

History Notes

on

St. James's Church, Whitehaven

“Take proper care of your monuments, and you will not need to restore them. A few sheets of lead put in time upon the roof, a few dead leaves and sticks swept in time out of a watercourse, will save both roof and walls from ruin. Watch an old building with anxious care; guard it as best you may, and at any cost, from every influence of dilapidation. Count its stones as you would jewels of a crown; set watches about it at the gates of a besieged city; bind it together with iron where it loosens; stay it with timber; where it declines; do not care about the unsightliness of the aid: better a crutch than a lost limb; and do this tenderly and reverently, and continually, and many a generation will still be born and pass away beneath its shadow.”

(John Ruskin: “The Seven Lamps of Architecture.”)

Chapter VI. ‘The Lamp of Memory’. Paragraph XIX.)

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a revision of the scholarly work by D.P.Sewell in September 1972. It has been updated to reflect the changes in the 39 years since.

In respect to the roundels and the role of Christopher Myers, revisions have been made in response to research by Dr. Frederick O'Dwyer of University College, Dublin (specifically his essays "In search of Christopher Myers: pioneer of the Gothic revival in Ireland", pp 51-111 *Studies in the Gothic revival*, pub 2008, Four Courts Press and "Robert West, Christopher Myers and St. James's Church, Whitehaven, pp 15 to 23, Volume XII [2010], *Journal of the Irish Georgian Society*). We are grateful to him for sharing this research with us.

In 1972 it was possible to write a history of St. James's in isolation to that of the other Anglican Churches in the town. That is no longer possible, so some brief historical context is required.

Until 1855 Whitehaven was part of the ancient Parish of St. Bees and all churches in the town were strictly chapelries within that Parish.

The first Chapel in the town was that of St. Nicholas on Lowther Street- which is known to be in existence at 1642. This Church was replaced in 1693. That building lasted until 1883 when a growing town required a larger church.

The next Chapel to be established in the town was Holy Trinity which was dedicated on 2nd October 1715. Continuing population growth led to St. James being built in 1753.

The final Anglican Church to be built in the town centre was Christ Church. That Parish was created on 5th August 1845, to cater for population growth in the Preston Street/Ginns/ Arrowthwaite part of the town. The Church itself was opened on the 29th of September 1847.

With slum clearance and other demographic changes Holy Trinity lost its congregation towards Christ Church and the two parishes were merged in 1935. Holy Trinity was then demolished in 1949, as it had become structurally unsafe. The grounds and former graveyard, on Duke Street behind the Civic Hall, were laid out by Whitehaven Borough Council in 1950 as public gardens.

The third St. Nicholas Church was almost completely destroyed in a fire on 31st August 1971, and the decision was taken not to rebuild. Consequently that Parish merged with Christ Church.

During the 1970's the Diocese undertook a review of the town parishes and it was decided to form a new Parish of Whitehaven combining the 4 former Parishes. This formally came into being on the 24th February 1977. Due to depopulation of the Parish Christ Church was closed on the 29th May 1977. The building was sold into private hands. Following a devastating fire in 2004 the building had to be demolished for structural reasons.

In the 1980's the tower area of St. Nicholas, which had survived the fire, was converted into a

chapel/café/community space and is now an important part of the Ministry of the Parish, not least because of its central position in the town.

Thus the Parish of Whitehaven now has two Church Buildings- St. James' and St. Nicholas Tower Chapel.

Throughout this booklet there will be inevitable cross references to St. Nicholas, Holy Trinity and Christ Church.

There are 3 other Anglican Churches in the town: St. John, Hensingham (formerly a separate Village)- an ancient Chapelry of St. Bees; St. Peter, Kells (opened as a mission on 20th October 1920, then divided out from Christ Church Parish in 1939) and St. Andrew, Mirehouse (opened 19th May 1956, divided out from Christ Church & Hensingham Parishes). These latter two were built to cater for the expansion of the town's suburbs.

THE CHURCH

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From its commanding position on High Street at the upper end of Queen Street overlooking the Town centre of Whitehaven the Parish church of St James stands massively and watchfully domineering in the conservative austerity of its bold outline. This fine Georgian Church was built between February 1752 and July 1753. It is the oldest Church extant and in religious use in the Borough of Whitehaven. It was built at a time when the town's population had risen from 6,000 in 1739 to nearer 9,000 in 1750 and when the existing churches in the town, the Old St. Nicholas and Holy Trinity, were unable to accommodate the increasing number of people who wished to worship with their families in a church. This well-founded need expressed itself in a request by "several of the principal inhabitants of the town" to Sir James Lowther, Bart., the Lord of the Manor, to earmark a piece of ground on which a new church could be erected. Sir James offered and donated a site in 'High Street', his offer was readily accepted, a number of subscribers came forward, a Trust Deed was drawn up and completed on the 6th January 1752. The text of the Trust Deed is quoted in the original Vestry Minute Book (1752-1913); the latter also lists the names of the subscribers and the amounts promised to cover the cost of erection. The subscribers are classified as:-

Peter How	John Towers	John Wells
John Benn	Henry Littledale	Gawan Harris
John Spedding	George Ritson	Joseph Rothery
Carlisle Spedding	Jacob Thompson	Joseph Hind
Isaac Hamilton	John Knail	John Stockbridge
James Spedding, Junr.	John Tideman	James Towers
John Younger	Edward Robson	Thomas Kendall
William Hall	John Williamson	John Simpson
Edward Fletcher	Mary Littledale	William Smithson
John Wilkinson	Lancelot Spedding	William Masheder
William Fletcher	John Hudson	William Atkinson
Joseph Barwise	William Batty	William Wilson
William Piper	Thomas Robinson	John Piper
Daniel Benn	Lawrence Harrison	Joshua Iredale
Joseph Hale	James Clark	John Temple
Henry Braithwaite	William Littledale	William Barker
William Williamson	Richard Spedding	Charles Hodgson
William Hicks	Thomas Briscoe	Stephen Beck
John Jackson	Thomas Piper	Henry Hind
William Palmer	Anthony Piper	Anthony Crosthwaite
Gabriel Griffith	John Fletcher	Thomas Atkinson
Christopher Myers	Henry Benn	Jonathan Steele
Peter Peile	Eleanor Johnson	Thomas Cowman
Isaac Gaitskale	James Hall	James Grayson
Robert Harper	James Souter	Thomas Moor
William Gibson	William Vickers	Christopher Harrison
Leonard Hind	Henry Hutchinson	William Simpson
Richard Sandick	Joseph Bragg	Richard Burton
Joseph Cowman	Richard Mawson	Jabob Wheelwright
Anthony Fletcher	John Robinson	William Dunn
Joseph Williamson	Thomas Bragg	Thomas Caldbeck
John Foster	Henry Christopherson	William Bacon
Jacob Brownrigg	James Taylor	James Pearson
John Nicholson	Joseph Troughear	Jonathan Hudson
Henry Richardson	Isabel Canney	Jonathan Harris
John Townson	John Ponsoyby	

The names of Robert Sanderson, William Harrison and John Harrison are also mentioned later and from time to time the number of subscribers varied according to domestic circumstances, which explains the difference in the numbers quoted later.

At the inaugural Meeting of 6th January 1752 the broad outlines of a chain of control were fashioned. In

exchange for the subscriptions pews with seats were to be allocated by lottery and pew holders could in turn sell or bequeath their seats. Headed by Sir James Lowther with a subscription of £500 there were 23 subscribers at £50 each, 1 at £40, 19 at £30, 2 at £25, 30 at £20 and 33 at £10. For the allocation of pews the subscribers were to be grouped into 4 classes, £50, £30, £20 and £10. In addition to setting up the method of allocation of the pews and the control machinery to govern the financing of the church, which would include the levying of rates upon the pewholders and the provision of a yearly stipend to the Minister officiating at Divine Service, the Meeting appointed Peter How, John Benn, John Spedding, Carlisle Spedding, Isaac Hamilton, James Spedding Junior, John Younger, William Hall, Edward Fletcher, John Wilkinson, William Fletcher and Joseph Barwise as Trustees. Additionally, Carlisle Spedding and Peter Peile, Gentlemen, were appointed Churchwardens for the period of one year “and after such time as Divine Service shall be first celebrated.”

At the next Meeting of the Trustees held on 3rd April, 1752, it was RESOLVED:

That the said Church be built according to the plan now produced by Mr Carlisle Spedding and that the sd plan be presented amongst the papers belonging to the sd Church:

That Mr. Carlisle Spedding and Peter Peele be appointed Cashiers to receive the severall Subscriptions for building the said Church and to pay the workmens wages weekly, the same shall become due and for Timber and other Materials as the same shall be laid in and that they keep an exact Acct. of all moneys by them received and paid;

That the wals of the said Church and Churchyard be carried on with all possible expedition, and for that purpose that Advertisements be printed and dispersed in the several market towns in the County to encourage masons and labourers to resort to this town;

That the wages to be allowed to good masons be 16d. and to labourers 10d. per day and that the masons tools be sharp'd at the Church expence;

That Mr Dan'l Benn be employ'd to keep an Acct. of the masons, labourers and others employ'd and to direct and order the said Building;

That the Subscriber pay in a quarter part of their several subscriptions to the said Messrs. Carlisle Spedding and Peter Peele on or before the 18th of this inst. April to be employ'd in paying the workmens wages and other necessary disbursements;

That a proper person be appointed to keep an Acct. of the Carts employ'd in leading stones from the Quarry and that to be allow'd for his trouble and attendance (----) per day;

That a small smith's Shop be erected in some part of the Churchyard and a smith be employ'd to sharp the workmens tools therein and to make what Iron work may be wanted while the said building is carrying on.

Later, additional finance for building work was derived from three precepts upon the subscribers authorised by Meetings of the Trustees held on 5 October 1752, 22 February 1753 and 5 July 1753.

With the site acquired no time was lost in bending to the task of building a church in eighteen months. Masons and labourers first built a wall to surround the site and John Heron was appointed smith. Jos. Dickinson and William Wood were appointed overseers and time-keepers. The working week was Monday to Saturday- 6 days. Payment was made by tokens; these were bronze discs used instead of currency of the realm. They were issued to the employees, were numbered or inscribed, and had a local circulation or limited to employer and employee. Masons were allowed ale on Saturday nights; the accounts of Daniel Benn refer to “Saturday night potts to masons.” Alehouses were familiar meeting places at that time and contracts were sometimes negotiate there by churchwardens. The original Vestry

Minute Book of St. James's Church (1752-1913) has fortunately preserved for posterity the details of all the payments made and the various amounts received in connection with the building of the church . The weekly pay bills starting with No. 1 for the week ended 15 February 1752 and ending with No. 76 on 11 August 1753 are given in detail. The numerous items included in this unique record make fascinating reading and study for the social historian.

In February, March and early April 1752 the masons and labourers were busy and some 1,500 cartloads of stones at 1½d or 2d per load, 500 loads of sand at 2½d a load, builders rubbish at 2½d a load and over 500 yards of 'rudding' from local quarries at 4d to 4½d a load were moved. Cart hire was 2s 6d a day, Wheeled carts known as 'coups' or 'coops' were in use. In April 1752 the foundation stone of the church was laid, but there is no available record on which date and by whom, but years afterwards an old woman named Sally Lisk, who kept a shop in George Street, took a pride in telling in her tremulous tones that she remembered the laying of the stone on that great occasion.

In planning supplies of materials timber presented no problem for Carlisle Spedding was a member of the firm of James Spedding and Co., Timber Merchants, Whitehaven and Keswick. Stones were procured from Barrowmouth, from Myers Quarry, the Low Quarry, the High Quarry (or Upper Quarry), Whitehaven Rocks, Bransty Rocks, Stony Bowe, Latimer's Quarry at Bransty. Alabaster came from Barrowmouth, fresh water sand from Moresby and Lowca Beck, flags (14 squares and 14 half-squares) from Dublin, slates and lead were shipped to Whitehaven from London and Liverpool and slates were also obtained from Lancashire at Kirkby Ireleth.

In an allocation of responsibility Isaac Gaitskell was foreman joiner and carpenter, J.Burton-Foreman slater, William Harrison-Foreman sawyer, Samuel Pool, Henry Hutchinson, Robert Sanderson, Robert West and John Waugh were plasterers, Andrew Brown turned the stone pillars (ground Floor), Benjamin Backhouse was responsible for turning the wooden gallery pillars and also for other wood turnery, Anthony Tomlinson carved the Ionic capitals and the roses on the gallery fronts. (There were 94 roses at 4d each).

The total amount of the Expenses building the church are shown in the Vestry Minute Book under the date of May 4th, 1756 as:-

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Labourers	309	10	10	This book of Accts	3	0	
Masons	363	17	5	Two quire paper	1	4	
Carts	194	15	1¾	Printing adverts, etc.	15	0	
Walling Churchyard	11	7	4	Thos. Bragg- damage of			
Rudding and Quarry	44	13	1¼	his ground by ye			

Pickbearers	5	10	10	Quarry	2	10	6
Ale to Masons	7	8	4	Paving churchyard			
Hewing Stone pillars	12	12	0	front	3	16	6
Hemwork about the				Ropes, etc.	7	1	1½
Church and raising				Expenses meetings		16	8
Steeple	164	5	1½	Sweeping the church			
Smith	36	13	2½	at sundry times	1	0	8
14 tons coal for the				Three giggins		6	0
smith	2	6	8	Girthweb		3	0
Overseers keeping weekly				Oakham 2s. Candles 13s		15	0
A/C's				Dressing yard gutters		2	6
Jos. Dickinson	10	17	10	6 loads coal Vestry			
Wm. Wood	9	8	8	room		3	0
Iron for the smith	2	19	0½	Blocks. James Atkinson		9	0½
Timber & Deals, etc.	690	1	7	Handlock & spring bolt		1	0
Carpenters work	69	13	9	Looking glass Vestry			
Joyners Work	262	4	11	room		15	0
Sawing Timber & Deals	71	1	7	Exchanging Church			
Carvers	17	5	6	Bible		17	0
Turners	11	8	8	Sweeping church for Qr			
Iron Monger for				ending Lady Day 1756		6	6
Nails, et.	38	6	1½	Isaac Patrickson for			
Slates for the roof	63	6	9	sundry incidents Nov.			
Slaters work	30	3	9½	11, 1753 till December			
Lead for gutters				19, 1755	2	3	4
19t. 19c. 2q. 2lbs	275	9	1½	Sundry Creditors to			
Plumber & Glaziers work				be added:			
Jn. Piper	46	5	7	Jas. Spedding & Compy.			
Geo. Ritson	47	19	¾	for Timber	58	19	¾
Glass for windows	24	16	0	Jos. & Henry Hind			
Lime for Masons				Painting	45	17	6½
and Plasterers	54	1	6	Thos. Lindale clock	1	10	0
Cartmakers work	5	11	4	Exors. Mr Carlisle			
Hare for plaster	10	17	7	Spedding for sundries			
Plasterers work and				disbursed		2	19
Ornaments, etc	63	1	10½	Total		4	
1000 laths	1	8	0			£3408	7
Painting Altar-							6½
Mr. Dalton	42	0	0				
Painting Church-				Deductions:			
Messrs. Hinds	45	12	0	Stores sold	2	4	8
Church bell	149	3	9½	Sir James Lowther,			
Freight of do.	2	7	7	Bart., for timber	8	19	8
Communion Plate	7	19	9	Pair old door handles			
Pewter flagn, etc.	1	14	5	sold		2	6
Vestments	19	10	¾	Sale of lead			
Drawing Instruments for				3t. 1c. 3q. 21 lbs.	41	16	1¾
Consecration	3	18	7	Funeral fees recd. By			
Consecration fees	8	12	6	I. Patrickson		1	3
Church books	4	19	11			0	
Register & Clerk's book	1	7	0			£54	5
Church clock	30	0	0				11¾

Summary

	£	s	d
Gross Expenses b/d	3,408	7	6¼
Deductions b/d	54	5	11¾
Net Expenses	3354	1	6½

From the original accounts of the church dealing with the building in 1752-53 payments by the subscribers were summarised as:-

1 st class	£1411	0	0	2 nd class	£682	10	0
3 rd class	£749	10	0	4 th class	£404	0	0
Add Sir James Lowther's end gallery pews					£60	0	0
Blank pew (No. 208) sold to Dan Pearson					£10	0	0

Total £3317 0 0. The Church's indebtedness of £37 1s 6½d was then covered by subsequent receipts.

Original maps of the town of Whitehaven published in 1642 and 1690, and supplemented later, in 1738, by Matthew Read's 'Bird's Wye View of Whitehaven' shew the nature of the small compact centre

huddled near the sea front and flanked by the then undeveloped purlieu of the town. In 1752-53 when Carlisle Spedding was working out his plan for the new chapel of St. James's there were no houses in George Street and the road to the chapel lay up Queen Street to the Rope Walk which ran across the line of the later George Street. The approach to the chapel was through fields and over stiles, and for many years it stood thus separated from the town streets. Later, in the case of funerals, the rope yarn was lowered to enable the bearers to pass. News of happenings was difficult to procure in those days, and the first newspaper 'The Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser' did not appear until October 1774, hence contemporary records are but slight, but the infusion of new money into the locality and the attraction of masons and labourers to the town created conditions of assured relative prosperity. In such circumstances the erection of a new building of importance was a notable landmark. The scene on the site of the new chapel must have beggared description as the blue checked shirts and the clogs of the workmen, the horses, the lumbering carts became a daily familiar sight. At the height of the activity it has been estimated that as many as 140 to 160 persons were engaged in the erection of the new chapel. Steady progress was maintained, and the 'timber raising' ceremony of October 7th, 1752, which attracted an entry in the accounts of £1. 18s. 6d., was a landmark successfully negotiated. Carlisle Spedding, in his professional life a mining engineer in charge of the Whitehaven Collieries of Sir James Lowther, was a man of high scientific attainments. He had three problems to solve: he had to provide a fitting house for the ritual of the church, with a fireproof roof, all to be done with such materials as ships and packhorses and carts could carry, and also to let in to the building as much light as the conventional small glass windows of that day could provide.

In the drafting of his overall plan he had one cardinal aim, and that was to get the proportion of the church right. That these proportions were admirable is well indicated by a present day appreciation from the pen of Professor J. Brian Crossland writing in '*The Whitehaven News*' in his series of articles 'Taking a New Look at Old Whitehaven' No. 4 article 'The Georgian Era', 22nd January 1970: "Move about the church as you will, and from whatever angle, the building is perfectly proportioned and satisfying. The architect held in common with all great designers a faculty for thinking and planning three-dimensionally. In his embellishment and decoration he added the quality only obtained by the student of design and proportion, the knowledge of pure, classical architecture, and the faculty to use this knowledge, which is the basis of all great 18th Century building, necessarily supported by the craftsmen whose skill was equal to the overall conception".

Further to work by Professor O'Dwyer of Dublin (cited in the Introduction), it now seems very likely that some of the architectural embellishments of the church were influenced by the Irish architect Christopher Myers, and indeed that he was the true architect. Myers always claimed to be a trained engineer and architect. Although best known for his work in Ireland Myers was born in Lancashire (now Cumbria) at Backbarrow. This village was part of the Holker Hall Estate of Thomas Lowther. In the 1740's the Holker estate fell into decline, and it would appear that Myers moved to work with Thomas's brother: Sir James Lowther. He married on 21st March 1745 at Holy Trinity, Whitehaven, and is listed amongst the St. James' subscribers. From Myer's own records it is known that he worked on Whitehaven Harbour- so must have been working either for James Lowther direct or under Carlisle Spedding. In any event they would have been professionally known to each other. A number of subsequent ecclesiastical and secular buildings in Ireland (North or South) bear significant resemblances to St. James in their decorative aspects. Further details are contained in Dr. O'Dwyer's essay.

And in the major schemes of alterations and restorations in the church when the recesses of the church were utilised to enhance its dignity and purpose the architects entrusted with the work derived benefit from the overall plan of the original architect.

When the chapel was consecrated and a short interval ensued before the first Minister was appointed (Thomas Spedding was licensed on 21st September 1753) Carlisle Spedding's primary task was ended. He had builded better than he knew. Thereafter Incumbents and Churchwardens were at the helm. Carlisle Spedding did not live long after his great work. He died in 1755, killed in a gas explosion, on August 8th.

In the old Holy Trinity Church, Whitehaven, could be seen a monument to his memory in the porch and in the Parish Register of that church is a burial record: "1755. August 10. Carlisle Spedding, Steward of coal mines, burnt in ye coal pits."

A Meeting of the Trustees held in the Chapel on Monday 20th August 1753 received the Account of Receipts and Disbursements relating to the building of the Chapel from Mr Carlisle Spedding and Mr Peter Peele. The Minute proceeds "The Right Revd , the Lord Bishop of Carlisle (by Commission from the Lord Bishop of Chester) having consecrated the Chapel on Wednesday the 25th day of July last (being St. James's Day) by the name of St. James's Chapel, and the Pews therein being since Numbered and Rated according to their respective largeness and situation in the best most equal manner we are able so as that the Rates of the whole Pews make up the Expense of the Building as near as can be computed And the said pews having been divided into Four Classes denominated £50, £30, £20 and £10 Classes in order to be divided amongst the Subscribers according to their several subscriptions, pursuant to the powers given to the Trustees by the original Subscription and a plan of the said Chapel and the Numbers and Rates of the Pews with the Classes into which they are to be divided in order to their being Lotted having been laid before the Trustees and approved of by them. It is Ordered that the First Class Denominated £50 consist of 28 Tickets, the 2nd Class Denominated £30 consist of 22 Tickets, the 3rd Class Denominated £20 consist of 35 Tickets, And that the 4th Class Denominated £10 consist of 38 Tickets, each Class to be numbered progressively 1,2,3 etc., and that in each of the Tickets so numbered the Numbers and Rates of the Pew or Pews thereto belonging be inserted and the Tickets in each Class be put into one Box That the names of the Subscribers in each Class be put into another Box That to prevent all partiality one schoolboy be appointed to draw the Ticket and another schoolboy to draw the Subscriber's name out of the Respective Boxes, and the Names answering to the Tickets so drawn against each other shall be entitled to the Pew or Pews mentioned in the said Tickets and noted accordingly by the Chapel Wardens That where the Rates of the Pew or Pews drawn in each Lot is more than the money subscribed by the Person so entitled to them the said person shall pay up the remainder of the money according to the value of the Pew or Pews that fall to his Lot, and where the value of the Pews falls short of the money he shall pay only according to the Rates of the Pews that fall to his Lot. That every person so entitled to any Pew or Pews as aforesaid may upon request have a Ticket signed by the Chapel Wardens entitling them to the said Pew or Pews according to the times mentioned in the original Instrument of Subscription But before the Chapel Wardens sign such tickets the person to whom they belong shall pay up the full Rate of the Pews or Pew and on failure of such payment for one month after Demand the Chapel Wardens may dispose of such Seat or Seats to whom they please. That the Chapel Wardens give Notice to the Subscribers that the Pews will be Lotted in manner aforesaid on Wednesday next ye 22nd instant at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the said Chapel. That the like Notice be given for the Election of a Minister to perform Divine Service in the said Chapel at the time and place aforesaid by a majority of the owners of Pews then present."

At the Meeting convened by Carlisle Spedding and Peter Peele and held on 22nd August 1753 and attended by seat owners the pews were accordingly "lotted", and the meeting reached the following conclusion and decision about the choice of the first Minister of the new Chapel: "Now we whose names are subscribed being a majority of the voters present at such Meeting have elected and made choice of and by these presents do unanimously elect and make choice of the Reverend Mr Thomas Spedding Clerk an honest and learned man, to be the first Minister of the said Chapel and we earnestly recommend him the said Thomas Spedding to the favour of the said Sir James Lowther in order to be properly nominated to and inducted in the bodily profession of the said Chapel with all its rights and appurtenances whatsoever Witness our hand this twenty second day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty three." The minute of the meeting was signed by 87 voters. Thereafter Sir James Lowther, Bart., nominated and appointed Thomas Spedding accordingly, on August 27, 1753, and the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Chester issued a licence to Thomas Spedding, the copy deed being as follows:

Whereas the New Chapel lately built at Whitehaven in the parish of Saint Bees and Diocefs of Chester is consecrated and Call'd Saint James's Chappel, and the Right of nominating a Curate to the said Chappel belonging to me, I do hereby Certifie whom it may concern, and particularly the Right Reverend Father in God Edmund Lord Bishop of Chester Thomas Spedding Clerk to be curate of the said Chappel at Whitehaven and Saint James's Chappel, and I do hereby desire his Lordship to Licence him accordingly. Witnefs my Hand and Seal this Twenty seventh day of August in the Twenty Seventh year of our Sovereign Lord King George the Second, and in the year of our Lord One Thous. and Seven Hundred and Fifty Three.

Witnefs:

LS

*J. W. Spedding
Benjn. Bigg*

J.A. Lowther

CONSECRATION.

The building known as St. James's Chapel was consecrated on the Feast of St. James the Apostle and Martyr on Wednesday, 25th July, 1753, by the Lord Bishop of Carlisle (Richard Osbaldeston), acting under commission from the Bishop of Chester, in which Diocese the church or chapel was then included. The sermon was preached by the Bishop's Chaplain, Dr. John Brown, M.A. from the text St. John, chapter iv, verse 23. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him." This sermon was printed in an 8vo book of 26 pages, comprising over 4,000 words and was "Inscribed by the Preacher to Sir James Lowther, Bart., of Whitehaven, and the rest of the subscribers to the building of S. James' Church, and published at the desire of the congregation 1755." The Church now possesses a transcription of the service, and a copy of the published book of the sermon (which has been re-typed and is now back in print in booklet form). Both documents are available on request. Bishop Osbaldeston is buried at Hutton Boscal Church, Scarborough.

CLOCK. On the 7th March 1753 at a meeting of the Trustees it was decided that

"Whereas the Rt. Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop of Chester is expected to visit this part of the Diocese in the month of July next it is ordered that the Pews and other parts of the work now carrying on be expedited so as that the Church may be ready to be consecrated by his Lordship upon his said Visitation."

At the same time it was agreed that

"Whereas it will be of Public Advantage to the Town to have a Bell and a Clock that may be better heard than those at the other churches are now, and this Church standing on High Ground, 'tis like to be of more general use to have a good Bell and Clock there it is ordered that a Bell of about Twenty Hundred Weight and a Clock propper for the Uses it is designed for be provided as soon as possible, and that it be referred to Mr Carlisle Spedding and Peter Peele to treat with and Agree with propper Founders and Workmen accordingly."

A clock made by a local blacksmith, Thomas Lindal of Whingill, Whitehaven at a cost of thirty guineas was installed in 1754 as an engraved brass plate shews. The plate bears the names of C. Spedding and

P. Peele and Thomas Lindal, Whingill. A sailcloth tarpaulin cover was later made for the clock face.. This clock functioned for 118 years but in 1943 was superseded by a remodelled clock (formerly at the Silversmith's Company, London) by Potts & Sons, Leeds at a cost of £100. It was intended to have an electrical striking mechanism fitted, but this has not yet been done. A quote was obtained in 1950 which was deemed to be unaffordable. A fundraising week was held between 6th & 12th September 1943, which raised £155/10/10.

The story of how this clock was obtained is supposedly that the then Vicar was caught in the rain in Leeds. A van stopped and offered him a lift. It was driven by a Ron Dove, a fitter for Potts of Leeds and a well known bell-ringer. In the course of the conversation the Vicar mentioned that the clock was out of order, and Ron Dove said that Potts had a rescued clock from the bombed out Silversmiths company building- would we like it?

The original clock was 'one-handed'.

THE BELLS. In March 1753 a bell of about 20 cwts was purchased from Thomas Mears of Whitechapel, London at a cost of £149 3s 9½d.; the freight charge from London was £2. 7s. 7d. This bell did not prove to be satisfactory over the years, and in 1812 another bell, weighing 21 cwts, 14 lbs., was purchased from Thomas Mears & Co. London at a cost of £219. 8s. 2d plus £10. 10s. 9d for insurance and cartage. Freight charge from London was £3. Part of the old bell, 11cwts, 3 qrs, 17lbs at 15p.p. was sold to Thomas Mears & Co., for £83. 6s. 3d., with a set off of £1. 16s. 6d for freight to London, wharfage and cartage. In 1842 the second bell was recast by Thomas Mears & Co., of London at a cost of 13 pence per pound for a weight of 22 cwts. 1 qr. 15 lbs. A rigger was paid £2. 3s. 10d, for taking down and hanging the bell and insurance on the bell was 16s. 4d to and 16s. 8d from London. Weighing the bell for shipment was 3d. and the Bill of Lading charge 1s. 1½d. This bell now forms Bells 3, 4 and 5 in the modern peal.

With its massive tower St. James Church had long suggested a peal of bells. However this did not come about until 1978 when a peal of 10 bells was created, supplemented to 12 in 1998 (although a subscription list to provide funds for a peal was mooted as far back as 1775), whereas its neighbours Hensingham St. John's and Cleator Moor St. John's long had fine peals. It was once a source of comment in the town with the clashing of the St. James's and Holy Trinity bells toned in E and the St. Nicholas' bell toned in F.

The Church now has a fine peal of 12 bells- full details of which are given below. This peal is the same size as that of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. The number 6 to 12 bells were originally in the Church of St. Alkmund, Derby and were rededicated here on the 15th December 1978 by Cyril, Lord Bishop of Derby.

Bell 1 Note B Founded Taylor 1998, Dedication "Revd Russell Rebert", bearing the symbol of the Sri Lankan Church, weight 3 cwt 0 qtrs 22 lb

Bell 2 Note C Founded Taylor 1998, Carries the Copeland Borough Council coat of Arms, weight 3 cwt 1 qtr 18 lb

Bell 3 Note A Founded 1978 Taylor from Original 1753 Bell Dedicated "In memory of Thomas Stanley Durham [sometime St. Nicholas Churchwarden] and Sarah Elizabeth, his wife." weight 3cwt 1qtr 16 lb
Bell 4 Note G Founded 1978 Taylor from Original 1753 Bell -The Christ Church Bell- Inscribed "Nomen et memoriam continuare Ecclesiae Christi 1847-1977", weight 3 cwt 3 qtr 10lb

Bell 5 Note F Founded 1978 Taylor from Original 1753 Bell- The Trinity Bell- Inscribed "Nomen et

memoriam continuare Ecclesiae Sanctae Trinitatis 1715-1949”, weight 4 cwt 1 qtr 9 lb

Bell 6 Note E 1846 Recast Taylor 1908, weight 4 cwt 2 qtr 6 lb

Bell 7 Note D 1846 Recast Taylor 1908, weight 5 cwt 1 qtr 4 lb

Bell 8 Note C 1846 Recast Taylor 1908, weight 5 cwt 3 qtr 25 lb

Bell 9 Note B*b* 1588 Recast 1846 & 1908, weight 7cwt 0qtr 17lb

Bell 10 Note A Oldfield 1586 Inscribed “Ut tuba sic resona ad templa venite pii”, weight 8 cwt 1 qtr 22 lb

Bell 11 Note G Oldfield, possibly 1624, Inscribed “All glori be to God on high- 1624”, weight 10 cwt 2 qtr 3 lb

Bell 12 Note F Recast Taylor 1872, weight 16 cwt 0 qtr 1 lb

THE CHURCH GROUNDS. To enclose the land given by Sir James Lowther, Bart., a wall was built and heavy wooden gates served as an entrance to the churchyard and the church. In 1804 Abraham Bell, mason, rebuilt the churchyard wall on the south side at a cost of 1s. 1d. per yard. John Crooks pulled down the old wall and removed the materials to the place where the new wall was to be erected, at a cost of £5. The expense of building the new wall was £11. 1s. 10d. In 1823 the Earl of Lonsdale made a present of new iron entrance gates, and at a cost of £27 J & R Hilton fitted new pillars and steps, fixing the gates and repairing the and coping the wall. The tall High Street boundary wall originally built was lowered in the 1960's to its present level. The gates were completely refurbished and restored in the summer of 2006. In 1823 the Earl of Lonsdale presented trees to the church; these were planted in the churchyard, but no trees remain today. In December 1773 a sun-dial was purchased. In 2007 a new disabled access ramp was created on the south side of the Churchyard from High Street to the south side door of the Church, as the former ramp access was non-compliant with current regulations.

The church cemetery plot was used as a burial place for over 100 years. Between the dates of the first burial, Thomas Robinson on Christmas Day 1753, and the last one, a child named Mary Ann Seaton of Queen Street, aged 11 years, on November 15, 1855, 6,445 burials took place in the churchyard. In 1855 the public cemetery on the Low Road, Whitehaven was opened under the newly formed Whitehaven and Preston Quarter Joint Burial Board, and all churchyards in the town were closed for burials.

In 1832 an outbreak of Cholera swept the district and hundreds of people died. At St. James's the first burial was on 4th July and there were 67 burials in the period to the end of September. All were buried in a piece of land at the rear of the church, which became known as “the Cholera Ground” but the ground was never consecrated, and has in the second half of the twentieth century been properly and legally used for extensions to the land in the control of St. James's Junior School. The ‘cholera ground’ plot of land was given to the church by the patron.

The Churchyard is now an “open space”, maintained by Copeland Borough Council. The gravestones were moved to the boundary walls by the then Whitehaven Corporation in 1957, under faculty jurisdiction. A list of the headstones is recorded by Mr H.B. Stout, A.R.I.B.A. in the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Tract Series No. XVI 1963. The only headstone that has not been moved is on the north greensward, that of the Gordon Family, which has been retained as a condition of the Faculty to indicate the original purpose of the ground historically.

At the East end of the churchyard, directly east of the Apse there is a garden of rest. As this is now full a second garden of rest, also on the East Wall but 16 metres south of the original, was established in 2005. Each of the gardens has Balmoral Red granite plaques affixed to the boundary wall, which record the names of those whose ashes are interred- now well over two hundred in number.

WINDOWS. The original windows were square-headed, all filled with small plain glass, which cost £24. 16s .0d. In the 1871-72 Accounts appear payments to a total of £184. 15s. 0d., to J.Walker for new windows; these had red coloured margins and Scripture texts. Over 20 windows of this type are still in the church- some of the text panels have become broken in the intervening years- they have been replaced by plain red glass panels. The four original windows in the wall of the east end of the church in the ground floor have been bricked up, and their position is clearly visible on the exterior wall.

The eleven stained glass memorial windows in the church are listed separately.

PEWS. The system of proprietary pews was maintained until 1943 when the Parochial Church Council abolished pew rents, an annual sum of £40 to be contributed to the church expenses towards the stipend by way of compensation. The original and ingenious system of selling pews and creating a vested interest of proprietary pews did not attract comment at the time, but the Vicar of the parish had this to say in the Church magazine in 1904: “At this time (1886) a very laudable attempt was made to make the church free and open, as all churches with a truly Catholic spirit should be, but after struggling on for a few years- and we deeply regret to record it- owing to financial reasons, the pernicious system of appropriated pews was again adopted.” On more than one occasion previously the Bishop of Carlisle had spoken strongly against the system under which church pews were held in Whitehaven, and had urged upon the churches the extreme desirability of throwing open their doors for the free admission of all, but a movement in that direction had never found much support. By 1880 the gallery of St. James’s was practically free, but legal difficulties stood in the way and prevented the sponsors of the movement to free the pews. In 1867 the Bishop of Carlisle writing to the Vicar of the parish, the Reverend T.R. Holme, confirmed that Churchwardens have the power to fill up all seats however appropriated which have not been occupied by the party to whom they were appointed, in the way they think best for the best advantage of the parishioners. Over the years the sale of pews diminished and eventually the way was open for the 1943 decision, taken by a special meeting of the Vestry and Congregation on 5th July. In the Choir Vestry can be seen an original document in the form of a Pew Allocation- No. 28- dated 2nd August 1753.

The original pews were of the highbacked type. Square, with a door opening into seats arranged on three sides of the pew. The gallery was in tiered seating. Many families of that period had servants and most went to the Church Services. In the 1886 restoration scheme attention was drawn by the Architect to the single pews “so high and narrow as to be inconvenient to sit in and almost impossible to kneel in.” A local writer said that the pews “were of Puritanical style, the high sides and ample proportions of which while well suited to worshippers who were in the habit of standing during prayers and thus required some material support were ill adapted to the postures and methods of public worship that now prevails.” The Architect arranged that the fittings of the large pews were to be taken down and reformed with single open pews, as sufficient sound framing existed in the fittings, which with the addition of new wood to widen the seat boards and a strong new back rail and supporting strut, would along with new capping, provide satisfactory seating, the existing doors to be reduced in height to form the seat ends. Seats would be spaced three feet apart, and were to have low sloping backs. In this improvement and abolition of the old square backed pews the congregation were able to worship with their faces towards the ministering clergy.

LIGHTING. Candles provided the first means of lighting the church and wax candles and tallow

illuminants were followed by oil lighting. In 1803 the churchwardens paid £20 for a 'chantelier compleate'. In 1830 Jno. White was paid £13. 3s. 0d. for oil and candles, and payment was made of a yearly wage for trimming lamps. In 1832 gas was introduced and the way paved for evening services. In 1904 electricity was installed at a cost of £318 and the gas fittings were removed. The Faculty Application mentioned the installation of one arc lamp outside the church with 80 incandescent lamps inside. Improvements have been progressively made in both internal and external lighting in recent years.

HEATING. The heating of the church was first by coal fire; the price of coal then was 3s. 4d. a ton. Gas was used for heating from 1832. In 1857 a large 25 cwt. Gurney stove was placed in the west end of the south aisle. This stove was removed in 1910 when low pressure hot water pipes from a coke fired boiler provided central heating. This was installed between 30th October and 19th November, being used for the first time the following day. In 1970 oil central heating was introduced. This was replaced by an electric system around 1980, and updated in 2001 to a gas boiler (at a cost of £5,401.68)- which now provides very adequate heating very rapidly.

In 1904 the Vicar when referring to the heating of the church by gas and stove was moved to comment "In spite of their united efforts the church has often been bitterly cold in the winter months, and unless some better means can be adopted in the future, seeing that there will be no gas to give assistance, we venture to suggest that a warming pan might be added to each pew, for to expect much spiritual warmth from a starved body is rather unreasonable."

In 2012 sheep's wool insulation was installed to the roof spaces, a first in the Diocese of Carlisle.

THE ALTAR, made of cedar wood, finely carved and inlaid and decorated in gold, was the gift in 1872 by the family of James Borrowdale Steward. This is now located at the east end of the South Gallery, but was in the Memorial Chapel from 1980 to 2000. The current High Altar was installed in 1980, having formerly been in Holy Trinity Church until it was demolished in 1949, and thenceforward in Christ Church- until that Church was closed in 1977, by which time the Parish was united with St. Nicholas. As such this Altar can be regarded as a symbol of the unity of the four former Parishes of the centre of Whitehaven. It bears a plaque "To the Glory of God this Altar was given by L.P.L. Benson All Saints Day 1904."

The original Communion Table was made by George Hilton at a cost in 1753 of 16s. 0d. The marble credence table fitted in the sanctuary wall (south east) is in the shape of a scallop shell, which was the emblem of the Apostle to whom the church is dedicated. The former "Bishop's Throne" (now in the Baptistry) was presented in 1886 by Miss Mary Harris Fearon of 19, Irish Street, as a family memorial. An inscribed plate on the back of the chair reads "Live of Eternity D.O.M. Presented by Mary Harris Fearon. In Memoriam John Fearon died 27 January 1815. His widow Ann Rudd Fearon died the 31st December 1819. Thomas Fearon died 30 June 1847. His wife Jane Harris Fearon died the 18th July 1846. The Rev. John Fearon M.D. , (Oxon), died the 4th May 1880. His wife Ann Elizabeth died the 2nd March 1877."

In a covering letter offering the chair Miss Fearon explained that "respecting the names at the back of the chair, now all interred at separate churches, they unitedly selected the Altar of St. James's Church, the first generation being married by the Reverend Spedding, the second by the Reverend Armistead, and the representative of the third generation there officiated for the first time at the marriage of his second sister Elizabeth on the 25th June 1838."

The other four former Sanctuary Chairs (two now in the Baptistry, and two at the East End of the South Gallery) are said to have been sent from Armagh Cathedral.

The memorial (Sanctuary) Lamp was given by the mother of John George Golightly who was lost at sea

on 25th August 1940, as a result of World War 2.

The Mothers Union Banner for the Parish of Whitehaven was fabricated in 1980 by Watts & Co. of London, using Safir silk supplied by Sekers Mills, Whitehaven. The former St. James Mothers Union Banner is at the West End of the North Gallery. It was dedicated on 11th December 1935 by the Rt. Reverend E.D.L. Danson D.D. It is a representation of Raphael's "Madonna del Granduca" which is hung in the Pitti Palace, Florence. (A copy of this picture can also be seen in the Memorial Chapel). This banner was worked by Miss M.B. Hughes of Wallasey, during a stay in Australia.

The Clergy and Choir Stalls date from 1979, and were installed as part of the reordering. The server's benches were installed in 1997, thus completing the set of new Chancel furniture.

THE PULPIT is a beautiful example of a 'wine glass' pulpit. It has been in its present position since 1886. There is a photograph in the Vestry (which can be viewed on request) which shows the pulpit as it was sited in the centre of the church. It was a three-decker type, that is, with a pulpit proper with reader's desk and clerk's desk in front. This was taken down in 1865 and a pulpit placed at the north corner of the Apse where the organ is now sited. This removal invoked a lot of opposition, but at that time no chancel had been formed and the choir members were seated in the west gallery, where the organ then was installed. At the restoration of the church in 1886, when the organ was moved to the north east and a chancel formed, and choir seats installed there, the pulpit was then removed to its present position. No opposition was raised to this removal nor to the restoration and re-seating. In the 1886 restoration a handsome reading desk was erected; this was ornamented at the top with a portion of the old wood taken from the first reading desk. In the 1979/1980 restoration the pulpit was lowered to its current height. This generated substantial opposition, but was primarily necessary because the gallery seating had, perforce, to be taken out of use. Consequently there was no requirement for the Preacher to be positioned at such a height. The former pillar and upper steps were retained, as a Faculty condition, and can be seen at the extreme East End of the South Gallery.

THE ORGAN. The Organ, a three-manual instrument, was built by Norman & Beard Ltd., of London, to the specification and design of Lt- Col. G. Dixon of St. Bees at a cost of £1,090/3/6 (source Accounts in November 1909 magazine). It was dedicated, as a brass plate records, by the Lord Bishop of Carlisle, the Right Reverend J.W. Diggle, on May 28th. 1909. A full specification of the instrument is available in the Church.

No mention is made in the Vestry Minute Book of the type of music originally provided.

Three pews were earmarked for singers, who received instruction from paid instructors from time to time; these singers were encouraged by outings and dinners. Women were included as well as men until 1880, when women were replaced by boys and the surplice was introduced. Boys had previously been included before 1861 and from that date received payment. The surplice was first used in the pulpit by the Reverend T.R. Holme, when he was made Vicar in 1867, but no surpliced choir was there until 1882. In 1816 a pitch pipe was purchased at a cost of 5s. 6d. On November 10th 1817 it was decided to purchase an organ (by subscription) which "it is presumed, will not cost more than three hundred pounds", and leave was asked of the Earl of Lonsdale to erect it behind his Lordship's pews in the West Gallery. This request was granted and, on 2nd June 1818 an Organ was ordered from Messrs Flight and Robson of London at a cost of 400 guineas, exclusive of erection. The organ was conveyed by sea from Liverpool and the freightage charge was £5. 16s. 6d with an additional charge for carriage of 'ornaments' of £2. 16s. 6d. The full cost of installation of this organ in the west gallery was £596/5/4½. There were 206 subscriptions to the cost raising £435/1/- (including £80 from the Earl of Lonsdale), special offertories & recitals raised £31/4/4½, and £130 was "borrowed by the Gentlemen of the Vestry for which they gave their joint note"- the debt was repaid in 1823.

It was repaired in 1848 (£20), in 1857 (£62) and in 1885 it was cleaned and renovated and partially

rebuilt. In 1886 it was moved from the west gallery downstairs to a position in the north east end of the chancel. This removal necessitated some rebuilding by Gray & Davidson of Liverpool at the time at a cost of £100- the money was raised by a bazaar, the work included adding a Keraulophon stop.

The first meeting to discuss a new organ was in September 1907 when an advisory committee was set up. A meeting of the congregation on 27th April 1908 accepted the tender from Norman and Beard for a fine two manual instrument costing £890, including £86/10/- for the case.

In 1937 dry rot fungus attached the organ chamber, part of the organ had to be removed in order to get at the floor and the choir stalls were removed temporarily. During this repair work the Organist arranged for a string orchestra to accompany the Services. When the old organ was superseded in 1908 it was sold to Hensingham Church in 1914. In 1909 when the organ was removed demolition revealed that the pipes and mechanism were “in a dreadful battered condition.” A concrete foundation was made for the new organ to support the engine with a drain to connect with the water main and an air vessel to regulate the water supply. A major clean was undertaken in 1933 and the instrument was re-opened on the 25th May 1933. Eventually water power was superseded by electricity, and the organ was fitted with an electric blower in 1955 at a cost of £258. In 1961 the organ had a partial overhaul preparatory to a complete overhaul and restoration in 1963 by Harrison & Harrison Ltd., Durham at a cost of £1,290. A full organ specification is available on request. In 1992 a Solid State key switching system was installed by Stephen Davies of Lancaster at a cost of £11,000. It was rededicated following this work on 25th May 1992- Confirmation Sunday and the Silver Anniversary of the priesting of the then Incumbent- Revd Jim baker. Water damage was incurred in 2001, and it was repaired by Stephen Davies of Lancaster at a cost of £1,015. Further water damage was incurred in August 2009, this time necessitating a full rebuild. This substantial work was completed in May 2012, and the instrument formally re-opened in August 2012.

The New Organ Dedication Service of 28th May 1909 booklet of Order of Service with subscription list and other details contained details of the new organ specification. Since 1909 additions and alterations to the organ, with new stops added, have increased the tonal characteristics of the instrument which is rightly held in high regard in the world of church music. Colonel Dixon classed it at the time as one of the ‘three graces’, the other two being the organs of Whitehaven St. Nicholas (destroyed in the 1971 fire) and St. Bees Priory Church.

THE BAPTISTERY. The font is of Florentine marble from The Duomo, Florence and reputedly dates from 1650. It has also been noted as Sienna marble. A bronze plate records that it was presented to the Church in 1876 by ‘George Cavendish Bentinck, M.P. for this Borough’ in memory of his Aunt Elizabeth, second daughter of William, second Earl of Lonsdale, K.C. The previous font was a small one made of stone and was given away after the new font was provided; its original position in the church was in the centre at the back where it stood until moved in 1880 to the proposed Baptistery. The wood cover of the font made at St. Quentin, France was presented by Mrs R.W. Knowles in 1921. The Baptistery floor was relaid in coloured tiles in 1921 and a brass plate bears the inscription “To the Glory of God and in loving memory of her two sons, Major James Wightman, D.S.O. , M.C., E. Surrey Regiment; John Wightman, M.C. , who fell in the War. This tiled floor was presented by Sarah Jane Wightman of Harris.” A part of this floor can be seen in the Choir Vestry in the SW corner of the Church, as the locations of the Choir Vestry and the Baptistery were reversed in the 1979 reordering. The current baptistery is in the NE corner of the church. The font is no longer in regular use, having been replaced by a portable font which is positioned in front of the Altar when in use, so allowing the whole Congregation to readily witness the Baptism. Since 1989 the font has been the location of a much used votive candle stand.

The pre-1979 baptistery was formed under Faculty in 1886 with a doorway into the heating chamber, but in 1920 a Faculty was obtained to brick up the existing doorway between the Baptistery and the heating chamber and break out a new doorway into the heating chamber from the Churchyard, and to erect an

open screen on the east side of the Baptistery. The churchyard access to the boiler room was modernised in 2006.

The original site of the font at the back of the church in line with the south door was also in line with the north door. Such north doors were peculiar to ancient churches, when they were known as penitent's or devils doors. Both the north and south doors were renewed in 2006. The south door is now a ramped access for the less mobile members of the congregation, and is electrically powered.

THE WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL. In 1921 under a Faculty taken out in 1919 authority was given to remove pews from the south east recess in the church and convert the recess into a Chapel as part of the War Memorial of St. James's Church, the chapel to be enclosed on the north and west sides by a wooden screen, to remove from the recess three memorial tablets and place these on the corresponding spaces on the gallery wall immediately above the places occupied by them, to place in the east end of the Chapel an Altar of wood, to fix in the wall on the south side of the chapel a wooden ledge to serve as a credence, to place in the chapel two metal candlesticks, one metal cross and two flower vases, to provide a wooden Altar desk or book rest and to place chairs in the chapel to replace the pews removed from the recess and also to affix to the south wall of the chapel a tablet of oak, panelled, containing the names of the parishioners who fell in the War 1914-1918. Accordingly the names of the men and their units are recorded in black lettering on three bronze tablets let into wooden panels and fixed on the wall within the chapel, the tablets bearing the following inscription:-

Parish of S. James, Whitehaven.

To perpetuate the Memory of Heroism of the men
who fell in the Great War 1914-1918.

“Who by Faith subdued Kingdoms.”

Heb. xi. 33.

There are 169 names on the tablets. The War Memorial Chapel was dedicated at a Thanksgiving Service held on April 24th, 1921, the Vicar officiating in the absence of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who had a severe cold. At the same Service the Baptistery was also dedicated. The Vicar unveiled the War Memorial with the words:

“ I unveil and dedicate these Memorial Tablets in loving memory of the 169 men of the parish and congregation who died for their country in the war. Their names are not only inscribed on the tablets, but in our hearts and the inspiration of their great sacrifice will never die.”

The War Memorial also served for the 15 men of the parish who fell in the second Great War 1939-1945. This was unveiled on 5th November 1953. The new bronze plate was made by the Bromsgrove Guild for £85.

The eastern Stained Glass Window, in memory of Joseph and Mary Ray was designed by R.F. Ashmead and manufactured by Abbot & Co. The subject is *The Madonna and Child*. It was placed here under authority of Faculty dated 23rd September 1969 & dedicated on 12th July 1970.

The western Stained Glass Window, in memory of Father Hartley is thought to have been manufactured by Abbot & Co. The subject is *Our Lord presenting a Crown of Righteousness to a knight in armour who has borne the burden of battle and whose victory has earned the promise of reward*. The authorising Faculty is dated 21st January 1931. It was dedicated at the 6.30 p.m. service of Evening Prayer on 5th July 1931. On the ledge of this window is the 'In Memoriam' book of the Church.

On the Ray window ledge of the Chapel can be seen a large lump of coal, and hanging in the Chapel is a coal miner's lamp. This was presented to the Church as a memorial to the coal miners who died in the William Pit Disaster of 15th August 1947. There is an 'In Memoriam' list of 104 miners who died on that fateful day (dedicated by the Bishop of Penrith at evensong on 25th October 1970, together with the lump of coal specially hewn from Haig Pit). A Memorial Service was held in the Church on 31st August 1947, and in respect of an earlier disaster at William Pit, on 3rd June 1941, a Memorial Service was held on 15th June 1941. On Sunday 20th August 1972 at a Dedication Service a bronze plaque affixed on the vertical face of the window and bearing the following inscription was dedicated by the Incumbent, the Reverend Joseph Hogarth: "In memory of all who lost their lives in the Whitehaven Collieries. May they rest in peace."

The chapel was re-ordered in 2000, when the peace cross was added to the wall behind the altar. The varnished pine Altar was also added at that time, the former Altar is now in the south gallery.

The Cross hanging behind the Altar in the Chapel is worthy of note. It is made of glass, and its design and symbolism is very much a response and reflection on the terrible events which took place in New York on the 11th September 2001.

Its design was the work of a group of Sixth Form Art students at St. Benedicts Roman Catholic High School in Whitehaven, who undertook this piece of work under the guidance of local artist, Graham, Jones.

The background of the piece is engraved with the word for 'Peace' in the language of the three monotheistic world faiths. These are superimposed with the most powerful symbol of the Christian Faith. The Cross of Christ.

Its symbolism contains the hope that peace should be the fruit of all world faiths. For the Christian Faith that peace is found And expressed in the reconciling and unconditional love that God offers to his people through the cross of Jesus as saviour Of the world.

GIFTS OF FURNISHINGS AND ORNAMENTS. The handsome Brass Lectern was given by the Reverend George Calthorpe Collingwood, Vicar of Irton and Drigg, in 1876.

The staves of the churchwardens were presented by Mr. W. Hutchings and the verger's staff by Mr R.W. Knowles in 1935.

The glass panelled entrance doors into the nave were given by Mr. Alfred Kent in 1940 as a memorial to his wife, Alice, who died on July 15th 1939, and daughter Elsie who died 18th August 1921.

The glass doors from the nave into the porch were installed in 2006.

There have been many other thoughtful gifts of ornaments and furnishings over the years which have enriched the corporate life of the Parish. When the income from proprietary pews diminished year by year and major schemes of structural alterations and necessary repair work required financing the parishioners contributed generously, and thousands of pounds have been raised by parochial efforts organised by dedicated workers and helpers and friends. Most recently this has been true in 2005 to 2007 when major Roof and Drainage repairs became necessary, along with considerable other work.

Over the 258 years of the history of the church as a building the administration of the parish has kept the goods, fabrics and ornaments of the church insured and in good order and condition. Throughout these progressive years the fellowship of the church has remained healthy and fruitful.

THE PARISH REGISTERS. Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials have been preserved in complete sequence since 1753. These bound volume registers are deposited in the custody of the County

Record Office, Whitehaven with the exception of those in current use, together with other parish documents and records.

The first baptism was on 21st October 1753, a child named Jonathan Banks. From that time until the 30th September 2010 there have been 20,899 baptisms recorded.

The first couple to be married were John Wilson and Elizabeth White, on 15th October 1753. Between that date and 30th September 2010 there have been 7,025 marriages recorded.

Until the Churchyard was closed, on 16th November 1855 (with all others in the town), 6,445 burials were recorded. From November 1855 all burials were in the new municipal cemetery at Preston Quarter, on the St. Bees Road. Some people however (even when the churchyard was open) preferred to be buried at Hensingham, Moresby or St. Bees. In 1974 a crematorium was opened at Distington. From that date many people were cremated there, without a preceding service in Church. In 1849, at the Rawlinson report into the health conditions in the town a plan of the burials was cited in the evidence (the only town graveyard to have one), but this is not now known to be extant.

CHURCH MAGAZINES. Since a first number published on January 29th, 1880 a Church Magazine has been issued in varying forms, and a monthly magazine is still published. In the older issues photographs of the church displayed are historically valuable particularly for recording the different treatment in the decoration of the apse, the chancel and the sanctuary. The 1904 and 1905 'Church Monthly' issues show a cover photograph of the Sanctuary wall panels with the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments inscribed and with the words: "It is good for us to be here" on the ceiling and "Holy, Holy, Holy" over the altarpiece. The piscine is on the north side instead of the south side as at present. In a "Scallop Shell" issue in 1937 the words "Sursum Corda" appear over the altarpiece. In other photographs the words "The Holy One of Israel is our King" and "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth Good Will Towards Men" appear in the Sanctuary in 1865 and 1937 respectively.

In the church magazine 'The Scallop Shell' issue of June 1938 two photographs are printed shewing the Christmas Decorations about 1865 and the Harvest Decorations of 1937.

MILITARY FLAGS. For many years two flags of the Royal Whitehaven Local Militia hung in the west gallery of the church. One was a Union Jack and the other had the words "For God, For King, For Country" inscribed. These flags were presented by the Parochial Church Council in 1953 to the Whitehaven Museum, where they now repose, tattered and frayed. Militia Parades were held at St. James's Church, and the Reverend Armitstead was a former Chaplain. The Militia was formed in 1808 and disbanded after the Battle of Waterloo.

The banners currently beside the entrance to the Memorial Chapel are those of the Bransty British Legion, the Bransty British Legion (Women's Section), and of the Royal Artillery Association.

LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS. Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855), sister of the poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850) visited the church in the afternoon of Sunday July 20th 1828 when returning from the Isle of Man. The Vicar of the parish then was the Reverend William Jackson, who was tutor to the poet's eldest son, John. John Wordsworth (1803-1875). He was a former Rector of Moresby, in the period 1829 to 1832.

PARISH HALL. A new Parish Hall, to replace the wooden hutments built on un-consecrated spare land at the rear of the Church and which had served as a meeting place and for functions for many years (after

closure of the mission), was erected in High Street on a corner site (High Street-Queen Street junction) opposite the Church, and thus conveniently near. The foundation stone was laid on 9th May 1964. This Parish Hall comprising a main hall with stage, modern kitchen, supper room, toilet and cloak room accommodation and crush foyer was erected at a cost of approximately £12,500 and is a popular amenity of the parish and the town. To reflect its wider and important community role it has been known as the Community Centre since 2005, and is a separate legal entity and company from the Church.

It was built on land part of which was acquired from the Railway Company, which had itself acquired the land in the first instance from the Church, and part of which was made available by the Whitehaven Corporation and the Cumberland Education Committee. In an exchange of land with the Church the Education Committee was enabled to extend the site available for the erection of the new St. James Junior School which superseded the old National School built in 1824. This negotiated exchange of land and combined exercise in planning and development was an excellent example of co-operation in civic and communal enterprise. The architect of the new Parish Hall was Mr. Harry B. Stout A.R.I.B.A. of Whitehaven.

The previously rather unkempt land around the Railway tunnel shaft in the north-east corner of the grounds was converted in 2006 to a sheltered garden area, by kind permission of Network Rail- who still own that corner for tunnel emergency access. This has rapidly become a very popular feature of the premises.

In April 2009 the main hall was totally separated from the small hall (or supper room) to permit greater flexibility of use. These works included the creation of a new fire exit direct from the Main Hall. Between 2010 and 2012 there was a substantial programme of improvements to make the building fit for its second half century.

CHARLES STREET MISSION ROOM. This was situated in Charles Street, just east along High Street from the church. It was used for a variety of purposes for meetings and functions, and was also used (under special licence) for Divine Service when the Church was closed for repair and alterations, as in 1886 and 1923 This Room was purchased in 1880 by Mr John Jackson, Timber Merchant, Whitehaven, a former Churchwarden, at a cost of £200, and he presented it to the Church for use as a Mission Room. It was formerly the Baptist Chapel. It was used for about half a century and was sold in 1932 for £38/17/10, with the authority of the Charity Commissioners. This and the remaining balance of £15/4/5 went towards the building of the temporary Parish Hall (q.v.), in 1934

This part of town was completely redeveloped, with the current flats, in the early 1970's. Both the building and the entire street were demolished, so Charles Street itself is now but a memory, save for the gap between blocks of flats.

THE VICARAGE. From 1907 to 2004 this was 'Oak Glen'. In 2004 'Oak Glen' was sold and the Vicarage (or Rectory as it now is under the Team Ministry), was moved to a modern dwelling at Harras Moor. Before 1907 there was no fixed Vicarage- a variety of premises were occupied at various times, not always within the Parish Boundaries. For example the last Vicarage before 1906 was 48, Church Street in the parish of St. Nicholas.

'Oak Glen' was situated some seven minutes walk from the church in pleasant grounds in the Sunny Hill direction between Oak Bank and Marine Terrace. It was acquired for the parish by purchase in August 1907 at a cost of £1,600. The site was valued at £400, the house at £1,020 and Improvements cost £180. The purchase money was raised from five sources: Queen Anne's Bounty (Old Vicarage) £380, Diocesan Extension Society grant £150, Ecclesiastical Commissioners £529, the Earl of Lonsdale's donation of £400 and a contribution of £141 from the Incumbent (the Reverend J.W. Hartley).

A plot of land contiguous to the Vicarage grounds and previously rented was purchased by the parish in

1956 for £17 10s 0d, the area being 373 square yards.

‘Oak Glen’ was leasehold on a 99 years lease with an annual ground rent of £12 10s 0d but Lord Lonsdale generously made the Vicar a gift of the ground rent and reversion for all time.

RESTORATIONS. All Church buildings are battlefields for the attacks of the elements and dry rot, woodworm infestation, and that arch enemy, damp. A great deal of alteration, restoration and improvement has taken place in the church over the years since it was built. These are dealt with in the various Faculties taken out at the Diocesan Registry, Carlisle (now deposited at the County Archives in Carlisle). Additional information is also available from the Vestry Minute Book, parish magazines and other documents. Unfortunately, the plans which accompanied the Faculty applications of the earlier years are not now available: this is a serious loss to the archives. Sometime between 1972 and 1992 the Vestry Minute Book itself was lost- another terrible loss to the first 150 years of the Archives of the Parish.

The 1st Hundred Years 1753-1853

Apart from ordinary running repairs this was not a heavy centennium. In 1842 attention was drawn to the decayed state of the principal roofing timbers which connect with the outer walls and the consequent shrinking of the ceiling in several places. It was considered practicable by the adoption of cast iron plates of 5 to 6 feet in length to be screwed on each side of the footing beams to rest on the walls, the decayed wood being removed, and by inserting pieces of wood at the hip angles to render the whole safe at a moderate cost without disturbing the slates outside and with little injury to the ceiling. These repairs were carried out by Thompson Reid, joiner, and Thomas Tyson, slater, at a full cost of £77.

In 1847 defective lead and gutters of the roof were repaired.

The 2nd Hundred Years 1854-1953

In 1856 some repairs to the roof and in 1870 further repairs to the roof and to the churchyard walls and cementing the outer wall were carried out. In 1868 attention was drawn to the Apse which was in need of repair, and over the next two years estimates were obtained for a suitable restoration. In 1871 work which had been authorised and started was suspended when George Augustus Bentinck M.P. for the Borough of Whitehaven undertook to defray the cost of a restoration scheme which would harmonise better with the interior of the church. The Vestry accepted this generous offer, the work was carried out, and a brass plate near the Apse records that “The Apse of this Church was altered and renovated at the sole expense of George A. Cavendish Bentinck, M.P. for this Borough, in memory of his mother Mary, third daughter of William, second Earl of Lonsdale, K.C., and widow of General the Lord Frederick Bentinck, C.B., 1871”.

In 1873 damp rot was discovered in certain parts of the church and the Bishop of the Diocese recommended a re-arrangement of pews on the ground floor. In consequence the pews between the north and south aisles were newly arranged and single pews were substituted for the double pews, in the proportion of 3 single to 2 double.

In 1857 a 25 cwt, Gurney stove was installed in the south west chapel of the church with certain alterations to the building to allow a large quantity of air to circulate from the body of the church to the galleries. During the period 1880-1886 growing concern was felt about the state of the flooring and seating, and in 1885 Mr Charles J. Ferguson, Architect, Carlisle, submitted a comprehensive report detailing what was required to put the church into thorough repair. (The Church still has this letter). A Faculty was taken out in January 1886 to “form drains from downspouts and drain roof water into dry wells to be formed in the churchyard, take down fittings and seats in the church, take up all floors except that of the Sanctuary and remove surplus soil, lay over them a three inch layer of cement, concrete and re-floor, form a Chancel at the east end of the nave and to raise it seven inches above the level of the Nave

Floor and enclose it by a low screen, refix the Pulpit at the north west of the Chancel, take down the font and form a Baptistry at the west end of the south aisle and reset it there, form a Vestry at the west end of the North aisle, build up the present doors on the north and south aisles of the church and break out and form two doorways from the aisles and the tower, fit up a screen with side entrance to the west doorway into the Church, take down the Organ from the west gallery and reseat the west gallery, take out a portion of the floor at the east end of the galleries as far as the first pillar and enclose these spaces by screens on the ground floors, rebuild and refix the Organ on the space on the north side of the Chancel and form a Choir Vestry on the south side, provide and fix new Chancel seats, reconstruct the Nave seats out of the old pews making open seats three feet from centre and two feet nine inches high, and refix them." This work was carried out at a cost of £866. During that time the Church Services were held in the Mission Room of the parish situate in Charles Street. The church was reopened on Sunday 12th June 1886 by the Lord Bishop of Carlisle Dr, Harvey Goodwin.

The Church was closed for painting and cleaning from 31st July to September 3rd 1904, and for the first fortnight of August 1899 for cleaning.

In 1914 a Report by Mr. A. Huddart, Architect, Whitehaven with certain recommendations, was acted upon after the War ended and a Faculty was obtained in 1920 to strip the roof of the Church and re-roof with Coniston green slates, and to alter the Baptistry and the heating chamber.

In 1921 under a Faculty taken out in 1919 authority was given to remove pews from the south east recess of the church and convert the recess into a Chapel as part of the War Memorial of the Church.

In 1922 a Faculty was taken out in order to place arcading similar to that of the War Memorial Chapel on the north side of the Choir and continue the same across the north aisle, to remove from the enclosure thus formed the present pews and replace them with chairs if necessary, to transfer the radiator in the centre of the enclosure to a place beneath the window, to remove the mural tablet in the enclosure to a similar position on the north wall further down the church, to place partitions across the gallery on each side of the tower constructed of asbestos poillite with doorway to each enclosure and to convert the enclosures into rooms for church purposes.

In 1923 a faculty was obtained to strip the old cement from the outside walls of the church and roughcast the same, to remove all the mural tablets from the outside wall of the church and place the tablets in an unoccupied part of the churchyard. This work was undertaken by Shrigley & Hunt of Lancaster (better known as Stained Glass manufacturers, but did also do ecclesiastical decorating), at a cost of £450. As the first instalment was paid on 10th March & the balance on 15th November this work can be seen to have taken the whole summer.

In 1938 there was a full redecoration between 18th September and 12th November, when all except Sunday services were cancelled

In 1944 damp in the Sacristy at the gallery floor required attention, and in 1946 repairs were carried out to the ceiling in the south gallery. During the war new accesses to the roof were installed to aid evacuation, and the 1886 screen to the internal west doorway had centrally opening crush doors installed for the same reason. Both these changes were at the behest of the Fire Service, and were not subject to Faculty jurisdiction, because of the war.

In 1948 the Architect advised that repairs should be carried out to the stonework and parapets of the tower and that the stonework should be cleaned down and preservative applied to stonework where perished and weathering badly, with repairs to the plasterwork of the ceiling of the tower roof. Also stripping plaster

ceiling and joists from the south gallery, and providing and fixing new joists and ceiling boards and carrying out similar work to the ceiling of the Vestry on the first floor with replacement of worm eaten roof timbers. In 1953 the south gallery was completely stripped and worm eaten timbers removed and replaced by new, with lead gutters repaired and the whole ceiling replastered and left ready for decoration. In the north gallery two defective portions of the ceiling were stripped and the whole structure carefully examined. It was found then to be in fairly good condition and apart from cutting out worm damage to two beams nothing further was found to be necessary. Stone work at the church exterior was repaired by the builder. Woodwork repairs were carried out to the arch over the Altar, to choir stalls and the porch handrails.

Since 1953

In 1955 a steel safe for donations was installed at the back of the nave, following break ins to the previous alms boxes.

In 1958 repairs were carried out to the cement rendering on the south face of the tower & part of the north face following crumbling into the gutter.

In 1959 the top vestry (now the kitchen) ceiling collapsed after heavy rain overwhelmed the roof gutters.

In 1960 woodworm infestation in roof timbers was dealt with. In 1961 an outbreak of dry rot in the ceiling and screen of the Sacristy required attention- affected wood was replaced and chemical poison cartridges inserted into walls to deal with fungoid growth. In 1963 repair work on the tower face, steps and the porch floor was carried out.

In 1971 the roses on the front of the galleries were re-gilded, by public subscription.

The second major internal restoration was carried out during a 3 year period from 1977 to 1980, when the church was altered for the smaller congregations of the late 20th Century, and to adapt to liturgical changes. Certain pews were removed from the front and rear of the nave, and all except the front pews from the north and south galleries- reducing the normal seating capacity from 1,500 to slightly over 400. This allowed the galleries to be adapted for other uses, but still retained for use at major Festivals. Other work included bringing the altar forward to a central position on a dais in the Chancel (and replacement of all Chancel furniture repositioning the choir to the apse)- the altar and dais can be removed for musical and theatrical events. The locations of the Choir Vestry and Baptistry were reversed (both to bring the baptistry into more general view and to allow the Choir to process directly from the vestry), the pulpit was lowered (as there is now no routine requirement for the preacher to speak to the gallery), the building was redecorated, rewired and carpeted throughout, also a public address system was installed, and lavatory facilities installed in the vestry.

Much of this work, in fact, can rightly be said to have enhanced the building.

In 1983 new lead rainwater pipes were fitted on the South external elevation following the theft of the old pipes & improved toilets installed in the Vestry. The whole outside of the church was also repainted in a Community Industry Scheme (work experience for the unemployed), who had also repointed the churchyard boundary walls in 1981.

In 1997 a chair lift was installed from the porch to the North Gallery.

In 2003 a disabled toilet was installed in the vestry and other re-ordering carried out to update the Clergy & Warden's vestries.

The most recent comprehensive programme of work in 2005 to 2006 has concentrated on the building fabric.

The roof and building drainage have been totally replaced, accesses to the roof spaces have been completely rebuilt to modern standards, repairs were undertaken to the west entrance (where the stonework had weathered very badly over the years), the access steps from High Street were totally replaced (and the gates to High Street totally restored) , and hand railing installed. Other work undertaken at this time is mentioned elsewhere in the text.

The Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 has helped churches to have a systematic survey of

requirements carried out in a quinquennial (or 5 year) period, with the priorities carefully tabulated and urgent matters brought to the forefront at once while other matters can be progressively dealt with during the quinquennia. As far back as 1944, and in advance of the 1955 Measure, the St. James Parochial Church Council arranged for a qualified Architect to undertake an annual inspection of the church fabric. The state of the fabric generally is indicative of the high concern shared by the Council and the Architect over the years for the preservation of a precious historical building.

Over the summer of 2010 comprehensive stonework and roof repairs were carried out to the tower.

Over the years then much has been restored with devotion and craftsmanship, much still retains the stamp of the past. All churches bear the marks of the various ages through which they have existed stamped upon them. The restoration schemes have shown a judicious combination of the conservation of what is old and the restoration of the parts which are too decayed to remain. If parts of the church may by no means be examples for imitation still on that very account it becomes a valuable illustration of the state of this part of the country at the period of erection.

The Church was 'listed' as Grade B on 20th July 1949, this was updated to Grade 1 in 2004. The gate piers were separately listed as Grade 2 on 13th September 1972, although the lamp which used to hang centrally between the piers on ornate ironwork was destroyed in a motor vehicle accident in the late 1970's.

The Church is also in the Whitehaven High Street Conservation Area.

STATUS. When the church was built it was classed as a Chapel of Ease in the Parish of St. Bees within the Diocese of Chester (Archdeaconry of Richmond). This position continued until 1835 when by an Order in Council it was assigned a separate district. In 1856 the parish was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Chester to the Diocese of Carlisle. In 1867 a notice in the 'London Gazette' dated 4th June declared the parochial district of St. James to be a Vicarage from such date. Within the Diocese the parish is assigned to the Archdeaconry of West Cumberland and the Calder Synod. Parish boundaries were adjusted in 1934 when the parishes of St. James, St. Nicholas, Hensingham St. John and Moresby St. Bridget participated in exchanges of territory. Following new building in the late twentieth century certain boundaries were again uncertain and an informal agreement was reached with Hensingham in the 1980's to tidy some of these edges.

The patronage by the family of the Earl of Lonsdale continued until 1921, when a new patronage was instituted. The new patrons are the Earl of Lonsdale, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Archdeacon of the archdeaconry in which the parish is situate, and two laymen bona-fide members of the Church of England elected by the St. James's Parochial Church Council.

THE PORCH. The church porch is simple and plain, a flagged floor, with two oak staircases leading to the entrance doors to the galleries.

Above the landing of the two staircases is a finely carved wall monument which reads:

"In memory of the Reverend Thomas Spedding A.M., first Minister of this Chapel, who died April 24, 1783. Ae. 61 years. In him were most agreeably united the tender husband, the affectionate parent, the faithful friend, the worthy pastor, and (reader if thou requires more) the honest man. He was sincerely respected through life, and in his death, universally lamented, but by none more than by his numerous admiring congregation.

Isabella the wife of the Rev. Thomas Spedding, A.M. died May 29th, 1787, aged 62 years.

This memorial tablet was subscribed for by members of the congregation."

Fixed to the landing are the Royal Arms in carved and painted wood and prominently coloured. They are the Hanoverian Arms of the Third Period (1816-1837). They were restored in 1961.

The glass sliding doors just inside the West Door were installed in 1997 in memory of the Reverend Russell Rebert. He came over from Sri Lanka in 1984 and was Curate and, subsequently, Team Vicar & Hospital Chaplain of the Parish of Whitehaven until 1994. He died in 1995, aged 48, in his native Sri Lanka, after a long illness.

The design of the doors is based on the two national symbols of Sri Lanka, the Na tree and the Nymphaea Stellata a blue water lily, plus the Nestorian Cross. The top panel contains the Dove as the Holy Spirit with a halo, the flowering branches of the Na tree grow outwards from the dove. The Nestorian Cross, central above the doors, leads upwards into a fountain, a centre from which rivers flow, the water of life, descending in four columns to flowing water at the base of both doors in which are the water lilies. The water is used as a connecting device to make the design a whole, though it does seem complete when the doors are open and the top panel stands alone. The Na tree denotes purity. In Sri Lanka it has religious and sacred associations. Its wood, which is exceptionally hard and durable is used for temple woodwork, and not used for secular purposes. The flowers are large, white and sweet smelling, the seeds are edible and used in healing medicines. The Nimanel (water lily) is also considered a symbol of purity and truth. The leaves, stems and flowers are used in herbal medicine. It is a widely held belief that the Buddha's first visit to Sri Lanka was to a grove of the Na trees in Mahiyangane.

Mahiyangane, on the banks of the great Mahaweli River later grew to be one of Sri Lanka's most revered Buddhist shrines. It is also believed that the Na tree is the tree under which the next Buddha will receive enlightenment.

On the north wall is a marble monumental tablet:

In memory of Isaac Littledale, Esq., who died March 24th, 1791 aged 55 years.

Mary, his wife, who died 3rd January, 1822, aged 89 years.

Also their children:

Ann aged 2 years

John aged 22 years

Isabella aged 9 years

Mary aged 37 years

Joseph aged 35 years

Ann Atkinson, his daughter, died at Carr Hall, October 9th, 1828. Interred at the Parish Church, Heworth, Durham.

Isaac, their Son, died in Whitehaven, 1843, aged 71 years

Thomas, their son, died at Highfield House, April 27th, 1847, aged 74 years. Interred in the Parish Church, Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancaster.

Elizabeth, their daughter, widow of John Wordsworth, Esq., died at Holly Bank, near Liverpool, June 6th, 1863, aged 89 years. Interred at St. Mary Church, Walton-on-the-Hill.”

On the west wall is a marble monumental tablet:

In memory of William Stamper, A.M., of Queen's College, Oxford, who died the 24th February, 1811, aged 30 years.

Note: The Elizabeth Wordsworth mentioned above was the second wife of Captain John Wordsworth (1754-1819) of the Honourable East India Company Marine who was a cousin of the poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850).

The Reverend Thomas Spedding died in April 1783 and his remains were interred in the south west aisle at St. James Church. The memorial tablet in the church on the wall at the top of the porch stairways displays the arms of the Spedding Family, the crest, a hand flourishing a scimitar, and the motto: 'Utte Dulci.' The Reverend Richard Armitstead was also buried there, when he died in 1821. These are the only two known instances of intra mural burials in the church.

The glass doors leading from the porch to the nave were installed in 2006.

THE TWO TREASURES. Once through the church porch door and looking down the central aisle of the nave to the chancel and altar there is rare beauty to arrest the eye. St. James's Church possesses two special features of outstanding merit. In 1885 Charles Ferguson, Architect, Carlisle, referred to "this church which stands unrivalled in the district in the beauty and finish of the details of its interior.... so balanced in all its parts." The interior has been praised by Professor Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in his book "The Buildings of England: Cumberland and Westmorland." (Penguin Books, 1967) who says "The thrill of the church is the interior, the finest Georgian Church in the county." Professor J. Brian Crossland of Edinburgh in his series of articles "Taking a new look at Old Whitehaven" in the "Whitehaven News" in his No. 4 'The Georgian Era' article, January 22nd, 1970, confirms Professor Pevsner's appreciation and describes St. James's Church as unspoiled 18th century architecture and states that it has a quality quite outranking any other church in Whitehaven.

The two special features are revealed as (1) the Altar piece and (2) the two stucco roundels in the centre ceiling.

The Altar piece is a painting on canvas "The Transfiguration" by the Italian artist Giulio Cesare Procaccini (1548-1628). It has a curious history, for it was reputed to have been taken from the Escorial Palace, Madrid by French soldiers during the Napoleonic invasion of Spain, and then removed from France to England, ultimately coming into the possession of the third Earl of Lonsdale, who presented the painting to St. James's Church in 1869, at the suggestion of Mr G.L. Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Borough of Whitehaven. A brass plate on the picture frame records the gift. The cost of carriage to the church on 23rd July 1869 was 13s 8d. Procaccini was a member of a celebrated family of Italian artists, painters and sculptors. His style is reminiscent of Correggio. There is surprising beauty in the lovely picture: the painter's representation of the transfigured Lord, of the disciples John and Peter and James, of Moses and his tablets of law in the top left hand corner of the picture, and with Elijah on the right, is one which has aroused admiration in the many thousands who have seen this precious painting. This is believed to be the only work of this Italian artist in an English church, although in the United Kingdom there is a G.C. Procaccini painting in the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh ('The Dead Christ'), one in the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield ('The Mocking of Christ'), and a smaller one in the City of York Art Gallery ('The Annunciation'). For other paintings of this gifted artist we must go to the Continental Art Galleries including Milan, Dresden, Genoa, Modena, Paris (Louvre), Toulon, Turin, Parma, Stuttgart, Toulouse, Cremona, Bordeaux, Florence, Grenoble, Vienna and St. Petersburg. The painting in St. James's Church is signed. In 1948 British Picture Restorers and Mr. G.W. Kenworthy, R.A. of St. Bees, a well known artist, were consulted about the cleaning of the painting, and as they considered such treatment necessary, G. Pryse-Hughes and Son, Picture Restorers, London, undertook the restoration treatment prescribed, the cost being £94 10s 0d. It was fully restored in June/July 2002 by a team from the University of

Northumbria led by Jim Devonport. The cost was £12,000- of this £2,500 was funded by the Council for the Care of Churches and £1,000 by the Garfield Weston Foundation, with the balance being funded by the Church and various donations.

The stucco roundels in the flat centre ceiling are mentioned by Professor Pevsner as “delightful stucco roundels, one with the Ascension, the other with the Virgin and angels.”. The decoration is enclosed by two circles. That towards the east represents The Ascension and that towards the west The Annunciation.” They have previously been attributed to two Italians- Arturo and Baggiotti. However research by Professor O’Dwyer (*op cit*) in 2009/2010 has changed that opinion.

The Vestry Minute Book has items of payment at the time of building of the church to Samuel Poole, Henry Hutchinson and Robert Sanderson for plastering work, and there is a payment on June 30, 1753 to Robert West of £23 17s 4½d “ in full for his bill for the middle ceiling with the cornice and ornaments” but with no mention of the type of work performed.

This Robert West was Robert West, the leading Irish stuccodore. While undoubtedly in the Italian style, these roundels bear considerable similarities to other work of his. Accordingly they are now re-attributed to West. including in Pevsner . An imaginative and colourful scheme of re-decoration of the church in 1970 by a specialist firm resulted in a clearer presentation of the beauty of the ceiling roundels with off-white plasterwork conspicuous against a Wedgwood blue background. In his book previously mentioned Professor Pevsner includes photographs of St. James’s Church 9 (plate 52) and one of the roundels (plate 53). Professor O’Dwyers paper contains some glorious photographs of them, together with a full technical description.

MONUMENTS. In the nave are wall monuments in marble which arrest the eye.

On the west wall are to be seen:

“In memory of the Rev. Richard Armitstead, A.M., the Rector of Moresby and upwards of XXX years Minister of this Chapel. He departed this life 18th May A.D. MDCCCXXI, aged LVI years.

Agnes, his Wife, died 15th April MDCCCLIII, aged LXXXIII years.

CHILDREN	Born	Died
James	1803	1804
Agnes	1804	1805
Frances Elizabeth	1808	1808
Margaret	1807	1809
Margaret	1811	1826
Joseph	1810	1834
John	1801	1853
Richard	1797	1869
Mary	1800	1869
Agnes	1809	1869
William	1799	1870
Frances	1815	1890

“Sacred to the memory of John Peile, late a Magistrate of this County, having been 37 years the Earl of Lonsdale’s chief colliery agent, and 45 years a trustee of the town and harbour of Whitehaven, faithful in the discharge of his official duties, and zealous in the interests of his native town. As husband also, and as father, as fellow-townsmen and friend he was loved and esteemed through life, and in the hour of death prayed only to be forgiven through Christ what in the weakness of his mortal nature he had done amiss, and had left undone.”

In the outer vestry on the north wall:

“In memory of John Sargeant, Esq. He was born 19th November 1732 and died 7th February, 1803. Sarah Sarjeant, his wife, was born September 26th, 1728 and died February 6th, 1793.”

On the North Wall:

“In Memory of Alexander, the only son of Thomas and Margaret Hammond, of this town, aged 20 years, who is supposed to have perished with all on board the barque “Swallow” which sailed from Guayaquil for Cadiz on the 15th of June 1840, and was never heard of afterwards. This tablet is erected by his bereaved parents in remembrance of their beloved son, endeared to them by his goodness, gentleness and love. But now the sacred tie is broken; yet why grieve? Time only holds his moiety in trust till joy shall lead to the blest world where parting is no more.”

“Sacred to the memory of Mr. Isaac Foster, late of this place, who died on the 22nd day of May, 1822, in the 73rd year of his age. Also Agnes, his sister, who died on the 29th day of February, 1824 in the 77th year of her age.”

“In Memory of James Fitzsimmons, who died July 4th, 1854, aged 66 years. This tablet was erected by his affectionate wife.”

On the south wall is a marble monumental tablet:

“ In memory of John Dixon, Esq. who died on the 26th May, 1801, aged 71 years. Isabella, his wife, who died on the 19th of July, 1781, aged 48 years. Six of their children, who died in infancy. Henry Dixon, their Son, who died on the 27th of June, 1796, aged 27 years. George Dixon, their son, who died in London, on the 29th of October, 1803, aged 29 years. Joseph Dixon, their son, who died on the 29th January, 1815, aged 50 years. Frances, relict of Jno. Dixon, who died on the 24th July, 1837, aged 79 years. John, son of John and Isabella, 28th of September, 1819, aged 56 years. Susannah, his widow, February 21st, 1820, aged 46 years. Catherine, relict of Henry, their son, OB, Feb 1st, 1843, aged 76 years. Isabella, their daughter, relict of James Murray Esq., of London, OB, May 10, 1853, aged 79 years.”

On the south wall of the nave:

“In Memory of James Ellwood, of Whitehaven, born at Sandrigge, near Dufton, Westmorland, who departed this life June 6th, 1837, aged 76 years. Alpha, his wife, died January 26th, 1811, aged 56 years. William Ellwood, died January 3rd, 1848, aged 72 years. Elizabeth Ellwood, died September 21st, 1852, aged 82 years.”

Near this place lie the remains of Mr. Joseph Wood, Ob. 25th September, 1827. Ae 67. With unwearied assiduity he taught mathematics during 48 years, possessed the affection and gratitude of his pupils, and was justly esteemed by the inhabitants of Whitehaven and its vicinity.”

On the north gallery:

“Erected to the memory of William Richardson of this town, who died at Carlingford, in Ireland, on the 17th day of November, 1810, aged 37 years. Also Sarah, his wife, who died at the City of Carlisle on the 27th day of November, 1834, aged 56 years. Also of Harry, their son, who died in infancy.”

“To the memory of Thomas Harrison, Esq., who died on the 13th day of July, 1812, aged 68 years. Also Betty Harrison, his wife, who died on the 26th day of January, 1787, aged 46 years.”

“Sacred to the memory of John Harrison, Esq., One of Her Majesty’s Justices of the Peace, and for many years a Deputy Lieutenant of this County, who departed this life on the 13th day of June A.D. 1844. This monument is erected as a token of esteem by his nephew, John Falcon.-Requiescat in Pace.”

On the South Gallery:

“In memory of Anne, the wife of Jonathan Brown, late of Falmouth, Jamaica, who died May 11th, 1817, aged 35 years. William, their son, died April 29th, 1817, aged 35 years. William, their

son, died April 29th, 1817, aged 13 days.”

“Sacred to the memory of the Children of the Reverend Thomas Spedding, M.A., and Isabella, his wife.

	Born	Died
Carlisle	1752	1755
Isabella	1755	1755
Carlisle	1757	1784
Thomas	1766	1789
Langton	1761	1789
Frances	1748	1803
Sarah	1750	1818
Mary	1759	1819
Jane	1768	1828
Ann	1765	1839
Elizabeth	1763	1849
Isabella	1764	1853

There are eleven stained glass windows in the church:

In the Baptistry, North Aisle

Subject: The Crucifixion, Manufacturer- William Wailes, 1873

“In Memory of William Jackson of Whitehaven, died May 28th, 1870, aged 37.”

North Aisle (from East to West)

Subject: The Resurrection, Manufacturer- William Wailes, 1873

“In Memoriam James Cragg, died June 18th, 1849.”

Subject: A face, Holy Door, Church and a Sheaf of Corn; Manufacturer & Designer- L.C. Evetts, 1976.
(Dedicated 6th September 1976)

“In Loving Memory of Albert & Ella Henson 1976.”

Subject: Christ the Good Shepherd., Manufacturer- Shrigley and Hunt (Design Number 4969 dated 20th February 1924, Cost £105/-, paid on 24th July 1924)

“To the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Ben Mossop who died May 26th, 1912, and his son, Clarence Rayson Mossop, who died September 1st, 1922. This window is given by Margaret Ann and John Ben Mossop. June 1924.”

The Millennium Window, Designed & Manufactured by Alex Haynes of Albion Glass (Brampton), Installed 2000.

The dark lower part of the window creates an area of turmoil and the window rises through an area of calm to a glorious celebration of light in the upper part. The reaching hands can be interpreted in a number of ways: reaching for the rope of salvation, stretching out to greet the “Light of the World” or ringing in the celebration of 2000 years of faith. The bell wheel, appearing almost as a shadow behind The Light, notes the parish’s wish to mark the millennium through new bells (q.v.) and glass. The Light sends streams of enlightenment through the whole window. Lead lines and lighter coloured glass indicate the sail in the centre of the design recognising the connection of Whitehaven with the sea, the Light of the Word being carried across the ocean to all corners of the world.

South Aisle (from East to West)

Subject: The Annunciation, Manufacturer- Abbot & Co.

“Blessed art Thou among Women. Fear not for I am with thee.” “In Memory of Henry Wallace Mulcaster, grandson of Henry and Margaret Ann Mulcaster, who was killed in action at Fampoux, 12th April, 1917. This window is erected by Jane Mulcaster.” It was dedicated on 18th July 1935 at the 6.45 pm service of Evening Prayer.

Subject: Our Lord with Martha and Mary at Bethany.” Manufacturer- Shrigley & Hunt (Design Numbers 4624X & 4627X dated 1st June 1917, Cost £83/5/5 -, paid in two instalments in October & November 1917)

“But one thing is needful Mary hath chosen that good part, that shall not be taken away from her.” “To the Glory of God in loving memory of Francis Samuel and Mary Holloway, given by their daughters Jane, Emily and Polly, 1917.”

Subject: The Good Samaritan.” Manufacturer- Shrigley & Hunt (Design Number 4970 dated 20th February 1924, Cost £105/-/-, paid on 25th July 1924)

“To the Glory of God and in/ loving memory of George John Muriel/ Surgeon for 25 years Churchwarden of/ this Parish, and of Marian Muriel his/ wife. This window is dedicated by their/ sons and daughters.

Subject: “The Angel crowning the Faithful Warrior.”, Manufacturer- Abbot & Co.

“Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.”

“To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Stanley Metcalf, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, who gave his life in the Great War, 1914-1918. This window is erected by his sorrowing parents.”

Memorial Chapel (from East to West)

Subject; “The Madonna and Child”, Designed- R.F. Ashmead, Manufacturer- Abbot & Co.

“In Loving Memory of Joseph Thompson Ray and Mary his Wife. 1970.”

Subject: “Well done thou good and faithful servant.” Manufacturer- Abbot & Co.

“Our Lord presenting a Crown of Righteousness to a knight in armour who has borne the burden of battle and whose victory has earned the promised reward.” “I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.” “To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Rev. Canon J.W. Hartley, M.A., Vicar of this Parish 1906-1930. Erected by the congregation and friends.”

On the wall of the South Aisle a bronze tablet bears the following inscription:

“ In loving memory of Leslie Robert Schrader Gunson, Lieut. R.G.A., Heavy Battery, Aetar XXL. Killed on the Somme on 18th July 1916, while searching for his missing men, and interred at the Quarry Cemetery, Montauban.” “Greater love hath no man than this, that man lay down his life for a friend.”

When the Church was ready for Divine Service it was in its dimensions the same as it is today. Carlisle Spedding’s plan is copied in the original Vestry Minute Book but it merely outlines the rectangular shape of the building shewing separately the ground floor and the gallery and the pew allocation for each floor. It was in the generally accepted form of its day, a plain simple, substantial building, designed for a large congregation, with every available space filled with pews. There was no chancel formed and the pulpit was a three decker pulpit with reader’s desk and clerk’s desk combined. There was a vestry at the west end, south aisle 12 feet 3 inches by 10 feet 9 inches, with fireplace, and at the outset no organ. The church today has the same external dimensions, but on the ground floor the south west recess is the choir vestry, the south east recess the War Memorial Chapel, the north west recess the vestries and the north east recess

the Baptistery. In the gallery the south west recess has been partitioned off to form a meeting room, the north west recess is a kitchen/storage area affording access to the belfry and the roof, and in the north east bay is the organ loft. The chancel with the organ and choir stalls have taken up the north east centre. Correspondingly, the seating capacity of the church has been reduced from 1,500 to 400 but there is still ample accommodation left for special occasions and to cover any increase in present day congregations.

Visitors to the church are apt to confine their inspection and contemplation to the attractions of the ground floor, but there are two separate parts of the building, and to move about in and inspect the galleries is to find a new experience. Here some of the original box pews remain, so forming a world apart from the ground floor, back in the 18th century.

INCUMBENTS of the Parish of St. James

1753-1783	Thomas Spedding, A.M. (son of Carlisle Spedding, the Architect of the Church). Memorial Tablet in the Church.
1783-1790	John Waite
1790-1821 Tutor	Richard Armitstead, M.A. (Oxon.), Fellow The Queen's College, Oxford 1820-29, 1827, Chancellor of Carlisle 1846-55, Archdeacon and Canon from 1856, Provost The Queen's College, Oxford 1862-78.
1821-1833	William Jackson
1833-1852	John Jenkins
1852-1855	John Robinson, B.A.
1855-1867	Charles Augustus Perrin.
1867-1871	Thomas Redmayne. Holme M.A.
1871-1877	Joseph Bardgett Dalton, M.A.
1878-1881	Donald John Forbes MacLeod, M.A.
1881-1906	Robert Duncan, M.A. (Oxon.).
1906-1930	John William Hartley, M.A. (Cantab.), Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral. Stained Glass Window Memorial in the Church.
1931-1941	Reginald Giles Malden, M.A. (Cantab.)
1941	John Knox
1941-1944	Edward Denis Tyndall, M.A. (Oxon.), M.C.
1944-1971	Cyril Godfrey Sheward, B.D. , Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.
1971-1976	Joseph Hogarth

INCUMBENTS of the Parish of Whitehaven

1977-1984	Alan Postlethwaite
1984-2004	James Henry Baker M.B.E., Rural Dean of Calder 1996-2001, Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral from 1996.
2004-2013	John Leslie Bannister M.A.

CURATES and other Assistant Clergy

1779-	William Williamson
1781-	Thomas Stephenson
1783-	William Thompson
1823-	John Frederick Morton Walker
1829-	Thomas Pearson M.A.
1859-1860	William Voase Richardson

1860-	Jeremiah Sharp Tomlinson
1865-	Edwin Paine
1867-	John Fish
1868-1870	Thomas Tordiffe
1871-1873	William Field Ives
1873-1875	Robert Duncan M.A. (Oxon.)
1876-1877	Henry Salkeld Cooke
1878-1881	Edward Balraud Hewitt M.A.
1879-1881	Alfred Sutton M.A.
1881-	John Francis Welsh M.A.
1886-1887	John George Patrick
1888-	Frederick Henry John McCormick
1890-	Robert Coverdale
1893-1895	Thomas Harrison Collinson M.A. (Oxon.)
1895-	John Robert Gibson
1897-	Benjamin Edward Dadley
1899-	Edward Quin Coles
1908-1910	Malcolm Peart, M.A.
1911-1913	Frederick William Densham B.A.
1913-1915	William Harding Anderton B.A.
1915-1917	John Harris Mawson
1920-1924	John Boulton Wood M.A. (Oxon.)
1927-1928	Joseph Charles Wilson
1928-1929	Edgar Theodore Harold Godwin M.A. (Oxon.)
1930-1931	Colin Arthur Wale
1941-1943	John Coulson Rogers M.A. (Oxon.)
1945-1948	Harold Woodford Johnson
1978-1981	Thomas James Hyslop B.D.
1978-1983	Canon Ian German (<i>Honorary Officiating Priest</i>)
1981-1983	Christopher Goddard (<i>Assistant Priest from June 1982</i>)
1985-1988	Graham William Harrington Hartley (<i>Team Vicar and Hospital Chaplain</i>)
1988-1995	Russell Rebert (<i>Assistant Priest, then Team Vicar & Hospital Chaplain to 1993 then Team Vicar Emeritus</i>)
1989-1990	Ronald Bowlzer
1992-1994	Ian Grainger
1996-2000	David Tembey (<i>Non Stipendiary Minister</i>)
2000-2004	John Leslie Bannister M.A. (<i>Curate to 2002, then Team Vicar, from 2004 Team Rector</i>)
2005-2007	Malcolm Cowan (<i>Team Vicar and Industrial Chaplain</i>)
2007-2012	John Dickinson Kelly

CHAPELWARDENS AND CHURCHWARDENS

1753	Carlisle Spedding, Peter Peele
1756	Peter Peele, William Batty
1775	John Sergeant, John Hudson
1786	James Hogarth, John Welsh
1787	James Hogarth, Christopher Williamson
1789	James Hogarth, Thomas Cragg
1790	James Hogarth, Thomas Braithwaite

1791 John Hamilton, Edward Fletcher
 1792 Edward Fletcher, Christopher Robinson
 1793 Edward Fletcher, Thomas Fisher
 1795 Thomas Fisher, Richard Suddard
 1797 Christopher Williamson, John Welch
 1799 Christopher Williamson, William Brown,
 1801 William Brown, William Bowes
 1804 William Bowes, John Robson
 1805 John Robson, John Brocklebank
 1806 John Brocklebank, William Richardson
 1809 John Birkett, Alex. Hammond
 1814 John Peile, Jacob Richardson
 1816 John Jackson Jnr, Adam Peile
 1817 William Bowes, Thomas Fearon
 1823 Thomas Hammond, Charles Magee (William Sawyer was then elected in place of Thomas Hammond who could not attend to take the oath at the Visitation)
 1826 Charles Magee, Thomas Hammond
 1827 Thomas Hammond, Daniel Bird
 1828 Daniel Bird, Thomas Nicholson
 1829 Thomas Nicholson, John Collins
 1830 John Collins, Richard Armitstead
 1831 Richard Armitstead, Thomas Beck
 1832 Thomas Beck, Robert Curwen
 1833 Robert Curwen, Robert Jackson
 1834 Robert Jackson, John Brown
 1835 John Brown, Henry Jackson
 1836 Henry Jackson, William Fitzsimmons
 1837 William Fitzsimmons, William Todd
 1838 William Todd, W.C. Lammin
 1841 W.C. Lammin, Williamson Peile
 1842 Williamson Peile, John Moore
 1843 John Moore, William Jackson
 1844 William Jackson, Stanley Dodgson
 1845 Stanley Dodgson, Robinson Rigg
 1846 Robinson Rigg, Henry Ritson
 1847 Henry Ritson, Edwin Holwell Heywood
 1848 Edwin Holwell Heywood, Henry Ritson, Henry Collins
 1849 Henry Collins, Samuel Shepherd
 1850 Samuel Shepherd, Robert Henry Gibson
 1853 Robert Henry Gibson, John Faulder Lowes
 1855 John Faulder Lowes. Joseph Fox
 1856 Joseph Fox, William G. Sawyers
 1857 William G. Sawyers, John Davies
 1859 William G. Sawyers, Henry Atkinson Jnr.
 1860 Henry Atkinson Jnr. , James Postlethwaite
 1861 Peter Shepherd, John Moore
 1862 John Moore, Benjamin Barwise
 1863 Benjamin Barwise, John Jackson
 1864 John Jackson, Robert Lumb
 1865 Henry Atkinson Jnr., J.H. Watson
 1866 John Jackson, John Dixon
 1871 John Dixon, Crowther Morton
 1873 Crowther Morton, George John Muriel
 1875 George John Muriel, R.F. Martin
 1877 John J. Dixon, Matthew Kendall

1879 James Robertson, G.H. Liddell
 1881 G.H. Liddell, Tom Jackson
 1882 Tom Jackson, George John Muriel
 1884 George John Muriel, Thomas Storey
 1889 John Parker, Ellis Walley
 1892 Joseph T. Ray, Charles J.J. Harris
 1895 Joseph T. Ray, Francis Farquharson
 1896 Joseph T. Ray, Archibald W. Johnston
 1897 Joseph T. Ray, John Parker
 1899 Archibald W. Johnston, William Henry Ainsworth
 1900 William Henry Ainsworth, Charles J.J. Harris
 1901 Charles J.J. Harris, Albert Drescher
 1903 Charles J.J. Harris, Francis Farquharson
 1906 S. George V. Harris, James Gilmour
 1908 S. George V. Harris, Robert William Knowles
 1909 **and for 15 years until 1924**
 Robert William Knowles, George John Muriel
 1924 Robert William Knowles, George Bertram Muriel
 1925 Robert William Knowles, George Bertram Muriel
 1926 Robert William Knowles, George Bertram Muriel
 1927 Robert William Knowles, George Bertram Muriel
 1928 George Bertram Muriel, Alex. Adamson
 1929 George Bertram Muriel, Alex. Adamson
 1930 Alex. Adamson, William Hutchings
 1931 Alex. Adamson, William Hutchings
 1932 William Hutchings, William Watson
 1933 William Hutchings, William Watson
 1934 William Hutchings, William Watson
 1935 William Watson, Joseph Nelson (in August Joseph Nelson left the district and W.B. Metcalf was elected acting warden in his stead)
 1936 William B. Metcalf, Benjamin Crossley
 1937 William B. Metcalf, Benjamin Crossley
 1938 **and for 10 years to 1947**
 Robert Henry Knowles, John Catterall Whiteside
 1948 John S. Nichol, Harry Thorpe
 1949 **and for 5 years to 1953** John S. Nichol, John Catterall Whiteside
 1954 **and for 3 years to 1956** John Catterall Whiteside, John Pearson
 1957 **and for 17 years to 1973** John Pearson, Thomas Lytton Joyce
 1974 John Pearson, P. Hurd
 1975 John Pearson, P. Hurd
 1976 John Pearson, Thomas Lytton Joyce
 1977 John Pearson, Thomas Lytton Joyce
 1978 Thomas Lytton Joyce, Ron Lithgow, Dr. R.C. McFarlane, Ivor Railton
 1979 Thomas Lytton Joyce, Ron Lithgow, Dr. R.C. McFarlane, Ivor Railton
 1980 David Priestly, Ron Lithgow, Dr. R.C. McFarlane, Ivor Railton
 1981 David Priestly, Ron Lithgow, Dr. R.C. McFarlane, Ivor Railton
 1982 David Priestly, David Tembey, Dr. R.C. McFarlane, Anne Beck
 1983 Anne Beck, Ernest McConnell, David Tembey, Lesley Vernon
 1984 Lesley Vernon, Thomas Lytton Joyce
 1985 Lesley Vernon, Tommy Thornton
 1986 Lesley Vernon, Tommy Thornton
 1987 Lesley Vernon, Tommy Thornton
 1988 Ernest McConnell, Anne Beck
 1989 Ernest McConnell, Joe Bragg, Ivor Railton, Harvey Jamieson
 1990 Ernest McConnell, Joe Bragg, Ivor Railton, Harvey Jamieson

- 1991 Ernest McConnell, Joe Bragg, Ivor Railton, Ron Haughin
 1992 Ernest McConnell, Joe Bragg, Ivor Railton, Ron Haughin
 1993 Ernest McConnell, Joe Bragg, Ivor Railton, Ron Haughin
 1994 **and for 12 years to 2005** Ernest McConnell, Arthur Ashbridge, Ivor Railton, Ron Haughin
 2006 Ernest McConnell, Arthur Ashbridge, Ivor Railton
 2007 Ernest McConnell, Arthur Ashbridge, Ivor Railton
 2008 Arthur Ashbridge, Dorothy Graham
 On 27th April 2008 Ivor Railton and Ernest McConnell (who died in September 2008) were given the title of *Churchwarden Emeritus* in recognition of their long service to the parishes in Whitehaven.
 2009 Arthur Ashbridge, Dorothy Graham
 2010 Dorothy Graham, Terry O'Connell
 2011 Dorothy Graham
 2012 Dorothy Graham, Jane Nicolson

ORGANISTS

- 1819-1839 Alexander Orre
 1839-1848 Miss Mary Anne Orre
 1848-1850 Stanley Boardman
 1850-1882 Matthew Golightly
 1882-1883 J. Ireland
 1884- J. Storey
 1889- H.C. Bowker
 1898-1902 H.W. Radford
 1903-1907 J. Galloway A.R.C.O.
 1907-1908 George Francis F.R.C.O.
 1908-1909 J.W. Carter F.R.C.O.
 1909-1914 George Tootell F.R.C.O. Mus. Doc.
 1915- Thomas Newbould F.R.C.O.
 1915-1918 Donald H. Martin
 1918-1924 F.W. Andrews F.R.C.O. Mus. Bac.
 1925-1926 Arthur Hands
 1927-1942 T. Herbert Dobie L.T.C.L.
 1942-1950 J. Aylesbury-Keyes A.R.C.O.
 1950-1973 Leonard Branthwaite Gibson
 1973-1974 Dr. David Wilson
 1974 Chris Hinde (morning), Ken Phillips (evening)
 1975-1997 Baxter Shaw
 1998-2007 Carl Farrer
 2008 to current Sigrid Hoesl-Leech

VERGERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| The first Verger was | Henry Wild | 1753-1770 |
| The first Parish Clerk was | Isaac Patrickson | 1753 |
| Parish Clerk | Henry Robinson | 1762 |
| Verger and Sexton | Peter Dixon | 1770 |
| | Isaac Walker | 1781 |
| | Samuel Smith | 1785 |
| | John Crooks | 1793 |
| | Stephen Crooks | 1815 |
| | John Usher | 1828 |

John Cunningham	1843
Matthew Mawson	1852
Tom Bennett	1857-1870
James W. Lindow	1870-1908
Isaac Colebank	1908
William Scott	1920
Fred Lindow	1945
Mary Lindow	1956
Alice Calvin	1959
Jack Hutchinson	1961 to 1986
Dorothy Graham	2007 to current