



*Thorpe Mandeville Village Hall, 1996.*

SPCK reported that nationally two-thirds of the children of the poor had no schooling at all.

Thorpe's school development in the 1800s followed the national pattern of the church-provided *national schools*, the bulk of elementary teaching being undertaken by children under a certificated head teacher, few of whom were college-trained.

A national education system developed very slowly during the nineteenth century. Government grants started in 1833, although state schools were still not provided at that time. Elementary education relied on voluntary religious school societies, coupled with pupil teaching. The network of schools blossomed, thanks to the rivalry between the two main schooling organisations – the British and Foreign School Society (Nonconformists) and the National Society (Church of England). Good charity schools were sometimes found in rural areas, endowed by benevolent landowners or local