

## Shearsby Charity

Per. Analytical Digest of the Reports made by the Commissioners of Inquiry in Charities - Volume 1 Reports Nos. i to XXXII - see Report 32 Part 5 Page 321 (dated 1837):-

### Parish of Shearsby Charities of Ward and Another

The benefaction table (presumably a Parish list of local benefactors) states that Simon Ward gave £30, the interest to be distributed in coals to the poor of Shearsby on St. & Thomas's-day for ever; and that John Seale gave the interest of £30 to be distributed in bread to the poor on Christmas day for ever.

£30 Seale's Charity, was upwards of 50 year ago (which dates the Charity to pre-1797) laid out by the parish officers in the purchase of three small tenements in Shearsby, under one roof, situated at the entrance of the village from the Leicester road, with a small garden in the rear.

These buildings are in a very bad state of repair, and up to St. Thomas's-day 1836 were held

2 by the parish at the annual rent of £1-10-0, the premises having been occupied by parish paupers. These persons have now had notice to give up possession, and the houses will in future be let to tenants at their fair annual value, which is estimated to be about £3 for the whole.

The £1-10-0 has been annually expended by the parochial officers in coals, which have been regularly distributed on every St. Thomas's-day by the churchwardens and overseers among the poor of the parish, a preference being given to the most aged and widows.

Ward's Charity was in the year 1832 (date of origin not stated) disposed of as follows - as appears by an entry in the Stearsby parish memorandum book - viz:-

£20 in the purchase of a house and carpenter's shop, situated in a lane leading to the Old Crown in Stearsby; £14-0-2<sup>3</sup> for law expenses respecting the purchase; 9/- for journeys to Lutterworth; and the balance, £5-10-10<sup>3</sup> was retained by the parish, at interest at five per cent.

The above premises (house & carpenter's shop) have likewise been held by the parish, who for them and the interest of the £5-10-10<sup>3</sup> have paid the sum of ~~£20~~ £1-10-0 per annum, which has been

3 expended in bread and distributed at Christmas by the churchwardens and overseers among the like class of poor who are admitted to the local charity.

In future, the house and workshop will be let at their fair annual ~~rent~~ value, which is estimated to be about £1.10.0.

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That is all I can find out about your "Shearby Charity"; the words in brackets are my own. If you wish to check the above a copy of the report should be in the reference library in Bishop St. - I think.

The "benefaction table" - may be held by the parish church, or by local authority dealing with Shearby.

There seems to be no reason why this Charity should still not be operating - charities are held in perpetuity. It would be interesting to find out how the income is now applied. If not applied for the original purposes the trustees of the Charity should have applied to the Charity Commission for a cy-près scheme (i.e. alternate charitable purposes.)  
Hope this is of assistance.