Newport, St. Stephen

The village of Newport lies on the Market Weighton canal and is the only industrial village in the East Riding.

Before 1780 there were no houses in the area only the vast common of Wallingfen. Following its enclosure and drainage and the discovery of extensive good quality clay beds in the digging of the canal, a number of works developed manufacturing bricks, tiles, and coarse earthenware products which were often distributed by canal. A sizable village grew up around the intersection of the canal and the main Hull road. A few original houses dating from this time remain together with a large number of flooded brickponds.

The parish Church of St. Stephen and adjoining vicarage, which is now a private residence, date from 1897-98. They were designed by architects Smith, Brodick and Lowther and built with money bequeathed by a wealthy parishioner. The Church has a West tower which contains a chime of eight bells, cast by Taylors the bells are hung dead on two levels in a wooden A-frame. The five lightest bells are hung on the top level.

Bells number one to three bear the inscription 'John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, 1949'. In addition the third bell is inscribed 'St. Stephens Newport Jubilee 1949'.

Bells number four to eight have the inscription 'John Taylor and co., Founders, Loughborough, Leicestershire, 1908' and have a vine leaf and grape motif underneath the inscription.

The Tenor bell weighs approximately 8 cwt. and has a diameter of 35 inches. The weight of the other bells is not known. A chiming apparatus is situated in the room below where the bells are hung. This consists of ropes which run through a number of pulleys and are then attached to the clapper of each bell. The system is in full working order.

Simon Hartley