

# The Parish Church of St. Anne, Ings



## A Short History

*Suggested donation: £1*

## Beginnings at Grassgarth

On 10th August 1511 Thomas Birkhede of Hugill was granted an indulgence to complete a beautiful chapel, dedicated to St Anne. It seems likely that this chapel was on the site of St Anne's Farm, at the top of Grassgarth Lane on the other side of the A591 from the present church. Remains can still be seen there which may date from that time or possibly from an even earlier church. Ings and Hugill were then part of the parish of Kendal in the Diocese of Chester.

In 1546 Henry VIII had a survey of religious establishments made. The survey includes *Service of the Chapelle of the Ings, in the parish of Kendalle - Sir James Inman, incumbent*. Inman heads the list of clergy on the board in the present church of St Anne's, but the next name is that of the Revd. Clement Stevenson in 1616, so it is likely that there were one or more incumbents in between. From 1616 to this day the line of recorded clergy is unbroken.

## The Present Site

A chapel on the present site of the church may have been built in or near the year 1616. A document preserved in the Chester Diocesan Registry, and certified by the Vicar of Kendal in 1717, says "*Ings, in Hugill, so called because of its position among the meadows. The Church was built about 100 years ago*".

Clement Stevenson was limited as to the range of services which he was licensed to conduct and even had to have his children baptised in neighbouring churches. The Diocesan Registry in Chester also contains a petition from the inhabitants of Staveley, including some living in Hugill, to the Bishop of Chester, asking him to grant to the minister of Staveley the right to baptise, marry or bury. Before this time parishioners had to travel to Kendal Parish Church for baptisms, weddings or funerals.

Permission was initially granted, but subsequently cancelled, because the churchwardens of Kendal Parish Church complained to their patrons, the Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge. It is likely that Ings was in the same position as Staveley, and it was not until some date between 1651 and 1700 that Ings Church was licensed for baptisms, and probably for marriages. The first burial at Ings did not take place until 1791.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Rowland Wilson, a wealthy London wine merchant born in Ings, was a major benefactor of St Anne's and of the Parish of Kendal.

He endowed a school (rebuilt in 1859) which is now Ings Parish Hall (across the lane from St Anne's Church) and established a charity which provided fresh bread every Sunday for the poor of the parishes of Ings and Kendal. Loaves of bread were left on the wooden shelf which is now on the West wall of the nave of the present church.

## The Bateman Church

The rebuilding of the church in substantially its present form was the generous project of Robert Bateman, an English merchant of Leghorn (Livorno) in Tuscany, probably born (to a poor family) at Reston, near Staveley. His portrait hangs on the North wall of the nave. The design chosen by Bateman was in the current Georgian style, similar in many details to his new house at Reston and clearly built by the same people.



The main entrance of the church was then at the south west corner of the building and from the outside the outline of this former entrance can still be seen in the stonework. The base of the tower was used as a small vestry. Above it was a West gallery used by musicians and singers before the installation of the organ. Bateman gave three bells to the church, which still hang in the tower and one carries the words "*Robert Bateman Merchant in Leghorn 1743*".

Over the door leading into the tower is Robert Bateman's coat of arms with a memorial tablet above -

*"This Chapel was begun to be rebuilt Anno Domini 1743 at ye sole Expense of Mr Robert Bateman, Merchant at Leghorn. Born in this Hamlet. But he dying Suddenly the Same Year the Work was ordered And Appointed to be finished by his Executors."*

At the East end of the church the altar was at floor level, with panelling behind it. The chancel and sanctuary were floored with marble, which Bateman had sent to beautify the church, possibly from the famous marble quarries at Carrara, near Leghorn. All the windows then had clear glass. Artificial lighting must have been by candles, with little or no provision for heating.

Between the church and the River Gowan stood the vicarage, now called Burnthwaite. One record suggests that this house was also built by Robert

Bateman or his executors. The near contemporary painting of St. Anne's Church and Vicarage on the West wall of the nave dates from the time of the Revd. William Kilner, Vicar of Ings (1764-1813)

Bateman died in Leghorn and is buried there in the "English Cemetery". He left money for walls and railings to be built around it. The house in which he lived still stands in Livorno and research is currently underway to learn more of his life there. The colourful legend that Bateman was murdered by the ship's captain on a voyage home to England is untrue, though still repeated. His proposed new home, Leghorn Hall (now Reston Hall) near Staveley, was often used as the vicarage when the parsonage house next to the church was not large enough for the parson's family. Bateman also gave instructions in his will and left money in trust so that houses each with a piece of land should be built "*for the dwelling of the poor families of Hugill and that they might benefit by the piece of land*". These houses were built at Grassgarth, close to St. Anne's Farm. The Bateman Trust still exists, though now it owns and manages the modern complex of "Meadowcroft Cottages" across the lane from the present church.

## The Wordsworth Connection

On 4th October 1802 William Wordsworth married Mary Hutchinson at the Parish Church of All Saints, Brompton-with-Sawdon, between Scarborough and Pickering, North Yorkshire. Two days later along with Dorothy, William's sister, they paid an afternoon visit to St Anne's on their way home to Dove Cottage, Grasmere.

Dorothy recorded the following in her journal.

*"Nothing particular occurred till we reached Ings chapel. The door was open, and we went in. It is a neat little place, with a marble floor and marble communion table, with a painting over it of the last supper, and Moses and Aaron on each side. The woman told us that 'they had painted them as near as they could by the dresses as they are described in the Bible', and gay enough they are. The marble had been sent by Richard(sic) Bateman from Leghorn. The woman told us that a man had been at her house a few days before, who told her he had helped to bring it down the Red Sea, and she had believed him gladly!"*



You would look in vain for any reference to the dress habits of Moses and Aaron in the Old Testament and Dorothy was obviously amused by the woman's grasp of geography. She recorded Robert Bateman's first name as "Richard" and later William incorporated the Bateman story they heard that day into his poem "Michael". It tells of an elderly couple fallen on hard times hoping that their son might revive their fortunes. The mother, Isabel, recalls other local young men made good, including 'Richard' Bateman. An extract from the poem is engraved on a brass plate by the vestry door.

*There's Richard Bateman, thought she to herself,  
He was a parish-boy--at the church-door  
They made a gathering for him, shillings, pence  
And halfpennies, wherewith the neighbours bought  
A basket, which they filled with pedlar's wares;  
And, with this basket on his arm, the lad  
Went up to London, found a master there,  
Who, out of many, chose the trusty boy  
To go and overlook his merchandise  
Beyond the seas; where he grew wondrous rich,  
And left estates and monies to the poor,  
And, at his birth-place, built a chapel, floored  
With marble which he sent from foreign lands.*

## **Major Changes**

In 1842 the church was extensively refurnished with box pews and the whole church painted and redecorated. The work was paid for by subscription and a list of the subscribers is on the West wall of the nave. Among them is Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV. Her connection with Ings is unknown but she did stay in Bowness for two nights in 1840 and she may have heard about St Anne's at the time.

In 1876 the Vicar of Ings, the Revd. Thomas Fenton, appealed for funds for repairs and improvements to the church.

*"In carrying out this needful work it is hoped that certain improvements may be made in the internal arrangements of the church, which, while preserving in its integrity the building so valued as the work of good Robert Bateman, will have the effect of beautifying the interior, and will at the same time render it more convenient for the reverent celebration of Divine Worship."*

An extension was built to house the organ and vestry on the north side of the church. It seems likely that at this time the altar was raised several feet, the marble floor relaid, and the box pews were replaced by open pine pews. The paintings of Moses and Aaron were moved to the West end of the church but at some point since have been removed altogether and their present whereabouts are unknown. The burial ground was also extended at this time. Friends of the Vicar gave new altar ornaments, cross, candlesticks and vases.

A brass tablet in the church records the completion of the work -

*This Church, built in the year 1743 by the bountiful hand of good Robert Bateman, was in the year 1877 restored and an Organ Chamber and Vestry added thereto by offerings from every one of the 197 people of the Parish of Ings, largely aided by the kind and generous help of many others, all of whom, out of gratitude and love to God and His worship, gave of their substance, not grudgingly or of necessity, knowing that 'God loveth a cheerful giver'.*

*Signed on behalf of the Contributors by Thos Fenton, M A, Vicar; Jos Bingley, Architect; Thomas Braithwaite; Churchwarden; Thomas Farrer, Schoolmaster. Deo Gratias.*

## **A New East Window**

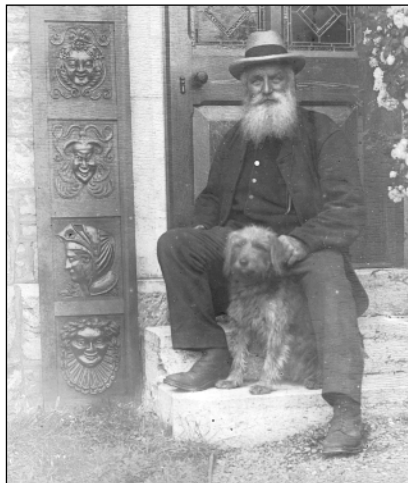
A few years later, in 1883, a new East window was dedicated. Its subject was *The Transfiguration*, and it was described as –“

*Our Lord, in white raiment;  
on his right Moses, on his left Elijah,  
at his feet the three Apostles, adoring.  
Inscription -To the glory of God and  
in memory of Isabella Thompson.  
Born June 6th 1825. Died February 1874.*

The window was designed by Edward Frampton, of Buckingham Palace Road, London. Other windows depicting *The Raising of Jairus' daughter* and the *Incredulity of St Thomas* were designed by Shrigley and Hunt, a Lancaster firm founded in 1875.

## William Fell the Woodcarver

In 1898 the panelling behind the altar and a lectern and pulpit of carved oak were added to the church. These were the work of a local woodcarver, William Fell of Common Farm. He also carved a vivid self portrait which hangs on the North wall of the church close to the pulpit. The pulpit and the panelling remain, but the huge lectern is presently in store and a more conveniently sized reading desk, made and given by our organist Alf Henderson, is in current use.



## Into the 21st Century

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the church building saw much life but little change. The school closed in 1972 and then reopened in October 1979 as Ings Parish Hall thanks to the work of the Parochial Church Council and the then Vicar, Ian Robins.

Now, thanks to our congregation, to local people, to the generous legacy of Dennis Sowerby, to a number of grant-making trusts, and to the dedicated commitment of a small project team, we have been able to refurbish the church once again. While the building retains its main focus as a place of worship it has been adapted for wider community use. It has an under-floor heating system powered by an air-source heat pump. It has been redecorated inside and out to a scheme suggested by the National Trust as in keeping with what may have been the original style - old and new working together.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our special church. Please take a moment to let its stillness surround and refresh you. Perhaps you will give thanks for all those who have worked to ensure that the church and parish of St Anne's has continued to play its part at the heart of local community life.

*Lord, whatever we build, give us a glimpse of glory.*

*Whatever we make, give us a sense of wonder.*

*Wherever we travel, give us a sense of reverence.*

*Whoever we meet, give us a sense of awe.*

*Whatever we do, give us a sense of achievement.*

*Whatever our situation, give us knowledge of you.*

**David Adam**

# Chapelle on the Inges in the Parish of Hugill

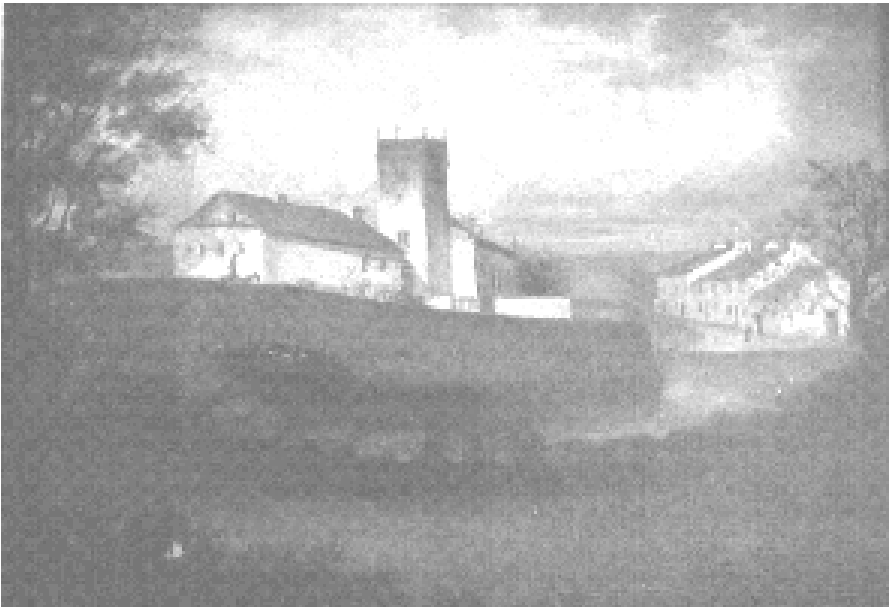
## A Chronology of Change

- 1511 Permission is granted to complete a chapel dedicated to St Anne – possibly at the older site up Grassgarth Lane.
- 1616 A chapel is built on the present St Anne’s site around this time
- 1634 Local benefactor Rowland Wilson donates a silver gilt chalice to the chapel. (This chalice survived the Reformation and is still in use)
- 1650 Rowland Wilson endows a school – now the Parish Hall – (rebuilt 1859) – and rebuilds and ‘beautifies’ the chapel.
- 1743 Robert Bateman endows and reforms the Chapel in a Georgian style:
- A new door is made, changing the entrance from the south-west corner (though the door remains for some years – see the needlepoint image of 1853) to the base of the tower;
  - The choir and chancel are floored with marble from Livorno in Italy where Bateman lives and works; there is also a marble pulpit;
  - The altar at the East End is at floor level with panelling behind it
  - Three bells are hung in a tower - built specifically to house them?;
  - The room at the base of the tower, (now the porch) is a vestry until much later;
  - Musicians play from the West Gallery above;
  - All the windows are plain glass.

A painting of the church and then vicarage (see next page) dates from sometime after completion, executed in the time of the Rev’d Kilner, Vicar of Ings from 1764-1813.

- 1783 A schoolboy William Wordsworth visits the then still fairly notable Ings Chapel where one of the company wonders at the marble abounding – even down the ‘very pulpit door’.





All burials, marriages and baptisms in the parish take place elsewhere; there is no burial ground at the Chapelle on the Inges. – until

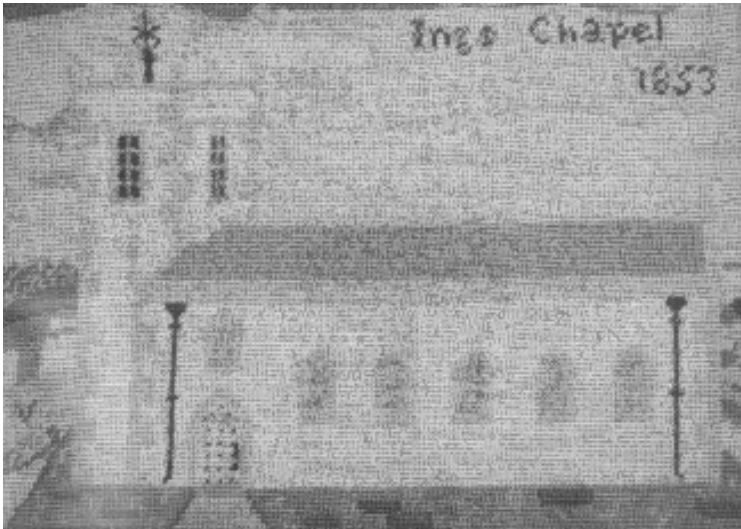
1791 first burial takes place.

1802 Dorothy Wordsworth records ‘Ings Chapel’ as being pretty much as Bateman intended it, with the marble floor and communion table; above the altar there is a painting of The Last Supper flanked by images of Moses and Aaron.

1842 The whole church is painted, redecorated, and refurbished, paid for by subscription which is recorded on panels still hanging in the building.

- It is furnished with box-pews
- There seems now to be a large wooden pulpit with a reading desk below occupying a space between two windows on the South wall.
- The life-sized paintings of Moses and Aaron are moved from the East wall to the west end of the church to flank The Ten Commandments (and at some point since have been removed altogether)

1853 This is what ‘Ings Chapel’ is shown to have looked like at the time.



- 1857 or shortly thereafter, a stained glass window replaces one of the plain ones in the south side.
- 1875 or sometime thereafter, another memorial window adds more colour to the south side.
- 1876 Rev'd Thomas Fenton, the then Vicar of Ings, appeals for funds for 'needful' and 'beautifying' 'improvements': all 197 people of the parish plus provide funds.
- 1877 The work is completed. It comprises:
- An extension on the North side to house the organ, and vestry, the latter being moved from below the tower.
  - Is it at this time that the South door seen in the needlepoint picture is blocked up and replaced by a window?
  - The altar is raised several feet
  - The marble floor is cut and re-laid to fit the new configuration.
  - The box pews are replaced by new pews - to be removed in 2012
  - New altar ornaments, candlesticks, vases and a cross are given
  - The burial ground is extended. (The main road (till 1913) still skirts the south side of the church, and fields run down to the north boundary)

- 1883 A new East window is dedicated, having been made in memory of one of the Parish who died in 1874.
- 1896 or shortly thereafter, another memorial stained-glass window is put in the south wall, replacing a more simple plain glass one.
- 1898 William Fell of Common Farm, a woodcarver, creates yet another pulpit for the church, now on the North wall, plus new panelling for behind the altar, and a huge lectern, (currently in store.)
- 1910 Photo shows gas lighting and pews (removed 2012)



- 1931 The organ is rebuilt and restored
- 2012 Church undergoes major reordering. Pews, underpew electric heating and raised wooden platforms removed. All pews purchased by members of the Church or local community. Installation of new sandstone floor and under-floor heating driven by an air-source heat pump, secondary glazing and loft insulation. Outside the church, access is much improved with paving (reclaimed from aisle) at the door, a new path with handrails to it and gates refurbished in memory of Kitty Wilson.

