

Victoria County History of Cumbria Project: Work in Progress

Interim Draft

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Parish/township: KIRKANDREWS ON ESK

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KIRKANDREWS ON ESK: RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Origins of the church and parish

Summary

The modern parish of Kirkandrews on Esk dates back to 1628 when Sir Richard Graham was granted the advowson by Charles I.¹ The living is a rectory in the gift of the Graham family, lords of the manor of Kirkandrews. The church of St Andrews was built in the Middle township by 1637, on what is assumed to be the site of the medieval church of Kirkandrews. Nicholforest, the parish's fourth quarter, was also part of the parish of Kirkandrews on Esk until 1746.

The Medieval Church

There has been a church at Kirkandrews since at least the 12th century. It is believed to have been founded in the reign of David I of Scotland (1123-1153). The church is mentioned when Turgot de Rossedal, who held the Barony of Liddel, founded the priory of Canonbie, and granted the church and lands of Kirkandrews to Canonbie priory. He then granted Kirkandrews church and the priory of Canonbie to the monks of Jedburgh and this was confirmed by King

¹CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/3, 1 Jul 1628; "... also we grant him [Richard Graham] the advowson of Kirkandrews [-on-Esk]..."

William in 1165.² The vicarage of Kirkandrews is mentioned in the registers of the bishops of Glasgow and again when an indult was granted to Gerard of Rome to hold St Andrews, Kirkandrews with Renfrew in 1247.³ In 1290 Kirkandrews was described as being in the deanery of Esk, the archdeaconry of Teviot, and diocese of Glasgow.⁴ In 1494 a Thomas Tyndin was granted Kirkandrews and the holm next to it for life by the Scottish crown on condition that he took divine service at Kirkandrews.⁵

The river Esk, from its junction with the river Liddell down to the sea, was regarded by Scotland as the natural dividing line between England and Scotland.⁶ Kirkandrews church lay on the north-west bank of the River Esk in the debatable lands. The exact location of the mediaeval church is not known but it is referred to in 1539 when the wardens of the West Marches of both realms met at 'Kirkanders Kirk'.⁷

Attempts to solve the disputed claims of England and Scotland over the debatable lands, scene of much violence and border raiding, occurred periodically. In 1533 Henry VIII claimed this land and Canonbie abbey as belonging to the English.⁸ Arrangements were made by the English to dissolve the priory in 1543 and to allocate livings out of its demesne land to the prior and his brother, both Grahams.⁹ The final partition occurred in 1552, arbitrated by the French ambassador.¹⁰ The Scotsdike was built from the river Sark to the river Esk to define the border between England and Scotland. The section south of Scotsdike became the English parish of

² *Facsimiles of national manuscripts of Scotland*, (Southampton, 1867), part 1, Great charter of King William to Jedburgh: facsimiles no. 38, pp. 19-20; G. Chalmers, *Caledonia: or An account, historical and topographic of North Britain from the most ancient to the present times* (London, 1824), vol 3, pp. 51-2, & p. 202; T.H.B. Graham, 'The two Kirkandrews', *CW2*, 31 (1929), p. 25; J. Bray, 'Notes on the ancient history of Kirkandrews on Esk', 1950, in CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, Kirkandrews: Churchwardens presentments and account books, pp. 108-9; T.H.B. Graham, 'Turgis Brundos', *CW2*, 29 (1929), p. 53.

³ J. Bray, 'Notes on the ancient history of Kirkandrews on Esk', 1950, in CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, Kirkandrews: Churchwardens presentments and account books, pp. 108-9; the vicarage of Kirkandrews was to be a benefice worth ten pounds or the total altar dues plus five marks depending on which the vicar chose. Each year on the feast of St James one stone of wax was to be given to the canons of Jedburgh.

⁴ Roll of Bagemond.

⁵ Schir Thomas Tyndin was granted "Kirkandrews Holme with one myle of land nixt about it of debatable land betwixt us and England", quoted by J. Bray, PR55/9, pp. 108-9; J.R. Cole, 'A survey of the debatable land and Glenn Tarras c 1449 to 1620'. thesis submitted to Manchester University 1982, p. 72.

⁶ Graham, 'Debatable land', *CW2*, xii, (1912), p. 33.

⁷ *L. & P. Hen VIII*, 14 pt 2, no. 279, October 4 1539. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=75890&strquery=Kirkanders> (Accessed: 17 May 2012)

⁸ Chambers, *Caledonia*, vol. 3, p. 152.

⁹ J.R. Cole, 'A survey of the debatable land and Glenn Tarras c 1449 to 1620'. thesis submitted to Manchester University 1982, p. 19.

¹⁰ Graham, 'Debatable land', pp.46-7.

Kirkandrews on Esk while to the north was the Scottish parish of Canonbie.¹¹ Kirkandrews parish was now, for the first time, part of England¹² and it became part of the diocese of Carlisle.

It is assumed that Kirkandrews' medieval church was demolished during the violence of the 16th century. It is claimed¹³ that the old church of Kirkandrews was 'ruined like all Arthuret's chapelries' in 1606. Canonbie priory and church had been destroyed by the English in 1542 after the battle of Solway Moss¹⁴ and it is possible that Kirkandrews church suffered a similar fate. The pele tower built by the Graham family by 1552¹⁵ was constructed of stone which may have come from the church.

The modern parish

In 1603 commissioners investigated conditions along the border of James I's two kingdoms. Following the report in 1606, the King informed the archbishop of Canterbury that in the parish of Arthuret, the principal church and four chapels were so decayed that no part of them was left standing. Two of the chapels referred to are thought to be in Kirkandrews and Nicholforest. At the Archbishop's request, James I opened public subscriptions throughout Britain to restore the churches in the area on the grounds that Cumberland was too poor to support such a project. £1500 was raised to rebuild Arthuret where work began in 1609. The other three border churches including Kirkandrews do not appear to have been renovated at this time.¹⁶

In 1610 James I granted the advowson of Kirkandrews church to Francis, earl of Cumberland, along with the English debatable lands.¹⁷ The earl of Cumberland later sold the barony of Liddel, which included the parish of Kirkandrews on Esk, to Sir Richard Graham in 1628. This sale was ratified in 1628 by Charles I in letters patent which also granted Sir Richard the

¹¹ *Cal..SP Dom. Add.* Edw. VI, vol. 4, p. 412 ?? Text of award made 24th Sept 1552 is given in N&B vol. 1, p. lxxxii.: "whereas the inhabitants of the western part inclined more to be subjects of England, and the inhabitants of the eastern part inclined more to the subjects of Scotland, they therefore award the western part of the said debatable land to the king of England, and the eastern part thereof to the Queen of Scotland; to be divided by a line drawn across from Esk to Sark".

¹² T.H.B. Graham, 'The two Kirkandrews', *CW2*, 31, (1930), p. 27.

¹³ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, p. 453.

¹⁴ Chalmers, *Caledonia*, vol. 3, 1824, p. 152 & 202; THB Graham, 'The two Kirkandrews', p. 27.

¹⁵ Hyde & Pevsner, p. 454.

¹⁶ Extract from Arthuret register *quoted in* C.G. Bulman, "The parish and church of St Michael, Arthuret", *CW2*, LXVI (1966), p. 180.

¹⁷ CRO (Carlisle),DGN/4/2..

advowson of Kirkandrews on Esk.¹⁸ Kirkandrews is the most recent parish to become part of England.

Sir Richard Graham petitioned the King in June 1631 for financial help to rebuild the church of Kirkandrews on Esk. He attributed the crime and other ‘vices’ on the borders to lack of education and knowledge of God and claimed that criminals from the parish begged that their children ‘might be brought up in the fear of God’. Arthuret church was out of reach of the inhabitants across the Esk. Graham also requested that Kirkandrews and Nicholforest be re-established as a separate parish from Arthuret. Cuthbert Curwen, rector of Arthuret, had urged Sir Richard Graham to make this petition to the king.¹⁹ Letters patent to divide Arthuret into two parishes and to build a parish church and chapel in Kirkandrews were granted to Sir Richard Graham in 1632.²⁰

In 1634 letters patent were granted to Sir Richard to ‘make a collection’ to found and rebuild Kirkandrews church as a rectory where it had formerly stood and also to unite the parish of Kirkandrews and Nicholforest into one parish. Graham’s right to appoint rectors, which had passed to him from the Clifford's, was confirmed. The boundaries were to be drawn on the north side of the River Esk (as the current then ran) and the Carwinley and Rayburn burns. The letters patent describe a great part of the lands of this new parish as being part of the ancient ruined parish of Easton (the other part of Easton lying within Arthuret).²¹ Kirkandrews, like Arthuret, was in part paid for by a general collection from English dioceses.²² Building commenced in 1635 and the church was completed in 1637.

However within 50 years, by 1685 when Edward Wiltshire became rector, the 1635 church was in ‘such a ruinous condition’ that it had to be rebuilt.²³ In 1703 the church was described as ‘standing upon props’ and had no steeple, belfry or bells, but the inside was in better condition with a decent choir, well-railed communion table, uniform seats and good floor.²⁴ The props

¹⁸ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/3.

¹⁹ *Cal.SP Dom.*, Charles I, vol. 182, Jan 2, 1631, p. 473. “There is no church within 9 miles’ compass, but only the church of Arthuret, that of Kirkandrews having been taken down when the borders were in disorder”.

²⁰ “eleventh day of May in ye yeare of Lord 1632”, quoted by Rev. Wiltshir, PR55/9.

²¹ *Cal.SP. Dom.*, Charles I, April 1-17, 1635; N&B, vol ii, p.474.

²² *Cal. SP Dom.*, Charles I, vol. 286, 8th April 1635, p. 15. Refers to letters patent dated 8th November 1634.

²³ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9. Kirkandrews Vestry Book Accounts 1704 – 1837, p. 133; R.S. Ferguson, ‘The registers and account books of the parish of Kirkandrews-on-Esk, *CWI*, viii (1885), p. 299.

²⁴ Bishop Nicolson’s Miscellany Accounts of the Diocese of Carlisle (1707), p.142.

and roof needed repairing in 1737 while Richard Baty was rector.²⁵ In 1752 a hurricane damaged the church roof and also some of the houses in the parish.²⁶ By 1775 the curate John Nichol wrote in the churchwardens' book that the church was in such a poor condition that it was taken down entirely and rebuilt on a new site close to the old, under the patronage of Dr Robert Graham, who was lord of the manors of Kirkandrews and Arthuret and rector of both. The church is unusual in that it is aligned north and south instead of east and west.²⁷ This is the church standing in 2012, a Georgian building, of 'sophisticated simplicity',²⁸ built of local red sandstone with a slated roof, and bell tower with a small dome supported on ten slender columns.²⁹ It consists of a nave, west porch and western tower containing one bell.³⁰ The bell was added in 1829³¹ or 1830.³² According to Canon Frank Taylor, writing at the end of the 19th century, the church interior was originally plain and white washed with a gallery at the south end for the patron and his family.³³ It has been suggested that the church was designed by the engineer Thomas Telford³⁴ but it is also possible that it was built by John Carr of York.³⁵ The Bishop licensed the new church for worship in 1780. The old church was then demolished and the stone used to build the wall of the churchyard.³⁶

Towards the end of the 19th century, the 1775 church was in need of refurbishment and it was closed between 1892 and 1893 for restoration when services were held temporarily at Moat school.³⁷ It was refurbished by the distinguished London architect Temple Moore at the request of Cynthia, second wife of Sir Richard Graham³⁸ for a cost of £1,800.³⁹ A carved chancel screen was erected dividing the nave from the chancel, choir stalls were built and the reredos erected. A new organ with a fine decorated organ case was fitted with matching dummy pipes on the opposite side of the vestry. The backs of the old box pews were used to panel the walls of the nave.⁴⁰ In the 20th century, four memorial stained-glass windows, two carved wooden war memorial tablets for each world war were added, and a sundial installed on the bell tower by Sir

²⁵ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, p.139-140.

²⁶ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, p. 139.

²⁷ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, pp. 139-40.

²⁸ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, p. 453.

²⁹ Faulder, 'Border churches', p. 17; Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, pp. 453-4.

³⁰ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.* 1938, p. 192.

³¹ Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 6]

³² CRO (Carlisle) PR55/9.

³³ Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 6] ; Faulder, 'Border churches', p. 17.

³⁴ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 301.

³⁵ Research on display in Kirkandrews church, 9th September 2012.

³⁶ Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 6].

³⁷ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9; Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 6]

³⁸ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, p. 454.

³⁹ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.*, 1929, p. 182.

⁴⁰ Ridley, Kirkandrews restoration appeal; Faulder, *The parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 6].

Richard and Lady Cynthia Graham as a thanks offering for the safe return of their sons from the First World War. The oak doors to the church were donated by the Graham family as a memorial to Sir Richard Graham's son Sir Fergus Graham.⁴¹

In 1988 the church was again in need of restoration inside and out. An appeal was set up to raise £70,000.⁴² Extensive repairs were needed to the gables, bell cradle, rotunda and cupola. The bell tower had been damaged by an earthquake in the 1980s.⁴³ Between 1993 and 2008 the whole church was refurbished in three phases with the assistance of English Heritage. The first phase included the bell tower and South wall, while the second phase included work on the roof, the North gable and the re-leading of the windows. The restoration also included redecoration, installation of an oil central heating system and a loop system for the hard of hearing and an amplification system.⁴⁴ Ivy was removed from the exterior, and the ceiling returned to its original colours of rich cream and blue grey.⁴⁵

Nicholforest

As mentioned earlier, in 1635 Sir Richard Graham was granted letters patent to rebuild Kirkandrews church with a chapel of ease.⁴⁶ This chapel was at Nicholforest. From the year 1704, Kirkandrews churchwardens' book shows Kirkandrews divided into four quarters, namely Moat, Middle, Nether and Nicholforest, with churchwardens nominated annually from each quarter. In 1726 the inhabitants of Nicholforest repaired their chapel. Rev. Wiltshire, rector of Kirkandrews, was too old and ill to attend but Richard Baty his curate visited once a month.⁴⁷ Nicholforest obtained Queen Anne's Bounty in 1746 and has since functioned as a perpetual curacy under the patronage of the rector of Kirkandrews, but since 1976 has been part of the United Benefice.⁴⁸

Patronage, income and endowment

⁴¹ Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 7]

⁴² Ridley, Kirkandrews restoration appeal .

⁴³ <http://www.eskparishes.co.uk/kirkandrewschurch2.html> (accessed 18/5/2012)

⁴⁴ Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 7]

⁴⁵ <http://www.eskparishes.co.uk/kirkandrewschurch2.html> (accessed 18/5/2012)

⁴⁶ *Cal..SP Dom.* Charles I, April 1-17, 1635; his Majesty has granted his letters patent to Sir Richard Graham for a collection towards building the church of "Kirkeanders" with two chapels of ease ; N&B, vol ii, p.474.

⁴⁷ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, p.142.

⁴⁸ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 304; Faulder, *'Parish of Kirkandrews'*, [p.3].

The advowson of Kirkandrews or St. Andrews has been held since 1628⁴⁹ by the Graham family, lords of the manor of Kirkandrews and Arthuret. Before that, it was granted to Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland in 1610.⁵⁰ The parish was constituted a rectory.

The description of the parish boundaries in 1634 has been outlined above.⁵¹ A more detailed description of the boundary taken by perambulation by the rector Richard Baty is recorded in the Churchwardens' book in 1740.⁵² St. Andrews' church is situated in the Middle quarter. Land had been granted to the chaplain of Kirkandrews in 1494 as mentioned earlier.⁵³ However, no house or lands were attached to the church in the modern parish⁵⁴ although Kirkandrews tower was let after 1703 to the rector to live in.⁵⁵ Housman attributes a rector and property in a parish named 'Kyrkanders' at the time of Henry VIII's *Valor Ecclesiasticus* to the parish of Kirkandrews upon Esk. He names the rector as Thomas Jacobsen who held a house and Glebe lands.⁵⁶ However it is more likely that this 'Kyrkanders' was Kirkandrews on Eden.⁵⁷ Richard Baty, rector from 1733 to 1758, built a house with barns and stables next to Kirkandrews tower at his own expense.⁵⁸

All great and small tithes, such as tithe corn, hay, hemp and line, wool, lamb, fowls, milk, Easter offerings,⁵⁹ and other profits and emoluments within the precincts of the parish of Kirkandrews on Esk were annexed to the rector and incumbent of the parish, to be paid in the same manner to him as it had been paid to the rector and incumbent of Arthuret.⁶⁰ The income of the parish was set at £3.11.5d per annum in the original letters patent.⁶¹ A dispute arose when Dr Hugh

⁴⁹ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/3, 1 Jul 1628.

⁵⁰ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/2.

⁵¹ See section *The modern parish* on p.3; *Cal. SP Dom*, Charles I, vol. 286, 8th April 1635, p. 15; Letters patent dated 8th November 1634.

⁵² CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, p.141.

⁵³ Quoted by J. Bray, PR55/9, p.108.

⁵⁴ Bishop Nicolson's Miscellany Accounts of the Diocese of Carlisle (1707), p.142 & p. 212.

⁵⁵ Hyde and Pevsner, *Cumbria*, p 454.

⁵⁶ Housman's footnotes in Hutchinson, p. 550.

⁵⁷ *Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henrici VIII*, ed. J. Caley and J. Hunter, vol. 5 (1825), pp 279-280. *Kyrkanders* is here listed under the priory of Lanercost, following the section on the vicarage of Stanwyx and immediately before the rectory of Beaumont. There is no longer a church at Kirkandrews on Eden, but it is united with the rectory of Beaumont.

⁵⁸ Hutchinson, p.682.

⁵⁹ PR55/9, p.133..

⁶⁰ statement by Edward Wiltshire rector 1685 – 1730, quoted in Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 292. It is thought that "Barns" in Kirkandrews Moat may have been a tithe barn at one time. It has two crosses on a gable end. Gordon Ritson, occupier of Barns since 1947 (telephone conversation 22 Jan 2013)

⁶¹ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p.292.

Todd became rector of Arthuret in 1689. He objected to income from the parishes of Kirkandrews and Nicholforest being removed from the rector of Arthuret. Edward Wiltshire, rector of Kirkandrews, refuted this 'false' claim.⁶² Rev. Wiltshire indicated in the churchwardens' book the tithes that he collected from his parishioners.⁶³

The benefice was valued as £16.9.8d per annum in 1740.⁶⁴ In 1847 and 1901 the benefice was valued in the King's Book at £3.11.5d and certified to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as of the average annual value of £512.⁶⁵ In 1906 the net yearly value from the tithe rent charge was £530⁶⁶ and the same in 1914.⁶⁷ By 1938 it was £800.⁶⁸ In 1829 the parishioners paid a prescriptive sum of two shillings in the pound on the rental of the farms in lieu of tithes.⁶⁹

Between 1970 and 1976 the living was sequestrated.⁷⁰ The benefices of Kirkandrews on Esk and Nicholforest were re-united on 19 May 1976⁷¹ when John Anderson, previously the vicar of Nicholforest, became the incumbent of the united benefice. Arthuret was added to this benefice on 1 April 2007. In 2012, the living was in the gift of Sir James Graham and the Bishop of Carlisle, and the benefice was part of the deanery of Brampton in the diocese of Carlisle.⁷² Russell Tague was then rector.

Religious life

Christianity had been established in the district in Roman times, had survived Saxon invasions, but had been almost annihilated by warfare and lawlessness in the later middle ages and Tudor times.⁷³ In 1571 the bishop of Carlisle, Richard Barnes, described the people in the border

⁶² PR55/9, pp. 146-159.

⁶³ PR55/9, p. 133.

⁶⁴ A list of livings in the Diocese of Carlisle not exceeding £20 a year (1752) from Bishop Osbaldeston's Register, in Edward Hughes ed. 'Fleming-Senhouse Papers', *Cumberland Record Series*, II (Carlisle, 1961) p. 114.

⁶⁵ Mannix & Whellan, *Dir. Cumb.* p. 612; Bulmer, *Dir. Cumb.*, p. 232.

⁶⁶ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.*, 1906, p. 183

⁶⁷ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.*, 1914, p. 194

⁶⁸ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.*, 1938, p. 192.

⁶⁹ Parson & White, *Dir. C. & W.*, 1829, p.431

⁷⁰ Faulder, *Parish of Kirkandrews*, [p. 8].

⁷¹ London Gazette, 21st May 1976, p.7283.

⁷² <http://www.eskparishes.co.uk/> (accessed 18/5/2012);

⁷³ R.T.Spence, 'The Pacification of the Cumberland borders, 1593-1628', *Northern History*, 13 (1977), p. 146.

parishes as having neither faith, virtue, knowledge of God nor regard for any religion at all. Lack of adequate religious instruction and the savage state of society on both sides of the border was also noted in 1596.⁷⁴ If the people of Kirkandrews worshipped at all, they probably worshipped at Arthuret church which, although in a ruinous state, did have incumbents.⁷⁵ Fragments from an early Arthuret parish register record people who lived at Riddings, Moat and places in the debatable land (all in the modern parish of Kirkandrews on Esk) baptising and burying at Arthuret church.⁷⁶

Clergy

Charles Usher was the first rector of the new church completed in 1637. He was appointed by the patron, Sir Richard Graham, in 1637 and was reputed to be a relation of Graham.⁷⁷ Usher was sequestered for his loyalty to Charles I. It seems he contributed £3 to the besieged garrison in Carlisle in 1644 and was sequestered by the Cromwellian commissioners.⁷⁸ He was replaced by Thomas Courtney in 1656. Courtney was ejected himself in 1661 when Charles II came to the throne. Charles Usher was reinstated, subscribing to the Act of Uniformity in August 1662⁷⁹ and continued at Kirkandrews until his death in 1682.⁸⁰

On several occasions the rector of Kirkandrews was a relation of the Graham family, the patrons of the living. For example, William Graham was presented in 1682 by his brother Richard, Viscount Preston. William Graham vacated Kirkandrews becoming the Dean of Carlisle and Wells after 1685. He was the father of Dr Robert Graham who inherited the Netherby estate in 1757. William Torford, created rector in 1730, was the son-in-law of Dean William Graham. Torford died in 1732 never having resided in the parish of Kirkandrews.⁸¹ Fergus Graham was presented to the rectory by his brother Sir George Graham in 1790.⁸² On Fergus's death in 1829 the Rev William Graham, son of Sir James Graham, became rector until 1862.⁸³

⁷⁴ Spence, 'Pacification', p. 147; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* Eliz. I Add. Xx.84; VCH Cumberland, II, pp.78-79.

⁷⁵ Sir Michael Frysell, clerk, in 1565 and 1574, Richard Hetherington Curate in 1605, and Curwen from 1606: CRO (Carlisle), CDCC Act book, 1573-1577., CRO (Carlisle), CDCC, Act Book, 1606-1608, DRC3/3.

⁷⁶ CRO (Carlisle), PR 18/19, September 1623 "..... Lambe of Riddings buried,Mablerow of Moate,"

⁷⁷ Claimed by Dr. Hugh Todd quoted by Ferguson, p. 289.

⁷⁸ Nightingale, *Ejected of 1662*, p. 297.

⁷⁹ Nightingale, *Ejected*, pp. 297-299.

⁸⁰ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 281.

⁸¹ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p.283.

⁸² PR55/9, p.141.

⁸³ PR55/9, p.139.

In 1758 Dr. Robert Graham was presented to the rectory by George Peacock since he was the patron of the parish and could not present himself. He was therefore both the lord of the manors of Kirkandrews and Arthuret (inherited in 1757), patron of both livings as well as the rector of both parishes. From this time until 1867 all rectors were incumbents of both parishes.⁸⁴

Perhaps the most distinguished of the rectors was Richard Baty. He had been curate to both Wiltshire and Torford, and became rector in 1733. He was an exceedingly hard-working and conscientious man. Between 1725 and 1758 there are apparently only six entries in the registers that were not in his handwriting. He continued to make entries until just before he died in December 1758.⁸⁵ Baty was also a scholar and antiquarian. R. S. Ferguson, chancellor of the diocese of Carlisle, gives examples of Baty's work on a Roman bath-house discovered in 1732 near the Roman fort at Netherby.⁸⁶ Birley describes Richard Baty as 'a man of intellectual stature' and an excellent archaeologist.⁸⁷ Baty also recorded the changing of the calendar in 1751.⁸⁸

Edward Wiltshire, presented by Richard, Viscount Preston on the cession of William Graham in 1685, was another energetic, conscientious rector and was favourably spoken of for the improvements he made to the church by Bishop Nicholson in 1703. Wiltshire died in 1730 but his burial is not recorded in Kirkandrews registers so he may not have resided in the parish in the last years of his life.⁸⁹

Religious life -the parishioners

In 1885, Chancellor Ferguson describes the first entry in the earliest surviving Kirkandrews register book as occurring in 1653,⁹⁰ but in 2012 the earliest registers dated from 1665. Edward Wiltshire, rector 1685 to 1730, outlined the fees parishioners paid,⁹¹ while the churchwardens'

⁸⁴ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 284-5.

⁸⁵ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 283.

⁸⁶ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 284.

⁸⁷ Eric Birley, 'The Roman fort at Netherby', *CW2*, liii (1954), p. 18-19.

⁸⁸ PR55/9.

⁸⁹ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 281-2.

⁹⁰ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 280.

⁹¹ CRO (Carlisle) PR55/9, p.133. For example it cost six pence to be baptised at church, twelve pence to be baptised at home. For marrying by banns the fees were twelve pence for the rector and two pence for the clerk while for marrying by licence it was five shillings payable to the rector and two shillings and sixpence to the clerk. Burial dues were sixpence for a parishioner, twelve pence for someone outside the parish. Higher amounts

presentments and account book ⁹² gives a flavour of life in the parish. Lists of churchwardens from each of the three townships, Moat, Middle and Nether, as well as the chapelry of Nicholforest, were nominated each year from at least 1704. There are lists of presentments for not bringing children to be baptised, for clandestine marriages, for fornication, illegitimate births and for resistance to authority. One man was excommunicated for refusing to be a churchwarden. Sixteen people were chosen from the parish to oversee border affairs in 1724. In 1793 a collection was made for the benefit of French refugees in British dominions. In 1798 a list of voluntary contributions 'for the use of the state' are also included in the church wardens' book. Prayer books, funded by the wives of the lord of the manor, were given to named parishioners in 1743, 1747, 1758, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800 and 1814.

The local custom of 'hand-fisting' may have been a reason for some of these illegitimate births and the 'fornication' denounced in the Churchwardens' book. ⁹³ Clandestine, or secret marriages, deprived the rector and curate of income. In 1785 two couples were rebuked publicly in church for marrying clandestinely and Sir James Graham, on behalf of the curate Mr Nichol, ordered all his tenants to pay their fees correctly. ⁹⁴ However, at least one of these couples had married at Canonbie church and not in secret. ⁹⁵ Either Canonbie church was easier to reach from Moat which lay on the opposite bank of the River Esk from Kirkandrews church, or couples preferred the form of service at Canonbie or the more flexible Scottish laws which required no banns and a lower age of consent. After clandestine or irregular marriages became illegal in England in 1754, many people opted for marriages in Scotland.

The River Esk divides the parish of Kirkandrews. The townships of Kirkandrews Middle and Kirkandrews Nether lie on the same side of the Esk as Kirkandrews church. However Moat and Nicholforest are on the opposite bank. Edward Wiltshire and Richard Baty provided a boat to ferry parishioners across the river. ⁹⁶ In 1696 twenty eight people were drowned in a boat crossing the Esk from Canonbie church. Six of these were from Kirkandrews parish and Wiltshire observed that it was the judgement of 'God Almighty' for passing their own church. It

were charged for being buried in the church or the chancel. Wiltshire noted that he gave the burial dues to his clerk as there was no glebe or land other than the churchyard belonging to the rectory.

⁹² CRO (Carlisle) PR55/9.

⁹³ Hutchinson describes the custom of hand-fisting. Hutchinson, vol.2., pp.552-3.

⁹⁴ CRO (Carlisle) PR55/9, p. 130.

⁹⁵ Francis Blaylock, farmer of Moat married Jean Armstrong at Canonbie on February 6, 1785. "Scotland, Marriages, 1561-1910," index, FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTLR-5P2> (accessed 25 June 2012).

⁹⁶ Ferguson, 'Registers of Kirkandrews-on-Esk', p. 301-2; Hutchinson, v.2, p. 682.

was not until 1877 that a footbridge was built from the grounds of Netherby Hall across the Esk to Kirkandrews church.⁹⁷ In 2012 churchgoers from Moat had a journey of several miles by road either via Longtown or via Canonbie to reach the church, or on foot via Netherby Hall parkland and woods over the Netherby suspension bridge which was restored in 2009/10.⁹⁸

Church attendance and nonconformist history

In February 1641 eighty-eight males over the age of eighteen from Kirkandrews on Esk took the oath in support of the crown, parliament and the protestant religion. No one refused to take the oath. This number included 'Minister Lancelot Cairlill', two constables, two church wardens, and the rector Charles Usher.⁹⁹ In 1676 there were one hundred and twenty people of communication age, with no Catholics, Quakers or other dissenters.¹⁰⁰ By 1851 there were sittings for two hundred people but only about one hundred and twenty attended the morning service. There was no Sunday school at this time.¹⁰¹ A Sunday school was held at Black Bank board school in Nether Township in 1901.¹⁰²

A number of families in Kirkandrews on Esk were nonconformists in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1749 a count of families in the parish was made and listed in the church wardens' book.¹⁰³ This showed a significant number of protestant dissenters particularly in Moat quarter, where, out of 43 families, 28 were protestant dissenters while only 15 were Church of England. In the Middle quarter, out of 141 families 123 were Church of England and 18 were protestant dissenters. In the Nether quarter, from 107 families, 54 were Church of England and 53 dissenters. The number of protestant dissenters continued and was commented on by the curate Henry Hodgson in 1851,¹⁰⁴ when he stated that the majority of the inhabitants of Kirkandrews parish were Presbyterian and that this accounted for the small number attending church compared with the number in the population.

⁹⁷ Hyde & Pevsner, p. 453.

⁹⁸ <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/kirkandrews-on-esk-st-andrew/> (accessed 13/9/2012);

http://www.shepleyengineers.co.uk/sel_nuclear_restoration_details.asp?MID=2&ID=49 (accessed 13/9/2012)

⁹⁹ CRO (Carlisle), DX 1193/90/50, Protestation returns for Cumberland, 1641. Kirkandrews upon Esk, Transcriptions of returns surviving in the House of Lords record office.

¹⁰⁰ MS Tanner 144 "Received from the Bishop of Carlisle by his Chancellor Mr Nicholls September 28 1676". Taken from Anne Whiteman, *The Compton Census 1676* (1986), pp.626-629

¹⁰¹ TNA, HO/129/567-2-2-7, 1851 religious census, St. Andrew Kirkandrews-on-Esk.

¹⁰² Bulmer, *Dir. Cumb.*, 1901, p. 233.

¹⁰³ CRO (Carlisle), PR55/9, p. 138.

¹⁰⁴ PRO, HO/129/567-2-2-7.

Other places of worship in the parish

There were no other places of worship in Kirkandrews parish but other churches or chapels that people from the parish may have worshipped at include in Longtown, the nearest town, a Presbyterian chapel built in 1800, a united Presbyterian chapel built in 1834,¹⁰⁵ and a united Methodist free church built in 1865.¹⁰⁶ There was also a Scottish Free Church at Canonbie.

Services were also held at Black Bank board school in Nether Township in 1901.¹⁰⁷ In the 21st century, regular services of informal worship were held at Moat village hall by a commissioned lay reader.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ Mannix & Whellan, 1847, p. 580.

¹⁰⁶ Bulmer, *Dir. Cumb*, p. 111.

¹⁰⁷ Bulmer, *Dir. Cumb*, p. 233.

¹⁰⁸ Inf. from Gillian Massiah, email 16/9/2012.