

**B**ISHOPHORPE'S ancient history is reflected within its name. "Thorpe" indicates that the village is of Danish origin.

The monks of the Priory of St. Andrew in York built the first church here by the river and dedicated it to their saint. The village became known as Thorpe St. Andrew.

The present name of Bishopthorpe evolved after 1226 when Archbishop de Grey bought land from the Abbot of Kirkstall Abbey. In 1241 he began building a chapel and manor house.

From then, with the exception of Cromwell's time, the Palace at Bishopthorpe has been the residence for the Archbishops of York down to the present day.

Many of the Archbishops who lived here are remembered in our street names.

The early village had two rows of houses flanking a track and ditch leading to the River Ouse. Between these rows of houses was a green space, later incorporated into front gardens. Examples of medieval tofts or garths behind these houses can still be seen as long gardens.

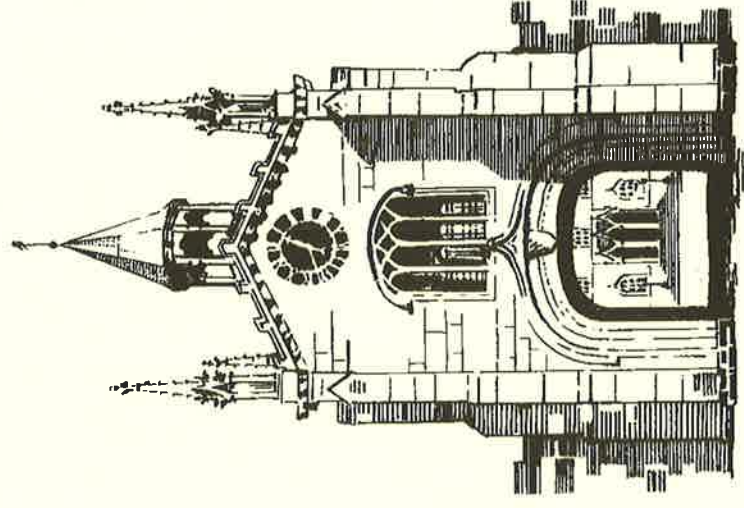
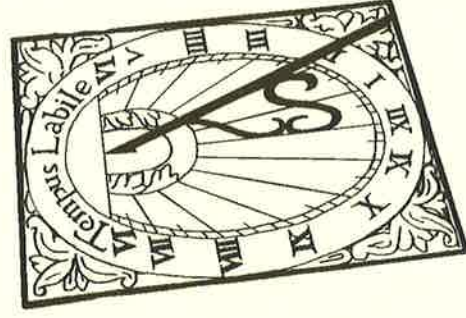
Until the 20th century, most villagers worked in farming or market gardening.

We hope you will enjoy walking around Bishopthorpe guided by this History Trail. The length of Main Street is approximately 400 metres (1/4 mile).

Bishopthorpe is 3 miles south of York and can be reached by First Bus services and by Cycle Route 65, York to Selby, from York City Centre.

Facilities include a Post Office, pharmacy, a medical practice, dentist, library and shops.

All three public houses provide refreshments.



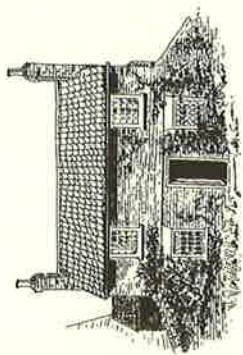
# A Walk Through Time in Bishopthorpe

**Bishopthorpe  
Local History Group**

This leaflet was produced by  
**Bishopthorpe Local History Group**  
with the support of Bishopthorpe Parish Council  
and Bishopthorpe Gala Committee.

Email: [historygroup@bishopthorpe.net](mailto:historygroup@bishopthorpe.net)  
Visit our web pages on the village  
community website at:  
[www.bishopthorpe.net/mt/history](http://www.bishopthorpe.net/mt/history)

To A64



**6** Children loved to buy sweets and toffees at **Mrs. Hutton's shop**. (No.13 Main Street.)

**1** The 'new' **Methodist Church** opened on 12th April 1899 with a service and a 'country' tea.

**2** **The Pinfold** (part of the Crossroads improvement scheme). This structure was built in 2007 on the site of an old pinfold which was used to secure stray animals. Here you will find a colourful panel providing more village history.



**3** Archbishop Harcourt built this **school** in 1846 to replace an older school (see No. 4).

**4** The original **school** built in 1763 became a house for the school master. In 1893, it was converted into three houses numbered 8, 10 & 12 School Lane.

**5** Site of the former **village green** and once home to the annual fair. In 1968 the **Library** replaced an air-raid shelter here. The **Sensory Garden** was created in 2006 as part of the Crossroads improvement scheme.

**10** **Wesley House** was the first

Methodist Chapel, completed in 1833. Prior to this, the congregation met in a granary. On completion of the 'new' church (see No.1), it was converted into two houses.



**9** The 18th-century **Sundial** was removed from Sundial Terrace and placed on the Co-op shop when it opened in the 1930s. There is an explanatory plaque on the shop wall.

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