

Luddenden and Luddenden Foot. "I don't think this will benefit us at all. It will be much quicker for people to go to Luddenden Foot. Quite frankly, I don't think they will ever build any houses in Luddenden itself. The lie of the land makes this very difficult," said Mr. Wormald.

Social life

There is not a great deal of social life in the village. I was told. It mainly centres on the working men's club, the 17th-century public-house and the church. For most of their entertainment the people flock into Halifax. But for employment Luddenden is in a very happy position. There is industry right in the village itself, more at Luddenden Foot and more still in Halifax.

"On the whole we are not too badly off. Generally speaking this is a village of satisfied people," said Mr. Wormald.

And for the housewife, too, Luddenden offers considerable scope with seven shops selling a variety of goods. They mostly carry a fairly large stock with a wide variety of choice.

But the shoppers of Luddenden, like everyone else, have to pay a lot more for what they want than in years gone by. Mr. Wormald has a price list which belonged to his grandfather and the offers include: Oatmeal at 1½d. lb., butter 1s. 10d. lb., and tins of salmon at 8d. and 10d. each!

Luddenden is extremely proud of its parish church—

built there and because it fell into disrepair, the present building was erected. For the past 26 years the Vicar of the church—St. Mary's—has been the Rev. J. M. Wormald.

the village. If it were looked after a little better this could be a place where tourists could find a great deal of enjoyment. "Already we get many art

five chapels in the parish. Luddenden parish is one of the modern standards. The boundary stretches from near Warley to Wadsworth area once covered the



Enthusiasm

"We all enjoy the work and I think it adds to the enthusiasm of the church life. It makes you feel a part of the place," he said.

Another tradesman in Luddenden is 24-year-old Mr. Brian Sellars, who opened his own butcher's shop there 18 months ago. His establishment is at 61, High Street.

Before launching into business he worked as a butcher in Halifax Borough Market. "The shop was for sale and I was looking round for a place — so here I am," he told me.

He went on: "I thought this was a good place to start. I get on very well with the people and really enjoy running my own concern. Of course, there are drawbacks, and I don't think I am any better off, but it has always been an ambition to work for myself."

At first many of the villagers were rather doubtful about Mr. Sellars because of his age. Now he says they are "coming round." The bulk of his trade, however, is order business and he delivers over a wide area.

In between

He added: "I think Luddenden is a very nice village, but I would not want to live there. It's a little off the beaten track and an in-between place—in between Halifax and Hebden Bridge. Many people find it very attractive."

Mrs. Gertrude Moore, of Lynton House, has lived in the village for 27 years. Her husband, Frank, is a trustee of Luddenden Working Men's Club and works at Thornber Brothers Ltd., Mytholmroyd.

"The club is popular in Luddenden and forms a valuable part of the village social life. Membership is quite high and the place is prospering. Activities include the visits of bands, singers and concerts," she told me.

Mrs. Moore finds Luddenden particularly attractive because it is close to both town and country. But, she said, "There is not very much



ABOVE LEFT: Mr. Albert Wormald cuts a tasty slice of ham in his shop at Luddenden. He says: "Generally speaking this is a village of satisfied people." Mr. Wormald is the fourth generation of his family to look after the store. LEFT: Miss P. Oakley, headmistress of Luddenden Junior Controlled School, with some of her senior pupils in the school library—one of the finest to be found in any school in the district. It contains 800 books.

going off for the younger people. They go into Halifax for most of their fun. I think the village as a whole leans towards Halifax and looks to the town for a lead."

Mrs. Moore has a daughter, Gillian (20), and a married son.

Lock-ups

Luddenden Controlled Junior Mixed School was built early last century, but incorporated in the structure are the old village lock-ups with Midgley and Warley inscribed over their doors.

Miss P. Oakley, the headmistress for the last six years, said: "We have 54 children, two part-time teachers and myself."

"The school is unusual in one respect. Because the village is divided the children come here from Halifax and the West Riding. They take the examinations for the area in which they live and we have to keep two registers in each class."

Miss Oakley went on, "The pride and joy of our school is the library. It is quite outstanding for a junior school with hundreds of books on many different subjects."

"It was made out of a spare room in the school and the children are encouraged to use it as much as possible. They know where to go for

The Vicar of Luddenden, the Rev. J. A. Kings, is a man of action—even when it comes to doing repairs to the church. Above he is seen with churchwarden Mr. A. E. Hurl at work on a repair job. Luddenden's present Parish Church is the third to stand on the same site.



almost any book or subject." The books are classified under various sections — history, geography, general knowledge, Scripture and nature study.

Miss Oakley added: "We do some group work here but the teaching is mainly individual work. One of the sheer joys of being here is the family atmosphere, and the relationship between the parents and the school is a very happy one."

"There is also a close connection with the church and



BELOW: A view taken in High Street, Luddenden. The working men's club is on the right. This club is a popular part of village life and provides a variety of social activity.

we have monthly services there to which the parents are invited. There is also a Christmas carol service which has become a tradition of the village."

Before taking up the Luddenden post Miss Oakley was at Central Junior School, Hebden Bridge.

The village has two schools. The other is the Infants School where the headmistress is Miss N. Copley, who has been there for eight years.

There are 31 children on the roll who come from a wide area, and two teachers.

Individual

Miss Copley said: "Because it is a village school the pupils get individual tuition. There is a wide range of ability but the aim is to bring them all up to the same level."

"And you get a nice type of child at this kind of school. Their backgrounds are good."

Although both village schools are certainly not modern structures alterations have been carried out at both places and now they fill the latest requirements.

The village of Luddenden has no real problems. Because of its quaint old-world architecture it could be made a popular spot for visitors. No doubt this will come under discussion in the future.

