

An Aerial View of Eppleton All Saints Church in 1972

The church with its vestry chimney stack, one pot but two flues, one for the vestry the other further down into the cellar. There was an overhead metal pipe 18 inches in diameter leading down to the two furnaces ejecting smoke. Although the system worked OK when it was calm, whenever it was windy smoke would come out and enter the church. As a result the chancel roof was always dirty. The picture also shows the organ loft situated next to the vestry door. Mr Laverick the first bell-ringer never did get his wish to have a second bell.

At the top of the picture the grey colour was the foundations of the old Jane Street after it had been demolished. It was an extensive area since the gardens of the old houses had been very long. The trees surrounding the church meant that it was difficult to keep the grounds very tidy and around October the time of Houghton Feast spouts had to be cleaned out. It was left to the verger and his family to keep the churchyard tidy.

The vicarage garden was in good order until the years following 1952, this was for the incumbent to attend to. It had many plants, bushes, shrubs etc. There was a carriage circle and within that circle the plants growing there were brought in from many places. By 1962 there was none left. At the side of the vicarage one can see that the grass is greener than the rest. There had been a fence located 16 feet beyond the vicarage boundary, so that the Rev. Hindle could graze his cow.

Of course up to 1928 the adjoining King George playing field was lawned over for tennis courts. Since then, unattended for many years it was used by locals to play football. In 1940, Bob Paisley, Jack Marshall and Harry Potts did do some training there. In 1966 the Store field (Co-op) was sold the field to Pearson the builder, including half of the vicarage lawn. Pearson informed the Rev Nicholson that the parcel of land did not belong to the Church of England. It turned out that the rightful owner of the field was Lord Joicey, not the Co-op and due to the efforts of legal people and Mr. Pearson, the land including the kitchen garden was bought for about £300. Thanks to the Rev Nicholson and the Bishop's legal See the true facts were established.