A.J.C. Knew old Thomas, one of the village's oldest inhabitants, very well. The old man retired and was seated, one sunny day, in front of his small cottage on a bench. The local minister, passing by, saw a golden opportunity to give him a chance of repentance as his life neared its end. Old Thomas listened attentively to all the statutory punishments that awaited him, and then wheezed through his denuded gums: 'No, zur; You'm wrong. You'm wrong zur, I won't say that I might have to wail but — it will take 'em all their time to make me gash me teeth'.

Old Thomas was not a regular churchgoer, but once he went to a Harvest Festival where the visiting clergyman preached at inordinate length and in a condescending manner which did nothing to endear him to his audience. The clergyman stayed the night at the rectory, and the next morning walked down the lane to catch the carrier's cart at the turnpike. On the way he passed one of Thomas's fields, where the old fellow was at work just inside the gate. Having plenty of time on hand, the parson stopped to talk. 'You know my friend' he said, 'You English farmers should be more up to date and adopt modern methods. Otherwise you will be left all behind. Do you know I could buy better wheat all the way from America for fifteen shillings than you could grow for a pound!' 'I dare say you could, zur' replied Thomas quite placidly. 'And do you know, your honour, I could buy a better parment for tuppence than you could preach in a month o' Sundays'.

Mr. Sidney Middleton tells me that he has found three old coins in his garden at various times over the years. 6/8/91

7/8/91

An extract from a book on the History of Luppitt was typed and sent to Mr David Hone of 5 Abbey Road Dunkeswell, he sent it to Mr Sidney Middleton, who let me see it. It came from Dave's niece, Mrs Liz Ames of Boulding House, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent.

Harvest Frolic Led to Murder.

On Saturday night the 31st past, a Bloody murder was committed in the Parish of Luppitt, near Honiton, in the County of Devon, by one Henry Bishop in the Body of Hannah his wife. The particulars whereof are related as follows: Several Labourers were reaping in a field in the Parish of Luppitt, among whom was this Henry Bishop, whose deceased wife, with other Women, was also there binding Sheaves. One of the men (as usual in Harvest), often saluted the women, and sometimes indiscretely threw Bishop's Wife on the Ground; which was not very pleasing to him, who conceited he was wronged in the tenderest part. After the Labour of the Day was ended, the Women went to their respective homes, and Bishop soon after repaired to his, where finding his wife asleep, her head resting on a Table, he instantly drew his Knife, and cut her Throat from Ear to Ear. Struck with horror at his Guilt he ran to a neighbour (one George Bradley) crying out "What shall I do? What shall I do? I shall be hanged! I have killed my wife!" Adding that if he could plunge a Knife two inches into John Pulman's heart, he should be content and easy. The People amazed at his outcry and Behaviour, presently ran to his house, where they found the deceased murder'd as he said; which through the Astonishment they were at first in, they neglected to do. But it was then too late, for during their absence he fled. However he was the night after taken, and this day brought to High Gaol. The Coroner's Inquest have brought it in Wilful murder by the hands of the Husband. A second Account

says that he failed in his first Attempt to cut her throat and in a Scuffle which ensued she got a wound on her thumb; and that he gave her several wounds over her face 'ere he could accomplish his Design of cutting her Throat.

1754 The Oxford Journal 14 September 1754

Letter received about Church organ

Organ

3 Stable Cottages
Terra Nova
Jodrell Bank
Holmes Chapel
Cheshire CW4 8BT

01477 71654

25th September 1991

Dear Mr Wall

I am researching the history of the London organ builders Thomas S. Jones and son and compiling a catalogue of their instruments. The firm was in business in Pentonville Road (later Hanley Road, Islington) from 1854 until the late 1920's and built upwards of 250 organs, some under their own name and some under the trade name 'St Cecilia'.

I know from the few records which have survived that an organ was supplied to Lupitt Church, probably around the turn of the century. I should be most grateful if you could let me know whether the instrument is still in position and in use, or if not, what became of it. It would be most helpful if you have any information, to know whether it has been restored or altered at any time.

I enclose s.a.e. and look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully
G.F. HOWE

My reply 8/10/91 (11-76)

Dear Sir

I was most interested to get your letter about Lupitt Church organ from our Vicar, the Rector of Dunkeswell as well Rev N Wall. I have been a churchwarden at Lupitt for many years, and after the war started collecting all the information I could find about my church and parish. Yes, the organ is still in my parish church and in regular use, played by both my sisters, Mrs Thorne and Mrs Blaff.

From our Vestry minutes I can say that a new organ was recorded as being provided at a meeting

1884 on 30th March 1884, but this would not have been

See also
I 58 140
III 66 148
IV 104
lists

Listed Buildings Survey
list as on March 1988

Buildings of special architectural & historic interest

ST 10 NE

East Devon — Luppitt ~~6/37~~

Antelope Cottage	6/37	II	Page 30
Apple Trees	6/38	II	" 30
Barbers	6/69	II	" 57
Barn	6/39	II	" 31
Barnfield	6/40	II	" 32
Church, St Mary	6/73	I	" 60
Combeshead	6/41	II	" 33
Cuckoo Cottage	10/85	II	" 68
Ford Bridge (Pt Monkton)	10/42	II	" 33
Greenway	6/43	II*	" 34
Higher Shelvin	10/45	II	" 35
Huggins wick	10/81	II	" 64
" Barn & cider House	10/82	II	" 65
Langford Bridge	10/46	II	" 35
Lower Shelvin	10/47	II	" 36
Lower Wick	10/83	II	" 66
" " Stables etc	10/84	II	" 67
Littletown Cottage	6/48	II	" 37
Little Thatch (Tolpuddle)	6/55	II	" 42
" " (Beacon)	6/72	II	" 59
Mathays	6/50	II	" 39
Mohuns Ottery	6/51	II	" 39
" " Gatehouse	6/52	II*	" 40
" " Cider House	6/53	II	" 40
Mountstephen	6/54	II	" 41
Pilgrim Cottage (Tolpuddle)	6/55	II	" 42
Post Office	6/79	II	" 63
Pound	6/56	II*	" 43
" Barn	6/57	II	" 44
Pugs (Beacon)	6/72	II	" 59
Pulmans (")	6/70	II	" 58
Pulshays	10/58	II	" 45
Red Doors	6/68	II*	" 55
Rolls Hayes	10/59	II	" 46
Shapcombe	10/60	II	" 47
Shelve Cottage	6/61	II	" 48
Smithenhayes	10/62	II*	" 49

Stoneacre	6/63	II*	Page 50
" dinhay	6/64	II	" 52
Tapster water Cottage	6/55	II	" 42
Telephone Kiosk	6/80	II	" 64
Town Cottage	6/79	II	" 63
Wainwrights Cottage	6/72	II	" 59
Whitehall	10/65	II	" 53
Woodhayes	10/66	II	" 54
" Cottage	10/67	II	" 54
Wirens	6/71	II	" 59

The above properties are listed together with those of the parishes of Cotleigh Dunkeswell Monkton Upottery and Yarcombe.

The principles of selection for these lists are
(a) All buildings before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition.
(b) most buildings between 1700 and 1840 though selection is necessary
(c) between 1840 and 1914 only buildings of definite quality and character
Selected buildings of 1914 to 1939 are also considered.

Grade I These are buildings of exceptional interest. (Less than 5%)

Grade II These are buildings of special interest which warrant every effort being made to preserve them. (Some particularly important buildings in Grade II are classified as Grade II *)

'Listed buildings' are often occupied buildings.

'Scheduled ancient monuments' are buildings or other structures scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts. They are usually unoccupied.

Very detailed descriptive notes of each property are given in the lists.

From Page 103

the one to which you refer. The next mention of a new organ is at a meeting on 24th August 1908 when it was stated that a gift of £85 had been promised conditional on a decision to purchase a new organ. The parish was to get £35 and the Vicar £50. I assume that the total cost was £170. A further note at 8th March 1909 says that the organ was to be erected in the South Transept, and it is still there today. A plate on it has,

Organ

Thomas S. Jones and Sons, Marlborough Organ Works, Upper Holloway, London, N.

I hold the estimate details of the complete dismantling and overhaul of this organ by Geo. Osmond & Co Ltd. of the Church Organ Works at Taunton, who have tuned and maintained it for many years. This estimate is of 8 typed pages, and also following are testimonials of 14 pages. The total cost of the work then done was £305; this was carried out in 1954. Later when mains electricity reached the parish, an electric motor and blower was installed ~~was installed~~ by Osmond's, in 1958.

1958

I note that they say the instrument has nearly 600 pipes, and that action wires replaced would be of phosphor bronze. I hope the above will be of help to you.

Yours sincerely
John Sage

Poem

The following is probably remembered from The Young Peoples Column of Pulman's Weekly News perhaps about sixty years ago –

Is'nt it strange that a policeman can
By holding up one hand,
Stop the flow of traffic reaching
Half way down the Strand,
And yet at home with both hands raised
He's powerless to stay,
The flow of words that great Rum
When his wife will have her say.

organ Further letter about Church organ.

10th October 1991

Dear Mr Sage

Thank you so much for your most helpful letter. I was very interested to learn that your sisters are the organists at Lupitt; it may explain my own interest in the subject if I tell you that my sister and I are as far as we know the last living descendants of Thomas S. Jones. I wonder whether you would be prepared to photocopy the pages from your Vestry books, etc, about the organs (both the 1854 and 1908/9 entries) and the correspondence with Messrs Osmond for me? I should be most grateful if you could do this. Most towns have a shop which will do photocopying at about 10p per sheet. I would of course be happy to reimburse your expenses and also make a contribution towards your Church funds. I enclose a photocopy of a leaflet dating from about 1900 which may be of interest (please do not trouble to return it). With best wishes

Warm greetings

G F Howe

Dear Mr Howe 29/10/91

I am sorry for the delay in sending the photocopies which you asked for, the explanation being that I was able easily to get the Geo. Osmond details copied at Honiton our local town, but the actual Vestry minute books are deposited at the Devon Record Office at Exeter, and as yet I have not been able to get to Exeter. The information given you in my letter of the 3rd I was able to obtain from notes previously made and I have with me. A few years ago I made a point of going through these minute books and making a note of the date of every meeting held since 8/4/1858 and of the important business discussed for my own reference purposes; and then returned the books to the Record Office. However I am hoping to get to Exeter sometime this week, and am writing this in anticipation so that having obtained the copies I can first post straight away. I trust that the enclosed will meet your requirements, and if at any time you are in Devon, I would be pleased to meet you at Lupitt Church, should you wish to see the organ. Yours sincerely John Sage.

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Organ. Reply to above

Dear Mr Sage 10th November 1991

A thousand thanks for all the trouble you have been to on my behalf. I really am most grateful. The material you sent me is most interesting – even more than I had hoped for. I have returned the form to the Devon County Archivist as you request. I enclose a cheque for £10: this represents your expenses incurred, plus a small donation towards your Church funds. I should love to see the Church and the organ, as you so kindly suggest. I hope to be staying with friends in Somerset next summer perhaps I might come over during the holiday? I will telephone you nearer the time to see if we can arrange a convenient appointment.

I thought you might be interested to hear a few details of how the work is progressing. In the Anglican churches I have now positively identified 36 organs as being still substantially unaltered and still in use. 25 have been dismantled or much altered. 3 sadly, were burnt out: two as a result of bomb damage during the Blitz. I am still awaiting news of 28 more. I hope to start on the Free Churches soon.

With all best wishes and renewed thanks
Warm greetings Gerry Howe

1302A/PVI Burrough

James Burrough April 15 1787

Steal not this book
For fear of shame
For here you see
The Parish's name

Luppitt.

The above was written at the beginning of one side and on the other cover a large 8 nearly 3" high was marked, possibly indicating that there were seven earlier Vestry minute books which have not survived.

2/12/91

1302/A P.V.I. 1768 to 1820

On 6th November 1991 I was able to borrow from Devon Record Office Luppitt Parish Vestry minute book dealing with 215 meetings and separately listed important items from 1768 to 1820 not previously noted.

A few of the more important matters referred to.

See VOL III P 105	6	4	1768	44 Poor rates @ £5-0-1¼
	2	7	1770	John Bishop to have 1s-6d added a week to teach 21 poor childr
	12	7	1772	Richard Carter to be applied to for to cure Dorothy Cotterell of Kings Evil
	20	4	1774	no clothes bought without authority. Poor to wear badges.
P 119	24	5	"	Such poor persons as do not attend public worship have pay abri
Breach	26	7	"	Breach in churchyard bounds eastern bank be repaired.
Ceiling	3	6	1777	£3-5-2½ from Church Lands towards Ceiling of Church
	18	3	1778	Same as for 24/5/74 above. 'Constantly attend public worship
	1	4	"	£2-19-8½ to be applied towards Ceiling and other repairs.
Lathing	5	10	"	One guinea for scaffolding. John Gough to complete cieling
	25	1	1779	The body and isles of the Church shall be seated
Ceiling	24	12	"	John Gough paid lathing & plaistering 217 yds £10-17s John Clapp £3-2-
	6	3	1782	Ann Lee to be lent bedstead of Late James Rows
	20	5	1783	John Farrer to be paid £1 per quarter for teaching 16 poor childre
	26	4	1785	Mr Robert Pearse (Surgeon) to be Doctor for poor of parish.
	9	4	1788	2d for every poor child, not to exceed £4 a year for teachin
Dearth of corn	22	6	1795	Great dearth of corn for bread. Overseers to buy, sell at 7s. bushel
	15	11	"	Overseers to buy 30 bushels of good barley, potatoes & bacon.
	19	4	1796	Ann Quick & Sarah Sanders to inhabit Church House. Clean.
	8	10	1797	See over page 110./Amputation & Capital operations excepted.
Doctor	4	5	1798	Doctor at £5-5s per ann. Small pox, midwifery, Compound Fraction
	19	6	1799	John Clap to do no more. Slat 18" long not least than ⅝" thick. Gain 3"
Slating	26	6	"	Slating N Aisle James Hurford £3-12s per sq. 500 slats 6¾" long.
	8	10	"	Slating part of S Ile. James Hurford at £3-15s per sq.
	2	5	1800	no clothing or tools without meeting. William Searle £4 yr to tea
Corn	11	6	"	Quantity of corn to be bought for use of poor
	15	6	"	Barley at 6s per bushel. Half peck to grown person ¼ p child
	23	6	"	Clothes, shoes, changes, shirt, and some to have scythe
	27	6	"	Refusal to pay surgeon's bill. neglected. Charges enormou
Modus	1	9	"	Modus to be in box with 3 locks. In Ch. coffer. 3 keys to othe
	8	4	1806	William Robbins of Upottery to give advice on repairs to Ch
	6	6	"	John Robins estimate for repairs to tower too high.
Tower	5	3	1807	Repairing the Tower. W. J. & C. Summerhayes at 3/6 per day
Slating	16	6	1808	James Hurford to slat S side of Church £4-17-6 per square
	4	4		Take down South Ile end wall and put up the same
Volunteers	29	12	1812	names 13 volunteers under Rt. Hon Lord Rol
Poor House	9	4	1818	House for poor. Apply to Lord of Manor for plot on common
	1	9	1818	Mr Lee of Honiton for plans for 3 or 2 or 1 poor dwellings
	17	2	1819	To rescind all resolutions respecting building a poor house
Bells		"		Repairs to Church House and the cage of the bells.

Suffitt Parish. A Design for Binding Apprentices -

Lists and that contributions shall be paid when estates are under
Apprentices at the Rate of two shillings for every twenty
(other than Cottages or Tenements not rated in more than a

8/10/1797 See P 117

Apprentices

Owners or Occupiers as on Rate	Estates as on Rates	Amount of rate £	s	d
William Hawker Esq	Mohuns Ottery & Spurtham	0	10	4
	Shaugh	0	3	0
	Shead	0	2	2
	Whitehall	0	1	4½
	Harperfields	0	0	5
	Dowmans	0	0	4½
	Whitcombe & Bridge	0	1	11
	Streets ?	0	0	6
	Thatchmoores	0	1	8
	Hillend and Symonsland	0	1	0
	Woodhayes	0	0	9½
	Ambrose Burrows	0	0	5¼
	Mill Tenement	0	0	5
	Kitland	0	0	3¼
	Shaugh late Braddicks	0	1	2
	Jeffrey Moore	0	0	0¾
	Norwood meadow	0	0	1½
	Part of middle Ford	0	0	3¼
	late Huggins at Weeke	0	0	2
	Smallcombe	0	0	5¾
	late Byrds at Shaugh	0	1	4½
	Newlands	0	0	2¼
	late Byrds Ford	0	0	5½
	late John Huggins at Weeke	0	0	8
See III 120 ↓ Church Burial Registe: 19/1/1767	Sir John Duntze Bart.	Everday	0	1	0
	James Thomas Benedictus Norwood Esq	} Gdle	0	1	1
		new Lease	0	0	6
	Mr James Townsend	Moorlands	0	2	0
	William Davy	Mill Millhayes & Ground	0	1	2½
	Mr Chr Flood	Weeke	0	0	3½
		Princes meadow	0	0	0½
		Everlangs	0	0	6
		Butkins	0	0	1
		Plashford meadow	0	0	0½