

## ILLINGWORTH CC

# HOME SWEET HOME



In the nineteenth century, Illingworth ('Illa's enclosure'), located to the north of Halifax in the ancient township of Ovenden, was famous for its cooperative society.



Originally a hamlet, it soon evolved into a village, and is now a sprawling suburb of the town. Illingworth is home to St. Mary's church, from which the Cricket Club takes its name, and significant amounts of modern housing.



One visiting player says: ***'The ground is located amid a maze of houses; as a result it's very hard to find.'***



Known variously as 'The Ainleys', 'Jammy Green' and 'Th'Alloe Field', the home ground of Illingworth St. Mary's Cricket Club is certainly impressive.



The handsome green Latham Lawton Gates that greet the visitor at the main entrance set the tone.



It is a big ground, surrounded by trees, houses and flats - and some local residents get together to watch the cricket from the comfort of their back gardens.



It is also a well appointed ground.









There are numerous signs of the Club's history at the ground today: the superb mural that greets all visitors to the pavilion (painted to commemorate the Club's Centenary in 1984), the framed photos of victorious Parish League and Cup XIs (1903 and 1906), and the maintenance garage dedicated to the memory of Fred Hardcastle ('Player and Member 1923-1993').



Club historian Anthony Woodhouse states on the impressive I.C.C. website: ***'Much progress has been made over 100 years...Slowly but surely, piece by piece, the story has developed. Successive improvements have been built upon to stand the club in good stead.'***

