

## CHURCHES and CHAPELS in AUSTWICK

From early times until 1879 the parish of Clapham consisted of the four townships of Clapham, Newby, Austwick and Lawkland and each of these elected a churchwarden for the church in Clapham. The lists of churchwardens that survive (Visitation Courts and Town records) show discrepancies. The job was onerous and was often delegated to others by the elected persons. There are now four churches, at Austwick, Clapham, Keasden and Eldroth. Since 1879, when division of the larger Clapham parish took place, Austwick has elected two wardens for its own parish church – the Church of the Epiphany, Austwick.

Although there was a church or chapel in Austwick up to the mid-17th century, it is not known where it was or when it closed. The village had its own minister up to the time of the Civil Wars.

A petition of 1651 by the inhabitants of Austwick says that there were in the town many blind, lame and aged persons who cannot go to church and the inhabitants are so impoverished by plundering, billeting and assessments, that they cannot as before maintain a minister at their own charge. (Source not yet identified).

There is a field outside the village called Chapel Pasture. The Library of Lambeth Palace holds a document that shows that in Clapham, besides the parish church, there are 'two chappells for the said parish, viz. Austwicke and Eldrith ... Austwicke chappell hath neither mynister nor mayntenance belongs it, and but a myle from the parish church, and good waye. We think fit it should be dissolved.' Whether or not it was dissolved is not known.

Even so, it was expected that Austwickians should go to church in Clapham across the fields.

### **The church in Austwick**



The parish church in Austwick was originally built as a lecture theatre in 1839 by Charles Ingleby. It was soon fitted out as a church and was consecrated as a chapel-of-ease in 1841

(NYCRO ZXF 8/3/3). A trust was set up by the Inglebys in 1840 to provide a curate to minister at the new chapel-of-ease. The item NYCRO PR/Aus 7/1 is the indenture made between Charles Ingleby of Austwick, Thomas Ingleby of Lawkland Hall, James Farrer of Ingleborough with John William Foster of Clapham. An endowment is made of £1300 raised by subscription to be held by Charles Ingleby to give a perpetual annuity of £44 to support an incumbent. Details of fields and houses with their tenants are given on which the charge is to be made.

Goosemire

Dog Kennel Croft

New Croft

Longworth (alias Hipping Close)

Longworth (alias Near Harding Bridge Meadow)

Far Harding Bridge Meadow

Harding Bridge Close

Thwaite

Far Thwaite

cottage near the cross in Austwick (Robert Hayhurst)

building situated near the cross used as a shoemaker shop (Leonard Buck)

Two receipts are attached for 1841 and 1842.

The income for church expenses came from pew rents – the better-off paying about £1 pa for sole use of numbered or named pews. The poor, the singers and the Sunday School children were allowed seats free of charge. The church was extended in 1883 when the chancel was added – lack of money prevented the building of a larger and grander church.

The vicars since 1879 are:

1879 David Adams

1885 William J. Courtney

1915 A. C. Sutcliffe

1927 Edward C. Sharp

1930 William Shaw

1932 Arthur R. Godfrey

1944 John Clack

1952 Joseph Townend

1960 J. K. Colman

1963 G. N. Graham

1968 William Gill

1978 John Dalby

The churchwardens at various times included

Christopher Ingleby, J. J. Briscoe, Thomas Dugdale, William Stockdale, Fred Mattinson, James Capstick, Joseph Robinson, Albert Whinray, W. R. Haworth, R. Booth, Alric Watkins, Leonard Chapman, John Davidson, Nathan Booth, R. Foster, C. Wright, John Middleton, J. H. Maudsley, Anthony Hird, Henry Morphet, William Hesleden, Glyn Jones, Mrs Maude Bacon, Richard Bowring, Michael Brocklehurst, Lt. Col. George Field, Eric Baines

NYCRO ZXF 8/3/2 dated 1842 gives a plan of the house intended to be given as a residence for the Incumbent of the Living of Epiphany. A cost of £400 is given for its building in 1840. The site was given by Charles Ingleby. This is 'only 110 yards from Epiphany Church'. The valuation in 1842 is £360 based on a rental value of £12 pa and 30 years fee. The outgoings are Poor rates 6s 9d, Highway rate 7d, Church rate 2 ½ d and duty on windows £2-15-10. Richard Clapham, Land surveyor and valuer.

The Church of England Record Centre hold deeds (D510142 – D510145) concerning the vicarage. The land for the house had been given by Charles Ingleby in consideration of £200 given by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the maintenance of the curate at the Epiphany and the land was conveyed to the Queen Anne's Bounty by Ingleby in 1843, for ever according to the customs of the Manor of Austwick. The Governors annexed the land and house to the curacy by deed in 1844.

Further details are in the NYCRO parish records PR/AUS 13/1. In 1842 a declaration was made before a Master in Chancery saying that the 'vicarage' was lately erected. It was not strictly a vicarage until 1879 but the curate could live there. The vicarage was enlarged in 1898/9 at a cost of just over £500. The money was raised by subscriptions, donations, sales of work, a bazaar, a rummage sale and various entertainments.

Christopher Ingleby, of Harden Cottage, continued the family charitable role in supporting Austwick church. He used a letter book for retaining copies of his correspondence, to be found in the West Yorkshire Archives WYL 826/148 dated 1880-1885. Letters about charities, estate business, personal affairs and alterations to the church are recorded. On 14 April 1882 he wrote to Geo. Pringle, secretary to the Church Commissioners in London when he was Vicar's Warden, as follows.

He noted that the parish of Clapham was divided into two in May 1879. Austwick had no church, 'suitable for a parish church. The present one being built some 42 years ago by a private individual for, in the first place a lecture room, but it was consecrated and used as a Chapel-of-Ease, the pews being let and the proceeds appropriated to keeping it in repair etc. The parishioners are now anxious to have it reseated (the seats to be all free) and to build a Chancel. The architect (in fact everyone who sees it) says there ought to be a new church built on a more convenient site but the cost of this will be at least from £2000 to £2500 exclusive of site. This amount it is impossible to raise in the Parish. In fact sufficient cannot be raised to carry out the former plan efficiently, the present building having a ceiling and it would require a new roof to make it look at all sightly. The lowest estimate we have for the Chancel and seating without new roof is £600. There are no monied men in the parish. The

Ecclesiastical Commissioners are receiving from the new Parish in tithes over £500 per annum and only give £200 of that to the Vicar so I think we have a fair claim upon them if not to build a new church, to give something substantial toward building one and making the absolutely necessary alterations. May I trouble you to lay the matter before their lordships and let me know the result at your convenience. I am yours truly Christ. Ingleby, Vicars Warden.'

The document NYCRO ZXF 8/3/1 is a cost estimate of £602-15-5 for building 'Austwick Chapel' given by Thomas Bateson. It is not dated but most likely it is for the church.

### **Austwick Methodist Chapel**

The Austwick Manor Court record of 1824, held in the (Game)Cock inn, noted that a Methodist 'preaching house' had been erected (the previous year), yearly ancient rent of one penny (due to the Lord of The Manor). It was built on a plot of land about 27 feet by 25 feet and cost £150. Photographs of the building and the gallery are to be seen in a document at the North Yorkshire County Record Office, ZXF 10/1/1 (19). The heading is Austwick Wesleyan Chapel, Settle Circuit. The first leader was William Baynes. (Robert Brown the school master was clerk to the court). At first five members, the number rose to 13 by 1815. This first chapel is now a private residence. It was very small, but had a gallery. 'It is for all the world like a box with a gallery round it, and one can easily conceive that the preacher standing in the rostrum would be able to lean forward and shake hands with one of his auditors in the gallery'. It was overcrowded when 60 people attended.

A new Methodist chapel was built in 1901 but closed in 1998. It was inaugurated by Mr A. R. Byles. The organ was installed in 1906 but is now in Keasden Church. It is notable as the only property in Austwick with a red-slatted roof.



### **The Order of Rechabites**

This was a Friendly Society founded in England in 1835 as part of the temperance movement. 'Norcliffe House in Austwick was constructed in 1818 by the Rechabites in Rochdale. The premises, composed of two dwellings, with a meeting place on the top floor that was reached by an exterior staircase, incorporated flags in the form of floors at ground level, and also well-fashioned lintels. The outside area was adorned by flags used for gate stoops, path, path edging and (laid flat) adornment for the tops of walls.'

(W.R. Mitchell. *The exploitation of the Horton Flags – considered as an example of industrial archaeology*. *Field Studies* , 6, (1985), 237-251. Field Studies Council, 168.)