

Chapter 3

Major institutions



Mr. Preece and his pupils outside the school at the turn of the century.

School

Founded in 1872 as St. John's School by Mr. Lancaster Lucas and the Rev. Clyde, by the year 1900 it had become known as Bradworthy Council School.

It comprised two rooms, one very large with an open fireplace, tables and benches for the scholars and maps on the walls. The east end of this room contained Standards V, VI and VII in charge of the Master, Mr. Edward Preece. He had already served at the school for 20 years, respected and revered by all pupils and would be in office here for 39 years.

Filling the remainder of the large room were Standards III and IV, taught by Annie Harris and Jane Jennings, the former completing 10 years service and the latter moving on after five years.

The small room was for Standard I and the infants and had a gallery on two levels, an open fire and the alphabet around the walls. Annie Trick presided here until 1906, relinquishing the post on her marriage, scholars being given a half hour off for the occasion on a Tuesday afternoon.

Monitors helped throughout the school putting out text books, slates and helping the infants to read

and write in classes of over 40. They were aged from 12 years and could become Pupil Teachers, Supplementary Teachers and then gradually climb the ladder if they wished. Most scholars left between the ages of 12 and 14 years for service, farming or to learn a trade.



The school about 1910. Notice that, when compared to the 1900 photo, the bell has been moved to the end of the roof, and skylights have been added.

Scholars came from within walking distance of the school, which could be three miles in some cases. The master is concerned that few start school until aged seven or eight - if they had to walk six miles daily it was a deterrent!

At the east end of the school was a bell housing, the bell being rung for five minutes at 9.25am and 1.25pm summoning scholars from afar. In 1912, William Jennings, as a *big boy*, whilst pulling the bell ropes had the misfortune to receive a severe cut when it fell on his head. He did not return to school for three months!

The school year began in April when the curriculum for the 118 pupils on the roll consisted of Reading, Writing, Recitation, Composition, Dictation, Transcription, Language lessons, Arithmetic, Mental Arithmetic, Metric System, Geography and History of the World, Object lessons. Drawing, Music, Needlework and Physical Exercises.

Holidays were taken according to the season, Christmas and Easter being a fortnight, August holidays when the harvest was ready and lasting a month. Senior scholars stayed home frequently to help with potato, hay and corn harvest, lambing etc.

Time off was taken for anniversaries, bazaars, concerts, festivals, sports, club walks by the Wesleyans, United Methodists, Atworthy Sunday School, Temperance Festival and Demonstration, Church Fête, Gymkhana, Garden parties, Poultry

and Horticultural Exhibition in the Vicarage grounds, Races and Hunting (boys frequently took half an hour off to follow Mr. Rolls hounds), sports and all the harvest celebrations which caused frustration and annoyance to Mr. Preece at the intermittent attendance.

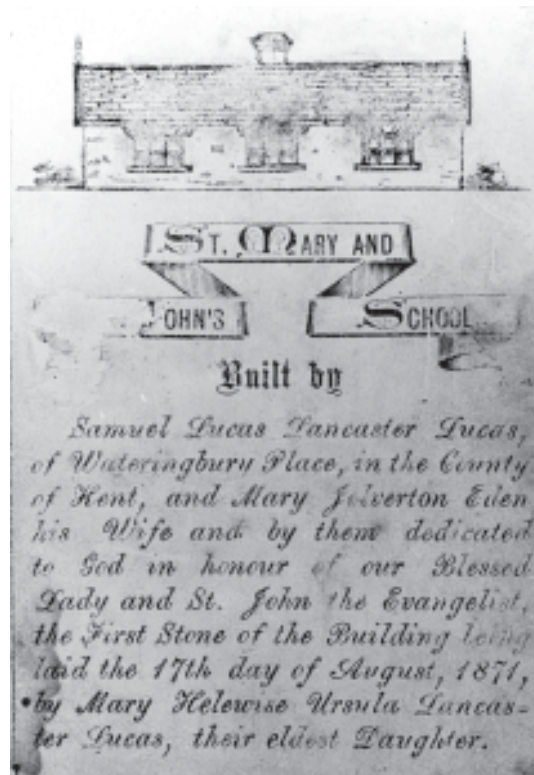
Prior to 1903 the Master did all the work of the school, ordering fuel, firelight's and matches, textbooks and infants lacing cards. Managers were first appointed in 1903. They were John Seldon, Richard Bennett, Laurence Wickett, James Piper, Samuel Ashton and the Rev. William Wellacott, the first named being appointed chairman. Their first task was to build a school house and organise the teachers salaries.

In 1906 Miss Roberts replaced Jane Jennings, being a Supplementary teacher. She served the school for 43 years in the infant department retiring in 1949, but continued to help with the national Savings until 1958.

Ada Matthews took charge of the infants from 1906 to 1912. In 1909 the partition was built in the large room. Miss Emily F. Chubb became a monitor in 1912, later a Pupil Teacher and then Uncertificated in 1918, eventually leaving to become headmistress at Bratton Clovelly in 1946, thus serving the school for 30 years.

In 1914, after six years of deliberation, the school shed, open sided and much smaller than requested by the managers, was built for pupils to eat their dinners there.

Frequent epidemics were common during 1918-20. Diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, influenza, chicken pox, pediculosis (lice) and mumps were evident and occasioned many prolonged school closures. Some children and Miss Louisa Pursey died of tuberculosis.



The inscription plate, let into the first stone of Bradworthy School, has long since disappeared. This rubbing was taken about 1900.

On Mr. Dunstan's arrival in 1920 we realise how important attendance was. We read that *inclement weather, deaths, funerals and influenza have adversely affected the attendance this week.*

During his term of office, stationery and text books were increased and the school was reorganised to meet new staff conditions (the demise of the monitor system) and more opportunities for teacher training.

His concluding entry on leaving for a new appointment at Horrabridge in May 1926 states *The attendance is more fickle and uncertain than even our English weather.*

From May 1926 to September 1926 Fred Thornton Eastwick held the fort as a supply teacher.

Mr. A.J. Slee becomes correspondent to the managers in July 1926 and continued until his death in 1959. His meticulous handwriting and presentation adding clarity to all ensuing managers' meetings.

In October 1926 Llewellyn Thomas became Headmaster of Bradworthy Council School at the age of 27 years. He introduced practical subjects which greatly pleased the boys. He purchased first aid equipment and requested electricity in the school house and school, but this was not feasible until 1939

In 1930 lectures on Road Safety, Health and Hygiene, cleanliness of the hair and teeth, weighing and measuring children and eye tests became part of school life and longer outings took place to Messrs Fry's at Somerdale.

School Improvements

The Assembly Room is now serving the purpose of a day school, whilst alterations are being carried out on the Council School. A hedge at the back of the school has been removed to accommodate the extension and rebuilding of all the offices. Other minor improvements are to be carried out, including the renovation of the boundary wall. This will be the most extensive alterations that have been made at the school for many years. (September 1935)

Senior boys and girls went to Holsworthy Secondary Modern on Friday mornings for woodwork and cookery in 1935, and in 1936 the first school bus took senior scholars to Holsworthy. The Council School now had 82 pupils.

A dining table and utensils were provided for those bringing their own meals and in 1937 there was a Christmas present for each child given by Captain and Mrs. Lockyer, namely a new 3d bit!

In June 1940 the Church Room and Assembly Room were used for evacuees with Miss Bolton, their Headmistress, in charge. Fourteen evacuees came from Bristol in 1941 with Miss Muriel Paish.

The first mid-day meal was brought in containers from Holsworthy on 8th November 1943. It consisted of meat pie, cabbage, potatoes, rice pudding and bread and cheese. There were 40 meals served out of a total of 66 children present.

Milk tablets - so children stay at home

Because a number of children at Bradworthy did not like the taste of the new milk tablets issued by the county council, they would not go back to school, Mr. W.L. Wickett (chairman) told Holsworthy Rural Council on Wednesday.

'Their mothers rang up the school to say that they were not to let them have any,' he added 'The tablets are now lying all round Bradworthy. You can pick them up anywhere; the children are throwing them about.'

On the motion of Mr. W. Vanstone, it was decided to protest to the County Council against the issue of the tablets.

Mr. Vanstone said it was absurd for tablets to be issued in a milk-producing district and at a time when milk production was at its peak. In his view the tablets would make the children thirstier than ever. (April 1955)



Miss Roberts on her retirement in 1949. Back row: G. Martin, S. Stoney, W. Seldon, E. Cann, E. Wade, E. Hockridge, K. Jordan, C. Vanstone. Fourth row: J. Birch, C. Jordan, Mrs. Redwood, R. Pomeroy, J. Balsdon, J. Cann, R. Ham. Third row (on left): Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Fair. Second row: E. Cann, E. Balsdon, Miss Moore, R. Perkins, C. Short, A. Slade, N. Balston, M. Bond, E. Moase, K. Bromell, Mrs. Worthy. Front row: ?, E. Andrew, M. Bailey, A. Seldon, Miss Roberts, M. Balston, R. Vanstone, F. Oke, Miss Moore, J. Balston.

School milk became available straight from the cow in metal cans and each child had half a mug of this nourishing beverage.

Mr. Thomas died suddenly at Upton, Bude on 3rd September 1944 at 9.45pm after serving Bradworthy School for 18 years. His entries in the log book show him to have been a caring, firm headmaster, who was loved and respected by all who knew him.

Mrs. Worthy was appointed in November 1944, the school

Parents Inspect Activities at Bradworthy Open Day

The annual Parents' Day of Bradworthy Primary School was an even more notable event than in previous years, honoured as it was by a visit from the Chief Education Officer for Devon, Mr. W.E. Philip, M.A.

Mrs. E.W. Worthy (headmistress) welcomed the visitors and also Mr. Philip. She reviewed the year's activities, which had included a school concert at Christmas, a trip to Kent's Cavern and Paignton Zoo, and a successful jumble sale which raised over £20 and enabled them to purchase games for the dinner hour on wet days. A number of scholars had attended the Devon

Music Festival at Barnstaple. A special communal effort had been the compilation of a book on Bradworthy by the juniors, and she thanked all parents and friends who helped in this work by lending photographs and supplying information.

Mr. Philip spoke some encouraging words to the children and then addressed the parents. He said it was the feeling of some of the older people that too much stress was laid on enjoyment, games, sport, etc., in the schools. This was not the case. The curriculum of the Primary School was so designed that the teacher should have a complete picture of a complete child when it was eleven years of age, in order

that the next step in its education could be decided upon. Mr. Philip congratulated Mrs. Worthy on the excellent work she had done at Bradworthy. He wished more teachers could be provided, adding that two teachers for forty children was inadequate, but nothing better could be done at present.

The Chief Education Officer presented prizes to the scholars in a competition for the best collection of wild flowers. Winners were: Ruth Perkins (106 varieties); 2, Catherine Pomeroy (91); 3, Julia Knight (64). The cup for progress in general work was won by the Green House (captain, E. Glover); physical training, Red House (captain, J. Trewin). (July 1949)

The late Mrs. Worthy, who died in 1995, retired due to ill-health in 1961.

Mr. Peter Errol Williams arrived from Torrington to take charge of the school as headmaster in 1961.

With the new openness in education, he asked if the managers would care to attend school at any time to watch pupils at work, play or dinner.

He organised a school garden, craft area and obtained a sewing machine and tape recorder.

School pets were accommodated and when the school pig escaped he chased it around the playing field and captured it with the feeding bucket.

A great sportsman, the playground was used during the evenings as a tennis court, a swimming pool

building holding 66 Devon children with 28 evacuees with more still arriving.

Wireless lessons were begun in 1943 and film shows from the Ministry of Information in the Assembly Room.

In 1946 selective tests for seniors meant that some children could achieve Grammar School education at Crediton or Totnes as boarders.

Bradworthy Primary School had its first Open Day in 1947 when parents were welcomed.

After many years discussion the playing field was purchased for the school from A.F. Balsdon in 1948. What a valuable asset this has proved for the use of the whole parish and Mrs. Worthy's greatest contribution to the village.

After the departure of Laura Roberts from the school in 1949 there were frequent changes of staff and sickness amongst those who were appointed. The school was sometimes closed as no staff were available locally. Exeter Education Committee were demanding certificated teachers who were unavailable until Miss A. Pearce arrived in 1951.

In 1956, the long awaited (14 years!) school canteen was built and Mrs. A. Ham became Cook Supervisor and gave exemplary service for 23 years. A Real 'Mrs. Bridges'.

Yearly concerts were held to raise funds for school equipment - a new wireless set, slide and sound projectors.



A school reading class in 1953. The children with the classroom assistant are V. Bailey, J. Gilbert, J. Balsdon, M. Pennington, T. Jennings, B. Jennings, S. Brown. So far no-one has been able to remember the name of the classroom assistant!



The first day the new school swimming pool was used - in 1969.

was built at the rear of the school, children went to camp and Area Sports meetings. He encouraged football and netball and internal sports days with teams of *Hérons and Magpies*.

The veranda was enclosed and equipped with cloakrooms, pegs and washbasins and school uniform was introduced in 1964, the familiar and practical royal blue and gold.

In 1965 a new infant classroom was built beside the swimming pool. The pool was opened during the holidays from 1966 supervised by members of staff.

In 1972 a Victorian Centenary Fair was held in the square with gaily adorned stalls and continuing with a Victorian Feast in the Memorial Hall.

In September 1972, twenty eight pupils from Milton Damerel school were welcomed to Bradworthy, together with Mrs. Brewer their head teacher.

Nursery provision was suggested for the New School to be built on a site purchased on the west side of the square. There were now 94 pupils on roll, therefore the school became a Group 3 school and a Deputy Head was appointed in 1975.

Mr. Williams left for a new appointment in Newton Abbott in 1977.

Mr. Vivian Gale became the headmaster in September 1977.

Health and safety at work now ensured that no child could receive burns after a pinafore catching alight in front of an open fire as in 1912. There were now electric heaters and fire extinguishers readily available.

Home and school links were now forged and the school was linked with the playgroup to their mutual benefit.

The swimming pool was heated in 1981 and safety barriers erected at school exits.

A PTA was formed in 1981 and has raised continuous funds for, initially, the library and tape recorders, and latterly computers in four classrooms, and science equipment.

In 1983 remodelling plans were available and many exciting discoveries were made as the old familiar classrooms were converted into a new essential assembly/dining hall completely refurbished and equipped for PE. There was no need to use the Memorial Hall for the latter, as had been done for seven years.

The old playground became the site or four light and airy

Swimming Pool for Bradworthy School

By this summer the pupils at Bradworthy School will have their own learner swimming pool. The head master (Mr. P. Williams) said that the pool, which measures 33ft by 17ft, will cost £500. It is hoped that half of this sum will come from the Devon County Council in the form of a grant.

In a year the inhabitants of the village, population 785, have raised £200 by public subscription and a jumble sale.

Mr. Williams explained that he thought the pool would be a good idea because at the moment not more than two of his pupils could swim. (March 1965)

classrooms, library, science, cloakrooms and indoor toilets with a new playground beyond. Great pleasure was expressed that the 112 year old building had been merged so skilfully with the 1984 extension.

Governors were told that they would have more responsibility in the running of the school and with the birth of the National Curriculum in 1989 they became more accountable.

Mr. Richard Stevenson was appointed headmaster on Mr. Gale's retirement in 1998, the eighth in the history of the school.



Mr. Williams supervising maypole practice in readiness for the Victorian Fayre of 1972.



The school canteen staff in the 1960's. Mrs. Richards, Mrs. F. Johns, Mrs. T. Petherick, Mrs. S. Oke, Mrs. J. Hewitson.



Mr Preece with his pupils in about 1900.

- Back row:* W. Seldon, Annie Piper, Florrie Walter, Moss Prance, Hilda Bond, Laura Chubb, Edith Cory, Mary Chubb, W. Beale.
- Third row:* John Cory, Chas Wade, F. Boundy, E. Hockridge, A. Dayman, C. Bromell, P. Manning, J. Petherick, R. Jennings.
- Second row:* Kath Vanstone, Lizzie Bromell, Annie Shaddick-Vanstone, Ethel Boundy, Mary Turner, P. Petherick, Matthilda Martin.
- Front row:* Mary Jennings, Jim Jennings, Gus Roberts, A. Bryant, C. Harris, A.J. Slee, A. Oke, Sophie Short.

Miss Roberts and Miss Harris with their pupils taken in June 1907.



Back row: Carrie Boundy, Nora Turner, Grace Seldon, Lily Harris, Florrie Harris, Annie Dayman, Kate Boundy, Phylis Petherick, Olive Sillifant.

Fourth row: Miss Roberts, Hilda Harris, Salome Kivell, Lily Vanstone, Laura Bennett, Tom Vanstone, Mary Boundy, Florrie Chubb, Annie May, Janie Stidwell, Miss Harris.

Third row: Les Slee, Fred Westaway, Sam Bromell, William Manning, William Gifford, Ben Westaway, Edmund Wade.

Second row: Dick Jennings, Steve Trewin, Walter Johns, Alf Downing, Laura Bond, Mildred Cory, Alf Slee, Bill Bromell, Nathan Oke, Harry Trewin, Bill Oke.

Front row: Grace Westaway, Nancy Seldon, Kate Vanstone, Emily Moase, Maud Sanders, Edith Bromell, Hetty Bond, Lizzy Cory, Florrie Ham.



Miss Matthews with her class between 1910 and 1912.

Back row: ?, ?, ?, J. Piper, ?, Olive Sillifant, Jane Bryant, Will Bond, Mariah Petherick, ?, ?.

Third row: ?, ?, Jack Boundy, ?, ?, Maud Saunders, ?, ?, ?, Mrs. Matthews.

Second row: ?, ?, ?, ?, Charlie Ham, ?, ?, ?, ?.

Front row: William Oke, ?, ?, ?, Elsie Butler, Tom Vanstone, Val Jennings, Florrie Martin, Emma Ham, ?, Florrie Ham.

Mr Dunstan with his
pupils about 1926.



Back row: Mr. H.E. Dunstan, Harold Gorrell, Cyril Piper, Archie Johns, Cecil Collacott, Jack Wilson, George Petherick, Alfred Ham.
Middle row: Albert Trewin, Joyce Dayman, Freda Gliddon, Nancy Piper, Ena Piper, Muriel Brown, Elsie Hockin, Kathleen Nancekivell, Ivy Harris, Joe Dunstan, Edwin Harris.
Front row: Denis Slee, Herbert Petherick, Elizabeth Cann, Gladys Slee, Rhoda Balsdon, Mary Cornish, Bessie Cann, Elizabeth Hockin, Frances Nancekivell, George Trewin, Fred Brown, George Hockridge.



Miss Chubb with her pupils in about 1929.

Back row: Miss F. Chubb, John Turner, Reg Oke, Bill Downing, Alan Bray, Gordon Tremeer, Les Dayman, Tom Cann.

Middle row: Claude Johns, Walter Prance, Iris Balsdon, Mabel Cornish, Elizabeth Nancekivell, Edna Nancekivell, Enid Slee, Kathleen Oke, John French.

Front row: Russell Yeo, Philip Barfett, Marj Cleave, Queenie Piper, Maggie Headon, Edith Ham, C. Birch, Harry Gorrell, Rob Nancekivell, Les Cann, Tom Wickett.

Miss Roberts with her
class around 1931.



Back row: H. Moase, L. Prance, L. Jennings, Norman Gorrell, I. Petherick, F. Bond, R. Sanders, G. Harris, M. Cole, Miss Roberts.
Middle row: O. Jordan, H. Prance, M. Bailey, A. Andrew, J. Vanstone, M. Colliver, C. Cole, I. Cole, Freda Bryant, R. Vanstone.
Front row: I. Sanders, W. Petherick, E. Bond, B. Vanstone, J. Manning, R. Gliddon, M. Slee, W. Dayman.



The school governor,
Mr A.F. Balsdon, with
pupils in the 1930's.

Back Row: Fred Daniel, Audrey Prouse, C. Cholwill, Joan Kerslake, P. Barfett, L. Jennings, A.F. Balsdon, N. Blight, M. Jenkins, R. Piper, C. Gliddon, G. Piper, C. Moase.

Middle Row C. Cole, R. Vanstone, F. Balsdon, R. Cory, M. Cole, N. Kerslake.

Front Row: W. Dayman, Edith Kivell, Arthur Oke, R. Thomas, Beatrice Cole, R. Gliddon, ?, ?, M. Cory, N. Gorrell.

Mr Thomas with
his pupils in 1934.



Back row: Rob Nancekivell, Charlie Gliddon, Marj Cleave, Nora Blight, Queenie Piper, Les Cann, Bill Cholwill.

Third row: Philip Barfett, Kit Moase, Audrey Prouse, Gwen Piper, Iris Balsdon, Doreen Cann, Maud Daniels, Bertha Headon, Arthur Blight.

Second row: Joan Kerslake, Nancy Kerslake, Mr. L. Thomas, C. Hockridge, Marg Vanstone.

Front row: Cyril Manning, Arthur Oke, Roy Cory, Stan Bryant, Fred Daniels, Harold Petherick, H. Gorrell.



Mr Thomas with his pupils in 1935.

Back row: Edgar Jennings, Gwen Piper, Pheobe Hockridge, Kitty Moase, Phylis Hockridge, E. Jennings, Bill Cholwill.

Third row: Betty Vanstone, Joan Vanstone, Isobel Cole, Christine Cole, Audrey Prouse, Eunice Bond, Nancy Kerslake, I. Andrew, Joan Kerslake, May Cole.

Second row: Owen Jordan, Cyril Manning, Joyce Manning, W. Petherick, Margery Slee, Gwen Dayman, Margaret Colliver, Fernly Petherick, Bill Cole, Fred Bond.

Front row: John Guy, Arthur Oke, R. Vanstone, Charlie Manning, ?, George Harris, Norman Gorrell, D. Lovell, Robert Thomas, Harry Moase.

Mr Thomas with
his pupils in 1936.



Back row: Fred Bond, Vernon Mitchell, May Cole, Margaret Colliver, N. Kerslake, I. Cole, P. Hockridge, L. Jennings, W. Facey.

Third row: John Guy, Arthur Blatchford, Charlie Manning, Harriet Birch, ? Andrew, E. Nancekivell, H. Prance, M. Slee, M. Cole, D. Lovell, C. Bailey, I. Petherick.

Second row: L. Wilson, R. Vanstone, Frank Bromell, Harry Moase, Rose Gliddon, M. Cory, J. Blatchford, C. Cole, J. Manning, W. Jennings, N. Gorrell, D. Turner.

Front row: W. Jennings, M. Millman, ? Prouse, Claude Wade, R. Vanstone, A. Hockridge, L. Prance, A. Gorrell, G. Jennings.



Angela Yeo's
class of 1951.

Back row: Dave Cole, Arthur Johns, Alan Balsdon, John Gilbert, Keith Prance, Graham Redwood, David Johnson, Malc Wright, Mrs. Angela Yeo.

Front row: Norman Trewin, Derick Cann, Shirley Brown, ?, Angela Brown, Sheila Brown, ?, Bernidett Jennings, Iris Cheese, John Cann.

Mrs Whitfield
and pupils in
1953.



Back row: Miss Jennings, Dave Johnson, Iris Cheese, Jennifer Wonnacott, Carol Jordan, Eileen Pomeroy, Andrew Rosswadoski, Leonard Bond, John Bailey, Tony Stringer, Ann Trewin, Shirley Brimacombe, Vera Cook, Graham Redwood, Nurse Bond.

Third row: ?, Michael Ward, Janet Balsdon, Arthur Sutton, Martin Bromell, Janet Wickett, Ann Wright, Gladys Trewin, Norman Bond, Alan Cann, Crystal Glover, Pat Hart, David Howard, Mrs. Whitfield.

Second row: Frank Tallamy, ?, Sheila Brown, Bernadette Jennings, T. Owendene, Susan Badham, Val Johns, Danatu Hewitson, Glynis Shadrick, Dorothy Bond, Jennifer Wickett, Rita May, Christine Bond, ?, M. Wright.

Front row: Peter Daniel, Keith Prance, Laurence Wickett, Michael Hale, Derek Cann, Michael Stringer, David Cole, Arthur Bond, Michael Oke, Alan Balsdon, John Cann, Arthur Johns.



Mrs Pode with her pupils in 1957-8.

Back row: Colin Dayman, Alan Shadrick, Pete Cleave, Alec Raffe, John Hewitson, Peter Jones, Arthur Daniel.

Middle row: Jon Schiller, Ian Bond, Liz Gerry, Liz Vanstone, Sheila Oke, Alan Oke, Mick Cleave, Miss Poad.

Front row: Sylvia Wade, Elizabeth Beecham, Shirley Petherick, Linda Schiller, Wendy Vanstone, ?, J. Vanstone, J. Brown.

Mr Gale with his pupils in 1989.



Back row: Rachel Dayman, Trevor Lewis, Melissa Plail, Kimberley Cleave, Darren Gent, Kelly Radmore, ?, Katie Cobbledick, Leigh Gibson.

Middle row: Peter Oke, John Bluet, Jonathan Prance, Mark Elliot, James Poole, Robert Philips, Daniel Holcroft, Ben Kirby, Paul Ham, Christopher Bailey.

Front row: Sam Dennis, Joanna Hurford, Emma Philips, Kerry Shadrick, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Viv Gale, Jason Millman, Lisa Dennis, Robert Raffe, Katherine Guard.



Back row: Joyce Cann, Angela Yeo, Lorraine Moase, Jason James, Sandra Turner, Keith Bailey, Terence Walther, Laura James, Sarah Spurr, Christopher Bond, Paul Jennings, Kath Bailey, Sally Schiller, Nicola Fry, Wendy Vanstone, Rosalind Bromell, Jennifer Hayes, Peter Williams.

Third row: Tony Vanstone, Stephen Wonnacott, Andrew Philp, Stephen Parnell, Mark Perkins, Graham Petherick, Margaret Parnell, Ann Wade, Caroline Walther, Richard Jennings, Simone Ringwood, Pauline Spurr, Peter Spurr, Jacky Turner, Angela Raffae, Sally Littlejohns, Richard Radmore, Dave Bromell, Angus Robertson.



Mr. Williams with
the staff and the
pupils of 1972.

Second row: Louise Collins, Billie-Anne Hayes, Linda Johns, Denise Bailey, Jonathan Morgan, Mark Dean, Terry Parnell, ? Walther, Paul Ringwood, ? Walther, Caroline Vanstone, Geoff Wonnacott, Thomas James, Graham Harris, Mark Putt, Suzanne Collins, Lisa Prance, Shane Gent.

Front row: Johnny Nichols, Julie Brown, Matthew James, Anthony Dennis-Jones, Sandra Birch, Kevin Jennings, Spencer Cann, Timmy Parnell, Ann Spurr, Julie Johns, Alan Granger, Margaret Wade, Clive Birch, Mick Ringwood, Lynette Clarke, Janet Tallamy, Nick Clarke, Anna Robertson, ? Walther, Alan Hatton.



St. John's Church in the 1920's.

Churches

Parish Church

This ancient parish Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, but there was a very early dedication to St. Peter. It is not known when the first Christian Church was built on this site, but it is first mentioned in 1198 among the gifts of William. Lord Brewer, to Torre Abbey.

The Canons of Torre served the Church for a short time and in 1240 Bishop Brewer (Lord Brewer's nephew) made the living a

Vicarage. The first Vicar on firm record is John Battyn, instituted in 1328, although R. de Bosco is mentioned earlier as a Vicar.

Briefly the Church's architectural history has been as follows.

A small late Norman building, the earliest known to us. Then in the 13th century this was enlarged to make an Early English cruciform Church.



In the 1960's repair work was carried out on the Church tower.



The inside of the St. John's Church in the 1920's.



The church bells were re-hung in 1936. Back Row: Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. G. Trewin, Miss K. Moase. Third Row: Mrs. Downing, Mrs. W. Oke, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. H. Harris, Mrs. R. Jennings, Mrs. W. Cole, Mrs. S. Oke, Mrs. A. Slee. Second Row: Mrs. R. Collacott, Mrs. J. Bond, Miss Phylis Wonnacott, Mrs. W. Slade, Mrs. F. Slee, Miss M. Balston, Mrs. S. Routley, Mrs. R. Prouse. Front Row: Miss J. Vanstone, Mrs. W. Short, Miss M. Slee, Miss M. Cornish.

After severe damage by lightning in 1395, a rebuilding was completed by the year 1400, mainly in the Perpendicular style as we see it today. The fine west tower was added about 1500.

The Church organ was installed in 1899 at a cost of £155, and it was enlarged in 1907 at a further cost of £100. Plans were made, and funds raised, to move it in 1936 - but it never was.

As far as can be traced there appears to have been thirty six instituted vicars of Bradworthy. At the turn of the century the Vicar was the Rev. W.T. Wellacott MA, who came in 1893. He was a true country parson, farming his glebe, organising agricultural and horticultural classes, breeding pedigree dogs and taking an active part in village life. Above all he was a devoted parish priest.

In 1911 he was followed by the Rev. A.E. Dobson, whose



The Rev. A.E. Dobson in the 1920's.

incumbency stretched over 46 years. He was an Army padre in the 1914-18 War, a keen musician and mainly responsible for establishing a brass band in Bradworthy.

The Rev. Thomas Gibby BA, BD (1958-63) organised a good choir.

The Rev. Arthur Procter (1963-65) was a VC, won for bravery on the battlefield in Arras in 1916. He was an RAF chaplain in the Second World War.



The church wardens in 1913. Richard Oke, John Bond, Austin Wellacott, Tom Gilbert, A.J. Burrow, Charles Binmore.

News Years Eve, 1947

Muffled bells at the Parish Church rang out the Old Year, and a merry peal welcomed the New Year. Several excellent peals were rung, in which visitors from neighbouring parishes took part. The Vicar (Rev. A.E. Dobson) conducted a midnight service, and officiated at a celebration of Holy Communion.

Vicar's Vigil at Bradworthy

The Vicar of Bradworthy, the Rev. H.T. Lingham Lees, on Saturday duly carried out his plan to sit in the Parish Church porch from 5am until midnight to collect donations for the tower restoration fund.

The gift day was a great success, well over £500 being collected. The vicar's 19-hour vigil was evidently justified as his first caller arrived at 5.30 and he received his last gift minutes before midnight.

'It was great fun. I enjoyed every minute of it.' said the Vicar. 'They're terribly keen on the tower around here, and everybody was very anxious to relieve me of the trouble of adding up the money.'

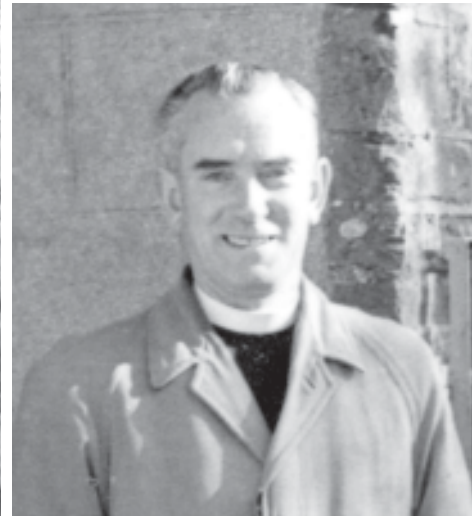
About £5,000 is needed to restore the leaking roof of the church, a landmark in the Holsworthy area. (February 1967)

The Rev. Harold Lingham Lees MA. BSc. (1965-71) displayed much energy in raising money for the Restoration Fund. He inaugurated the first Gift Day. He was an RAF padre in the Second World War.

The Rev. Charles Arthur Sutton (1974-76) was ordained in Canada where he worked for many years. He was a chaplain in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the 1939-45 War. Returning to England his various activities included Missions to Seamen chaplain in Belfast

and Cardiff, and work with the Church Railways Mission in South Africa.

The Rev. Peter Sutton, the last instituted vicar, served in the army (R.A.S.C.) from 1939 to 1956 and was involved in the French and German campaigns of 1944-45. He is a man of many interests, which he lists as local history, wood carving, brass



Rev. Gibby



The Rev. Lingham Lees retired in 1971. Mr. F. Thorne, Rev. Richards, Mrs. Lingham Lees, Rev. Lingham Lees, Mrs. L. Elliot, Rev. Bulcock, Miss Nancy Kerslake, Mrs. J. Gerry.

bands and wine making. He transcribed a vast amount of historical records, now available in Bradworthy for reference and research. He retired in 1990.

The Rev. Norman P.G. Last was Priest-in-charge until his retirement in

Congratulation to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Westaway Oke, of the Square, Bradworthy, who have celebrated their golden wedding. They were married in Bradworthy Parish Church by the Rev. W.T. Wellacott (Vicar), assisted by the Rev. C. Finzel (curate) on 14th April 1894, and lived in the same house ever since. Mr. R.W. Oke has just completed a record 60 years as a ringer in the Parish Church, having begun when the late Rev. J.B. Clyde was vicar. Mr. Oke is at present serving as vicar's warden for the Rev. A.E. Dobson. (April 1944)

1997. He served in the Royal Air Force as a pilot and instructor on fighter planes for a total of twelve years. Later he was a civil airline pilot for eighteen years. He retired to Sidmouth.

The Rev. Richard Dorrington was appointed Priest-in-charge in October 1998.

Tower clock

Early in 1920 quite an ambitious project was taking shape, which was to install a clock in the Parish Church Tower. A committee was formed and a parish clock fund set up, with Mr.

A meeting of the Tower Clock Committee has been held, Mr. J.L. Martin presiding. It was agreed to accept a tender of £26 for repairing, cleaning and overhauling the clock, the contract to include the repainting of the dial (September 1949)

James Westaway as the treasurer. The clock was placed in the tower in the autumn of 1924 at a total cost of £122 5s 5d, Margaret Grant, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

John Grant of Bradworthy Inn, set the clock going on 18th November, 1924. The clock was illuminated in 1965 as part of the village's commemoration to Sir Winston Churchill. They were switched on by Mr. R. Grills Collacott.



A team of lady bellringers photographed in the late 1950's. Richard Collacott with Ann Wright, Maureen Yeo, Harriet Birch, Janet Plummer and Jean Birch.



Bell ringing

Bell ringing has been a feature of Church and village life. Apart from ringing for Church services and to celebrate festivals and National events, the ringers have been members of the Devonshire Guild of Bellringers and the Tamar Valley Guild of Bellringers. In the early part of the century Mr.

Left: Church bellringers, taken before the 1st World War. Dick Oke, John Bond, Charlie Binmore, Tom Gilbert, Richard Collacott.

Richard Westaway Oke was the Tower Captain for many years. He was succeeded by Mr. Richard Grills Collacott. The Captains in more recent years have been Mr. Tom Prance, Mr. Fernley Petherick and Mr. Kenneth Johns.

In 1902 a new treble bell was installed, making a peal of six. In 1937, at a cost of £128, the bells were restored at Taylors, Loughborough and re-hung on ball bearings.

Our six bells have been safely lowered to the ground and are now standing outside the tower door. It is the first time I have had the opportunity to read the inscriptions on the bells. The inscription on the tenor bell reads as follows: - 'I to the church the living call, and to the grave do summon all. A.R. 1757.' The others are inscribed as follows (reading downwards from the tenor)

- 5: Prosperity to this parish. A.R. 1757.
- 4: Peace and good neighbourhood. A.R. 1757.
- 3: We were all cast at Gloucester by Abel Rudhall, 1757.
- 2: Taylor Fecit, Oxford.
- 1: Mears and Stainbank, Founders, London. Fear God, Honour the King. A.D. 1902, W.T. Wellacott, Vicar, J. Bennett and T. Rowtcliff, Churchwardens. (June 1937)



The Church Choir, 1910-1915. Back row: Fred Gilbert, R.G. Collacott, Mrs. Kerslake, Mrs. Cholwill, Mrs. F. Slee, Mrs. M. Johns, Mrs. Horn, Roger Walter, John Walter, William Jennings. Middle row: T. Gilbert, Mr. Burrow, Rev. A.E. Dobson, John Bryant, John Kerslake. Front row: Arthur Bryan, Stanley Oke, Willie Oke.

Methodist Churches

For many years Bradworthy has been one of the Bude Circuit of Churches. During these years many local preachers have travelled throughout the circuit, and beyond, preaching the Gospel.

In 1900 there were four Methodist churches in the parish. One was at Atworthy, another at Bradworthy Cross, the other two being in the village. A Wesleyan Church occupied the present site in North Road, and a United Methodist Church was in Lower



The U.M. Chapel in the 1930's.

Village in what is now the Church Room. When Methodist Union took place in 1932 the lower chapel was



The Methodist Sunday School was opened in 1911.



The Methodist Chapel in the 1910's.



The inside of the Methodist Church in the 1980's.

closed and in 1937 the present chapel was enlarged to take both congregations. Atworthy Methodist Church was renovated at a cost of £42 and reopened in November 1936.

In 1986 Atworthy Chapel was closed, and in 1992 Bradworthy Cross Chapel closed. Both these congregations now worship in the village.

At the beginning of this century there was a cottage where the Sunday School now stands. This was converted into a garage about 1920. In 1932 the

Netball Tournament

A successful netball contest was held on the school playground between Bradworthy Parish Church and the Village Methodist Church, each providing four teams - 8 to 11 years old, 11 to 14, 14 to 20, and 20 plus. Scores in total were: Parish Church, 30; Methodist Church, 24. A ten-shilling book token was given to the winners for use in the Sunday School. The profit of £7 will be divided between the Church tower fund and Methodist Church funds. (June 1968)



The enlarged Methodist Sunday School & kitchen was opened in 1990. Back Row: Mrs. Nancekivell, Rev. Dobell, Sir Peter Mills, Rev. R. Foster, Lady Mills, Mrs. B. Nancekivell, Mrs. D. Dobell. Front Row: Stephen Pomeroy, William Tallamy, Miss Rachael Brown, Miss Kelly Millman.



The Methodist Chapel in the 1920's.

garage was replaced by a Sunday School. In 1989 the Sunday School was enlarged and a new kitchen installed.

In 1913 a free church cemetery was opened by Dr. F.B. Meyer, a very well known London Minister.

The *Young People's Wesley Guild* was an important feature complementing Methodist Church life. It has evolved into what is known today as the *Three Parishes Guild*; the parishes are Bradworthy, Kilkhampton, and Morwenstow.

The *Colandene Centre* was opened at Newlands in 1991 by Mr. and Mrs. Colin Manning, and this is proving very popular with younger members. Visitors come from many parts of the country to join in Christian activities in Bradworthy.

Church outings were very popular. Below is the Bradworthy & Pancrasweek Sunday School Outing of 1909, and to the right is the Atworthy Chapel outing to Bude of August 1922.



Free Church Cemetery

Bradworthy Cemetery, on the Holsworthy Road, was opened on land acquired from Mr. J.L. Martin in 1913. It is maintained by public subscription and administered by trustees of the local Methodist Churches.



Left: The opening of the cemetery on 17 June 1913. Leading the parade is the Rev. F.B. Myer, who was one of the leading free churchmen in the country.



The opening of the cemetery on 17 June 1913.

BRADWORTHY.
Free Church Cemetery
OPENING CEREMONY
ON
Tuesday, June 17, 1913,
AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON, BY THE
REV. F. B. MEYER, B.A., D.D.
(Of London), Hon. Secretary of the National Free Church Council.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON
In Mr. Cory's Temperance Hall at 1 p.m. H. Higgs, Esq., J.P., C.A., will preside.

DIVINE SERVICE
At 3 o'clock, in the Council Schoolroom. Preacher:
Rev. F. B. MEYER, B.A., D.D.

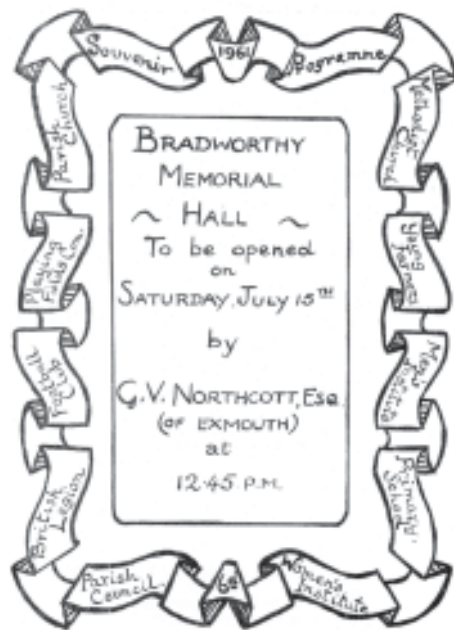
Public Tea in the Temperance Hall at 5 p.m.
Tickets for Luncheon and Tea, 2/3. Tea only, 9d.

Platform Meeting
At 7-30, in the Council Schoolroom, to be addressed by the
Revs. W. Treffry (Governor of Edge-Hill College) and
L. H. Court (of Plymouth), supported by the Revs.
W. Bennett, T. H. Bailey, and R. Dawson
(Circuit Ministers).
Chair to be taken by W. T. Gosman, Esq. (Ex-Mayor of Bideford).
The Singing will be led by the United Choir, from printed leaflets.
Collections in aid of the new Cemetery.

Decided by a majority - Village Hall site at Bradworthy

After a keen and at times heated debate on the choice of a site for a village hall at Bradworthy, it was decided by a majority vote at a parish meeting on Friday to purchase a piece of land adjoining the village square, which had been offered to the committee for £250.

The decision was far from unanimous, for many considered that, although the site was preferable to the one available for £25 on the Tucker's Park housing estate, the purchase price was much too high. (January 1953)



Memorial Hall

The *Parish War Memorial Hall Committee* was convened after the war to provide a lasting and fitting memorial to those who lost their lives in both wars. A generous donation from Colonel Spread, who lost three sons in the 1939-45 War, gave the fund the boost it needed to inspire the village to complete the task. This Committee, which had over

forty members including the entire Parish Council and a representative of every village organisation, had a succession of chairmen - W.J. Cory, T.K. Fair and R.G. Pomeroy.

They set about raising funds by every available means - whist drives, gift sales, fêtes and functions. Farmers kept a flock of sheep which were sold at



The opening of the Memorial Hall in 1961. Back row (on right): A. Seldon, M. Slee, C. Short, G. Walter, E. Wade, B. Heard, C. Heard, E. Cann. Partly hidden behind the Front Row: E. Hockridge, G. Trewin, M. Bailey, Mrs. Bailey, I. Trewin, G. Cory, E. Bromell, E. Balsdon, F. Bromell, Mrs. Ashford, G. Cole, Mrs. Beecham, H. Vanstone, J. Cleave. Front Row: C. Hockridge, G. Edwards, V. Bailey, J. Balsdon, M. Johnson, V. Dayman, R. May, C. Bond, E. Petherick, S. Dunn, M. Harris, R. Vanstone.



The opening of the Memorial Hall in 1961. Alan Cann, Norman Bromell, Cecil Collacott, Derrick Bond, Rodney Harris, Mary Balston, Mrs. Nancy Seldon, Mr. Beasley (representing the Minister of Education), Mrs. Rosalie Vanstone, Rev J.R. Gibby (Vicar), W.L. Wickett, Tom Prance, E.A. Hooper (RDC Surveyor), John Cann, Mr. Northcott, Sir Henry Studholme, Frank Cleave, Mrs. Ruby Pomeroy, Lady Studholme, Elam Hockridge, Richard Pomeroy, William Seldon, Alan Locke (builder), William Slade, William John Cory, Mrs. E.W. Worthy (headmistress), Mrs. Cissie Short, ?.

the local market. There was even a draw with a cow as first prize. The Committee raised a total of £5,000 which was a considerable amount in the 1950's and 60's. This figure was augmented by a grant from the Rural Services Department of approximately £2,000.

A site was purchased, with clearing work commencing in 1955. Tenders were invited from local builders in 1960. Amazingly they all professed

to be too busy to take on such a project - certainly a reflection of different times. These setbacks were eventually overcome, and the Hall was built by Shebbear builder Alan Locke.

The Memorial Hall was opened on 15th July 1961. Opening Day will be long remembered - it saw the culmination of years of waiting, months of building, hours of meetings, and minutes by the ream.

Dedicated by the Reverend T.R. Gibby and opened by G.V. Northcott of Exmouth, the day was a lavish celebration enjoyed by a crowd in excess of 2,000 - a judo display, trick motorcycling, and a rodeo. The day culminated with a dance in the Hall at which the Pearl Players Dance Band played, but very few of the 750 present danced.

In 1971 the Hall was well established in village life and an extension was added,

Programme

1.00pm	Luncheon
2.30pm	Opening of the fete by Mrs. Fulford Oke
3.00pm	Baby Show
3.15pm	Judo Exhibition by North Devon Judo Club
4.00pm	Dog Derby, Tug-O-War, etc
4.30pm	Tea
5.45pm	Folk Dancing by Bideford Youth Folk Dance Group
6.30pm	Trick Motor Cycling by East Cornwall Motor Club
7.30pm	Rodeo for Dartmoor ponies
8.30pm	Floral Dance in the Square
9.00pm	Grand Dance in the Memorial Hall



The Memorial Hall was opened in 1961. A full programme was organised for the day, including a donkey derby, straw tossing and dog racing.

The dog handlers are Alan Balsdon, A. Bond, Lorna Jenkins, C. Bond, L. Robbins, and G. Wonnacott.





The Memorial Hall extension was opened by Mr Townend in 1971. With him are Mr. W.J. Cory, Mr. F. Petherick, Mr. A. Cann, Mr. Denner and Mr. C. Parnell.

partly funded by the sale of the Men's Institute and funds from the now defunct Gymkhana Committee.

In 1989, in association with the Football Club, the extension was converted into a fully furnished Social Club. This has already proved of benefit in using its profits to support various village projects.

In 1995 a flagpole was erected for the VE Day celebrations.

Large scale reconstruction on the front of the Hall began in 1998,

There were 53 donors from Bradworthy, Sutcombe and Putford at the blood transfusion centre at the Assembly Room last Sunday afternoon. It is hoped there will be an even better response next time. (May 1943)



The Assembly room is on the left side of the Square, where Wade's showroom now stands



The Parish Council in approximately 1949. Standing are A.C. Jenkins, T.E. Cann, C. Wade, W.J. Cory, E.J. Wade, R.G. Collacott, and A.J. Slee. Sitting are W.L. Wickett, J.L. Martin, W.J. Cann, T. Prance, and A.F. Balsdon.



The Parish Council on the retirement of Mr. R. Walter, Clerk of the Council. J. Cann, Mrs. G. Elliott, F. Petherick, A. Hockridge, T. Sillifant, P. Woodward, R. Walter, Mr. Robertson, Group Captain Wright, R. Furse, Mrs. W. Gerry.

with the addition of two more rooms, one of them to be a museum and archive. The facade is of striking design. A foyer, roofed in copper and with other innovative features, makes an impressive entrance to the main Hall.

Assembly Room

On the south side of the Square, where Wades furniture store now stands, the Assembly Room was owned by Mr. E.J. Wade. It opened in 1920, closed in 1958 and was finally dismantled in 1975. The rooms were used for many years for cinema shows, concerts, dances, dinners and political meetings.

Before the Assembly Room was erected public events were held in the Temperance Hotel Long Room or the Inn Club Room, and sometimes in the School.

Parish Council

The Parish Council, formed in 1894, came into the century with Mr. Walter Vanstone as Clerk, an office which he continued to hold until 1931. Agendas did not carry so many and varied items as today. In fact there were times when there was no business and the meeting was closed.

Looking through the first Minute Book great concern is revealed for keeping the village wells in order and the footpaths open. Mr. Fred Bryant was appointed to lock and unlock the village pump at 6d. per week. Later the payment was fixed at £1 per year, which a brief calculation shows to be a

Plans in respect of the new public lavatories were discussed and it was decided to propose to the sanitary inspector that a bulldozer be employed immediately at the public refuse tip. The deplorable condition of St. Peters Lane was to be represented to the Clerk of the Rural District Council for transmission to the county authorities. (March 1949)

reduction in pay! Mr. William Walter made a new iron gate and railings for the pump house and received £1 7s. 0d in payment.

Just a few other items from the oldest Minute Book. The attention of the Lord of the Manor

was to be drawn to the disgraceful condition of the Square. The roads also were in a bad state and the District Council was to be asked to instruct their Surveyor to *give more attention to his duties in this parish.*

In 1908-9 a project was mooted to obtain land for allotments. Minutes in 1919 show that plans were

The dangerous corners at the north and west approaches to the Square were discussed. It was agreed that white lines at these approaches would be conducive to greater safety, particularly to children. (January 1948)

also being made to provide eight houses for *the working classes*. Two houses on each site were to be built near Blatchborough Cross, Littleford, Trentworthy Cross and the Village.

Neither of these projects, as far as we know, ever came off.

There have been only six parish Council clerks in ninety nine years. They are Walter Vanstone, Alfred Slee, Denis Slee, Roy Walter, Frank Hubbard and the present clerk, Paul Clarke.

In 1974 Holsworthy Rural District Council was absorbed into the Torridge Rural District Council. The Parish Councils have remained basically the same.

District Council

Before 1974

Bradworthy 'came under' the Holsworthy Rural District Council, but following local government reorganisation it formed part of the Morice ward of Torridge District Council.

Thomas Rowtcliff served on the Holsworthy Rural District Council from 1897 until 1921.

Laurence Wickett was the district councillor from 1921 until about 1960.

At the beginning of the Second World War Bradworthy's two councillors were Mr. J.L. Martin and Mr. W.L. Wickett. After the War ended Mr. J.L.

Martin retired and Bradworthy was represented by Mr. Wickett and Mr. A.F. Balsdon.

In 1952 or 1953 Mr. Balsdon retired and Mr. W.J. Cann won the seat by one vote from Mr. Hockridge. At the end of his first term, which was



The Parish Council on the retirement of Dennis Slee, Clerk of the Council. Back row: G. Wonnacott, F. Petherick, P. Williams, T. Sillifant, J. Cann. Front Row: T. Prance, T. Cann, R. Harris, Mrs. G. Elliott, D. Slee, A. Hockridge.

then for three years, Mr. Cann lost his seat to Mr. Tom Prance: because he wrote the wrong voting number on his form! Three years later, on the retirement of Mr. Wickett, Mr. Cann was re-elected. He went on to serve with some distinction, including a one-year spell as the Chairman of the Torridge District Council, up until his retirement in 1987.

In 1987 Mr. Trevor Sillifant was elected to represent Bradworthy on the Torridge District Council, a position that he currently holds.



The Parish Council in 1995. Standing are Ray Ham, Alan Balsdon, Margaret Coles, Bill Jarvis, and Colin Guard. Sitting are Gus Hockridge, Lesley Yeo, Rev. Peter Sutton, Sheila Wright, Trevor Sillifant, and Paul Clarke.