

The original school building, which had opened in 1815 on The Hill, had become too small and Canon Owen Davys, who had been appointed Rector in 1859, commissioned Edward Browning to design a new school, the main part of which still stands at the bottom of Brewhouse Hill and is now used as offices. Browning was also architect for the restoration of St Helen's Church in 1865.

The land on which the new school was built had been conveyed by the Abbey of Westminster to the rector and churchwardens of Wheathampstead in 1860 'to be applied as a site for a school for poor persons'.

Canon Owen Davys continued to be the driving force behind the new school for the first 52 years of its existence. When he died on 27 August 1914, the school logbook records him as the man 'who built these schools'.

For more about the founding and the history of St Helen's School, please go to the 'Local Research' section of this website.