

## **BRIDEKIRK-Incumbents**

There is no Clergy Board. From a brass plaque by the priest's door in the south crossing we know of

ALFRED SUTTON 1881-1938

He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1851 and gained his BA at Girton & Caius College, Cambridge in 1874 and his MA in 1878. He was Curate of Whitehaven St. James' from 1879 to 1881. After Whitehaven he became Vicar of Bridekirk to his death in 1938, Rural Dean of Maryport from 1893, and an Honorary Canon from 1899. He died in post on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1938 and was buried in Bridekirk Churchyard on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1938, after 57 years as Vicar, at the age of 87.

There are two monuments to him inside the Church:

The first (a brass plaque) is just inside the Priest's door in the South Crossing- 1881-1931: To the Glory of God and in appreciation of 50 years service by Canon Sutton CBE as Vicar of this Parish the electric lights were installed in this Church by public subscriptions Sept 1932.

The second is on the north wall of the Quire: In loving memory of MARGARET GRISELDA SUTTON/who died on 10 May 1987/aged 99/also of her husband/Air Marshal/Sir Bertine Entwistle Sutton/who died on 28 September 1946/aged 59/the only son of/Alfred Sutton/Vicar of Bridekirk/who died on 23 October 1938/aged 87.

He had been awarded the CBE in 1920 (promulged on page 3772 of the London Gazette dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 1920), for services as Chairman of the Cumberland & Westmorland Appeal Tribunal (where men appealed against their military conscription).

From the Whitehaven News obituary (which also has a photograph of him) we know that he had been a JP since 1901 (at one time Chairman of the bench), and a foundation member of the Cumberland County Council (formed 1888), and had been Chairman since 1914. At his death he was the only original member still serving on the council. He was also Chairman of Cockermouth Rural District Council, for 57 years until two weeks before his death. Since 1885 he had been a member of the Cockermouth Board of Guardians and Chairman of the Cumberland Public Assistance Committee. He was also Chairman of the Papcastle Parish Council since formation in 1894, Chairman of the Cockermouth Assessment Committee, and of the Derwent Fishery Board since 1913, Chairman of the County Insurance Committee since 1912, of the Cumberland Coal Trade Conciliation Board since 1928, of the Cockermouth School Governors, of the Cockermouth Industrial School Committee, & of the town branch of the Counties Savings Bank.

Previously he had been vice-chairman of the County Education Committee, a member of the Newton Rigg Farm School Committee, and a member of the governing body of the Workington Technical School.

An account of his funeral is on page 7 of the Whitehaven News of 27<sup>th</sup> October 1938 (the obituary is on page 4).

He was also a keen fox hunter. In 1878 he travelled to Abyssinia and Sudan, where he worked for General Gordon of Khartoum (by then Governor of Sudan), investigating the outflow of water from Lake Tana into the Blue Nile, and later into supply of wells on the railway route from Berber to the Red Sea. It was in Abyssinia that he had first learnt to hunt game.

From the CD of Graveyard Monumental Inscriptions we also know of the earlier clergy before Canon Sutton-Roger de Eboraco.

1307. Robert Urry, a Canon of Gisburn.

1316. Robert de Wilton on resignation of above.

1320. William de Thwenge, a Canon of Gisburn, on resignation of above.

William de Crathorn.

1380. Peter de Derlyngton, Canon of Gisburn.

1536. Jacob Adcoch.

1553. George Elletson.

Percival Wharton.

1563. William Robinson, on resignation of above.

1581. John Wheelwright, on death of above.

1625. Joseph Williamson,

1634. Nicholas Beeby, M.A., on death of above.

George Benson, Commonwealth Minister.

1660. Samuel Grasty.

1664. Thomas Belman, M.A., on resignation of above.

1680. Richard Tickell, on death of above.

1687. David King, M.A., on resignation of above.  
1701. John Harrison, on death of above, bur. 18 Feb. 1719/1720.  
1720. John Harrison, on death of above, bur. 7 Oct. 1755.  
1756. John Bell, on death of above, bur. 9 Dec. 1793. aged 78.  
1794. William Parsable, curate.  
1795. Humphrey Archer Hervey, M.A., bur. 23 Sept. 1843. Aged 76.  
1844. Joseph Ballantine Dykes, resigned.  
1848. Joseph B. Steele, on resignation of above, bur. 2 Aug. 1849. aged 28.  
1849. John Fothergill, resigned.  
1851. James Carter, bur. 19 Feb. 1881, aged 72.