

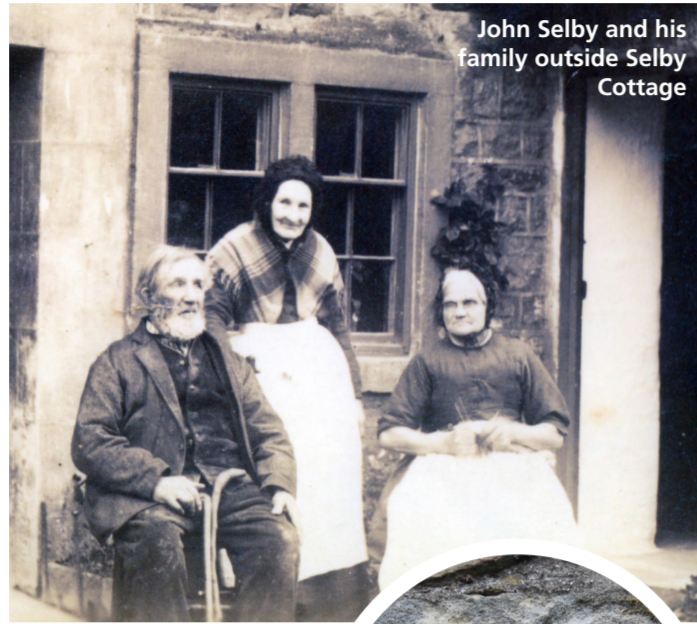
Melling-with-Wrayton Parish Footpath Map

The Civil Parish of Melling-with-Wrayton lies 11 miles north of the City of Lancaster and 14 miles south of Kendal. Situated in the centre of the Lune Valley, Melling nestles between the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, on the edge of the Forest of Bowland, and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Parish has an interesting and well maintained footpath network, some of which links in to the larger circular Lunesdale Walk* (the footpath network for the parish is opposite and ideas for walks can be found below).

Melling derives its name from the Angles who settled around 570AD. It is the place where the followers or family of Mealla settled. It has a Norman Motte which is still visible behind St Wilfrid's Church.

St Wilfrid's Church, once known as the Cathedral of the Valley, is a prominent and important historic building within the village. The churchyard is designated a Biological Heritage Site within the county of Lancashire due to the number and rarity of many of the lichens found on the gravestones. A 10th century preaching cross suggests that Christians have worshipped at Melling for over 1000 years. The ancient Norman church was largely destroyed by a Scots raid in 1322 and was re-built sometime in the mid 14th century. The first major change to the building took place in 1693, when the thatched roof was replaced with stone. This was then raised to its present height in the mid 1700's and the clerestory was added.



order and repair, but sadly destroyed valuable medieval fabric and furnishings.

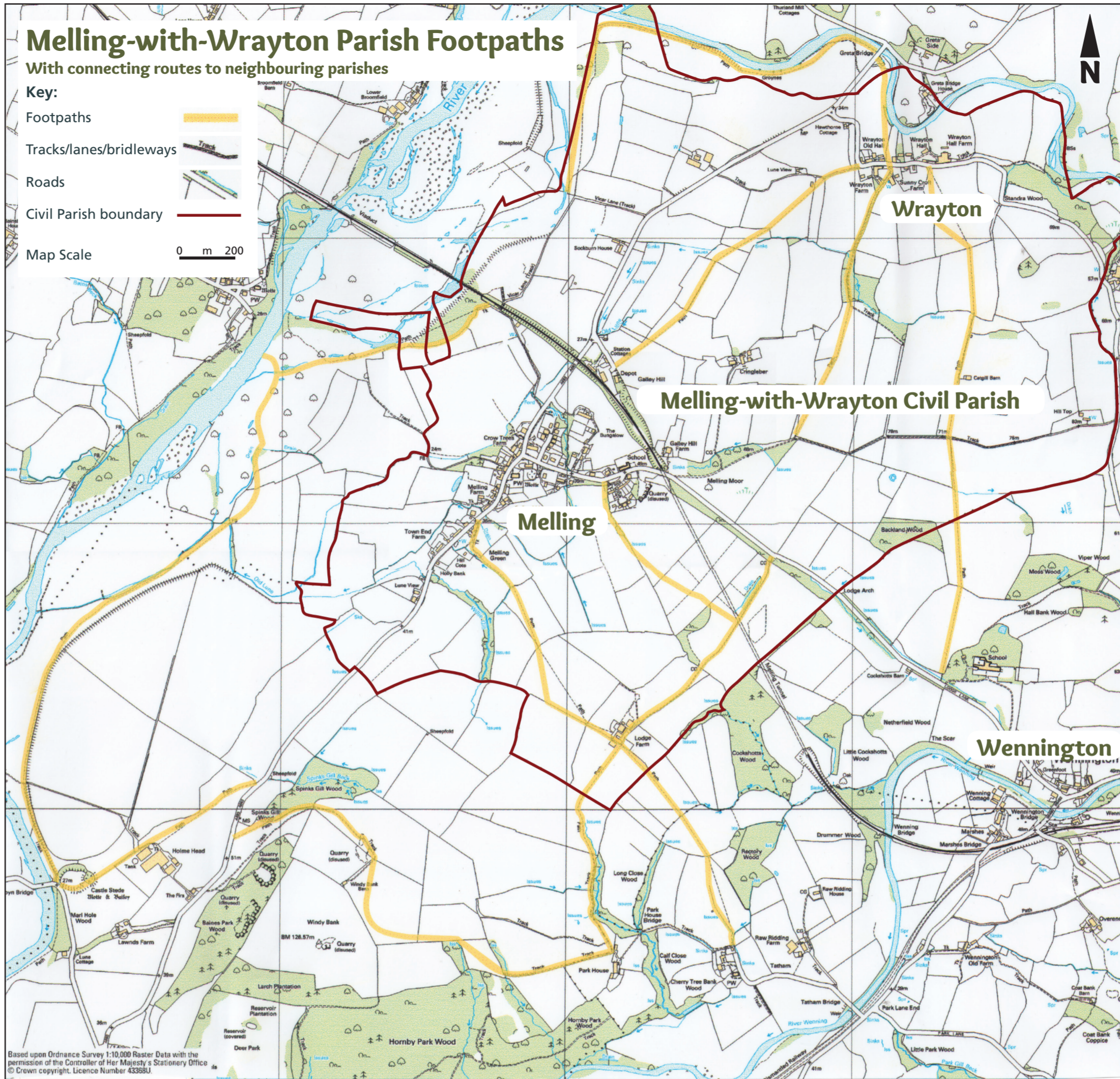
The church clock is worthy of note, being made by the famous clocksmith, Dent of London, who also contracted the Big Ben Clock, and gave his name to Selby Cottage across the road from the church, adjacent to Selby or Coffin Lane. Coffin Lane was so called as this was the route that coffins were brought from the Parish of Arkholme via a small boat ferry to the church. Until the mid 19th Century the Church Parish included Melling, Wennington, Hornby, Farleton, Roeburndale and Arkholme. St Wilfrid's is now part of a united benefice of three churches, with St Peter's, Leck and St John the Baptist, Tunstall.

The Parish also has many other interesting features. The Village Green at the south of the village is home to a Victorian water pump and has an interesting collection of rare marsh and wetland plants to the top of the hill. A special cutting policy has been adopted to protect these species and a pathway through the woodland to the top of the green was made available in 1998.



Few changes then took place until William Bent Grenside became vicar in 1855. Canon Grenside was one of the more noteworthy and at the time venerated clergy of the valley. He was a friend of Ruskin and a keen Gothickist. He was a vicar until 1913 and set about 'restoring' the church with the help of wealthy parishioners, and the work of Lancaster ecclesiastical architects Austin and Paley. Their efforts put the church in its present state of thorough

The village hall was built in 1922 and has an attractive mosaic next to the road created to celebrate the millennium by parish residents under the professional guidance of resident international mosaic artist Maggy Hawarth.



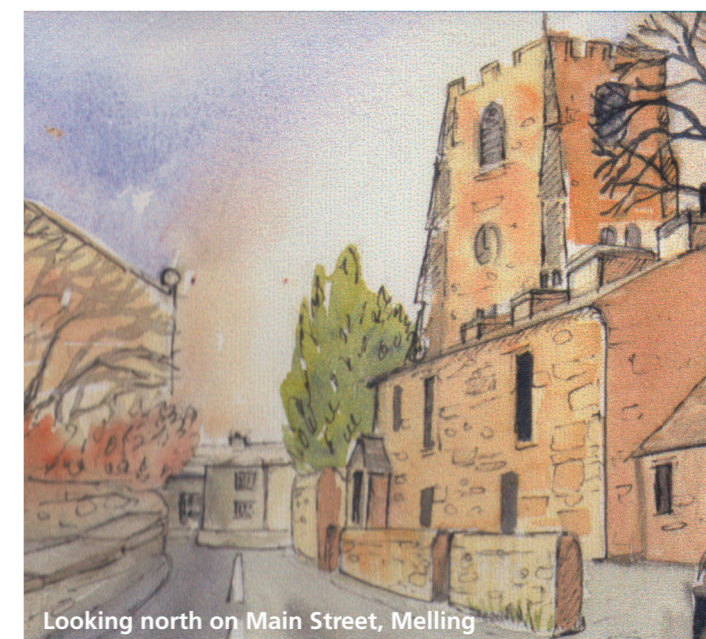
The A683 road, which cuts through the centre of the Parish and joins Wrayton to Melling, acts as a connecting point between various footpaths and may be used to create circular routes between footpaths. Care should be taken when using this road between marked footpaths. A concessionary path is available through the churchyard which avoids the dangerous narrowing of the road and pavements at the centre of the village. Some interesting milestones are situated along the road side and can be seen clearly from the road. To the east of the village lies Melling Moor, a lovely vast expanse of 'Common Land', another Lancashire County Biological Heritage Site for its natural moorland flora and fauna.

On the corner of the old coach road passing over the moor and Spout Lane can be found an old stone trough known locally as the 'Vinegar Well'. This is said to date back to the time of the Great Plague, when food was placed close to the trough, and the people from the plague infested houses took the food and dropped money in payment into the 'vinegar water' where it could be washed to disinfect it.

The pleasant hamlet of Wrayton lies to the northeast of the village of Melling, and much of the footpath network connects the two settlements. Some of the pathways pass along the Rivers Lune and Greta where



a great deal of wildlife may be seen, including Curlew, Lapwing, Kingfisher, Dipper, Heron and geese. Many of these local scenes, flora and fauna have been beautifully captured in artworks by local residents.



View looking north onto St Wilfrid's Church and Melling



Flooding in the Lune Valley



The old arch on Lodge Lane, Melling Moor

Melling-with-Wrayton Parish Council wishes to express thanks to Green Close, the former Melling Arts Group and all the individuals who made this possible.



Reproduced in memory of Michael Gibson, former Chair of the Parish Council and Footpath Warden for many years.

* For further details on the Lunesdale Walk and surrounding areas:
www.visitlancashire.com
www.forestofbowland.com
 Re-designed by www.lunestudio.co.uk, 2019