

The Establishment of St Mary's Church, Allithwaite and Burial Ground.

In 2015, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Mary's Church in Allithwaite (Fig 1). The Church serves the Parish of Allithwaite and Kents Bank, and stands proudly as a beacon on the hill overlooking the village of Allithwaite. The Church was built in a period of religious revival and the enormous growth in population in the towns and cities, the result of the Industrial Revolution (1).

Prior to the 1850's, Allithwaite was no more than a small township on the cross-sands route to Ulverston and Barrow-in-Furness. Around that time there was a corn mill, quarry, and limekilns, with a coaching inn at Kents Bank (2) and the Royal Oak Inn (3) which will have been the meeting place for the locals. The inhabitants will have worshipped in the Priory at Cartmel, approximately 2 miles away. The community was about to change with the coming of the railway.

In 1853, a small chapel-school was opened (4) and until 1865 there were occasional services there conducted by the clergy of the Priory. Thus the authority of the Church of England was established in Allithwaite and provided a means of educating the working class children. For a short while too, the school room, now known as Allithwaite Institute, was a centre for the community, and the Temperance Society from Kendal took the opportunity to hold meetings there (5) and many enrolled.

Mary Winfield Lambert, a wealthy landowner, resided in the 'beautiful and pleasant seat of Boarbank Hall' (3). In the early 1850's Miss Lambert planned in her Will to provide the village with a church and school. She died in 1857 and bequeathed the funds for a grand church. However it took over 8 years before the first incumbent was installed in the Church. What were the factors associated the protracted completion of this project? This article

gathers information together from various sources to record the events associated with the establishment of the Church in 1865, and later the burial ground in 1888.



Figure 1 St Mary's Church, Allithwaite. Pat Rowland 2005

The Last Will and Testament of Mary Winfield Lambert

Mary Lambert died in 29th November 1857, after making a new Will on 6th Nov. and a codicil on 12th Nov. just before she died, bequeathing part of her estate to the foundation of a church and school in Allithwaite. The principal reason for the delay in the construction of the church was that Mary's Will was highly contentious. Consequently her step brother and sisters challenged it through the courts, thus delaying the settlement of the bequests. Mary started the process for establishing the Church by preparing an indenture to sell a parcel of land on the hill, called Little Templand, to 4 trustees for 5/- in May 1851. It was this indenture that was contested on 6 December 1858 on the grounds that Mary had effectively remained in possession of the land. Initially, in January 1860, the Master of the Rolls agreed that the indenture was contrary to law (6). The executors appealed to the court of appeal in Feb. / Mar. 1860 and the original ruling was overturned in May 1860. One of the prospective beneficiaries appealed to the

House of Lords who ruled that the indenture was not null and void in Feb. 1863. It was only in early 1863 that it was possible to commence the process for the construction of the Parsonage, Church and School with connecting School-house. Mary bequeathed the sum of £2500 to build the Church and £1500 for the Parsonage. She also left £5000 vested with the Bishop of Chester in Trust to provide an income for the Incumbent. The Bishop of Chester was also to have right to nominate the minister (Fig 2).

APPEAL CASE AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS:—In reference to this case, a report of which will be found in our 10th page, the *Ulverston Advertiser* says:—"At our request we have been kindly favoured by Mr. Thos. Woodburne, solicitor to the respondents, with the particulars of the different bequests constituting the sum of £12,500. which are as follows:—£2,500. for building a church at Allithwaite, in the parish of Cartmel; £5,000. for endowing the same; £1,500. for building a residence for the minister; £1,000. for building a school; £1,500. for endowing the same; £500. the interest of which to be applied in the purchase of books for the school; £500., the interest of which to be applied in the purchase of articles of clothing and coals, to be disturbed on Christmas Eve, amongst the poor inhabitants of the division of Lower Allithwaite."

Figure 2 28 February 1863 - Lancaster Gazette

Note: Allithwaite, in the Parish of Cartmel, was in the Diocese of Chester up to 1856. Then the deaneries of N. Lancashire and the Lake District were transferred to the Diocese of Carlisle at the time when Henry Villiers was appointed to the See (Wikipedia).

Tender to Builders

TO BUILDERS.
New Church, Parsonage, and Schools at Allithwaite, near Cartmel.
PERSONS desirous of Tendering for the whole or any portion of the WORKS of a NEW CHURCH, PARSONAGE HOUSE, and SCHOOLS to be built at ALLITHWAITE, near Cartmel, can see the Plans and Specifications at the Office of Mr. THOMAS WOODBURNE, Solicitor, Ulverston, or at the Office of the Architect, Mr. E. G. PALEY, of Lancaster, from Monday, the 22nd June instant, until Monday, July 6th, inclusive. Tenders to be sent to the said THOS. WOODBURNE on or before Wednesday, July 8th. The lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
Ulverston, 17th June, 1863.

Figure 3 Westmorland Gazette 17 June 1863

Once the Will had been proved following the successful appeal in the House of Lords in February 1863, the design could

be completed by the Architect (Mr E G Paley) and the request to tender could be published in the local press in June 1863 (Fig 3) by Mary's solicitor, Thomas Woodburne.

The Architect

The Architect, Mr Edward Graham Paley, worked in the Lancaster Practice of Sharpe & Paley, Paley, Paley & Austin and Paley Austin & Paley in the 19th Century. In the period from 1851 to 1868 he was the sole principal architect in the practise. He was said to favour the Gothic Revival style of the Middle Pointed or decorated period for most of his church commissions (7). Unlike his partners, who mainly designed churches, Paley undertook other commissions; for example he designed the new station at Kents Bank and The Grange Hotel around the time of the construction of the Church. He was later to be associated with the design of the Restoration of Priory in 1883, Grange Station rebuild in 1872 and Field Broughton new church in 1893 (1).

The Waller's strike

It is clear that the construction of the church had not commenced early in 1864 (8) and the project was further delayed. In February 1864 the local press announced The Wallers of Kendal were on strike 'for an advance of wages from twenty four shillings to twenty seven shillings per week (9). There was widespread condemnation of the Wallers as the public regarded 24/- as a good wage and there was pressure for them to take their dispute to reasonable arbitration. The article states that 'we could rejoice more if we could hear that they take good care of the money when they earned it' and later in the report it is implied that they were spending their wages on drink and not saving their money! The dispute lasted approximately 3 months and eventually the masters had to concede to

the demands of the men (8). The article states 'there is to be a new hotel at Grange and some important buildings are about to proceed at Allithwaite on the property of the late Miss Lambert, in accordance with her bequests.

Rearing supper in Cartmel

In October 1864, there was progress to report, as a rearing supper was held at Miss Pedder's Cavendish Arms in Cartmel to celebrate the construction of the Church, Parsonage and School. This supper was held at the expense of the trustees: J S Young of Kents Bank, and other neighbouring gentlemen. There were the usual toasts and song, and it was said that although 80 men were present not a single thing occurred to mar the evening's entertainment which continued up to a little after 11 in the evening! At this time, it was expected that the building will be completed in early Spring 1865 (10). The executors and construction team were listed as follows:

The Executors:

T Woodburne Esq (solicitor)
 Dr Dickinson
 Rev ... Berely (probably Rev S Reveley - Mary's friend from Cheshire)

The Construction Team:

E G Paley	Architect
H Gorton	Clerk of Works
C Baynes	Mason work
R Storey, Cark	Joiner
R Wright, Lancaster	Joiner
T Dickinson, Lancaster	Plumber
G Taylor	Slater & Plasterer
Mr Downward, Ulverston	Painter

St Mary's Church, Allithwaite

St Mary's Church, Allithwaite, is built in the Gothic style of architecture which prevailed in the 13th and 14th centuries known as the Gothic Revival Style. It consists of a nave 50 ft. long by 20 ft. wide, separated by a south aisle of the same length about 19 ft.

wide. At the western end is located a very neat stone belfry. The font, described as chaste and elegant, is carved from Lancaster stone. The chancel is divided from the nave by a moulded arch about 25ft. in length (11). An early plan view of the church site of approximately 1890 (Fig. 4), shows a small clergy vestry on the north side of the chancel. Access to the chancel from the vestry will have been through the small door at the side of the organ. The vestry was rebuilt in 1934 to provide separate clergy and choir vestries, with a vestibule and double doors into the nave next to the pulpit (12).



Figure 4: Plan of the Church and environs ca 1890

The seating accommodation was said to number 400 (13) or 450 (14)! Whilst today it is difficult to imagine how 400 parishioners could be seated in the nave, there will have been no more than that in the new Parish at the time of completion, as the population of Lower Allithwaite, incorporating Allithwaite and Cartmel, was estimated to be approximately 1000 (2).

The Lord Bishop of Carlisle, Dr Samuel Waldegrave, consecrated St Mary's Church, Allithwaite, at the 10:30 service on 29 June 1865. The Service was conducted by the Rev R C Hubbersty, incumbent of Cartmel, and the sermon was preached by the Bishop from Matthew 16, verses 13 onwards. The local clergy who attended the consecration were: Archdeacon Cooper of Kendal, Rigg of Flookburgh, Wilson of Broughton, Cooper of Staveley, Proctor of Penny Bridge, Pickering of Ulverston, Kirby of Haverthwaite and Binyon of Broughton Hall (11). The collection in aid of the

Bishop's Church building and Benefice Augmentation Society raised the amazing sum of £21 10s 1d (15). It is interesting to note that even the Consecration Ceremony appears to have been delayed from 25 March 1865, due to the illness of the Bishop (16).

An early photograph of the church interior (Fig. 5) shows the curtain behind the altar and dates it to pre-1912 when the oak panelling was fitted. Note also the window to the left of the pulpit, and the oil lamps.



Figure 5 An early view of the Church Interior – Mrs Lamb (pre-1912)

Right to nominate a minister

In 1865 St Mary's Church was located within the Parish of Cartmel. According to the various regulating Acts in place on the consecration of St Mary's Church, the Incumbent / Perpetual Curate of the Parish Church of Cartmel, the Rev. Robert Curteis Hubbersty, was entitled to nominate a minister in the new church in Allithwaite. To fulfil the terms of Mary Lambert's Will it was necessary to establish a Parish of Allithwaite and draw up an agreement to acknowledge the right of the Bishop of Chester to nominate the minister. The agreement between the interested parties:

- 1) Agreed in principle to the foundation of the District Chapelry of St Mary's, Allithwaite.

- 2) Agreed that the right to nominate the minister is vested in the Bishop of Chester, and his successors.
- 3) Acknowledged that the agreement allowed the Bishop of Chester to invest the £5000 legacy from Mary Lambert for the benefit of the Curate or Minister.

The agreement was signed by Rev. R C Hubbersty of Cartmel, William Duke of Devonshire, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, Samuel Bishop of Carlisle and William Bishop of Chester on 21 December 1865 and a copy of the agreement is in the Kendal archive (17). With this agreement in place and approximately six months after the consecration of the Church, The Bishop of Chester could now start the search for the first incumbent of St Mary's Church, Allithwaite.

Establishment of the District Chapelry

Another part of the jigsaw to establish the Church occurred in three months later. Queen Victoria, in Council held at Windsor on 12th March 1866, confirmed a District Chapelry to the Church of St Mary, Allithwaite, and gave authority for the Publishing of Banns of Matrimony and the Solemnization of Marriages, Baptisms, Churchings and Burials to be performed in the said Church (16). A Copy of the 'Schedule to Order in Council' dated 12 March 1866, assigning a District Chapelry to the Church of St Mary Allithwaite (WPR 94/4/4/4), is held in the Kendal Archive.

The Parish Boundaries were from Cart Lane along the high water mark to Humphrey Head, thence via Rough-holme to a point approximately south of Outerthwaite, thence to Applebury Hill , The Green, Rosthwaite, to the River Eea, north along the River Eea to the public footpath leading from Low Bank Side via Birkby to Templant, north along Templant

Road, then south-east along the road leading from Cartmel, north along Wartbarrow Lane to Fell Gate and thence south-east along Cartmel Lane from Cart Lane (16). The map below (Fig. 6) illustrates that the Parish covers a significant geographical area including Allithwaite, the small community of Kents Bank (in 1866) and a considerable number of scattered farms.

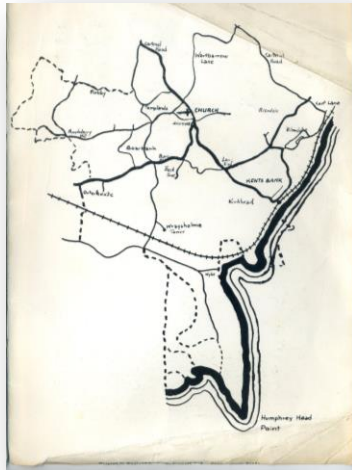


Figure 6: Allithwaite Parish Boundary (16)

Nomination of the first incumbent

The Rev. Robert Townson was appointed as a perpetual curate and the first incumbent at St Mary's Church, Allithwaite (Fig. 7). Robert was a local lad, brought up on the family farm in Crossthwaite and educated at Heversham, Sedbergh and Oxford University. He had taught at Rossall School and Lowther School in Askham and had previously been the curate at Grayrigg since 1860. Robert was a supporter of the Oxford Movement, indicating that the liturgy will have been of 'High Church' and probably similar to the liturgy practised today at Cartmel Priory (18). Rev Robert Townson's full story is presented elsewhere (18).

We understand that the Rev. R. Townson, M.A., Incumbent of Grayrigg, and formerly Foundation Scholar of Queen's College, Oxford, has been presented by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Chester to the Incumbency of the new church at Allithwaite, built and endowed by the munificent bequest of the late Miss Lambert, of Boarbank.

Figure 7 Announcement of Incumbent (19)

Note: Perpetual curates were clergymen nominated by the impropiator and then licenced by the bishop. Unlike rectors or vicars their income did not derive from the possession of tithes. Perpetual appointments could only be removed by the revocation of the bishop's licence.

The Parsonage



Figure 8: The original parsonage. Pat Rowland 1991.

£1500 was left in the bequest to provide for the building and furnishing of a residence for the minister. Mary Lambert must have imagined a fine residence was required as in contrast she only left £1000 for the school and a residence for the school mistress. The vicarage (Fig. 8) was described as a fine Victorian building with large lofty rooms, a garden of at least an acre and a coach house (20). Indeed it was a large residence; for example in 1871, it accommodated the Rev. Robert Townson and family, comprising of his wife, 8

children, aged up to 11 years old, and 4 live-in servants.

Allithwaite Institute

Soon after the school adjacent to the Church had opened, a reading room was established in the chapel school, which later became known as the Allithwaite Institute. The premises was also an important meeting place for the community, and the venue for festivities and entertainment, especially towards the end of the 19th century (21).

The Burial Ground Adjacent to St Mary's Church

The ratepayers of the community met in the Institute in 1888 to consider the question of providing a burial ground for the Ecclesiastical District of Allithwaite. The Rev. John Hammersley, chairman and vicar of Allithwaite, informed them of the Medical Officer of Health's report on the overcrowded state of the Cartmel Churchyard, and the consequent imminent closure. For future provision, it was thought that for country places it was better to have a burial ground near to the church as possible. The inhabitants were asked if they could raise voluntary contributions for the burial ground under the care of the pastor. The field adjacent to the church (Fig. 4), in those days divided into allotments, was owned by the vicar of Flookburgh and he would let them have the land at a nominal price (22). It was agreed to proceed immediately to secure the land, and a committee was elected: Rev. John Hammersley, (the second incumbent of Allithwaite), (secretary), T W Molyneux (treasurer), William Mason, Robert Storey, M Hudson, John Brough, John Bewley, T Crewdson (23).

One Saturday morning in May 1888 (12), the Bishop of Carlisle, Harvey Goodwin,

attended by his chaplains, attended a special service at Allithwaite (described as fairly well attended). He was greeted at the door of the church by clergy, wardens, the treasurer Mr Molyneux and the Choirmaster Mr Lamb with a petition praying that he would consecrate the burial ground. In the sermon, the Bishop congratulated the people of the parish on having a church, parsonage, schools and burial ground close together. Afterwards a procession proceeded through the ground to be consecrated, 'repeating alternately 49th Psalm'. The Chancellor of the Diocese read the Sentence of Consecration (a splendid document, WPR 94/4/4/3, held at Kendal Archive), and after a hymn the Bishop read the consecration prayer.

The note on Back of the Sentence of Consecration states: 'The written sentence was openly read and promulged (and signed sealed and delivered) at the Churchyard of Allithwaite within named on the day and year within mentioned by the worshipful Richard Saul Ferguson, MA & Master of Law Chancellor of the Diocese of Carlisle in the presence of Rev. John Hammersley, Clerk, vicar of Allithwaite, the Rev. Thomas John Cooper, Clerk, MA, vicar of Grange-over-Sands, John Bewley & Matthew Hudson Churchwardens and Thomas William Molyneux of Allithwaite Lodge Esquire and Robert Storey of Allithwaite and many others then and there present. Which Attest J G Mounsey Notary Public'.

The accounts (Tab. 1) show that the total cost of the burial ground amounted to nearly £164. The main subscribers were the Duke of Devonshire and the Furness Railway, whilst the locals raised over £73 towards the fund. The main expenditure in the project was the purchase of the land and the provision of the walling and railings around the half-acre site (24).

Table 1 Burial Ground Accounts (24)

Subscriptions	£163 17s 2d	Expenditure	£163 17s 2d
Duke of Devonshire	£40 0 0	Purchase of ground	£66 13 4
Furness Railway	£50 12 6	Walling, A Blair	£52 16 6
Sundry others	£73 4 8	Stone caps	£1 15 0
		Iron railing & painting same	£9 4 3
		Labour, Hudson & Thompson	£11 17 3
		Gravel paths, Hudson	£2 2 11
		Grass seeds, J Ray	£1 4 0
		Consecration by Bishop Carlisle	£14 5 0
		Forms	£0 8 11
		Registration book	£0 12 6
		Burial book	£2 17 6

T W Molyneux, Treasurer, 4 November 1890.

Conclusion



Figure 9: The Church & School. Pat Rowland 2005

The inspiration for the associated research arose from a booklet produced to celebrated the 125th anniversary of the Church by Ron Stevens, a warden at the time, entitled 'The History of the Parish of Allithwaite' (20). Subsequently, Canon David Ellis produced a lovely booklet in 2006 entitled a 'Brief Guide to St Mary's Church, Allithwaite' (12). The guide provides information on the memorials, windows, organ, vestries and other features of the Church. The modern Mary Lambert Hall, located to the East of the Church and attached to the school (Fig. 9), was funded jointly by the Education Authority and members of the Church. As well as the School Hall, it is a meeting place and a continuing reminder of main benefactor. The Victorian Vicarage was sold in 1980 and became a care residence for the elderly in 1984 (20). The Church has recently undergone extensive refurbishment and modernisation with a

generous legacy from Tom Howard. However, most importantly, the Church continues to have very strong links with the school and local community. Allithwaite Church has been the central driving force of community life in the Parish for 150 years, and remains vibrant to this day.

Phil Rowland May 2015 v1.

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