffield, for £10. 13 March,
1692-3.


Joseph Browne, William Willburne consenting, to Samuel Shoare
of Sheffield, cutler. 4 April, 1699.

22. Note of a loan of £10 from Edward Hobson to William Willburne,
paid 15 October, 1699.

23. Conveyance (lease and release).
David Gass to Thomas Hollys, junior of London, gentleman,
Robert Wylde of Wickersley, gentleman, William Langley of
Rotherham, mercer, Richard Hutchinsone of Rotherham, mercer,
Joseph Poljambe of Eastwood, ship's carpenter, John Henfroy
of Rotherham, tobacco pipe maker, John Stones of Rotherham,
whitesmith, Thomas Radcliffe of Basen Thorpe, yeoman, John
Kirk of Madon Hall, linen weaver, and Nicholas Hattersley
of Rotherham, yeoman. Land in the Beast Market in Rotherham
for the erection of a chapel. 1 and 2 November, 1704.

James Johnson and Ann his wife, to the same trustees as in
No. 23, with Joseph Banks as party to an intended fine.
1 and 2 November, 1704.

25. The fine as levied. Michaelmas term, 1704.
26. Deed of partition.
Samuel Shore of Sheffield, ironmonger, and Silvanus Shore of Sheffield, ironmonger, divide between them premises in Westgate and a share in the Neither Town Field - Silvanus taking the house in Westgate in the possession of W. Wilburne and Samuel the house occupied by - Laypington, the cottage occupied by - Swift, and the share in the Neither Town Field. 5 May, 1705.


28. Receipts for chief rents, etc. 1713-1724.

29. Conveyance, (lease and release).
Samuel Shore and Jane his wife, to William Hollis. The minister's house in Rotherham. 19 and 20 April, 1720.

30 and 30a. Conveyance (lease and release).

31. Feoffment.
Robert Aslabie to Thomas Buck. A piece of land in Westgate part of Royd's Croft. 1 April, 1734.

32. Lease.
Robert Aslabie to Thomas Buck. A kiln and malthouse in a croft called Royd's Croft, for eleven years. 8 November, 1738.

33. Conveyance to uses.
Thomas Wild, John Wadsworth and Samuel Shore to Timothy Hollis and others, of the trust properties. 15 and 16 May, 1739.

34. Copy of conveyance (lease and release).
Joseph Cozens, Thomas Hounsfield, Bartholomew Hounsfield and George Hounsfield, to John Parker. Bunting Croft in Rotherham. 3 and 4 September, 1760.

35. Feoffment.
John Parker to Samuel Moul. Part of the Bunting Croft. 10 October, 1774.

36. Conveyance (lease and release) by the Trustees to new Trustees, of the trust properties. 2 and 3 March, 1775.

37. Conveyance (lease and release).
Samuel Moul to the Trustees. A piece of land called Bunting Croft. 4 and 5 August, 1775.

38. Conveyance (lease and release).
The Trustees to new Trustees. The Trust properties, with the addition of Royd's Croft in Westgate. 8 and 9 July, 1791.

39. Conveyance, and appointment of new trustees. 1 and 2 June, 1813.

40. Conveyance and appointment. 23 and 24 December, 1835.

41. Conveyance (lease and release).
George Gee to the Trustees. A piece of land at Oil Mill Fold, Rotherham. 1 February, 1842.
42. Memorandum of appointment of new Trustees of the Rotherham Charity. 10 January, 1860.

43. Conveyance (copy, with remains of the original deed). Henry Gerard Hoare to Eliza Shore, widow of Offley Shore. Land in Moorgate, Rotherham. 31 December, 1870.

44. Conveyance. Harrington Offley Shore (son of Offley Shore) to trustees, with the consent of other members of the Shore family. Land in Moorgate, Rotherham. 28 November, 1879.

45. Appointment of new trustees. 30 April, 1880. [This deed is endorsed on No. 40].

46. Conveyance. Rebecca Boomer (mortgagee) and John Moorhouse (owner) to The Rev. William Blazeby and others. A piece of land in Moorgate. 27 April, 1877.

47. Agreement. William Leggoe (a trustee) agrees to sell part of the Butchers' Arms Field in Moorgate to the Hollis Trustees. 5 October, 1877.

48. Abstract of title of William Leggoe (beginning with Charles Booth of Brush House); and Conveyance. Arthur Simpson and Thomas Colley (there is a marginal note: they were trustees of Thomas Cocker, of Conisbrough, father of Thomas Cocker, Chairman of the Trustees in 1917); with the consent of William Leggoe, to the Chapel trustees. Land in Butchers' Arms Field. 21 May, 1880.

49. Conveyance. The Rev. William Blazeby and other trustees to new trustees. The Church of our Father, upon certain trusts; reciting the history of the land (from deed No. 23) and the building of the church. 14 June, 1884.

50. Agreement, preventing the acquisition of an easement of the land of the Trustees in Moorgate Street, with John Moorhouse of Ashmount, Doncaster Road, cab proprietor; with provisions for light and air to his stables. 24 July, 1894.

51. Conveyance. The surviving trustees to the new trustees. All the trust properties. 17 March, 1891.


53. Lease. The Trustees to George Neatby. Land in Westgate, Rotherham, for 99 years. 15 February, 1854. [This land was sold to the Rotherham Corporation in 1909 and the price (£850) reinvested in ground rents in Leppings Lane, etc.]

54. Lease. The Trustees to William Richards. Land in Wellgate, Rotherham, for 99 years. 29 November, 1878.

56. Counterpart of 55, endorsed with numerous assignments of
the lease.

57. Agreement.
The Trustees agree to let to Rotherham School Board
United District, the Hollis School. 11 May, 1893.

58. Lease.
The Trustees to Walter Bell. Land in Godstone Street,
Rotherham, for 200 years. 4 January, 1896.

59. Agreement.
John Hobson for the Trustees to George Hague and Eleanor
his wife. Terms on which they are to carry on the
school and the tenancy of the Master's house. 7 and 9
March, 1874.

59a. Agreement with the new schoolmistress. 24 June, 1879.

60. Certificate of the Superintendent Registrar as to marriages.
15 August, 1880.

61. Minute book of the Trustees, 1848-1884. In the flyleaf,
notes on the history of the box of documents.

62. Not in the box; not included in the solicitors' list.

63. "Rotherham Trust". Copies and abstracts of deeds, in a
black exercise book.

64. Policies of insurance (cancelled) and miscellaneous papers.
1896 to 1902.

65. Conveyance.
The surviving trustees to new trustees. The trust
properties. 3 May, 1905.

66. Order of the Charity Commissioners as to educational trusts.
19 April, 1905.

67. Conveyance.
James Willis Dixon to the Trustees. Premises in Palmer
Road, Bickerton Road and Leppings Lane, 21 July, 1909;
with deeds and papers in a bundle relating to the
property.

68. Agreement.
The Trustees of The Church of Our Father to the Rev.
Stanley Alfred Mellor as to the pastorate. 8 December,
1909.

69. Agreement as to the pastorate with the Rev. H. W. King.
14 April, 1913.

Rules of the Hollis School, Hollis Croft, Oil Mill Fold,
Rotherham [printed broadsheet].

A second metal box of deeds, 1884 to date, relating to properties
in and near Wellgate; mostly renewals of leases, with some
insurance records, etc.