

F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



• 21 Church Street •

18

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The Lawless family moved to Frodsham in the 1880s. Edward Lawless came from Darwen in Lancashire. The family may have moved because they were originally cotton weavers and the cotton industry hit hard times in the late 1870s and early 1880s. Edward opened a grocer's shop and confectionery in Main Street.

William Edward Lawless was the eldest of Edward's children, born in 1878 whilst the family still lived in Darwen. William worked as a grocer's assistant in his father's shop, and this is where we find him at the time of the 1891 and 1901 censuses. In 1902 William married Nessie Booth, a farmer's daughter from Dunham-on-the-Hill. At some time between 1902 and 1906 he acquired the premises at 21 Church Street and opened the baker's shop which has been here ever since.

The bakery appears in sale details of 1888. It is described as two houses, shops, yard and outbuildings, and part of the property was occupied by James Hough.

From information in the 1891 and 1901 censuses, we believe that the shop which was to become William Lawless's bakery was leased or owned by John Roberts, a greengrocer and cab proprietor. John Roberts lived further up Church Street in 1881, and by 1911 had retired to Chester with his unmarried daughter. James Hough, painter and decorator, who lived in part of the property at the time of the sale, is recorded as living there with his family at the time of the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses.

The bakery is listed in Kelly's Trade Directory of 1906. The premises are shown as occupied by William and his family on the 1911 census. From then onwards, the business is listed in directories, including Kelly's Directories of 1928 and 1939. Later guides such as the Official Frodsham Guide of 1960 include advertisements for the bakery. The business passed to William's two sons, Percy and Kenneth after William's death in 1946. After Kenneth's death, it was handed down to his sons, John and David, who have owned the shop until now.

Ad 1986



Sadly, the shop will close on 2 September 2017, marking the end of more than 100 years of baking to the same recipes in the same premises. The shop will be sorely missed.

The shop as it looked in the early 1900s



Sign hanging in the shop from the time when William only had one son, pre-1921



Lawless's with blind c. 1990s

