

## Thomas Hellyer

Thomas Hellyer was an Architect who lived and worked in Ryde, with a practice in Cross Street. He was responsible for the design of several buildings in the town and on the Island, as well as for some that are now sadly demolished:

- Holy Trinity Church, Dover Street, 1840
- St John's Church, Oakfield, 1841 original design, and extension in 1860
- Binstead Church, 1843, rebuild
- Ryde County Hospital, 1847(demolished 1995)
- Parsonage House Brading, 1848
- Oakfield School, School Street 1855 (demolished)
- The Chapels and Lodge in Ryde Cemetery, 1860 – not selected as the winning design
- St Saviour's Church, Shanklin, 1860
- Sturbridge House, home of Robert Yelf, 1861 – the house later became Little Appley School
- The Royal National Hospital at Ventnor, 1867 (closed in 1964, & demolished 1969)
- The Milligan Convalescent Home, 1880
- St Peter's Church, Havenstreet

Hellyer's skills were recognised on the mainland too, and he was called upon to design various houses, schools and churches in Hampshire and Dorset, and possibly even further afield in Berkshire, Kent and Yorkshire.

The following are attributed to Hellyer:

- St James Church, Seacroft, Leeds, 1843
- St Paul's Church Kingsclere, Hants, 1845
- St Mary's Kingsclere, Hants 1848
- Church of St Luke, Portsmouth, 1852
- Royal Naval Club, in Portsmouth, alterations 1871
- Cottage Grove School, Portsmouth 1873

Hellyer was born in Emsworth, Hants in 1811. He was made a Ryde Commissioner in 1854

He was the Honorary Architect for the Ryde Hospital for about forty years, was on the Management Board of the Ventnor Hospital, was a member of the Burial Board and Cemetery Committee, and designed the seal for the Burial Board.

Hellyer and his wife Harriett lived in a house called Bouverie in Melville Street, and later in Elmwood, Queen's Road. Their only child Harriet married and moved away to Warwickshire and then Yorkshire. His wife Harriet was buried 11 July 1889; Thomas was buried on 22 March 1894, aged 82, in the same grave. Hellyer's grave has a unique design, and has been cleared in order to read the inscription. The brambles have been allowed to become overgrown once more to protect its fine architectural features