

Flasby. June 4 1980

Grant will help facelift of Hall



THE restoration of Flasby Hall, near Gargrave, has come a step nearer with the awarding of a grant to its owner, Cracoe businessman, James Hammond by the Yorkshire Dales National Parks committee.

The Hall (pictured above), which now shows the ravages wrought by many years without inhabitants, dry rot and theft of its lead roof, would have been demolished to make way for a modern home to be built on its 700 acres if Mr. Hammond had had his way.

But conservation minded planners refused his application and left him with the considerable task of restoring the building. While the Park committee has made available a £1,250 grant for the project, the money is not expected to cover the cost of restoring even one of the Hall's 25 rooms.

Mr. Hammond has applied to six organisations for financial help to restore the Hall — once owned by the son of a Leeds Lord Mayor, William Preston, a Leeds merchant, who bought the Hall in the 15th century. It was the Preston family home until 15 years ago.

"We have been told not to touch the building until matters are settled. I am hoping this grant will be the first of many," said Mr. Hammond.

St. Andrew's Church

A Summary of Mrs. Janet Dinsdale's work on
"GARGRAVE CHURCH AND PARISH"

It is not known how many places of worship have been on the church site itself. The dedication and saltire tell us that it has a very long history; that it is a missionary and a teaching church. Very little is recorded from its first millenium. At the Synod of Whitby in 664 A.D. it was decided to follow the Roman form of worship which continued to the Reformation 1536-8.

It was some time ago in the 18th century that a field drain was being laid about half a mile to the S.E. of Gargrave when the foundations of a building were discovered. At the time and for some time afterwards it was thought there had been a church here hence the name of Kirk Sink. Further excavation down the years reveal the site of a Roman Villa. Dr. Whitaker says the stones of this structure probably went into the building of Gargrave church, 1521.

ANGLO-DANISH CROSSES AND CELTIC CHURCH

In the church are fragments of Anglo-Danish crosses belonging to the ninth and tenth centuries. These fragments were discovered when the previous church was taken down to build the present one in 1851. Another fragment is at the bottom of the tower steps. Some of them were taken into the old vicarage garden for safety, no doubt, one remained in the north porch of the present church and some have been lost. Those remaining have been seen by archaeologists and declared to be the oldest of any such relics found over a wide area. Very kindly these ancient stones were recently returned to the church where they are now displayed.

These crosses are found almost exclusively in districts where the Celtic church was established mainly in the North and West of England, Ireland and the Isle of Man, between the seventh and tenth centuries. That church was organised in large units as a preaching church from Minsters such as York, Hexham and Ripon and from them the field churches were established. A travelling priest set up a wooden cross to which people gathered to hear the Christian message and to receive the sacraments. It is likely that a burial ground would follow this and the graves of important people marked by a carved stone memorial cross and in the course of time became a permanent centre of Christian worship.

When fragments of more than one cross are found in one place it is considered to be a field church. In 710 A.D. the church in England was organised in dioceses roughly similar to what we now call parishes and it seems that the ancient parish of Gargrave is the present Rural Deanery of Settle without the addition of Horton-in-Ribblesdale. For centuries it was part of the vast diocese of York. In 1836 it became part of the newly formed diocese of Ripon, in 1919 there was another division when it came under the pastoral care of the Bishop of Bradford. In a field across the main road to the S.W. is the site known as Garris where stood the manor house. This was in all probability occupied by the lord's bailiff. In the Poll Tax returns of 1379 there is Johannes de Gayregrave noted as frankleyn paying the large sum of 40d. So in the first place it is supposed that the first parish priest was private chaplain in this household. On the priest being made responsible for the cure or care of souls in the parish of Gargrave he would come under the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese and would administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

SAWLEY ABBEY INFLUENCE

About 1147 Robert of Gargrave sent out three colonies of monks from Newminster, near Morpeth, to found other Abbeys, one of which was to be at Sawley, near Clitheroe, on the River Ribble on land provided by William Percy. This Robert was canonised as St. Robert of Newminster. From this time to the Reformation Sawley or Salley Abbey has an interest in Gargrave Parish. The Tithes of Stainton were released to the Abbey from about 1174. In 1313 Henry de Percy released all his rights in Tithes of Stainton and granted the advowson of Gargrave and all its chapels to Salley in return for a payment of 80 marks. The English translation of the Appropriation of Gargrave Church to Salley is lodged at the headquarters of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds.

From this time the convent of Sawley is in authority at Gargrave until the Reformation.

Gifts of land were made by the Graindorges to Furness Abbey between 1155-1299 at Flasby and Winterburn. Tithes and the payments thereof were the subject of much controversy down the years until the dissolution of the monasteries and down to the present era.

In 1536 began the dissolution of the monasteries. Monastic possessions were sold and at Gargrave these went to Sir Arthur Darcy, the younger son of Lord Darcy, the latter paying the supreme penalty for his part in the rebellion that followed. In 1536 then the parish had seen the end of the Scots for the time being, a new church and the end of the rule of Sawley which had lasted over 200 years. Parish churches were not destroyed. The dissolution of the monasteries was followed in the North by the Pilgrimage of Grace against the dissolution and was ruthlessly crushed. It was at this time decreed that parish registers be kept. Those for Gargrave are printed to the beginning of last century.

THE PRESENT CHURCH, 1851

THE TOWER

Behind the organ, on the wall at the foot of the belfry stairs is an old carved wooden tablet bearing the date of the building of the tower.

A.D. MDXXI

This we take to be the date of the building of the church before the present one, 1521. The tower is all that remains of it.

On the outside on the N.W. buttress of the tower is a carved shield said to be that of Bank impaling that of Pudsay. This also appears on the S.W. buttress. On the west wall is an inscription, said to be 'Peter Foz, Bailiff'. These inscriptions are badly weathered and almost indecipherable.

A picture of the 1521 church is to be seen in the church.

By 1851 Coniston Cold parish had been divided off from that of Gargrave and a new church built there in 1847: According to Shuffrey "North Craven Churches" the church was consecrated on 19th November, 1846 and was separated from Gargrave by order in Council on 27th May, 1847.

The new Gargrave Church, which is the present one, was built of reddish stone from quarries on Sharpshaw, Flasby, and with white quoins and dressings. It consists of nave, chancel, north and south aisles, in early Perpendicular style to correspond to the ancient tower. The builder was Anderton of Gargrave who worked to the design of Rhode Hawkins, the architect. Roberts of Gargrave was the woodworker and the considerable amount of carving in stone was the work of Boulton of Lambeth. The wood carving was by Ratler of Cambridge.

On Tuesday, 26th October, 1852, the Lord Bishop of Ripon consecrated the new church in the presence of a full congregation of clergy and laity, and a choir assisted by a large group from the parish church of Leeds. A celebration of Holy Communion followed after which the Bishop consecrated an addition to the burial ground.

The carved stone on the outside of the church includes a full length figure of St. Andrew in Caen stone placed in a niche above the south porch doorway. The heads of the 12 Apostles, in the same stone, form the terminals of the nave arch labels inside, the head of St. Peter being above the reading desk and of St. Paul above the pulpit, at the base of the chancel arch. The open timbered roof is supported on angel corbels, and other carvings complete the aisle arches.

The building is 130 ft. long by 60 ft. wide and is rather large for a village church leading to problems of heating not only at the present day but from the beginning. The open seats are of old oak taken from the remains of the roof of the former church and provide seating for 500 people. Provision was also made for 100 children in seats facing across the East end of each aisle.

THE WINDOWS

There are 19 stained glass windows given by local families in memory of relatives. Six windows are by Capronnier of Brussels, whose work became known in this country after the great exhibition of 1851. These windows are easily noticed, the glass is very fine. There are four in the chancel and one at the East end of each side aisle. There is also stained glass in the Clerestory windows. So much stained glass makes the church dark.

The front part of the grave yard was cleaned up and dangerous memorial stones made into a path leading to the rubbish heap adjoining Church Lane.

THEFT OF CHURCH BELLS

An alarming incident happened a year or two ago. The church bells had been recast and returned to the church yard to await being re-hung. The Vicar and his wife had retired for the night when Mrs. Cook was disturbed by a noise in Church Lane; she roused her husband and they found the bells had gone. They had been taken to a place for melting down when a man at the works noticed an inscription and quickly realised they were in the wrong place. Meanwhile word went over the B.B.C. that Gargrave church bells had been stolen, and so they were recovered and brought back. Gargrave has had its moments.

THE VESTRY

Alongside the organ it holds the safe, photographs of former Vicars, robes, archives, a miniature map and book on Gargrave Tithes, also an antique chair. Incidentally, the Tithes Map itself and schedule have been taken to the Craven District Council offices in Granville Street, Skipton.

WINTERBURN CHAPEL some three or four miles to the N. of Gargrave is served by the Vicar of Gargrave and is worth a visit. There is Evensong at 2.30 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays. In days gone by it was a meeting place for the little valley and on special occasions still draws a big gathering.

RECENT VICARS

There have been three Vicars inducted since Mr. Archer resigned in 1965. He was succeeded in 1966 by the Rev. Isaac Varty Cowell who unfortunately died after only a short time. His widow, son and daughter are still with us in the village.

The Rev. Kenneth Cook followed and was here about 10 years. He left to be a Residential Canon at Bradford Cathedral. It was he who decorated and made the recent changes in the Church and Church yard already mentioned.

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Canon P. H. Green and Mrs. Green, we wish them a long and happy stay.

Agnes A. Taylor,
Gargrave, 1978.



THE BAPTISTRY

This was on the right hand as one entered the west door and was in line with the organ and vestry. In recent years this compartment has been changed to another much needed use. It is now a utility area and houses equipment for maintenance. The font was moved to where it is now and the windows taken to the east wall in the S. aisle. The font was new in 1851 replacing the ancient one which is now in private hands.

There is a model of the church at the W. entry, also church literature for sale.

SIDE CHAPEL

At the East end of the N. aisle is a side chapel made in Bishop Hardy's incumbency. It is furnished in oak throughout, the whole of it being donated by parishioners in memory of members of their families. This commemorates the church centenary in 1952.

There are Rolls of Honour in this aisle commemorating those who served in World War I and those who died in World War II.

THE ALTAR in the church was originally of Caen stone but was replaced later by the present one as was the reredos in the form of a triptych in oak, carved, painted and gilded. When opened this shows the figures of ten saints, some of them northern ones. When closed it is a pleasing piece of finished work.

The clerestory has memorial tablets from the former church.

An electrically driven carrillon can be used at times instead of the hand rung bells.

The choir stalls have been moved to the E. ends of the nave, the lectern to the S.E. end of the nave nearer the pulpit. The Vicar's stall has been moved from the chancel to beside the pulpit and now the Vicar's stations are altogether.

There are several memorial tablets on the walls which like the windows are in memory of local people who have served their generation in their many ways. There is a carved wooden board giving the list of Vicars.

The structural alterations in the Baptistry and in both transcripts were carried out in the incumbency of the Rev. K. Cook with plans by a Skipton firm of architects, James Hartley and Son, after a public meeting of parishioners. The churchyard paths were re-surfaced.

In the churchyard are the stumps of three Lime trees which had to be taken down because they were decayed and unsafe. It has been said they grew on part of an old boundary which might have been circular and could have joined up to the curve on the N.W. corner. Celtic churches, it is said, were begun on slight eminences and were encircled.

A stone path was laid from the church to the new vicarage in Mill Lane, now Church Lane. The stone from this came from the Mill lower down which was being converted into flats at the time.

The little iron stile at the end of the path was formerly in the wall at the N.W. corner of the church yard and beside a gate that has since been replaced by a new one.

The late Iain McLeod, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was buried in the church yard. The Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, attended the funeral service and read the Lesson. It was said he was the first person to use the recently installed cloakroom.

New iron Lych Gates were hung replacing wooden ones which were in bad repair.

On the N.W. side of the church yard there is a grave and memorial stone erected to the memory of William Anderson 1804-66. He built the church and was a member of a Gargrave family.