

The name "Kirkgate," borne by the old street in Settle which used to be the main thoroughfare from that place to Giggleswick, is a relic of the time when *the* Church of the neighbourhood was situate at the latter village, and we are also reminded in various ways of the large congregations that used to assemble here. Thus it is recorded that at one great festival in 1739 no less than ten gallons of wine were consumed by the communicants; whilst the seating capacity of the old Church (which used to be 1000 and is now 650 in addition to the choir) was so tried that in some parts seats were actually affixed to the outside of the pews. But it must be borne in mind that in olden days attendance at Church was compulsory; and even within the last 70 or 80 years the children from the Wesleyan Sunday Schools at Settle and Langcliffe used to come and repeat their catechism here, as well as those attached to the Established Church in the outlying townships of the parish.

The origin of the Church is unknown; there is no mention of it in Domesday Book, but fragments of early masonry that were found during its restoration in the years 1890-92 prove that a building existed on the spot in Saxon times, the site being probably several feet below the level of the present one. It was therefore very possibly in ruins at the time of the Norman Conquest. The theory that the name of the village is derived from a Church being situate here in very remote times has found considerable support, and Dr. Warre, at the dedication of the School Chapel, said "the very name of Giggleswick (if, as may be the case, it represents the Latin *Ecclesiae Vicus*) tells us of piety reaching far back into the ages, when the building of its ancient Church differentiated the hamlet from the neighbouring Sætte or Settle, and gave it an appellative distinction in the district of Craven."



Kirkgate, Settle.





Lychgate.



Old Cross, with one
post of the Stocks.

GIGGLESWICK CHURCH RESTORATION.

As announced in our last Almanac, the scheme for restoring the ancient Parish Church of St. Alkelda has made considerable headway.

On the 15th of February, 1890, the Chancellor of the Diocese held a Consistory Court in the Church to consider the petition which had been presented; and he finally gave his decision as follows:—That owners of pews in the Chancel, Galleries and Chapels be granted new pews, by faculty, on the same tenure as those they hold at present; that the allotment of 1822 be annulled, that the Building Committee should try and make arrangements for the faculty pews, and for allotting seats to the rest of the Parishioners, that in such allotment persons resident in the Township of Giggleswick should have the preference, and the general powers as to the Restoration be granted to the petitioners as prayed for.

Contracts for the Restoration have been entered into, and in answer to appeals for help a large sum has already been received; but it is hoped that many more subscriptions will yet be promised, from members of all denominations, towards the work of putting this—the most ancient and interesting building in the parish—into a fit state of repair; and the more so when it is considered how many associations it has for almost every family in the locality. Thus the venerable fabric, which for centuries has looked down on the village of Giggleswick, promises, through the loving labour of its many friends, to be in a position to maintain that watch for centuries to come. The "Twenty-four" have appointed a Building Committee consisting of the following Gentlemen:

- Chairman*—H. Christie, Esq., J.P. *Vice-Chairman*—Rev H. J. Swale, J.P.
 John Geldard, Esq., J.P. W. G. Perfect, Esq.
 Wm. Hartley, Esq. A. R. St. C. Radcliffe, Esq.
 John Lister, Esq. J. G. Robinson, Esq.
 Rev. C. Marsden. Rev. G. Style
 W. Morrison, Esq., M.P.

Hon. Treas.—C. H. Charlesworth, Esq., *Hon. Sec.*—Thos. Brayshaw, Esq.

The preliminary work, such as removing the Galleries and Pews, scraping the walls, &c., is in an advanced state, and during the necessary excavations many things of interest have been dug up, notably, an effigy of one of the Stainford family, two mutilated effigies of Ecclesiastics, Sepulchral Slabs, &c.

Many gifts, including Stained Glass Windows, &c., have been promised, and it is confidently hoped that when the work of Restoration is complete, we shall be able to boast of one of the most handsome Churches in Craven.

The annual Easter vestry meeting was held in the Church on Monday, April 9th. The churchwardens' balance-sheet for the year ending December 31st, 1922, was presented, and duly passed. A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded the Churchwardens for their efficient work. It was thought a pity that, now the churchwardens' accounts are made up to the end of the civil year, the churchwardens themselves are not also elected in the first week of the civil year—it would be more business-like. In accordance with an understanding come to at the Easter vestry meeting of 1901, viz., that a churchwarden should hold office for not longer than three consecutive years, two of the old wardens retired, viz., Messrs. Sam. Hicklin and Jno. Graham. In their places were elected Messrs. Jas. Parker and Fred Brassington who, with Messrs. Wm. Clavert and Wm. Silverwood, now complete the list. This arrangement was arrived at in order that every member of the congregation should have the opportunity of "standing his corner" and for the avoidance of anything like a clique. Also that anyone might have the chance of bringing fresh ideas into the affairs of the Church; and, furthermore, see behind the scenes the financial working of the Church. The custom has worked smoothly and admirably for now nearly a quarter of a century, the Church having been served by a goodly succession of able custodians. The meeting also determined that the organ should be blown by means of either a gas-engine (with fan) or by water-power.

The balance sheet, made up to the end of December last, showed that the offertories to Church expenses had totalled £104 17s. 1d.; for special objects £25 12s. 8d.; proceeds of social gathering £18 17s. 9d. The expenditure was of the ordinary character, and there was a balance owing to the bank of £2 17s. 4d. The funds named, however, had credit balances at the bank:—Organ renovation, 16s. 8d.; hearse fund, £58 11s. 7d.; choir vestments fund, 5s. 9d.; memorial chapel fund, £33 1s. 8d.; fabric repairs fund £3 7s. The accounts were certified by Mr. J. W. Butterworth as correct.

GIGGLESWICK CHURCH CHOIR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—My business often takes me into the Settle district and, whenever possible, I have made it a point of attending Giggleswick Church, because of its delightful services. The choir would put many a town choir to the blush, and the organ was most tastefully played, whilst I heard a man's man in the pulpit. I went there a Sunday or so back and was disappointed. There was no music: an able sermon certainly but on the long side. I was sorry to learn the reason, namely, the breakdown of the health of the Vicar's wife, who acted as voluntary organist.

Now in the "Yorkshire Post" of last week I noticed that the parishioners of Hambleton (half the population of Giggleswick) near Hull, where I come from, have given the wife of the Vicar a wallet of Treasury notes in recognition of her seven years services at the organ, so I was amazed to hear that the services of the wife of the Vicar of Giggleswick, who had played the organ for eleven years have not been recognised. I am, as a matter of fact, a Nonconformist, but I should be glad to contribute to any fund that would take away this reproach.—Yours, etc.,
 M.B.J.

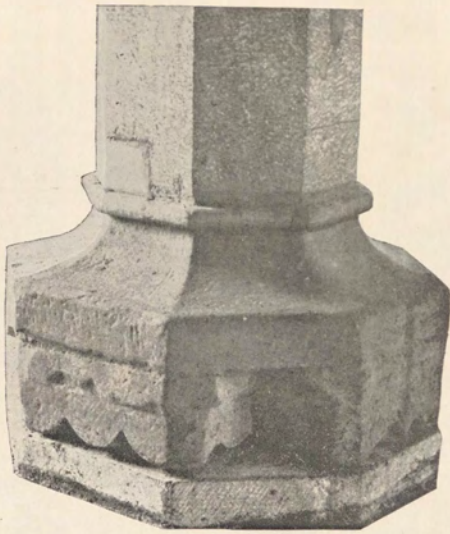
GIGGLESWICK CHURCH CHOIR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I was interested in reading the letter from the Hull gentleman, but I rubbed my eyes with amazement because he evidently had not heard of a move to present Mrs. Brocklehurst with, I understand, a little two-seater. I do not now reside in the neighbourhood, but for generations my people have been closely associated with the old Mother Church, so I sent a five-pound note to Mr. Butterworth, manager of the old Craven Bank, who, with Mr. Clavert and Mr. Brassington were deputed to deal with the gift.—Yours, etc.,

RIBBLESDALE.

*Flower
25 Sept*



CAPITAL (NOW BASE) OF NORMAN PILLAR.
(See page 7).