

THE HISTORY
OF

Cawthorne's
Endowed
School

AT
ABBEYSTEAD
OVER WYRESDALE

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

THE
SCHOOL,
ABBEYSTEAD.



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ABBEYSTED
OVER
WYRESDALE

A.D. 1674
TO
A.D. 2014

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

NOTE

For much of the information and many of the particulars of Abbeystead School here given, I beg to acknowledge my indebtedness to the "History of Over Wyresdale", by the Rev. D. Schofield, and to "Abbeystead in Wyresdale and its Endowed School", by W. O. Roper, FSA.

*JOHN W. WOOD,
Wyresdale Vicarage,
May 1924.*

My thanks are due to the many helpful parishioners who have readily and speedily given me information.

*JOYCE C. MITTON,
Woodside,
January 1974.*

I would like to thank governors, staff, parents and children, as well as 'Friends of the School' for all the help they have given me in adding to this record, and to note how blessed we are to have such a wonderful school.

*MONICA M . LEE
Hare Appletree House
April 2014.*

The black and white illustrations are from photographs specially taken by John Drinkall, B.Sc., F.R.H.S., of Catshaw. The coloured illustrations have been donated by the community.

The cost of printing the 1974 booklet was met by a member of the family of James and Joseph Bibby, who were former pupils of the School. The cost of printing this booklet has been shared by Cawthorne's Endowed School, The Friends of the School, the Cawthorne Education Foundation, His Grace, The Duke of Westminster, and the Drinkall Family.

The older School, Estate and Church records are now in the care of the Lancashire Record Office at Preston. The Sefton family papers are held at the Liverpool Records Office.

The School and its Surroundings

THE little hamlet of Abbeystead, consisting of about half-a-dozen houses and the Endowed School, lies snugly at the foot of a wooded brow, in a sheltered hollow in the dale of the Wyre. By the road over High Cross Fell, the county town of Lancaster is about eight miles away, while by the road through Dolphinholme and Galgate, it is about two miles further. The dale is some ten miles long, the upper portion, in which Abbeystead lies, being known as Over Wyresdale, and the lower portion as Nether Wyresdale. The River after leaving the dale, flows past Garstang and through the flat tract of country known as the Fylde, entering the Irish Sea, after a course of nearly thirty miles, at the busy port of Fleetwood.

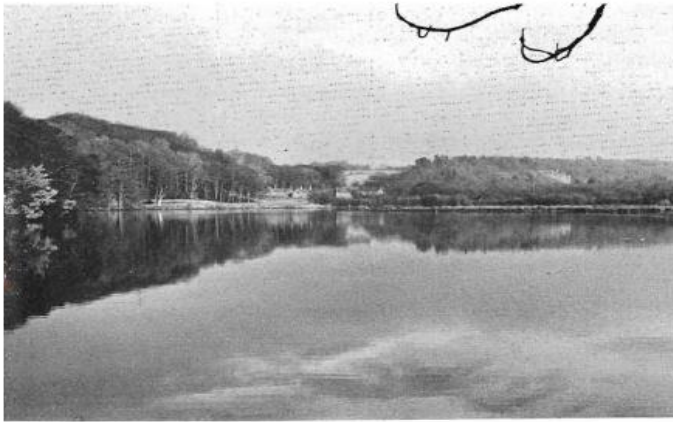
The traveller, who comes along the road up the dale, from Bay Horse Station, after about four miles, may see a little church, covered with old brown slates, standing in a quiet churchyard, in a field to the right. There are no houses near, and it is nearly a mile further to the first house by the roadside, which is "Woodside", the previous residence of the Schoolmaster.

The road here takes a turn and dips down the steep brow known as Abbeystead Rake. To the surprise of many, a lake lies just below, suggestive of a bit of Lakeland. It is, however, a compensation Reservoir in connection with the Lancaster Waterworks. Across the water rise green wooded slopes against the sombre background of Haythornthwaite Fell, which reaches an altitude of 1,568 feet. The little cluster of buildings at the foot of the Rake are those of Abbeystead

An old house, once the Post Office, stands in a garden to the right; above the doorway are the initials N. E. D., 1. D. and the date 1677. The initials are probably those of Nicholas Drinkall and his wife and son, the Drinkall's being an old dale family.

On the left of the road is the Endowed School, a pleasing stone building, standing in a yard reached by several steps. A little brook, known as the School Clough Brook, flows past the west end of the School and under the road. The circular stone enclosure by the side of the brook and across the road from the School, is the old Pound or Pinfold. The road widens in front of the School, and the Farm House and Farm Buildings of the Home Farm, with a drinking trough, form a nice group of buildings. Some fine trees stand by the brook. Probably somewhere near this brook is the site of the abbey from which Abbeystead derives its name. The Abbot and monks of Wyresdale came from Furness Abbey, but there is no record when they

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THE RESERVOIR, ABBEYSTED.

came. About 1194, when Theobald Walter received a grant of the Hundred of Amounderness, in the reign of King Richard, he presented to the Abbot and monks the Church of St. Michael on the Wyre, and shortly afterwards the Archdeacon of Richmond confirmed the grant to them on condition that they made suitable provision for a vicar or chaplain there. The Abbot

and monks thereupon made an agreement with the chaplain, granting him land and fishing, and the yearly sum of half 1 mark of silver. The chaplain swore on the altar in the Church of the Blessed Mary of Lancaster, to fulfil the terms of the agreement. His sureties were Adam, Dean of Lancaster; Benedict Gernet, parson of Halton; Roger, parson of Heversham, Robert, parson of Garstang, Alexander, parson of Clapham; Richard, parson of Poulton; Adam, parson of Burton in Lonsdale; Benedict, chaplain of Tatham; Robert son of Bernard; and Masters W. and Paulyn de Garstang. The witnesses were the Abbots of Furness and Cockersand, and the Priors of Lancaster, Cartmel, and Conishead

A few years later, about 1205, Theobald Fitz Walter, Chief Butler of Ireland, invited the Abbot and Monks of Wyresdale to found the Abbey of Wythney at Abbingdon in the County of Limerick, so they abandoned Abbeystead, and no other monks came to take their place. As their stay at Abbeystead may only have been a dozen or twenty years, probably no great buildings had been erected, which may explain the absence of any remains

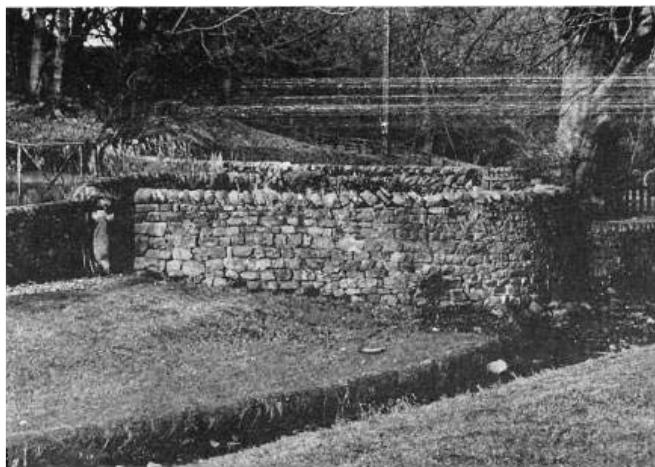
Proceeding a short distance past the School, a picturesque stone bridge of two arches, known as Stoups Bridge, spans the Tarnbrook Wyre, which a few hundred yards below is joined by the Marshaw Wyre, just at the head of the Reservoir, these two streams forming the River Wyre. The name of the bridge suggests that it may have been derived from a holy water stoup. A stone was found some years ago built into a wall at Abbeystead, which appears to be a stoup. It has been placed just within the gateway at Lancaster Lodge, and probably it forms one of the relics of the Abbey.

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

There is a date on the bridge, somewhat obliterated, but it appears to be 1808. Previously to the building of the stone bridge, there would be a ford here, and a footbridge. It is recorded in the Cragg Diary that on September 12th, 1792, a great flood took down Stapes Bridge at Abbeystead. Near the bridge stands Bridge House, formerly the residence of the School Masters. Over the door is a stone dated 1841, when the house was rebuilt. Across the road from the house, a gateway leads into a picturesque drive and public footpath to Lower Lee. About a quarter of a mile along the drive there is a quaint old building, called the Gad House, a merciful shelter for cattle when pursued by the gad-fly. On the northerly side the roof is supported by five round piers or pillars, and the structure is probably very ancient. There is a building at the end of the cottages at Lower Lee with similar pillars, and these are the only two examples in the district.

On crossing Stoups Bridge, a gate to the right leads to the bridge over the Marshaw Wyre, and then up the steep Doeholme Rake to Haythornthwaite. A little beyond Stoups Bridge stands Lancaster Lodge at the Entrance Gate to the drive to Abbeystead House, which belonged to the Earl of Sefton, whose family residence was at Croxteth, Liverpool. The mansion is a picturesque gabled building, with mullioned windows, built in 1886, of local stone. A beautiful Terrace runs along the 'South Side, overlooking the grounds, which slope down to the Marshaw Wyre.

At Lancaster Lodge the road winds up a steep hill called Smithy Brow, at the top of which there used to be a Smithy, now made into a cottage. The road joins the highway between Lancaster and Clitheroe, where stands a little Wesleyan Chapel. This road runs through the fine mountain pass between the hills, called the Trough of Bowland, rising to an altitude of about a thousand feet at the Boundary Stone between Lancashire and Yorkshire, the counties of the Red and White Roses.



THE OLD POUND, OR PINFOLD, AT ABBEYSTEAD.

The Founder of the School

AN old stone, placed in the wall in the interior of the School, above the entrance doorways, bears the following inscription:

The Founder of the School appears to have been born in Wyresdale, as he states in his Will that there "by the providence of Almighty God, I drew my first breath." In the Registers of Lancaster Parish Church there is the following entry among the baptisms : March 20th, 1607. William Cawthorne.



INSCRIPTION : ABBEYSTED, SCHOOL.

No further particulars are given, but as the Wyresdale registers are included with those of Lancaster, the baptism may have taken place at Wyresdale Church, and the Rev. D. Schofield suggests that he may have been baptised by the Rev. John Cragge, curate of Wyresdale, whose name he mentions in his deed in connection with his endowment of the School

In the Marriage Registers of Cockerham there is an entry in June, 1640, of one "William Cawthorne de Wyresdale, and--of Ellel," but this may be that of another member of the Cawthorne family.

William Cawthorne held the position of Clerk to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, from 1661 to 1675, succeeding his brother Edward Cawthorne. The Clerk is the chief Resident Official. He was buried in St. Bartholomew's the Less, on November 23rd 1683, but there is no tablet or tombstone remaining to his memory. Mr. Schofield mentions in his History of Over Wyresdale that by an Indenture dated 22nd October, 1639, the Mayor and Corporation of the City of London sold the four vaccaries of Abbeystead, Marshaw, Dunkinshaw, and Haythornthwaite to Nicholas Raynton, of Enfield, Ralph Egerton and Wm. Cawthorne, for the sum of £434 13s. 4d., subject to a yearly rent of £15 3s. 4d. to the King, in respect of the Duchy of Lancaster. In this purchase Nicholas Raynton and Ralph Egerton were acting as trustees of William Cawthorne.

In 1671, William Cawthorne purchased the rent of £15 3s. 4d. from the King's Commissioners.

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Mr. Cawthorne's Will is dated 22nd September, 1683, about two months before his death. Under his Will he appointed as Trustees and Governors of the School, Abraham Partington, Mayor of Lancaster; Seth Bushell, D.D. Vicar of Lancaster; Laurence Shaw, Vicar of Cockerham; Thomas Simpson, of Torrisholme, gentleman; Thomas Clayton, of Wyresdale, gentleman; William Gervis, of Lower Wyresdale, gentleman; Thomas Shierson, of Lancaster; John Hodgson, of Lancaster, merchant; John Corless, of Forton, in the parish of Cockerham, gentleman; William Slaiter, of Forton, gentleman; James Haythornthwaite, of the Vaccary of Stable Oake in the County of .York, gentleman; William Cawthorne, of Lower Wyresdale, yeoman; Christopher Cawthorne, of London, yeoman; and Edmund Banton, of Ellel, tanner. To them he devised the School and parcell of ground whereon it stood, which he says lies upon the South side and the East end of a field known as the Cow Pasture; the tenement lately re-edified and erected by me for the habitation of the schoolmaster,' likewise the several closes or pightles called the Ayre. Emmott's Croft, Green Close, and the Grazing Green, also a parcel of land lying in the Sower Acre, two beast gates and the half to depasture in the said close called the Cow Pasture, as other of the tenants there now do. He mentions that these lands were late in the tenure of Thomas Drinkall, deceased, John Clayton, and -- Fox, but now in the tenure of Christopher Bond, the present Schoolmaster. Likewise, all the messuage or tenement, now divided into two, sometime in the tenure of John Cragg, deceased, and Thomas Cragg, his son, and Isabel Cragg, wife of Henry Cragg, deceased, and their son Thomas, now or late in the tenure of Jennett Cragg, widow of Thomas Cragg, and now the wife of John Thompson, now in the tenure of Timothy Cragg, son of Thomas Cragg, deceased, and of Henry Fox. Also that tenement late in the tenure of John Bisharn, and now in the tenure of James Thompson; also the tenement now in the occupation of Nicholas Fox; also the tenement in the tenure of --Balderston; also the two fields belonging thereto, in



STOUPS BRIDGE.

the tenure of William Havthornthwaite, all being in Wyresdale, and part of the Vaccary of Abbeystead in the Forest of Wyresdale in the Honor of Lancaster. This property was to be held by them in trust, to permit the said School to be for the benefit of 50 free scholars to be educated and instructed

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

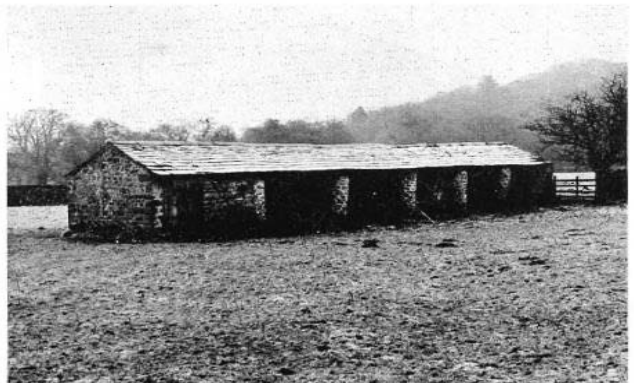
therein, being inhabitants in the twelve vaccaries in Wyresdale, namely, Abbeystead, Haythornthwaite, Marshaw, Dunckshaw, Tarnebrooke, Leigh, Emmotts, Lentworth, Catshaw, Swaineshead, Ortner, and Greenbanck, with preference for his own kindred although they might live three or four miles distant. Also to permit the present Schoolmaster, Christopher Bond, and all other schoolmasters, to hold the tenement near the said school, with barns, stables, and land. Also to pay the Schoolmaster for the time being, the yearly sum of £15. Also to the said Minister who shall officiate the said cure in the said chappell for the time being the yearly sum of £8

The Trustees were to meet yearly, to visit the School, and 20s. was to be allowed upon a dinner. The School was to be kept in good condition and repair, and what money remained after other payments had been made, had to be distributed for the buying of books for poor scholars in the first four vaccaries, and towards the relief of the poor in those vaccaries.

Such is a brief summary of his provision for the endowment of the School and Church, but from several expressions in his Will and Constitutions for the School, we see that he was a devout Christian and spiritually minded Churchman. He was a sincere Protestant, and the sum which he left to Wyresdale Church was for the encouragement of an orthodox Protestant preaching minister. He states that the first obligation to which he is engaged, is "to lay upon myself, humbly upon my knees, to praise and magnify the goodness of God, who from a mean beginning of my birth in this parish hath enabled me to offer this mite of my thankfulness for all blessings that He hath in great mercy bestowed upon me."

He ordained that the scholars shall every morning upon their knees, before they begin their lectures, offer up their sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving to God by prayers and reading a chapter or some other portion of the Scriptures by the Master or one of the scholars as the Master shall direct and appoint, and before their dismissal in the evening "they shall sing one of David's Psalms or part as the Master shall appoint, and then close the day with prayer and thanksgiving."

The scholars had to repair to the



THE ANCIENT GAD HOUSE.

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

chapel every Lord's Day, morning and afternoon, and days of fasting and thanksgiving

They had to behave themselves decently and reverently at prayers and in the hearing of God's word, and submit themselves to be catechised as the Minister shall appoint. He says in his Will that he had erected a Free School in Wyresdale of his "love to religion and learning." He desired that the Master should, in the education of the children, "season their tender years with good principles in the fear of God."

He hoped that the school might be enlarged by further benefactions, for the glory of Almighty God, and for the educating and bringing up of young children and youths to be instrumental to serve Him.



CAWTHORNE ARMS.

Argent, on a saltire sable, 5 crosses
potence or.

Crest. An arm embowed, proper,
holding a cross potence, or.

The Masters of the School

THE first Master of the School was Christopher Bond, who held the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Probably he was appointed by the Founder himself, when the School was erected. His name is mentioned in the Founder's Will, also in the Will of John Cawthorne, who died in 1722, and who committed the education of his sons, John and Charles, to the care of the Rev. Samuel Saunders, D.D., and Mr. Christopher Bond. The family of Bond were a Wyresdale family, and the name of Bondgate, near Dolphinholme, probably comes from them

In 1538 there was a dispute between the members of the family about a message called Ortnor

In 1567, the will of John Bond, of Dunnisha, was proved at Richmond.

John Kelsall, in his journal, states that his grandmother placed him and his brother at Abbeystead School, where one Christopher Bond was Master, under whom he continued from time to time till the year 1699.

Mr. Bond appears to have held the position of Master for the long period of fifty years.

The following entries occur In the Church Register among the burials:

March 31, 1727. Alice, wife of Mr. Chris. Bond.

Oct. 15, 1727. Mr. Chris. Bond.

George Cooperthwaite succeeded Christopher Bond in 1727, but he only appears to have remained about a year, as in 1728 George Jackson was appointed, and held the position of Master for about six years. In 1734 Thomas Richardson became Master, and continued for the long period of nearly 60 years.



“WOODSIDE,”
THE SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE,
ABBEYSTEAD.

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In the Church Register there is an entry among the burials as follows :

July 22nd, 1793, Mr. Thos. Richardson, almost 60 years
School Master of Abbeystead School.

In the Lancaster Church Register his age is given as 80.

In 1793, the Rev. James Bleasdale became Master. A note In the Church Register states that the Rev. Jas. Bleasdale came to Wyresdale, November, 1788. He came to assist the Rev. Francis Lee, Curate of Wyresdale, who seems to have been in failing health, and who died in December, 1789. Mr. Bleasdale then became Assistant Curate to the Rev. James Watson, Master of Lancaster Grammar School, who succeeded the Rev. Francis Lee, but who did not reside in Wyresdale. After his appointment to the School, he continued to act as Assistant Curate, until he became Curate at Admarsh in Bleasdale in 1824.

The following entry occurs among the Burials recorded In the Church Register :

October 17th, 1808. Eliza, wife of Rev. J. Bleasdale, aged 30.

March 30th, 1828. Rev. Jas. Bleasdale, Admarch, aged 66.

In 1824, John Winder, a member of the family of the Winders of Wellbrook, became Master. His interment is recorded in the Church Register :

July 18th, 1833. John Winder, Wyersdale, aged 55

In 1833, Robert Edmondson was appointed, and remained some 21 years, when he resigned to take up the position of Master of the Lancaster Workhouse



“BRIDGE HOUSE,”
THE OLD SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE,
ABBEYSTEAD.

In 1854, James Phizackerley became Master, and under him the School gained a wide reputation, boarders coming from Lancaster, Cockerham, and the surrounding district. He was Master for about 31 years, retiring in 1885. A memorial brass fixed in the north wall of the Church bears the following inscription :

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

To the glory of God and in memory of

JAMES PHIZACKERLEY,

for 31, years Schoolmaster of

Cawthorne's Endowed School at Abbeystead.

This is erected by some of his old scholars and friends as a mark
of respect and in testimony of the excellent work he did in Wyresdale.

Born November 25th, 1827. Died, October 27th, 1891.

Buried at Cockerham

In 1885, Edward Casson was appointed, and remained about five years

In 1890, Edward H. Little became Master, remaining for 30 years. On his retirement in 1920, a Re-union of his old scholars was held, and he was presented with an Illuminated Address and Gold Watch.

In 1920, Richard H. Jones was appointed. He had served in the War, and he decided to rejoin the Army

In 1921, Frank Brodrick, the present Master, was appointed

In 1907, an Assistant Mistress was engaged to take charge of the Infants, when Miss Agnes Fawcett, the present Infant Mistress, was appointed.

The Founder's desire in respect of the Schoolmaster is thus expressed in his Constitutions of the School:

"A graduate of one of the Universities, not under twenty-three years of age. A man skilful in the Greek and Latin tongues and of a sound religion, of a grave behaviour, of a sober and honest conversation, no tipler, or haunter of ale-houses or taverns."

The Founder and the Church

WILLIAM CAWTHORNE in his Will thus refers to the Church, which from its being a Chapel in connection with Lancaster Parish Church, was until recent years generally spoken of as Wyresdale Chapel:

"And also taking notice that there is, and for a long time past hath been, in Wyresdale aforesaid, one Chapel erected for the service of God and the ease and accommodation of the inhabitants thereabouts, being about six miles distant from the Parish Church of Lancaster, where it is called and known by the name of Wyresdale Chapel, and hath been used time out of mind for the celebration of the blessed Sacrament, to the great satisfaction, ease, and comfort of all the inhabitants thereabouts.

"And also considering that there is none, or very small, maintenance thereunto for a minister to officiate there, and therefore for the settling and continuing a revenue for ever for the maintenance and propagation of the said School and Schoolmaster thereof for the time being, and for the encouragement of an orthodox Protestant Preaching Minister for the time being to officiate the Cure in the Chapel for ever hereafter, being lawfully licensed by the Bishop." . . .

"Unto the said minister who shall officiate the said cure **in** the said chapel for the time being the yearly sum of Eight pounds."

This was in 1683, and he mentions the Chapel as then having existed" time out of mind."

Whether the monks, during their stay at Abbeystead, erected a Chapel, where the present Church stands, or whether, on their departure, those connected with the Church in Lancaster, built a place of worship there, is not known

About 1350, the Dean of Amounderness, in his report on the terrible plague known as the Black Death, mentions a chapelry, Wyda, in Garstang, which may be that of Wyresdale.

About 1380, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the Friend and Protector of John Wickliffe, made a grant of £4 a year, to be paid out of the revenues of the Duchy of Lancaster, for the support and maintenance of a Chaplain to celebrate Divine Service at Wyresdale Chapel. This sum of £4 a year is still paid, and the Vicar, when signing the receipt, has to describe himself as "Curate of Wyresdale."

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

In 1509, King Henry VIII gave £2 a year to the support of the Chaplain

In 1561, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the chantry lands of the Duchy, state in their report :-" The Commissioners do find certain messuages, lands, and tenements in Wiresdale, now in the holding of James Parkinson, and others, of the yearly rent of 40 shillings, belonging to the service of a priest at the Chapel of Wiresdale."

Who first preached the Reformed Faith in Wyresdale we do not know. Francis Mallet, who became Vicar of Lancaster, in the reign of Queen Mary, was hostile to



THE CHURCH, WYRESDALE.

the Reformation, but he submitted when the Reformed Prayer Book was restored by Queen Elizabeth. There are no records of any martyrs from among the dales-people for the Reformed Faith. Henry Porter, who became Vicar of Lancaster about 1581, was a zealous preacher, and may have preached at the Chapel In Wyresdale.

In 1606, John Cragge is mentioned as Minister at Wyresdale, residing at Chapel House, now known as Chapel House Farm

The following entries occur among the Burials In the Lancaster Register:

20 November, 1622. Mrs. Cragg, ux. Johnis Cragg, Cler.

23 May, 1630. John Cragge, Clerke.

Who immediately followed Mr. Cragg is not known, but about 1638 Thomas Denny, B.A., was appointed. He remained during the troublesome days of Cromwell. He signed the "Harmonious Consent" in 1648. The Parliamentary Commissioners in 1650, state ;-"The Minister of the said chapel is Mr. Thomas Denny, B.A., who. has been a preaching Minister there about twelve years." He died in 1668, and was buried at Lancaster.

In 1686, Gabriel Dawson was Minister

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

In 1688, William Gregson was chosen by the inhabitants, with the consent of James Fenton, then Vicar of Lancaster, but he only remained about two years. About this time, through the preaching of George Fox, some of the dalesmen joined the Society of Friends, and in 1689 the house of John Proctor at Dunishaw is mentioned as a meeting house. As early, however, as 1661, in the list of Quakers taken at Lancaster, occur the names of William Hanes and Henry Townson of Wyresdale. Timothy Cragg, a descendant of the Rev. John Cragg, Curate of Wyresdale, who was Churchwarden in 1687, says in his story of his life; "I began to frequent the meetings of the people called Quakers in the year 1688."

He subsequently joined them, and became one of their leading local members. From the old Minute Book of the School, it appears that the following ministered at the Chapel :

In 1690, Thomas Blamyre.

In 1692, William Walton or Walker?

In 1695, Henry Holmes.

In 1699, Christopher Whittingdale.

In 1701, Robert Mawson.

In 1705, James Mount.

In 1708, William Mount was Minister, and was followed, in 1711, by John Hadwen, who appears to have been appointed to Aughton Chapel.

In 1716, Lawrence Washington, B.A., was appointed. He came from Warton, and was probably a family connection of George Washington, the First President of the United States of America

While he was here, through the efforts and gifts of Thomas Townley, of Ortnor, much was done to improve the condition of the Church. Mr. Townley gave the sum of £600, to obtain a like sum from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. He built the Vicarage, and a public stable near the Church, in which those driving to the services might stable their horses. Before this, there does not appear to have been a house for the Minister.

From the old Minute Book of the School, it appears that the Governors of the School, about 1733, allotted to the Curate of Wyresdale, some land called Thompson's Tenement, valued at £2 13s. 4d. a year, in part payment of the yearly sum of £8, under the Founder's Will, and probably on this land Mr. Townley erected the house for the Curate.

Mr. Townley probably had much to do with rebuilding the Church. An entry

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

in the Church Register is as follows :

"Notice given on Sunday the .25th day of February, 1732, for the inhabitants to appear at the Chapel the day after to consult about taking down ye Chapel, &c.

Also :

"A Faculty for pulling down and rebuilding Wyresdale Chapel granted the 13th day of July, 1733. Another for building the steeple the 22nd Day of September, 1733.

These Faculties or Licences, together with other writings relating to ye Chapel are in two bags, marked on the outside what they contain."

There is a: Marble Tablet to the memory of Thomas Townley in the North wall of the Church

In 1769, the Rev. Francis Lee, B.A., became Curate. He states, some ten years later, that he constantly resided in the house belonging to the Cure, till he was taken with a dangerous pluerisy fever, which left him very weak, He seems to have made some alterations to the Vicarage, for a stone, now built into the East wall, bears the initials F. M. L. 1770, being those of Francis and Margaret Lee.

The following entries are among the Burials:

June 28th, 1777. John Barker, son of Fras. Lee, Clerk, Curate of Wyresdale.

December 20th, 1789. The Rev. Mr. Francis Lee, aged 67.

January 25th, 1802. Mrs. Lee, Relict of Rev. Mr. Lee, aged 72

A small brass in the floor of the Church near the pulpit is inscribed with the name of John Barker, his son, but the tombstone to himself and wife has been covered over by the choir seats and tiled flooring.

In 1790, James Watson was appointed, but the duties were performed by the Rev. James Bleasdale, who was also the Master of Abbeystead School

In 1799, James Thomas, B.A. became Curate, but as he held other appointments, the Rev. James Bleasdale continued to perform the duties as his assistant. He died in 1824, aged 84, and was buried at Lancaster.

During this period several families, at the upper end of the dale, joined the Methodist Movement, and a Sunday School ' was erected at Higher Emmetts, which was opened in 1824, one hundred years ago

In 1824, Joseph Stuart, Curate of Bleasdale, was appointed to Wyresdale, and the Rev. James Bleasdale was appointed to Bleasdale.

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

The following entry occurs in the Burials :

1st July, 1829. Joseph Stuart, Vicarage, Curate of Wyresdale, aged 78

In 1829, Robert Watson was appointed, but seems to have removed in 1852.

From 1853 to 1856, Rev. Jonathan H. Tucker was Curate in Charge, afterwards becoming Vicar of Child Wickham, Gloucestershire.

In 1863, Constantine Adolphus de Lusignan, B.A., of Huguenot ancestry, became Curate, and when in 1867 the Chapelry was formed into a separate parish, he became the first Vicar. He became Vicar of Caton in 1878.

In 1878, Thomas Joseph Brereton, B.A., was appointed. He was an eloquent preacher. He resigned in 1894, and died in 1896, aged 81 years, being buried near the Lych Gate, where his wife and other members of his family are buried.

In 1894, Daniel Schofield was appointed, remaining until 1910, when he became Vicar of Stalmine. He enlarged and improved the Vicarage. A stone in the East wall is inscribed D. S. 1896. He wrote the "History of Over Wyresdale."

In 1910, John Leonard Gamble, M.A., became Vicar, leaving to become Vicar of St. John's, Lancaster.

In 1912, John William Wood, M.A., the present Vicar, was appointed.

Since the time of the Reformation, the services have been simple in character, and the office of Parish Clerk still remains, having at the present time been held for over forty years by Mr. Edward Winder.

The present edifice, formerly called "Wyresdale Chapel," is mainly the one that was rebuilt in 1733. In 1891-, the then Earl of Sefton, built the chancel, the vestry, and the porch, also added battlements to the tower, and the small slated spire. The present windows were inserted in place of the old ones, and the Church reseated with oak seats, and the old organ replaced with a new instrument with a carved oak case

The two "Jacobean" doorways still remain, and the window under the tower appears to belong to the building which existed before 1733.

The old rough beams, with curved trusses, are of interest, also the old pulpit, which

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bears the date 1684, and is one of the few remaining 17th century pulpits in Lancashire. An old oak chair in the chancel is of Elizabethan pattern, but has no date. The violincello, clarionet, and flute, which were formerly used in the Church before an organ was obtained, still remain. There were formerly galleries along the North side and West end, that on the West being the Minstrel and Choir Gallery

The stained glass is somewhat unique, being mainly in quiet tints, and beautifully drawn. The fine old bell bears the inscription "Thos. Harrison Ch. Warden 1744." It also bears the initials A. R., which are those of the maker, Abel Rudhall, of Gloucestershire.

The consecration of the Church is not recorded, but it is now called "Christ Church" May Christ and Him crucified continue to be preached there, until "He comes !"



The School and Its Scholars

THE School Building erected by the Founder remained until about 75 years ago. A few people can still remember the old School, with its wide open fireplace. It was then rebuilt, but the Schoolroom then erected proved so unsatisfactory, that in 1857 it was taken down, and the present building was erected. A class room and cloak rooms have since been added. The Schoolmaster's House, erected by the Founder, and rebuilt in 1841, was sold in 1877 to the Lancaster Corporation, and in 1883 the present Schoolmaster's House, known as "Woodside," was erected

The old Minute Book, recording the minutes of the meetings of the Governors, etc., from the death of the Founder in 1683 to 1796, is still in existence, and is committed with other documents relating to the School, to the custody of the Correspondent. The Endowment bequeathed by the Founder, amounting at present to about-£280 a year, is now administered under a Scheme made by the Board of Education, under the Charitable Trusts Acts, dated 29th June, 1911, under which the Governing Body consists of Ten Persons. Out of the Endowment, £15 has now to be paid to the Vicar of Wyresdale, and the rest to be used for educational purposes

The present Governors are :-The Earl of Sefton, Rev. J. L. Gamble, Rev. J. W. Wood, G. Garnett, Esq., John Drinkall, Richard Gifford, Edward Winder, Thomas L. Pye, John Whitaker, and there is one vacant.

The School, being a Church of England School, for Elementary Education, has also six School Managers, four of which are appointed by the Governors, one by the Parish Council, and one by the County Council. The present Managers are: The Earl of Sefton, Rev. J. W. Wood, Messrs. M. Hilson, John Drinkall, and Edward Winder, and one vacant, the Correspondent being Mr. M. Hilson, Lancaster Lodge, Abbeystead.

Two hundred and fifty years have passed since the School was founded. A Marble Tablet is being placed in the School to commemorate the event. During this time many generations of children have passed through the School.

The motto upon the old stone, "Vel doce vel disce vel discede" ("Either teach or learn or depart") may well be taken as the motto of the School

One, who attended the School soon after its foundation, was John Kelsall, whose

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mother was Elizabeth Cragg. He and his brother Joseph were left orphans in London when quite young, and their grandmother, Jennet Thompson, went from Routen Brook, Quernmore, to London, and brought them in panniers on a galloway, to her home. He records in his Journal:

"My grandmother removed with us into Wyresdale, and placed us at Abbeystead, where one Christopher Bond was Master, under whom I continued from time to time till the year 1699."

Also, that he gained "a tolerable understanding in the Latin and Greek languages."

He became Master of the Friends' School at Dolobran, Montgomeryshire, in 1701 where he states that the number attending the School was at times about fifty, several of them sons of such as were of note, two having been High Sheriffs of that County.

In more recent years, Mr. R. H. Swindlehurst became Engineer of Bolton Le Moors Waterworks. His mother, a widow, was in such reduced circumstances that he had, during the Winter evenings, to study by the light of the fire, lying on the hearth with his books and slate. He plodded on, however, and rose step by step, until he became a proficient Engineer

Mr. Robert Whittaker, another scholar, formerly of Ortner Farm, became one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools.

Other Old Scholars of the School have become Mayors, Justices of the Peace, successful Merchants, School masters, and School mistresses. One, the Rev. Robert Schofield, B.A. Oxford, is a clergyman of the Church of England

Some in the recent Great War laid down their lives for their Country. A Memorial to the Men of Wyresdale who died in the War stands by the side of the path leading from the road to the Church. It bears the following names :

THE HON. CECIL RICHARD MOLYNEUX.
DAVID RITCHIE.
THOMAS BOYES
JOHN HALL
CHARLES AIREY
PEARSON McKEND
THOMAS WINDER
EDWIN BORWICK SCHOFIELD
JOHN DOLPHIN.

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The Founder expresses in his Will the desire that others would add benefactions to the School, so that it might be enlarged, and his instructions for the teaching of Greek and Latin Grammar shew that he evidently intended the School to be a Grammar School.

While this has not matured, may the high aim that the School should be for the glory of God, and for the educating and bringing up of young children and youths to be instrumental in serving Him, be richly fulfilled!



WAR MEMORIAL.

So ends the first section of this booklet, as written by

*John Wood,
Wyresdale Vicarage,
May 1924.*

The School

WHEN it was originally suggested that this excellent booklet be brought up to date and republished. I was asked to write the last fifty years history of the School and Parish. It is interesting to note that during this time there have only been three Headteachers, thus following the pattern set by our predecessors, for in three hundred years just thirteen masters have held this position. This reflects well on the mutual trust and understanding that have existed between the Headteacher and the Governors, and also on the beauty and peace of this valley which has entwined them. One can truly say with the Psalmist

"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places.

Yea. I have a goodly heritage".

"The little hills rejoice on every side

And the pastures are clothed with flocks".

In 1931 Mr. Thomas H. Timbrell was appointed. He remained in the Parish after his retirement and in the Church Register it is recorded;-Buried 21st November 1960. aged 63. In 1959 Miss Joyce C. Mitton the first woman was appointed. In 1966 Mrs. Veronica M. Langton was appointed assistant teacher.

The present Governors and Managers are Mrs. J. R. M. Drinkall, Rev. E. Billington. who is also the Correspondent, Messrs. J. Drinkall. C.B.E., A. V. Harvey, J. W. Kellett, W. E. Drinkall, F. G. Apedaile and G. W. Huddleston. Miss J. C. Mitton is the Clerk.

It is perhaps indicative of the times in which we live that there have been more changes since the last war than the two hundred and sixty five years leading to it. In 1939 Mr. Timbrell took on the added role of Billeting Officer. As early as September 11th of that year two children arrived from evacuation areas. Then in 1941 when there were only twenty four children on roll, thirty eight scholars came from Halton Bank School, Salford with two teachers. In 1944 fifty two children were evacuated from the London area but within a year they had returned home. Many lasting friendship were forged between hospitable parishioners and these evacuees. Also in this momentous year of 1939 electric lights were first switched on in School which is rather ironical when no lights had to be shown due to the war-time "black-out".

When the 1944 Education Act came into being it is recorded in the minutes that "no change is envisaged" but it did have its repercussions. As long ago as 1928 Higher

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Education" was being discussed and Mr. P. E. Meadon, Director of Education for Lancashire, came to advise the Governors on the best way of implementing this. In 1951 the School applied for aided status and decided not to enter the Barchester Scheme. In April 1963 the Friends' School closed due to the few children attending. Five children were transferred to Abbeystead School and by September of that year the School was re-organised. All children on attaining their eleventh year were to be transported to schools in Lancaster for their Secondary education. The School thus became a Primary School.

In 1937 the children living at Tarnbrook were transported during the winter months. Previous to this these children and others living any distance from the School were boarded out with families living nearer. By 1948 there was a daily taxi service for children at Tarnbrook and Tower Lodge. This service brought to an end the many unavoidable absences caused by the vagaries of the weather and also any thoughts of truancy. 1946 saw the advent of school dinners, a hot mid-day meal to replace the sandwiches which were more often than not consumed before mid-day. To-day they are cooked and carried from Dolphinholme School Kitchen.

A visiting teacher came in 1951 to instruct the boys in woodwork. this lesson was shared with the Friends' School boys. The girls continued to go to the Galgate Centre for their cookery lessons. In 1952 ten children attended Kingsway Baths, Lancaster for their first swimming lesson. Now the older junior 'children go weekly to Ripley St. Thomas' School Baths and achieve excellent results. Since the opening of St. Martin's College of Education in 1964 many students have been accommodated and also from the Chorley College of Education as well as post graduate students from Lancaster University. Such are the changes in primary education and the curriculum in recent years that extra staff have been employed for welfare, clerical, nursery and ancillary duties. These changes have also meant that members of staff have to attend many courses.

In 1957 a water carriage system was installed and by 1962 there were new wash basins piped with hot water for the children and a drinking fountain. Also that year a telephone was connected. In 1965 the coke heating system was converted to oil. Television lessons were being viewed in 1968 to supplement both the wireless programmes and film strips. On 28th February, 1924 it was first suggested that a School shed be built for use in wet weather. Lord Sefton gave the land and in November 1928 it was declared open. On 25th March, 1968 it was recommended that improvements be made to modernise the School. In December, 1973 Fred Brown of Cockerham started this work which includes the enclosing of the shed for teaching purposes.

The Church

IT was the Rev. John William Wood. M.A., who wrote this booklet and was told in 1912 that he had only a year to live. Thanks to the invigorating air of Wyresdale he continued to live for another twenty-four years. During this time he enriched the Church with many beautiful hand carvings, and the fine Lych Gate inscribed "I am the Door of the Sheep," is also his work. School children attended his funeral on 17th May, 1936.

In 1936 Edward Pelham Pestle, M.A. was appointed, he was formerly a Lecturer at Durham University and a Fellow of that University. He left in 1945 and went to Bletchley, Buckinghamshire

In 1945 Peter Arthur Nock. M.A., became Vicar. The son of a clergyman, his father was Canon Nock, Vicar of Morecambe, he went to St. Cuthbert's Church, Darwen in 1950 and subsequently to Birmingham where he was made a Dean

In 1950 Clifford Alwyn Parkinson was appointed, having been a Padre in the R.A.F. It was during this time, and due to his dedication, that the Church had a new roof, an improved lighting system was installed and the organ completely overhauled and renovated, at a cost of £2,614 3s. 6d. There is a plaque commemorating this noble effort by priest and parishioners. He left in 1956 to become Vicar of Kirk Marown, Isle of Man.

In 1956 Harold Skilhnngton was appointed. He had been a teacher and was a skilled craftsman. The income from the annual Christmas Church Fair was greatly increased by the sale of his handicrafts. He also added to the Church furnishings. He retired in 1962 to Bolton-Le-Sands and is buried by the Vestry.

In 1963 Eric Billington. L.Th., B.A., the present Vicar was appointed. Since then, in 1970, the Church heating has been converted to oil. On 25th April, 1971 the new Vicarage, which is a pleasant modern bungalow, built by T. and R. Winder and Son of Dolphinholme, was dedicated by the Right Reverend Charles Robert Claxton, D.D, Bishop of Blackburn.

A branch of the Mothers' Union was formed in 1936 and continues to meet in the Vicarage. Their beautiful blue banner stands to the left of the Altar. Nearby and complementary to it is a shepherd's crook given to the vicars "for their walks through Over Wyresdale." The Sunday School Scholars meet every Sunday

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morning and form a happy group guided by Miss A. A . Pye. An annual sale for the Church Missionary Society is always well supported as are The Parish Party and Fur and Feather Whist Drive.

In 1940 the western section of the Churchyard was added and later consecrated and it is planned to grace this with trees. Lord Sefton kindly gave the land and such is the provident nature of the parishioners that it remained unused for thirty two years

The Church Clock was given in 1926 by Mary Ormerod in memory of her father and mother, Robert and Mary Clarkson. A plaque bearing an inscription to this is in the Baptistry.

The desk by the door is to the memory of John Winder. Churchwarden 1935-1946. The two Churchwardens' staffs are in memory of Richard Place and William Drinkall. The two men holding this office at present are James Kellett and Adam Leigh whilst Stanley Baxter and Henry Gifford are the deputy wardens

Another plaque is in memory of Samuel Smallwood Terence Walley, Agent at Abbeystead to the Earl of Sefton for 32 years.

To the left of the Church door is a garden of remembrance and on the outside of the Baptistry wall is a stone tablet inscribed:

"In loving memory of
HUGH WILLIAM OSBERT MOLYNEUX,
Seventh Earl of Sefton.

Born December 22nd. 1898. Died. April 13th. 1972.

God is our Refuge and Strength"

His ashes were buried there on 18th July. 1972.

In July this year a plaque to the memory of William Cawthorne designed and given by Frank Berry will be unveiled in Church at a Founder's Day Thanksgiving Service. Thus the bond between the Founder of the School and the Benefactor of the Church will be strengthened.

The Parish

SO much has been said of Church Unity, that the words of one parishioner are worth recording, "Something better than unity exists between the Church and Chapel in Wyresdale and that is harmony." This sincere comment is evident in the spirit of fellowship which has been fostered with the members of Emmetts Chapel over the years. There is nothing new in this spirit of unity, A United Service of Church, Chapel and Meeting House members was held on the first Sunday afternoon of the New Year in the School many years ago. The Band of Hope, which still meets regularly, used to be a united gathering, as is the Chapel Youth Fellowship. In recent years the Methodists have had house meetings.

The first meeting of the Women's Institute was held at Woodside in 1932 instigated by Mrs. Timbrell. Like the well planted acorn it has grown into a firm branch of this national organisation and serves a real need for the women of the parish. Evening classes, on a variety of subjects, have been held from time to time in the School and Vicarage. These have been mainly organised by the Women's Institute in conjunction with the local Education Authority.

The Annual Field Day continues to be one of the major events in the parish year, especially for the younger people. A stranger to this ritual, on seeing quoiting for the first time, thought it must have come over with William the Conqueror. It could be an even older sport than that and certainly needs a lot of skill. The 1911 Wyresdale Coronation Belt for Wrestling is still in use.

To cater for indoor sports there is an active Sports Club, the premises being given by the Earl of Sefton in 1946. This gift was intended for the use of all parishioners but latterly only the men have used it possibly due to the equipment it houses. It is worthy of note that almost all the parish activities owe a great deal to the generosity and interest of the Sefton family,

In January, 1941 Mr. Walley called a meeting at Brow House and from this the Over Wyresdale Horticultural Society was formed. He was probably aware of the Art and Handicraft Exhibition held in 1898 and wished to renew this. The first show was "an outstanding success" attracting 330 entries in 76 classes. This too has flourished over the years for in 1973 there were 680 entries in 125 classes including children's classes. In all there are nine trophies to be competed for annually, the Walley Challenge Cup, the Society Rose Bowl and Cups presented by T. Sanderson of Milnthorpe. It is claimed that the standard of gardens locally has greatly

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improved due to this society. Certainly this is true of Wyresdale honey which is acclaimed by residents and visitors.

On the same day as the local Horticultural Show Sheep Dog Trials are held. This added attraction, first started in 1946, has a goodly following, and as well as local entries many men with their clever dogs come from far afield. Some notable competitors are the Longton brothers from Quernmore of international fame.

An interesting item from the Parish Council Minutes is that the Chairman wrote to the Ribble Bus Company asking if they would "kindly consider a reduction of bus fares from Abbeystead to Lancaster." This was in 1928 and the same words could be echoed to-day.



WILLIAM CAWTHORNE PLAQUE DESIGNED 1973

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CONCLUSION

At Whitsuntide 1966 the upper junior children were taken on a five day educational visit to London. This was so successful that it was repeated in 1970 and 1973. Last year The Royal Hospital of Saint Bartholomew, London, celebrated its 850th anniversary, and on Ascension Day the children presented a plaque in memory of William Cawthorne who was Clerk to the Governors there, in the Church of Saint Bartholomew the Less, London, where he is buried. A replica of this was made and it is intended to incorporate this in a larger one and list the names and years of Service of all the Headteachers, thus continuing the tradition started with the marble plaque which was unveiled in 1924 for the Schools 250th anniversary. Old Scholars of the School have followed their forebears and continued to do well in their chosen careers.

Two gave their lives in the last war and their names

ERIC ROBERT SCOTT

GEORGE MOIR

are inscribed on the War Memorial.

Many have enriched the community by their service and made a notable contribution to farming. Indeed, Mr. John Drinkall of Marshaw was recently awarded the C .B.E., the first person in the Parish to be thus honoured, and in July will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Lancaster.

In this tercentenary year we are committed to finding £2,500 towards the improvements. Lady Sefton has donated £1,000 which is a great help. Various and varied events are planned to commemorate the tercentenary and also to raise the remainder of the money. We look on this as an act of faith. confident that our School will be well endowed to start the next three hundred years.

Whether William Cawthorne would approve of the way his School has developed is a matter for conjecture. There are to-day forty five lively youngsters preparing to be adults, enjoying the fruits of his labours in the many out-of-school activities and extra benefits which come from his endowment. We are aware of his wishes for the welfare of his School and Scholars and try to fulfil them in a manner befitting our worthy Founder, who resolutely remained at his post during the plague of London, thereby setting an excellent example to us all.

FINIS

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COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

So ends the second section of this booklet, as written by

*Joyce C. Mitton,
Woodside
January 1974*

The Community

IN 2014, Abbeystead remains the quiet village that it was. The Sefton Estate became part of the Duke of Westminster's estates in 1980 and continues to be the major landowner and employer in the area. Lord and Lady Sefton generously established the Sefton Trust, to provide grants in support of the education of the people of Over Wyresdale. The present trustees are Mr Tom Entwistle (Chair), Mrs Vicky Atkinson, Mrs Sarah Baines, Mr Andrew Ryder, and Mrs Shirley Townley.

THE ABBEYSTED PUMPING HOUSE DISASTER



THE SPILLWAY, ABBEYSTED RESERVOIR

In 1980 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the water pumping station, on the Duke of Westminster's Abbeystead estate. This was to pump water from the River Lune to the River Wyre, for domestic usage. The underground water pumping station lies on a hillside between the two rivers. On 23 May 1984, 44 people were attending a presentation at a valve house in Abbeystead intended to

explain the effects of the scheme on winter flooding in the lower Wyre Valley. St Michaels parish council were invited, and a group of thirty-six villagers, including a 12-year-old boy, and eight Water Board officials attended. Unusually for the area there had been a drought and the pumps had not been switched on for the preceding seventeen days. Unknown to the forty-four people in the underground complex there had been a slow build-up of natural methane gas from the earth and this had collected in the passages and tunnels. The group was assembled inside the underground valve house, which was dug into the hillside. When the pumps were switched on nothing happened - no water was pumped. The engineers then switched a second set of pumps on. Something somewhere emitted a spark and this ignition caused an explosion. A fireball swiftly erupted through the complex. The explosion killed 16 people, injured 22 more and severely damaged the valve house. The whole community was traumatised, and parishioners still remember the loss.

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His Grace, The Duke of Westminster and Mr Robert Ayrton on the opening of Over Wyresdale Parish Hall, 2007

BUILDINGS OLD AND NEW

The Post Office is now a private home and the Men's Club closed in 2005. The community built the Over Wyresdale Parish Hall, which was opened by His Grace, the Duke of Westminster, on August 11th 2007. The purpose-built hall and grounds were provided with the generous support of Grosvenor Estates and with funding from the Lancashire County Council programme for Community Resource Centres. The current trustees of the Over Wyresdale Parish Hall Trust are Mr Robert H. Ayrton, (Chair), Mrs Kathleen Eyles, Mr Keith Gardner, Prof Monica Lee, and Mr Andrew Ryder.

The Parish Hall has proved to be very well used, with different clubs, and societies such as the Craft Club, the Abbeystead Over 60's', the Whist and Dominoes Club, The Toddler Group, the Badminton Club, and the Abbeystead Women's Institute using it regularly. It has an excellent internet connection, and various training sessions and talks are held here. It also houses touring theatrical and artistic productions, as well as many parties and weddings.



OVER WYRESDALE PARISH HALL, ABBEYSTEAD

The Management Board of the Parish Hall are Mrs Kathleen Atkinson, Dr Richard Austen-Baker, Mr Robert Ayrton, Mrs Christine Ayrton, Mrs Helen Foster, Miss Mary France, Mr Keith Gardner, Mrs Zoe Longton, Mrs Christine Middleton, Mr Mike Pugh, Dr Pat Pugh, Mrs Sarah Pye, Mrs Fiona Rhodes and Miss Emma Thistlethwaite.

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Vegetable Class, 2013

THE HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Over Wyresdale Horticultural Society Show continues to thrive. The livestock section suffered badly in 2007/8 because of Foot and Mouth Disease and associated movement restrictions but has returned to strength. The T Walley Challenge Cup is presented for the most points in the show, and the Frith Cup for the most points gained by an exhibitor aged 17 to 20 years. Classes are held in the Village Hall for: Vegetables, with a Cup awarded for the most points in the

vegetable class, and the Joseph Woodhouse Memorial Trophy for the Potato Challenge; Produce; Flowers, with the Rose Bowl awarded for the most points, and the Andrew Pye Memorial Cup for the best exhibit; Cookery, with the Jesse R M Drinkall cup awarded for the most points; Handicraft, with the M & K Pye Memorial Trophy awarded for the most points, and the Lee Cup for the best scarecrow; Photography, with the Harvey Memorial Cup awarded for the most points; Children's classes, with the AA Pye Memorial Cup awarded for most points, a Cup for the best collection of wild fruits, The Woodside Cup for the Best Infant Exhibit, and a Cup for the best Miniature Garden.

Livestock classes started in 1979 and are held in the field and The Lentworth Trophy is presented to the competitor gaining the most points in the cattle and sheep classes. Sections are: Calf Classes, with the Apedaile Championship Trophy awarded to the breeder of the champion calf, and the Leslie Pedder Shield presented to the leader; Sheep Classes, with the Flatmen Championship Trophy, and the Nancy Dickinson Memorial Cup awarded to the Exhibitor with the most points in the Sheep Classes, the J. Tallentire Memorial Trophy for Champion Swaledale, the Elizabeth Ayrton Memorial Cup



Livestock, in the rain, 2013.

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for the best horned gimmer lamb, the Hughes Salver for the best young handler, and the Cup Merit Feeds & Storage for the best exhibitor bred sheep; and the Hay Class.

The great number of cups and awards donated to the show testify to the generosity of spirit shown by the community of Over Wyresdale and its friends. Each donor is remembered and thanked.

THE CHURCH



Christ Church remains an integral part of the Over Wyresdale community, though it no longer has a Vicar of its own. Eric Billington served as Vicar of Over Wyresdale from 1963 until 1980. After a small gap, Avery Cattanaach served from 1982 to 1984, and Rev Titterington served from 1985 to 1987. Between 1987 and 1990 the parish was served on a temporary basis by St Pauls Church at Scotforth. Fr. Johnathon Hemmings was then appointed. He resigned in 1994, at which point St Paul's took pastoral responsibility and Christ Church came under the umbrella of Andrew Clitheroe from 1994-2003, and Lars Simpson from 2000-2001. It was intended that Leslie Hakes would next take the position, but he was sadly killed in a traffic accident in Lancaster in 2002.

The benefice of Christ Church was then combined with those of St Mark, Dolphinholme, and St Peter, Quernmore. Roy Taylor served the triple benefice from 2003 to 2008. The current Vicar, Cindy Rigney, was appointed in 2010.

Sunday School was restarted by Mrs Angela Rothwell in 1988, and Mrs Jackie Entwistle took this over in 2005. It is held on the first Sunday of each month and the family service on the second Sunday uses the service sheet created by the children. Sunday School also holds activity mornings throughout the year, and a Christmas pasanda where over the course of advent the children follow 'Mary & Joseph' around the valley and learn about the Christmas story.

The 'Vicars House' is now a peaceful retreat centre, which is available for days or overnight stays and "anyone in need of rest and relaxation in the midst of a busy life is welcome."

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The Annual Christmas Fair has changed little and continues to raise money for the church, though it is now held in the Village Hall, and not the school.

The first recorded Methodist service in the district was in 1784, with the Wyresdale Society having 29 members in 1804, and a rapid establishment of three separate preaching places. Emmetts (Over Wyresdale) Methodist Church continues to serve a small but faithful congregation drawn mainly from the local farming community. A Kids Club is held in the village hall and there are monthly Prayer Meetings and Bible Fellowship.

Kay's Farm Fellowship is very active in the area and also supports a Children's Home in India, and another in Nepal.



Outdoor Nativity Play 2010. The three kings arriving in style (Dr Charles Lee, driving, Canon Frost, and Mr Andrew McCallum, in the back) following the Star of Bethlehem (Ms Kirsty Rothwell)

Mr Peter Entwistle, whose land abuts Christ Church, started the tradition of an Outdoor Nativity Play that has been produced by the community every five years. The Three Kings normally arrive by alternative modes of transport. In 2000 they were Mrs Elaine Drinhall, Mrs Becky Edwards, and Miss Laura Chippendale and they arrived on horseback. The Bishop of Lancaster, Stephen Pedley, was part of the procession and decided to try his hand at riding.

There was consternation as he fell off in front of the crowd, and then great humour as it became clear he was not hurt.

OTHER EVENTS.

Over Wyresdale was awarded £2000 from the Millennium Commission and, along with the rest of the nation, celebrated the Millennium with a village party, fireworks, and pageant which was held on the Field Day. A treasured memento of the time is the Over Wyresdale Millennium Book, edited by Mr Peter Entwistle, which collated contributions from and about each family in the community, alongside a picturesque map showing where everybody lived in the year 2000.

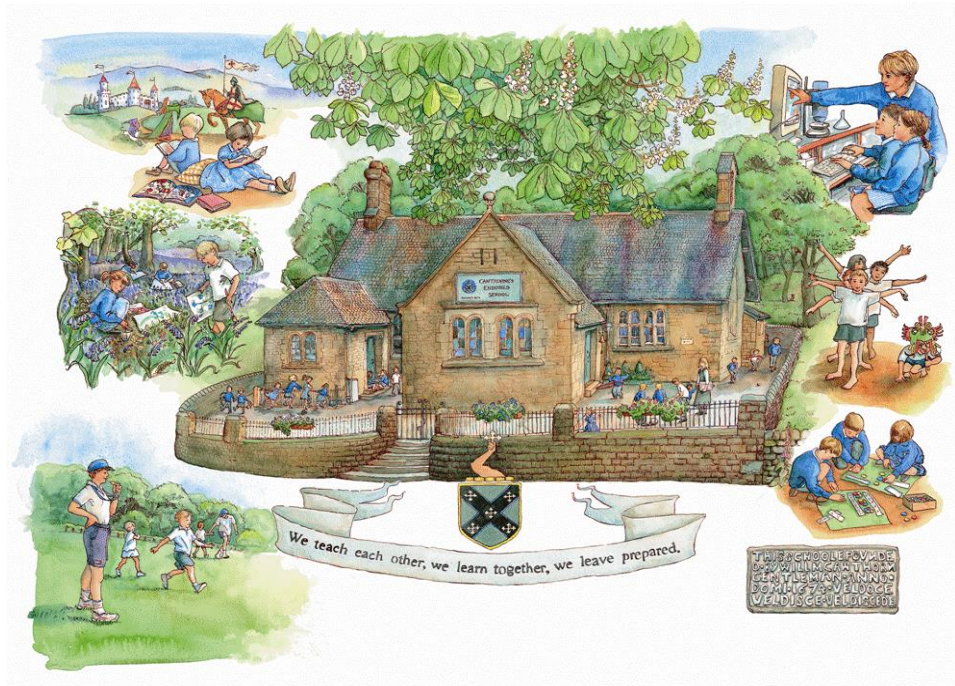
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The Field Day continues to be held annually in the early summer, and has races, fancy dress, cakes and tea, and other entertainment. At present Mrs Anne Russell is Chair and Mrs Helen Yu is Secretary.

The Toddler Group started in the early 1980's and met upstairs in the infant classroom whilst the school children were out swimming. Once the Village Hall was opened they were able to meet more frequently and it is now run by Mrs Jackie Entwistle.

The Great Abbeystead Duck Race, organised by Mr Mike and Dr Pat Pugh, is held annually to raise money for the Village Hall. The race is held along the river from Lower Lee, which provides sufficient becalmed pools and rocky stretches to ensnare ducks and generate plenty of excitement.

In 2014 the residents of Over Wyresdale and surrounding parishes joined in a community venture called Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN), directed by Prof. Barry Forde and Prof. Monica Lee, to dig their own optic fibre-to-the-home broadband network. In doing so, they become one of the fastest villages in the world.



Cawthorne's Endowed School, Abbeystead,
Painted by Christine Coleman, 2002.

The Cawthorne Educational Foundation

SINCE 1974 almost every incoming government has revised educational provision in some way. This has impacted upon the teaching in the school through the introduction of a rigorous national curriculum and regular inspections by the government body, Ofsted. It has also impacted upon the governance of the school. As is noted in the School Log Book at the time, the 1980 Education Act required that “School Managers are now to be known as School Governors, so the former Governors are now to be called the Cawthorne Trust Governors.”

In the early 1980's small schools were believed to be uneconomical and the community vigorously fought against an attempt to close the school in 1981 and again in 1987. The proposed plan was to merge the school with its neighbouring school in Dolphinholme, both under the auspices of the Diocese. The Cawthorne Educational Foundation asserted its ownership of the Cawthorne's Endowed School, and pointed out that it was not a Church of England school, and the plans were dropped. However, the school was referred to as Abbeystead, CE in County and government documentation, compounding the misunderstanding. This came to a head in 1999 when the Diocese claimed ownership of the school and its assets to the DfEE. Over a period of two years Prof. Monica Lee, on behalf of the Trustees and with the help of the community, successfully rebutted this claim, and also revised the scheme by which the Trust is managed, thereby removing ambiguity over ownership and management of both the Trust and the School.

The new scheme was established in 2001 and reaffirms William Cawthorne's intention to provide education to the youth of Over Wyresdale in an open, non-denominational fashion with a Christian ethos, as was provided in the 17th Century. The main religious groupings in the valley are Church of England, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Quakers. All faiths are welcomed at the school.

Cawthorne's Educational Foundation acts as the voluntary aiding body, and provides 10% of the building maintenance costs, as well as an annual grant to the school. Its main asset, other than the school, is 'Woodside', which used to be the Headteacher's residence, but is now tenanted by Mr C and Mrs A Rothwell. The current trustees are Mr Keith Gardner (Chair), Mr David Fairclough, Prof. Monica Lee, and Mr Andrew Ryder.

The School

MRS Joyce C Mitton retired, in 1981, having served at the school for 22 years. She is well remembered and returned as a guest of honour at the celebration of the 325th anniversary of the school in 1999. Mrs Langton and past pupils were also welcomed, and all the children were given a china mug with the school emblem on the side.



Mrs Langton, Ms. Huset, Miss Mitton

Mr Jon Atkinson was appointed as Headteacher in 1981 and retired in 1996.

Mrs Langton stood in as acting Head and retired in 1997. A party was held in her honour, with over 200 people attending. Mrs Holly Huset was appointed Head Teacher in 1997, and Mrs Fiona Ip was appointed infant teacher. Mrs Jackie Entwistle was appointed in 1998.

In 2000, School activities were disrupted by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease, and consequent restriction on movement. Several families had to keep their children at home, and all clubs and activities were cancelled. There were disinfectant mats at each door and great care had to be taken not to spread the disease.

From 1999 to 2005 the central area of the school was remodelled, the Infant Classroom was extended, as was the playground, and a new staffroom and toilets, as well as disabled access were constructed between the two main classrooms. Initially, as the back entrance was removed, catering provision was altered and placed at the centre of the school, where children would eat the hot food that was brought in from Dolphinholme School. The Women's Institute and other groups had kept their equipment in this area, but as they moved to use the Parish Hall, and as the hot food provision had ceased, this area was altered to provide an extra teaching area, and became known as the middle classroom. The government has just announced that hot food is now to be served again, brought from Quernmore School.

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL



Learning from Nature, part of the innovative curriculum at Cawthorne's Endowed School.

Mrs Fiona Ip became Headteacher when Mrs Holly Huset resigned in 2005, and Mr Patrick Corbett was appointed in 2007.

Since September 2008, the school has increased its provision to include six part-time Nursery Class places for three and four year old children.

The National Curriculum was introduced into England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a nationwide curriculum for primary and secondary state schools following the Education Reform Act 1988. This meant all 7 and 11 year olds were tested in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Over time the school has gained a reputation for having extremely high standards of attainment whilst retaining an interesting and varied curriculum.

The Ofsted inspection process was tightened in 2012, and Cawthorne's Endowed School was examined under the new system. The School was delighted to be awarded an 'Outstanding' and was one of the first to be so awarded. The report starts: "This is an outstanding school. Pupils thrive in all aspects of their academic achievement and personal development. The significant majority of parents and carers who gave their views were extremely positive about the school." The specific areas described as outstanding were pupil achievement, teaching, and behaviour and safety, and the Headteacher, Mrs Fiona Ip, was judged to provide 'visionary and inspirational leadership'.

The current staffing structure of the school is Mrs. Ip, (Headteacher and KS1 teacher; supporting English, DT, and History, Assessment Co-ordinator, Senior Designated Teacher Child Protection, INSET Co-ordinator, Student Teacher Associate Tutor), Mr Patrick Corbett (KS2 Teacher supporting Mathematics, Geography, PE, Deputy Designated Teacher Child protection, Educational Visits co-ordinator, Student Teacher Associate Tutor), Mrs Entwistle, KS1 teacher – (Headteacher release) supporting Science, Art, RE, PSHME , Educational Visits Coordinator, Student Teacher Associate Tutor, able gifted and talented leading

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

teacher), Mrs. Barker (Music teacher, supporting Music) and Mrs Liz O'Brien – SENCO. Additional support is given Mrs. German (HLTA), Mrs. Wallace (HLTA Foundation stage), Mrs. Wallbank and Mrs. Townley (School Bursars), Mrs. Dilkes (Site Supervisor), Mrs. Fairclough and Mrs. Ayrtton (Welfare assistants/Classroom assistants /Special Support Assistants)

The current Governing Body consists of: Prof. Monica Lee (Chair), Mrs Carol Atkinson, Mrs Rachel Ayrtton, Mr Patrick Corbett, Mrs Elaine Drinkall, Mrs Caroline Eames, Mrs Jackie Entwistle, Mr David Fairclough, Mrs Fiona Ip, Mrs Vicky Mather, Mr Andy Metcalfe, Mr Richard Rhodes, Mrs Angie Rothwell, and Mrs Shirley Townley. Mr Robert Coleman is Clerk to the Governors.

The school is supported by the "Friends of Cawthorne's Endowed School". The Friends formed in 1997 and are highly effective in fund raising and also organising social functions. Last year they published a successful recipe book, and they hold an annual quiz night for the community, which is great fun. Through this fund-raising they pay for extras like ice cream on field trips, and cake, music and hire of the Hall for the Leavers Ball, which is the highlight of the year for the Y6 children, as they go to their new secondary schools. At present Mrs Zoe Longton is Chair of the Friends, Mrs Alison Sedgwick is Secretary, and Mrs Jackie Entwistle is Treasurer.

In 2011 and 2012 the school took part in a British Council project to connect schools in the Lancaster and Fleetwood area with school in Badulla district in Sri Lanka. Cawthorne's worked closely with Kirland and Catterall St Helen's CofE



Mr Corbett, Mrs Ip, Ms Jayanthi and Ms Jeeva, and some happy children.

school and with B/Sri Devananda, Mirahawatta school near Bandarawela in Sri Lanka. The children from all schools worked on various projects including Recycling, A Day in the Life of a Child, and Agriculture. As part of the project teachers from the schools were lucky enough to visit their reciprocal schools. In January 2011 Ms Mala from Sri Lanka came to visit and brought with her a wealth of information about life in Sri Lanka. The Abbeystead

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community were generous with their time and were happy to take Ms Mala in as a guest each evening to give her an idea about life in our area. Mr Corbett then visited Sri Lanka in May 2011. The project continued into 2012 with visits from Ms Jayanthi and Ms Jeeva and a return visit by Mrs Ip and Mrs German to Sri Lanka.

The annual calendar of the school holds many high points. The Easter Egg Hunt at Higher Lee is very kindly provided by Mrs Tizzy Entwistle and is much enjoyed by young and old.

Every second year, in May the older children are taken to London for five days. This includes children from other local small schools in Scorton and Calder Vale. They stay in Thameside Youth hostel and have a packed agenda. This year they rode on the London Eye, visited the Houses of Parliament, met their MP Mr Eric Ollerenshaw at 10 Downing Street, explored St Paul's Cathedral, the Golden Hinde, The National Gallery and took part in a Cosmetic Chemistry session at the Royal Institute.

In early June the School takes part in the Abbeystead Field Day, as it has done for many years, providing infant and junior races and athletic events in the early part of the day, before the adult events that take place later.

Mr Eric and Mrs Joyce Rhodes taught the children ballroom dancing in 2005, and now a Graduation Ball is held at the end of the summer term for those children leaving the school. All children dress in formal wear and are taught ballroom dances by a couple from the community who then become guests of honour at the ball. Cath and Ian McCallum and Robert and Jean Wadsworth have all kindly provided tuition.

The children put on a Christmas Play in the Village Hall each year, and for such a small cast they are magnificent. All the children are involved, even the very youngest! This is thoroughly enjoyed by the whole community, and there is standing room only available at the back as it is so popular. Also, an annual ecumenical Carol service is held at Over Wyresdale Church at which the children sing.

There were terrible floods in Southern England in the early 2014, and in school the children learned about the floods and its effect on farmers. A Valentine's mufti day was held, with the children all paying a pound to wear their own red and pink clothes, and a cake sale took place at the end of the school day, organised by Mrs Holly Longton, Mrs Jackie Entwistle and Mrs Kirsty Pye. In addition, the parents

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of the children, and other villagers, donated the proceeds of their annual quiz night to the cause and £185 was donated to The Farm Crisis Network to help farmers affected by the relentless wet weather.



Mr Patrick Corbett, Mrs Fiona Ip, and the children, all wearing red or pink clothes.

The area at the back of the school which was formerly the Men's club is to be developed into an additional classroom due to an increasing number of nursery aged children. Currently plans are being drawn up as to the best type of building and so the future will be an expansion perhaps not as our founder anticipated (a Grammar School) but instead to provide the youngest children with an excellent start to their school career.

So ends the third section of this booklet, as written by

*Monica M Lee
Hare Appletree House
May 2014*

CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED SCHOOL

The London Trip, 2014.



Left to Right: Ollie Ip, Daisy McCallum, Jessica Middleton, Amy Ayrton, Logan Crofts, George Drinkwater, Freddie Samuelson, Lottie Pye



Children from Cawthorne's Endowed, Scorton CofE and CalderVale St John's Primary Schools meet Mr Eric Ollerenshaw MP

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Back: Thomas Atkinson, George Drinkwater, Logan Crofts, Ollie Ip, Joshua Thistlethwaite, Jonathan Ayrton, Archie Mather.

Sam Entwistle, Grace Harrison, Amy Ayrton, Jessica Middleton, Joe Entwistle, Sam Foster.

Daniel Pye, Christopher Harrison, Michael Samuelson, Grace Ip, Lottie Pye, Freddie Samuelson, Autumn Crofts, Charlie Mather, Jake McCallum, Evan Crofts.

Scarlett Mather, Adam Ayrton, Sophie Herd, Heidi Macauley, Hannah Longton, Libby Entwistle, Lucy-Jo Pye, Ben Atkinson, Daisy Metcalfe.

Front: Olivia Ayrton, Olivia Fairclough, Taylor Pye

The Children at Cawthorne's Endowed School, May, 2014.



Cawthorne's Endowed
School
Abbeystead
1674~2014