

THE EARLY YEARS

HAZY BEGINNINGS

1880s - ORIGINS

General opinion dates the formation of Luddendenfoot St. Mary's C.C. - predecessor club of the current Luddendenfoot C.C. – to some time in the 1880s. There was an obvious link with the local parish church, perhaps with a group of local choirboys.



St. Mary's Church

However, local cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle has discovered that cricket was being played in the village as early as the 1860s.

LOCAL RIVALS

EARLY CLUBS

In 1862 a Luddenden Foot C.C. played some matches in *'the meadow near the railway station, kindly loaned by Mr N. Whitworth'*.

Nearly 20 years earlier Branwell Bronte, brother of the famous novelist sisters, had worked as a clerk at the station.



Brother Branwell

A match also took place in 1863 between Luddendenfoot Rising Star and Luddendenfoot Jolly Boys, who met in a field loaned by Mr W.H. Thompson.



These teams were no longer in existence when the current club was formed.

However, by the 1890s another local club, called Luddenden Foot U.M.F.C., had begun to play matches at Top Shuttles, and from 1895 to 1901 appeared in the Sowerby Division League.

IN AT THE START

1892 - EARLY LEAGUE SUCCESS

In 1892 the first cricket league in the Halifax area was formed. It was called the Halifax & District Amateur Cricket Association League and remained in existence until 1922.



Luddenden Foot St. Mary's took part in the first season of the competition - and were successful in the series of regionalised play-off matches which ended the season.

LOCAL COMPETITION

1895-1901 – SOWERBY DIVISION LEAGUE

Around the turn of the century we come across a 'Sowerby Division League', with Luddendenfoot St. Mary's a significant member club.

Sowerby Division League Founder Members:

CLUB

Booth
Copley

GROUND

Booth (various fields)
Copley Lane



Copley Lane today

Cross Lanes
**Luddendenfoot St.
Mary's**

Luddendenfoot UMFC
(Utd Methodist Free Ch.)

Mytholmroyd

Salem (Hebden Bridge)

Sowerby Bridge

West End

Calder Holme
**Ellen Holme,
Luddendenfoot**

Top Shuttles

Calder Holme

Foster Holme

White Windows

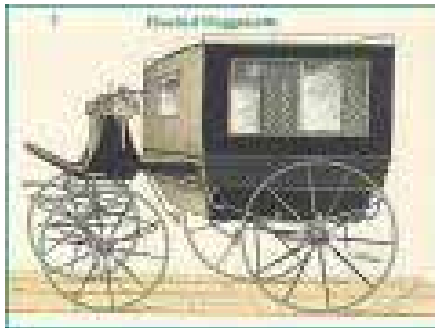
First Champions: Luddendenfoot St Mary's

Final Table 1895

	P	W	D	L	P
Luddendenfoot St. M.	14	10	1	3	21
Mytholmroyd	14	9	1	4	19
Booth	14	9	1	4	19
Cross Lanes	14	8	1	5	17
Salem	14	5	0	9	10
Luddendenfoot UMFC	14	3	3	8	9
Copley	14	4	1	9	9
Sowerby B West End	14	3	2	9	8

Luddendenfoot St. Mary's followed their Free Press Cup triumph of 1894 by winning the inaugural Sowerby Division League in 1895.

The Cup was presented at a special match, The Champions v The Rest of the League, which concluded the season.



After the ceremony, ***‘the victors were conveyed in a waggonette through the village, preceded by the Sowerby Subscription Band playing “See the conquering hero comes”, and wound up by sitting down to a first-class tea at the General Rawdon Hotel’.***

SOWERBY DIVISION LEAGUE.

LEAGUE TABLE.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pla
St. Mary's	14	10	3	1	21
Mytholmroyd	14	9	4	1	19
Booth	14	9	4	1	19
Cross Lanes	14	8	5	1	17
Salem	14	6	9	0	10
U.M.F.C.	14	3	8	3	9
Copley	14	4	9	1	9
West End	14	3	9	2	8

BATTING AVERAGE.

	Not Most in Total				
	Ings out	innings	runs	Aver.	
J C Mitchell (Cross Lanes)...	11	2	*94	286	31.77
J E Stansfield (Cross Lanes)	10	0	30	166	18.00
J H Ogden (Booth)	14	1	46	179	18.78

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGE.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Aver.
H Sagar (St. Mary's)	189	60	167	47	3.55
H Wade (Booth)	116	48	164	39	4.27
F Dobson (Mytholmroyd)	169	57	260	52	4.46

How the press reported the triumph

UP FOR THE CUP!

1895 - KNOCKOUT DEBUT

In 1895 the Club made its first appearance in the prestigious Halifax Parish Cup competition.



The matches to be played on the ground of the first named clubs, except semi-finals and final.

FIRST ROUND.—MAY 25th.

- A—Queensbury v. Illingworth St. Mary's
- B—Halifax v. St. Thomas's.
- C—Police v. Luddenden Foot St. Mary's.
- D—King Cross v. Holy Trinity.
- E—Southowram St. Anne's v. Lightcliffe.
- F—Sowerby Bridge v. Stainland.
- G—Mountain v. Bradshaw Mills.
- H—Elland v. Greetland.

SECOND ROUND.—JUNE 8th.

- I—Winner of round E v. winner of round B.
- K— „ „ G v. „ „ F.
- L— „ „ A v. „ „ C.
- M— „ „ H v. „ „ D.

THIRD ROUND.—JUNE 22nd.

- N—Winner of round K v. winner of round L.
- O „ „ I v. „ „ M.

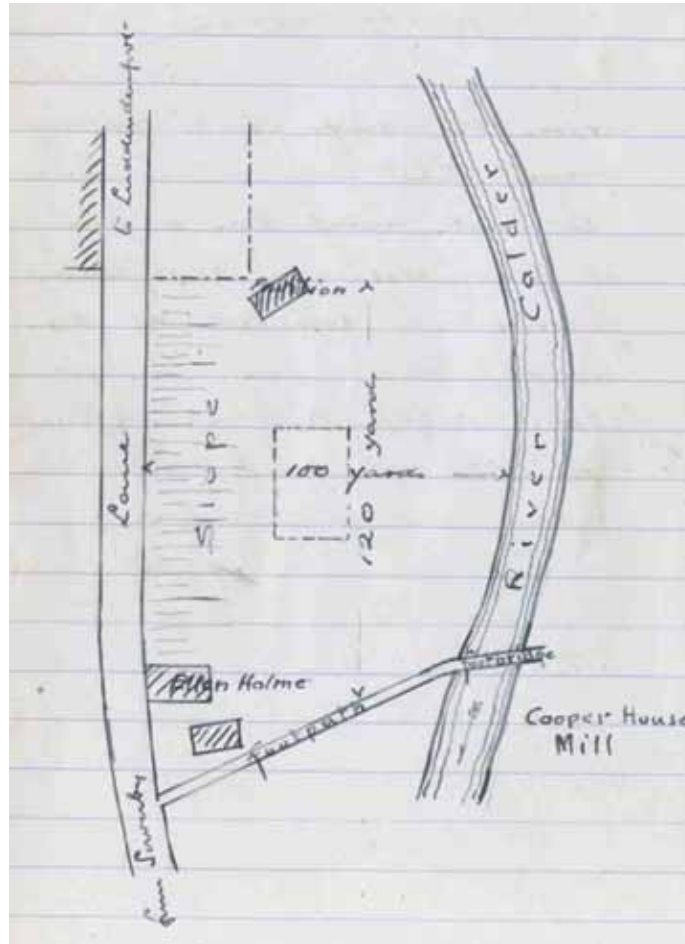
FINAL ROUND.—JULY 6th.

Winner of round N v. winner of round O.

J. EDGAR CROSSLEY,

Secretary.

In order to enter the competition the Club had to pass a ground inspection. At this time the Club played at Ellen Holme which was situated next to the ***'footbridge at Cooper House Mill.'***



Luddenden foot St. Mary's.

This field is situate at Ellen Holme and adjoins the footbridge across the river at Cooper - House Mill.

It is a long & peculiar shaped field but a playing portion is obtained at one end which measures about 120 x 100 yards with a laid crease 30 x 20 yards. Both crease & outfield are only poor in quality one side of the field forming quite a steep slope extending to the edge of the crease. There is a good pavilion & seating for about 60.

INTO THE BIG LEAGUE

1898 - HALIFAX & DISTRICT CRICKET

In 1898 – following on from its on-field success – St. Mary's graduated to the Halifax & District Cricket League, which contained most of the area's leading clubs. The Club had also moved to a new ground – 'The Holmes'.

+ GERRIT WARD, HON. SEC.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE.
1ST TEAM COMPETITION TABLE.
RESULTS UP-TO-DATE.

Club.	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Dr.	Pla.
Crestland	14	0	1	3	22
Stainland	14	0	4	4	16
Triangle	13	0	4	3	15
Howdy Bridge	14	5	5	4	14
Liddenden Foot St. Mary's	14	4	5	5	11
J. & J. Baldwin's	13	4	7	2	10
Lord Nelson	13	3	7	3	9
Lightlife	13	3	7	3	9

WEST BRADWOOD, CLERK.

CLOSER TO HOME

1914 - HEBDEN BRIDGE LEAGUE

On the eve of the Great War, St. Mary's joined their fourth different league competition in 22 years. This time it was a move closer to home as the Club joined the Hebden Bridge League.

Hebden Bridge and District League.
Second Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.
Salmon Wesleyans	17	13	8	1	17
St. George's Wesleyans	16	12	6	2	16
Hope Baptists	15	11	4	0	15
Eastwood	14	11	4	0	14
St. Andrew's Black	13	11	5	0	13
St. John's	12	10	5	0	12
Old Town	12	8	8	0	12
Green Lanes	12	8	10	0	12
Crag Vale	17	5	12	0	10
St. Mary's	14	5	12	0	10
Hebden Bridge	17	4	11	1	9
Pocket Well	16	2	14	0	4

BIRCHOLIFFE v. ALDRINGDEN FOOT ST	
MARY'S - At Aldringden Foot	
J. Dyson c Herbert Sutcliffe	1
J. Dyson c and b Hy. Sutcliffe	18
J. Drake b J. Sutcliffe	0
Hbt. Priestley v Sutcliffe b Dewhurst	3
J. H. Greenwood b Wilcock	28
T. Jackson not out	12
B. Priestley c Redman b Hy. Sutcliffe	10
H. Drake b Redman	0
F. Walton b Redman	0
H. Greenley run out	0
H. Priestley b Redman	5
Total	113
BIRCHOLIFFE	
V. Redman b Priestley	4
J. Sutcliffe b Dyson	2
J. M. Thomas c J. Greenwood b Dyson	0
Hy. Sutcliffe run out	0
J. T. Dewhurst c H. Drake b Dyson	34
Hbt. Sutcliffe b Hy. Priestley	1
A. Wilcock run out	0
G. Fletcher c Drake b H. Drake	15
J. E. Thomas b Greenwood	6
C. Dewhurst not out	1
J. Fletcher run out	0
Extras 5	
Total	63
BIRCHOLIFFE BOWLING: J. Sutcliffe 7 0 37 1, H. Drake 4 1 7 1, J. T. Dewhurst 5 1 17 1, Hy. Sutcliffe 7 0 28 2, A. Wilcock 4 3 1 1, W. Redman 4 0 4 3, St. Mary's: J. Dyson 5 0 14 3, Hy. Priestley 2 0 24 1, H. Drake 3 0 48 1, J. H. Greenwood 2 3 0 9 1.	

30 ALL OUT!

1926 – POST-WAR BLUES

Little is known of the Club in the years after the Great War had ended. But in 1926 – the year of the General Strike – St. Mary's once again appeared in the Hebden Bridge League.

Unfortunately, the successes of the pre-War era seemed to be a distant memory. By mid-season the Club were bottom of Division 1, and had just been dismissed for 30 by Eastwood.

Hebden Bridge League, I.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	P.
Eastwood	15	11	4	3	26
Hebden	14	10	2	6	22
St. Mary's	13	9	4	5	22
Eastwood	12	9	2	7	20
Hebden Slack	12	9	2	9	18
Salmon	12	7	2	8	14
Hebden Baptists	12	6	3	9	15
Old Town	12	5	3	11	12
Crane Vale	12	5	3	12	9
Hebden Slack St. Mary's	12	3	3	12	9

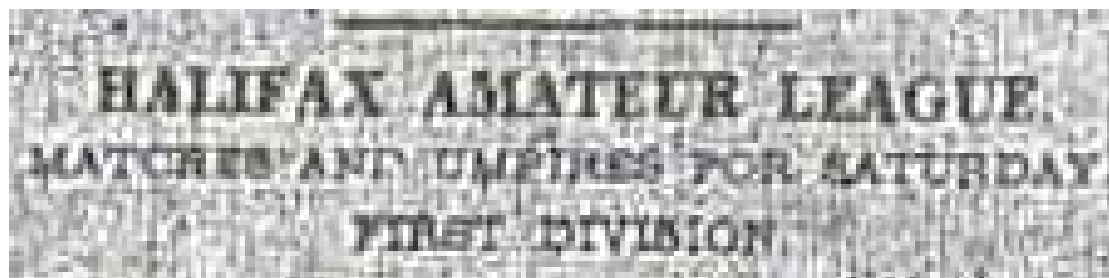


LADDENDEN FOOT ST. MARY'S		
EASTWOOD At Laddenden Foot.		
St. Mary's.		
W. Warhurst bow. to Landale	1	1
C. Eley & Co. to Pilling	2	2
C. Hunter to Pilling	2	2
M. Margetts to Landale	0	0
J. R. Greenwood & Co. to Landale	0	0
R. Dixon to Pilling	2	2
M. Thomas to Landale	0	0
S. Jackson to Landale	0	0
J. M. Clark not out	2	2
A. Saltcote to Landale	0	0
H. ... to Landale	0	0
Extras 9 Total	30	
5 19 22 22 22 25 25 25 30 30		
Eastwood.		
H. Pilling to Jackson	8	8
W. Fisher bow. to Maulkin	4	4
J. Howarth to Maulkin	4	4
E. Cockerill to Jackson	4	4
H. Smith retired	1	1
H. Ineson & Warhurst to Maulkin	1	1
S. Halstead not out	20	20
J. H. Cradock to Maulkin	0	0
Extras 4 Total for 7 wks.	40	
4 8 17 19 20 40 40		
Eastwood bowling: H. Pilling 3 for 4, R. Landale 2 for 15, J. Howarth 0 for 4. St. Mary's: S. Jackson 2 for 11, J. Maulkin 4 for 15, J. R. Greenwood 0 for 18.		

ANOTHER DECADE, ANOTHER LEAGUE!

1936 - HALIFAX AMATEUR LEAGUE.

The wanderlust of Luddendenfoot St. Mary's C.C. was in evidence again at the end of the 1920s. In 1929 the Club left the Hebden Bridge League and joined the four-division Halifax Amateur Cricket League, where it stayed until 1937. By 1936 they had graduated into the 3rd division of the League.



THIRD DIVISION

WA. 01
 Dean Clough
 Rynga Mills
 St. Thomas
 Keighly Mills
 Lugenden Foot
 Electricity
 Beaumont Bros.
 B.S.C.I.
 Wallker & Kingston

17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100

101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200