

Austwick is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1085 as OUSTEWIC.

This church is early Victorian and certain evidence from 1839 is that this was first built by Charles Ingleby as a private place of worship, and consecrated the "Church of the Epiphany" in 1841 by the Bishop of Ripon.

It then passed to the vicar of Clapham as a Chapel of Ease.

The church had a gallery at the west end, and was heated by an iron stove, which would burn coal, coke or peat. A cart load of Ingleton coal then cost 6p.

The church was lit by candles in chandeliers.

It cost £1 or £1-10-0 to rent a pew for the year, this was to provide income for expenses. The poor, singers and Sunday School scholars had free pews.

In 1879 Austwick was created a separate parish with its own first vicar of Austwick, David Adam.

In 1883 the gallery was removed and the church enlarged with the addition of the east end.

The Altar Table is made of oak from Lawkland Wood and was dedicated by the Revd. Arthur Ingleby in memory of his late father, Christopher.

The organ, bought second hand and possibly 30-40 years old then, cost £150 to buy, transport from Manchester and install.

The old Market Cross stands just outside the church. The base of this is very old, no date known, but the present stone pillar was hewn at Austwick and set up in 1842, the year after the church was consecrated, by Charles Ingleby. An annual cattle fair was held here on the Thursday before Whit Sunday until the end of the nineteenth century.

In December 1986 the heavy stone ball on top of the belfry was blown down. It will not be replaced but will be mounted and kept inside the church.

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1839 is that this was first built by Charles Ingley as  
a private place of worship, and consecrated the "Church  
of the Epiphany" in 1841 by the Bishop of Ripon.

It then passed to the vicar of Clapham as a Chapel of Ease.

The church had a gallery at the west end, and was heated  
by an iron stove, which would burn coal, coke or peat.  
A cart load of limestone coal then cost 6p.

~~The church was first by a vicar in 1841.~~  
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own first vicar of Austwick, David Adam.

In 1885 the gallery was removed and the church enlarged  
with the addition of the east end.



### AUSTWICK PARISH CHURCH.

The village of Austwick is well situated on the sunny side of the valley, and is protected from the most severe weather by the surrounding hills. The Parish covers 12,000 acres, and includes Lawkland and Eldroth on the far side of the A65 road, as well as Wharfe and Feizor.

It is a very old settlement, probably dating back to Viking times, and was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1085 under the name of "Oustewic and Haldetune" (Austwick and Eldroth). Although the present church is early Victorian, there was certainly a church in the village prior to 1550. In that year, there seems to have been some debate about the possibility of making Eldroth Chapel into a Parish Church and closing down the Chapel at Austwick. Both were in Clapham Parish, and it was felt that Austwick was near enough to Clapham, while Eldroth lay across Austwick Moss and was almost inaccessible in a wet winter. Nothing seems to have happened, and the next certain evidence we have is from 1839, when the Minute Book records that Charles Ingleby had built a Church. It was at first a private building, though it was used for worship, and it was consecrated as "The Church or Chapel of The Epiphany" in 1841 by the Bishop of Ripon. It then passed to the Vicar of Clapham as a Chapel of Ease. An Indenture of 1840 granted him £44 a year from land in Austwick. This is still a part of the Incumbent's income.

The Church had a gallery at the west end, which was used by the singers. The building was heated by an iron stove which burned coal or coke and peat. In 1841 you could buy a cart load of Ingleton Coal for 1/3 (6p). The church was lit by candles in Chandeliers.

The Pew Rents provided the income for the expenses of the Church and Parsonage, £18 being collected in most years until around 1870. It cost £1 or £1.10 to rent a pew for a year, but the poor and "the singers and Sunday Scholars" had free pews.

In 1879 Austwick was created a separate Parish, and this church, together with the chapel at Eldroth (then and until the 1950's also used as a school) passed into the care of the first Vicar of Austwick, David Adams.

In 1883 the Church was enlarged with the addition of the present East end, and the gallery was removed about that time. The East Window,

showing the Epiphany, was subscribed for by the parishioners to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Most of the glass in the church is late Victorian, the only exceptions being the St. Francis Window given in memory of the Revd Arthur Ingilby, and the one opposite.

Another Ingleby memorial is the Altar table, dedicated by the Revd Arthur in memory of his father, Christopher Ingleby. It is made of oak from Lawkland Wood.

The organ was installed in 1889, but it was bought second hand, and is probably thirty or forty years older than that. It cost only £150 to buy, transport from Manchester, and install.

The Baptistry at the back of the Church opens into what was the bier house. The bier is still sometimes used for funerals, and it has iron rimmed wheels.

The Churchwardens Staves were carved at Malham by the craftsman Bill Wild from local oak.

The Burial Ground and War Memorial are some way from the Church, along the road towards Clapham. There was no Burial Ground in Austwick until the 1890's, and no nearer site was available.

Austwick Methodist Chapel dates from 1901, though there were Methodists in Austwick at least a hundred years before that.

Another Ingleby gift to the village is the school, on the left as you pass through the village on the Horton road. It dates from 1842, and it is now a Church of England first school, taking children under ten from the whole Parish.

Just outside the Church there was an old market cross. The base is still there, but the pillar was put up in the 1840s by Charles Ingleby. An annual Cattle Fair was held there on the Thursday before Whit Sunday until the end of the 19th century.

Austwick has a fascinating collection of houses of almost every period, and many of them have dates on the lintels.

Farming and quarrying are still the staple occupations, though nowadays there are more people who travel further to work.