

MELLING CHURCH

A History and Guide

MARTIN GIBSON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank the staff of Lancaster Library, The Harris Library Preston, Lancaster University Library, Manchester Central Library. The Diocesan Archivist Chester, The Lancashire Record Office Staff. Mr Webb of the Borthwick Institute York for his help and advice. Dr. Norton of the Centre for Medieval Studies, York University. Mr Battersby of Hornby Castle for allowing me to look round his keep. Jonathan Small for guidance on Perpendicular Gothic. His Honour Sir Sanderson Temple, Patron of the living. The Deputy Headmaster of Wennington Hall School for his papers on the Morleys. Susan Gibson for the groundplan and drawing on the front cover. Mrs Valerie Armstrong for typing the proofs.

Martin Gibson, September 1989.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MELLING CHURCH

A 10th century preaching cross suggests that Christians have worshipped in Melling for over 1000 years. The first church on this site was Norman and is known to have existed in 1094. In the late 13th century the rectory was held by John Romeyn Archbishop of York and the church was expanded under his guidance. In 1322 a Scots raid destroyed the church. Exactly when rebuilding took place is unclear. Somewhere around the mid 14th century the present church was built. Fragments of the earlier building survive. The tower was added a century later. From then until the mid 18th century little was changed. In the 1750's the nave roof was raised and the clerestory added by the owner of Melling Hall and Vicar John Tatham. The work was completed in 1763.

In the 19th century parts of the church were heavily restored by Vicar William Grenside, an enthusiastic gothicist. He left the church as it is today.

THE HISTORY OF MELLING CHURCH

Christian worship has been practised in Melling since at least the 10th century. In the church yard is part of an Anglo Saxon preaching cross used to mark the site of the earliest public worship. Around crosses like this itinerant missionary priests won converts to the new Christian faith. This cross probably stood close to the site of the present Church at the foot of the Saxon Keep or motte and bailey earthwork, now in the garden of the former vicarage.

By the Norman Conquest a Church had been erected. In 1094 that Church and the extensive Parish of Melling was granted by Count Roger De Poitou to the Norman Monastery at Sees, 75 miles southwest of Rouen. Count Roger was Lord of what is now Lancashire and the son of William the Conqueror's cousin Roger de Montgomery. The Domesday survey mentions no Church in Melling, but this is not significant, the north Lancashire section does no more than list the settlements and the Commissioners of 1086 may not have even visited the region.

In the early 13th century the Church and Parish were conveyed to Roger de Montbegon of Hornby Castle by the Abbot of Sees in exchange for the nearby parish of Gressingham. This was the beginning of a long association between the owners of Hornby Castle and Melling Church.

The late 13th century brought prosperity and expansion to Melling. In 1280 John Le Romeyn was made Rector. Five years later he became Archbishop of York, retaining the Rectory by Papal Licence. On March 21st, 1293 the Archbishop visited Melling. During this period a lot of building took place some of which survives at the west end of the nave and aisles.

Soon after this the Rectory and Advowson was conveyed to the Abbot of Croxton Abbey in Leicestershire and after a dispute with Margaret de Nevile the Abbot won the right of presentation.

He appointed Premonstratensian Canons of his order Vicars of Melling until the Reformation.

In 1322 a Scottish raid led by Robert Bruce and the Earl of Moray caused huge destruction and loss of life in Lunesdale. The Scots

burned and plundered for 3 weeks and 3 days. Melling Church was attacked and largely destroyed. The value of living was halved to £20. The Church was still in ruins in 1331 when the Archdeacon of Richmond's visitation returns refer only to the Chapel at Hornby in Melling Parish. An extraordinary omission if the Church was functioning again.

There is no documentary evidence of when the Church was rebuilt. Scarcely anything has survived of the pre-1541 records of the Archdeacon of Richmond. Richmondshire was a peculiar amongst Archdeaconaries, created around 1088 it was the largest and wealthiest Archdeaconery in England. It covered large parts of Yorkshire, Lancashire north of the Ribble, Westmoreland and Cumberland, until the diocese of Carlisle was created to serve Cumberland in 1127. The Archdeacon had all the privileges and prerogatives of a bishop save that he could not by canon law ordain, consecrate or confirm. He had his own consistory court at Richmond where wills were proved, licences and faculties granted. He had sole supervision of the clergy including institution to and removal from benefices. The documentary connection with York is slight. Only in exceptional circumstances, such as during a vacancy in the Archdiaconal Office, did the Archbishop of York interfere, unfortunately there was no vacancy during the 14th century and the Archbishop's registers contain no information on the rebuilding of Melling Church.

Deprived of written evidence we must turn to architecture. The aisles, windows and nave arcades indicate that rebuilding took place in the mid 14th century. The style is Richmondshire Perpendicular. There is none of the sweeping vertical tracery so characteristic of Perpendicular gothic. There was neither money nor craftsman to execute it. The 14th century motifs that there are, can be found in churches all over the Archdeaconry of Richmond.

Pevsner says "Richmondshire Churches were built long and low." Melling is still long and was low until a clerestory was added in the 1750's. The windows in the aisles are typical of the area and period. The east windows of the chancel and aisles would have tracery but unfortunately none survives. The pointed nave arcades are pointed just like the 14th century ones at Warton. The nave and aisles would have been rebuilt by the parish. The chancel

by the Rector the Abbot of Croxton. This may explain why the columns bordering nave and chancel are out of line and the chancel arches a different shape. Different shape, different builder. Or perhaps the elongation of the arches towards the chancel was merely a means of accommodating the slope of the hill.

The tower was built around 100 years later and is mid 15th century. It is incorrectly aligned with the nave, a recognised sign of a later construction. Most local towers are of a similar date and style. Tower and bells would have been built at the parishes expense. The bells are said have been rung after the English had defeated the Scots at Flodden Field in 1513.

The religious changes of the Reformation were met with open hostility by the parishioners of Melling. The dissolution of the Monasteries almost certainly aroused fears of a more general attack on Church property. The local foundation Hornby Priory was a Premonstratensian cell of the Abbey of Croxton which also owned the Rectory of Melling and appointed its Vicars. When Hornby Priory was dissolved it was a very poor foundation worth only £39 19s 6d a year, indeed so poor it had to borrow a seal from a neighbouring foundation in order to seal the document ordering and agreeing to its destruction. It had contained five monks, two of whom became chaplains at Melling in 1548. Poor or not no doubt the parishioners cared for an Order to which their vicars had belonged for the past 200 years. Richard Docker was vicar at the time and a Premonstratensian he probably encouraged opposition and resistance to the changes. Lord Monteagle was obviously aware of the strength of feeling when he wrote to his kinsman the Earl of Derby in 1536, warning him that the local people were "ready to resist any attempt to remove the monks from their houses."

What part Melling played in the Pilgrimage of Grace, the great northern rebellion provoked by the Henrician reformation is unclear. In February 1537 the leader of the Kendal rebels wrote to Melling telling of the disasters which had befallen them in Westmorland and adding "we desire you for aid and help according to your oaths . . . we command you everyone to be a Kendal afore eight of the clock or we are like to be destroyed." A parish meeting was held to discuss the call, although nothing is known of what was resolved.

The Elizabethan religious settlement left the Rectory of Melling in the lay hands of the owner of Hornby Castle. The advowson was vested in the Crown until 1866 when it was sold to the Remington family. The parish remained in the Archdeaconry of Richmond, which had been transferred from York to Chester, when that diocese was created in 1541. From the reign of Elizabeth until the mid 18th century little happened to Melling church, except for some civil war damage caused by Parliamentary soldiers in 1643. The mid 18th century brought increasing prosperity to Melling and consequent changes to the Parish Church.

In the 1740's Melling Hall was built by Thomas Craven a rich Barbados merchant. In 1753, requiring accommodation for his family and servants in the Parish Church, he obtained a faculty for the erection of a gallery at the west end of the nave. At the same time as the gallery was built the roof was raised and a clerestory added. Craven probably paid for this too as the level of the old roof would have been uncomfortably close above his gallery. In 1757, before the work was finished, Craven died leaving no money for the work's completion. It seems that Vicar John Tatham bore the remainder of the cost. The work was completed in 1763 as a plaque in the vestry states. John Tatham was a man of considerable means. From an old Cantsfield family he was the grandson of John Fenwick of Burrow Hall, who was Attorney General and MP for Lancaster. Educated at Christ's College Cambridge he was both Vicar of Melling and Rector of Tatham, he built Melling Vicarage in 1749 at a personal cost of £400. His son, also John Tatham, became vicar in 1797, together the Tatham vicars held the living for 102 years. There is a memorial to them in the chancel.

From the mid 19th century, restoration mania took hold of the Country and for the next thirty years the so-called Gothic revival took place. Led by Sir Gilbert Scott a band of Gothic enthusiasts set upon medieval churches all over England. Restoration, as these purblind individuals understood the term, meant the substitution of a copy for the original. Everything that was not correct and in accord with the restorer's conception of Gothic was removed.

Melling suffered as much as anywhere from enthusiastic Gothicists partly because at that time there was plenty of money to pay for their work. Several rich families came to live in Melling

having made their fortunes in Manchester and Liverpool. They were anxious to attain social respectability in their new home and eagerly contributed towards the cost of restoration as a means to that end. They were led by their vicar William Grenside for 57 years vicar of this parish and they employed the Lancaster architect Paley and Austin. Together they gave the church its present appearance.

Grenside was a friend of Ruskin and a frequent visitor to Brantwood Ruskin's Coniston home. Both men had a passionate devotion to Gothic form and the restoration plans for Melling were discussed there. The first casualty was the Melling Hall Gallery which had distorted the proportions of the nave. Grenside records its removal in his diary "the day of its doom has happily arrived". Next the western arch of the northern arcade and the tower arch were opened up. If only things had stopped there. Thereafter went font, screens, the pews from the nave, pulpit, reading desk and some of the windows. Clearly not all were happy about the speed and scale of the restoration, and at the 1882 vestry meeting it was minuted that no further alterations were to be made by the vicar, without due notice.

It seems Canon Grenside was sincere and well intentioned. He probably never realised that he was destroying so much of value. Thankfully not all of the medieval fabric was destroyed and his successors had seen fit to leave what was left alone.

A GUIDE TO MELLING CHURCH

The Nave

In the Middle Ages the nave was the focus of social life in the community and the only meeting place in the parish. Here, at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, parish feasts known as church-ales were held. There would have been feasting and dancing and the ale would have been brewed in the parish brewhouse. The absence of pews made all this possible. During services all stood trying to see the mystery of the mass beyond the rood screen in the chancel. Pews were only introduced after the Reformation when sermons began to be preached. In 1891 the old box pews were removed and the present ones which cost £1100 were installed.

The north and south arcades in the nave are out of line. Few of the capitals match. Some are clearly pre-1300 others 14th century. The capital at the junction with the Morley chapel seems to have been replaced.

On the west wall the level of the old roof is clearly visible. Before the clerestory and slate roof were added the nave roof was made of thatch. The present clerestory windows are 19th century.

Also on the west wall is a wood carving of the Agnus Dei.

The Tower

The 15th century tower is 55 feet tall and has a solid and massive aspect. That and its battlements indicate that when built it had a defensive function as a place of refuge. The Scots continued to raid this area until the 16th century and the tower was probably designed to give protection against them.

The other function of a medieval tower was to accommodate bells. These were rung not only to summon the parish to worship but also at festivals, baptisms, marriages, funerals, during the harvest, when prominent visitors came to the district and on occasions of national victory. Melling had three 15th century bells until 1753 when they were shipped from Lancaster to Gloucester to be used

in casting the present six. These six, long known as “the sweet bells of Melling” were made by Abel Rudhall of Gloucester in 1754. The Rudhalls were a famous bell founding Gloucester family who also founded the bells of St Martins-in-the-Fields.

The ringing of the bells on Queen Victoria’s Coronation day led to Vicar John Tatham having to seek the opinion of a London barrister. The Vicar had ordered the bells rung and as a special occasion the ringers received one shilling for their time and six pence to drink Her Majesty’s health. One parishioner with the republican leanings objected to the bells being rung and refused to pay his church rates. The barrister’s opinion expresses surprise at the facts “really I had no idea that there was any longer the spirit of opposition and radicalism prevailing” and goes on to say that the Vicar would have a good case in proceedings against the man.

The tower arch is open to the nave and this allows a good view of the fine tower window, three lancets in a segmental arch. The glass is nineteenth century. Also in the ringing chamber are the arms of King George III. Royal arms were placed in Churches, usually in the nave, to show loyalty to the throne. Also, there are four hatchments. They were placed on the front of a deceased man’s house during the mourning period and then placed in the nave of the Church in which the deceased had worshipped. These four are the arms of David Murray of Hornby House, Thomas Smith of Wray, Henry Marsden of Wennington Hall and William Gillison Bell of Melling Hall.

The clock by Dent of London was installed in 1859.

The North Aisle

The North door was known as the devil’s door in the Middle Ages. Partly because no sun ever fell on that side of the church and partly because it was opened during baptisms to allow any evil spirits in the body of a child to leave. Whittaker in his ‘History of Richmondshire’ (1823) speaks of “a rich Norman arch at the northern entrance.” This was destroyed soon after the book was published when the north west wall around the door was rebuilt. Several carved stones can still be seen in the walls outside.

The west window is a 14th century copy of the one in the South aisle. It has no foliation or hoodmould. It contains a fragment of

the original stained glass. On the window sill are two Saxon stones. The one on the left is part of a Saxon cross and is covered with a basket-work interlacing ornament.

The oak chest to the left of the window is 15th century. It is an armoury chest and would have contained pikes and other weapons used to defend the village when under attack.

The stained glass in the second aisle window was paid for by the parish to mark the Golden Jubilee of Canon Grenside in 1905.

South Aisle

The arch over the south door is pre-1300. At the sides of the door are beam recesses. When the church was used as a place of refuge, a beam would have been drawn across the door to form a stout bolt.

The west window behind the font is 13th century and has often been said to be the oldest part of the structure. It is a trefoiled light with an external hoodmould.

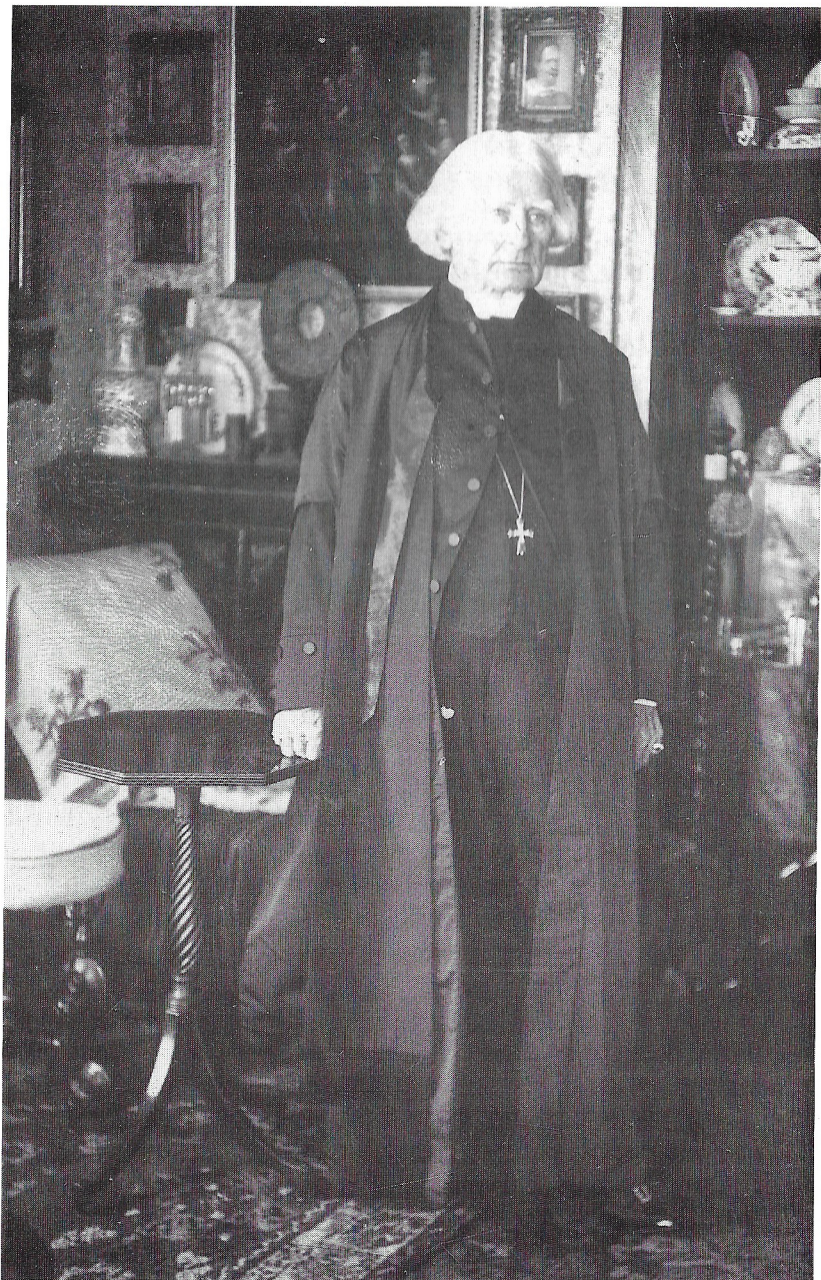
The other windows in the north and south aisles are 14th century. They are straight headed and uncusped. The lights are cusped ogee arched. This form of window arch is known as a Caernarvon arch because of its frequent occurrence at Caernarvon Castle. The Caernarvon arch is used in many 14th century windows in this area.

Behind the font is a memorial to Clementine Louise Rumph. She was the German Florence Nightingale of the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). She received the Iron Cross from the Emperor of Germany, Wilhelm I, for her services at the front. In 1887 she settled in Melling writing the ‘Children’s Corner’ for the Lancaster Guardian up to her death in 1898.

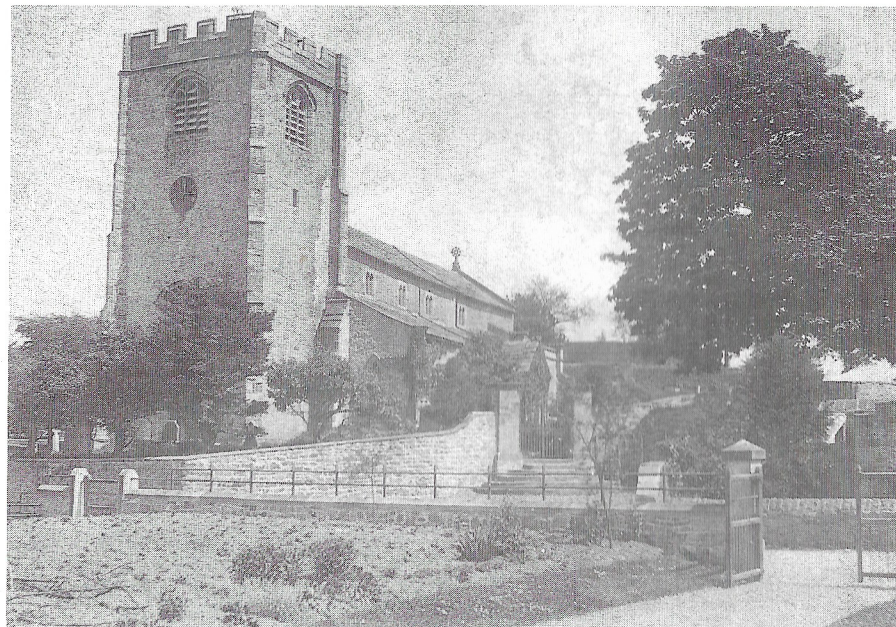
The font top is neo-Jacobean and was designed by Canon Grenside. The pews in this and the north aisle are early 18th century.

The Morley Chapel

To the right of the chancel is the Morley Chapel or Chapel of St. Kathryn. It is not immediately recognisable, due to the lamentable alterations made to it from 1841 by the Saunders family of



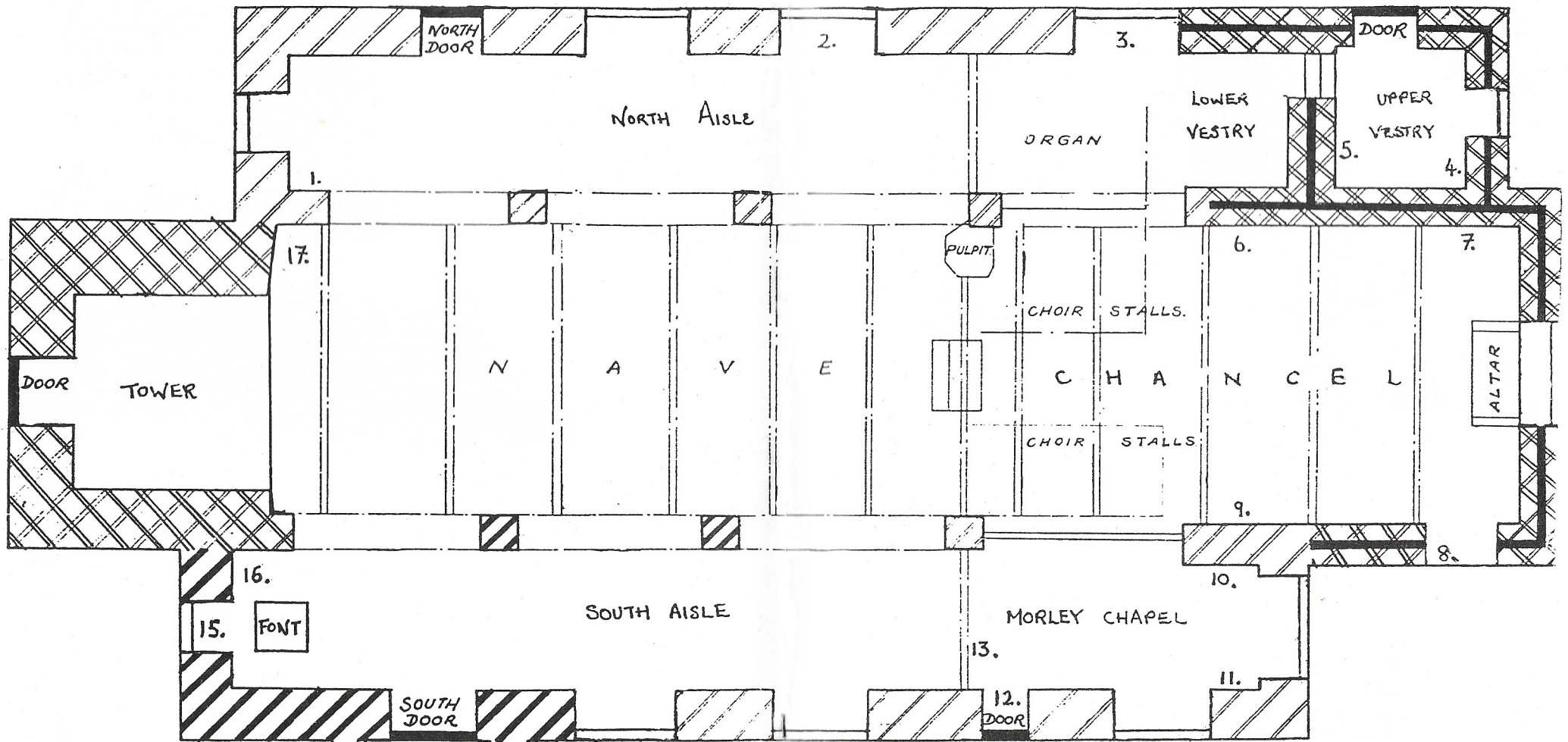
Canon William Grenside, Vicar of Melling, 1856-1913







Melling Church c. 1890.



The Interior c. 1900.



-  PRE 1300
-  14th CENTURY
-  15th CENTURY
-  18th & 19th CENTURY

1. 15th CENTURY ARMBURY CHEST
2. CANON GRENSIDE JUBILEE WINDOW
3. FORMERLY EAST WINDOW OF NORTH AISLE
4. VICARAGE PEW
5. OAK CUPBOARD MADE OUT OF BOX PEW
6. MEMORIAL TO VICAR ANDREW FORBES
7. MEMORIAL TO TATHAM VICARS
8. PUDSEY DAWSON WINDOW
9. MONTEAGLE TOMB
10. SQUINT

11. AUMBRY
12. CHANTRY PRIEST'S DOOR
13. SCREEN
14. 14th CENTURY GRAVE SLAB
15. 15th CENTURY WINDOW
16. MEMORIAL TO CLEMENTINE RUMPH
17. WOODEN CARVING OF THE LAMB OF GOD.



The Old Melling Hall Gallery at the west end of the Nave.



The Bell Ringers in 1914.

Wennington Hall. They boarded over the altar base and installed pews to accommodate themselves and their servants. The removal of these pews is long overdue. At the east end they removed the old 14th century window and put in a Victorian copy. The original south window remains untouched but all the glass was replaced. Outside a straight parapet and coping was added. The screen has also been replaced. Waring and Gillow of Lancaster made a replica of the old one. Two fragments of original tracery have been incorporated into it. At least it shows how faithful they were to the old design. The 17th century box pew of the Morley's was also removed. A part of it carved with the initials F.M. (Francis Morley) 1636, can be seen on the north wall of the chapel beneath the squint.

The Morleys came to Wennington in 1360 when Joan de Wennington married William Morley. Their son John Morley served in the retinue of Henry of Bolingbroke (later Henry IV) in a campaign to help the Teutonic Knights against the Lithuanians in 1390. He fought at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 with a following of 2 archers. He sat as a Knight of the Shire for Lancashire in the parliament which met at Westminster in January 1431. At Melling, John Morley converted a previously existing chapel into a private chantry.

Chantries were at their height in the 15th century. The doctrine of Purgatory was no "fond thing vainly invented." (Book of Common Prayer Article XXII). It was readily accepted that souls in that intermediate state could benefit by intercessory prayers and the recitation of masses. John Morley's endowment provided a stipend for a priest to sing mass for his well being during life and for the repose of his soul after death.

Relations between chantry priests and the parish vicar were often poor. This explains why a 15th century door was put into the chapel to provide a separate entrance for the chantry priest. In the left wall of the chapel is a hagioscope or squint. This was inserted because the chantry priest often started to recite his office before the parish mass had started at the main altar. The parish priest annoyed by being deprived of his congregation complained to the bishop who ordered that the Chantry mass was to start after High mass had begun. The chantry priest now

complained that he was unable to see. A squint solved the problem giving the chantry priest a direct view of the main altar from his own altar in the side aisle. On the right wall of the chapel is an aumbry, a wall cupboard originally with a door, where the mass vessels were stored.

John Morley's endowment of the chantry seems to have been insufficient for the money ran out before the suppression of chantries in 1547. This often happened. Though no longer a chantry chapel the Morleys continued to maintain it as a private chapel. In 1540 Francis Morley left 6 shillings and 8 pence "for the repair and adornment of the quire of St. Kathryn in the Chapel." He also left a black Camlet vestment, an alb, stole and altar frontal. Morleys were still being buried inside the Chapel in the 1650's. From the Morleys, Wennington Hall was sold to the Marsden Family. They continued to maintain the chapel. As terriers in 1691, 1778 and 1804 testify. In 1841 responsibility for the chapel passed with the Wennington Hall to the Saunders family.

The Vestry

There was no vestry until 1856. Before then the north aisle ended where the organ now is. The east window of the north aisle was moved in 1856 and turned around to become the present three light window behind the organ. This is a 14th century traceried window. When moved, because it was too high to fit into the north wall, the top was taken off, slicing through the tracery. The fit is obviously crude. This must be one of the worst cases of Victorian abuse of medieval Church fabric.

In the upper vestry set into the east wall is part of a Saxon burial slab. This was found six feet below the tower in 1859. Originally five feet long and fifteen inches wide, now it is two feet long and seven inches wide. It is carved with a circular plaited decoration and is very like one at St Mary's, Lancaster. The two may have been carved by the same hand.

On the opposite wall is part of a 13th century crucifix. Sixteen inches long the figure is partially draped and in very full relief. Sculpture from this period is always painfully realistic and a spear hole is quite visible. The upper half of the body is missing.

The three carved heads or masks of a lion, woman and bishop probably came from the dripstones of the old chancel windows.

To the right of the window is the late seventeenth century Vicarage pew. Removed during the 1856 alterations it used to stand where the lectern now does. It faced the congregation and was slightly raised. It was occupied by the vicar's wife and children and would have had a box casing and door. The door carved with the initials of Vicar Kay and his wife and the date 1683 was converted by Canon Grenside into the oak cupboard opposite.

High up on the south wall there is evidence of a former window which was most probably taken out when the vestry was built. It is eighteenth century.

The Chancel

In the medieval Church when the Rector of a parish was either a Bishop or Abbot the obligation to repair the chancel was more or less complied with. After the Reformation though, the owners of Hornby Castle were lay Rectors of Melling by their impropriation of the tithe. Some lay Rectors did not even know of their obligations, others chose to ignore them. Because of such an attitude Melling's chancel went through a relentless cycle of repair and neglect for 300 years.

The first evidence of repair is in 1663 when Lord Morley paid £7 and 12s "for the getting of slate and covering of Melling quire and chancel roof". In 1762 the east wall was taken down and rebuilt eight feet further east. The 14th century east window was replaced by a "characature of the original." A window on the north side was added at the same time, or so what is left in vestry would suggest.

In 1832 the Churchwardens complained to the Vicar General that the chancel walls and windows were in poor repair and that they had reported to the party liable but to no effect. At this time Melling chancel suffered from the death of John Marsden of Hornby Castle. Having died issueless there followed 12 years of litigation over who the next heir male was. Admiral Sandford Tatham won the succession in 1838 and repairs were effected, as

Archdeacon Rushton reports in his visitation returns. The next owner Pudsey Dawson put a new window into the south wall. In a Victorian gothic style it was made by Powell of Whitefriars, London.

In 1863 the last changes were made. The 18th century east window was removed and the present one designed by Holiday and made by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, the famous mid-victorian glass makers, was erected by Elizabeth Tatham. It was in memory of her father and grandfather, the Tatham vicars. At the same time Vicar Grenside, in an act of particular insensitivity, added the fourth black marble step and the pink-veined marble to the lower walls.

In the floor of the right side of the chancel is an old monumental slab. Several brasses have been removed from it leaving only the outlines of four figures. It was probably disfigured during the Civil War when Parliamentary forces were besieging Hornby Castle. It was thought to have commemorated Thomas Stanley, second Baron Monteagle, who died in August 1564. He directed in his will that he should be buried under the chancel at Melling. The other figures are thought to represent his wife and two children. On the floor at the other side is a memorial to Andrew Forbes Vicar from 1697 to 1742.

The choir stalls on the north side date from 1891, those on the south side from early this century.

There was no organ at Melling until 1863 when one by Greenhall of Lancaster was installed with a case by Paley & Austin. Until 1863 music was provided by a wind band. This consisted of serpent, bassoon and two pitch pipes, all of these instruments were stolen in 1986. The present organ is by Walker & Sons, 1895.

The Porch

In the porch are two old grave stones. The right hand one has 1700 carved on it. The left hand one is 14th century. It must have been carved for someone of importance who could afford so intricate a cross and foliage design.

The Dedication

The dedication to St. Wilfrid is an ancient one. Many Lancashire Churches are dedicated to this northern saint and Hornby Priory had the same dedication until its dissolution in 1536. Wilfrid was a seventh century Churchman who worked for the triumph of the Roman Church and the downfall of the Celtic mission to England. He was made Archbishop of York and was founder of Ripon Minster.

The unusual thing about Melling Church is that its dedication was changed. In 1540 the Church is named as St. Wilfrid in the will of Francis Morley. In 1775 a letter to Vicar John Tatham refers to St Peter's Church in Melling. Exactly when the dedication was changed is unclear. St. Peter is the central figure in the east window of the chancel. In 1895 Canon Grenside changed the dedication back to St. Wilfrid.

The Old Parish Of Melling

Up until 1850 Melling Parish covered a huge area of 23,000 acres. Stretched ten miles north to south from the river Greta to Wolfhole Crag in Roeburndale and had a population of 2340 in May 1821. It contained seven villages, Melling, Wennington, Hornby, Farleton, Wray, Roeburndale and Arkholme.

Due to the size of the parish there were two chapels of ease. Hornby Chapel came into existence around 1300, to serve the Lord of the Manor at Hornby Castle, his household and servants. Attending a chapel did not relieve parishioners of their duties to the Mother Church at Melling where they were expected to attend on great festivals, to receive the sacrament, to be married, baptized and buried. Also they were expected to pay their tithes and church rates to Melling along with everyone else in the parish.

Sir Edward Stanley first Lord Monteagle who led the English to victory at Flodden Field, built the octagonal tower and east end of the chancel of Hornby Church. When he died in 1523 leaving his new Church unfinished, he did not overlook his obligations and left 20 shillings to the Parish Church at Melling "for my tithes oblations and offerings unpaid and negligently forgotten." Not until

1763 did the first burial take place at Hornby and in 1850 Hornby became a separate parish.

The first record of a chapel at Arkholme is in 1610, but it probably came into existence around 1500. Arkholme did not become a separate parish until 1863.

Wray Church was built in 1840 by John Marr a local silk manufacturer and from 1863 the vicar of Wray was allowed to conduct his own marriages, baptisms, publications of banns, churchings and burials. Leaving only Melling, Wrayton and Wennington within the modern parish of Melling.

INCUMBENTS

		Appointed
Rectors	Norman Clerk de Melling	1147
	Richard de Vesey	1215
	Simon	1276
	John Romeyn	1280
	Spinellino de Roda, Papal Chaplain	1303
	Abbot of Croxton	1307
Vicars	Theobald de St. Albans	1347
	John Leycester	1381
	William	1428
	John de Boleter	1429
	Richard Green	1488
	Richard Docker	1500
	John Andrew	1548
	Richard Harris	1563
	Thomas Burrow	1581
	Richard Newton	1609
	Robert Heblethwaite	1633
	John Smith	1648
	Anthony Cooper	1653
	John White	1658
	John Carr	1666
	John Carr	1671
	Thomas Kay	1677
	Daniel Armitstead	1689
	Thomas Kirkham	1694
	William Gregson	1695
	Andrew Forbes	1697
	Thomas Fell	1742
	James Towers	1744
	John Tatham	1749
	John Tatham	1797
	John Bentham	1851
William Grenside	1856	
Henry Remington	1913	
William Burrow	1934	
Thomas Grange	1948	
W. H. C. Fawcett	1966	
Living Suspended	1982	
A. B. Morton Priest in charge	1984	
A vacancy has existed since 1987		

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BELLS

1. 'Given by Francis Charteris, John Fenwick, Henry Marsden Esq., Thomas Craven, Gent, & others.' A.R. 1754.
2. 'May the Church of England flourish.' A.R. 1753.
3. 'Peace and good neighbourhood.' A.R. 1753.
4. 'Prosperity to this Parish.' A.R. 1753.
5. 'Christopher Bateson, Robert Lawson, Henry Remington, John Howson. Churchwardens.' A.R. 1753.
6. 'I to the Church the living call; and to the grave do summon all.' A.R. 1753.

GLOSSARY

Advowson	— the patronage of a church; the right of presentation to a benefice.
Alb	— a white linen garment worn by a priest under a chasuble during mass.
Arcade	— a series of arches.
Aumbry	— recess or cupboard in a wall to hold mass vessels.
Battlements	— a fortified parapet indented to allow archers to shoot through the projecting solid portion.
Capital	— head of a column.
Church rates	— an assessment payable by parishioners to maintain the fabric of the church.
Clerestory	— the upper storey of a nave pierced by windows.
Coping	— a course of stones on top of a wall.
Cusp	— projecting point formed by foils in Gothic tracery.
Dripstones	— moulded stone projecting from a wall to protect the lower part of a window.
Foliation	— decoration especially when carved with leaves.
Hoodmould	— projecting moulding above an arch or lintel to throw off water.
Lancet	— a long narrow window with a pointed arch at the top.
Ogee	— a double curve bending one way then the other.
Parapet	— a low wall along the edge of a roof.
Rector	— a clergyman who owns the tithes.
Segmental arch	— forming a segment only of a round arch.
Serpent	— a crooked bass instrument made of wood and covered with leather.
Squint or hagnioscope	— a hole cut in a wall to allow a view of the main altar.
Stole	— the narrow strip of embroidered silk or linen, worn over other vestments to hang round the neck of the celebrant priest.
Terrier	— a register or roll of the church's possessions.

- Tithe — a tax payable to the rector of a tenth part of all agricultural produce.
- Tracery — intersecting ribwork in the upper part of a window.
- Trefoil — in tracery the lobe formed by three curves.
- Vicar — a clergyman who receives a salary from a Rector.
- Vicar General — an ecclesiastical officer appointed by the bishop as his deputy.

