



# **ARKENDALE**

## **ITS CHURCH AND PEOPLE**

**by Ruth Wilcock**

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**Second Edition 2001**

*Transcribed with additional photographs  
by Gavin Holman - April 2020*

*Front page picture - the villagers – Coronation Day, 1911*

*Dedicated to the people of Arkendale,  
past, present and future.*

*May Alexandra, Lisa and Clara  
come to know and love their ancestral village too.*

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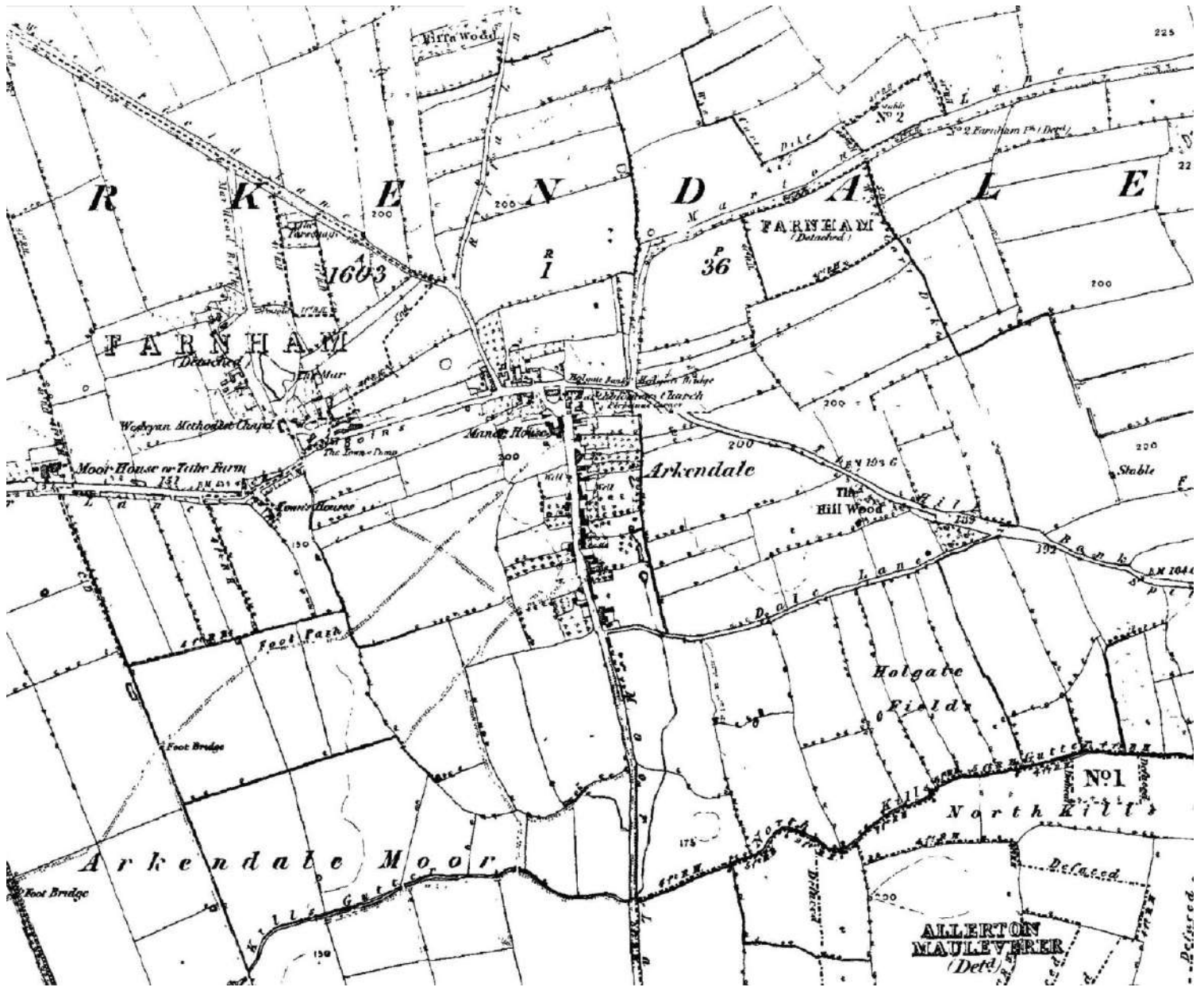
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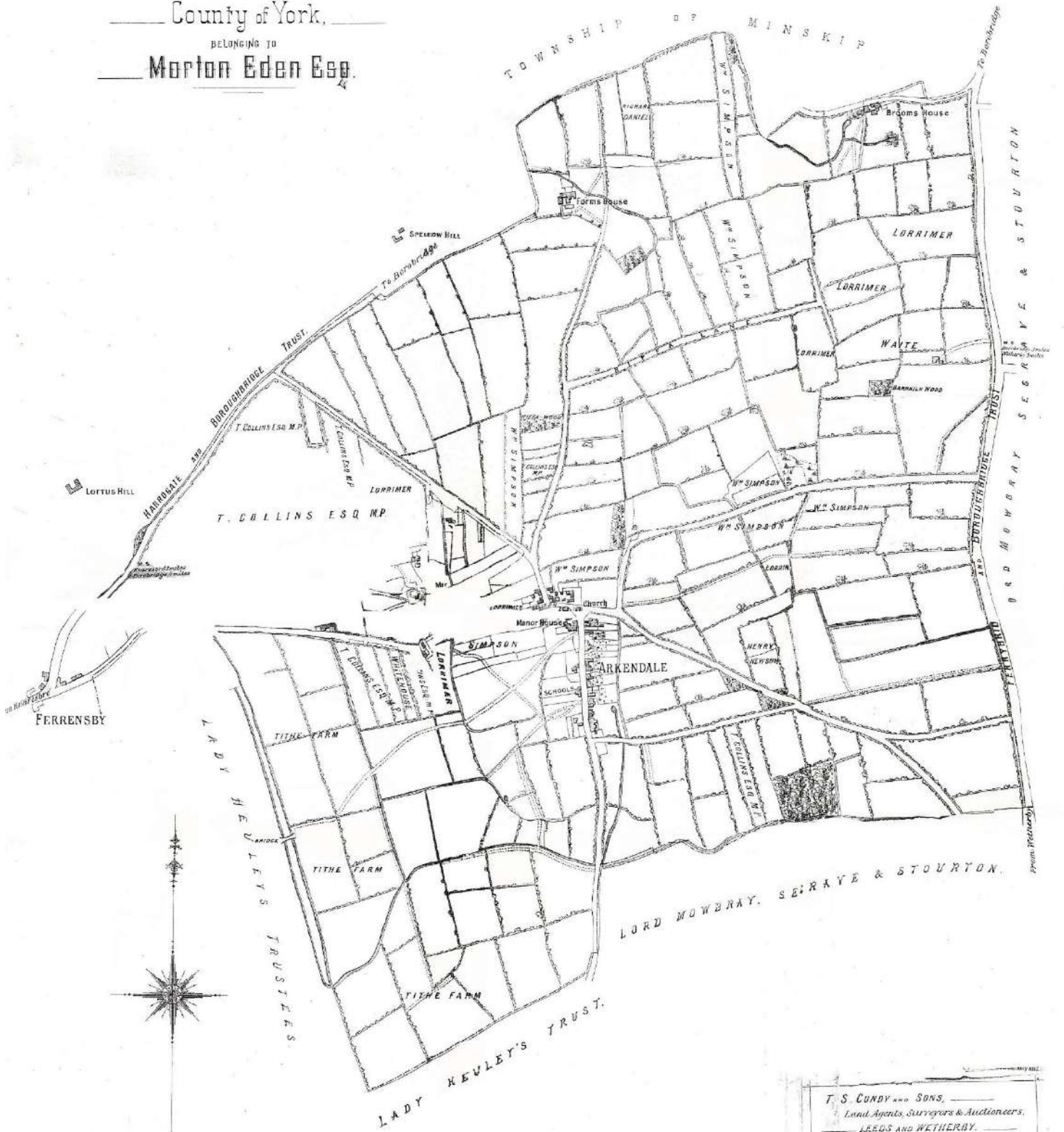
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Map of Arkendale c.1850

PLAN  
OF THE  
**MANOR OF ARKENDALE**  
— IN THE —  
County of York,  
BELONGING TO  
**Morton Eden Esq.**



T. S. CUNDY and SONS,  
Lead Agents, Surveyors & Auctioneers,  
LEEDS AND WETHERBY.

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# **ARKENDALE - ITS CHURCH AND PEOPLE**

## **Introduction**

Some years ago, when I found that my Towlard ancestors came from Arkendale, near Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, I must confess that I had to look on a map to find exactly where it was! I realised then that I had often been within a mile or two of the village, when travelling on the A1 road just south of Boroughbridge. We soon became regular visitors and have come to know Arkendale well. I discovered that my last ancestor at Arkendale died there in 1855 and the earliest arrived at the end of the 15th century. The more I found about my family history the more I became involved in the village's own history.

Arkendale became an obsession of the nicest kind! When I realised that the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church's rebuilding and consecration was in 1987 I decided that the time had come to write some of that history down! I hope also to write a book on the general history of the village. I should be glad to hear from anyone with information about the village's past or its inhabitants or anyone who wishes to have information on the history of a house or a family in advance of the next book. Meanwhile, I hope this book will bring pleasure to those interested in St. Bartholomew's and Arkendale. The village may be small, but its past is fascinating.

## **Acknowledgements**

When I first visited Arkendale I found that Geoffrey Marshall had done some work on the village history and we soon became friends. I should like to thank Geoff, and his parents, Bert and Jen, together with his Aunt, Mrs Amy Lambert, for the loan of the cover picture and for patiently answering my many questions. My sincere thanks also to Henry and Emily Houseman who again have answered many of my queries. I am grateful to Geoffrey and Emily for all their assistance and helpful comments when reading the draft copies of this book. My thanks to Rev. Peter Fairburn and Rev. Peter Dunbar, who also read the drafts and gave much useful information. Over the years many local people have told me about their lives and their homes in Arkendale; if I were to try to name them all, I should inadvertently miss someone from the list. My thanks to everyone who has helped in any way. I have done research in many record repositories, where, almost without exception, I have received friendly help and advice from archivists and staff alike. Again, it would be invidious to mention individuals by name. My grateful thanks to them all for their assistance and for permission to use in this book the information found in their records. I regret that it has not proved possible, because of exigences of space, to give separate references for much of the information in the text. All principal references are listed on page 100. Finally, my utmost gratitude to my family, who over the years have helped me more than I can say. My thanks to my parents, Audrey and Denis Towlard, for their help in transcribing registers and other

records. I am very grateful to my husband, Bob, who has helped with research during holidays in the vicinity of Arkendale! Both he and our son, John, have given up much of their time teaching me to use our Amstrad Word Processor and assisting with editing; John spent hours working on the index; all of us, including our daughter, Mary, have read and re-read proofs. Their support in the writing of this book has been incalculable; my utmost thanks to them all. I have made every effort to avoid any errors in this book; I hope that I have succeeded. If there are any mistakes the fault is mine.

### List of Arkendale Clergy

1415*	Robert de Gellesthorpe and Robert Flint.	1824-1827	Henry John Ingilby.
1468*	John Brames.	1826-1832"	Henry Roxby Maude.
1546-1547*	William Dent.	1832-1845	Henry Stocken.
1556-1561*	Richard Langfell.	1845-1867	George Creighton.
1628*	Francis Wilkinson.	1867-1869	John Morris Fawcett.
1652-1654*	John Newman.	1869-1879	George Thomas.
1659*	William Wilson.	1879-1889	Christopher Norton Wright.
1685*	Richard Middleton.	1889-1891	Paget Lambart Bayly.
1700-1705	William Hardcastle.	1891-1903	Frederick Edward Crankshaw.
1705*	William Thompson.		
1717*	William Hardcastle.	1903-1936	Henry Cradock Knight.
1737-1789	Richard Swale.	1936-1953	Tom Stanley Jameson.
1789-1801	Robert Wirrell.	1954-1982	Peter Fairburn.
1801-1823	John Cookson,	1984-	Peter Dunbar. (Rector).
1804*	John Hartley.	1985-	Peter McCarthy. (Curate).
1823-1824	Henry Sanderson Fisher.		

\* indicates only known date(s)

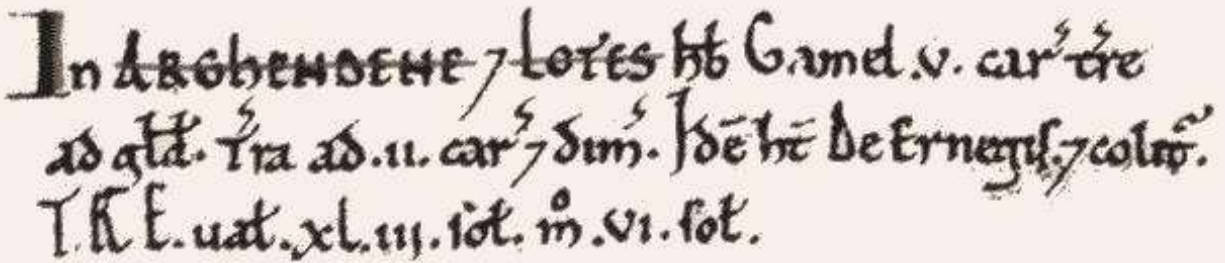
John Hartley was assistant Curate to John Cookson for some time from 1804.

H.R. Maude was assistant Curate to H.J. Ingilby from 1826 and was appointed Perpetual Curate in 1827, on the cession of Ingilby.

## Chapter One

### *The Early History of Arkendale Church and its Clergy*

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 the nearest churches to Arkendale were at Farnham, Copgrove and Aldborough. Surprisingly perhaps there was no church recorded then at Knaresborough, but much of the area had been laid waste by the Normans. The earliest mention in records of a church at Knaresborough was in 1114 when it was given by Henry I to Nostell Priory. The people of Arkendale would attend the Parish Church at Knaresborough until a chapel was built in the village.



*Entry for Arkendale in the Domesday Book*

The first definite mention of a chapel at Arkendale is in 1393 in Richard II's reign. In a case at the Knaresborough Honour Court Robert Mason of Knaresborough made a complaint against John Grewe because he broke an agreement made to deliver 20 cart loads of suitable stone for the building of a chapel at Arkendale. A chapel in the village would save the inhabitants having to go to Knaresborough, their Parish Church, for all services; such chapels were called chapels of ease.

Earlier, in 1342, several people from the village had been involved in court cases, including William and Nigel "de Erkindene" (an early form of the village name) and a chaplain, Isaac de Erkindene; whether Isaac served as a chaplain at Arkendale itself is impossible to say as records which survive concerning clergy at Knaresborough rarely mention the names of chaplains at Arkendale.

In 1415 two chaplains, Robert de Gellesthorpe and Robert Flint accused John de Scalwra of Arkendale Loftus (Low Arkendale), of cutting down an ash tree which had been growing in their field and taking it and shrubbery away. He defended himself at Knaresborough Honour Court and said that the only tree he had cut down was on his own land. No decision is recorded for the case and it is possible that it was settled out of court. It would be unusual for there to be two chaplains for a small village. However, they clearly had a legitimate interest in the Arkendale land. The Knaresborough Vicar held glebe land at Arkendale and there was land in the village rented out to provide income for the incumbent. Possibly one of them was chaplain for Arkendale and the other was connected with the mother Church at Knaresborough.



Robert de Gellesthorpe died in 1431 at which time he was Rector of Burwales. Robert Flint died in 1438; he was still a chaplain and was buried at Harwood. Neither of them mentions Arkendale in his will.

A 1468 tax list of local land owners includes John Brames, a chaplain whose only land was at Arkendale. It is very likely that he acted as village priest.

The Victoria County History of Yorkshire, volume three, states that Arkendale Chapel was supervised from Egglestone Abbey. The source quoted for this information was Gasquet's "*Collectanea Anglo-Premonstratensia*." A check of this work and the original documents in the Bodleian Library at Oxford has shown Gasquet mistook "Arkylgarthdalle" for Arkendale, near Knaresborough, but of course it is Arkengarthdale, near Reeth. Also, in the Public Record Office, there are documents addressed to Sir Richard Rich after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, concerning "Arkendale... wythin the Archdeaconry of Rychemnde belonging to ye late monastery and Abbaye of Egleston" and the augmentation of its parsonage; these again clearly refer to Arkengarthdale, which still to this day is often called Arkendale for short. Not surprisingly-this regularly causes confusion to the unwary!

The monasteries were of great importance before the Reformation and the break from the Church of Rome by Henry VIII. Many people were shocked when monasteries such as St. Robert's Priory at Knaresborough and Fountains Abbey were dissolved, In 1536 many Yorkshire people had taken part in the Pilgrimage of Grace. Many changes were to follow with persecutions under the Tudors, both Protestant and Roman Catholic. In 1541 Knaresborough Parish, which had been in the York Diocese, was transferred to the Diocese of Chester, but this had little effect on Arkendale chapelry.

As a result of the national religious changes surveys were carried out to find the nature and value of church assets before the crown took possession of them. In 1547 nearly 2400 chantries and guild chapels were suppressed. A chantry was a chapel within a church endowed by a wealthy person in which priests could sing masses for his soul. A 1546 chantry survey lists in the Deanery of Boroughbridge, "the Chauntery of Saynt Bartholemeue in the Chapel' of Arkenden in the sayd Parishe [Knaresbrough]." William Dent was the incumbent, put in by the inhabitants to say mass and other divine service because Arkendale was "farre" from the Parish Church of Knaresborough. William had a house, Barth and thirteen acres of arable land, which he could let out, altogether worth 22 shillings yearly (£1.10 – 1 shilling = 5p). There were goods, ornaments and plate worth 28 shillings in all (£1.40). The incumbent of Knaresborough Church owned a tenement at Arkendale, let to John Randall for 11s (55p) a year and land let to Thomas Steel worth 58s 8d (£2.93).

It is not clear how long Dent served as chaplain, but he was still there in 1547 when he was listed as one of the many witnesses to the will of Lawrence Toiler (Towlard) - "Wyll dent, priest of Harkendale." Lawrence requests in his will that his mortuary be paid, taken from his goods, "according to the King's acts and statutes!" It had long been the custom for the Church to take a man's second best chattel as recompense for tithes and

other dues supposedly unpaid in his life time, but in 1529 Parliament had limited mortuaries to moderate amounts, as earlier they could have been a burden for the surviving family to pay. Even though Lawrence died after England's break with the Roman Catholic Church it is interesting to see that he gave his soul "to god allmyghtye, to owre blyssed lady sanct marie and to all the holy cumpany." In most wills after the Reformation testators leave their souls just to God, often expressing the hope that they will gain free pardon for their sins. It was common for wills to begin in this way until the early 18th century.

By 1550 Richard Longfelley or Langfell was priest of "Arkindaill chapel", named in the will of Robert Browne, who requested that his executors yearly provide a wax taper or "searge" to be burnt before the sacrament. Browne also left 3d (3p) to Sir Richard (the normal title given to a priest at that time) to pray for his soul. In the 1559 Royal Visitation Richard Langfellowe is still listed as priest; spelling was not as standardised as today! in his will of 1560/1 (early 1561 by our present calendar) his name is spelt Langfell and his brother is appointed executor.



Map showing Arkendale - 1583

An enquiry in 1568 on behalf of Queen Elizabeth about concealed chantry lands in Ripon and Arkendale revealed that for as long as anyone could remember there had always been 15 acres at Arkendale, the income from which had been used for the maintenance of a priest. The land was being occupied by Marmaduke Dicconson and William Emonson. Unfortunately, the priest's name at the time was not given.

Several local families, such as the Ingilbys and Plomptons, remained Roman Catholics in spite of the problems that this caused them. There was little papist recusancy at Arkendale, sometimes just only one family, as in 1604, when Francis and Margaret Young were said to have been secretly married and had five children secretly baptised. Later, in 1661 and 1662, the Constable of Pannal had to visit Arkendale, where the Chief Constable then lived, to report recusant numbers in his area.

In 1628 the "reader at Arkendell," was Francis Wilkinson; as well as writing out Ellen Simpson's will then he was also one of her debtors, owing her £1.

### **Changing times**

The Civil War affected the area greatly and several soldiers were buried locally; John Hulins and Anthony Dawson, both of whom had died at Arkendale, in 1640 and 1641 respectively, were buried at Farnham. Cromwell's soldiers are reputed to have been responsible for defacing some pages in Knaresborough Parish registers. Until 1780 all Arkendale baptisms, marriages and burials were recorded in these registers. Indeed, by holding up one of the defaced pages to the light, one can manage to read the burial entry of Richard Towlard of Arkendale. It is said that Cromwell visited the Blue Bell, but there is no definite proof of this; however, there would certainly have been many soldiers of both sides in the area, some probably billeted in the village. The Battle of Marston Moor and the siege of Knaresborough Castle took place in 1644. Some Arkendale inhabitants may well have been involved in the fighting.

In 1650 a Parliamentary survey, the result of a commission of enquiry held at Knaresborough before Sir Thomas Mauleverer and others, recorded that there was Just one chapel in Knaresborough parish, at "Arkendall", whose only support was £20 yearly, granted by Parliament, for maintaining a "preaching minister in that place, to be issuing out of the profits of the said Rectory of Knaresborough." These profits were to come from the land owned by the Prebend or Manor of Beechill at Knaresborough, which had previously been leased to Sir Henry Slingsby, a supporter of the King during the Civil War. The commissioners considered the chapelry fit to be made a parish in its own right, but this was not to happen for many more years.

An Augmentation Order Book at Lambeth Palace shows that in 1650 the minister, who is not named, had Just left Arkendale, but that John Newman had taken over by March 1652; it was decided then to increase the minister's salary to £45. William Wilson was minister by April 1659, when he witnessed the will of Thomas Simpson, who, after bequests to friends and family, left £1 to the poor of Arkendale. A William Simpson, who made his will in 1682, left a Bible to his grandson; this is one of the few references found

to Bibles in village wills. In 1685 Richard Middleton was officiating at Arkendale, but when he arrived or left is not known.

In 1700 William Hardcastle, a schoolmaster at Bishop Monkton, was appointed curate for Arkendale. In 1705 he went to be curate to Mr Stable at Goldsborough. Another teacher, William Thompson of Hunslet, took over as Arkendale curate; he was the son of Robert Thompson and had been baptised at Skipton in January 1681. Leonard Ash, Vicar of Knaresborough, held the right of appointment at Arkendale; he wrote to the Bishop of Chester in 1705 asking that William Thompson be ordained as a deacon; he said that the Arkendale living was only £10 or £12, which came from contributions but that Thompson "by teaching school will make a pretty subsistence." It is not known whether Thompson did add to his income by running the school, but in July 1717 Marmaduke Towlard was in charge of a private school in the village; by September the school had closed; how long it had been running is not clear.

Despite much searching it has been impossible to find how long Hardcastle stayed at Goldsborough. All that is certain is that he returned to Arkendale, since he signed Church Cause Papers in September 1717 as Curate of Arkendale.

## Chapter Two

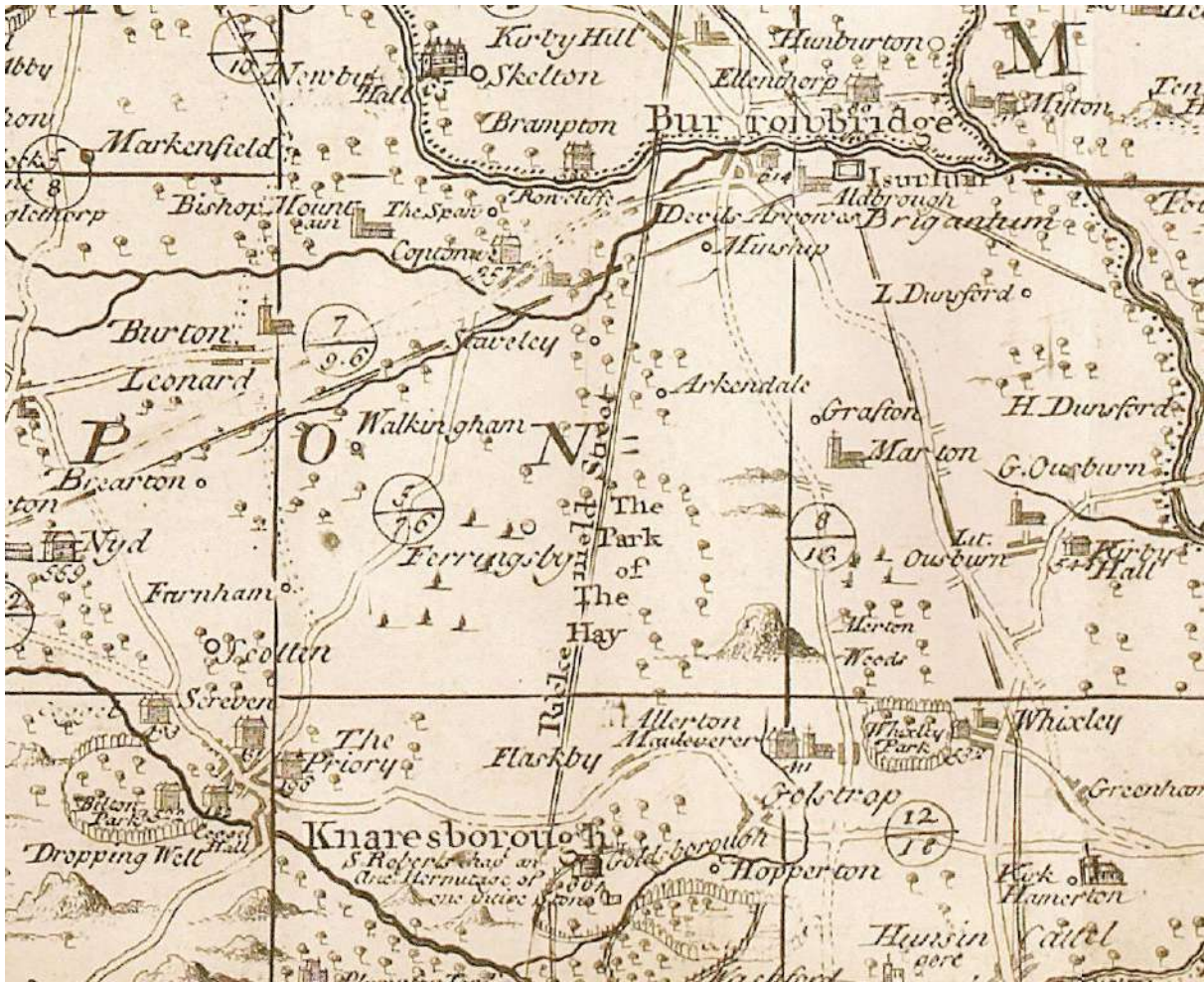
### *The Eighteenth Century*

#### **Richard Swale, Curate for over 50 years**

In 1737 £200 was allotted to augment the living and was invested eight years later in land at Staveley. It is somewhat puzzling, therefore, that in 1750 the Curate Richard Swale's income did not exceed £10, as one would have expected the land to bring in additional income, but perhaps the money went to the Patron of Arkendale, the Vicar of Knaresborough. There was a further augmentation by lot in 1750 of another £200; together with £400 received under the terms of the will of William Stratford this was invested in buying more glebe land at Kirkby Malzeard in 1761.

Richard Swale came as curate in November 1737. He had begun his studies at the age of eighteen at St. John's College, Cambridge. After gaining his degree he was ordained as deacon in 1726 and as priest in 1728, when he had become curate of Goldsborough. In 1763 he was also appointed Vicar of Nidd, a post that he held until his death. In the late 1760's he became Curate of South Stainley as well; his wife, Mary, was buried there in December 1781; Richard's name does not appear in those registers as taking any marriage services after 1781, but the notice of his death in the Yorkshire Gazette described him as "Vicar of Nidd and Curate of South Stainley and Arkendale", so it seems likely that he appointed an assistant curate at South Stainley to help with his duties as he grew older. In 1781 the Vicar of Knaresborough, Thomas Collins, was paying his Arkendale curate a yearly sum of £50. Richard Swale died at Arkendale, aged 86, in June 1789.

In his will Richard Swale asked that his body be taken on the parish hearse to South Stainley, so that he could be buried beside his wife. He requested that his friends, the Rev. Mr Fairfax of Marton, Mr Manby, Mr Nurfaw of Knaresborough, Mr Robert Clemeshaw of Clareton, Mr Richard Snowden of Clareton, Mr Williamson of Ripley, Mr Abraham Ward of Stainley and Mr Thomas Middleton of Nidd be present; they were to be entertained with a piece of cold roasted beef and a leg of lamb; each was to receive gloves and a hatband for his trouble. Each poor family which received help from the Parish rates was to be given a shilling, to be distributed by Mr John Cartwright at Arkendale, Mr Abraham Ward at Stainley and Mr Thomas Middleton at Nidd. The executrix of Swale's will was his niece Mary Webster, who had married John Cartwright in 1768. She was left his land and the residue of his estate after other bequests had been paid. The Cartwrights farmed at Forms House, Arkendale. Other members of the Webster family received bequests, including Swale's nephew John, who had gone to America; he was excused his debt of £70 to Swale, which presumably had been lent to help him set up home so far away.



Map showing Arkendale in 1772

### A new face at Arkendale.

Following Richard Swale came Robert Wirrell; he was the son of John and Elizabeth Wirrell, baptised at Knaresborough in April 1754. Ordained in 1781 he was appointed to Arkendale in 1789 by Rev. Andrew Cheap, then Vicar of Knaresborough. Wirrell was to receive £50 a year with the use of the Knaresborough Vicarage house, garden and stable rent free.

There was a Visitation by the Bishop of Chester shortly after Wirrell's arrival. It is clear from his replies to questions asked at that time that he was expected to assist the Vicar in Knaresborough, as well as to serve at Arkendale. He took one service each Sunday, at which he preached a sermon; the children were catechised in the afternoon. There were forty communicants, for whom the sacrament was administered once a year; if they wished to take Communion more often it would have been necessary to go to Knaresborough Church, but in those days Communion was not celebrated as often as it is today. All the parishioners were said to attend services and any collection taken was distributed by the chapel warden to the village poor. As marriages and burials took place

at Knaresborough, Arkendale only had a baptismal register, which had been started in 1780, and this was then kept at the Parish Church in Knaresborough.

### **The Incumbency of Rev. Cookson.**

John Cookson replaced Wirrell as curate from November 1801. Wirrell then worked as curate just at Knaresborough, ending his days nearby as Vicar of Aldborough. Four years later, in 1805, Cookson officially appointed John Hartley as his own curate at Arkendale and promised to pay him £40 yearly. Hartley had already been assisting Cookson as officiating Minister on a salary of £22 in 1804, for Cookson was at that time living at Stillington, near York. Hartley came from Staveley each Sunday to take the service in the afternoon, except on the first Sunday in the month when he took a communion service at Staveley. At Arkendale there were four communion services per year. Hartley felt that there were too many people who disregarded religion at that time, but few absented themselves from worship on a Sunday.

When John Cookson actually came to live in Arkendale is not clear, but in 1811 he is recorded as living in rented accommodation in the village, by which time he had resigned his other living. The records also show that in 1811 there were some fifteen Methodists in the village who did not have their own meeting house and generally attended St. Bartholomew's. The Sunday service was then held alternately in the morning and afternoon; there were still four services yearly for the fifty communicants; numbers in 1814 were 35 and "diminishing." Perhaps the falling numbers led to fresh efforts, for the chapel, which was substantially repaired in 1812, was being repaired again in 1814 and Cookson declared that "all things proper for divine service will be provided shortly." In addition, a wall had just been built around the chapel yard.

### **The School.**

A voluntary school with 35 children attending was being run by 1811. Three years later numbers had increased to 40 and the master was paid quarterly by parents. In 1818 numbers had dropped to 20 in summer and about eight in winter. By 1821 the school had closed again and presumably children were sent to Knaresborough schools, when parents could afford to do so. The Arkendale school reopened sometime before 1831, when there were 34 pupils and the same number attending Sunday school.

### **Chapel happenings.**

Although accounts of expenditure by the Chapel wardens survive from 1751 there are not any details shown until 1819. In June 1820 minor repairs were undertaken when 13s was spent on repairing, cleaning and whitewashing the chapel; a further 9d was spent on nails and slate pins. In the same year pews were repaired and windows mended. Three new prayer books were bought, as well as a clerical almanack at the beginning of the year. Other expenses included fiddle strings and there is a mention of singers, the forerunners of the choir. Over the years the accounts indicate further small expenditure on the upkeep of the building, but it is not until 1826 that there is any indication that the chapel was heated, when a coal-fired stove was in position.

In 1821, two years before Rev. John Cookson died, Arkendale had been reduced again to one Sunday morning service, with four communion services yearly for the forty communicants. The chapel was completely pewed, all 250 seats being free. An average congregation was 150. The population was 285, but some people from Low Arkendale would attend Farnham Church, as that part of the village was in Farnham parish; indeed one of the Farnham churchwardens often lived at Low Arkendale. Although baptisms took place at Arkendale, the Visitation Papers indicate that there was not a font at this time! The tower and roof of the chapel were in good repair.

John Cookson died in March 1823, aged 62, and was buried at Marton cum Grafton. In his will he left property at Ellisbeck, near Ambleside, to his wife Ann; she was also to have money and the furniture and plate in his rented house at Arkendale. After his wife's death all was to pass to his sister, Ann Jackson, of Ambleside.

### **A period of change.**

Henry Sanderson Fisher, born at Green Hammerton in 1799, and educated at St. Catherine Hall, Cambridge, was appointed the next curate of Arkendale in 1823. He resigned in February 1824. As all baptisms in this period were performed by visiting clergy it seems doubtful if Rev. Fisher actually took up the appointment.

Henry John Ingilby was appointed to the perpetual curacy of Arkendale in April 1824. He was the son of Henry of North Deighton. He studied at University College, Oxford. Much later, in 1866 in fact, he was created a Baronet on the death of Sir William Amcotts Ingilby, Bart. He died in 1870 and is buried at Ripley.

The rapid changes of clergy did not appear to help the parish, as in 1825 the number of communicants had dropped to under 20 and the general congregation was between 60 and 80, though increasing. Each Sunday there was one service with sermon; babies were baptised and the Thanksgiving of Women after Childbirth service took place after Matins. One unusual sermon had been preached in the year, a charity sermon, to raise money for the benefit of Spanish refugees. (There had been a Revolution in Spain in 1820 and some Spaniards wished to escape from the despotic rule of Ferdinand VII). The catechising of the children took place on Wednesday evenings. The one chapelwarden, chosen by the curate, kept the registers, though Rev. Ingilby wrote the baptismal entries himself. Another school, with about 16 pupils, was being run by the parish clerk, Thomas Anderson, who died in 1826 aged 84. There were six Roman Catholics living in the parish and there were also several Methodists for whom a chapel had been built in 1825.

In June 1826 Rev. H.J. Ingilby appointed Henry Roxby Maude, who was about to be ordained deacon, to be his curate, at a salary of £75 10s. In fact Ingilby had been appointed Rector of West Keal in Lincolnshire in 1822, but appears to have been absent from there between June 1824 and August 1826. In 1827 Ingilby resigned the living of Arkendale and Maude then became Perpetual Curate. Henry Roxby Maude was the son of Thomas Maude of Stockton and his wife Jane, née Roxby, but was born in Newcastle



in 1799. He had been educated at Durham School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied law. In 1827 he was ordained priest; living in Arkendale, he was still studying law and gained his degree in 1829.



*The Chapel in Arkendale, c. 1825*

Henry's first son, Thomas Maude, an army captain in later life, was baptised at Arkendale in February 1831; at that time Henry and his wife Jane, née Meux, were living at Farnham. Their second son, Henry Meux Maude, was born in May 1832 and both he and his younger brother, Wilfred Roxby, became clergymen; another son went to live in New Zealand; the only daughter lived just four months. Maude resigned as curate of Arkendale in August 1832 and the following year became Vicar of St. Olave's, Old Jewry and Rector of St. Martin's, Ironmonger Lane, London, where he served until his death.

In April 1833 enquiries were made as to the whereabouts of the first Arkendale registers, dating from 1780. In a letter from his Streatham Vicarage, Maude wrote that he did not know where the first register was but that he would be returning the second, covering the years 1793 to 1817, which he had taken with him by mistake. The first register has never been found, though the entries it contained are on the back of the Knaresborough Bishop's Transcripts. In the 1831 Clergyman's returns Maude had stated that there was only one old register, so perhaps the earliest register had been lost before he arrived at Arkendale. The first entry for Arkendale shown on the Bishop's Transcripts, is the baptism on 11th February 1780 of John, the son of Dennis Towlard (John was to serve as Parish Clerk of Knaresborough for 28 years). The first entry in the surviving register is for the baptism of John, the son of Marmaduke and Frances English, on 2nd April 1793.

In February 1837 Henry Roxby Maude assumed the surname of Roxby by Royal Licence so as to benefit under the terms of the will of his grandfather, Henry Roxby. It was as

Henry Roxby Roxby (sic) that he returned north, a widower, to be married, in October 1843 at Farnham Church, to Augusta Maria Lally. Three sons were born of this marriage. The first, Edmund, also became a clergyman; the others were Carus and Herbert. Their father died in 1860.

## Chapter Three

### *The Rebuilding of the Chapel*

Henry Stocken was the next Curate of Arkendale, arriving in September 1832. Little is known of his early life except that he was born in Fulham. Here was a man who was to bring many changes to the village. At first he lived at Staveley. In theory his gross annual income was £74 yearly, but £19 had been lost the previous year because of the insolvency of one of the tenants of the Chapel land; the farmers were having problems at this time and another one's rent had been reduced by Rev. Maude, so that Rev. Stocken's income was £68, plus 6s or 8s surplice fees.

Stocken was a man of action. In November 1835 he asked the Queen Anne's Bounty Office whether it would make a grant towards the building of a parsonage in Arkendale if he could raise some of the money by local subscription; the reply was not encouraging so he turned to his other idea.

By April 1836 he had gained support from the Patron, Rev. Andrew Cheap, Vicar of Knaresborough, for his scheme to rebuild the Chapel. The Vicar of Farnham, Thomas Collins, also gave his consent; this was needed as Low Arkendale was still in Farnham Parish and some people from Low Arkendale attended Farnham Church; others, however, attended Arkendale Chapel. The Chapel was to cater not only for the Parish of Arkendale but also the Township of Arkendale, which included Ferrensby (in Farnham Parish) and Coneythorpe (in Goldsborough Parish).

It is not certain when the Chapel standing at this time was erected; it may have been the 1393 building; there is no evidence of any other major construction work. The Chapel had last been substantially repaired in 1812, the money having been raised by rate. On one side of it was a seat, on which the farmers used to sit on Sundays; this was presumably a seat outside the Chapel.

Judging by Stocken's description it was lucky the Chapel was still standing: "the date of it cannot be ascertained; it is built partly of stone and brick; internally it is 42 feet long, 17ft wide, 6in high, without tower or spire. It is now in a very dilapidated state owing to its decay, the west and south walls and some of the timbers having given way and being propped." The Chapel was said to seat 96, of which 74 were free and unappropriated, which is quite a difference from 250 quoted in 1821 by the Rev. Cookson. However, this can be accounted for by the fact that Stocken had made space for everyone to kneel, very precisely allowing each sitting 18 by 36 inches. What a difference from the squeeze there must have been earlier! The architect, Mr Freeman of Staveley, planned seating for 210 in the new Chapel.

The entire work was to take six months, during which time services would be held in an open barn promised for that purpose. Stocken had already started to raise the necessary money for the work; £188 had been given by subscription and £172 more was promised, making £360; there was an allowance of £23 for the old materials after the expense of

taking down the old Chapel had been taken into account. The new building was to be on the same site as the old one, by extending out to the south and west. A copy of the picture of the old Chapel, which hangs in the present vestry, is shown on page 17. Stocken expected to be able to raise a little more money locally and applied for a grant to cover the rest of the costs to The Incorporated Society for Building and Enlarging Churches, which was based in London. Stocken wrote his letter of application on 25th April 1836, no doubt after the meeting held that day in the Parish to discuss the matter. There was to be a schoolroom under the Chapel, funded separately by the local people.

Originally it was estimated that the entire work would cost £636, but this rose to £678 when the first plan was not fully approved. The Society's surveyor considered that the roof would be stronger with horizontal tie beams and four trusses, instead of three, and that the walls should be slightly wider than originally planned. The plans were duly revised at the end of May 1836. This caused the costs to rise, though not as much as they might have done, for the design for the roof was copied from that of Wharton Church, Davenham in Cheshire. In another letter to the Incorporated Society at the end of May, Stocken pointed out that Brearton, with a smaller population, had just received a grant of £100 towards the rebuilding of a Chapel there; he expressed the hope that Arkendale might receive a similar sum.

Stocken's wish was granted and on 30 September he wrote again to the Society saying that the work had been finished for nearly two months. Presumably the rebuilding had actually been started before the grant was made - either that or the work was undertaken at a tremendous pace! In October Stocken, William Inman the Chapelwarden, Thomas Thompson, Thomas Dunwell and Lazenby Lorrimer, representing the inhabitants, signed an official statement that the work was completed.

A copy of the inscription, "placed in a conspicuous part of the Chapel", was sent to the Society:

"This chapel was rebuilt and enlarged in the year 1836 by which means 114 additional sittings were obtained, and in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated Society for the promoting, enlargement, building and repairing of churches and chapels, 70 of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever, in addition to 96 sittings formerly provided, 76 of which are free. Henry Stocken, Minister. William Inman, Chapel Warden."

The inscription does not survive to the present day.

Preparations then began for the official opening of the Chapel. In November 1836 the new Diocese of Ripon was formed and so it was to be the newly created Bishop of Ripon, Dr. Charles Thomas Longley, who would perform the ceremony. Longley had been headmaster of Harrow and was to end his days as Archbishop of Canterbury. In January 1837 14 yards of lawn were bought for surplice making. Three women were paid a shilling each to clean the chapel; a further 6d was spent on soap, candles and drink - it must have been thirsty work! The rest of the preparations we must imagine, but by 16th January all was ready.

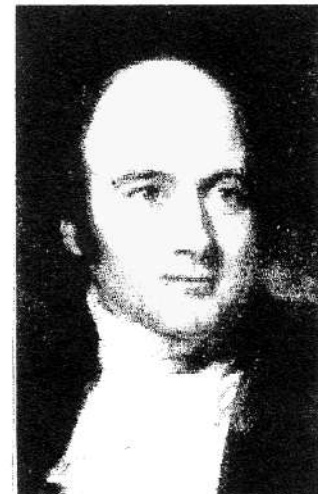
The Yorkshire Gazette reported on 21st January 1837:

"New Church opened. The new chapel recently rebuilt at Arkendale, near Boroughbridge, was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon, on Monday last. His lordship's chaplain and secretary reached the chapel a little before twelve o'clock, and took their seats near the altar, when a petition from the vicar and churchwardens of Knaresborough, in which parish Arkendale is situated, and the incumbent and churchwarden of Arkendale, was read by Mr Burder, secretary, soliciting the Bishop to consecrate the church and burial ground adjoining it. His lordship gave his formal consent, and the service commenced. Prayers having been read, his lordship afterwards delivered an excellent sermon, which was heard by the congregation with the greatest silence and attention. The burial ground was then consecrated. The Bishop, clergy, and other friends were invited to the hospitable mansion of A. Empson, Esq., Spellow Hall (sic); and all returned delighted with the duties and pleasing reflections of the day. A collection, amounting to £17 19s, was made in the chapel by the Rev. T. Collins, Knaresborough, and the Rev. J. Charge, of Copgrove, after the service, towards the funds of building."

What a pity Henry Stocken, who had worked so hard to achieve the rebuilding, was not named in the paper. No doubt he was pleased to have a new Chapel nonetheless. The celebrations of the ordinary parishioners are not described either, but one can imagine that they took place; now they no longer had to go to Knaresborough to be married and their dead could be buried in the newly consecrated burial ground around the church. The first burial was that of Sarah Nicholson, aged 74, on 8th August 1837. The earliest surviving stone, that for Ellen Perfect of Loftus Hill, is dated 1840. The first marriage was on 16th November 1837 between William Drury, a widower from Scotton, and Isabella Pearson, spinster, a shopkeeper of Arkendale.



*St. Bartholomew's.*



*Bishop Longley.*

The new Chapel was built of white brick with stone dressings, in the Gothic style. A clock and a bell were fitted in the square tower which was surmounted with stone pinnacles. Lunn in his "Ecclesiology of the Rural Deanery of Knaresborough" gives the dimensions - the inside of the nave being 49ft by 23ft 3ins; the sanctuary at the eastern end 15ft by 10ft and at the tower at the western end 7ft by 6ft. The inside of the Chapel was plastered. The crypt was under the sanctuary and east end of the nave and was approached by two flights of stone steps from each side of the chancel. By 1870, when Lunn was writing, the crypt, which had been used as a school and a vestry, was no longer in use because of the damp. The ceiling of the Chapel, which was flat, was lathed and plastered; the chancel floor was nearly level with that of the nave; the chancel arch was approached by a small plastered central arch, with smaller ones on each side leading down the steps into the vestry.

It is clear that Lunn did not approve of the new Chapel. He wrote, "The tower is finished off with a very top heavy arrangement of pinnacles and battlements, which might possibly be considered proportional to a tower thrice the size, but as it is, the appearance has been well likened to that of a Pembroke table turned upside down. It would not be easy to find so architecturally bad a church as this." Everyone is entitled to his own opinion! Many people find it a pleasing building to this day. Whatever its architectural merits, the parishioners would be happy with the comfort of their new Chapel.

## Chapter Four

### *Attempted Murder at Arkendale and the Parsonage Story*

In 1840 Henry Stocken was working on his idea of a Parsonage for the village again. By June he had raised £150 by subscription, with an extra £50 promised; he expected to receive £100 from the Ripon Diocesan Society and intended to apply for a grant of £100 from Pinkham's Fund. In all £500 was needed to build the residence. In September 1840 the Governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty granted £200 for the purchase of one acre of land for the building in Westfield Lane from Joseph Dodsworth and his wife Ann.

The acre sold by Dodsworth was part of six acres of land which had been granted to Barnard or Bernard Dickinson in 1774 when the old open field system was enclosed. Much enclosure was taking place at this time in many parts of the country. By an Act of Parliament an Enclosure Award was made for the place involved and a map showing the changes was drawn; sadly, the Arkendale enclosure map has been lost, so many of the old field and plot names have been lost too. Owners with plots scattered in the three field system were recompensed with consolidated fields. Barnard's grand-daughter, Elizabeth Webster, married Thomas Dodsworth of Minskip in 1777; their son, Joseph, who was to sell the land in 1840, was born in 1778.

Prior to 1840 Joseph Dodsworth had raised money from the land by mortgaging it to Rev. Thomas Collins and perhaps agreed to sell some land to pay off his debts. Be that as it may, the land had caused him far greater problems some years earlier.

In 1818 Joseph, who had just been married the previous Christmas, was living with his father Thomas at Arkendale. His sister was married to William Knightson. Joseph Dodsworth and William Knightson went to Boroughbridge on March 26 to collect some coals and on the way back called at a public house in Minskip. Afterwards Knightson gave Dodsworth part of a penny roll to eat; Dodsworth noticed something white on it, but was told that it was unbaked flour. Knightson returned to Arkendale while Dodsworth went on to Knaresborough; he had not gone far before he was taken extremely ill; his stomach swelled, he became very sick and vomited repeatedly; he had to be taken home by cart. Knightson visited him and seemed much concerned; he gave him some mint water, bought from Mrs Webster, which made him sick again.

Thomas Haw, a neighbour, was sent to Boroughbridge for Mr Sedgewick, a surgeon. He ordered some medicine for Dodsworth, which Knightson volunteered to collect from Boroughbridge. He was given it three times and each time he vomited, being in great pain. Another medicine, obtained from Knaresborough by Thomas Steel, did him good, although he was still severely ill and delirious. On April 1st Dodsworth's wife was preparing him some veal broth over the fire when Knightson came in and asked who was to have it. After he had gone she tested the broth, which had a white scum, and it

made her mouth feel strange. She thickened it with oatmeal, thinking it would then taste better. She tested it again, as did her father and John Haw, who was visiting; they all felt ill and Mrs Dodsworth had pains in her stomach and was sick. The broth was put aside and both it and the medicine were shown to Mr Sedgewick and analysed by Dr Murray of Knaresborough. Both contained arsenic.

Knightson had bought arsenic from Mark Lambert, a Knaresborough druggist; he had given some to his father, Edmund, for rat poisoning. At his trial for the attempted murder of Dodsworth on July 16th at York Assizes six neighbours spoke of his good character. However, it was proved that Knightson was the only person who had had the opportunity to lace the bun, mint water, medicine and broth. His motive was avarice, for, by Joseph Dodsworth's death, his own wife, Joseph's sister, would have become heir to old Thomas Dodsworth's copyhold land and his six acres of freehold land. The jury took only half an hour to find him guilty and William Knightson was executed behind York Castle in August 1818. What a drama that land had caused! The scandal had died and the village was more peaceful in 1840 when part of the land was acquired for the building of Henry Stocken's Parsonage.



## “The Persevering Poisoner”

About a century ago Arkendale near Boroughbridge, was the scene of a shocking poisoning case, the motive for which was—land hunger.

Knightson, an honest hard-working fellow, coveted the farm which his brother-in-law Dodsworth would inherit. He set to work to remove this obstacle with the aid of arsenic, and actually made four attempts on Dodsworth's life. Mrs. Dodsworth's suspicions were aroused when her husband was taken violently ill and Knightson's endeavours to help him resulted in severe relapses. He was discovered, and convicted at York Assizes.

Read Nat Savage's account of this amazing crime — of the four attempts at murder — and of an honest man turned criminal through land hunger — in

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# The Yorkshire WEEKLY POST Illustrated

*Advertisement in the Yorkshire Weekly Post - 1930*

Construction work had started by 28 October 1840 when Stocken wrote asking if the Queen Anne's Bounty Office would would make a grant towards the cost of an entrance gate and fence. This application was rejected. In January 1841, with building work still taking place, Stocken wrote again requesting financial help, as the costs had risen to £544, of which rather more than £300 had been raised. Records do not make it clear whether his request was granted, but one presumes that eventually it was.





*Stocken's Parsonage as it is today.*

By 7 June 1841, census day, Henry Stocken was installed at the Parsonage, with two servants, Elizabeth Bateman and Elizabeth Wrighton. Thomas Thompson of Holgate Bank Farm was the census enumerator. Also living in the Parsonage in 1841 was John Arton, a schoolmaster. When or where the school had been reopened is not known, but in directories for 1837 and 1838 Christopher Whaley is listed as a schoolmaster for Arkendale. In 1841 there were 35 pupils and 42 children attended Sunday school.

Having achieved so much at Arkendale, Henry Stocken must have had mixed feelings when he came to move. He performed his last baptism, that of Thomas Gibson, son of Henry and Jane, in March 1845. He spent the rest of his life as Incumbent of Wilton, near Redcar. According to the Clergy List, the forerunner of Crockford's, the living at Arkendale was worth £68 and at Wilton it was £136; the population of Wilton was about to rise rapidly because of local industrialisation, but when Stocken went there it was exactly 100 more than Arkendale's 261. However, Arkendale Chapel served not only Arkendale village but the township too, which then included Ferrensby and Coneythorpe, making a population of 305. Henry Stocken died in May 1861, aged 65, "much loved and regretted," his tombstone records; his wife, Charlotte, died nine years later. Inside Wilton Church is a memorial erected by Sir Charles Hugh Lowther, Bart., "in remembrance of The Revd Henry Stocken, the faithful and well beloved pastor of the Parish of Wilton". He had obviously continued his good work at Wilton.

## Chapter Five

### *George Creighton and his Successors*

#### **Changes and a school**

George Creighton was the next clergyman at Arkendale. He was born at Bengal in India in 1799, the son of Henry and Frances (née Stupart). His father, who was an indigo merchant, died in 1807 at the main family home at Goamalty, near Malda; his tombstone records that "in the spirit of Christian love, he was the first instructor of native schools for instructing the children of the poor in their own languages." He was a deeply religious man and requested in his will that all his children should be brought up "in the fear and knowledge of God, and the principles of true and vital religion be impressed upon their minds as they grow up."

George Creighton was obviously brought up as his father had wished and decided to serve God as a clergyman. It is not known when he came to England, but he attended St. Bees Theological College before being ordained deacon in 1844. He was licensed to serve at Arkendale on 30 August, 1845.

When Creighton took up his duties not everything at Arkendale met with his approval. He discovered that there was a Roman Catholic Girls' School which had been established in the village some twelve years previously by Lady Stourton. It was run by a shoemaker and his wife, who were given a house rent free and £10 a year. The children were taught reading and needlework; their parents did not have to pay any fee. Creighton felt that such a school posed a danger to the Church of England. Writing in December 1847 he explained what he did: "I immediately opened a school in connection with the church school in my own house for needlework and made one of my own servants teach. There were two little girls in the Church school when I came but by the plan I adopted I got them all back but two in a short time under the blessing of God, I am thankful to say. Lady Stourton's salary was withdrawn last spring and the school broken up. I feel the necessity of increasing the efficiency of my school to prevent a recurrence. Lord Stourton's property adjoins my parish - they have no property in it except the house they purchased for the school in the village." By 1847 there were 42 children attending the church day school and 28 the Sunday afternoon school.

Creighton was so determined that the Church day and Sunday school should flourish that he employed a master at a salary of £15 per year; in 1851, and possibly from 1847, Ellinor Goodall, his housemaid, was teaching needlework at the school. Creighton paid for coals to heat the school and for books to be used there. In all it was costing him nearly £20 yearly; fortunately he received a yearly donation of £10 towards expenses from the new Lord of the Manor, Sir William Eden.

Although he had succeeded in Arkendale in re-establishing a strong church school, Creighton still attacked the presence of Roman Catholic schools in the area. In 1851 he wrote, "Three miles from this place in an adjoining township in the next Parish, there is

a Papist school, for which I am given to understand a grant has been obtained from the Government, which is a disgrace to a Protestant Nation." Creighton was very much a Church man of his time.

There can be little doubt that Creighton was instrumental in persuading Sir William Eden to pay for the building of a separate church school in Arkendale. How delighted he must have been, even though his health was failing, when it was opened in 1867.

It was to remain open until 1947, when the children were transferred to Staveley County Primary School. The building was used for storage for some years until it was converted into a house for Mrs Emily Nussey, widow of Joseph Henry Nussey, Lord of the Manor, who had died in 1936. Mrs Nussey died in 1970. "Old School House" is now owned by Mr and Mrs P. Hollis.

When he had arrived to take up residence at the Parsonage Creighton found that builders, employed by John Freeman of Staveley, were on the site finishing off a stable, carriage house and hay loft. Henry Stockers in 1844 had found it inconvenient not to have a cart shed and stable, and had relied on the kindness of neighbours for such necessities. Of the £200 granted by the Governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty to buy the land the Parsonage £150 had been spent on the land itself; legal costs were £23, leaving £27 in hand. The original estimate for the building of the stable and coach house was £45, but this was cut to £26 3s 2d before work started, a convenient sum, bearing in mind the money in hand!

The specification of the stable and coach house was very detailed; the foundations were to be made with stone from Farnham quarry and the building itself of brick and good mortar; it was to be covered with ladies slates, with two copper nails to each, and finished with stone ridging; the wails were to be covered with one coat of 'lime and hair plaster. Such were the terms of the contract that not only did George Creighton have to write to the Queen Anne's Bounty Office to say that the work was completed to his satisfaction, but also John Freeman, the builder, had to go to Boroughbridge on 20th September to make a declaration before the local Justice of the Peace that the work was finished. it has stood the test of time well.

In August 1846 Rev. Creighton sought permission from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to buy the field adjoining the Parsonage, together with the 3 acres next to it, which were up for sale at £405; he felt that it would bring in some income as well as giving the Parsonage extra privacy. He was told that no funds were available at that time. Creighton decided to buy part of the land, 1 acre 3 roods 2 perches, which *was* directly behind the Parsonage. He bought the land from Joseph and Ann Dodsworth for £175 in December 1846 with his own money, but found the financial pressure a worry. Land was very expensive at that time because there was so little available on the open market in Arkendale with the majority of it belonging to the Lord of the Manor. Small wonder he was pleased when in June 1648 a grant was made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to increase the value of the benefice, which stood at 478. by a further £15. However in 1850 Creighton again requested help and in May the Governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty bought the land from him. He was obliged to seek help with the

solicitor's fees, because of "extreme pressure of my circumstance at this moment by the depression of agricultural interests." He was having to support the school and charity work without the help of the Lord of the Manor, as the Arkendale Estate was the subject of a dispute in Chancery in date 1850 and 1851. Sadly his request was refused.

Although the income of the Arkendale incumbent was stated in the Clergy list to be £68, the actual gross income from all sources was about £87 on average at this time. As shown above, George Creighton was subsidising the school from his own pocket. His other outgoings included income tax and rates. On his arrival in 1845 over 4492 was spent on the relatively new Parsonage, including relaying a floor, hanging bells and the biggest single expense (£46) for painting and papering over the original primer. However, it is unlikely that Creighton himself would have to meet these expenses. Another problem was the glebe farm at Kirkby Maizeard. Creighton felt that the liability of the glebe property had caused other clergy not to consider the Arkendale incumbency. The farm had been much neglected by a previous tenant and had almost fallen down so £50 had to be spent on repairs. The house and 58 acres generally brought in a rent of £50. At this time the glebe land at Staveley, let out for £32 a year, was causing no problems.

Little is known of Creighton's other work at Arkendale, but such letters as do survive give the picture of a very caring man, often beset with financial problems. He remained a bachelor all his life. His yearly gross income between 1858 and 1864 was about £99. In 1865 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners increased the value of the living to £200. George Creighton had little time to benefit from this; by July 1865 he was paralysed and his memory partly affected, presumably because of a stroke.

The Parsonage featured in the local news in March 1867 when the housemaid, Charlotte Brown, who had been employed there for a few months, was sent to Wakefield House of Correction for two weeks for having stolen a mourning ring from the housekeeper, Miss Goodall. In 1841 Ellinor Goodall lived with her uncle, farmer Thomas Dunwell, and had earlier been Rev. Creighton's housemaid, as well as teaching needlework in the school. It is not known whether she was still continuing with this work in the new school building.

On 17 November 1867 George Creighton died, aged 69. For his funeral six days later his body was carried from the Parsonage to the Church by twelve parishioners and followed by a large number of friends. His only surviving relative was his sister, Jane, who was married to Richard Carr Glyn of London. The pall bearers were Rev. Thomas Atkinson, Vicar of Great Ouseburn; the Rev. A.T. Atwood of Knayton; Rev. Aaron Manby, Vicar of Nidd; Rev. J.S. Winslow, who had been assisting curate at Arkendale since 1865; A.S. Lawson Esq. of Aldborough Manor; and G. Wike of Bury, Lancashire. The Rev. Thomas Hartley, incumbent of Raskelf, officiated at the funeral.

## **New Clergy**

George Creighton had been at Arkendale for twenty-two years but his successor did not even stay that many months. John Morris Fawcett arrived in April 1868, resigned in August 1869 and left at the beginning of September that year. He was the son of James

Fawcett, Vicar of Knaresborough and Patron of Arkendale. John had been educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge and ordained deacon in 1851 and priest the following year. He had served at Birmingham, Swaffham with Threxton in Norfolk, Liverpool and as Curate of St. Saviour's, Leeds before coming to Arkendale.

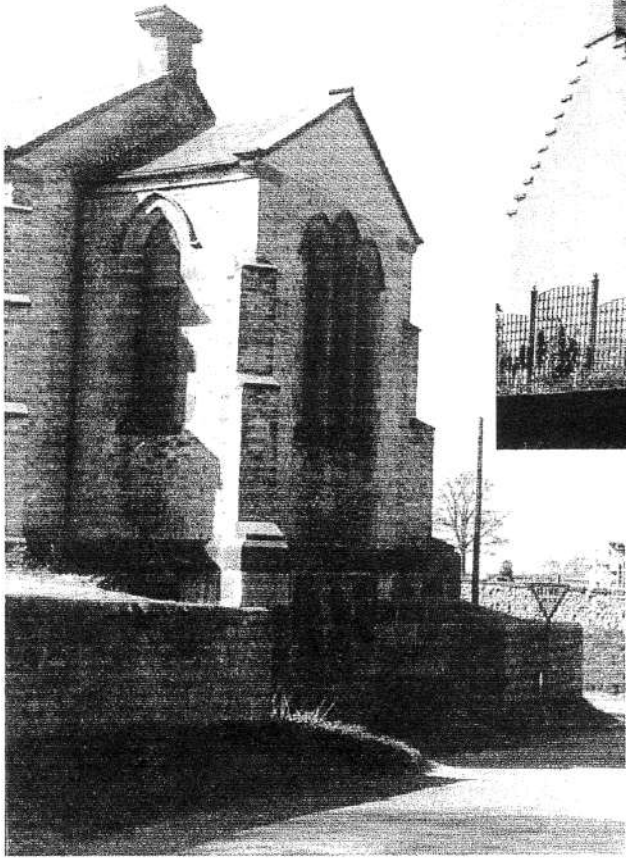
No doubt John Fawcett was present with his father at Knaresborough Parish Church in 1868 when the Bishop confirmed 177 people; some would be candidates from Arkendale. In all the Bishop of Ripon confirmed 3575 people in the Diocese in one week in April that year. After leaving Arkendale Fawcett went to be Vicar of St. Philip's, Leeds for nine years and later served in many parts of the country as a curate. The Vicar of St. Philip's took over from Fawcett at Arkendale!

George Thomas had been born in Barbados, West Indies, the youngest of the large family of Lynch and Anne (née Clark). He was educated privately and then studied at Cambridge. He was ordained deacon and priest in 1830 and 1831 respectively. He had been at Thornton Chapel, Bradford from 1839 to 1851. He was then Vicar of St. Philip's, Leeds until 1869. In 1840 he had written two books entitled "*National Duties*" and "*A few remarks on the principles of the Established Church compared with those of dissent.*" He wrote several short works, which survive today in the British Library. His "*Ministry of the Holy Angels*" sold for 2s 6d in 1847.

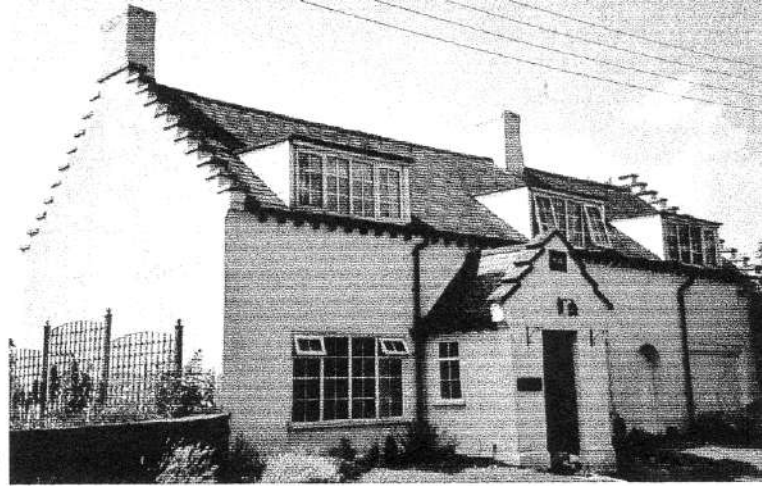
Little survives to testify about his life at Arkendale. In his capacity as chairman of the managers and Vicar, he was a regular visitor to the school and sometimes heard the children read. His daughter Eliza also visited and heard reading or helped with sewing lessons. At this time William Cockshott was the master in charge. The Knaresborough Post for December 1869 has a report of a concert given in the schoolroom by Messrs Sowery and Renton, organists at Sharow and Knaresborough. More than fifty people crowded in to hear the playing and singing. Rev. Thomas gave the vote of thanks to the performers.

It would seem that George Thomas was keen to have good music in the Chapel too. Amongst the Parish papers is an undated subscription list for a harmonium. Rev. Thomas gave £1, Miss Thomas £3, Lady Eden £1 and Thomas Collins £2. There was another gift of £1 and three of £2, but the majority were sums of 10 shillings or under. £45 was the amount required. £22 2s 7½d was raised by donations and "a bird of passage", about whom we can only speculate, made up the difference.

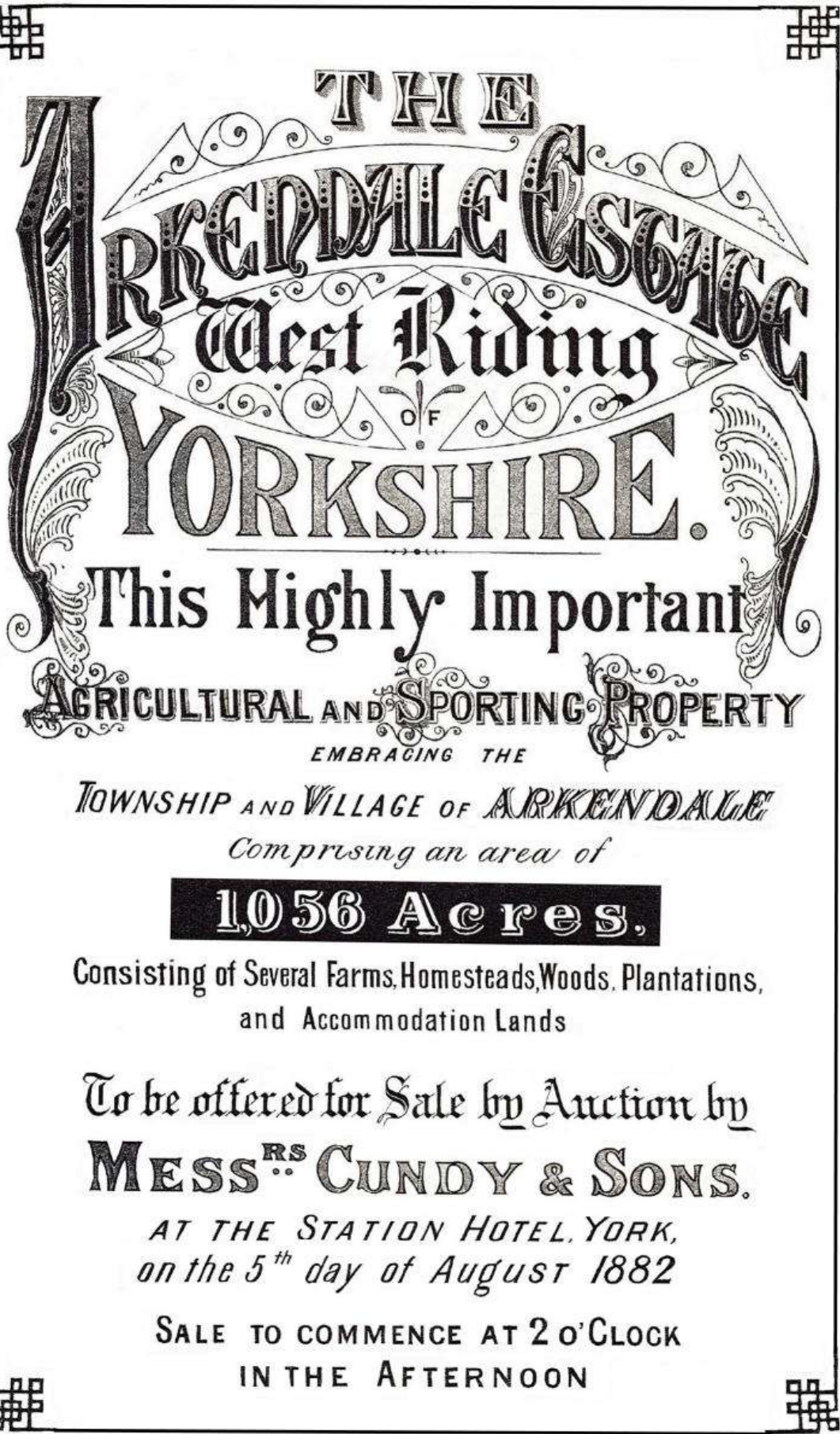
Rev. George Thomas died on 2 August 1879, aged 75, at Burton Wood, Warrington, where his brother, William Garnett Thomas, was Vicar. George Thomas was a widower with three daughters, Mary (Mrs Frederick Barker), Maria and Eliza. He requested a plain, private funeral, to be paid for from money in the North British Insurance Company.



*The entrance to the old vestry and school.*



*The 1867 school.*



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## Chapter Six

### *Alterations to the Chapel*

On 3 October 1879 Christopher Norton Wright was instituted to Arkendale, He was born at Nottingham in 1852 and named after his father, a stationer, who later lived at Edgbaston, Birmingham. He attended University School, Nottingham and continued his studies at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, where he was a music scholar. After his ordination he was curate of Knaresborough from 1876 to 1879. When he came to Arkendale his sister, who often helped with the school needlework, lived with him and his aunt acted as housekeeper. He married Eliza Hannah, daughter of Thomas Houfe and before they left Arkendale they had four sons there, William, Alfred Leopold, Henry Cecil and Harold Norton.

Few records survive to reveal details of the early part of Wright's work in the village but what little there is shows him busy with the regular tasks of a clergyman. The school-children were given a half-day holiday so that they could attend the yearly Confirmation service at Knaresborough Parish Church in 1880 and Rev. Wright presented candidates from Arkendale in April 1883; he also spoke that month at the Church Missionary meetings in the girls' schoolroom in Castle Yard at Knaresborough; the Parish Church district raised £243 for missions in 1883.

In June 1888 a petition for a faculty to alter Arkendale Chapel was submitted to Ripon Diocesan Registry. It was signed by Rev. Wright, Frederick Watson, Churchwarden, and Samuel James Brown, who was to pay for the work.



*Rev. C.N. Wright.*

Brown was a banker, a senior partner in the firms of William Williams Brown and Company of Leeds, and of Brown, Janson and Company in London. He was also a magistrate and sat regularly on the local bench. Since the early 1840's he had lived in the Parish of Staveley at Loftus Hill (or Loftuss as he preferred). He and his wife, Sophia, had many children, one of whom, George Henry, was baptised at Arkendale in 1853.

Permission was obtained to carry out alterations to St. Bartholomew's and to build a vestry on the northern side of the Chapel and a licence was granted on 12 July 1888 for services to be held in the schoolroom whilst the work, which cost about £300, was undertaken.

The interior of the Chapel underwent a great transformation. The old roof externally remained, but the flat plastered ceiling and old roof binding beams and timbers of the nave were taken out, and shaped, curved and moulded principal ribs inserted; the roof was then fitted with narrow pitched pine boards, with moulded rib panels in the bays, finished to a height of 22 feet from the floor. More drastic changes took place in the



chancel. The roof of the chancel was broken off and raised, and the east windows raised in proportion. The interior chancel arch was pulled down, and deeply moulded, cleansed stone jambs and arch, with moulded label, erected for the full width of the chancel to the height of the new roof. The old flag stones on the chancel and nave floors and the staircases down to the old vestry under the chancel were removed; extra steps to the chancel were inserted, where the floor was paved with a black and white marble mosaic. The rest of the floor was laid with a tiled pavement.

The Communion Table was replaced and surrounded with white marble and new rails placed around it; a new cloth was purchased for it. New choir stalls were provided with richly carved and moulded ends. The old seats in the nave, together with the old pulpit and reading desk, were cleaned and varnished. Heating was provided by "a new hot water apparatus" fixed around the Chapel, and lighting was by paraffin lamps, as before the alterations.

The old window arches and sills in the north and south walls of the chancel were removed and the openings enlarged to the same width as those in the nave. New sills and arches were fixed, with jambs being built in a similar style to the other windows. New lead-glazed stained-glass windows were fitted throughout, the east window having three lights, with the central figure of St. Bartholomew, after whom the church is dedicated. Under the window is the inscription:

"The interior alterations to this chapel and the erection of new vestry was completed by the munificence of Samuel James Brown, Esq., then living at Loftuss Hill, in the year of our Lord, 1888."

St. Bartholomew's was reopened on 16 February 1889 by the Bishop of Ripon, Rev. William Boyd Carpenter. The Hon. and Rev. J.W. Lascelles, Vicar of Goldsborough, conducted the service, with Rev. C.N. Wright at the organ. The service, which was said to be interesting and impressive in character, began with the singing of the hymn "Christ is our corner stone"; psalms 84 and 122 were sung, and the choir, assisted by members of Knaresborough Parish choir, sang the Hallelujah Chorus as an anthem. The Bishop preached an eloquent sermon, taking his text, "Do good, hoping for nothing", from St. Luke's Gospel. The £20 offertory was given to the newly organised Victoria Clergy Pension Fund. After the service the Bishop, clergy and other invited guests were entertained to lunch at Loftus Hill; many toasts and speeches were made and the Vicar of Arkendale spoke of the support that he had always received from Mr Brown and also of Mr Brown's kindness to the people of Arkendale at all times, but more particularly in the winter months. The people of the village had indeed cause to be grateful to him. His annual Christmas gift was half a ton of coals, which was divided amongst deserving families; in 1890 twenty-six families were to benefit.

In April 1889 the annual confirmation service took place at Knaresborough Parish Church. A total of 170 were confirmed; 55 were from the Parish Church itself, 51 from Knaresborough Holy Trinity, 12 from Staveley, 11 from Farnham, 9 from Copgrove, 11 from Goldsborough, 1 each from Boroughbridge, Great Ouseburn and Marton cum Grafton, 3 from Brearton, 4 from Birstwith and 11 from Arkendale.

At the end of June 1889 Christopher Norton Wright moved to be Vicar of Patrick Brompton, near Bedale. Before he left Arkendale the villagers and a few other local well-wishers presented him with a sideboard and a small drawing room table, whilst Mrs Wright was given a whatnot. No doubt clergymen who had served Arkendale before Rev. Wright were also given gifts, but records giving details do not survive. He served at Patrick Brompton with Hunton until 1894, then went to Kirby-on-the-Moor; he was at Boroughbridge until 1902, when he became Vicar of Wardle in Lancashire. He retired to Ripon in 1918, where he continued to help out with services, always showing kindly sympathy and interest in people. He died at Ripon in 1927, aged 74.

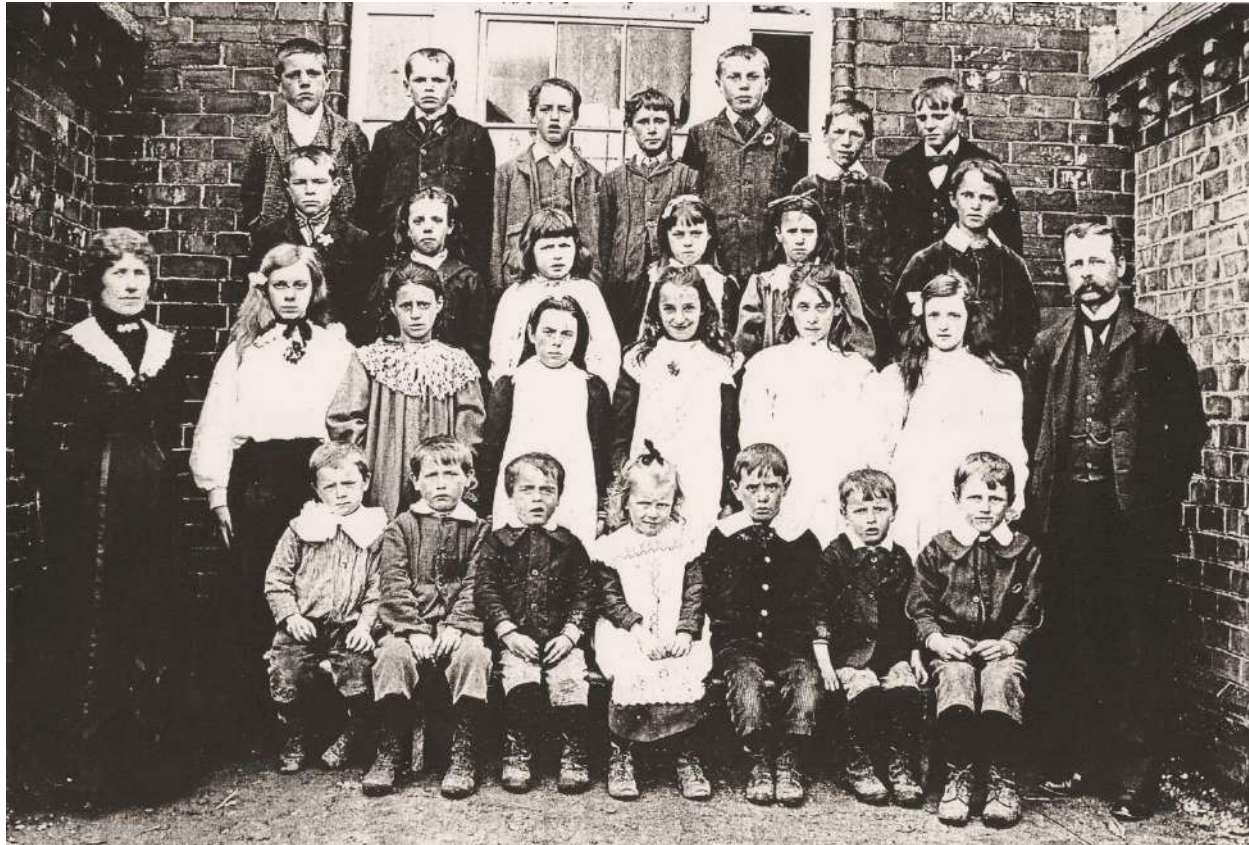
### **A Vicar for Arkendale**

Rev. Paget Lambart Bayly was instituted on 24 June 1889 as Vicar of Arkendale. Before this date Arkendale was a Perpetual Curacy. Bayly was born in Glasgow in 1863, the only son of General John Bayly. He attended Wellington College and then went to study at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Ordained in 1886 he served as curate of Holy Trinity, Ripon. Within a fortnight of his arrival at Arkendale his engagement to Miss Boyd Carpenter, only daughter of the Bishop of Ripon, was announced; however, the marriage did not take place. He did marry later, as his will mentions a wife, but when and where is not known.

For the induction service at 6 p.m. on 25 July, the Church, which had been specially decorated with flowers, was filled to capacity; Christopher Wright returned to play the organ and many local clergy attended, including Rev. W.E. Hancock, Vicar of Knaresborough and Patron of Arkendale, who helped to conduct the service. A shortened version of evensong was used. The Bishop went out of the west door, gave the key of the Church to Rev. Bayly, who re-entered the Church, locked the door again, rang the bell and then readmitted the Bishop together with the wardens; this type of service is traditional, symbolising the taking charge of a Church by the new clergyman. The Bishop preached a sermon based on a text from Ephesians, "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Several hymns were sung and the choir sang the anthem, "O give thanks," as well as the Nunc Dimittis. It had been a solemn and impressive service.

On January 11th 1890 there was a Parish Tea. There may have been a Parish tea each year, for in January 1894 there was a tea given by Mr Nussey at the Blue Bell for the women of the Parish, which was described as being an annual event. It is not clear whether there were two separate teas each year, one for all parishioners and one just for the women. The 1890 tea, which also took place at the Blue Bell, was paid for by Mr Nussey. The Rev. Bayly presided and was assisted by Messrs Thompson, Watson and Greaves. After a substantial Christmas tea there were readings and games. Exactly a week later a new oak pulpit and brass lectern, presented by Mr S.J. Brown, were unveiled in the Church. There was a large congregation and the Vicar preached a sermon appropriate for such an event.

In July 1890 the schoolchildren had an outing to Naburn Lock. What an adventure it must have been! They went by train from Goldsborough Station to York and on by steamer to Naburn, seeing the Archbishop's Palace, Bishopthorpe, on the way. The weather was kind to them, the day was much enjoyed, including the visit to York Minster on the return trip. The party was accompanied by the Vicar, Mr Thickett, the schoolmaster, and Mrs Thickett, Mr Simpson, Churchwarden, and Mrs Simpson, as well as Miss Simpson and Miss Thompson, who helped in school with needlework on a voluntary basis. Half day holidays were given for the Boroughbridge Barnaby Fair each June and the Knaresborough hirings in November.



*Arkendale school – c. 1890's*

On 24 August 1890 a dedication festival for St. Bartholomew's was held. Holy Communion was celebrated at 8 a.m. with Matins and litany at 10.30 when the preacher was Rev. A.C. Hayes of Foxton. At evensong the preacher was the Vicar of Knaresborough, Rev. W.E. Hancock.

The Church Missionary Society's annual meeting was held in the schoolroom on the evening of 17 September. The Vicar gave a short address about missions, after which Rev. Henry Lee, of Slaithwaite, gave a lecture on North West America, illustrated by magic lantern views. Such a talk would arouse the adults' interest and doubtless thrill the children; such entertainments were few and far between!

## 1891 - a year of change

In September 1891 the death took place at his shooting lodge at Durness in Scotland of Samuel James Brown of Loftus Hill, who had paid for the alterations to the Church and made contributions to the upkeep of the school, as well as doing much to help the poor of the Parish. Brown, aged 76, was buried in the family vault at Chapel Allerton. The service at the grave was conducted by the Vicar of Arkendale. In his will Brown was insistent that he be buried with a Church of England ceremony; if anyone caused or permitted any rite or ceremony with the slightest suggestion of Roman Catholic practices then their legacy was to be void. His wife and nine surviving children were the main beneficiaries, though there were many minor bequests; even with so many people to benefit from the will the fact that he left £360,758 shows that it was worth their while obeying his wishes. One son, George Henry, was left his estate at Dunsandle, Christchurch, New Zealand.

In 1846 another son, Samuel Williams Brown, had been accidentally killed near Ashburton, New Zealand; he is commemorated on a plaque in Arkendale Church, It seems strange that a plaque was not erected to his father, but perhaps it was felt that the alterations to the Church stood as his memorial.



*Arkendale school – unknown date*

In October 1891, a month after Samuel Brown's death, Joseph Nussey, the Lord of the Manor of Arkendale, also died at the age of 76; he died at Scarborough though he

normally resided at Stray View, Harrogate. He was a partner of Hargreave and Nussey, a firm of woollen manufacturers and merchants of Boar Lane, Leeds. The funeral cortege left Fawcett House, Wortley for Woodhouse Cemetery; as well as family mourners and friends, the tenants of the Arkendale Estate were also represented.

November brought more changes. Rev. P.L. Bayly left to spend the next ten years as Vicar of Road Hill, Wiltshire; he was then Vicar of Netherbury, Dorset for six years and Rector of Newton St. Loe, Somerset from 1908 to 1925, when he retired to Devizes, and died there in 1928, aged 65.

His place at Arkendale was taken by Rev. Frederick Edward Crankshaw, who was inducted on 25 November, 1891. He had been educated at University College, Durham, ordained deacon in 1884, after which he served as curate at St. James, Halifax and at Wrangthorn. While at Arkendale Rev. Crankshaw and his wife Beatrice had a son Richard Brunt; they already had a daughter Dorothy. One of the first village functions presided over by Rev. Crankshaw was a concert in the school on 2 December. It was said to be a success musically and financially, the school benefitting from the proceeds.



*The farm, Lower Arkendale*

## The new burial ground and the Nusseys

Mr James Hargreave Nussey succeeded his father, Joseph, as Lord of the Manor. In February 1893 Thomas Thompson of Royal Crescent, Harrogate, in his capacity as agent to Mr Nussey, wrote to the Church Commissioners about the burial ground. James' father had offered to give some land for a new burial ground as the old one by the Church was full. His son was also prepared to give some land. The cost of the cemetery was about £100 and to meet the expenditure a rate was laid, and the deficit between the proceeds of the rate and the cost was made up by Mr Nussey. The local farmers could not afford to pay for fencing the burial ground, as times were so hard that their rents had been reduced. Once the formalities had been sorted out, the Church Commissioners agreed to pay for fencing. In fact iron railings were erected and by the road there was a low wall, surrounded by palisading.

The land given was part of Stead Garth, which was being farmed by Peter Thompson, as tenant of Manor Farm; it was measured very precisely at 128 feet 6 inches by 82 feet 6 inches, which is one rood. It was anticipated that it would serve for three hundred years as a burial ground for Arkendale Parish and for Low Arkendale, which at that time was still part of the Parish of Farnham.



*The Cemetery.*

The burial ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon on 18 September 1893. There was a service at the burial ground and the deed of Consecration was read. It was followed by a short service in the Church at which the Bishop preached.

Mr and Mrs Nussey took an active interest in the village activities and sometimes supported the children's annual tea and concert in the school, providing small gifts of sweets and oranges. Mr Nussey was Patron and the Vicar was President of the village cricket club, which had been formed in the early 1890's.

The Nusseys also gave their support to Allerton Mauleverer Chapel in July 1898, when Mrs Nussey opened a sale of work there, held in Mr Route's Smithy Field. A cricket match was held between Allerton and Arkendale in the afternoon. Since Rev. Crankshaw became Perpetual Curate of Allerton in 1895 the Chapel windows there had been altered and the interior redecorated. The sale would raise additional funds for the work.

Mrs Ann Nussey died in 1900 and was buried at Arkendale on 6 December. The following March Mr Nussey, who had been at the family mills of Hargreave and Nussey at Farnley, went to spend a week-end at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate; on the Sunday he drove over to Arkendale to visit his wife's grave and attend church. On his return he felt unwell and died a day or two later. James Hargreave Nussey, whose home was at Fawcett House, Wortley, was buried at Arkendale on 22 March, aged 48. He was

described by the Knaresborough Post as "a good type of Yorkshireman, bluff and hearty, and of a very kindly nature. He was greatly respected." He had given money towards the restoration of Wortley Church. He was a life governor of the Yorkshire College and had served as President of the Textile Society. Mr Nussey had been a keen sportsman and had devoted much of his leisure time to shooting in Scotland and at Arkendale, where Joseph Sampson acted as his gamekeeper. His son, Joseph Henry Nussey, succeeded him.

Within a short time Rev. F.E. Crankshaw became Vicar of Holy Trinity, Knaresborough. He was a fluent speaker and had often preached at the Parish Church of St. John in Knaresborough. He had won the respect of a wide circle of friends and parishioners whilst at Arkendale. He left the village in April 1903.



*The "Boulevards" – Arkendale c.1910*

## Chapter Seven

### *The Ministry of Parson Knight*

#### **1903 - a busy year**

The induction service of Henry Cradock Knight took place on 15 June 1903. According to Crockford's Directory of Clergy the living at Arkendale was worth £202. In the September he also became Perpetual Curate of Allerton Mauleverer, where the living was worth £65; this additional income would be useful to a newly wedded man, for Knight was married shortly after taking up his Arkendale appointment.

Henry Cradock Knight was the fifth successive generation in his family to become a clergyman. He was born on Boxing Day 1864 at Oughtibridge, near Sheffield, where his father William was Vicar. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, London and Hemsworth Grammar School. He gained his degree at Durham University; he was very keen on sport and rowed for the university. He was ordained deacon in 1890 and held curacies at Holy Trinity, Sheffield and St. Mark's, Wolverhampton.

Knight then served as curate at Knaresborough Parish Church for seven and a half years. He was very popular there and large congregations were at St. John's to hear his farewell sermons. Although Knight himself referred to the deafness that he suffered from as an "affliction", it had not prevented his involvement in many groups, both secular and religious in nature, who made presentations to him at a large social gathering. He had done much work for the Y.M.C.A., of which he was Chairman and Vice-President; he was also Chairman of the Vocal Union; he was a capable batsman and wicket keeper for the cricket club, played in goal for the football club and had started swimming and boating clubs. At separate presentations he received gifts from the parishioners in Knaresborough and Scriven, who thanked him also for his work with the choir and the bell ringers. It was clear that Arkendale was to have a man of exceptional talents.

Just a week after his Arkendale induction, Henry Knight was married at St. Mark's, Wolverhampton to Lavinia, youngest daughter of the late John Addenbrooke of Walsall. The service was taken by the Vicar of St. Mark's and two clergymen brothers of the bride. Presumably the couple met whilst he had been curate at St. Mark's. The event was recognised by the ringing of the bells at Knaresborough Parish Church. The honeymoon was spent in Ireland.

In September village festivities were held to celebrate the coming of age of the Lord of the Manor, Joseph Henry Nussey. Houses were decorated with banners and flags, the Union Flag hung from the Church tower, the Vicarage was illuminated and Rev. Knight had a display of fireworks. There was a cricket match for adults and sports for children, who received presents from Mr and Miss Nussey. Mrs Kitchingman of the Blue Bell did the catering and an excellent tea was served in a marquee. Amongst those present was Rev. Crankshaw, who returned to join the celebrations. Presentations were made to Mr



Nussey by Mr Knight on behalf of the tenants and by the agent of the estate, Mr Wallace Gill. An enjoyable day was had by all.

### **Early Years**

In the first few years of Parson Knight's incumbency little out of the ordinary occurred. No doubt he got to know his parishioners both at Arkendale and Allerton and they came to know and like him. There were several baptisms, a few marriages and even fewer burials. Two of those baptised were the Rev. Knight's children, Sylvia and Gerald, who were born in December 1904 and July 1907 respectively.

The Church still had a choir which took part in the Ripon, Masham and Knaresborough Choral Union Festival service at Knaresborough Parish Church in July 1905. The annual Confirmation service for the area was regularly held at Knaresborough and two of the fifty seven candidates in April 1908 were from Arkendale.

In July 1908 many local people crowded into Knaresborough to see and hear General Booth, head of the Salvation Army. At the age of nearly 80, he was undertaking his fifth national tour, which would cover 2000 miles. By contrast later the same month Mormon missionaries were mobbed at Ripon, when it was noted that "people are not yet amenable to the tenets and teaching of Brigham Young's followers."



*Arkendale school – unknown date*

## A sad event

As Christmas 1908 approached the children of the village set off for their usual house to house carol singing, under the leadership of Edgar Steel, who played the melodeon. It was the custom to start at the Vicarage, but that particular year Mr Knight did not invite them in as normal, because his daughter Sylvia was very ill. She had not been well for some time and Mrs Amy Lambert of Minskip can remember when Sylvia used to be carried down from the Vicarage to watch Amy's father, Thomas Marshall, at work in his blacksmith's shop at Low Arkendale, almost up to that Christmas. Sadly, Sylvia died on 26 December, just fifteen days after her fourth birthday (it was also her father's 44th birthday).



*Arkendale smithy*

Sylvia Knight was buried amidst much grieving in the village. Her coffin was carried on special straps to the Church by six children, one of whom was Amy Marshall. The first part of the burial service was taken by Rev. E. Evers, Vicar of Aldborough, and Rev. R.K. Vinter, Vicar of Marton cum Grafton, read the committal sentences at the graveside. One of Sylvia's favourite hymns, "Art thou weary" was sung. The grave was decorated with evergreens by members of the Sowers' Band and the Arkendale Church choir children.

## Parish life continues

In May 1909 Mr Abbey, the schoolmaster of Arkendale for nine and a half years, left the village to take up farming near Richmond. His wife had acted as assistant mistress for some years. As he made the leaving presentation to the Abbeyes, Rev. Knight must have

thought of his daughter who would have attended the Church school, had she lived. Perhaps sometimes he took his magic lantern to the school, which Mr G. Mann, a former organist of St. Bartholomew's, can remember him doing when he was a boy at the school in Castle Yard, Knaresborough. Miss Bretherick took over the running of the school from Mr Abbey.

There was also a Sunday School held in Church at 2 p.m. and run by Mr Knight and the day school teachers. There were many pupils, who were treated each year to a party in the school with ham provided by the local farmers' wives. Mrs Meysey-Thompson gave a small box of chocolates, with a big red rose on it, for each child.

The annual Harvest Festival services in 1909 began on Thursday 9 October when the Bishop of Knaresborough preached a helpful and stirring sermon to the large congregation present in spite of the stormy evening. A collection was taken for the Harrogate Infirmary. The Harvest services continued on the Sunday, when the Vicar preached, since a Church Missionary Society preacher could not come as usual. The Sunday collections were for the C.M.S. The Knaresborough Post reported that "the Church was beautifully decorated, and all the services were exceedingly hearty, a true thanksgiving for great mercies. Arkendale will long remember the harvest of 1909, the Bishop's kindness in coming and this happy season of thanksgiving."



*St Bartholomew's Church, c. 1910*

## **Coronation Year**

1911 saw the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. If preparations for the event in London were hectic, those for celebrating at Arkendale were no less so! The Vicar chaired two organising committees, one composed of ladies, the other of men! £26 was collected to defray the expenses.

At 6 a.m. on Thursday 22 June a new St. George's flag was hoisted on the Church tower. At 10.30 the schoolchildren, accompanied by the Vicar and teachers, marched carrying red, white and blue "adornments" from the school to the Church, where the Vicar conducted a service at 11 a.m. After the service Mrs Nussey gave silver medals to the school pupils and to members of the Girls' Guild. A photograph was then taken of all the villagers; this is the photo on the cover of this book. Rev. and Mrs Knight are in the centre of the picture and Mr and Mrs Nussey are by the gate. A young Herbert Marshall, who lent this photo, is seated on the wall behind the gate.

The festivities began with a cricket match between the ladies and men in Mr Hunton's field. It was fine all day and there were sports for everyone and a huge tea was provided. The festivities continued in the evening with a bonfire in Arkendale Hall grounds. A second cricket match was held the following day and there was another excellent spread in the school. On Sunday 25 June special hymns were chosen at both services, to end a memorable week.

Rev. E.A. Chard, Vicar of St. Mary's, Harrogate, preached at the main Harvest Service in 1911 and as usual the collection was given to the Harrogate Infirmary. On the Sunday there was Holy Communion after Morning Prayer and Rev. Knight preached at this and the evening service. The collections were for C.M.S. and the flowers and fruit were distributed to the local sick and poor. The Parish was also involved in supporting the British and Foreign Bible Society's work and in November 1911 the Vicar attended its centenary meeting at Knaresborough Town Hall.

## **A special sale of work and garden party**

In 1912 the Church clock caused many problems and became so erratic that it struck ten at one o'clock! It was deemed to be beyond repair so it was decided to make a special effort at the annual sale of work and garden party to raise the £100 necessary to buy a new one. New ventilators and a new boiler were required in the Church; hymn books and hassocks were also needed.

A large marquee was erected in the Vicarage grounds and stalls were built in Japanese style. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs Charlesworth of Conyngham Hall, Knaresborough, but there were many other notable families represented, including Mr and Mrs E.C. Meysey-Thompson of Spellow Hill, Canon and Mrs Hancock of Knaresborough, the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Knaresborough and former Vicar of Arkendale Rev. F.E. Crankshaw and his wife, Mr and Mrs J.H. Nussey of Arkendale Hall, Dr and Mrs Daggett of Boroughbridge, Mrs Reginald Thompson of Loftus Hill,

Miss Wilmot-Smith of Boroughbridge Hall; other families such as the Collins and Bridgemans had sent gifts.

There were many stalls - Vicarage fancy stall, flowers, china and basket, fancy goods, farm produce, plain work, sweets, refreshments and teas. The sale continued the following day, having been re-opened by Mrs Nussey. Half-hour concerts were given on both days and there were many competitions and other attractions. Thanks to the efforts of all concerned the magnificent sum of £114 was raised.



*Arkendale school children – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1913*

### **The first world war**

Many local men went to serve their country; several parishioners were killed in the fighting in Europe and they are commemorated on the War Memorial beside the Church. Those people at home tried to continue life in as normal a way as the circumstances permitted.

There were excellent congregations at the Harvest Festival services on the first Friday and Sunday in October 1915. The collections went to the Harrogate Infirmary and C.M.S. as usual but most of the fruit and vegetables were given to the Beaulieu Auxiliary Hospital for wounded soldiers at Harrogate. A large amount of vegetables, marrows and fruit was given to the Navy Stall in Knaresborough Market Square. For months this stall collected food to be sent on to different naval bases for the sailors of the fleet.

Shortly after the end of the war, in February 1919, Miss Clarissa Heptonstall, who had been organist at Arkendale and Allerton, married Mr Harry Blaken, who was a sidesman and school manager at Arkendale.

The following month the Knights were saddened by the death of their servant Sarah Ann Yeardley, aged 74, known to all as "Old Sarah", who had started to work as a cook for Rev. Knight's father in 1853 and been with the family ever since.

On Thursday 12 June a garden sale, opened by Lady Bridgeman of Copgrove Hall, raised £30 for the C.M.S. Rev. Claude Snushall also talked about missionary work.

On Saturday 19 July 1919 peace was celebrated with a service at St. Bartholomew's, attended by the schoolchildren and many parishioners. A Roll of Honour was read outside the Church and a photograph of all present was taken. Sports were held, there was a decorated bicycle competition, followed by a tea, and a dance in the school until midnight. There was also a firework display. Celebrations continued on the Monday with a cricket match and a block test competition. All the children were given a Peace Mug.

The Harvest festival that year was exceptionally well attended and as well as the normal services there was a special gift service for the children. Many gifts of fruit and vegetables were sent to the Harrogate Infirmary.



*Church and Manor Farm, 1918*

### **An Appeal and a change to parish boundaries**

In June 1922 an appeal was launched by the Parochial Church Council with a view to increasing the endowment of the living at Arkendale, which was only £190 a year. It was proposed to try and raise £250 locally amongst a wide circle of friends and

sympathisers; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners promised a grant on condition that this sum could be raised and further help was available from the Diocesan Board of Finance. The committee members for the appeal were Mr P. Ritson, treasurer, Miss L.M. Faircliffe, secretary, Miss A.J., Bretherick and Mr H. Blaken. Printed appeal notices were circulated in the area.

The following April the Bishop of Ripon celebrated Holy Communion at Arkendale at the Morning Service and preached then and in the evening. He also preached at Allerton in the afternoon. The collections were used for Arkendale's quota to the Ripon Diocesan Society and the Central Church fund. The organist and choirmaster in the 1920's was Ossy Greensit of Boroughbridge.

A garden sale and fete was held at the end of May 1923 in the Vicarage garden and was opened by Lady Lawson-Tancred. The Vicar spoke of their sadness at the recent accidental death, whilst loading his cart near Copgrove station, of Mr Reginald Houseman, saying that he would be sadly missed as he had been very helpful in many ways since he had lived in the village.

A talk about augmentation or the increase in the value of livings was given by Canon Elliston, secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance. He said that the clergy had been poorly paid before the war but with the increase in the cost of living since the end of the war the situation was very bad. Each parish had to raise so much money and Arkendale had already done well with its appeal fund, having collected sufficient money to avoid the necessity of amalgamating two parishes. It was hoped that the sale would raise the remaining £45 required and also about £20 extra for medical missions. The Arkendale living would then be increased by £40 a year. The afternoon was very successful and as well as stalls there were various entertainments, including maypole dancing by the schoolchildren.

In June 1923 Rev. Knight made an application to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for St. Bartholomew's to become a consolidated chapelry, by taking in small parts of the parishes of Goldsborough, Allerton, Marton cum Grafton and Farnham. It had already been agreed by the Vestry Meeting at Farnham as early as April 1913, when the Vicar of Farnham lived at Scotton, that it would be sensible if Ferrensby were no longer part of Farnham Parish but became part of the Parish of Arkendale instead. Indeed the actual boundary for Farnham Parish went round three sides of Arkendale Vicarage. There were also three isolated fields by Brooms House which were part of Farnham Parish. Arkendale Parish was to commence at Clareton Hill pinfold to the south and end at Brooms House to the north, and include Ferns (now Forms) House. These changes were duly made and details of the boundary changes were published in the London Gazette of 22 February 1924. The changes meant that the Church served a population of 358, of which 166 were in the parochial Chapel of Arkendale itself.

At this time a further augmentation in the stipend of £50 was made. Rev. Knight would need every penny of the increase, as in 1927 a Diocesan inspection revealed that extensive repairs were needed at the Vicarage; he declared himself willing to pay for

what could be reasonably expected of him, but that he would also have to appeal for donations.

Also in 1927 the Diocesan Inspector of religious education visited Arkendale. He found that the standard of work in the Scripture was excellent as usual, the children being "thoroughly well taught."

### **The Church Army**

The Church Army had started to send out caravans in 1892 so that they could extend their town mission work into the countryside. Motorised vans were introduced in 1922 and by 1925 there were 56 vans in the United Kingdom, all very conspicuous with texts of Scripture painted in white on a green background. Horse drawn caravans also continued to be used and a van which had been based at Ripon since 1923 visited Arkendale for two weeks in the 1920's, having earlier been to Staveley. Mr Herbert Marshall remembers the van being parked in front of Holgate Bank Farm. A large tent was erected in what was then the field opposite Dale House Farm for preaching and singing of hymns such as "O happy day." The missionaries were invited into homes for their meals and tried to visit as many houses as possible. Mr Henry Houseman remembers that when it was time for the Church Army to move on the local farmers provided a horse to pull the caravan.

The Church Army also held summer crusades when groups marched across the country, holding meetings and visiting local people. One such march from Coventry to Edinburgh visited Knaresborough in July 1924.

### **Celebrations for the Knights**

In 1928 Rev. Henry Cradock Knight had been Vicar of Arkendale and Incumbent of Allerton Mauleverer for 25 years. It was also the Knights' 25th wedding anniversary and their son Gerald's 21st birthday that year so joint celebrations were held. The Vicar of Knaresborough, as Patron of Arkendale, preached on Sunday morning 17 June and the Bishop of Ripon preached at the evening service. There was a tea for parishioners in the Memorial Hall, an old army hut from Ripon which had been erected in 1921; entertainment was provided by Mr A.E. Cartwright, a conjurer from Darlington. The people of Allerton, who had had a tea the previous day, gave the Knights a chair and those from Arkendale a matching Chesterfield couch. The Allerton parishioners also gave Mr Knight a pipe and pouch of tobacco, whilst Col. Meysey-Thompson presented a Russian leather wallet with a bundle of notes in it, on behalf of Arkendale parishioners. The Knights were much loved and respected.

The following month the garden sale was held in aid of medical missions in India and South Africa. The schoolchildren danced around the maypole again and the older pupils performed a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream."



The Sunday School was still active at this time. The Christmas party was held in the Vicarage and amongst the treats still remembered by Mrs Hilda Shaw (née Ingleby) was a "hunt the chocolate coins", which were hidden by Mrs Knight.

In February 1932 a missionary meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Chapel was held in the Memorial Hall. Rev. Knight was in the chair and Rev. R. Hewitson, superintendant Wesleyan Minister of Knaresborough, gave a lantern lecture on Vienna.

Mr and Mrs J.H. Nussey celebrated their silver wedding in 1933 by inviting friends, neighbours and all the local children to a party in the Memorial Hall. There was a tea and entertainment and Rev. Knight called upon Mr Tom Elliott, the oldest tenant on the estate, to make the presentation of a solid silver tray to the Nusseys.

### **1934 - a typical year in the life of the Church**

The yearly cycle of events continued. The Vicar arranged the special Easter services including the usual Lantern service. At the Annual Vestry Meeting held in the school on 11 April Mr Thomas Morfoot and Mr F.W. Hunton were re-elected Vicar's and People's Wardens respectively; it was reported that Colonel Gatkin, a Diocesan Reader, who had taken some evening services, had died. Some parishoners agreed to continue having Parish offering boxes at home. The Garden Fete, held in June, was opened by Mrs Pownall of Goldsborough Grange. The choir had a September outing to Scarborough. In the autumn there was a Knaresborough Deanery Mission; the parish presented Rev. C. Snushall, with a gift of books for all his help and encouragement; he had visited Arkendale for four days in October in his capacity as Messenger for the Mission and had spoken to the school-children during a scripture lesson. He was also one of several clergymen who wrote special mission articles in the local press.

In 1934 there were still Harvest services on two different days with the customary supper in the hall after the Friday evening service, adults paying 1/- and children 6d. The proceeds that year were for the Church as it was felt that the Harrogate Infirmary, which had benefitted in the past, was well supported by the parish through their contributory scheme. Armistice Day fell on a Sunday in 1934, so the services were held then; these included a special Men's Service in the afternoon. When it fell on a week day the school children would process to Church for a service singing, "Onward Christian Soldiers," and appropriate hymns and prayers would be included in the Sunday service. The collection from the Christmas services was given to the Waifs and Strays Society, now known as the Children's Society.



Houseman's farm - 1930s

### **Jubilee Year**

Celebrations were held in May 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V. A service was held in the Church at 11 o'clock, the collection going to the Jubilee Trust Fund. In the afternoon there was a children's fancy dress competition, judged by Capt. Hon. and Mrs W.M. Stourton, who were renting Arkendale Hall at that time. This was followed by a Ladies v. Gentlemen cricket match. Mrs E.C. Meysey--Thompson presented commemorative mugs to the children, who had a special tea. The County Council also gave the children Jubilee pens and pencils. After the adults' tea came sports, including tug of war, in Mr Bywater's field. Those unable to be present had their teas sent to them. Ladies over 65 received Jubilee tea caddies, chocolates and sweets and men were given cigarettes and tobacco. There was a supper at 8.30 and a social at 9. The day ended with a dance at 11 o'clock, the music being supplied by a radiogram. There must have been some very tired people in Arkendale that night!

Mr and Mrs W.J. Reeves resigned from their positions as clerk, verger and cleaner; no one was appointed to replace them for quite a long time. The Garden Sale was held as usual in June and as well as the stalls there was a physical drill display by the schoolchildren, character sketches by Mrs Kinder, a charade by the Women's Institute and humorous sketches by the Raffles Concert Party of Knaresborough. There were games and sports in the evening and a coffee supper at the end. Small wonder that Lady Lawson-Tancred of Aldborough Manor, who opened the proceedings, commented, "A great institution, this Arkendale sale."

## Parson Knight retires

In May 1936 Rev. Henry Cradock Knight retired. There was a distinct sadness at Arkendale at the departure of Mr and Mrs Knight, who had done so much for the parish and its people and who were held in great esteem.

Presentations were made at a social evening by Captain Stourton, Mr Nussey and Mrs Meysey-Thompson on behalf of the parishioners; there was an inscribed silver salver, a wallet containing £33, one note for every year of his ministry, for Mr Knight and a handbag and cheque for Mrs Knight. The Vicar thanked everyone for their kindness and said how he appreciated the interest taken by Mr and Mrs Nussey. There were further presentations at Allerton Mauleverer.

Although he no longer participated in many sports Rev. Knight was still a member of the Harrogate Golf Club and Boroughbridge Tennis Club. His prowess at billiards was well known in the reading room in the village and at 71 he could still put up a good show, using the cue with either hand! Throughout his life he used a hearing trumpet but his deafness had never prevented him from taking part in any activity, be it secular or spiritual; it had been a slight drawback when he wanted to know if he had cranked his Austin Seven into action so he used to check by putting his hand on the bonnet! Rev. Knight was present at the institution and induction of his successor, Rev. T.S. Jameson, where the Bishop of Knaresborough paid tribute to the "long and faithful service" of Mr Knight whom "they all honoured and loved."

The Knights spent their retirement at Knaresborough. Rev. Knight died in July 1939, having been in ill health since just before the previous Christmas. After a service at Knaresborough Parish Church he was buried at Knaresborough Cemetery. A memorial board was erected in Arkendale Church by the parishioners and a photo of this remarkable man hangs nearby.



*Rev. Knight at the induction of his successor.*

## Chapter Eight

### *The Incumbency of Rev. T.S. Jameson*

After graduating at Cambridge Rev. Tom Stanley Jameson was ordained in 1920 and served as curate at All Saints, Runcorn until 1924 when he moved to Skelton in Cleveland; in 1929 he became curate at Christ Church, Harrogate and in 1932 he went as Vicar to Stanwick with Aldbrough. A large party came on 9 July 1936 from Stanwick for his institution and induction at Arkendale. A reception was held in the Memorial Hall. Not only was Rev. H.C. Knight present, but also his predecessor, Rev. F.E. Crankshaw, who had retired as Vicar of Holy Trinity, Knaresborough in 1928.

When Rev. Jameson was licensed and installed to the perpetual curacy of Allerton in plurality with Arkendale in September 1936, it was noted that such a plurality was very rare at that time and required the special permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury. How times have changed!

Two days later the Vicar presided over a sale of work, held in the hall, in aid of church funds and the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) medical missions. The sale was opened by Mrs Meysey-Thompson.

In November 1936 celebrations took place at Ripon for the centenary of the Ripon Diocese; Rev. Knight was present at the main service in Ripon Cathedral, but whether Arkendale was represented otherwise is not known. St. Bartholomew's was the first church to be consecrated by the new Bishop of Ripon in January 1837, (Brearton was consecrated the following day) but the Parish does not appear to have celebrated its own centenary at all.

#### **New ideas and old ones in Coronation Year**

When any new Vicar comes to a parish there are bound to be some fresh ways of doing things, but of course much remains unchanged or altered just a little. A social was held in the hall on New Year's Eve followed by a watch night service to see in 1937. The Annual Church Meeting was held in conjunction with a lantern slide show in February, presumably in the hope of attracting more people! It was decided to proceed with a free will-offering scheme and to raise £50 for an organ to replace the old American harmonium.

A new St. George's Flag, given by Mr and Mrs Heptonstall, was hoisted on the May morning of the Coronation of George VI and a united church service was held. Many festivities followed - children's fancy dress parade, cycle race to Coneythorpe, sports, tea and supper for children and adults, followed by a dance in the hall until 2 a.m. Only the cricket match was cancelled because of the cold wet weather.

The proceeds of the May garden sale were for the C.M.S. and the organ fund. A choir and Sunday School outing took place in the summer. It was possible to proceed with the

installation of the organ (a two manual pipe organ) in September and this was celebrated with a recital by Mr Yeomans of Harrogate. One of the pews recently obtained from the demolished Church of St. Edmund's at Leeds, had to be cut so that the organ could be blown properly!

### **1938, an eventful year**

The first reference found to a Mothering Sunday service at Arkendale was in The Knaresborough Post in April 1938. The children of the Sunday School sang special hymns and presented their mothers with bunches of daffodils, primroses and violets.

The proceeds from the annual sale were to be put towards three different causes; the C.M.S. was to receive a donation; £30 was still owed for the organ; and finally, at this time, improvements were being made to the Vicarage and £14 was outstanding from a £200 bill for installing a self-contained water system with a bathroom. (The Ecclesiastical Commissioners had given £120 and the diocese £75 towards the several long overdue repairs). At the sale new stalls and attractions were in evidence such as clock golf and a treasure hunt; a raffle was held, as it had been decided that these were not prohibited at such events! A dancing display was given by the girls of Elmwood School, Harrogate, where Mr Jameson's daughter was a pupil. As the day's proceeds were £30 more fund raising lay ahead! Indeed the 1939 sale brought in the final £10 needed for paying off the money owed on the organ, as well as raising the C.M.S. quota and money required for repairing the churchyard wall.

At the end of June 1938 Joseph Henry Nussey of Arkendale Hall died, aged 56, having been ill for six months. His funeral service at St. Bartholomew's was taken by Rev. Jameson and Rev. Knight. Miss Faircliffe of Ferrensby was organist. As Mr Nussey had always taken a great interest in the school the pupils attended the service, as well as many tenants, parishioners, family and friends. He had maintained his interest in the family firm at Wortley and during the war had served with the West Yorkshire Regiment. Mr Nussey was chairman of Arkendale Conservative Association. For leisure activities he was a keen sportsman and as well as being involved with local hunting had made big game expeditions to Uganda and the Bahamas.

In October some of the choir took part in the Ripon Choir Festival. November had special significance in the Church's history as it was then that the first ever Confirmation Service was held at Arkendale. The Bishop of Ripon confirmed a total of 24 candidates, who were each presented with a small book from the Parish to mark the event. They were: Arthur Sampson, Ernest Hall, Ernest Kendle, Maurice Elliott, Henry Needham, John Chater, John Allinson, Edward Flint, Thomas Jameson, Ronald Greensit, Mrs Ethel Needham, Mrs Lena Greensit, Mrs Marjorie Hunton, Irene Weir, Alice Richardson, Elsie Thomas, Doris Tindale, Joan Umpleby, Frances Ritson, Rosamund Ingleby, Evelyn Ritson, Martha Ingleby, Dorothy Elliott and Frances Rawer.

Also in November there was a splendid Harvest Supper and Harvest services and a special Church Missionary Society exhibition was organised. A film on the work of the

Harrogate Hospital was shown in December to round off a busy year. The free will offering scheme raised over £29 for Church funds.

At this time Morning Prayer was held at 11.15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 6.30 p.m. each Sunday using the 1662 service, though sometimes the Ten Commandments were omitted and the basic two Commandments of our Lord were used. Holy Communion was celebrated on the 4th Sunday at 8.15 a.m., on the 2nd Sunday at 11.15 a.m. and on Saint's Days at 10 a.m. The average number of Sunday Communicants was six or seven. Mrs Jameson ran the Sunday School at Arkendale and Mr Jameson the one at Allerton. The Vicar also taught regularly in the day school.

### **The war years**

One early consequence of the war was that any week-day services were cancelled because of the blackout. During the darker months Evening Service on Sundays was held at 3.30 p.m. and the necessary air raid protection equipment was purchased. At first it was decided to try to black out the Church so that services could be held when it was dark, but because of the frequency of air raids in the summer of 1940 this did not happen immediately. It was decided to insure the Church against enemy action and to have a stirrup pump there always. The collections from the Harvest Thanksgiving services were sent to C.M.S., the Harrogate Hospital and the British Red Cross.

On 7 June 1940 the Archdeacon of Richmond, the Venerable D.M.M. Bartlett, dedicated the oak tablet and a new altar frontal as a memorial to Rev. Henry Cradock Knight, who had died shortly before the outbreak of the war. Many parishioners who had subscribed to the memorial were present at the service, together with Mrs Knight and her sister-in-law Miss F.E. Knight of Knaresborough. The service was conducted by Rev. Jameson. The Archdeacon spoke of Mr Knight's valued service in the parish and his many excellent qualities, his sunny disposition and gift of the human touch. The hymn board at the front of the nave is also erected in Mr Knight's memory.

As in other years, a short service was held by the Memorial Cross on Armistice Day in 1940 and the pupils marched in procession from the school singing "Onward Christian Soldiers." Appropriate hymns and prayers were also said on the nearest Sunday to 11 November. The 1940 sale took the form of a bring and buy sale in the hall, followed by a military whist drive and short dance. Instead of a sale in 1941 and 1942 envelopes were delivered to every house asking for support; these raised over t16 and over t13 respectively. There was also an appeal by the Bishop on behalf of the Royal Air Force in September 1941 and a special collection was made.

In December 1942 it was considered safe enough to hold a series of evening services in the Church. The odd military whist drive and jumble sale, together with the free will offering scheme, were the main ways of raising money in the wars years, though a special appeal for donations for Church repairs was made in 1943.

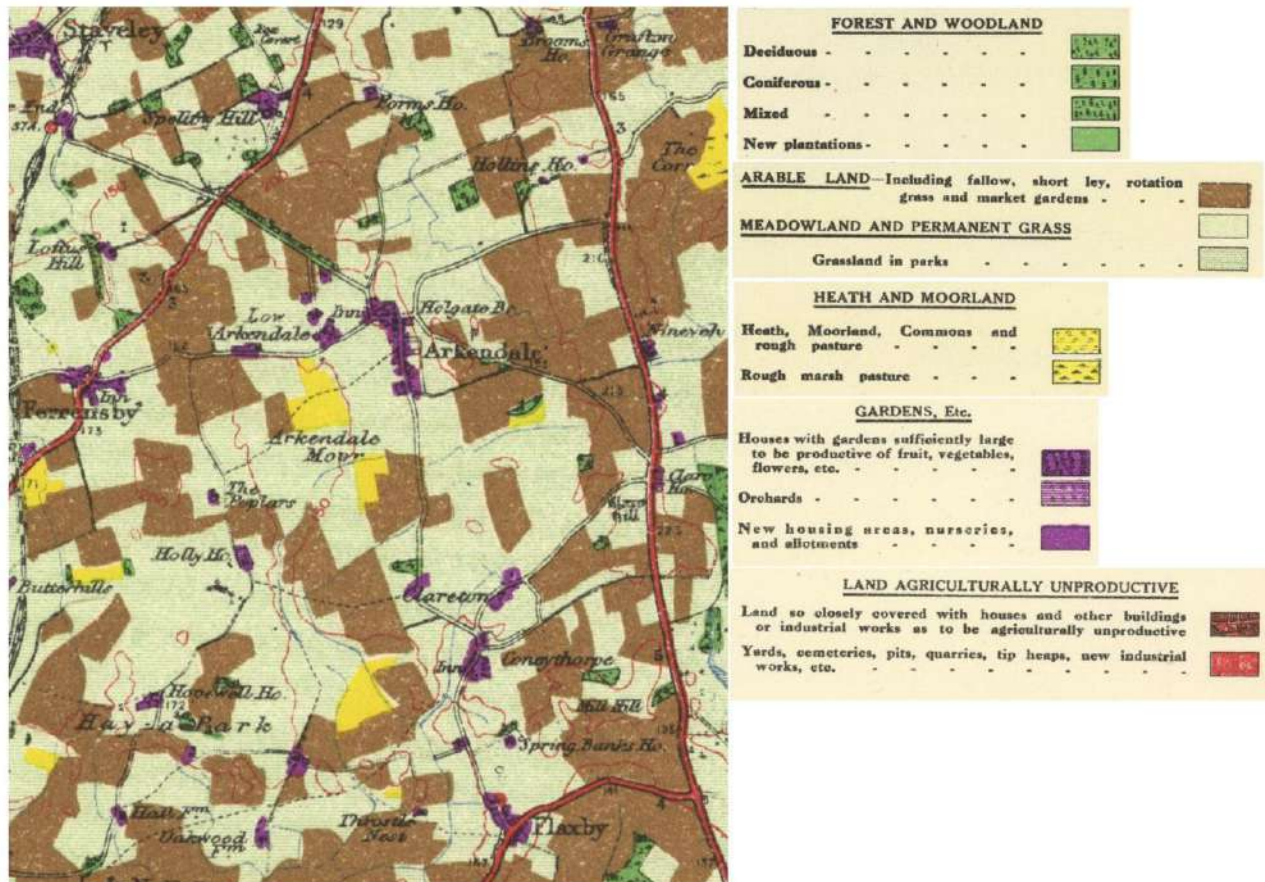


*The Church, showing the vestry built in 1888.*

In 1944 the Dean and Chapter of Ripon issued a statement concerning the problems of staffing parishes during the war years and their proposal to amalgamate Arkendale, Staveley and Copgrove was accepted. The Bishop of Knaresborough came to take a Confirmation service in May 1945. A Victory service was held to give thanks for the end of the war. On Easter Day that year 49 people took Communion.



Arkendale villagers - V.E. Day 1945 - Sunnyside Field



Land use map - 1945

### After the war was over

Life could never be quite the same again after such a traumatic period but people gradually readjusted to peacetime conditions. In June a bring and buy plus jumble sale was held in Mr Simpson's field and barn at Ferrensby in aid of the Ripon Diocese Church Challenge Fund. A whist drive and auction also took place. A competition for a pig raised nearly £19 and the whole effort made almost £70. In October the Harvest Thanksgiving was followed by a supper and social in the hall with a concert by Knaresborough Youth Centre; 2/- bought an entry ticket that year.

The Armistice Day Service would be particularly poignant in 1945 and naturally the collection was sent to the British Legion.

A concert and supper on New Year's Eve were followed by a watch night service in Church. Fund raising was very necessary as the Church boiler was in a very bad condition and needed repairing. A further concert and supper was held on Shrove Tuesday 1946, In July a bring and buy plus general sale was followed by a whist drive- which raised £55 in all. All the the harvest supper profits and collections from harvest services went to the Church Restoration Fund. Money also had to be raised for the Diocesan challenge fund. The free will offering brought in further money for the parish.



This was to be the pattern of fund raising for some years. By 1949 sufficient money had been raised to replace the gas lamps in the Church with electricity; the possibility of doing this had first been raised in 1937! The Church interior had been decorated too. There were annual outings to the Lake District, Liverpool and Whitley Bay in the immediate post war years.

The spiritual needs of the Parish were not forgotten of course and in March 1946 a total of 13 candidates were confirmed at Arkendale. In February 1948 5 Arkendale candidates were confirmed at Staveley and in May 1949 11 people were confirmed at Arkendale. A series of lectures on the Prayer Book was given during Lent 1949.

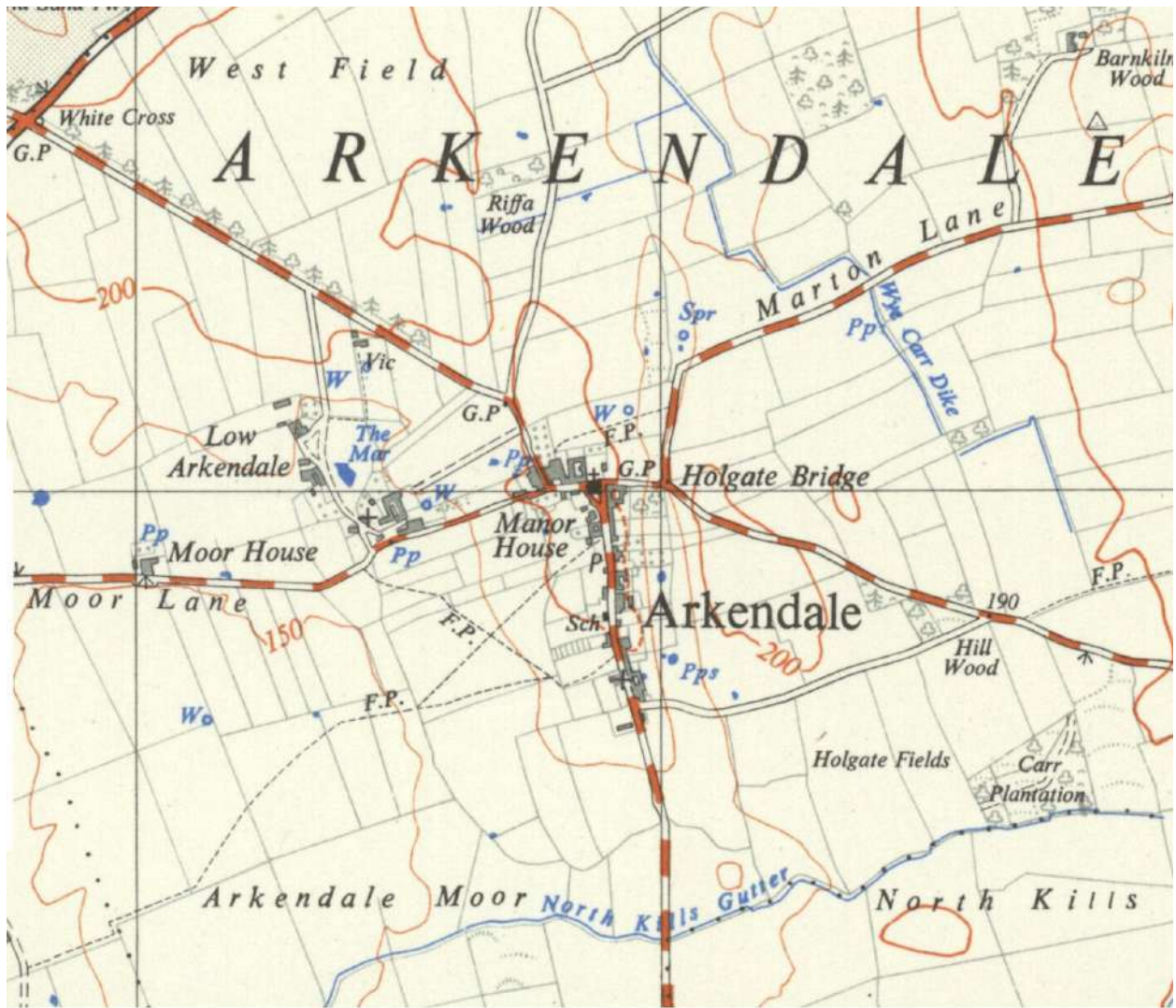
### **Two Bishops in two days!**

In May 1949 Arkendale was visited by two Bishops in two days, surely quite a unique occurrence in such a small parish! Both the Bishop of Ripon (who had preached at St. Bartholomew's in June 1948) and the Bishop of Knaresborough came to discuss the proposed re-arrangement of parishes. Arkendale was to lose Copgrove and Staveley but gain Goldsborough, and as the Goldsborough Vicarage was the bigger of the two the Vicar was to live there; the Vicarage at Arkendale was let. At the end of 1950 the Church Commissioners proposed that Arkendale and Allerton should be held with Staveley and Copgrove, but the Parochial Church Council replied that this had been a temporary wartime measure and only achieved by halving services at Arkendale and Allerton. This proposal was not implemented.

Services at Arkendale in the early 1950's were as follows: Morning Prayer on the 1st Sunday at 11 a.m., Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday at 9 a.m. and Evensong on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 6.30 p.m. On the great festivals there was Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. There were 78 people on the electoral roll at this time and the average number of communicants was still seven. Morning Prayer was attended by an average of nine people and Evening Prayer attendances varied between 20 and 40. Since the Vicar had moved to Goldsborough there had not been a Sunday School at Arkendale.

In 1949 Benjamin Hunton of Pond House (now called Marhead Grange) died aged 83. When younger he had been Churchwarden and assistant overseer for 25 years. The same year Violetta, wife of Joseph Sanderson, died just after their Golden Wedding celebrations. She had been organist before her marriage and was the daughter of Peter Thompson of Manor Farm.

Although the Arkendale Church of England School had closed in 1947 and the children transferred to Staveley County Primary School, Christmas parties were still held in the village for the children. In December 1952 the Jamesons assisted the members of the Women's Institute at such a party for the last time for they were soon to move.



*Map of Arkendale - 1952*

### **Coronation Year 1953**

The poor weather caused the celebrations for the June Coronation of Elizabeth II to be held in the hall with a fancy dress parade, social and supper. The outdoor events took place later on a fine evening.

As the Vicar had lived at Goldsborough since the parish re-organisation in 1949 it was decided that the Arkendale Vicarage was no longer required. It was sold to the present owner Mrs H.M. Nickols.

In July Rev. T.S. Jameson left the parish to become Rector of Manningford Bruce and Manningford Abbas in the Salisbury Diocese. A wing chair, a cheque and illuminated scroll painted by Mr John Chater were presented by Mrs Worsley on behalf of the parishioners to Rev. Jameson at a parting supper held in the Memorial Hall. Mrs Jameson, who had been organist for many years, was presented with a gold brocade

Queen Anne chair. The Vicar's warden, Mr Morfoot, paid tribute to Mr Jameson, specially mentioning his care for the fabric of the Church and his efforts to keep it in good repair. Mr Jameson thanked the Church Council for all its help and mentioned particularly the secretary, Mr G. Chater, who had led the singing at the services. He said that he had tried to keep alive the evangelical traditions of the Church and asked the congregation to hold together.

It was to be very important that the congregation hold together as there was to be an interregnum of many months before a new Vicar was appointed. Rev. Jameson served at Manningford until his retirement in 1961. He died at Devizes, Wiltshire in 1972.

### **The interregnum**

Services during this period were maintained as far as possible by visiting clergy. The Parochial Church Council, under the chairmanship of Mr Thomas Morfoot, met several times to organise the Church's affairs. A bring and buy sale followed by a whist drive were held and the usual harvest services and supper took place. Two jumble sales and whist drives raised further funds. Mrs Edna Kann was appointed organist. The electoral roll was brought up to date.

## Chapter Nine

### *Rev. P. Fairbourn at Arkendale*

Although it had coped well in the absence of a Vicar, the P.C.C. was doubtless pleased when news came of the appointment of Rev. Peter Fairburn. He was born in Leeds and attended schools in Harrogate and Norfolk before studying at St. Chad's College, Durham and Lincoln Theological College. Before training for ordination he had worked for a time in an aviation factory in Surrey. He was ordained in 1942 and served as Curate firstly at St. Faith's, Lincoln, and then at St. Wilfred's, Harrogate. In 1951 he became Vicar of Downholme with Hudswell, near Richmond.

In September 1954 Mr Fairburn became Rector of St. Mary's, Goldsborough, Vicar of Arkendale and Perpetual Curate of Allerton Mauleverer. He was instituted to the Parishes of Goldsborough, Arkendale and Allerton by the Bishop of Ripon, at a service held in St. Mary's, Goldsborough. His induction service at Arkendale, three days later, was taken by the Rural Dean of Knaresborough.

Mr Fairburn continued the custom of holding the Harvest Festival on two days. In 1914 he preached on the Friday and Rev. Bone on the Sunday; the produce was given to Knaresborough Hospital and the collection went to the Church heating fund. In the new year it was decided to hold the 3rd Sunday service at 9 a.m. instead of 11 a.m. in order to save heating costs.

Mr Brown of Low Garth gave some trees for the Church yard. A presentation was made in March 1955 to Mr Morfoot on his leaving the village; he had been a church worker and warden for 26 years. At the Annual Vestry Meeting in April 1955 Mr Addison and Mr Hunton were appointed Vicar's and People's Wardens respectively. The price of the Church magazine was increased to 4d in 1956 to meet rising costs; this was probably the Boroughbridge Deanery Magazine, in which each Parish had a page or so for its own news. When the Deanery came to an end in 1970 so did this magazine. Arkendale, Goldsborough and Allerton Mauleverer then produced their own duplicated magazine "The Trident." In 1956 the death of Mrs Harrison, who had looked after the Church flowers for many years before there was a rota, was recorded in P.C.C. minutes.

#### **Fund raising and a new organ**

Fund raising as ever needed to be continued with vigour. As well as normal parish expenses, a new organ was needed. Bring and buy sales, whist drives, and sales of work (held in the hall in the autumn) seemed to be the order of the day. It was also decided to try holding coffee mornings. In 1957 a fete was held at the Old Vicarage, by permission of Mr and Mrs Hewson-Smith, who were renting the property at that time; over £90 was raised.

A grand raffle and whist drive was held in January 1958, which raised £51. The Vicar was ill for over four months that winter, so was not able to attend such functions; Rev.

C.J. Jewel helped out with services. A summer sale in Mr Hewitt's field at Ferrensby that year raised money towards the new organ, which was a new construction of used parts. In September the Archdeacon of Richmond, the Venerable H. Graham, came to dedicate the organ in the presence of a large congregation; the singing was led by the Knaresborough Parish Choir and a recital was given by the organist of Wakefield Cathedral, who was the teacher of Miss Charlsie Stephenson, then organist at Arkendale. Light refreshments were served in the hall after the service. The Joy at obtaining the organ was slightly tempered when it became no longer possible to pay off by instalments the sum owing, because of the death of Mr Bannister, who had installed it; two P.C.C. members stepped in to help with loans.

A new re-table, on which the cross, candlesticks and flower vases stand at the back of the altar was given as a memorial to Mrs Katherine Heptonstall, who had been a good friend to the Church; she died in September 1958. It was made by a former pupil of Mr Thompson, the "mouse man" of Kilburn.

An inauguration supper for the Christian Giving Scheme was held in September 1959. By this scheme parishioners promised to give a certain sum of money weekly, which was placed in an envelope. This helped to ensure a steady income for the Church and brought in a slowly increasing sum each year. It continues still.

As well as raising money for the Parish, contributions were made to various bodies over the years, such as the Ripon Appeal Fund, the Farnham Appeal Fund, the Moral Welfare Society, the Police Court Mission, St. Luke's Nursing Home and the Waifs and Strays Society.

### **Jottings about the Parish in the sixties**

A bus used to take parishioners to Goldsborough for certain Sunday services. A telephone was installed in the Rectory at Goldsborough in 1960.

Mrs Sampson made a gift of the land on which the Memorial Hall stands, but later changed her mind. The land was given by her son, Mr Arthur Sampson, in 1984.

From 1962 a quarterly Communion Service at Ferrensby was held in the Granary at the General Tarleton, by kind permission of the landlord. This continued every 5th Sunday until about 1980, when a change of ownership brought the arrangement to an end. Capt. and Mrs Peter McCarthy offered their lounge as an alternative venue and the service was held there for two years.

Outings were held to Whitley Bay and Skegness, via Lincoln. Mrs Robertshaw and Mrs Chater helped at a Missionary Exhibition in Harrogate in 1960. The parish continued to send a delegate to the Diocesan Conference and the Rural Deanery Conference. The stipend was augmented in 1961.

In 1962 the Churchyard was levelled and a few tombstones removed to the crypt in order to make maintenance easier. A railing was also put round the crypt entrance. Mr Graham Bott was thanked for his help in connection with clock repairs.

Mrs Cutter, wife of the Vicar of Kirk Hammerton, gave some Psalters to the Church. Mrs Haythornthwaite gave a full set of the "Ancient and Modern" hymnal, in memory of her mother, Mrs E. B. Bentley. which were then used instead of "Songs of Praise." Sixty new Prayer Books were bought.

The Bishop of Knaresborough attended the Christmas morning Communion Service in 1961. The number of communicants continued to rise. On 23 August 1963 a St. Bartholomew's Day service was held and neighbouring parishes were invited; the inside of the Church was re-decorated the same year.

The parish took part in the Anglican/Methodist conversations being held in 1964. At a meeting in November 1968 the Vicar spoke about the proposed Methodist/Anglican Unity and it was decided that Mr Arden, as Parish representative, should vote for the proposals under consideration at the Diocesan Conference.

In 1964 a presentation was made to Mr F.W. Hunton on his moving away from the village. Mr Hubert Houseman became the People's warden in his place.

Gift days were held yearly from 1964 until Mr Fairburn retired, when the Vicar received gifts at the Church and at Ferrensby Village Hall. Envelopes were distributed in advance to every house in the parish by the Vicar (later with help from parishioners), together with an invitation to attend the Harvest Thanksgiving services.

The ladies of the parish made a handsome new white altar frontal, with Mrs L. Robertshaw being the inspirer and chief worker. Mr Leng and Mrs Grieg gave vestments as a memorial to Mrs Leng.

### **The Children's Church**

Miss McHugh resigned as leader of the Children's Church in 1965, as she was going to move when she married. By 1967 there were 20 members. Mrs McHugh was helping from at least 1968 and running it in 1969. A children's corner was created in November 1969 by rearranging the seating in the back corner of the Church and the floor was raised by Mr Sampson. (The font cover in the corner was made in 1606 for Allerton Church and was brought from there, by the authority of the Bishop of Ripon, when Allerton was made redundant). At various times Mr C. Byran, Mr J. Dinsdale, Mr G. Marshall and Mrs Dickinson gave help with the children. In 1973 the children went to a Children's Festival held at Ripon. Mr and Mrs McHugh and also the Corner family, including Heather and Deborah, moved in 1976, and Jane and Peter Green left in 1978 - they all had helped with the Children's Church. (Mr Green was also a Warden and P.C.C. member). No one came forward to run the Children's Church, so the Vicar kept it going as best he could, but numbers suffered. Mr T. Bendelow helped in 1980 when there were five members and by March 1981 there were nine members.

Since the interregnum in 1982 the Sunday School has been self supporting and run by Mrs Carole Robertshaw. From 1984 she has been assisted by Mrs Aimee Cross. There were outings in 1985 to Newby Hall and in 1986 to Studley Royal. A play is produced each Christmas and the Sunday School is responsible for the Easter Garden. A Mothering Sunday service was held in 1986. Books are given to those who attend well (all receive them!) and each child receives a birthday and Christmas card.

## **Services**

The new Alternative Communion Service was used in 1968 for the first time. In March 1969 it was decided at the P.C.C. meeting to revert to the old form of service.

In December 1972 it was decided to hold the Communion service, without hymns, on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9.30, for a six month trial period. In May 1973 the 11.15 Communion with hymns and sermon was resumed on the 1st Sunday.

In 1974 for a trial period of four months the services were revised again; times were changed to 10 a.m. A family Communion service was held. The Series Three form of service was used on the 1st Sunday and the 1662 form of service, with hymns and sermon, on the 3rd Sunday. At the end of the trial the P.C.C. voted to have the family service at 10 a.m., using the 1662 form of service; the 3rd Sunday service would be unchanged at 11.15, though it was later moved to 9.15.

## **Church and people**

Miss Stephenson was organist from 1957 and over the years was assisted on different occasions by Mr Waddington and Mr Mann, and in later years by Mr Lees, Miss Stephenson presented two wrought iron flower stands in memory of her uncle. She also gave a set of red vestments for use at Holy Communion; these were in memory of her Father, Mother and Uncle and were given just before her own death in 1972. Mr G. Mann then became organist.

Mr George Chater resigned as secretary in 1968 after 32 years service; he had been a P.C.C. member since 1920; he was presented with a water colour of the Church and made an honorary churchwarden. Mr Chater died in 1970. A memorial plaque to him was placed on the choir stalls. A ciborium was given by his family to St. Bartholomew's in his memory. Also in 1970, Mrs Emily Nussey, widow of Joseph Henry Nussey, died in December.

Mr Addison resigned as warden on leaving Arkendale and a presentation was made to him in 1971. Mr Peter Green, who had also taken over as secretary, became Warden in his place. Mr Lees, the treasurer, left the district in 1973 and was thanked for his work for the church and for his help to old people in the village. Mr Geoffrey Brown then became treasurer.

## **Fund raising**

In 1972 a garden fete was held to support Sunday school funds and general expenses. There was also a fete in 1973. Instead of a sale in 1974 a coffee evening with film show and stalls was held. The following year there was a garden party with a fancy dress competition; a steel band played.

A coffee evening at Ferrensby and harvest supper at the General Tarleton were organised. In 1976 a coffee evening was held at the Blue Bell, with a raffle for a radio and pocket calculator (signs of the times!). A coffee evening was held at Low Garth, the home of Mr and Mrs Haythornthwaite, in 1977 and the next year coffee evenings were held at Mrs Sweeting's and at Mrs Eileen Houseman's. The money from the second evening paid for a new Churchyard mower. In 1979 coffee evenings were held in the Blue Bell and at Mrs P. Harvey's home to raise money for the Church and Sunday School.

Following an idea from Mr Hindmarsh in 1979 it was decided to produce a leaflet on the Church history to sell in the Church; Mr Geoffrey Marshall undertook the work involved, and produced a most interesting four page guide.

In 1981 a coffee evening with cake stall and auction, with Mr Huson as auctioneer, took place in the Blue Bell by permission of Mr Nicholas. Coffee evenings were also held at Pond House, Mr and Mrs Pounder's home, and at the Rectory at Goldsborough. The same year the Harvest gift day and collections at the Thanksgiving Service raised £200.

## **The building and fabric**

A new communion rail and gates were erected in 1967 and Miss Meysey-Thompson gave a donation towards the cost of under pew heating in 1968. (She also later left the church a bequest in her will). The heating had been causing problems for some time and it was also decided to acquire fan heaters as well as radiators.

In 1969 organ repairs were needed because water had seeped into the motor; a new motor was paid for by the insurance company and the organ fund. Mr Bryan gave a new organ blower; he also presented a chalice and patten. A bequest from Mrs Yeats was used to inaugurate a clock fund. The clock was wound by Mr G. Robertshaw from 1964 to 1982. From about 1970 Mr G. Haythornthwaite became involved in winding and repairing the clock but has just recently given up winding it, though not the repair work. Mr H.S. Darley has assisted for some time with the work.

Repair work was done on the tower in 1969. A survey of the Church a couple of years later showed that the fabric was generally sound, but that repairs on the Chancel and further work on the tower were needed. Mrs G. Frank offered the use of the Old Vicarage grounds in July for a sale to raise the money for this work. The cemetery walls were repaired in 1972 after installation of a new sewer caused damage.



In 1972 Mrs F. Longstaff embroidered pulpit falls. A new green altar frontal was given in 1976 by Mrs Carole Robertshaw in memory of her father, Mr C. Greenhalgh. Kneelers were made by various ladies of the parish in 1976, sewing meetings being organized by and held at the house of Mrs Joyce Sweeting, who also designed the kneelers. They were made to commemorate 100 years of the national Mothers' Union. Mrs Irene Allen made two kneelers to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The long kneeler in front of the altar rail was made by Mrs Chater. Material given by I.C.I. was used for pew covers. The hassocks made in 1976 were designed by Mrs Peggy Jarrett

By 1976 heating costs were high and the system needed modernising. A new gas boiler was installed. A survey at this time showed that the structure was sound apart from isolated attacks of woodworm. In 1980 the electric immersion heater was replaced by a gas boiler.

Several gifts were made to the Church in 1977; Mrs L. Robertshaw presented a box for the storage of vestments, a credence table and a prayer rest, which had come from a redundant church in Bingley. Money was given in memory of Mrs Corner.

In 1979 an electric heater and a candle disappeared from the Church and since various other churches had been robbed the P.C.C. decided to keep the Church locked from sundown to breakfast time in summer and continuously throughout the winter. Some parishioners requested that the Church be kept open in winter and for a long time Mrs Whitfield opened it up when it was fine.

Mrs Whitfield died in 1981 and purple vestments were given in her memory. Earlier, an Altar Book of Common Prayer was bought in remembrance of Mr James Naylor of Holgate Bank Farm, who had died in 1977. Mr McHugh gave a Paschal candlestick in memory of his wife.

Various members of the P.C.C. continued their good works for the upkeep of the Church. It is not possible to mention more than a couple; Mr Hubert Houseman did gutter cleaning and other jobs; Mr Sampson mended some windows.

### **Various changes**

New Pastoral Measures came with the introduction of Synodical Government. In 1970 the Deanery of Boroughbridge was amalgamated with the new Deanery of Ripon. Mr Fairburn, who had been Rural Dean of Boroughbridge from 1966, ceased to hold that office. Arkendale and Goldsborough then became part of the new Deanery of Harrogate and Archdeaconry of Leeds. (Knaresborough Deanery ceased to exist). Allerton was in the new Deanery of Ripon and Archdeaconry of Ripon.

In 1971 the P.C.C. decided that there should be no interments in Arkendale cemetery except for those of residents and those whose residence ceased two years before their death. Exceptional cases would be considered by the Vicar and churchwardens. At the 1893 opening it had been anticipated that it would serve the village for 300 years; space

had become a problem in less than one hundred years. The churchyard and cemetery were cared for by Mr F. Allinson until his retirement in 1972.

The P.C.C. made a further policy decision in 1975 concerning burials. There would be no interments of non-residents and no single graves; non-residents could be offered space in the churchyard for interment of cremated remains, and a 12 inch slab would mark their burial. A faculty was sought and granted for this to happen. Enquiries were made about the possibility of enlarging the cemetery but to no avail.

### **The Mothers' Union**

Unfortunately, very few records survive about the Mothers' Union. The branch seems to have been formed in 1926 with Mrs Knight as Enrolling Member; there were six members. The Arkendale branch is first mentioned in the national Mothers' Union handbook in 1927. By 1930 there were 9 members and numbers grew steadily until there were 15 members in 1937.

In about 1972 it was decided to amalgamate the Arkendale and Goldsborough branches, with Mrs Agnes Fairburn as Enrolling Member. (Goldsborough M.U. was formed in 1903, the oldest in the Diocese). Monthly meetings were held at the Vicarage at Goldsborough. Mrs Fairburn was Enrolling member for 28 years.

In 1982 a banner to be shared with Goldsborough was designed and made by various members of both parishes; it is carried at Diocesan and Deanery Festivals. A coffee evening is held yearly at the home of Goldsborough member, Mrs Elsie Clarkson, in aid of the Children's Society. An annual Christmas party takes place in December at Holgate Bridge Farm, the home of Mrs Eileen Houseman.

The present Enrolling member is Mrs June Voakes of Goldsborough. There are 44 members, 29 from Goldsborough and 15 from Arkendale. Meetings are held alternately at Arkendale Village Hall and Goldsborough Hall, which is now a nursing home.

### **A special service**

On 16 Jan 1976, 139 years to the day that the Church was consecrated by Bishop Longley, a portrait of him was given to St. Bartholomew's. The black and white print, which now hangs in the nave, was presented by Rev. John T. Scott, Vicar of Collingham, on behalf of Mrs L.A. Haslam, a direct descendant of the Bishop.

### **The Jubilee**

In 1977 a service to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II was held on Tuesday 7 June at 11 a.m. Arkendale and Ferrensby held joint celebrations, with events taking place in Mr Stan Houseman's field and barn. A children's fancy dress contest was held and an 11 lb cake was offered in a "guess the weight of the cake" competition. Schoolchildren were presented with a crown coin by the Vicar.



*Skating on the Mar – January 1977*

### **Moving on**

After Mr Peter Green moved from Arkendale in 1978 Mr Geoffrey Haythornthwaite became warden and Mr Paul Harvey became secretary. Mr Hubert Houseman and Mr Geoffrey Brown continued as warden and treasurer respectively. The Electoral Roll stood at 95. Dr Knight, who had helped in Arkendale and Goldsborough as a Licensed Reader, was given a leaving gift when he moved to Eastbourne.

In 1979 the Bishop of Ripon launched his 3 year programme "Growing in Christ," which aimed to increase commitment. Each parish was to give a written response to the Bishop on its plans for the future, how it was to grow spiritually and about what it considered God wanted from his people. Various meetings were held in the Diocese and there was a special service in Ripon Cathedral.

The Bishop of Knaresborough visited for Morning Service in January 1980 and coffee was served afterwards in the Hall so that parishioners could meet him.

In 1981 Mr John Exley was appointed architect to do the quinquennial survey and the immediate work necessary was carried out. Mr Jim Horner became treasurer after Mr Brown resigned. It was decided that Mr Tim Bendelow would read the Epistle at the Family Communion service for a period; Mr G. Haythornthwaite assisted in administering the chalice.

## **1982 - Mr Fairburn retires**

In January 1982 the Bishop of Ripon visited Arkendale and Goldsborough for a meeting with parishioners. The last Annual Parish Meeting with Mr Fairburn as Vicar was held. He thanked all those who had worked for the Parish, including the P.C.C. and officers, together with other people like Mrs Robertshaw, who cleaned the altar linen, Mrs Haythornthwaite who had taken over the flower rota, and Mr Bob Atkinson, whose good work in the Cemetery, Churchyard and Church was often commented upon by visitors. Mr Atkinson continued with this work until 1983, when on his retirement he was given a present in recognition of all his service. After this time a cleaning rota was drawn up for the Church. A mowing party worked on the Cemetery and Churchyard; the outside of the Church was painted.

Mr and Mrs Fairburn retired at the end of August and a presentation was made to them at a coffee evening in the hall the following month. To commemorate his 28 years service in the villages of Arkendale, Ferrensby, Clareton and Coneythorpe the Churchwardens presented the Vicar with an engraved solid silver wine coaster. The Treasurer gave Mr and Mrs Fairburn a cheque, also from parishioners. On behalf of the Sunday School, Esther Fitchett presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Fairburn and Rebecca Creedon gave a farewell card signed by the children. Mrs Wittman gave an engraved copper Lame plate for their new home in Knaresborough. Many parishioners were present to pay tribute to the Fairburns and to bid them farewell.

## **The Interregnum**

During an interregnum a Parish is in the stewardship of the Churchwardens and the Rural Dean, who at that time was Canon N. McDermid of Knaresborough. It was decided that most jobs in the parish would be undertaken as normal. The officers remained the same, except that Mr Bob Cross had just taken over as secretary. As the Vicar had edited "Trident," the parish magazine, a new editor was needed; Mrs Emily Houseman took on the job and Mrs J. Harvey continued to type it up; Mr Geoffrey Marshall helped Mrs Houseman with the duplication. Mrs Houseman also organised the sidesmen's rota. Mrs Bendelow delivered harvest envelopes at Ferrensby and envelopes were received at the Church by Mr Haythornthwaite.

In September 1982 Arkendale and Goldsborough P.C.C. members and others met the Bishop to start the process of consultation on the Parishes' future.

Fund raising was still needed; the quota payable to the Diocese continued to rise. Mr and Mrs A. Gill had a sherry evening at their farm at Clareton. An antique valuation evening was held in January 1983, with Mr C. Greenwood of Staveley identifying objects and giving approximate valuations; this was combined with a panel game, based on the television programme, "Going for a Song." Mr and Mrs J. Horner, then of Flaxby, held a coffee evening in May 1983. A coffee and mince pie evening was held in November 1983 in the Blue Bell, by permission of Mr and Mrs Roy Edwards. The Harvest Gift Day raised more money for Church funds and Rev J. Newell assisted greatly with this. He also

officiated at Communion services. An auction/social evening took place in the Hall in March 1984.

Mr Bob Cross became Churchwarden as successor to Mr Haythornthwaite in 1982. Parishioner Mr Peter McCarthy was accepted for training for the priesthood.



*150 Years Anniversary of the rebuilding and rededication, January 1987  
Rev. Peter Fairburn, the Bishop of Kipon, Rev. Peter Dunbar & Rev. Peter McCarthy*

## Chapter Ten

### *Rev. Peter Dunbar and the United Parish*

The interregnum ended when Rev. Peter Dunbar was appointed to Farnham with Scotton and Staveley and Copgrove and Arkendale, a newly created United Parish. The administrative body for the Parish is the P.L.C., comprising the 10 wardens, 5 annually elected representatives (one from each Church), the 4 Deanery Synod Representatives, a co-opted treasurer, a co-opted stewardship liaison officer and the clergy. Each Church continues to have its own Church committee, as a consultative and fund raising body.

Peter Lamb Dunbar was born within 50 yards of York Minster (in a nursing home!). Educated at Pocklington School and Bede College, Durham University, he then taught at the Blue Coat School, Birmingham. He later became Head of Religious Studies at Ashville College, Harrogate and whilst there studied part time for three years on the Northern Ordination Course at Manchester. He was ordained priest in 1982 and was Curate of Knaresborough for two years before moving to Staveley Rectory. From September 1985 he has also been Chaplain to St. Aidan's School in Harrogate.

Rev. Peter Dunbar was installed and inducted at Staveley on 30 July 1984 by the Bishop of Knaresborough, the Archdeacon of Richmond and the Rural Dean of Harrogate. Staveley Church, the largest in the Parish, seating 315, was packed with many standing inside and about 30 standing outside in the warm summer evening.

In March 1985 the new five-Church P.C.C. was set up and Mrs Joan Gill represented Arkendale for 1985/6 and Mr Geoffrey Haythornthwaite for 1986/7. After much discussion at Arkendale it was decided to use the Rite A service for the Family Eucharist from January 1986; it has proved popular and is the best attended service. The pattern of services from September 1984 had been: 1st Sunday at 8.30 Holy Communion 1662 version; 2nd and 4th Sundays 4 p.m. Evensong 1662 version; and 3rd Sunday 9.45 Family Eucharist.

From October 1986 there will be extra services at St. Bartholomew's, since the Parish now has two priests. The pattern of services will be as follows: 1st Sunday - 9.45 Family Service Rite A; 2nd - 8.30 Holy Communion 1662 and 11 a.m. Family Service, a short service of 30 minutes with a children's address; 3rd - 9.45 Family Eucharist Rite A; and 4th - Holy Communion 1662. Evensong will be on special occasions, for example when a visiting choir attends (there is not a choir at Arkendale) or there is a festival or on certain 5th Sundays in the year.

In 1984 the land for the Village Hall was given by Mr Arthur Sampson and a board of trustees was set up to administer it; Mr Sampson was appointed as P.C.C. representative on the newly reconstituted Village Hall committee. A sherry and mince pies evening was held in the hall in December 1985, the 1984 cheese and wine evening having been held at the home of Mr and Mrs Hubert Houseman.



*The original Arkendale Village Hall*

Arkendale lost its own magazine in early 1985, "Trident" being incorporated into the new combined parish magazine; Mr Geoffrey Marshall became advertising manager. Arkendale also lost its Harrogate Deanery Synod representative, Mrs Carole Robertshaw resigning, having served from 1967, with 6 years on the Diocesan Synod.

The organ was repaired- in 1984. In early 1986 Mr Gilbert Mann retired as organist because of more commitments at Goldsborough and because of travelling problems in the winter months (Mrs Ryan had helped out for some years in the winter). Mr Harold Sadler then became organist, having assisted since December 1984.

### **Peter McCarthy becomes Curate**

Captain Peter McCarthy grew up in Cardiff. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1941 and was involved within two weeks in the Battle of the Atlantic. In 1948 Peter joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service; he took part in the Korean War, the 1901 Persian Gulf emergency and the Falklands Campaign, for which, as Captain of the "Sir Bedevere", sister ship to the "Sir Galahad", he was awarded the O.B.E. After taking voluntary retirement, he trained for the ministry at St. John's College, Durham. He was ordained deacon and priest on St. Peter's Day, 1985 and 1986 respectively, at Ripon Cathedral. He is a non-stipendary minister. He lives at Ferrensby with his wife Margaret.

Lent meetings were well attended in 1986 and it is hoped that house groups will continue from September. This promises to be a good point for development and growth. The groups are not just for churchgoers. St. Bartholomew's Day celebrations were held on 24 August 1986 with Songs of Praise in the Church followed by a Faith tea in the hall. On 31 August 1986 a banner, made by skilled members of the parish, was

dedicated at a United Parish Eucharist service at Arkendale; it shows the names and coats of arms of the five Churches. From September the Parish takes part in Jubilee '86 to mark 150 years of the Ripon Diocese; starting with Jubilee Day at Harrogate in September 1986, it is being followed by Jubilee journey, part of the celebrations and a re-dedication; the Journey starts with a Great Service in Ripon Cathedral on 18 October and ends in the Cathedral again on 26 April 1987.

Celebrations will be held in 1987 to mark the 150 years anniversary of the consecration of St. Bartholomew's.

Arkendale Church Council 1986/7

Churchwardens: Mr Hubert Houseman. Mr R.F. Cross.

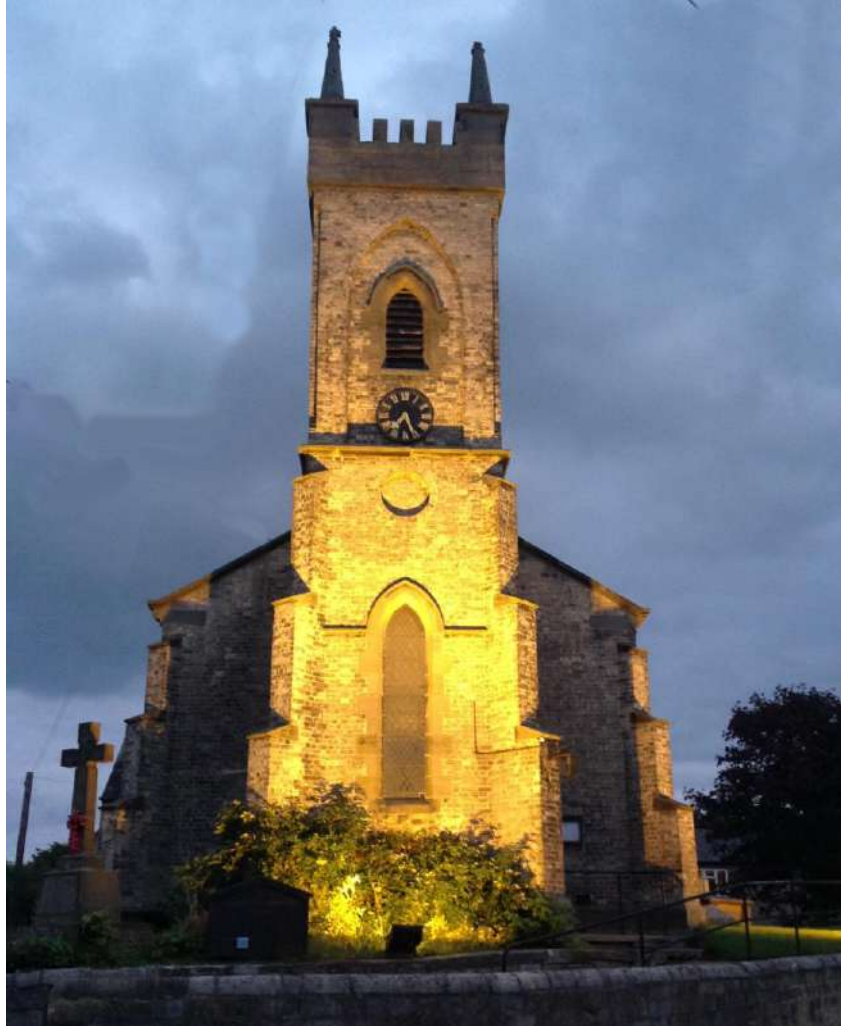
Secretary: Mr R.F. Cross.

Treasurer: Mr J. Horner.

Members at Council: Mrs M. Bendelow, Mrs L. Blackburn, Mr R.F. Cross, Mrs J. Gill, Mrs S. Gooch, Mrs J. Harvey, Mr P.W. Harvey, Mrs M. Horner, Mrs. E. Houseman, Mrs F. Longstaff. Mr G. Marshall, Mrs C. Robertshaw, Mr G. Robertshaw, Mrs L.G. Robertshaw, Mr A. Sampson, Mrs J. Sweeting.

Sidesmen: Mrs L. Blackburn, Mr R.F. Crosse, Mr G. Haythornthwaite, Mr J. Horner, Mrs M. Horner, Mrs E. Houseman, Mr H. Houseman, Mr G. Marshall, Mrs C. Robertshaw, Mrs L.G. Robertshaw, Mr A. Sampson.





*St Bartholomew's Church at night*

## Chapter Eleven

### *Arkendale Churchwarden's Book*

Amongst the parish papers now deposited at the North Yorkshire Record Office is the Churchwarden's Book, with entries from 1751 to 1894. The main chapel officials and the money each handed to his successor are listed. (The accounts refer wrongly to church rather than chapel officials, as Arkendale was a chapelry of Knaresborough at this period). It was the tenant farmers of the Arkendale estate who were mainly appointed rather than agricultural labourers. The same family names occur many times - English, Dodgson, Sadler, Towlard, Simpson, Hudson, Whincup, Inman, Dunwell and Silversides. When widow Mary Cartwright was appointed to the various positions it seems that Richard Daniel served as her deputy; he also succeeded her as tenant at Forms House! The lists continue until 1814 after which detailed accounts of the money spent by the Chapelwarden and Constable are given for many years.

In 1752 there is an interesting account of the towngates and who was to repair them "from this time for ever." The gates listed are called Marhead, Lammer, Stoop, Holdgate, Little Holdgate, Hollins and Dale.

From 1801 to 1804 there was a collector of horse, window, dog and land taxes! These all were national taxes, but collected locally. Introduced in the late 17th century land tax was finally abolished in the mid 20th century; between 1780 and 1832 payment of the tax on freehold property worth £2 or more yearly established a qualification to vote. From 1784 dogs used for game hunting were taxed and in 1786 slaughter houses were licensed to try to reduce cattle and horse stealing; both taxes were short lived. Better known is the window tax in effect from 1695 to 1851; windows were blocked to avoid payment, as at Holgate Bank Farm and Grange Cottage.

In 1804 are accounts from Richard Daniel and William Leaf, mole catchers for two years! Thomas Ingham succeeded them but there are no other such accounts. Payments for vermin were common; in the 1790's at Knaresborough money was paid for foxes, weasels, fulmarts, hedgehogs, an otter (1s) and sparrows (24 for 4d). Sadly early Arkendale accounts only record a yearly balance, without details. Later, in 1838 and 1839 sums of 17s 3d and 13s 3½d were paid for an undisclosed number of sparrows.

The chapel wardens' accounts survive in detail from 1814 until 1894. They record the expenditure in the maintenance and running of St. Bartholomew's. In 1816 a communion cup cost £2 10s. So many besoms and brooms were bought that one wonders if they wore out or were lost with great regularity! Occasionally new bell ropes were needed. Almanacks, fiddle strings and candles were often bought and in 1819 and 1820 some candles were specifically obtained for the singers, the forerunners of the choir. In 1820 white soap was bought "to wash the paintings"; it is not known whether these were pictures hanging in frames or frescos painted on the walls.

Both the old and new chapel were heated with coal stoves; there was a separate stove down in the vestry. Only candles are mentioned for early lighting, but in 1840 a lantern was bought and in 1862 chandeliers were installed. By 1889 paraffin lamps were in use and extra lamp wicks, scissors, feeder and globes were bought that year.

In 1888 much music was bought for the choir, presumably so that they could be in fine form for the reopening of the Church after the alterations in February 1889! In 1891 for the funeral of the Church's benefactor, Mr Samuel Brown, ten shillings was spent on black cashmere for draping the altar.

Other miscellaneous expenses included a new iron Parish chest, for storing registers and documents, bought in 1849. Blinds for the vestry and the Church windows were renewed as needed. From 1852 to 1872 the clock was cleaned and checked on a yearly basis; thereafter it was repaired when necessary; in 1869 it was painted and gilded.

The Churchwarden's accounts include payments to the Parish Clerk. From 1814 until his death, aged 84, in 1826 the clerk was John Anderson. He received £2 2s yearly, but his successor, Thomas Haw was paid £4. John English was clerk from 1839 until his death in 1874, aged 80. The next clerk, Joseph Nicholson continued to be paid £4; he died in 1885, aged 62, having acted in later years as clerk and sexton. His widow, Ann, became sexton (still with the clerk's duties), then their son Joseph, who in turn was succeeded by his widow, Ann, who died aged 87 in 1907. By 1904 Swift Powell had become sexton. He was succeeded by Edgar Steel.

The churchwarden's expenses were paid by parishioners through a rate. In 1868 the Compulsory Church Rate Abolition Act was passed, but it was not until 1871 that it seemed to take effect in Arkendale when voluntary contributions by certain parishioners and collections are listed as parish income for this purpose. In 1892-1894, special monthly collections were made to help with expenses, as well as individuals making contributions, for they were trying to clear the first ever deficit, which arose in 1892. One collection, however, was made for missionaries.

### **The Constable's accounts**

The constable was appointed and sworn in at Arkendale Manor Court but his records survive with those of the parish. He had to attend the two Sheriff's Tourns or main Courts of the Honour of Knaresborough at Michaelmas and Easter as Arkendale was within Knaresborough Liberty. Arkendale constable's accounts survive in detail from 1815 to 1839, in which year the counties were empowered to set up police forces. Under the Parish Constables Act of 1842 the power to appoint constables passed to the vestry. William Inman was the last constable under the old system; after that Arkendale Manor Court appointed its own byelaw men to check that the laws of the Manor were obeyed. In 1842 John Sadler was appointed constable and until the 1872 Parish Constables Act the constable continued to be appointed yearly and sworn in at special sessions in Knaresborough Court House, when he had to state that he was upholding the 14 articles, which listed his responsibilities for law and order.

In December 1819 the main farmers of the village signed an agreement in the Churchwarden's book that they would prosecute anyone who committed a theft, injured any person or damaged property; moreover, they were prepared to pay any informer 5s on the conviction of a miscreant. Perhaps it was the attempted murder of Joseph Dodsworth that caused them to do this, or perhaps there were other local problems, brought about by falling agricultural prices at that time.

The constable attended the Knaresborough Brewster sessions where local inns were licensed. Another task concerned the choice by lot of a man to serve three years in the county militia. Joseph Shut of Knaresborough was hired in 1821 for £5 12s 6d to serve for Arkendale and in 1831 George Hawksby, also of Knaresborough, served as a substitute for William Harrison. The villagers obviously preferred their farming!

The constable assisted with the collection of land tax and took lists of freeholders to the Knaresborough Court House. He was responsible for delivering any official notices (such as about the militia or weights and measures) from the authorities to Arkendale and its townships. He had to deliver the population schedules for the censuses every 10 years. His expenses were paid by a rate on householders; nearly 59% was paid by Arkendale, 15% by Ferrensby, almost 14% by Coneythorpe and almost 13% by Hopperton. In the 1820's the constable's yearly costs averaged £5 13s 6d.

Any stray or scabied animal was put in the penfold or pinfold, the responsibility of the pinder; the constable bought a new lock for the Arkendale pinfold, the remains of which can still be seen by the Mar, in 1823. He paid expenses for the Ferrensby pinder in 1833. Any person straying from the straight and narrow could be put in handcuffs (3s 6d a pair in 1827!).

The constable collected payments for the maintenance of illegitimate babies and their mothers so that the parish did not incur any expense for them; if the father, assuming his identity was known, refused to pay, the constable sought a maintenance order from the local Justice of the Peace; 1s 6d weekly was the usual sum in 1838. He arranged coroner's inquests, as in 1820 when John Pearson died. The constable took prisoners to the Quarter Sessions at Wakefield, Knaresborough or Wetherby and could claim his expenses of bed and board, plus stabling and oats for his horses. When William Thompson had to take William Gibson to Wakefield in 1820 he was also paid for the turnpike fee and for ale and spirits. Ale also features when the yearly accounts were made up; 6s was spent in 1820; figures made for thirsty work!

Small sums, ranging from 2d to 1s 6d, were often paid to people with a pass. Before changes in the Poor Law system in 1834, when people needed help (or parish relief) to survive, they had to prove the right of settlement where they were living, either by being born there, serving an apprenticeship there or by renting property at £10 or more yearly. If there was doubt they were examined at Quarter Sessions and a person or family, (payment was made to a man, his wife and six children in 1826) could be given a removal order to return to a place of settlement, no matter how far it was. They were given a pass to be shown to the constable of each parish they went through; if they needed food or a bed the constable would then give them help.

## **The Overseers of the Poor**

The constable's work was closely linked to that of the Overseer of the Poor. No separate Arkendale overseers' rate books or accounts survive, though to 1813 their names and yearly balances are shown in the Churchwarden's book. The overseer had overall responsibility for the parish poor and he was empowered to give them help either in money or in kind (flour, clothes etc.). Until 1787 there was only one overseer, but thereafter two were appointed. Quarter Sessions records show an annual wage of £2 2s being paid jointly to the overseers at Arkendale from 1808.

## **The Surveyors of the Highways**

There were usually two surveyors responsible for the upkeep of parish roads; they are named for 1750-1753, but then not until 1787; the last mention of a surveyor is in 1820. Detailed accounts for some of the later years survive. Every householder, according to his means, had to provide carts or labour for the parish roads; if he could not or would not do so, he could send someone else in his place or pay a composition or sum of money to the parish on top of his rates (in 1820 10s 6d was paid). Some people sent loads of stones as their share in the roads' upkeep. The poor were set to work to save the parish paying relief; for example, in 1815 Robert Howard was paid several times at 1s 6d daily. In 1817 his wife Mary was paid 7s for eight loads of stones and later 1s 6d for gathering stones for two days.

## Chapter Twelve

### *The Poor Houses or Town's Houses*

On old maps of the village are marked some Town's Houses; they are shown on the bend at the right hand side of the road leading from Ferrensby just before one reaches Low Arkendale. All that remains of them today are the odd large cobble stones, set in lime, which are dug up from time to time near Eric Wilson's barn. The houses were used as homes for the Parish poor.

Few records survive about the Town's Houses until July 1868 when the Overseers of the Poor of Arkendale township, Thomas Baxter and Willey Simpson, applied to the Great Ouseburn Board of Guardians for permission to demolish them! It was said that they had belonged to the township "as long as anyone can remember." Arkendale had been under Ouseburn's jurisdiction since 1834 when a national Guardians system had been set up for poor relief purposes. There was a workhouse at Ouseburn before this date, but run under the old Gilbert Union system. The house was extended in the late 1850's to provide extra accommodation. People who were not able to support themselves could be sent to the local union workhouse; those in not too desperate a condition were given help from the parish poor rate so they could continue living in the village, very often in their own homes. With the enlarged workhouse at Great Ouseburn there was not the need for village poor houses and many in the area were sold off at this time.

In 1868 there were six cottages or poor houses at Arkendale; four were "most dilapidated" and unoccupied; the other two were occupied by Ann Howard, a pauper, and Joseph Nicholson, who also rented the one rood 26 perches of land alongside. The overseers claimed that they had difficulty in collecting the rent, which amounted to £2 a year. Ann Howard was a widow in her forties. Her husband, William, had been killed when his leg was trapped in a threshing machine at Mr. Waddington's Hay-a-Park farm in March 1868. At the inquest in the Blue Bell, the jury recommended that these machines should be made safer, as such accidents were common. This would be little comfort to Ann, left with seven children, four of them aged eleven or under. She tried to earn money as an agricultural labourer, but still needed help from the parish to survive and was thus described as a pauper.

The cottages were in such a bad condition by the time a meeting was held in October 1868 at the Blue Bell to enquire into the proposed sale that one had fallen down! Rev. J.M. Fawcett, the Overseers, Churchwarden Thomas Dunwell and others were present. No impediment to the sale was found.

The cottages and land were sold to Lazenby Lorrimer for £78. There were expenses of £4 4s 6d, leaving £73 15s 6d profit. When Great Ouseburn workhouse had been enlarged all the townships of the union were required to make a contribution. As Arkendale and many others were not in a position to do so, a £2,600 loan had been obtained from the Commissioners for the Issue of Loans for Public Works and each township was to repay its share of the loan from its poor rate over several years. With

the sale of the poor Houses Arkendale paid off the £33 13s 6d owing and the rest of the money was invested by the Ouseburn Board of Guardians.

Lazenby Lorrimer demolished the remaining cottages and used the land for agricultural purposes. Ann Howard and Joseph Nicholson and their families found other accommodation to rent in the village.

# Chapter Thirteen

## *Arkendale Glebe*

The glebe was the land assigned to a parish incumbent as part of his benefice and endowment of the church. Arkendale, being a chapelry of Knaresborough, originally had no glebe of its own. In 1737 the Governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty granted Arkendale £200. This fund was established by Queen Anne in 1704 to receive and use certain Church revenues previously confiscated by Henry VIII. Generally the money was used to supplement the incomes of the poorer clergy, as happened at Arkendale.

The money was spent in 1745 on an estate at Staveley, whose rents went to the curate. It was augmented by lot a second time in 1750 with a further £200. In 1756 the Governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty received £100 from the estate of Dr. William Stratford of Lancaster for the Chapelry at Arkendale. The Q.A.B. itself gave £200 at this time and there were other gifts of £100. A plaque in the present Church records the 1756 augmentations to the living. The total sum of £600 was spent on buying an estate at Trope in Netherdale in Kirkby Malzeard parish in 1761.

William Stratford, Doctor of Law, of Lancaster, died in 1753. During his lifetime he did much to promote the value of many poor livings of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, of which he was Commissary. He left £3,000 to friends and relatives and £12,660 as bequests to the poor of several towns, to hospitals, schools, and to poor clergy. Arkendale was one of 58 livings chosen by the executors, Edward Roberts, Rev. Hunter of Garstang, Charles Lambert and James Collinson, to receive money from the estate.

### **The glebe land at Staveley**

Just over 15 acres of the land was on Staveley Carr; it included six oxgates, a term for the land that could be cultivated using one ox, which would vary from place to place depending on the soil. Several separate parcels of land were all in the tenure of John Dickinson, adjoining land farmed by John Barker and John Houseman.

In December 1844 when the land was occupied by John Brunton and George Tinsley the Great North of England Railway served notice on Rev. H. Stocken that it wished to acquire some of the land for the Harrogate and Ripon Junction Railway. However, the project did not go ahead. In 1846 the glebe land was producing an income of £34.

At the end of 1865 the North Eastern Railway Company, which was formed in 1854, served notice that it wanted to buy three fields, containing 3 roods 39 perches, for part of a line to run from Knaresborough to Boroughbridge; the fields were occupied by John Freeman and John Brunton. In 1872 the company agreed to pay £230 to the incumbent, Rev. Thomas; this included damages for severance and compulsory purchase.

The new line, completing the Harrogate to Pilmoor link, was opened in April 1875. Staveley was then the only station between Knaresborough and Boroughbridge (it was



later known as Copgrove Station); it had coal depots, a goods warehouse and sidings. It would be used by some Arkendale people for going to Boroughbridge market, which reopened in the June, after a 25 year lapse.

John Simpson of Staveley made a bid in 1872 for the remaining 14 acres 21 perches of glebe land at Staveley; the Church Commissioners would not allow it to be accepted, much to George Thomas' annoyance, as he had been having problems collecting the rent.

The Staveley glebe land was finally sold in 1904 for £800; the tenant paying rent of £22 8s was Mr. Stobart, who had lately sold Spellow Hill to Sir James Joicey and Charles Henry Ewen. They were acting as executors of the will of John Joicey, of Newton Hall, Northumberland and as trustees of his daughter Alice, wife of Mr Ernest Claude Meysey-Thompson. The Staveley glebe land was added to the Spellow Estate.

### **The Glebe at Kirkby Malzeard**

This estate, delighting in the name of Pudding Holes, consisted of a house, stable, two small barns and 22 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture and 6 acres of arable land, with the right of common on Fountains Moor too. John Craven and John Beckwith (in the right of his wife, who was Craven's sister) sold the farm in 1760 as glebe land for Arkendale. A small lead mine had been opened up on the land, but Rev. Swale, then curate of Arkendale, thought this could be a potential advantage, adding extra income to the rent of £17 10s. It was to cause aggravation to future curates.

In 1826 Rev. H.J. Ingilby gave his consent to John Nicholson, John Dolby and others to try lead mining at Pudding Holes on the Glebe land occupied by Nicholson, provided that the Church received 10% commission. Nicholson was still there in 1840 when his lease was renewed by Rev. Henry Stocken; the tenant paid £50 year rent and was to be responsible for repairs.

When Rev. Creighton became curate in 1845 he found the farm was in a dilapidated condition; in fact he said that the buildings were so ruinous that several men had refused the living before he took it. In 1847 he let the farm to Richard King, who first re-roofed the house and stable; he spent £40 on repairs by 1850; this was paid for by Rev. Creighton, who was allowed £16 10s for dilapidations by the Church Commissioners when he took the curacy; he received £50 a year rent. Joseph Rayner had been allowed to have mining rights in 1847, in return for every seventh pig of lead, the usual way of sharing profits. It would seem that very little lead was found, but in 1849 Creighton received just over £3 as his share from lead sales.

In 1851 it was planned to make a road across the recently enclosed Fountains Earth Moor, the 4,000 acre common adjoining Pudding Holes Farm. Creighton had to pay £36 towards the road and he tried unsuccessfully to obtain a loan from the Incorporated University Life Assurance Society. In 1855 he was allotted 60 acres of the Moor, two thirds in poor condition, the rest fair; this needed draining and fencing; the expenditure was about £150, mostly financed by a 25 year loan, repayable to the Lands Improvement

Company of Westminster at £9 10s 10d half yearly. What would be the reaction today if one were to pay for work as Creighton did then - at intervals by way of two and a half £20 notes at a time! It gave some security that the work would be done, with the second part of the half-note following at the next stage.

Not surprisingly, the curate was advised in 1868 by his solicitor, Mr Powell of Knaresborough, to sell the farm. Moreover, someone had been taking minerals from the land without permission. Richard King was given notice to quit that year. John Freeman, the builder of the Parsonage at Arkendale, did over £7 worth of basic repairs on the farm. William Harker of Pateley Bridge, owner of the adjoining land, offered £1,600 for Pudding Holes. Detailed plans were drawn of the estate and a valuation made. Considerable correspondence took place between Rev. Fawcett and the Church Commissioners, but the main stumbling block was who owned the mineral rights of the land; was it the Lord of the Manor at Trope, Earl de Gray, or the incumbent of Arkendale? Perhaps the problems with the Glebe helped to influence John Fawcett's decision to leave Arkendale after a short 16 month incumbency.

The new Curate, Rev. George Thomas, wrote many letters about the glebe land at Staveley and Kirkby Malzeard. In 1878 the Kirkby Malzeard tenant Mr Harker reported to Rev. Thomas that the barn roof had fallen in, but that none of his cattle had been lost. A new lease was proposed whereby the tenant agreed to do all repairs!

Rev. H.C. Knight started a further attempt to sell the estate in 1911. Yet again there was much correspondence with the Church Commissioners and the Queen Anne's Bounty Office. The sporting rights on the moor were thought to be a good inducement to a prospective buyer. Marshall and Joseph Nicholson of Leeds, who had taken a 14 year lease on Pudding Holes from 1907, wished to buy the property. By 1919 they were both dead and their trustees were selling off their other land at adjacent Middlesmoor; this was bought by Hesketh Adair Ramsden of Stockport, who in August 1921 paid £850 for the Arkendale Glebe Estate of Pudding Holes. Mineral rights were reserved to the benefice of Arkendale, but subject to any rights the Lord of the Manor might also have. The long and difficult Kirkby Malzeard saga was over.

### **Knaresborough Glebe land at Arkendale: Parson's Closes**

When Arkendale's open fields were enclosed in 1773 the landowners were compensated for their scattered small plots of land with larger, more manageable fields. Although Peter Johnson, the Lord of the Manor, had the greatest land holding there were a few others with lesser interests; these included Thomas Collins. As Vicar of Knaresborough he was compensated at the Enclosure for the loss of the small and Vicarial Tithes which were his under the old system. He was awarded 17 acres, 1 rood and 16 perches from part of the old Arkendale Common; sadly the enclosure map does not survive, but this land is shown as Parson's Closes on later maps; it lies on the right of Moor Lane as one leaves the village going towards Coneythorpe.

In 1774 Thomas Taylor of Coneythorpe leased the land from Rev. Collins for 21 years, at £17 a year. Taylor had to pay the land and other taxes involved. All hedges, ditches,

gates, stiles, walls and watercourses had to be kept in good condition; no wood was to be cut except for repairing hedges and fences; manure, dung, compost and ashes had to be spread.

By 1791 Joseph Silversides was leasing the land from the Vicar of Knaresborough, Andrew Cheap; he rented it until 1800 when John English took over. John Roberts leased it from at least 1809 until 1830 and James Roberts followed him as tenant.

Rev. James Fawcett of Knaresborough made a new leasing agreement in 1857. Parson's Closes had previously been let to W. Hawkins, but now it was to be subdivided and let to John Bosomworth, Thomas, John and Marmaduke Haw, Matthew and George Umpleby (who assisted their father, Francis, the village blacksmith), Bryan Darbyshire and Peter Whincup (shoemakers), John Elliott and nine others. The annual rent was to be £36. The plots were to be divided by marks and not by hedges or roads.

In this century the land was still let off in allotments. In 1936 the lessees were John Lambert, Fred Powell, William Atkinson, Cecil Elliott and Herbert Marshall. At this time there were still remains of the old baulks, the raised earth separating one man's holding from another. These were the last surviving baulks in the village, though at one time they would have been commonplace. Later the land was farmed by the Collins family of Arkendale. In October 1969 Parson's Closes were sold by the Church Commissioners to J.J. Harrison Properties Ltd.

## Chapter Fourteen

### *The Prebend of Beechill Land at Arkendale*

The Prebend or Manor of Beechill was an ecclesiastical estate at Knaresborough, created in 1230 by the Archbishop of York; the revenues from its land went to the support of a prebendary or canon at York Minster. The majority of the Beechill property was in Knaresborough itself, but it also included a property at Arkendale.

In the sixteenth century the leases to the Prebend of Beechill properties were let to the Slingsby family of Scriven. By paying a fixed sum to the Church the Slingsbys acquired the right to sub-let the Beechill properties and collect the rents from them. The properties and land were held in copyhold tenure by the tenants and so any change in occupier was recorded on the court rolls; the Slingsby family had a copy of the agreement made on the rolls and the occupier kept a copy of this, hence the term copyhold. In fact once a family held the copyhold rights to a property they could bequeath it by will to other members of their family, who paid a fine or entry fee for the right to continue using it. After many years it became almost tantamount to owning a property.

#### **Long Cottage**

In the 16th and 17th centuries the Dickinson Family were copyholders of Beechill property at Arkendale which they mainly used to live in themselves, though from time to time sub-let; in the 1640's the Huttons, who were Lords of Arkendale Manor, held Beechill property for some time. At this period there appears to have been a house and a cottage belonging to Beechill, at times held by the Huttons and sub-let to the Dickinsons and at others vice versa.

From the 1650's the court rolls only mention one Beechill building at Arkendale, which had 1½ acres land, a foldgarth, garden, buildings and granary. This was Long Cottage. The Dickinson family gave up their interest in this property in 1654 and it then passed through a variety of hands until Thomas Simpson took it over in 1668. It appears to have been divided into two at this time and one part sub-let to Edmund Brown, then Christopher Moone and finally Thomas Cawood. John Simpson inherited the property from Thomas his brother; in turn his son John inherited and used all of Long Cottage for himself and his family.

The cottage passed to John Simpson's daughter Mary, and her husband William Pullen, a grocer and mercer of Arkendale. In 1738 they sold it to Edward Lorrimer, described as a gentleman. This was at the time when copyhold had become virtually the same as owning a property, but the copyholder still had to pay a small rent to the Manor as well as the fine or entry fee when taking over a property.

In 1812 another Edward Lorrimer died aged 79 and left Long Cottage to his eldest son, Thomas. Only seven years later, Thomas himself died, aged 52. He left his goods and

copyhold land (which included some from the Manor of Arkendale as well as of Beechill) and freehold land, to be shared amongst his brothers and sister, James, John, William and Jane. His married brother John inherited Long Cottage as life tenant and had to pay 4s 3d fee to take over the property and 1s 5d yearly rent to the Prebend of Beechill. Thomas was determined to have his wishes carried out and stated that James and Jane were to be entitled for life to the absolute use of the homestead, or main part of the house, with the parlour and rooms over; they were also to have use of the front door - no going round the back for them!

In his 1819 will Thomas decreed that, after his brother John's death, James and Jane should continue to have half of Long Cottage and pay £20 yearly to their brother William; the other half was to go to John's son, Lazenby.

John died in 1831 and his brother William in 1838. James and Jane continued to live in Long Cottage with Lazenby; Jane died in 1841 and the next year James sold his quarter share and 63 acres of freehold land to his nephew, Lazenby; perhaps he decided to find somewhere quieter to live as Lazenby and his wife Frances, née Milthorpe, had three children by then! It may be that he continued to live with them, but let them have a greater proportion of the house for their growing family. James died in 1846 aged 75.

Lazenby and his wife brought up six children at Long Cottage. Frances, or Fanny as she was known, died in 1866. In 1869 Lazenby bought the Arkendale Poor Houses with one rood and 26 perches of land, which St. Bartholomew's and the Great Ouseburn Union sold off (for details see page 78). By 1873 he had acquired over 97 acres of freehold land, as well as his copyhold land from the Manors. Lazenby died in 1874. He left everything to John Hobkinson, a grocer of Knaresborough, and to his daughter Mary Jane on trust, to collect in all his monies and securities and to sell off his land and property; the proceeds were to be divided equally amongst his children or where a child had died then that child's children were to have their parent's share.

The trustees took over Long Cottage in January 1875. In March, Edward, the fifth child of Lazenby and Frances purchased some of the family freehold land, together with Long Cottage, (part of the Manor or Prebend of Beechill) and land which was part of the Manor of Arkendale. He paid an entry fee to both Manors, the payment for Long Cottage being made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who had taken over the Beechill Estates. He paid £500 for Long Cottage and its 1 acre, 3 roods, 38 perches of land. Edward's sisters, Mary Jane, and Anne then paid him £2,000 by way of a mortgage on the Arkendale property - although there were building societies at this time, they were not so widely used as today.

Edward Lorrimer just lived to see the birth of his fifth child and first son, Lazenby; he died in October 1877 at the early age of 29. Like his father before him he left his land and property in trust, to be sold for the benefit of his wife Eliza and the maintenance of their children. There were many Lorrimer land transactions at this period because of the complications of trusteeship and mortgages; at least the solicitors would be happy!

John Lazenby Lorrimer, Edward's brother, paid £2480 for all the family land and property at Arkendale, £500 being for Long Cottage and its land. At the same time in 1878 he mortgaged land at Minskip and all the Arkendale land and property to William Thompson of Arkendale, Charles Thompson, and James Swallow. These surviving mortgagees or their representatives finally sold Long Cottage and its land in 1905 to Joseph Sampson. It is not known when John Lazenby Lorrimer left the property but sometime between 1886 and 1890 Robert Knowles took up a tenancy there. Long Cottage stayed in the Sampson family until Eric and Freda Wilson, the present owners, bought it in 1962.

The photograph overleaf shows Long Cottage earlier this century. It is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, dwelling in the village. Built of long thin hand-made bricks it has a distinguished flemish style gable end; when the barn on the east of the house was demolished in 1968 the other gable was built up to match the first.



*Long Cottage*



*Moor Farm*

In 1909 Long Cottage was described as "an old fashioned little farm house, little better than a cottage, containing two sitting rooms, two kitchens, four bedrooms, brick built with stone farm buildings comprising a good big barn, old four stalled stable, yard, foldyard with wooden shut. The buildings are old and dilapidated, the barn being the only one of real value". One bedroom, which was later converted to a bathroom, was reputed to have a female ghost which walked over the bed. Like many of the older properties in the village, it also had a cellar and outside a well.

Until alterations were carried out in 1962 the cottage had two interior staircases and two front doors, which meant that it was easy for it to be used as two separate dwellings, as had happened in previous centuries. In later years the family used one part and the labourers lived in the other. The photo shows that sash windows had been fitted at the cottage's left end, but that at the other, where the firm hands lived, the windows were still the old sliding type. In this century the cottage has been used as a single dwelling; upstairs the two halves were joined by a low door in a cupboard; when the halves were separate this would be blocked off, otherwise for access one went through the cupboard!

## **Tithe Moor Farm, now known as Moor House Farm**

At Arkendale's enclosure in 1773 the Prebend of Beechill was allotted Tithe Moor Farm to compensate it for the loss of the Great Tithes of the village and for the parcels of land it owned under the old system. It was a farm of 176 acres with 30 in the West Field and a further seven adjoining the Knaresborough to Boroughbridge road, the rest lying in the stinted pasture over the road opposite the farm.

At this time Alexander Wedderburn, who later became Lord Loughborough, and Earl of Rosslyn, was the lessee of the Prebend of Beechill estates. He was succeeded by his nephew James, the second Earl of Rosslyn, who donated £20 towards the building of the new chapel in 1836. From 1781 (and possibly earlier) Edward Lofthouse was undertenant; Matthew Curtis took over the tenancy from 1800 until the mid 1830's. By 1837 James Thackray was paying £140 yearly rent for Moor Farm, where he remained until 1847. In a contemporary survey the farm was described as being brick built, with two storeys, having outbuildings, a very old brick barn with a stable at the end; there was also a dovecot and cart shed, "all very much out of repair." As a result the house was re-slatted and the back of it repaired; the barn and shed were also repaired.

In 1847 Isaac Richardson and family came from Follifoot Moor, where he and his ancestors had farmed for generations under the Earl of Rosslyn and his ancestors. He paid £170 rent but in 1851 the Earl consented to reduce the rent by £20 because grain prices were low then and the farm was chiefly arable.

In March 1860 Isaac sent a petition to the Earl, asking for a further reduction in rent; he said when he came to the farm it was in a bad condition, which was true; moreover, he maintained that Thackray had been obliged to leave the farm as the £140 rent was too high, even when prices for corn and produce had been better. Richardson found it hard to make ends meet, although he had two and sometimes three sons helping him, as well as his wife and daughter. He also asked for the reduction so that he could spend some money on draining the low lying parts of the land, which were often under water. The rent was not reduced, but the Earl did give Isaac and his son William two instalments of £30 10s each for land drainage.

The Earl of Rosslyn leased the farm and other properties from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who had taken over the Prebend of Beechill lands in 1856. They decided to sell off Moor Farm for a total of £5250 to the Trustees of Lady Hewley's Charity who had other land in Hay-a-Park; by the time the papers were signed in 1868 the full sum paid was £6361 with all charges and interest.

Lady Hewley's Charity had been set up in 1710 for supplementing the stipends of poor non-conformist ministers; it is still in existence and gives help to Baptist, Congregational or United Reformed Church ministers or their widows; it also gives assistance for the education of young men for the ministry and for the maintenance of almshouses at York.

Once the sale to the Charity Trustees was completed 90 acres was let at £94 a year to Joseph Walker, who also leased Old Farm and Poplars at Hay-a-Park; the other 87 acres was let to Joseph Gowland, who also farmed at Hay-a-Park.

Moor House and its cottage were used for workers' dwellings. It is difficult to say whether the cottage, which is mentioned on 19th century census returns, was a separate building (one of the present outhouses could certainly have been a cottage) or part of the main farm house, which definitely used to be divided into two dwellings. In the 1870's George Moisley and family lived there; he was employed as a labourer but by 1881 he was foreman; at the same time John Derbyshire, who worked as a shepherd, lived in Moor House Cottage; in 1886 John Derbyshire was still there and Joseph Shepherd lived in the house. Joseph Walker's son Benjamin, who succeeded him, died in 1891 and his widow left in 1892.

The tenancy was taken over by Thomas Palfreeman, who rented the dwellings to workers, including Tom Foster and George Potter. In 1893 Palfreeman erected three dutch barns on his farms and in 1894 built a new implement shed and covered in the fold yard; he died in 1901. William Palfreeman was the tenant until the farms were sold in October 1918. The cottage was still let out. Poplar's Farm and Moor Farm, with its two cottages, were sold by the Trustees of Lady Hewley's Charity to Herbert Surr. Mr and Mrs Frank Surr moved into Moor Farm in October 1923.

Mr Surr sold the farm to Mr and Mrs Robin Pinder in July 1960; they in turn sold it to the present owners, the Huson brothers, in 1969. Moor House Farm now has 63 acres. Most of the original buildings such as the dutch barn, stable and brick barn are still in existence. In recent years a large modern building has been added.



## Chapter Fifteen

### *Other Denominations at Arkendale*

#### **The Society of Friends**

The Society of Friends or Quakers, founded by George Fox, were active in the Knaresborough area from the early 1650's. They were taking puritanism almost to its logical conclusion: the essence of their doctrine is that the whole of life should be lived in accordance with the teaching of Christ; they objected to the "steeple houses" and "hireling ministry" of the Established Church. Locally they disrupted services at Knaresborough Parish Church and were imprisoned for this.

In 1689 an Act of Toleration allowed Protestant dissenters to have licensed meeting houses. Quakers immediately registered houses in Knaresborough and Arkendale at the Knaresborough Sessions. In 1680 Jane Clarkson, though not her husband Jonas (who died in 1683), had been listed as a Quaker by the Church authorities and it was her house at Arkendale that was registered as a meeting house in 1689. Another Quaker in the village was Matthew Towlard, born in 1670; Jane had helped to care for him after his parents, Marmaduke and Frances, died in 1681 and 1682 respectively. Like other Friends, they were regularly summoned at Quarter Sessions for not paying their tithes to the Vicar of Knaresborough. A warrant was issued for the money owing; in 1704 Jane paid with corn worth £4 15s and Matthew corn worth £3 10s. One year Matthew paid in pewter dishes!

Matthew Towlard married Sarah Moorecroft at Rawdon Meeting House in 1702. Jane Clarkson died in 1706. No further licence was granted for a meeting house in the village so presumably Matthew and Sarah attended the meeting house in Knaresborough. They moved into Knaresborough in 1713 with their family and were both eventually buried, like Jane Clarkson, at the Quaker Burial Ground at Scotton.

#### **A scandalous footnote?**

Two of Matthew's daughters were 'disowned' by the Quakers for marrying non-Friends. One of them, Rachael, was married by licence at St. Cuthbert's York on 30 July 1739 to Richard Houseman, a flax dresser then of Ribston.

In his "Records of Harrogate" W.J. Kaye quotes some entries from Knaresborough Parish Church registers, which he says, "recall the sordid tragedy of Eugene Aram." He mentions baptisms of children of Eugene Aram and of Daniel Clark, as well as the baptisms of Joshua, Richard and Thomas, the sons of Richard and Rachael Houseman.

In 1759 Richard Houseman escaped hanging by giving evidence against Eugene Aram, with whom he was involved in shoemaker Daniel Clark's murder, about 1745. All three had been defrauding people of property and it was believed that Clark was killed for his share of the profits and because Houseman thought Clark was having an affair with his

wife. When a human skeleton was discovered at Thistle Hill, Knaresborough, Houseman said, "This is no more Dan Clark's bone, than it is mine", thus showing some knowledge of the missing Clark. He claimed that Aram, who was then teaching in Kings Lynn, had killed Clark and so Aram was hung at York.

The author, misled by Kaye, thought at first that her ancestor Rachael Towlard had married the notorious Richard Houseman, but recent detailed research has shown that Rachael's husband was probably born at Ribston in 1715; his burial has not yet been traced. The infamous Houseman was born and buried at Marton cum Grafton. Sadly, therefore, there is not an Arkendale connection with the Eugene Aram affair, neither through Rachael Towlard nor even the present Arkendale Houseman family, whose roots are firmly in Nidd.

### **Methodists at Arkendale**

In 1793 an application for a licence to use the house of Thomas Sadler as a place of public worship for Protestant Dissenters was made by Thomas Dixon, Thomas Sadler, Peter Ingham, John Dixon and Richard Craven. Sadler's house was used for worship by the Wesleyan Methodists until December 1816, when they obtained a licence to use the house of farmer William Curtis.

In July 1824 the Wesleyan Methodists concluded their purchase from Joseph Inman of Measum House, Low Arkendale, of land, 10 yards by 8 yards, "on which land the Methodist Chapel has lately been erected". It was registered on behalf of the Wesleyans as a Chapel in May 1827 by one of the trustees, John Milthorpe of Sunnyside. The other trustees were farmers Matthew Curtis, James Burrell, John Sadler and William Inman.

From 1817 local Wesleyans had their children baptised at Coltsgate Hill Chapel at Ripon, which served as a centre for local villages. Even after the Arkendale Chapel was built local babies were baptised at Ripon. So far no registers or records from Arkendale Chapel have been traced. There were 40 free seats and 60 other sittings. The 1851 census, taken on 31 March, reveals there was a congregation of 40 in the afternoon and 30 in the evening. John Sadler, an ancestor of Harold Sadler, was the steward. The Chapel seems to have been run by visiting ministers; indeed, in 1854 it was again certified as a place of worship by Thomas Pearson, a minister, of Ripon.

The registration of the Chapel as a place of worship was cancelled in 1953. It was converted to a garage for Mar House, whose owners are now Dr and Mrs J. Raine.

For the 1851 census William Scrivener declared that the Primitive Methodists worshipped at a private house in Arkendale and that 26 people had attended on 31 March. In June 1861 the owner of Bryan Lodge, Nary Fletcher, sold 63 square yards of land for the erection of a Chapel. The trustees who bought the land on behalf of the Primitive Methodists were Matthias Imeson and Thomas Whitehouse, both tailors of Knaresborough, William Houston and Jonathon Morris, both labourers of Staveley, John Dawson, a farmer of Marton cum Grafton, Matthew Umpleby, blacksmith, Bryan Derbyshire, cordwainer, James Weatherhead and John Gill farmers, all of Arkendale.

The Chapel was officially certified as a place of worship in July 1866 by Richard Davies, a minister of Briggate, Knaresborough. Again, no separate official records for the Chapel have come to light though there are references to Arkendale in circuit records. Over the years there were many services held, the harvest thanksgiving and fruit banquets being so popular that sometimes, as in 1886, many were unable to gain admission to the little chapel, even though there was extra seating on the balcony. The Sunday School Anniversary was another popular event. In the early 1900's annual camp meetings attracted large congregations.

The record of the building as a place of worship was cancelled in October 1935. It now belongs to the owners of Bryan Lodge, Mr and Mrs J. Horner. It is hoped to write in more detail about the history of the Friends and of the two Methodist Chapels in a further book on the general history of Arkendale.

## Chapter Sixteen

### *Arkendale Charities*

The charities that used to exist in Arkendale were modest in nature. Randall's Charity came into being through the will of Nicholas Randall of Arkendale Loftus (Low Arkendale), who was buried at Farnham in 1708. Nicholas left several small bequests to friends, £2 2s to Ann Herrington, his daughter-in-law and £5 to his loving wife Ann,

"provided that she, her executors and administrators or assigns shall pay or cause to be paid unto ye most needful poor people of Arkendale and Arkendale Loftus ye sum of 5/ yearly on the 1st day of January for ever".

When the Charity Commissioners made enquiries about the charity in 1820 they thought that the money had been bequeathed by a Michael Randall; they obviously never found the original will! They discovered a promissory note of Peter Johnson, the Recorder of York and Lord of the Manor of Arkendale, dated 16 July 1783, stating that he promised to pay the 5/- yearly. The payments seem to have been taken over by the Lord of the Manor to prevent the charity lapsing; in the early nineteenth century Sir Robert Johnson Eden's agent gave the money to the Overseer of the Poor of the parish so that he could use it to help families in need.

In 1732 Richard Burdon left money for

"the poor of Arkindale & Loftus yearly for ever Ten Shillings to be paid at four times in the year by equall proportions in Bread at the Chappel, viz. at Christmas, Easter, Penticost and the day of my death And Ten Shillings Yearly for ever for a Sermon to be preached at the Chappel of Arkindale aforesaid on the Feast Day there forenoon or afternoon by the Minister performing Service at the Said Chappel, And if at any time vacant then to the Minister of Knaresborough then in being".

Later in his will Richard left a further bequest of 10s to the poor and 10s to the Minister to be paid yearly, but this seems to have been overlooked by the Charity Commissioners; indeed, apart from the will itself, all other records refer to a total of 20s being paid. The scribe for the will was Matthew Towlard, who like his uncle Dionis before him, wrote out many of the villagers' wills. Indeed Richard Burdon describes him as a friend.

Richard Burdon's will was written 10 February 1732 and he presumably died on 20 February, the date that one amount of bread was to be distributed. He left his property to his son-in-law and daughter, Barnard and Jane Dickinson. Barnard's grand daughter, Elizabeth Webster had married Thomas Dodsworth in 1777. Barnard died in 1791 aged 90. In 1820 the Commissioners found that Thomas Dodsworth, the owner of a piece of land in Harbledown Field, paid the charity money.

The money for Burdon's Charity had to be raised from twelve acres consisting of Short Harbedow Close (later called Harbledown) and Long Harbedow Close alias Long Croft

Leas. It was part of this land that Burdon's descendant, Joseph Dodsworth, son of Thomas, sold for the site of the Parsonage and the rest was sold in the 1840's; this was the land that William Knightson had hoped to obtain through the attempted murder of Joseph Dodsworth in 1818!

In 1848 the Church held £2 4s for "bread inter alia" but where this money came from is not clear. By 1858 the Rev. George Creighton, stated that the two charities "have no existence at present." Burdon's Charity, he said, was paid "30 or 40 years ago."

Both Burdon's and Randall's Charities had existed for over a hundred years. The main work of caring for the poor was carried out by the Overseer of the Poor, using money from the parish rate. Even in this century there used to be "Bread Sunday" once a month when old and poor people "on the parish" received bread, By 1934 there was no longer a "Bread Dole", but a distribution of coal. Before Christmas 1935 parishioners over 65 received one hundred weight of coal and a further two cwt. in the new year. The custom appears to have been discontinued after Rev. Henry Cradock Knight left the parish in 1936.

The Charity Commissioners also found in 1820 that there appeared to have been a payment of 8s or 9s a year for the use of the poor of Arkendale, the money coming from rents on a piece of unenclosed land in Staveley Carr. When the Carr had been enclosed about 1800 no document had been produced to establish the right of such a payment and so it was discontinued from that time.

## Chapter Seventeen

### *St Bartholomew's to 2001*

To bring this edition up to date I have read all my copies of the parish magazines from 1986 to the present time. They present a picture of a lively forward looking parish. I should like to thank Rev. Peter Garner, Hubert and Eileen Houseman, Emily Houseman, Geoff Marshall and Jean Cox for reading the draft copy, answering my various queries and providing additional information. A huge thanks to my husband Bob for all his help and constant support. All good wishes to Peter for what promises to be an active "retirement".



The Anniversary Cake admired by Mrs Eileen Houseman and Mrs Betty Buckle.

Sunday 25 January 1987 was the day chosen for service of Thanksgiving for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the re-building and consecration of St. Bartholomew's Church. Evensong started at 4pm with a congregation of about 100 people singing "Thy hand, o God, has guided thy flock, from age to age". The Rev. Peter Fairburn said the Office, whilst the Curate, the Rev. Peter McCarthy, and the Rector, the Rev. Peter Dunbar, read lessons and led prayers. The sermon was given by the Lord Bishop of Ripon, the Rt. Rev. David Young. The choir of St John's Church Bilton sang beautiful settings of the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis, as well as the anthem "Oh Thou the central Orb". Daffodils, tulips, chrysanthemums, irises and other spring flowers adorned the church. Refreshments were provided afterwards in the village hall. Earlier in the day a buffet lunch (which raised £139) was held for about sixty people, at Clareton Moor Farm, Coneythorpe by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Alec Gill. There was an excellent spread, including a cake in the shape of the church, made and iced by Christine Young (née Gill).

Shortly afterwards the Rev. Peter McCarthy, as honorary assistant priest of the parish,

took his last service on 15 Feb 1987 at Copgrove. He moved to be Vicar of Bowes with Startforth, near Barnard Castle. Anne Proudley was licensed as a Reader for the United Parish by Bishop Ralph Emmerson on 23 Aug 1987 at Arkendale. Also, from August 1987, Canon Albert Wallace helped with services two Sundays a month; he died in 1989. The Rev. Colin Lenton assisted from September 1989 until May 1992. Peter McCarthy returned as an honorary assistant priest in 1997. There was a Visitation by the Archdeacon of Richmond, Norman McDermid, in April 1988. The Bishop of Ripon paid a pastoral visit in 1990. He visited Arkendale again in January 1999 for Morning Service.

From 1987 to 1990 Paul Harvey was churchwarden at Arkendale, the other warden being Bob Cross. Louise Blackburn was warden from 1990-1992, followed by Tessa Field from 1992-1994, then Hubert Houseman joined Bob Cross again (Hubert was warden from 1964 to 1986) and they are still the wardens today. Paul Harvey was secretary from 1980 to 1987, Bob Cross from 1987-1996, Linda Humphrey 1996-1997, and Carole Robertshaw has held the post since September 1997. In 1981 Jim Horner succeeded Geoff Brown as treasurer, and still holds the position. Harold Sadler was organist from 1985 until 1997, with occasional help from Isabel Patrick. He was succeeded by Iris Nichols who continues the role today. Steve Come has wound the clock every six days since August 1988, taking over from Geoff Haythornthwaite who had done the job for many years.

In 1989 the St. Bartholomew's Restoration Appeal for £5000 was launched, as much work needed tackling — woodworm in the roof, plastering walls, decoration, boiler. Several fund-raising events were held, including a coffee evening in the Blue Bell; the proceeds of the fête that year went to the fund and there was a waste paper collection. By March 1990 Steve Darley had re-wired the six pendant lights whilst Dennis Briscoombe took care of the rest of the electrical work; (the Briscoombes installed the electricity in 1949), and clerk of the works Geoff Haythornthwaite oversaw the installation of a new central heating system.

The Children's Church was run from 1982 until 1992 by Carole Robertshaw, assisted from 1984 for some time by Aimee Cross. From 1992 Elizabeth Brown, assisted by Barbara Hill and Celia Sharp ran the Children's Church; the following year Linda Humphreys joined Celia and Elizabeth; in 1995 Jean Cox joined the team and by September 1997 it was being run by Cynthia Strong and Jean Cox. The activities and outings have been varied. There are about ten children attending in 2001, aged 3-10 years, meeting either in church or in the village hall. They learn about stories in the Bible, what life was like at that time, and the significance of the festivals. The children enjoy taking part in small presentations on Mothering Sunday, and at harvest time; their 2000 crib service was much appreciated by a large congregation.

Another Church group with a wide range of activities — talks, fund-raising events, and outings - is the Mothers Union. In February 1997 Arkendale and Goldsborough MU voted to split into two branches, as travelling between the villages was becoming more difficult for an ageing membership. The Goldsborough Branch, founded in 1903, is the oldest in the Ripon Diocese, Arkendale having been formed about 1926; in the 1960's they had amalgamated, meeting in each village on alternate months; Eileen Houseman still has her 1967 joint branch enrolment card. Agnes Fairburn was the Enrolling Member for 28

years, June Voakes 1983-87, Carole Robertshaw 1987-1991, Sylvia Wittman 1991-1994, Carole Robertshaw 1994-1998. Margaret Horner became branch leader in 1998. A new banner representing the re-formed Arkendale branch was installed in church at the Harvest Festival in October 2000. There are now ten members who meet monthly in members' homes.

Fund raising is a regular necessity. The variety of events testifies to the ingenuity of parishioners - fetes and barbecues, making £5 grow, clay-pigeon shoot, fashion shows, coffee evenings, accordion concert, spring fairs, barn dance, buffet lunch, an auction of promises, summer luncheon and cookery demonstration at Loftus Hill, antiques evaluation evening, antiques quiz night, a cheese and wine evening; in 2000 a gift day raised the magnificent sum of £1616. Many charities were supported too, including Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Oxfam, Age Concern in Knaresborough, St Michael's Hospice, Ethiopia, and Sightsavers International.



Denis and Audrey Towlard  
visiting the 1998 Flower Festival

The traditional harvest festival has continued over the years, usually linked with a supper, tea or refreshments. In 1991 it was linked with a flower festival. The 1998 three day flower festival, which raised £1,800, was based on the theme of the poem of Arkendale; there was a preview evening with wine and supper in the hall afterwards and teas were served on the Sunday; a fairground organ played on the green. Carol singing, sometimes with a linked concert, has continued over the years. A Parish Christmas Choir sings at the carol services in all the churches; Arkendale is represented in this choir. Most years have witnessed a Rogationtide Procession - by cycle, car and horse around the parish and at least twice Hubert Houseman's tractor made an appearance. The procession stops at each village for a short service, usually accompanied by Peter Garner on the clarinet, and finishes with a picnic lunch.

The Rev. Peter Dunbar took his last service on 30 Aug 1992, before moving to be Vicar of Upper Nidderdale at Pateley Bridge. He was thanked for his hard work, compassion and patience. During the interregnum, reader Anne Proudley and visiting clergy assured services. The Rev. Chris Mearns became assistant priest in April '93, having helped during the interregnum. At that time Bob Cross and Selby Johnson as chairman and secretary steered the PCC, Philip Morley was treasurer. Sandra Gooch and Louise Blackburn edited the magazine; from December 1994 Sandra Gooch was editor, was joined briefly by Dee Chatfield, then by Sue Ibbotson; they continued for many years, as



did Geoff Marshall in charge of advertising. Emily Houseman continued as Arkendale contact. The magazine became "*The Link*" in 1995.

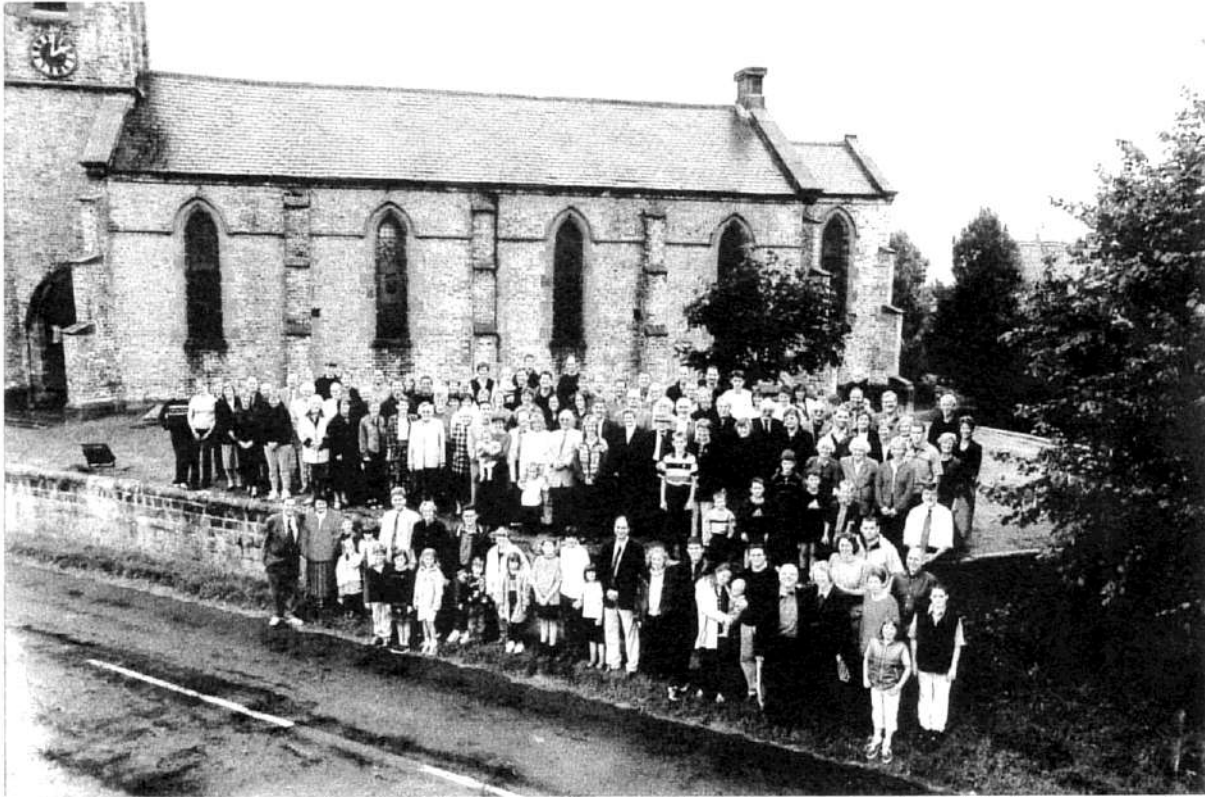
The Institution and Licensing of the Rev. Peter Garner took place on 3 Feb 1993 at Staveley. Peter also works in training and ministry, being tutor with both the North-East Ecumenical Ordination Course and the Continuing Ministerial Education scheme in the diocese; he is a member of the diocesan Ministerial Review Working Group, works as consultant to clergy as required, undertakes consultancy work with parishes and PCCs, and takes on various training roles as and when required. He set up the Fountains Abbey Chaplaincy and has remained linked with it over the years.

Also in early 1993 Anne Proudley left to join the order of St John the Baptist in Windsor; in 1997 she started training and was ordained for the ministry in 2000. In 1996 the parish constitution was changed, and in 1997 a change of name for the parish was discussed to replace "Farnham with Scotton and Staveley and Copgrove and Arkendale"; After a trial period "Walkingham Hill" was accepted and became the parish's legal name by a Pastoral Measure on 1 October 2000.

In 1998 the Arkendale Electoral Roll had 37 names, the average number of regular worshippers being 15. A monthly income of £570 (excluding repairs) was needed to keep the church open (Copgrove had 16 on the Roll & 18 attenders, needed £394; Farnham 10 & 10, £675; Scotton 36 with 23 attending, needed £560; Staveley 36 but only 15 worshippers, £757 – entire parish totals 135 and 81; in 1991 totals were 252 on the United Electoral Roll and 95-100 regular worshippers). In 1998 the tower was refurbished, leaks in the roof repaired, and the outside wall repaired, a grant having been obtained for some of the work. Some repair and service work has been done on the organ and the clock had a new spring put on its pendulum.

Three readers Elizabeth Blakey, Joan Dixon and Val Muscroft (moved to Christ Church Harrogate Sep. 2000) were licensed in 1998. In 1999 the Rector was appointed honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral and Keith Hanson, a trainee, left for ministry training after several months in the parish. The Emmaus course was held that year.

For the 2000 Millennium celebrations a service was held in church on 2 January, after New Year's Eve and New Year's Day celebrations for the village in the Hall. A special edition of *The Link* was published. A Millennium Fund Award of £500 was received from Harrogate Borough Council towards the cost of floodlighting the church; a generous donation was given by John Briscombe in memory of his brother Dennis, who died in 1999 and indeed several other donations were received from different church members towards the running costs. A photo of most of the residents was taken outside the church during the year (echoes of the 1911 photo) and a village book for the year 2000 is being prepared.



*10 September 2000. Reproduced with kind permission of Vollans Photography, Cheapside, Knaresborough.*

The PCC looked at the possibility of moving from being a United Parish to a United Benefice, with one rector for all five churches, but each church would be a parish church again with its own parish, responsible for own accounts, maintenance and worship, yet still support one other in many ways. At the PCC meeting in October 2000 there was a narrow vote in favour of moving to being a United Benefice, but by a similar vote in January 2001 it was decided to put the matter on hold on account of the forthcoming interregnum, so that the forthcoming vacancy for Rector would be for a United Parish.

October 2000 saw the dedication of two new churchwarden staves, presented by Mrs Iris Nichols, who made the silver bosses at silversmith classes, the design based on items that appear in the stained glass windows; the oak staves and caps were made by Mr David Bassham. The Archdeacon of Richmond, the Venerable Ken Good was the preacher. The magazine editor for many years Sandra Gooch moved to Ripon from Staveley; Sue Ibbotson continues in her role as joint editor, aided now by Sue Bradshaw and Margaret Greenwood.

As this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *"Arkendale: its Church and People"* goes to press in February 2001 it has been announced that the Rector, Rev. Peter Garner is to retire from the parish to Ripon, but will continue working in part-time non-stipendiary Ministry. He will maintain his training role in the diocese and will do more at Fountains Abbey as a chaplain and guide. He may find time for his musical and other hobbies! His wife Joan will continue as organist at Copgrove, pursue her choral work and

have more time for gardening as well as being a guide in the Studley Royal gardens. They both will enjoy more time with their children and grandchildren.



The Archdeacon of Richmond, Hubert Houseman, Iris Nichols, the Rev. Peter Garner and Bob Cross at the dedication of the Churchwarden's Staves (*photo courtesy of James Bradshaw*)

### *Arkendale Church Council. 2000-2001*

*Churchwardens:* Mr Bob Cross and Mr Hubert Houseman.

*Secretary:* Mrs Carole Robertshaw.

*Treasurer:* Mr Jim Horner.

*Members of Council:* Anyone on the Church Electoral Roll who lives in Ferrensby or Arkendale or who worshipped regularly at Arkendale.

*Numbers on electoral roll:* entire Parish 166, Arkendale and Ferrensby 36.

*Service books used:* Book of Common Prayer for the 8.30 Holy Communion and for Evensong, Common Worship for the Eucharist and Occasional Offices, A Village Service leaflet once a month.

*Services:* 1st Sunday 9.45 Village Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 8.30 Holy Communion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9.45 Eucharist, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 4pm Evensong (6.30pm March to October) and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Services rotate with other churches in the Parish. (A regular rota of readers for the Eucharist, Village Services and Evensong has been organised for the last seven years by Paul Harvey).

*The Children's Church:* Jean Cox and Cynthia Strong.

*Mothers' Union Branch Leader:* Margaret Horner.

*Websites:*

<http://www.harrogate.co.uk/deanery/arkendale.htm> has details about St. Bartholomew's and its services.

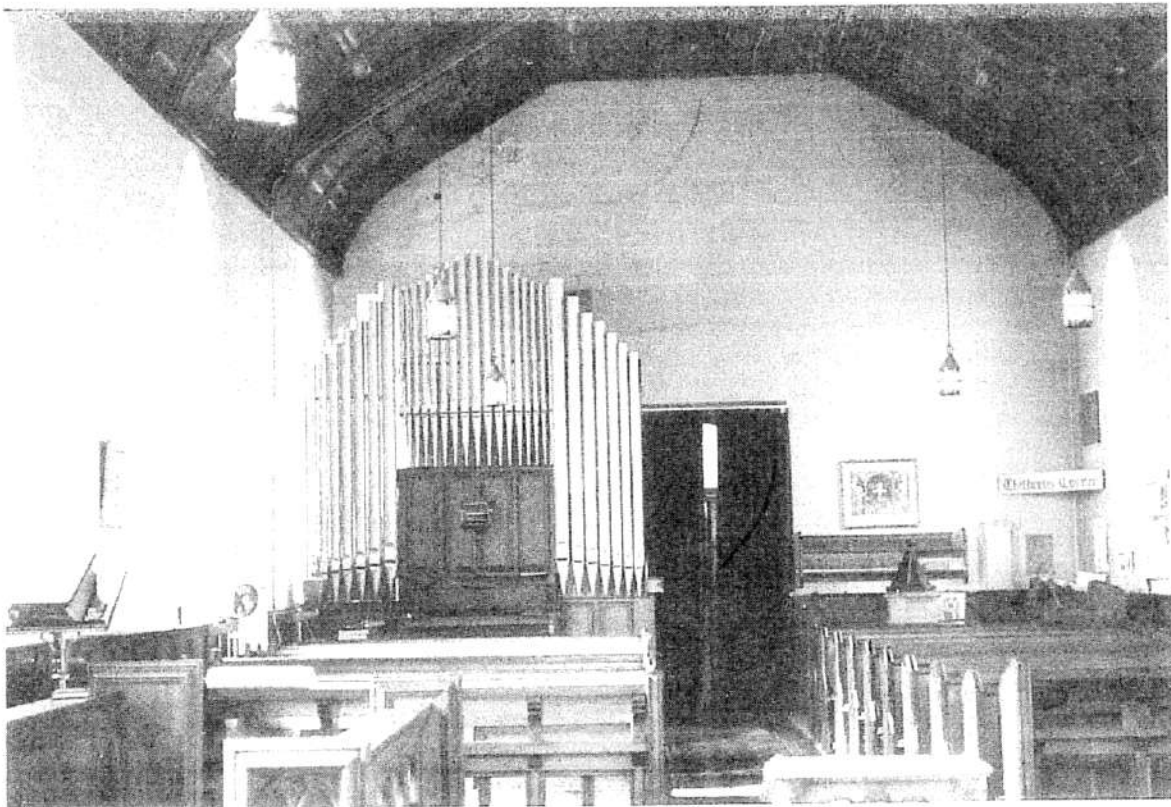
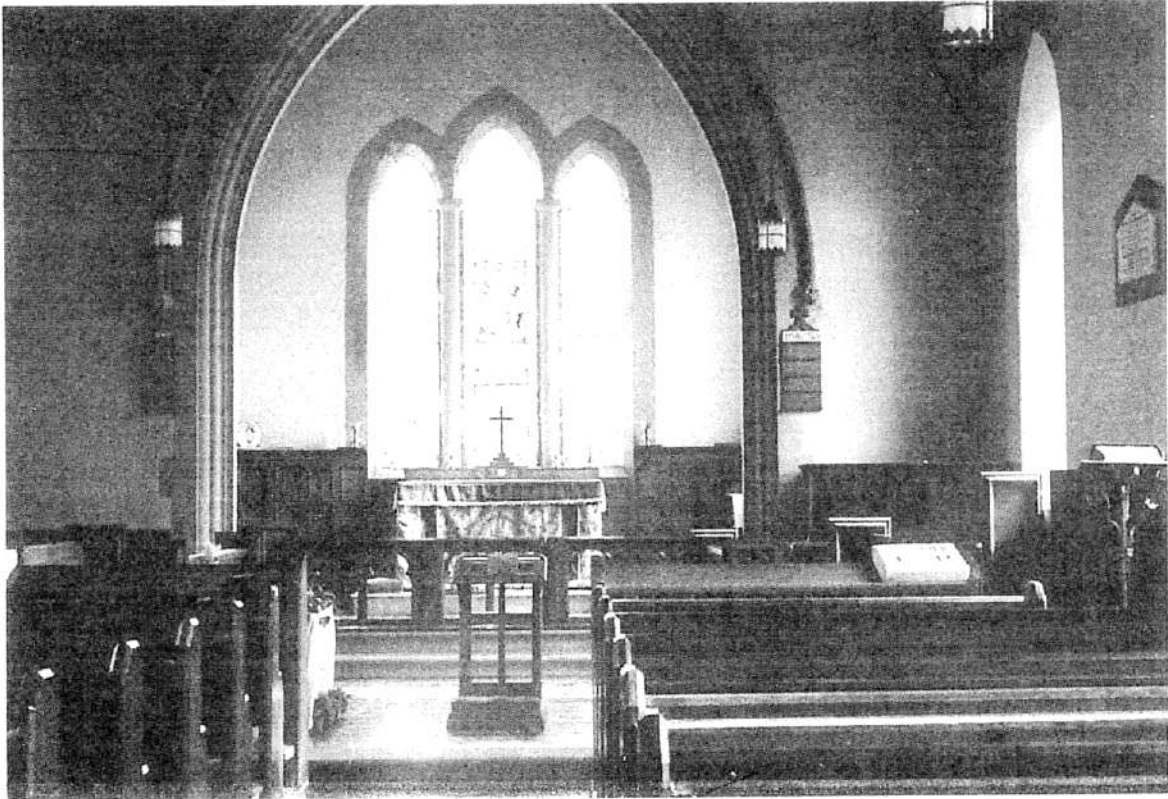
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/riponcd> has details of the diocese, including the fact that in September 1999 the Diocese of Ripon became the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds "in order to reflect the importance of the major city which lies within its bounds".

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*Interior views of St Bartholomew's Church*



*St Bartholomew's Church – c. 2018*