

FACT FILE

Sir Matthew William Thompson

★ Matthew William was born in 1820

★ He lived at Parkgate, Guiseley

★ He became the owner of the Bradford Brewery and a key player in the Bradford Textile Trade.

★ He was Lord Mayor of Bradford

★ Matthew William played a huge part in the Guiseley community where he lived - he paid for street Gas lighting to be installed, a new organ for St Oswald's Church, and most of the cost of building Guiseley Town Hall (now Guiseley Theatre.) He also founded Guiseley Brass Band, paying for uniforms and instruments.

★ He was Director of the Midland Railway Company and advocated for the building of the 'Forth Brige' in Scotland. He also was the first person to drive a train across the bridge.

★ Sir Matthew died suddenly in 1891, and after a service at Esholt, was buried in St Oswald's Church Yard where his grave can still be seen today.

