

ST. JAMES VICARS BIOGRAPHIES

Parish of Whitehaven Publication HS 9

RICHARD ARMITSTEAD Vicar 1790 to 1821

Richard Armitstead was baptised on 20th January 1766 at Arncliffe St. Oswald's, North Yorkshire- the second son of Marmaduke Armitstead-a plebian (or commoner). Marmaduke was baptized at Arncliffe on 9th October 1735 (the son of John and Agnes), and was buried on 25th June 1811 having died on 21st June. The first child was John (baptized 15th May 1764, died 1789⁴), and later children were Agnes (19th July 1767), James (2nd February 1769, died 1708), and Elizabeth (9th March 1777). Marmaduke had married a Mary Savage of Bolton Percy (SW of York) in 1763 or 1764- the Marriage Bond is dated 10th March 1763. At the time of the bond being issued Mary was 21, 5 years younger than Marmaduke.

The Armitsteads were an old yeoman family from the Craven District of the West Riding of Yorkshire, both Richard's father and grandfather lived at Litton Hall. It is believed that he attended Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton (after an early education at the Village School)- but the records are insufficient to prove that. ¹ Litton Hall had been leased by Marmaduke's father, who had also owned New House Farm at Halton Gill. Marmaduke and Mary lived at Prospect House, Arncliffe (near the Falcon Inn). Marmaduke's brother, Richard, built Armistead Farm at Litton in 1734

Nothing is known of his early life, but he matriculated to Queens College, Oxford as a batter on 25th June 1784. His batter account shows that he started directly thereafter. The term 'batter' means that he paid for his batters (tuition and accommodation) but not for his commons (food). This would seem to indicate that he was on some kind of grant, as would have been necessary for the son of a commoner from a tiny North Country farming village.

He passed his BA in 1788 and his MA in 1791. His College Accounts show him as in residence until summer 1791. He must therefore have been an absentee Vicar for the first 6 months or so.

He was ordained deacon at St. George's Chapel, Windsor by the Bishop of Carlisle on 4th July 1790 and as priest just one week later at the same place, by the Bishop of Carlisle. The story behind this is contained in 2 letters in *Some Craven Worthies* pages 76-78 (Revd William Arthur Shuffrey 1903*). Bishop John Douglas was also a Canon of Windsor (since 1762), and Armitstead had befriended Revd Edward Wilson- another Canon of Windsor. There are two letters from Wilson to Mrs Knowles of Halton Gill- Wilson's sister and a neighbour of the Armitsteads. The Revd Wilson arranged with the Bishop (who wanted to give St. James to a friend), that this appointment should be made. He was to have been deaconed and priested on the same day, but the indisposition of Canon Wilson's Curate prevented that. The Bishop of Carlisle, in turn, personally recommended Richard on to Lord Lonsdale for the living of Whitehaven, having spent a week with him in Revd Wilson's company. After he was priested Richard received Holy Communion in the King's Private Chapel, slept overnight at Windsor Deanery and met the whole Royal Family, informally and formally.¹

[* Revd Shuffrey was Assistant Curate in charge of Halton Gill 1881-1893, Vicar of Arncliffe 1893-1916, Rural Dean 1898-1916, Canon of Ripon Cathedral 1911-1929 and died on 19th July 1932 aged 80, he also wrote the definitive history of the Litton valley].

At the age of 24 Richard was of the then minimum age to be appointed to a living He was inducted to Whitehaven St. James on Christmas Day 1790 having very unusually not served any curacy (sources Bishop's Acts Book & Commission to administer the oaths of office). Even for the time that was exceptional, and was presumably to fit in with the University Vacation. The institution could not wait until Richard left Oxford, as it had to be filled within 6 months of John Waite's death on 14th October 1790.¹

While at St. James Richard was a commissioner of land & property taxes for Allerdale above Derwent Ward, a vice president & auditor of the Benevolent Institution, Chaplain to the local Militia and a governor of St. Bees School from 23rd February 1814. He was also a magistrate in the town. WRO have a portrait of him⁵.

He married Agnes Lewthwaite (of Broadgate, Millom) on 14th September 1796, when she was aged 26- married at St. James. Agnes was baptized on 26th January 1770, daughter of William Lewthwaite (1740 to 1809) of the Cupola, Whitehaven (later rebuilt as the town hall).. WRO have two portraits of her⁵.

In total they had 12 children:

JAMES	BORN 1803	DIED 1804
AGNES	BORN 1804	DIED 1805
FRANCES ELIZABETH	BORN 1808	DIED 1808
MARGARET	BORN 1807	DIED 1809
MARGARET	BORN 1811	DIED 1826
JOSEPH	BORN 1810	DIED 1834
JOHN	BORN 1803	DIED 1853
RICHARD	BORN 1797	DIED 1859
MARY	BORN 1800	DIED 1869
AGNES	BORN 1809	DIED 1869
WILLIAM	BORN 1799	DIED 1870
FRANCES	BORN 1815	DIED 1890

Between 11th January 1813 and his death he was also Rector of Moresby, in plurality. A photograph of his portrait in Moresby Church is in the Church Archive Library- reference AL311. He was originally instituted on 11th January 1813, but failed to “read in” in the time required by statute, and had to be re-presented and then re-inducted on 26th May 1813. He succeeded Henry Lowther as Rector, whom he had instituted on 14th September 1812 but who was then promptly moved to Distington. In her father’s will Agnes was left £2,000 in trust (run by her brothers John of Lancaster and Revd George of Adel) for her children, and all her father’s property in Lamplugh, Frizington and Winder, also his pews in St. James’ Church.

On 14th December 1813 he wrote to the Bishop of Chester concerning the living arrangements². At that date there was no parsonage house in either Moresby or St. James Parishes, and Moresby was only worth around £100 per year of which £50 was paid to the Curate, and Highway Repairs cost £11 per year. He was notifying the Bishop that he intended to live in Moresby Parish for 6 months of each year, and St. James Parish for the other 6 months. In each case he would be only around two miles distant from the other church, and the Curate of Moresby was then perforce living in Whitehaven. He was also asking the Bishop to assist him in obtaining money from Queen Anne’s Bounty, or other sources, to build a Parsonage House in Moresby. The Curate also supplemented his income by teaching 23 pupils at a Private Seminary (the Moresby Classical Academy), at fees of 4 guineas per year.

He died on 18th May 1821 (at 41 Queen Street) at the age of 56 (according to the memorial stone in church), or 57 (in the burial register), and was buried on 21st May 1821 in St. James Churchyard. According to the Cumberland Pacquet he was buried in the South West Aisle of the Church (believed to be the only person ever to be accorded that honour). Therefore the memorial stone inside church may well mark the location of his grave. Unless he was baptised unusually late in life for the era his age at death would have actually been 55, or 56 at most.

Richard became a Solicitor and a member of the Cumberland New Churches Commission- as such he is

named in the conveyance of land from the Jefferson family for the building of Christ Church. He married Caroline Morland of Moresby on 20th June 1829 at Moresby Hall, under Licence, by his brother William. He entered St. Bees School in 1811 and qualified as a Solicitor in 1820. He was also Magistrates Clerk, Infirmary Secretary, and a Director & Secretary of the Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank, from its foundation on 5th February 1829.⁹

There appear to have been no Children from the marriage. In 1826 he went to Dominica in the West Indies to complete the sale of his mother's brother's (Joseph) plantation.³ This was but a few years before slavery was abolished.

He sailed from Whitehaven on 28th February on the *Cumberland* via Cork (10th to 15th March). The vessel was bound for Jamaica and called at Dominica especially for Richard. In 1826, the journal states, of the 18,873 population of Dominica, just 874 were whites, and 14,903 were slaves. The plantation being sold was Check Hall.

When he landed on 21st April 1826 he was presented to the Governor and the Attorney General, and was hosted by the richest planter, Charles Court. Although the majority were slaves they only worked a 5 day week (producing sugar and coffee exclusively for export to London), and had the same meal breaks as English labourers. The sale of the estate took around 3 months to complete, Richard left on 14th July and landed at Gravesend on 7th August.

Although he lived all his life in Whitehaven (42 Queen Street) and Moresby (at Millgrove according to his will also Lythmore at Quality Corner in the 1847 Trade Directory) he died in London (at 13 Cockspur Street) on 19th May 1859, and was buried in Grave 21060 at Brompton Cemetery. WRO have a portrait of him⁴.

The Church has photographs of Lythmore and Millgrove, as they are in 2010.

The Solicitors practice, in due course, became part of the Brockbank practice.

His wife Caroline is buried in the same grave and died at 60 Ebury Terrace, Pimlico on 23rd April 1870, aged 76.

William never married. After graduating from St. John's College, Cambridge⁶ he was Incumbent of Lorton from 8th February 1826 to 1864. He died on 15th February 1870¹⁰ and was buried at Lorton on 18th February 1870, aged 70, from his home at Oak-Hill, Lorton (Home of his sister Frances and her husband), by the new Vicar- Reginald Perring. He left £300 to his Sister, Agnes & £100 to his each of his 2 brothers in law, in his will dated 11th March 1869. He had died at 26, Albany Street, Edinburgh of Bronchitis⁴. He resigned from Lorton in 1848, but was promptly re-appointed⁷. He owned £812 of stocks in the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company and around £1,700 of stocks in the London and North Western Railway Company. The furniture in the house was valued at £211 and the horse and carriage at £107. Overall his Scottish estate was valued at £7,621. In the DBH papers there is also an excellent hand drawn and coloured plan of all the fields which constituted the Oak Hill Estate.

John emigrated to Paramatta, New South Wales (on board the *Prince Regent* on 25th February 1836, arriving in Sydney on 12th June⁴), where he was a Solicitor (admitted on 31st October 1836). WRO have a portrait of him⁵. Initially he had practiced in Lancaster from 1825. He became Coroner in 1838. He was declared bankrupt in 1843, and subsequently returned to England. He died at 42 Queen Street on 16th December 1853 and was buried on 19th. In the mid twentieth Century 42 Queen Street was the Commercial Hotel.

Joseph died in Jamaica on 20th October 1834, aged 26 at the Pembroke Estate, Parish of Trelawney, Cornwall County, Jamaica where he was the overseer⁴. He was buried the following day at Pembroke Churchyard by the Rector, W. Fraser.¹¹ It is worth noting that the Jamaican records are incorrect in giving his age as 26, as he had been baptized at St. James, Whitehaven on 19th October 1810 so was only just aged 24. This is backed up by an entry in the family Bible. The St. James' register states that he was born on 22nd August 1810.

Agnes married William Postlethwaite of Ulverston, his second wife, at Christ Church, High Harrogate (Knaresborough) on 7th September 1858⁴. She died on 1st June 1860 & is buried at Broughton-in-Furness.⁴

Frances married William Lancaster Alexander (WLA) of Oak Hill, Lorton & Shatton Lodge, Embleton, on 22nd January 1857, at Embleton St. Cuthbert. She died on 17th September 1890 in the Cockermouth Registration District (and has a memorial in Lorton Churchyard but is not buried there). WLA was born in around 1821 in the Toxteth Park area of Liverpool and died on 31st March 1910 (buried 3rd April). WRO have portraits of both of them⁵ & a photograph of Oak Hill⁴. WLA also owned the farms of Esps and Bouch House (Embleton)- 92 and 42.5 acres respectively⁴. He continued to buy up local land until his death. He was also Chairman of Cockermouth Magistrates and Chairman of the Town School Board. His estate was worth £84,000 in 1910 (around £6 million or more in today's money).

In the 30th March 1851 Census Richard Senior's wife Agnes (then 81) is recorded as living at 8 Scotch Street (as a Landed Proprietor) with her three surviving daughters (all unmarried)- Mary, Agnes and Frances and a servant girl Mary Ann Fearon- aged 21. This address was in the Parish of St. Nicholas. This is where she died on 15th April 1853.

Agnes (Richard Snr's wife) died on 15th April 1853 aged 83.

Mary died at Oak Hill, Lorton (with her sister Frances) on 1st February 1869, and is buried at Lorton Churchyard. She is remembered on the same granite obelisk as her brother (Revd William, of Lorton), Frances and WLA. Her will is particularly interesting. ⁸The church has photographs of the Obelisk, Oak Hill, Shatton Lodge, Esps and Bouch House as they are in 2010.

Margaret (2nd) died at Lythmore, Moresby on 15th April 1826, at the age of 15.

The Armitsteads at Lorton had significant interests in the Winder Iron Ore Mines (deriving from Agnes' inheritance from her father), and there are considerable papers about that at Whitehaven Record Office: DBH23/2.

There are only two legible Armitstead gravestones at Armcliffe, both of which are 19th century (the Parish has photographs of them)-

- 1) John of Halton Gill died 27/5/1857 aged 70, Jane his wife died 30/6/1850 aged 45, Margaret their daughter died 2/7/1853 aged 20 and Christopher their son died 2/9/1879 aged 44
- 2) James of Skeldsgate died 10/7/1863 aged 64, Marmaduke his son died 23/1/1868 aged 23, Jane (James' wife) died 13/3/1885 aged 77 and Ann their daughter died 18/8/1889 aged 55.

¹Sections marked thus are from the CWAAS Transactions, Volume LXV (1965) pages 374 to 380. In turn the genealogical data was provided by Mr T.M. Armitstead- a descendant of Richard's younger brother.

²The section marked thus is derived from the CWAAS Transactions Volume LXXII (1972) pages 338 to 339

³ CWAAS Transactions Volume LXXVII (1977) Pages 157 to 159 (includes a photograph of him), and WRO Document YDX 309/14, also 'The Lewthwaite of Broadgate Papers Part 2, by Tim Cockerill (2011)

⁴ WRO 309/10 and DBH 23/2/19

⁵ WRO YDX 309/11 ⁶ WRO DRC 10/25/22 ⁷ WRO DRC 10/25/21 ⁸ WRO YDLEW 5/5/2 ⁹ WRO YDLEW 5/11/49 ¹⁰ WRO DBH 23/2/18 ¹¹ DBH 23/2/19

JOHN ROBINSON Vicar 1852 to 1855

He gained his BA in 1847 & MA in 1862. He was deaconed in 1850 by the Bishop of Chester & priested in 1851. From St. James he went to become Vicar of Bowness, near Carlisle. He died between 1874 and 1885.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS PERRING Vicar 1855 to 1867

He was baptized on 15th May 1830 at Woodhouse St. Mark, Leeds, and was the son of Robert and Jane Eliza Perring. The family lived at Blundell Place, and his father was the Editor of the *Leeds Intelligence* Newspaper. At the 1851 census he was at St. Bees Theological College, newly arrived to start the two year course.

He was deaconed in 1853 and priested in 1854 by the Bishop of Ripon, and served his curacies at Leeds St. Paul, then Keswick St. John. The population of the Parish of St. James in 1865 was 5,916 & the income of the Parish was £230 per year. From St. James he went to Pattishall (Northants) to 1878 then Norton by Daventry. He married Frances Elizabeth Welch of Pattishall at Towcester in 1856, and had two children at Whitehaven-Frances Maud (baptized at St. James on 14th May 1858) and Cyril Augustus (baptized at St. James on 26th November 1856 when the Vicarage was at 17 Catherine Street). We do not know how he met a girl from Northamptonshire in Cumberland.

His first wife died in the June quarter of 1881 aged 50.

In 1883 he married Kathleen Emma Georgina Wintour in Shropshire. She was 32 years his junior and was born in Ireland. Nothing more is known of her before 1883 or after 1892, when she presumably returned to Ireland.

He died at Dodford Lodge, Northamptonshire on 25th December 1892 aged 62. He left his modest estate of £110/6/- to his second wife.

Cyril Augustus was an Assistant Master at St. German's Chapel (a Private School at Kidbrooke, London) in 1881 and married in London (Strand) in 1888. However he too disappears from sight.

Frances Maud married a Campbell Stuart Harris (from Great Malvern) in 1890. In 1891 he was the Curate of Little Houghton, Northamptonshire. By 1901 he was at Tipton, Staffordshire.

There were more children born at Pattishall.

THOMAS REDMAYNE HOLME Vicar 1867 to 1871

He graduated from Cambridge Emmanuel College in 1848, was deaconed in 1852 & priested in 1853. In 1858 he was chaplain of HMS President & in 1865 of HMS Narcissus. He died in the East Ward Registration District of Westmorland, at the age of 51 in the June quarter of 1877.

JOSEPH BARDGETT DALTON Vicar 1871 to 1878

He graduated from Queens College Oxford in 1863 & gained his MA in 1866. He was deaconed in 1865 & priested in 1866 by the Bishop of London. He served his curacies at St. Philip, Earl's Court & Reading St. Mary. From Whitehaven he went on to Saltburn then Darley Dale (Derbyshire) by 1885. He died at the age of 48 in the Nottingham Registration District in the March quarter of 1890.

DONALD JOHN FORBES MacLEOD Vicar 1878 to 1881

Donald McLeod was born at Drynoch on the Isle of Skye. Before that his father (Martin Donald McLeod) was born at Glenelg on the mainland opposite Skye. This is now the departure point for the only remaining ferry from the mainland to Skye. Until into the 20th century droved cattle and horses were swum through the narrows of Kyle Rhea at this point.

His father had an interesting military career in the Napoleonic Wars and met his wife in Roscommon, Eire. His family then emigrated to Canada in 1845 (probably due to the Highland Clearances) where they settled just north of Toronto. He was one of seven children.

He trained for the priesthood at Trinity College, Toronto, where he was presented with the Annual Reading Prize in 1859 & gained his M.A. in 1861. After ordination in 1861 he was Curate of Welland, Canada then he held the incumbency of the parish of Holy Trinity, Chippawa (near Niagara Falls,

Canada) from 1863 until his return to the UK in October 1878 when he came to Whitehaven. Between 1875 & 1878 he was Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Niagara.

Holy Trinity Church, Chippawa was founded in 1820, but the church Donald McLeod knew (and still the current building) was built in 1841, after the earlier building had burnt down.

At the end of February 1881 (but had been appointed on December 7th 1880) he moved to the Parish of Hope-in-Worthen, Shropshire (formerly Montgomeryshire) where he remained until his death on 30th April 1896. In our Parish Archives we have photographs both of the man himself and of his gravestone. From 1881 he was jointly Rector of Shelve. The move was caused by the general health of his family, and was on medical advice. In particular he had recently had to go to Paris as his daughter Mary Elizabeth (Minnie) had had to move to the south of France, due to TB. She died at Davos, Switzerland in 1896, aged 34, having married in 1892.

Hope-in-Worthen is in the Welsh Borderlands on the edge of the scenically wonderful Long Mynd.

It is notable that there was no interregnum before his successor, Robert Duncan, started. We know this because the last recorded service of Donald McLeod is 27th February, the first of Robert Duncan is 6th March (although Duncan was not actually instituted until 16th March).

The husband of one of Donald McLeod's older sisters (Hugh Munro McKenzie of Prospect House) was one of the principal benefactors of the building of Distington Holy Spirit Church (the 1886 replacement for St. Cuthbert's). Their close presence may have been one of the reasons for his coming to Whitehaven. Hugh Munro and the sister, Alexandrina Barbara, are buried at Distington- a smart cross on the right hand side of the path, just inside the gate.

When he was in Canada Donald was known as Donald Ian McLeod, but Donald John both in Whitehaven and Shropshire. The reason for this is that Ian or Iain is the Gaelic for John, so would have been an unfamiliar name then south of the border. The Gaelic version of his name is Domhnaill Iain. However, on Skye, the Iain is often rendered as Eoin. The name on his gravestone is Ion (not John or Ian) which is probably a corruption of the Eoin by a Shropshire stonemason to whom that name would have been totally unfamiliar.

The biographical detail has been provided by his great grandson, Andrew Havergal, who lives in Bedfordshire. This Parish provided some assistance to him, from our records, in providing information about his time in Whitehaven.

The data provided has also enabled Canadian Church and local history records to be updated and expanded.

ROBERT DUNCAN Vicar 1881 to 1906

He graduated from Oxford St. Edmunds Hall in 1872 & gained an MA in 1876. He was deaconed in 1873 & priested in 1874. He was Curate of St. James from 1873 to 1875 then Carlisle Holy Trinity between 1875 & 1879 & then Standish (Lancashire) to 1881. He returned to St. James for his first post as Vicar & was also Chaplain of the Infirmary from 7th August 1889.

In 1906 he moved to Kirkoswald (in succession to Canon Thornley) , until his death on Saturday.24th June 1933 at the age of 85. He had been ill for several weeks but had been noted for his active life. One resident said that, until the last illness "The way he could get up Kirkoswald bank would have made many a man of forty ashamed".

In the Church is the original of the Registrar's Death disposal Certificate. There is a full report of the funeral (held on 27th June) in the Cumberland News of 1st July 1933.

The Church was packed for the funeral, conducted by the Vicar of the neighbouring village of Lazonby (also Rural Dean), and the Archdeacon of Carlisle (who read the lesson). Committal was by the Assistant Bishop Danson. The service was attended by Vicars/Rectors of nearby parishes of Ainstable, Melmerby, Ousby, Addingham, and Renwick, also by Revd Dudding (the new Vicar!, formerly of Wigton), and by the Methodist minister. His widow was unable to attend, but his son (John, now of Coventry) and three daughters (Dorothy, Muriel and Mrs Strange) were present. Dorothy was also the organist. Psalm 90 was sung, as was the hymn 'Jesus, lover of my soul' and the Nunc Dimittis. As of Autumn 2010 there is no

surviving gravestone.

JOHN WILLIAM HARTLEY Vicar 1906 to 1930

He was deaconed in 1890 & priested in 1891. He gained a 3rd Class Classics Degree at Cambridge in 1884 and an MA in 1919. He served curacies at Arlecdon from 1890 to 1892 & Workington St. John from 1892 to 1901. He was Vicar of Tebay from 1901 to 1906 & died in post at St. James.

In 1908 the population was 6,382 (by 1929 was 6,675) and the income was £310 rising to £407 by 1929. The Vicarage in 1908 was at 'Field House', Wellington Row.

He was also Chaplain to the Whitehaven & West Cumberland Infirmary from his arrival, and became an Honorary Canon in 1927.

He died in post, at Whitehaven Hospital, on 1st July 1930, having gone off sick on 20th April.

He was buried on 4th July 1930 in Grave 5G28 of Whitehaven Cemetery. His gravestone was paid for from the surplus in the fund of donations which paid for his memorial window.

REGINALD GILES MALDEN Vicar 1931 to 1941

Born in London on 8th April 1899 (son of a Vicar), he graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1921 with a Classics degree & gained his MA in 1925. While at Cambridge he was cox of the 1st and 3rd Trinity rowing crews.

Before that he was educated at St. Edmund's School and then enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment. Due to a weak heart he did not see active service, but duties included guarding a Prisoner of War camp. He became Lance Corporal, but then reverted to a private for reasons unknown.

He trained at Ely Theological College, was deaconed in 1923 & priested in 1924. He served his title at St. Luke, Gillingham, Kent from 1923 to 1925, then emigrated to Australia.

While at Cambridge he had met Rt. Revd. Philip Crick, the recently appointed Bishop of Rockhampton, Queensland.

He invented Rex out to Australia to be Curate of Rockhampton St. Paul's Cathedral 1925 to 1926 & Barcaldine St. Peter 1926 to 1928.

He then returned to the UK in early 1928 and had a final curacy at Brighton St. Nicholas from 1929 to 1931.

There he married Grace (Meg) Reynolds on 22nd June 1928, and they had their first daughter, Anne.

He was inducted and instituted to the living of St. James on Friday 27th January 1931- the day after the 4th Haig Pit Disaster. In his first week in the parish he took three funerals of victims of that disaster: Matthew Storey, William Cowan and Robert Parkin.

He had had a long term interest in photography, but while here that became a passionate hobby. In 1938 he converted the vicarage box room into a dark room. Their second daughter, Mary Frances, was born here (baptized 13th May 1933).

While here he set up the Murray Street Boys Club, in Charles Street in April 1937

On leaving Whitehaven on 5th January 1941 he was Vicar of Wigton (instituted 17th January 1941) to 1947 then Corbridge with Halton until retirement in 1970. He was also Rural Dean of Corbridge between 1951 and 1960, and a Canon of Newcastle Cathedral. Two more children were born there.

He retired to Alnwick, and later to York where he died on 2nd January 1982.

There are continuing memories of his time here through the two volumes of his photographs, which were published by his son in the early years of the twenty first century.

When he left Whitehaven he was presented with a weekend case and a testimonial cheque, at his leaving party on 3rd January.

JOHN ROBERTSON HARDIE KNOX Vicar 1941

He trained at Edinburgh Theological College in 1915, was deaconed in Glasgow in 1921 & priested in 1922. He was curate at Dumfries St. John 1921 to 1923, Priest in Charge of Prestwick St, Ninian 1923 to 1928, then Rector of St. Mary the Virgin, Belize from 1928 to 1939 & Canon of Belize Cathedral from 1932 to 1939.

EDWARD DENNIS TYNDALL Vicar 1941 to 1944

He graduated from Oxford Pembroke College in 1912 & gained an MA in 1928. He trained at Wells Theological College, was deaconed in 1914 & priested in 1915 at Birmingham. He was Curate of Stitchley The Ascension from 1914 to 1919 & a Forces Chaplain from 1915 to 1920. He was then Vicar of St. Jude, Birmingham from 1920 to 1941.

He was instituted to St. James on 27th April 1941 and left on 11th January 1944. There is a photograph of him on page 3 of the "News" of 24th July 1941.

On 15th January 1944 he was installed as Provost of St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

CRYIL GODFREY SHEWARD Vicar 1944 to 1971

He was born at 3 Aynsley Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent in 1900 and graduated from the University of Manchester in 1920 and then became a Methodist Minister.

His father, James, was a Telegraph Engineer Inspector.

He was ordained into the Church of England in 1942 (deaconed 1st March & priested 20th September), and was Curate at Barrow St. John. The rest of his ministry was at St. James, where he was instituted on 22nd April 1944.

He was on holiday at the time of the 1947 William Pit disaster, but broke that short to visit and comfort the bereaved families. The Memorial Chapel Sanctuary Lamp (from a Miner's Lamp) was given by the Mine Manager in recognition of his work at that time.

He was severely deaf after a plane crash while serving in the Royal Flying Corps in World War 1.

He was Chaplain to Meadow House Hospital (the former workhouse) from 1947 to its closure in 1964.

He was appointed as an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral on 17th November 1966, and retired on 30th April 1971, when he was presented with a "handsome" cheque and a nest of coffee tables, made by Mr J. Pearson, the People's warden.

He died at "Cedar Garth", Burgh by Sands on 10th August 1986, having been predeceased by his wife in 1976. His ashes were buried in the St. James Memorial Garden after a Memorial Service at 2pm on Sunday 12th October 1986.

He had three children- David (married to Mary) who emigrated to New Zealand, Catherine (married to John), and Noel (predeceased, but had married Judy). David, aged 13, was confirmed at St James on 10th December 1944

JOSEPH HOGARTH Vicar 1971 to 1975

He was born in 1932, and deaconed on 21st May 1967 & Priested on 24th December 1967. He served his Curacy at St Mary Walney Island until 1971. He was instituted to the Parish of St. James on 30th June 1971 at 7.30pm. After leaving at Christmas 1975 he became the Vicar of Millom with Thwaites from 10th January 1976 to 1982 and then Maryport to 1991. He then became Vicar of Consett (Durham) until 1997, from where he retired to Dartford. As of June 2010 he is still there.

ALAN JAMES POSTLETHWAITE Vicar 1977 to 1984

Born in 1938 in the Barrow area he graduated (in Politics & Economics) from Durham University in 1960, was deaconed in 1962 & priested at York in 1963. He was curate of Nottingham (Hull) from 1962 to 1965 & Cockermouth from 1965 to 1967. He was then Vicar of Seascale from 1967 to 1977. He was instituted & inducted to the Parish of Whitehaven on 24th February 1977. In 1976 (while at Seascale) he became Chairman of the West Cumbria Community Health Council.

He had to mould a new parish, and complete the legal and other business consequent to the merger of the three parishes, as well as meet the spiritual needs of his congregation.

He went to Kidderminster St. Mary & All Saints after leaving St. James, retiring from there (date unknown) to Lindale in South Cumbria. As of June 2010 he is still there.

JAMES (Jim) HENRY BAKER Vicar 1984 to 1985 then Team Rector of the Parish of Whitehaven 1985 to 2004

He was born in 1939 at Barrow in Furness and trained at Kelham Theological College.

His first curacy was at Sheffield Arbourthorne between 1967 and 1970, then his second at Pemberton St. John (Diocese of Liverpool) between 1970 and 1971.

Between 1971 and 1974 he was Chaplain & Precentor at Edinburgh St. Mary Cathedral, subsequently becoming Rector of Lochgelly until 1984 (jointly with Priest in Charge of Rosyth from 1976). From 1983 to 1984 he was also an Honorary Canon of Perth St. Ninian's Cathedral.

His ministry in Whitehaven began on 5th September 1984, then in September 1985 he became the first Team Rector of the Parish of Whitehaven. While at Whitehaven he was also Rural Dean of Calder between 1996 and 2001, and was appointed an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral on 17th November 1996.

He was awarded an MBE in 2002.

While in Whitehaven his wife, Ann, was ordained. Jim retired upon leaving Whitehaven when his wife (10 years younger than him) became Vicar of the Eskdale (West Cumbria) group of parishes. Ann and Jim then completely retired to St. Bees from 31st July 2012.

JOHN LESLIE BANNISTER Curate 2000 to 2002, Team Vicar 2002 to 2004 & Rector 2004 to 2013

Born in 1955 he graduated from Kent University in 1976 with a Certificate in Management Studies.

After a career in the Health Service he took the Carlisle & Blackburn Training Institute Diploma in 1998, graduating with an MA (Theology) from Lancaster University in 1988.

He was then deaconed in 1988 and priested the following year. His first curacy was at Flimby with Netherton.

On 1st November 2000 he started his second curacy at the Parish of Whitehaven, and on 2nd July 2002 became Team Vicar. He was additionally Hospital Chaplain from November 2000 to July 2003.

When Jim Baker left he then became Team Rector on 11th October 2004. He retired from the Parish to Milnthorpe on 31st March 2013, and his last service was on 9th March 2013. A special quarter peal of 1296 Ipswich Surprise Minor was rung on 10th March to mark his retirement.

He married Ann Townsend on 26th February 1977 in Liverpool. They had two children.

Produced by I.S. Nicholson

The information contained within these bibliographies has been extracted from CCed, Crockfords, Bishops Acts Books at Chester to 1865, Bishops Registers at Carlisle from 1865 and many other sources, including censuses, GRO indexes, and wills.