



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Salford

Social History

Social Character and Communal Life

The Middle Ages

Though Salford may have begun as a single late Anglo-Saxon estate, by the late 11th or early 12th century it most likely comprised three distinct clusters of homesteads around a central green, all of them by then attached to separate estates but sharing a watermill and a field system. The parish church (situated on the larger Salford manor) was presumably another shared focus, and had conceivably been founded before the estate's division, its surviving Norman features suggesting significant investment by early 12th-century lords or their tenants. The northernmost cluster belonged to Chipping Norton manor and was long counted as part of Chipping Norton parish, although its inhabitants almost certainly identified themselves with Salford from an early date, most likely attending Salford church as in the 18th century.¹

The social structure was typical of the area, with most tenants by the 1270s holding in villeinage and owing (besides money rents) customary labour services, payments of crops and livestock, and a 'present' in return for dining with the lord at Christmas. Only five small freeholders were recorded in 1279, including a cottager and the miller.² Salford's lords held manors elsewhere and may have visited the parish only occasionally, although the Pykewell manor seems to have had a manor house in the 12th or 13th centuries, and the Trillows (lords of the larger manor for much of the 14th century) were based locally at Chastleton.³ The complex pattern of landholding in the 13th and 14th centuries meant, moreover, that many tenants held their land of resident relatives of the lord such as the Bromes or Joan and John le Rous, while the prominent freeholder John Merry, who also had tenants, was resident c.1313, his descendants continuing as substantial Salford landholders into the 15th century.⁴ By far the highest tax assessment in 1327 (16s.) was that of the lord John Trillow, while the lord of the Pykewell manor was assessed at 6s., and another 14 taxpayers at

¹ Above, landscape etc. (boundaries; settlement); landownership; econ. hist.; below, relig. hist.

² *Rot. Hund.* II, 728–9 (excluding the Bromes' large estate).

³ Above, landownership; H.P. Trillo, *The Trillows of Chastleton: A Medieval Oxfordshire Family* (2011).

⁴ Above, landownership; *Rot. Hund.* II, 728; TNA, CP 25/1/189/14, no. 47; CP 25/1/189/14, no. 103; *ibid.* C 241/61/10; C 241/68/93.

between 3s. and 9d., implying a wide range of wealth. Two taxpayers' names suggest immigration from Rollright and Sibford.⁵

Victims of the Black Death may have included a Salford chaplain,⁶ and the subsequent amalgamation of some family yardlands into larger holdings suggests long-term impact. Few early 14th-century tenant surnames match those recorded in 1446, when five tenants were fined for failure to maintain houses and an unfree tenant or bondsman (*nativus*) was reported to have left the manor for Chipping Norton, suggesting the usual weakening of manorial authority. All the tenant farms were by then (like the demesne) let for cash rents.⁷ The Salford 'husbandman' John Merry (one of the prolific freeholding family) was allegedly involved in 1463 in bringing false charges against a Spelsbury man in Guildford (Surrey).⁸

1500–1800

In the absence of resident lords and (for the most part) of resident curates or rectors,⁹ 16th- and 17th-century Salford continued to be dominated by its leading farming families, including the Boulters, Bulls, and Hyatts and (after 1600) the Fawdryes, Phillipseys, Russells, and Wheelers.¹⁰ Outsiders also played a role, however, the parish's highest taxpayer in 1577 (assessed on goods worth £8) being Edmund Ansley of Cornwell and Chastleton, lessee of the Salford glebe and tithes by 1558, who presented to the church in 1562 although he was married to a recusant.¹¹ His predecessor John Hall, of South Newington, was also patron for a turn under a 1555 grant, and in 1548 became embroiled in a legal dispute over the Berkeleys or Bartletts tithes.¹² Some leading 17th-century parishioners left parish charities,¹³ and a few were buried in the church, those with memorials including members of the Boulter family.¹⁴

Wills and probate inventories reveal social and business contacts with neighbouring towns and villages as well as increasing home comforts. Robert Elliman (d. 1544) left sheep

⁵ TNA, E 179/161/9.

⁶ Bodl. MS Chart. Oxon. a 1 (proved 1349); below, relig. hist. (Middle Ages).

⁷ TNA, E 179/161/9; *ibid.* SC 2/197/61; above, econ. hist. (Middle Ages).

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1461–7, 263–4.

⁹ Above, landownership; below, relig. hist.

¹⁰ OHC and TNA, Salford wills and inventories. For the Fawdryes, S. Murrell, 'Two Salford Families', in J.H.S. Johnson (ed.), *Salford: More History of a Cotswold Village* (1985), 34–8.

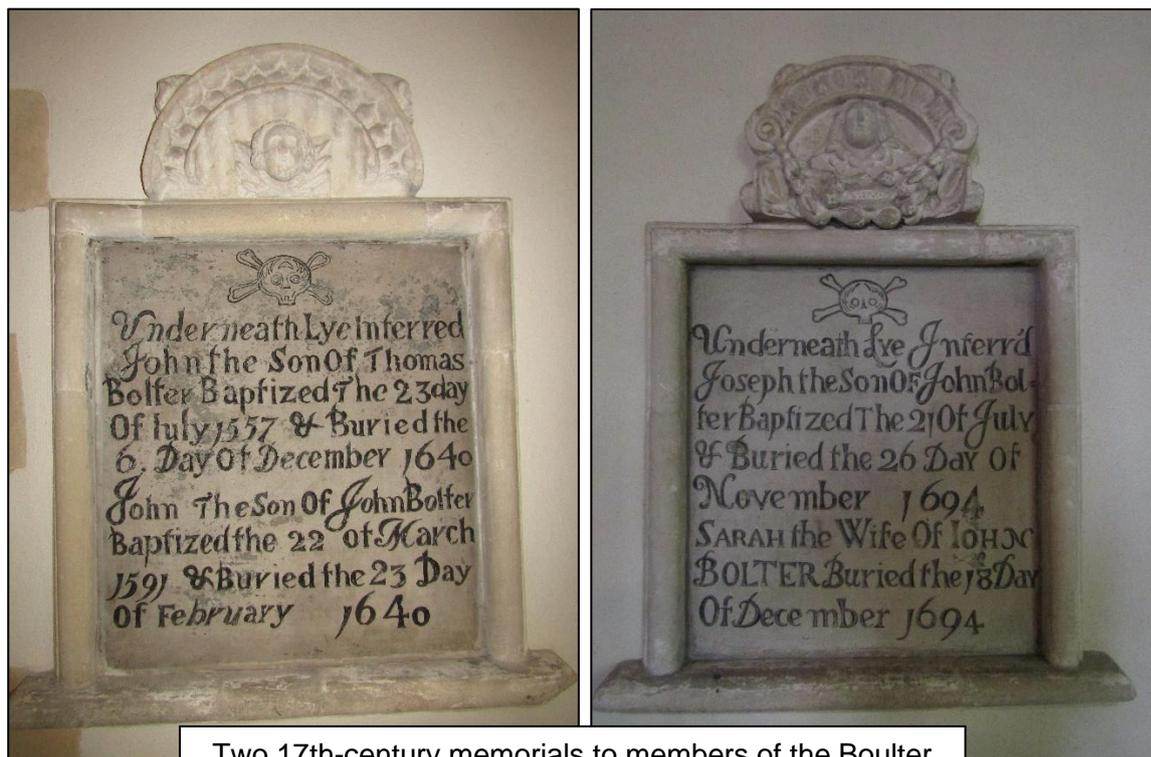
¹¹ TNA, E 179/162/341; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 105, pp. 209–10; Pearce, 'Clergy', 18; A. Davidson, 'Roman Catholicism in Oxfordshire from the Late Elizabethan Period to the Civil War, c.1580–c.1640' (Univ. of Bristol PhD thesis, 1970), 193–9; below, relig. hist. (advowson).

¹² TNA, C 1/1231/4–5; C 1/1437/2–5; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 105, p. 210. For the Halls, *VCH Oxon.* XI, 152.

¹³ Below (welfare).

¹⁴ e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 189.348; 144/2/4; 5/5/16; Boulter memorials in church.

to the parishes of Cornwell and Little Compton,¹⁵ and Anthony Russell (d. 1626) had a silver drinking bowl and houses in both Woodstock and Chipping Norton.¹⁶ His son-in-law Richard Phillips (d. 1631) left goods worth £501, including four feather beds and eight flock beds,¹⁷ whilst the woollen draper Edward Smallbone (d. 1658) moved to Salford from Banbury.¹⁸ The highest-valued probate inventory before 1700 (£627) was that of the yeoman George Wheeler (d. 1698), who occupied a ten-room house with carpets, cushions, curtains, and a looking glass.¹⁹ Ten inventories in total (a fifth) were worth £100 or more.²⁰



Two 17th-century memorials to members of the Boulter family preserved in the parish church.

Most Salford inventories, however, relate to the usual mix of husbandmen and labourers alongside a few craftsmen and servants. A dozen (23 per cent) were worth £50–£99, with another 29 (57 per cent) worth less, and eight (16 per cent) worth under £10, excluding those inhabitants too poor to require inventories.²¹ Thomas Jordan, with only £4-worth of goods in 1632, had ‘a poor cow with a calf’ as his most valuable possession.²² A

¹⁵ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.178.

¹⁶ TNA, PROB 11/150/466.

¹⁷ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 144/2/4.

¹⁸ TNA, PROB 11/281/178.

¹⁹ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 73/3/20.

²⁰ Based on 51 wills and inventories dated 1529–1700 in OHC, transcribed by VCH Oxon. probate group.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 136/3/29.

similar pattern is evident in the 1665 hearth tax return, with only one householder (the rector) paying on four hearths, a dozen (66 per cent) on two or three, and five (28 per cent) on only one. A further four householders (each also with only one hearth) were excused payment on grounds of poverty.²³ In 1716 the poor were reckoned to number 'above 20 families'.²⁴

Little is known of Salford's communal life before the late 18th century, when it had two pubs, the outlying Cross Hands presumably catering mainly for travellers along the Worcester road.²⁵ The court leet fined two men in the 1540s for brawling and defamation,²⁶ and later quarrels arose over tithes, mortuary fees,²⁷ and in 1716 over a proposed private pew. One rector fell out with his churchwarden in the 1680s–90s,²⁸ and another was fined 21s. in 1730 for assaulting the lord John Blewitt's gamekeeper and removing his gun.²⁹ Most 18th-century prosecutions were for theft (including of crops, rags, wood, money and a watch, and sheep),³⁰ and in 1784 a woman was imprisoned on suspicion of stealing £18 in gold and silver coins found concealed in her clothing.³¹

From the late 1690s Salford had resident lords, Margaret Chamberlayne spending lavishly both on the new Salford House and on her estate. Her resulting debts prompted a family court case in 1698, when four of her underage children (represented by their aunt Elizabeth Chamberlayne) complained of her consequent failure to maintain or educate them 'according to their qualities and estates'.³² Margaret's son Sir James (one of the litigants) nevertheless later lived with her at Salford, and his own daughter Margaret (d. 1715) was buried in the parish church,³³ perhaps in the private vault for which he made a £3 gift towards a new church gallery.³⁴ Their successor John Blewitt (lord from 1723) divided his time between Salford and Northmoor until after 1730, but was 'of Salford' when serving as sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1724, and remodelled the house.³⁵

²³ *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 166.

²⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 456, f. 30.

²⁵ Above, econ. hist. (trades).

²⁶ TNA, SC 2/197/20.

²⁷ *Oxf Ch. Ct Deposns 1592–6*, pp. 38–9; TNA, C 1/1231/4–5; C 5/122/65; C 7/61/90.

²⁸ Below, relig. hist. (Reformn to 1800).

²⁹ OHC, Cal. QS I, f. 270v.

³⁰ *Ibid.* ff. 105v., 107; IX, f. 71; *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 10 Mar. 1757, 14 Feb. 1776, 15 Dec. 1790; *Oxf. Jnl*, 17 Mar. 1798.

³¹ *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 6 Sept. 1784.

³² TNA, C 7/72/65; above, landownership; econ. hist.

³³ Bodl. MS dd Dawkins C29/ID1/9; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 15/3/13; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, note pasted into burial reg. 1756–1812.

³⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 456, f. 30; below, relig. hist. (Reformn to 1800).

³⁵ S. Murrell, 'The Descent of Salford Manor', in Johnson (ed.), *Salford: More Hist.*, 5; Peters, *Sheriffs*, 146; Bodl. MSS dd Harcourt c 77/30--2; *VCH Oxon.* XIII, 156–7; above, landownership. See also OHC, par. reg. transcript; TNA, PROB 11/789/4.

After Blewitt's son and successor Edmund died of consumption in 1766³⁶ Salford House was let, first to Lawrence Head Osgood (d. 1768), a former sheriff of Berkshire,³⁷ then to the Chipping Norton mercer Edward Witts,³⁸ whose household possibly included two 'black boys' baptised in 1774.³⁹ Witts moved to Swerford Park by 1779 (when he was sheriff of Oxfordshire),⁴⁰ and thereafter the manor's co-owner Joseph Newton (d. 1795) lived partly at Aldermanbury, London, and partly at Salford House, some of his family being buried in the church.⁴¹ His daughter Mary still lived at Salford in 1797, but by 1799 (when the non-resident Henry Dawkins owned the manor) the house stood empty.⁴²

Since 1800

After Salford House was demolished in 1810 the parish once again lacked resident gentry, although a clerical presence was maintained at the newly built Georgian rectory house, the wealthy rectors Thomas Nash and his son Richard Skillicorne owning estates in Gloucestershire and the patronage of Salford church.⁴³ Most inhabitants were tenants of the combined manor and Over Norton estate (which in 1830 accounted for almost three quarters of the parish's land tax),⁴⁴ and in 1805 Nash described his flock as 'chiefly farmers at rack rents and laborious people anciently settled in the parish'.⁴⁵ A few farmers prospered and (like the clergy) employed household servants, who numbered 12 in 1831 and 16 in 1871,⁴⁶ while the farmer John Fawdry (d. 1836) was commemorated with an elaborate chest tomb in the churchyard.⁴⁷ Poverty remained endemic, however, with increasing numbers reliant on poor relief,⁴⁸ and several mainly poor labourers were prosecuted for poaching or petty theft.⁴⁹ A 'servant' in 1814 was a trustee of the Chipping Norton Wesleyan Methodist

³⁶ Oxf. Jnl Syn. 12 Nov. 1760 (nomination for sheriff), 12 Feb. 1766; OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1766; above, landownership.

³⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 560, f. 21; *London Gaz.* 12 Jan. 1747. p. 1; Oxf. Jnl Syn. 30 Aug. 1768.

³⁸ Oxf. Jnl Syn. 12 Jun. 1775, 16 Nov. 1776; above, Chipping Norton.

³⁹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, baptisms 1774.

⁴⁰ Peters, *Sheriffs*, 154; below, Swerford.

⁴¹ Oxf. Jnl, 23 Mar. 1793, 26 Dec. 1795; OHC, par. reg. transcript, note pasted into baptismal reg. 1756–1812; above, landownership.

⁴² Bodl. MSS dd Dawkins C33/ID1/35; C41/IF2, land tax cert. 11 May 1799; above, landownership.

⁴³ Above, landownership; below, relig. hist.

⁴⁴ OHC, QSD/L/233.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 569, f. 67.

⁴⁶ *Census*, 1831; TNA, RG 10/1458.

⁴⁷ NHLE, no. 1053311 (accessed Jan. 2021).

⁴⁸ Below (welfare); cf. TNA, HO 107/1732, listing 13 inhabitants 'on parish relief' in 1851.

⁴⁹ e.g. OHC, QS1833/3/L1/30; QS1841/1/L1/29; QS1842/4/L3/21; QS1845/1/L4/32; QS1845/2/L1/11; QS1851/3/L3/24; QS1856/4/L5/5.

chapel,⁵⁰ and religious Nonconformity grew significantly over the following decades, culminating in the opening of Salford's Wesleyan chapel in 1847.⁵¹

Community life beyond church and chapel focused on Salford's two inns (where auctions were held) and on its beerhouse (The Plough), whose proprietor was fined in 1852 for extending his opening hours.⁵² Two friendly societies held annual summer feasts in Salford in the 1860s, one in a marquee and the other (presided over by the rector) at the Black Horse, with both accompanied by amusements and sports.⁵³ Agricultural trade unionism was evident by March 1872, when up to 30 Salford labourers went on strike to demand (unsuccessfully) an increase in wages from 10s. to 12s. per week. At least one labourer (reported by the farmer John Barrett for allegedly molesting one of his carters) was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour in Oxford gaol, and an open-air meeting the following March included 'several violent speeches ... against the farmers'.⁵⁴ At another union meeting on the green in 1874 five members reportedly signed up for emigration to New Zealand, 'but none went'.⁵⁵ Conservative political meetings were promoted by the rectors and leading farmers in the 1880s–90s.⁵⁶

The lord William Gregory Dawkins was, by contrast, a Liberal,⁵⁷ and although non-resident the family adopted a philanthropic attitude to the parish, building and supporting a school from 1853, fundraising for church restoration in 1854, and subscribing £25 (the largest single donation) towards a new church organ in 1875.⁵⁸ Dawkins nevertheless refused to contribute towards parish celebrations of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee in 1887, praying that 'heaven may speedily remove the curse of a queen and royal family from this country',⁵⁹ and in the 1890s he led efforts to remove Salford's unpopular rector Charles Cotterill Ward, who in 1892 had reportedly seized all the lamps from the schoolroom just before a Liberal political meeting was held there. Ward was subsequently barred from the school premises and from any involvement in its management, although he continued as rector until 1905,⁶⁰ promoting Band of Hope (i.e. Temperance) meetings in the village.⁶¹ His

⁵⁰ Wm Mor(e)ton: OHC, NM1/7/A1/1; cf. *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 269/2/18.

⁵¹ Below, relig. hist. (since 1800).

⁵² *Oxf. Jnl*, 20 Dec. 1806, 7 Dec. 1822, 2 Oct. 1852; above, econ. hist. (trades).

⁵³ Below (welfare); *Oxon. FS*, pp. 105, 241; *Oxf. Jnl*, 13 Jun. 1863, 28 Jul. 1900; *Happenings in a Victorian Cotswold Village* (Salford Hist. Group, 1982), 7.

⁵⁴ P. Horn (ed.), *Agric. Trade Unionism in Oxon. 1872–81* (ORS 48, 1974), 10; *Oxf. Times*, 16 Mar., 23 Mar. 1872; *Oxf. Weekly News*, 20 Mar. 1872; *Happenings*, 5–6.

⁵⁵ *Happenings*, 7.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* 17–20.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, f. 662; *Oxf. Jnl*, 7 Oct. 1854; *Happenings*, 7; below (educ.); relig. hist.

⁵⁹ *Happenings*, 22.

⁶⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1991, letters 1892; c 359, f. 361; c 362, f. 354; c 365, f. 347; below, relig. hist. (since 1800).

⁶¹ *Oxf. Jnl*, 29 Jul. 1893, 13 Jan. 1900, 3 May 1902; cf. *Happenings*, 24.

successor Thomas Miller became president of Salford cricket club (established by 1891),⁶² and a football club mentioned in 1907 continued intermittently until c.2000.⁶³



Salford Club Day, 1913, at the old schoolroom.
Image courtesy of Joy Timms.

After a new school was built in 1901 Salford's remaining friendly society took over the old schoolroom, and from 1904–16 held its annual feast there, often accompanied by a band.⁶⁴ The new school accommodated League of Pity meetings (supporting the NSPCC) in 1911.⁶⁵ Landownership, meanwhile, became much more fragmented following the manor's gradual break-up between 1896 and 1907, and by 1910 there were 30 a. of allotments on private land on Salford hill.⁶⁶ During the First World War some 62 Salford men enlisted and four were killed, 37 of the survivors remaining absent in spring 1919. Even so the rector claimed that the long-term labour shortage and correspondingly high wages meant that there were 'many who are far better off in a monetary point of view than they ever have been before in their lives', and that they did 'not appear to be anxious that the war should come to

⁶² *Oxf. Jnl*, 20 Jun. 1891, 17 Mar. 1906.

⁶³ *Ibid.* 17 Aug. 1907; info. (2021) from Joy Timms.

⁶⁴ OHC, DV/X/37; *Oxon. FS*, pp. 241, 411; *Oxf. Times*, 23 Jul. 1910; photos of Salford Club days 1913–14 in possession of Joy Timms of Salford.

⁶⁵ *Oxf. Jnl*, 18 Jan. 1911.

⁶⁶ OHC, DV/X/37; OS Map 1:10560, Oxon. XIV.NW (1922 edn); above, landownership.

an end'.⁶⁷ The Second World War brought evacuees, and claimed the lives of two further Salford servicemen.⁶⁸



Left: opening of the village hall in 1960 (image courtesy of Joy Timms).
Right: village war memorial erected in 2015.

Electricity arrived in some houses before 1939,⁶⁹ and the post-war period saw Salford's gradual transformation from a mainly agricultural village of farmers and labourers to a more affluent and socially mixed community engaged in wider economic activities. The transition was not painless, however, the rector bemoaning in 1962 the 'general depopulation of the countryside' and the village's lack of adequate housing, despite some new building.⁷⁰ A village hall was opened in 1960 on land given by Ruth Griffin (in 1949) in memory of her parents,⁷¹ providing a venue for the Women's Institute (active 1946–2009) and for youth and bingo clubs.⁷² A children's playground run by the parish council was installed on the village green in 1977,⁷³ and the village hall and two pubs remained open in 2021, The Plough beerhouse having closed c.1954, the primary school and post office shop in 1978, and the Methodist chapel in 1992.⁷⁴ Work was then largely focused elsewhere, half of all those in employment in 1981 commuting by car, rising to 63 per cent by 1991.⁷⁵ A village war memorial, designed by the parishioner Jason Sparvell and comprising a rusted steel poppy mounted on an uncarved limestone block donated by Rollright Quarry, was

⁶⁷ *Gore's Visit*, pp. 48, 519–20; memorial plaque in church; *The People of Salford* (Eureka Partnership, 2006), 21.

⁶⁸ OHC, S227/1/A1/1, pp. 430, 435; memorial tablet in church.

⁶⁹ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1939).

⁷⁰ *Oxf. Times*, 1 Jun. 1962; above, landscape etc. (settlement); econ. hist.

⁷¹ OHC, O41/1/C6/71; O41/2/C4/24; deed 5 Oct. 1949, in possession of Joy Timms; plaque in village hall.

⁷² *Oxf. Times*, 1 Jun. 1962; OHC, O3/2/133.

⁷³ Par. council mins (in possession of par. council).

⁷⁴ www.salfordvillagehall.co.uk (accessed Jan. 2021); above, econ. hist. (trades); below (educ.); relig. hist. (since 1800).

⁷⁵ *Census*, 1981–91.

erected in 2015 on a small green west of the former chapel,⁷⁶ close to where one of Salford's two medieval stone cross bases had been re-erected following its removal from beside the Worcester road in 2003.⁷⁷

Education

Salford had no school throughout the 18th century,⁷⁸ and though one for 'little children' taught reading and the catechism in 1805–8,⁷⁹ there was again no provision in 1811 and 1818.⁸⁰ A Sunday school taught 64 children by 1831, rising to 68 (36 boys and 32 girls) aged 5–15 in 1834,⁸¹ and two day schools funded by subscription existed in 1838, when the rector thought that schooling was accessible to all 'if they choose to attend'.⁸² A schoolmistress lived in Salford in 1841.⁸³

In 1853 Salford's lord Henry Dawkins built a new school at the village's northern end 'entirely at his expense', comprising a single rubblestone schoolroom with a blue slate roof, a porch entrance, and a bellcote (since removed).⁸⁴ It remained a private mixed day school supported by subscription and school pence, its 45 children in 1854 and 1869 taught by a single uncertificated mistress who occupied a nearby estate cottage.⁸⁵ The school came under government inspection from 1872, and in 1878 W.G. Dawkins transferred its management to a local committee which appointed a new certificated mistress and ran it as a National school, qualifying for an annual government grant from 1879. Average attendance soon exceeded 50 (warranting appointment of an assistant teacher in 1883),⁸⁶ but staff turnover was high, with eight headteachers between 1878 and 1900, and pupils were often absent due to sickness and agricultural work.⁸⁷ Religious instruction by the rector, 'careful and good' in 1886,⁸⁸ ceased in 1892 largely at Dawkins' behest, following wide-ranging quarrels with the new rector Charles Cotterill Ward.⁸⁹

⁷⁶ *Chipping Norton News*, Nov. 2015, p. 19; plaque on stone.

⁷⁷ Below, relig. hist. (Middle Ages); plaque on cross base; cf. HER, PRN 1481.

⁷⁸ *Secker's Visit.* 129; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 557, f. 1; d 560, f. 21; d 563, f. 21.

⁷⁹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 569, f. 67; d 571, f. 69.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* d 573, f. 65; d 549, p. 153; *Educ. of Poor Digest* (Parl. Papers 1819 (224), ix), II, p. 729.

⁸¹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 164; b 39, f. 285; cf. *Educ. Enq. Abstract* (Parl. Papers 1835 (62), xlii), p. 753.

⁸² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 41, f. 190.

⁸³ TNA, HO 107/879.

⁸⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, f. 662; *Sale Cat., Village and Hill Farms* (1896): copy in Bodl. GA Oxon. b 91 (45); datestone '1853'; illustr. c.1870 in OHC, PAR227/10/MS/2; *Happenings*, 10.

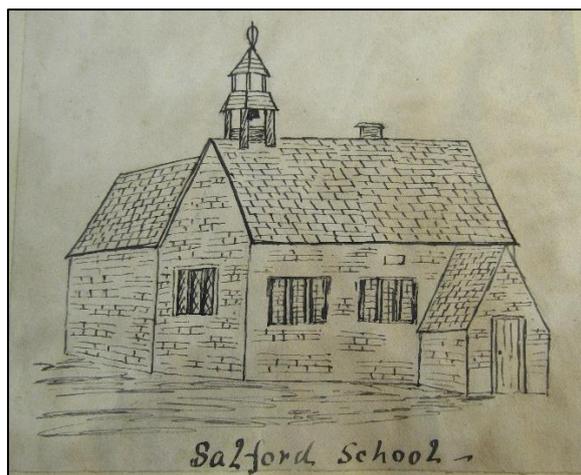
⁸⁵ *Wilb. Visit.* 124; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 374; c 335, f. 335; TNA, RG 10/1458.

⁸⁶ *Happenings*, 5, 9, 18; OHC, PAR227/10/MS/2, ff. 20, 34; *Return of Schs.* (Parl. Papers 1894 [C 7529], lxv), p. 496.

⁸⁷ K. Hill, 'National and Sunday School', in Johnson (ed.), *Salford: More Hist.*, 48–56; *Oxf. Jnl*, 25 Mar. 1899.

⁸⁸ *Oxf. Jnl*, 5 Jun. 1886.

⁸⁹ Above (since 1800); below, relig. hist. (since 1800).



The 1853 school as sketched by the rector Richard Nash Bricknell c.1880.
Source: OHC, PAR227/10/MS/2.

In 1896 Dawkins sold the school building to W.C. Phillips, and in 1900 its management was transferred to a newly established Salford School Board, which the Department of Education demanded should provide new premises.⁹⁰ A replacement school was accordingly built in 1901 on a nearby ¼-a. plot bought for £50, its rubblestone and blue-slatted buildings (designed by George Castle of Woodstock) comprising a large schoolroom divided into two classrooms, with adjoining cloakrooms and a detached two-storey teacher's house. Average attendance rose from 48 at its opening that year to 75 in 1908, and in 1902 the headmistress Frances Bourne (1901–12) started a successful evening school there for older boys,⁹¹ also overseeing the school's transfer to the county council. Few of her immediate successors stayed more than a few years, and in 1926 (when the headmistress was uncertificated) the seniors were transferred to Chipping Norton, leaving only 34 infants and juniors. Some continuity was provided by the long-serving headmistress Muriel Hill, who retired in 1954 after 22 years, but after a further transfer of older pupils in 1949 Salford was left as a single-teacher school with just 16 children aged 5–9, reduced to ten by 1957.⁹² The number increased to 26 in 1967 when there were 'difficulties over finding the necessary staff', but the school closed in 1978,⁹³ both the school house and teacher's house becoming private dwellings.

⁹⁰ *Sale Cat., Village and Hill Farms* (1896); OHC, S227/1/A2/1; *Oxf. Jnl*, 13 Jan., 3 Mar. 1900. The old school was acquired by a friendly society (above, since 1800), and later became a private house.

⁹¹ OHC, S227/1/A1/1; S227/1/A2/1; *ibid.* CC4/174/1–27 (incl. photos of 1905); *Oxf. Jnl*, 2 May 1903.

⁹² OHC, S227/1/A1/1; S227/1/A2/1–2; *Banbury Advertiser*, 11 Aug. 1954; J.M. Goldman, *The School in Our Village* (1957).

⁹³ Par. council mins.



The 1901 school shortly after construction (left) and Salford school photograph 1909 (right). Images courtesy of Joy Timms.

Welfare

Small bequests to the poor were common in 16th- and 17th-century wills,⁹⁴ and the resident lord Edmund Blewitt (d. 1766) left 10 guineas to be distributed in Salford within a month of his funeral.⁹⁵ By 1831 offertory money was given out in church each Christmas to the ‘most deserving’ poor parishioners,⁹⁶ but collections had ceased by 1896, when churchgoers were reportedly ‘too poor’ to give alms.⁹⁷ In 1873 the Chipping Norton cloth manufacturer William Bliss gave 5 tons of coal for distribution within the parish, and in 1880 the rector Richard Nash Bricknell started a penny savings bank.⁹⁸ Medical care was available in Chipping Norton, and in 1791 the parish officers declared Salford to be free of smallpox after a Chipping Norton surgeon inoculated 163 parishioners aged from 3 months to 80 years ‘without the loss of a single patient’.⁹⁹

Other help was provided by friendly societies, of which one (the Chipping Norton branch of a London-based Temperance society) held its annual tea meeting in a marquee erected in a Salford field in both 1863 and 1864. The Salford Benefit Society was established in 1864, based initially at the Black Horse, from 1904 in the former school, and from 1916 in the actual council school. Membership declined from 55 in 1876 to 35 in 1910, and the society was dissolved in 1928.¹⁰⁰

Parish Charities Several parish charities were endowed in the 17th century, although few survived. A cottage rent left by Thomas Bull (d. 1601) for an annual Good Friday

⁹⁴ e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon 181.192; 187.272; 195.226; 51/1/26; TNA, PROB 11/150/466.

⁹⁵ TNA, PROB 11/917/381.

⁹⁶ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 164.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.* c 362, f. 354.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.* PAR227/10/MS/2, ff. 7, 24.

⁹⁹ *Oxf. Jnl*, 19 Feb. 1791; cf. OHC, PAR227/1/R2/1, s.a. 1747.

¹⁰⁰ *Oxon. FS*, pp. 105, 241; *Oxf. Jnl*, 13 Jun. 1863, 11 Jun. 1864.

distribution was not mentioned later,¹⁰¹ and nothing further is known of gifts of money for the 'poor's stock' by Richard Phillips (d. 1631) and John Boulter (d. 1640),¹⁰² or of bread charities left by Edmund Herald (d. 1640), George Wheeler (d. 1684), George Wheeler (d. 1698), and Francis Handy (d. 1756).¹⁰³ Slightly longer-lasting was a bread charity perhaps derived from £10 stock given by Thomas Hyatt (d. 1634) of Chipping Norton,¹⁰⁴ which was noted from 1759,¹⁰⁵ and which in 1814 was distributed as 26 penny loaves at Candlemas (2 February).¹⁰⁶ That too was lost despite later efforts at recovery, unless c.£20 presented to the parish by John Fawdry in 1861 represented the original stock with interest.¹⁰⁷

Mary Fawdry (d. 1838) left £200 stock for an annual distribution on St Thomas's day (21 December),¹⁰⁸ given out in coal by 1840 and benefiting 50-odd families in the 1870s–80s.¹⁰⁹ William Fawdry (d. 1869) left a further £200 for an annual bread distribution on Christmas Eve,¹¹⁰ given out in the schoolroom, and funding 222 loaves for 60 families in 1871, and 236 loaves for 74 families in 1883.¹¹¹ Both charities continued until 1972 (given latterly in money), when they were combined into a single charity known as the Fawdry Welfare Trust, with the object of relieving the poor in Salford through gifts in kind or grants of money. That was wound up in 2020.¹¹²

Parish Poor Relief Some settlement certificates and removal orders for the period 1701–67 survive among the parish records, together with apprenticeship indentures of 1728 and 1760, the former recording a parish payment of £15 in instalments to a Salford cordwainer for taking on an apprentice for 20 years.¹¹³ Overseers' accounts for 1744–1826 show money spent on weekly pay, house rents, fuel, clothing, burials, and medical care,¹¹⁴ and in 1791 the parish paid for the mass smallpox inoculation.¹¹⁵ Overall expenditure on the poor in 1767 was £27,¹¹⁶ rising to £36 (including £3 4s. spent on renting accommodation) in 1776, and to £56 in 1784. Following the national trend it reached £192 in 1803, when 22

¹⁰¹ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 191.50.

¹⁰² Ibid. 144/2/4; 5/5/16.

¹⁰³ Ibid. 32/1/32; 72/5/20; 73/3/20; 135/2/20.

¹⁰⁴ TNA, PROB 11/166/334.

¹⁰⁵ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 557, f. 1; c 327, p. 110; d 571, f. 69.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid. d 575, f. 69.

¹⁰⁷ *12th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1825 (348), x), p. 276; OHC, PAR227/13/C/1; *Oxf. Jnl*, 15 Jun. 1861, 29 Jun. 1861.

¹⁰⁸ Charity board in church; TNA, PROB 11/1920/43.

¹⁰⁹ *Oxf. Jnl*, 26 Dec. 1840; OHC, PAR227/10/MS/2, ff. 13, 35.

¹¹⁰ Charity board in church; OHC, PAR227/13/C/1.

¹¹¹ OHC, PAR227/10/MS/2, ff. 13, 35.

¹¹² *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883–1939 edns); par. council mins, 1970; Char. Com. website (accessed Feb. 2021), nos. 203540–1, 1023814.

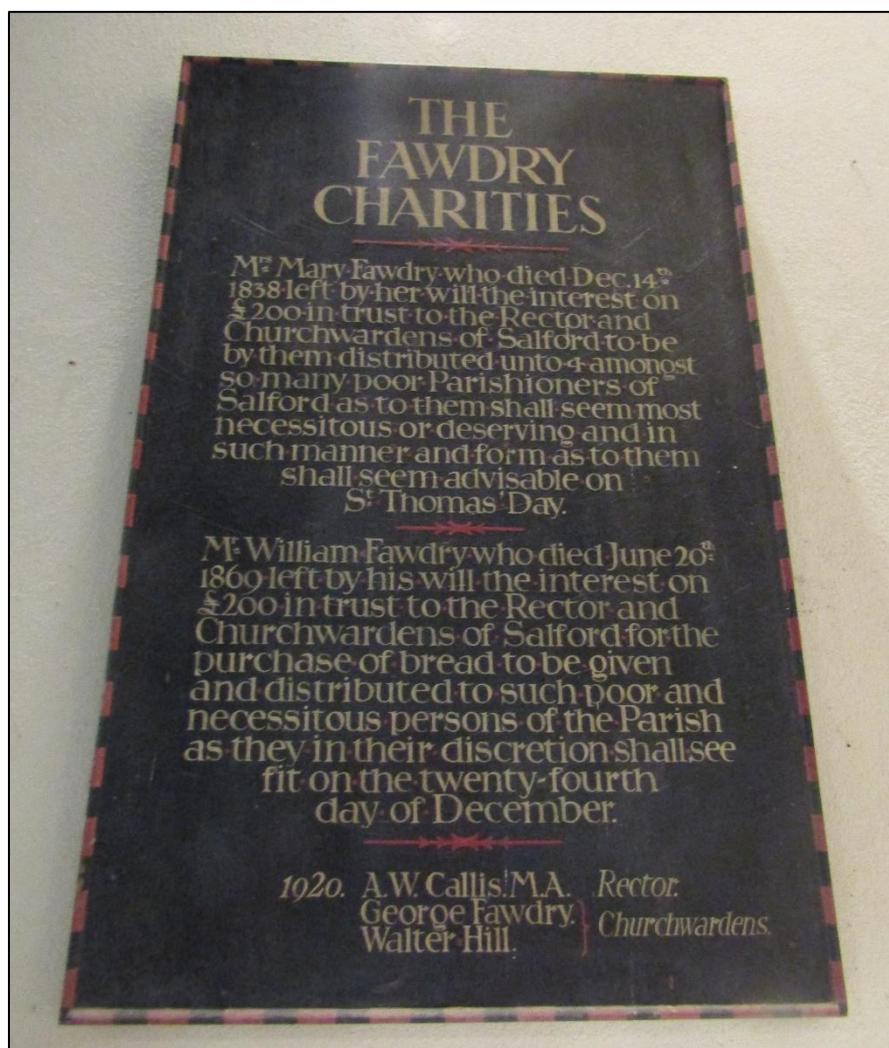
¹¹³ OHC, PAR227/5/A1/1.

¹¹⁴ Ibid. PAR227/5/F1/1–3.

¹¹⁵ Above.

¹¹⁶ OHC, PAR227/5/F1/1.

adults and 25 children (a fifth of the population) received permanent relief. Costs more than doubled to £466 in 1813 (when 25 adults were relieved permanently),¹¹⁷ and peaked at £501 in 1819, before falling to £345 in 1821, £321 in 1828, and £235 in 1834.¹¹⁸ Responsibility passed the following year to the new Chipping Norton Poor Law Union.¹¹⁹



The Fawdry Charities board in the parish church.

¹¹⁷ *Poor Abstract*, 1777, p. 437; 1787, p. 655; 1804, pp. 402–3; 1818, pp. 354–5. Nobody received occasional relief.

¹¹⁸ *Poor Rate Retns*, 1822, p. 136; 1825, p. 172; 1830–1, p. 159; 1835, p. 155.

¹¹⁹ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 404; *Oxon. Atlas*, pp. 144–5.