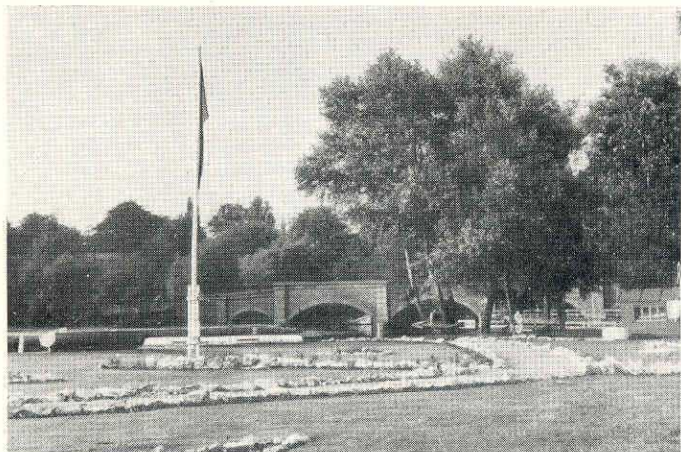


# OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE PARISH OF BARROW-UPON-SOAR LEICS.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY G. F. COCKS



THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER

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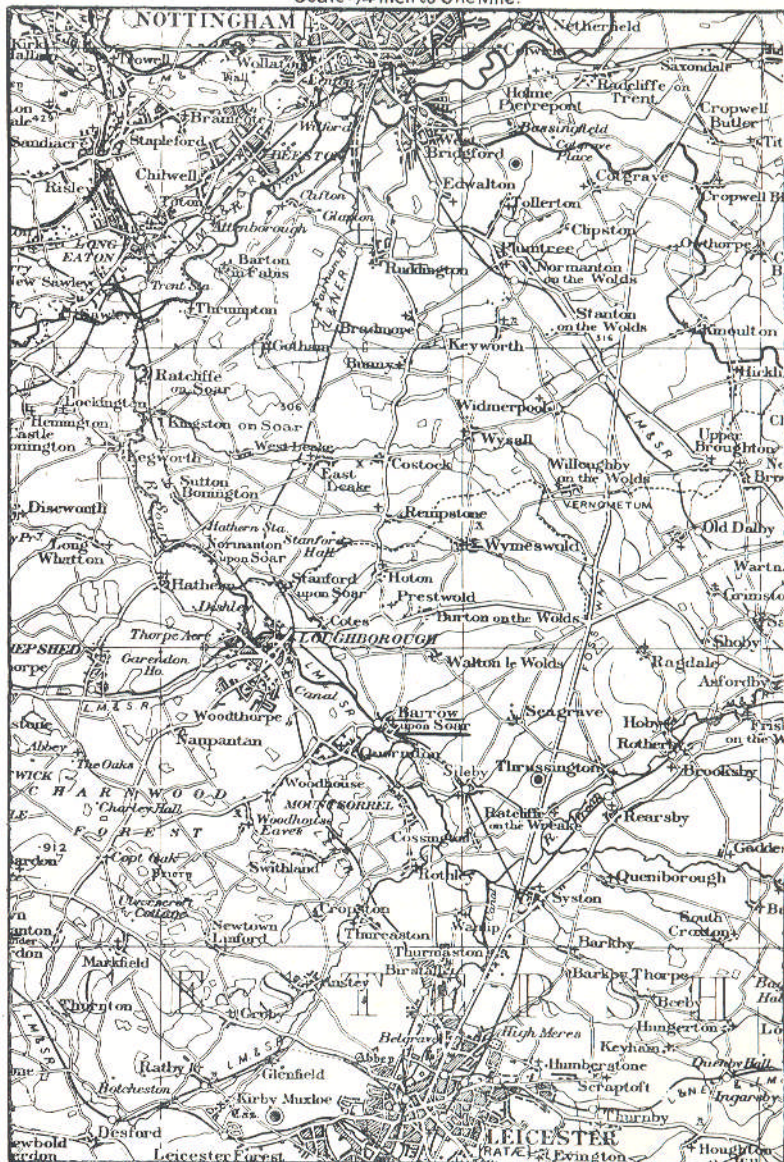
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Scale: 1/4 Inch to One Mile.



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# BARROW-UPON-SOAR

The parish and village of Barrow-upon-Soar commands a very pleasant situation upon the River Soar, its position allowing of easy access to the larger centres lying around it. Known in past years as Barogh-on-Sore, Barow, Barewe-upon-Sore, Baro, Barrough, and entered in Domesday Book as Barhoo, the name is derived from the old word "barrow"—signifying a burying place.

In his most interesting History of the parish, published to aid the funds of the Barrow Nursing Club, the late Mr. R. H. Bennett surmises that the burial place may, in the first instance, have been that of the Druids, "who came along what is now Pawdy Lane (or the Great Salt Way through Seg's Hill—Six Hills—one of the oldest roads in England) to their annual feasts on Beacon Hill, through what would be at that time a dark forest, or the Roman soldiers as they marched the same way to convey the salt from the mines at Droitwich. Some historians lean to both as having used Barrow for this purpose, and we know the Romans often visited Barrow for the burning and burying of their dead, as remains, along with Roman pottery, urns, etc., have been found in the lime delphs, and the latter articles may be seen in the museum at Leicester."

To the visitor to the parish, the late Mr. Bennett is helpful in his comment on the situation of Barrow-upon-Soar, recommending that it be viewed from the Quorn footpath, with Barrow Bridge and the River Soar in the foreground, making a fine picture, especially in the summer time, with trees of varied hues and the pleasure boats skimming along the river from the bridge to Barrow Deep.

The history of the manor of Barrow-upon-Soar may be traced back to 1066, when it was one of the four large manors mentioned at the beginning of the reign of William the Conqueror. In 1068 the manor of Barrow became the property of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, the nephew of William, this first Earl dying in 1101. The manor passed through the hands of six succeeding Earls of Chester, then into the possession of William de Albanio, then to Roger de Somery, Baron of Dudley, in 1272. Through the centuries it changed hands again and again, until it was sold by the Hastings and Huntingdons in 1840 to Joseph Parker, the last lords of the manor to live here being the Warners, of Quorn Hall.

The " Rules of Barrow Manor " contain some interesting items which are quoted by the late Mr. Bennett in his History. One such lays down that " No person shall let any manure lye in the streets more than ten days. No butcher or other person shall throw blood or other garbidge or nastiness in the streets. No person shall throw any muck or ashes or make any muck heap in the streets. Every inhabitant shall, upon every first Saturday in the month, clean the causeways belonging to his house, and shall take away the dirt within four days after." It was also ordered that no one shall have



HIGH STREET

a candle in his barn without a lanthorne, and that no person shall sing any hogs within the town streets."

Admirable as these regulations may have been at the time they were formulated, they certainly have a queer sound in the ears of people of today, with modern ideas of hygiene.

The village of Barrow-upon-Soar was first lighted by gas in 1863, the lights going up on the occasion of the marriage of their late Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Electric light came many years later, the houses being first



illuminated by this means in 1927. The railway came to the parish in 1840, and in 1868 it was widened to four lines under the direction of John Crossley, who was chief engineer, and who built Barrow House and lived there for a number of years.

It has only been possible, in this short introduction, to make a brief survey of some of the many points of interest which apply to the parish as a whole, but in the following section more detailed information is given regarding the amenities, public services, etc., and by this means it is hoped that the reader will be able to summon up a comprehensive picture of Barrow-upon-Soar.

## LOCAL INFORMATION

**Accessibility.** Barrow-upon-Soar is situated just under 110 miles away from London and is served by the London and Midland Region of British Railways. Some comparative distances from other centres are: Loughborough, 3 miles; Leicester, 10 miles; Nottingham,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  miles; and Derby,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The River Soar, upon which the parish is situated, is navigable. The Barrow Canal was first cut in 1794, the work being undertaken by the Leicester Navigation Co. The canal was linked up with the Loughborough Canal, thus giving direct access by water to Birmingham, Hull and London.

**Area.** The parish covers a total area of 2,497 acres, which includes the 35 acres of water which lie within its boundaries.

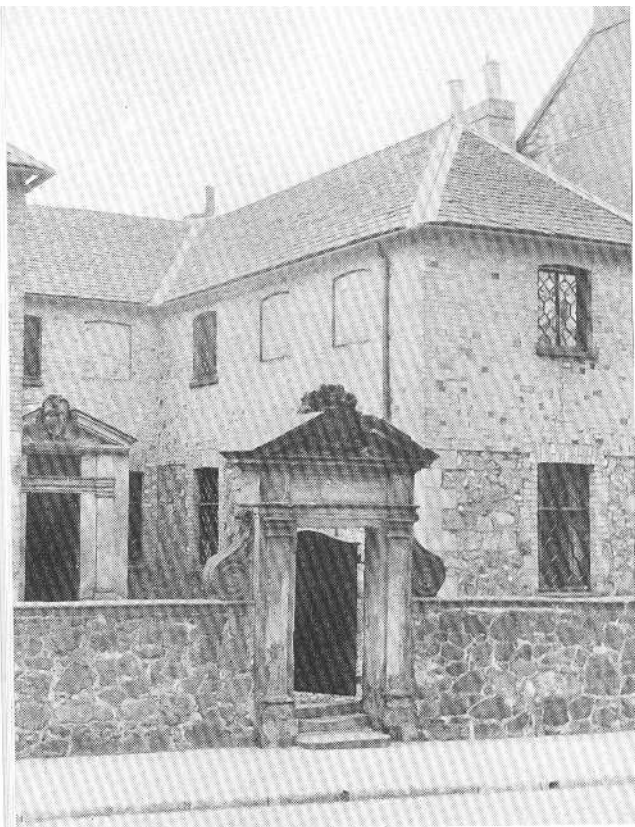
**Banks.** Banking facilities are provided by the branches of the Midland Bank, Ltd., and the Westminster Bank, Ltd.

**Charities.** Barrow-upon-Soar has a large number of charities, the total income from which amounts to a sum of approximately £900 per annum. The principal charity is known as the Hospital Charity, this being a bequest by Humphrey Babington in his will dated 17th August, 1686, the testator directing that an Almshouse be erected in Barrow for six poor men, who should have £8 per year for ever, to be paid weekly, for their maintenance, each to have a gown of blue cloth faced with white and have a load of coals yearly. A tablet erected in the church gives a full account of the will.

As the Charity increased in value the trustees erected another Hospital in North Street for aged women, these almshouses being built in 1825 at a cost of over £2,000.



BARROW-  
UPON-  
SOAR



OLD  
MEN'S  
HOSPITAL

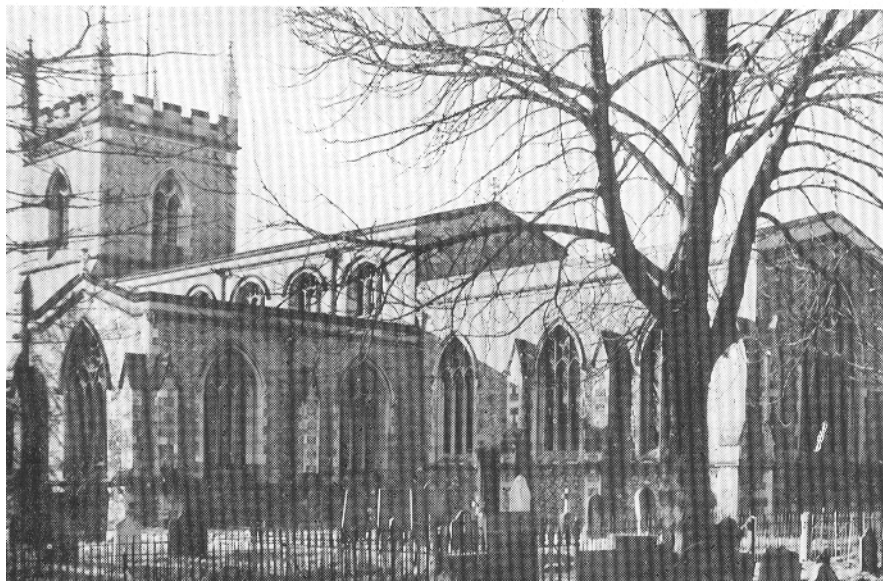
Other charities still extant in the parish are those of Bartholomew Hickling (to provide 19 Bibles for poor boys in various parishes, including Barrow) ; James Jackson (for schooling 6 poor children in Barrow) ; Thomas Rawlins (£1 per year for the poor of Barrow) ; and Bishop Beveridge (£2 for the poor of Barrow).

The sum of £10 per year was also left by Joseph Clarke for apprenticing a poor boy to a trade, and there are other bequests and charities, one of the most outstanding being the Barrow-upon-Soar Lands Charity, the Trustees of which have much benefited the parish in the past, especially in the matter of providing assistance for the construction of roadways and causeways.

**Churches.** The Parish Church is that of Holy Trinity, and there is a reference to a church standing here between the years 1135-1154, in the reign of King Stephen; the Registers, however, do not begin until the year 1563. The history of the church, published by Heywood Chilton to celebrate the eighth centenary of Holy Trinity, states that the early church, of which mention has been made, appears to have been cruciform with transepts and in all probability with a central tower. Towards the end of the century the central tower was taken down and a new one may have been erected at that time at the west end. The transept crossing was then thrown into the nave, and in this way a fourth bay was added, while the arcades were rebuilt and a chancel of approximately the present dimension probably erected.

The western piers were retained with slight alterations, but the eastern ones were fitted with new capitals and bases. The arches, which span the aisles at their junction with the transepts, suggest that new aisles of the present width were built at the same period. It seems likely that a considerable amount of rebuilding was carried out in the 15th century, as the modern tracery of the east window conforms to that

#### THE PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY





BARROW-  
UPON-  
SOAR

THE ALTAR  
OF THE  
HOLY  
TRINITY  
CHURCH

period. The clerestory, which has three light windows on each side, was probably added towards the end of the century.

A thorough restoration of the chancel was carried out in 1863 at a cost of £1,000. The tower was rebuilt five years later, but owing to the neglect of the builder the tower fell a week before Christmas Day, 1868, carrying with it a portion of the nave. Restoration of the main body of the church was now undertaken and the work completed in 1870.

The interior of the church contains much of interest, and mention may be made of the east window, erected in 1890; the carved stone reredos; the choir stalls, which are an excellent example of modern craftsmanship; the Church



War Memorial, unveiled by the Bishop of Peterborough in 1923; the 17th century altar rails; and the 17th century table used as the Altar of the chapel in the south transept.

The greater portion of the present building is in the Perpendicular style, but the north and south transepts are Decorated. The embattled western tower contains six bells, two of which bear the date 1642, three being purchased in 1620, 1692 and 1832, the sixth being added recently.

In addition to the Parish Church, Barrow-upon-Soar has the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Alban's, which was erected in 1839, a Baptist Chapel and two Methodist Chapels.

**Clubs and Societies.** Active in the parish is the Barrow-upon-Soar Working Men's Club and Institute, and the Conservative Club.

**Education.** Barrow-upon-Soar is fortunate in the possession of the Humphrey Perkins' School, which is a Secondary Grammar and Modern School under the Ministry of Education, a well situated block of buildings on Cotes Road, commanding grand views of the Charnwood Hills and Forest. The school was founded by Humphrey Perkins in 1717, when he left a farm at Ratchliffe-on-Trent for such poor boys as could read the Bible. The first school was built near the church.

In addition to the Humphrey Perkins' School there is a school to accommodate senior scholars and a Council School in Cotes Road.

**Indoor Entertainments.** For a great number of years the inhabitants of Barrow-upon-Soar have been accustomed to making their own entertainments, and this admirable custom still persists in the village, although, in these times, entertainment can, of course, be sought at the larger centres which are now well within the reach of the residents.

**Industries.** One of the principal industries of the area is agriculture, large crops of wheat, barley and beans being raised; another large industry was the production of lime and the manufacture of cement, many hundreds of men having been employed as lime workers at the delphs, and Barrow having been famed for the excellent quality of this product for over a thousand years. Among the numerous structures in England which have been erected with the aid of cement from Barrow are Margate Pier and many of the London tube railways. In addition there are light industries operating in the parish, such as the manufacture of hosiery and artificial stones.

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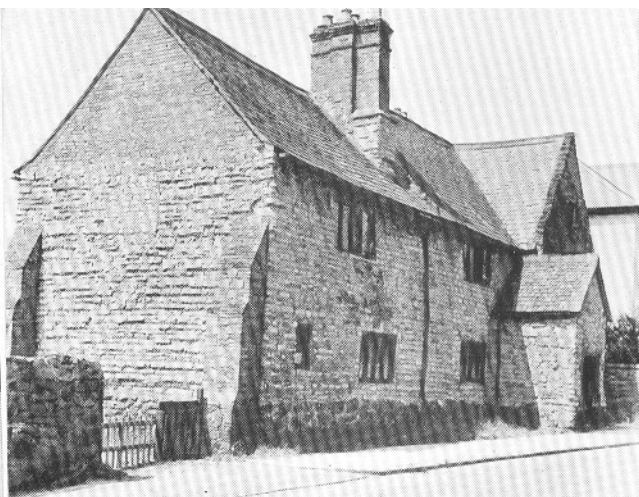
RIDING

PUTTING

RAILWAY, ETC.



BARROW-  
UPON-  
SOAR



THE  
HOUSE  
OF  
BISHOP  
BEVERIDGE

**Local Government.** Local Government in Barrow-upon-Soar is represented by the Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council. The Clerk to the Parish Council is Mr. C. Hollingworth, the Parish Council Office, Melton Road, Barrow-upon-Soar.

**Places of Interest.** There are a number of places of interest in the parish which the visitor should make an effort to see, and among these may be mentioned the Parish Church, the Hospital Buildings, the Humphrey Perkins' School, the House of Bishop Beveridge (a native of the parish) in Beveridge Street, and Barrow Mill. Bishop Beveridge was born here in 1636 or 1637 and went to St. John's College, Cambridge, becoming Prebendary of St. Paul's and Canterbury, and Bishop of St. Asaph from 1704-8. His grandfather, Johannes Beveridge, father and brother were successively Vicars in Barrow-upon-Soar, and he himself was at one time Vicar of Ealing and Rector of St. Peter, Cornhill. He died in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey on 5th March, 1708, and was buried in St. Paul's, where a brass plate to his memory can be seen at the side of one of the entrance doors.

**Population.** The population of the parish, according to the last available census figures, taken in 1931, was 2,661.

**Postal Services.** Barrow-upon-Soar Post Office is open daily, and here also both Telegraph and Money Order business is transacted.

**Public Services.** Both gas and electricity are available in the parish, and there is an abundant supply of pure water.

**Shopping Facilities.** Barrow-upon-Soar has its own representative shops where all day-to-day needs may be purchased, and the resident has no need to travel further for essential goods and services. It does, of course, occasionally happen that more ambitious shopping expeditions must be planned, and where this is so the inhabitants of the parish are fortunate in being within easy distance of larger centres where admirable shopping districts can be found.

**Soil.** The nature of the soil in the parish is chiefly clay, the subsoil also being clay.

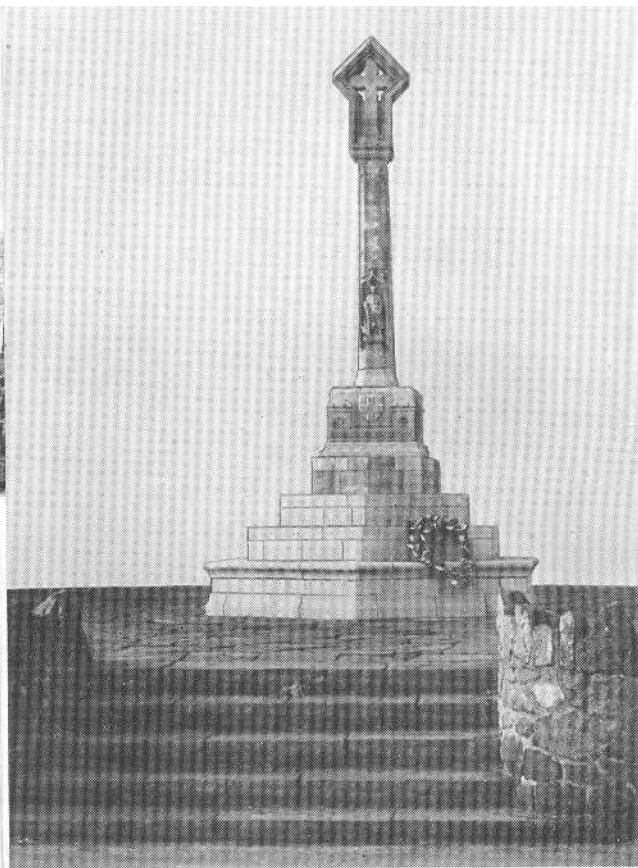
**War Memorial.** In addition to the memorial in the church, Barrow-upon-Soar has the Parish War Memorial, which takes the form of a cross, and which was unveiled by Lt.-Col. R. E. Martin, C.M.G., on Trinity Sunday, 22nd May, 1921. The Dedication Service was conducted by the Rev. T. Stone, M.A., the Vicar of the parish. Over seventy names of those who had fallen in the Great War, 1914-18, were read by Mr. J. T. Ball, the Chairman of the Committee.

During a gale on 4th January, 1925, the Memorial Cross was badly damaged and part of it had to be re-erected at a

HUMPHREY PERKINS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



BARROW-  
UPON-  
SOAR



WAR  
MEMORIAL

cost of £30, which was quickly subscribed by parishioners and friends. The deeds of the land and Memorial were handed over to the Parish Council by Mr. S. F. M. Stone.

ARTHUR L. WOOLF.

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*The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to both Mr. Heywood Chilton and the late Mr. R. H. Bennett, from whose publications certain of the facts contained in this narrative have been obtained.*

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*Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this guide, and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, the Publishers and the Promoters of this publication cannot hold themselves responsible for any inaccuracies.*



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