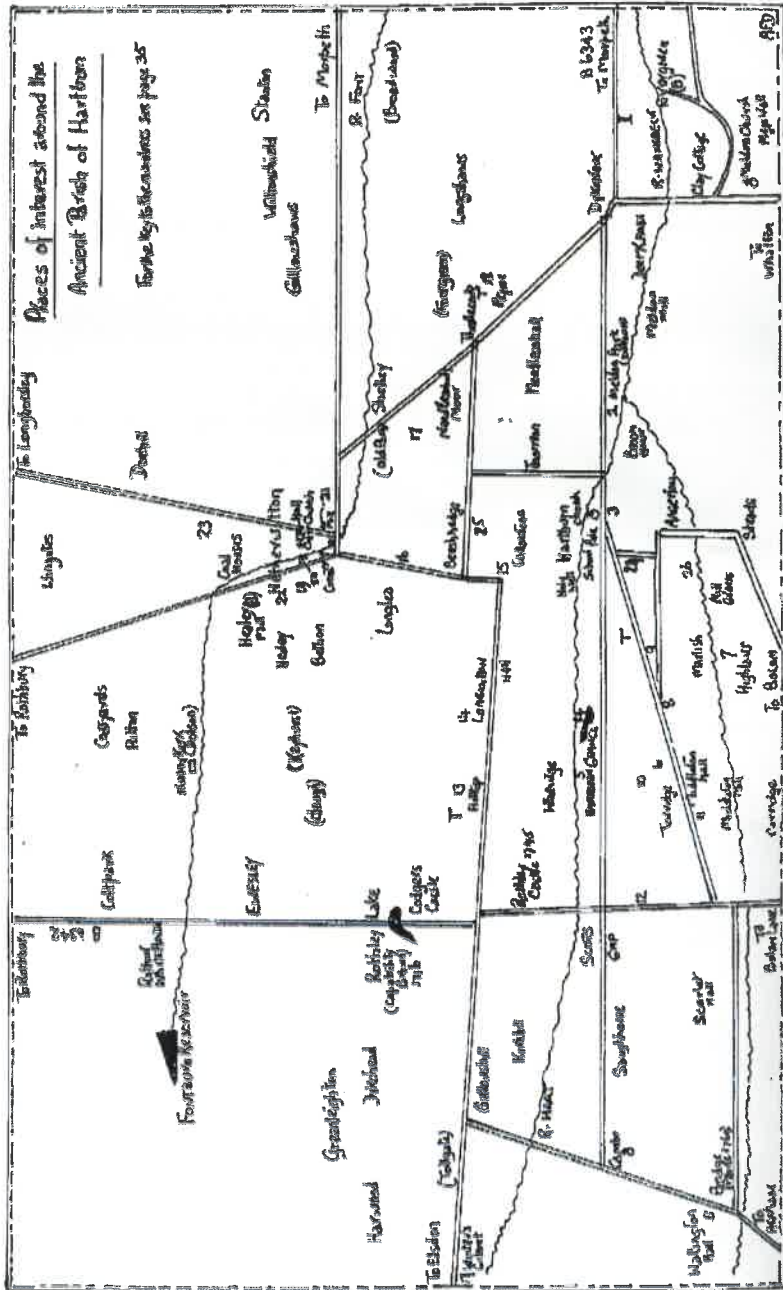




THE PARISHES OF HARTBURN, MELDON AND NETHERWITTON

This guide book has been reproduced by the Churchwardens of
St Andrew's Church, Hartburn from the original, written by
Canon A. Ferg. Donnelly, Vicar of Hartburn.

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**AN ACCOUNT OF THE
PARISHES OF HARTBURN,
MELDON AND NETHERWITTON
IN THE DIOCESE OF
NEWCASTLE
AND IN THE COUNTY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND
BY CANON A. FERG. DONNELLY,
M.A., VICAR.**

The etched illustrations are by Miss Susan E. Robson of Hartburn from photographs taken by the Author who was also responsible for the outer cover, tables and maps.

The Booklet is dedicated to all those who, caring for our three churches have given generously in past years for their maintenance and to those who will help us now and in the future.

Hartburn 1988

Since this History was first produced a number of changes have occurred which are worthy of mention.

In 1983 Canon Ferg Donnelly retired to live near Newcastle with his wife Jess. The church commissioners sold the old vicarage at Hartburn together with much land round about. The Reverend R.A. (Alec) Macdonald came to live at Whalton Rectory in 1983 as priest-in-charge and subsequently Rector of the three parishes of Hartburn with Meldon, Bōlam, and Whalton, and priest-in-charge of the parish of Netherwitton.

Services are held regularly at all five churches throughout the year, and the vicar is able to call on a number of clergy to assist him. One such is the Rev. Max Gregory who came out of retirement for several years, and has only recently retired for the second time to live down south with his wife and family. His sermons will long be remembered, as will those of another willing helper, the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne David Smith, who was subsequently installed as Bishop of Maidstone in 1987.

Hartburn must by that time have belonged to Tynemouth Abbey or it would certainly have been acquired by one of the barons, for it was then as now a very attractive area.

At first the spiritual needs were served by Rectors, who would also be responsible for collecting and transmitting to the Prior the revenue from the fields and farms of some sixty square miles stretching from beyond Cambo in the west to Netherwitton in the north, to Dyke Neuk in the east and Angerton and beyond Middleton in the south. One of King John's favourites, Robert de Marisco, had Eglington transferred to St. Albans "taking compassion on the weakness of the convent's drink." Later the Rectory of Norton, in Hertfordshire, and two-thirds of the revenue of Hartburn were transferred to make a further improvement in the monastic diet. This two-thirds was valued at 150 marks, which I suggest was equivalent of some £15,000 by the price-standards of 1967. One can see why confirmation was required by Henry III, Bishop Kirkham of Durham and the Papal Court. From that date, 1253, our parish was no longer served by priestly rectors, but by vicars who were paid from the small tithes. These you will find listed on a later page.

St. Albans Abbey retained its privileges and revenues in Hartburn until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, when the King took such rights and sold them to those who became "Lay Rectors". At the present time they are Mr. Trevelyan, of Longwitton and Netherwitton, Mr. Michael Cookson, of Meldon Park and the National Trust. The Earl of Derwentwater had succeeded to the properties which carried these rights. At his execution after the 1715 Rising, his estates were sequestered and given to the Greenwich Hospital to assist distressed seamen. Their agent built the present house at Thornton. The Lay Rectors have the responsibility of maintaining the Chancel as well as the privilege of sitting there. Mr. Trevelyan has similar rectorial rights in Netherwitton Church, formerly a chapel of Hartburn.

Skeletons in the Tower

In January 1966, when the Lay Rectors and Parochial Church Council had just completed re-roofing both the Chancel and the Nave, we found that the Tower roof needed similar treatment and that the Vestry beneath was infected with dry rot. This had attacked wainscotting dating from 1750. Even the floor joists were infected. The plaster was stripped from the walls and when the rubble was being shovelled away, a neat line of skeletons, barely covered with soil was found. Forensic experts from Northumberland

County Constabulary took samples, which they later dated as between 966—1166 A.D. These were found within the walls of the Tower but at a level nine inches above the Nave floor.

The difference of floor-levels together with the wide-jointed, rough masonry of the Tower and the broad, shallow buttresses where the Nave walls have been linked up, point to an early free-standing Tower. Notice the round-headed windows which were later blocked up. A previous Vicar thought the stones came from a Roman fort at nearby Thornton on the ancient Roman road, the Devil's Causeway. This runs through Highlaws crossing the Hart just west of our village and away to the north. Thornton is a Saxon name for "fortified place." The Tynemouth monks might have taken over an existing pele tower or would have quickly built one, for they would require a strong place as a safe storage for themselves and their tithes. I think our skeletons would be those of some of these monks.

Our Lovely Church

Given a tower the next step would be to add a church along the line of the present Nave. Notice how thick the walls are just above the arches. Especially go into the north aisle and look up from there. How much thicker the wall is than the pillars beneath! We also know now that an arch was inserted into the east wall of the Tower opening it to the Nave. The bulges above show that this proved to be unsafe and the arch had to be filled in. The churchwardens and I were able to verify this when the plaster was stripped away in the Vestry.

The four short rounded corbels where the arches at the east and west ends join the walls belong to the early Norman building. They have simpler and thicker capitals than the other pillars. It is quite probable that the church was at first a simple structure built along the lines of the Nave, and that arches were inserted to these corbels, perhaps five each side, and that the stone taken out was used for the two aisles. About 1250, perhaps as a result of the closer link with St. Albans, or as I shall explain later, through a connection with the Knights Templar, the arches were increased in height and the beautiful, slender, octagonal pillars added. Now here I am puzzled. I think that the arch stones were adapted and re-used in the new pointed arches but that a mistake was made in the measurements for the new capitals. When they were assembled the arch stones were the same width as the old Nave walls above but were also much wider than the capitals beneath. Since the pillars could not easily be changed, the only other thing to do

was to chamfer the arch stones to fit. Notice the packing above the east arch on the north side above the Vicar's stall, showing the probability of insertion. Compare these arches for similarity with two in Bothal Church suggestive of the work of the same mason.

One of the capitals is ornamented with pellets. Another nearer the pulpit has been chiselled away to leave an embossed fish. There are slight differences among the other capitals. A fish was both an early Christian symbol and a mason's emblem. "Icthus" is the Greek word for "fish" and its letters also form the initials for "Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour." My churchwarden has suggested that many of the stones must have come from the quarry just east of the church and that one of the masons might well have enjoyed trout fishing. It could be that our fish was a token of a pleasant, quiet hour by the riverside. Others have claimed St. Andrew's patronage for our church from this fish. This might be supported by there being three stones marked with a diagonal cross set into different parts of the old Nave walls. You will find these stones, one above each V on the north face over the two western pillars by the Font and the third is higher above the north face of the western arch of the south aisle. Stand between the Font and the Organ to see two and by the back of the Organ to see the third. I myself have come to no conclusion and have wondered if they were not from some older building.

The east and west windows of the two aisles have heads cut from solid stone and date back to about 1150—80. The outer doorway of the porch with its round arch and shallow buttresses would be of the same period. Above some of the capitals of the Nave pillars animal heads have been carved including a horse and a dog.

High Roof to Flat Roof

When you looked up at the Nave walls you would see that they were increased in height along the whole length. On the outside east wall of the Tower clear marks of the old high-pitched roof are to be seen. You will have to walk into the churchyard for this. The end walls of both aisles show that such a high-pitched roof swept barn-like right down over the aisles. In fact, as I will quote later, that old roof was very slightly lop-sided. This together with the roof catching the full force of the prevailing south-west wind strained the whole building, especially the slender pillars and the north aisle walls. Stand on the Chancel steps and look at the two eastern pillars. So a flat roof had to be supplied for which the Nave and Aisle walls had to be raised. In 1890, when a faculty was obtained to return to a high roof, it was cancelled because engineers worked out that the pillars could stand a pressure of 42 tons; that the

flat roof exerted a pressure of 41 tons but that of a high roof would have been 46 tons! Over the centuries lead has proved a costly item, but with a flat roof we must continue to use it. However we hope the roof is sound for another seventy years after our efforts of 1965-67.

The Chancel

When the octagonal pillars were being added to the main body of the church, the Chancel arch was either a new arch leading to a newly built chancel or an enlargement of an earlier arch. Our Chancel inclines to the north-east. Some say this represents Our Lord's head leaning over on the Cross in death. It could be a constant reminder of the Crucifixion to all of us just as other churches are built with transepts in the form of a Cross. However standing there when I look down the Nave and see that it is not central to the Tower I wonder whether the answer is that our masons were just not all that accurate.

It must often have puzzled people why there were two piscinas or sinks for cleaning the Communion vessels in the Chancel. In 1890 the plaster was removed from all the walls inside the church. The north wall of the Chancel was found to be lathe and plaster as were the heads of some of the Chancel windows including the three lancets of the east window. Within the plaster wall above these the workmen found two of the original moulding stones which provided patterns for the renovation. One of these can be seen being a darker stone in the right hand moulding of the centre light head. Because these and other stones, which rightfully belonged to the wall above the window, were found within the plaster, it was concluded that the east wall of the Chancel had been extended outwards, about 1250 and not long after it had first been built. Here then is partly the reason for there being two piscinas. Also outlined in the exterior wall near the low window you can see the marks of an earlier priest's doorway as well as the change in the horizontal moulding. The earlier or west piscina had rose decorations. The present priest's doorway has a shoulder arch and with the three sediliae and east piscina is of the 1250 period. Near the base of the east sedilia look out for two masons' marks, for just as other trades marked their work for proof of sound craftsmanship, so too did the masons. More are found on the steps up the Tower suggesting that the same mason was concerned with both parts of the church. Outside the east window you should take note of the chamfered buttresses designed to allow more light to enter. Apparently the only other examples are to be found at Hexham Abbey and at the neighbouring Brinkburn Priory. This

must again show a link between the builders of these churches.

The Reredos like the Pulpit is of Caen stone, both being given in 1890. The low window behind the Pulpit in the Chancel, called by many a "leper" window was for such or for a server to ring the Sanctus bell at Mass for the benefit of those at work outside in the fields. A black slab in the Chancel records the death of Thomas Errington, Vicar from 1302-10. The wording from the west via the north, with hyphens for the corners reads: "Hic ia-cet dominus Thomas quo-ndam vicariu-s huius ecclesiae orate-pro eo." "Here li-es Master Thomas some-time vica-r of this church. Pray -for him." This should be compared with one at St. John Lee to John and Elena Errington and to another at Thock-rington, all apparently by the same mason. There is another stone opposite also difficult to decipher which reads: "Here lyeth the body of Ann Wood who departed this life March the first, 1606—Memento mori." It is a salutary thought that the interval between these two stones is almost as long as between the second and our own day. The memorial to Lady Bradford was the work of Sir Francis Legatt Chantrey who is also represented in St. Paul's Cathedral and in Westminster Abbey. An Aumbry for the sacred vessels and for the Reserved Sacrament was removed when the credence table was inserted in 1890.

The marks of a Rood Screen are all that remains to remind us that at one time the Chancel was closed off from the Nave. Dr. Sharp, Vicar and Archdeacon, removed this together with the King's Arms and Commandments which Thomas Whittell had painted. At the Chancel entrance note the stone to Dorothy, wife of William Aynsley, of High-laws. The letters "G.M." after his name puzzle me. The date "March 18th, 173½" reminds one that the legal year until 1752 began on March 25th, Lady Day. After that year a lost eleven days was added but Lady Day remained on the 25th, because everyone was so used to it. This accounts for the importance of April 5th in government departments. From January to March it was common to write two figures for the year, e.g. 1710/11. Our registers have many examples.

Three flags hang in the Chancel. That on the south side was of the 30th Cambridgeshire Foot Regiment, being presented by Sir Thomas Bradford, G.C.B., G.C.H., on April 5th, 1831, after he had been in command for some two years. Early in 1846 Sir Thomas took over the 4th King's Own Foot to whom he presented the colours on the north side of the Chancel. On relinquishing his commands he retained the flags. The 30th's show some and in its entirety

would have shown all the following battle honours: Badajoz, Peninsular, Salamanca, Egypt and Waterloo. Those of the 4th are: Corunna, Salamanca, St. Sebastian, Peninsula, Badajoz, Vittoria, Nive, Brandensburgh and Waterloo. The General fought in the Napoleonic wars from 1806-15, dying in 1853 aged 73 years. The Angerton Estates were left to General Bradford's family by Sir Ralph Atkinson, 1749-1827.

The Aisle Altars

About 1350 the practice of praying for the souls of those believed to be in Purgatory as well as for one's own soul after death led to the provision and endowment of chantry chapels in our churches. In Netherwitton Church, belonging to Hartburn, there was an endowed chantry which Edward VI gave to Morpeth Grammar School and which in 1870 was valued at £15,000.

Two such chantries at least were provided in Hartburn Church. The square mortice holes above the pillars show how the chapels were screened off from the Nave. That in the north aisle was called the Longwitton or possibly Long-wotton Chapel. The piscina is very simple, being cut and hollowed shallowly into the pillar, which also had a peep-hole (hagioscope or squint) opened towards the high altar to avoid confusion during the celebration of masses. When the floor level was lowered in 1912 to reveal the bases of the pillars, one of the two stone coffins on display was found under this chapel. The bones contained were reburied in the churchyard. Although we do not require a third altar for worship, I would very much like to see this ancient altar remembered by a slate shelf set into the wall, on which the two candlesticks could stand.

We do not know the name of the south aisle chantry. The lovely piscina is cut less deeply than that at the high altar, a sign of the post Black Death period. The 1890 repairs mention another hagioscope behind the present pulpit. The modern glass of this window, which has a "keel head" of about 1250, the altar and the iron ornaments were made to the design of Mr. Evetts, of Newcastle University in 1942 in memory of Mr. Leathart.

The Font, Collecting Boxes and Chest

The Font dates from about 1250 while the canopy, suspended by chain and pulley, might be of Elizabethan origin but has been repaired. (See the Vestry notes). There are four Alms boxes. Two are rather crude but are dated 1721 and I think were made by Thomas Heppell whose child was baptised in that year. The other pair are of fine Georgian workmanship and are in weekly use. Near the door is

Cromwell's Money Chest, lent to the church by Mr. Straker, late of Angerton Hall. It is very strong, double-locked and heavily banded. The outline of the old Box Pews can be traced around the walls. These were privately owned and are mentioned in the Accounts. Cuttings in the west corbels and pillars show where the Gallery rested and marks above the Pulpit where the Sounding Board used to be.

The Vestry, Tower and Bells

The Vestry ceiling is domed as in most pele towers and as that which forms part of the Vicarage. The first representatives of the Abbey would have lived in the Tower, being hauled by rope to the first floor. The stone steps were added about 1250 and have an interesting selection of masons' marks. For some time after this the Vicar and his assistants would live upstairs. The small window through which he could see into the church still offers an interesting view which I have photographed for our outside cover. Further up the double lancets had new heads or repairs done to them in Mr. Hodgson's time but on the inside are still shoulder-arched.

There are two Bells in the Tower said by the Society of Antiquaries to be very fine examples of pre-Reformation bells, being thick and long waisted. They are inscribed with Lombardic lettering and decorated with leaf scrolls. The first reads; "Hica in honore St. Andree Apli." Translated this appears to be: "Hi"—"This", "Ca" short for "campana" or bell. "This bell is in honour of St. Andrew, the Apostle." The other is inscribed: "Ave Maria Gracia Plena Dominus Tecum," "Hail! Mary, full of grace, the Lord be with you." In the St. Andrew inscription the words are separated by two dots like a colon but in the Mary bell by three dots. This apparently proves that the latter is older. It measures 27 inches in diameter and 24 inches to the shoulder. The former is the same height but is half-an-inch wider. The Accounts record that the tongue of the "larger" bell needed repair in 1764 and that both were re-hung in that same year. In 1841 we are told that both were again examined. In 1890 a Mr. Robinson Bewick wrote to the Vicar that he remembered many years earlier the larger bell being taken down because it was cracked and being sent away in a cart to Morpeth, and that he thought it was replaced with a smaller bell. I cannot say whether or not what he thought was fact. He wrote many years later. Although we have detailed information of what monies were spent on the repair of the church in that century, nothing is mentioned about such repairs and I feel if such work had been done it would have been recorded. Being informed about the suggestion con-

tained in the letter, the Secretary of the Antiquaries insisted that the two bells in our Tower were both of pre-Reformation date. He believed they were from the same foundry and that the Mary bell was the older of the two.

Windows, Buttresses and Sundials

The Vestry window appears to be of the Perpendicular period, i.e. 1350-1400, the head being cut from solid stone. As the Accounts in 1755 mention repairing and enlarging the Vestry Window, I am not sure what happened. I think that the window was either lengthened by adding to its base or that the inner stonework was cut away to admit more light. In 1723 two windows were opened in the south aisle and in 1739 and 1751 two more in the north aisle. Dr. Sharp preferred all windows to be sashed for ventilation. An etching in Mr. Hodgson's History shows two clerestory windows and one south aisle window, the latter oblong in shape and probably sashed. Mr. Hodgson tried to restore the church to its original appearance and we have the builder's account for making "six windows of two openings," which together with work done to the Tower windows cost £14. My view is that originally there would have been no windows in the north aisle and perhaps one or two small double lancets in the south aisle and the end windows.

Norman buttresses, wide and shallow, can be seen against the Tower partially cloaked by the added Nave and also at the Porch. Early English three-stage buttresses were added for support. At the east end of the north aisle there are signs of the foundations having settled, which may have been the cause for repairs imperfectly completed to the north wall of the Chancel. One must also remember the threat from the high-pitched roof. A very wide buttress against the north wall of the Chancel has excited interest. It must have been built to support the interior Chantry memorial, which may originally have been an Easter sepulchre.

Above the Porch is a unique example of a three-sided Sundial and there are the remains of another near the gate, engraved Wood 1721, which must have replaced an even earlier sundial, for the Burials refer to the "dial stob."

The Inner or Knights Templars' Doorway

This doorway of fine Early English design with much dog-tooth ornament belongs to the 1200-1250 period and Pevsner links it with the work of the Hexham masons. On the right-hand doorpost are cut two swords or daggers above a Maltese Cross. I understand that the former indicate the building had been inspected and passed as a fit and proper

place for preceptories of Knights Templar by the corregidor of the Order. Today this would indicate the meeting place of a Provincial Grand Lodge. Three daggers set over the Maltese Cross would have shown that the Grand Master had passed this church as a fit and proper place for Grand Lodge to assemble.

The marks therefore indicate that around 1250 AD the Knights Templar made an agreement, possibly with St. Alban's Abbey to use Hartburn Church as their North of England meeting place. The elegantly carved dog-toothed doorway with the appropriate two dagger and cross sign was inserted, while at the same time the Chancel was lengthened to accommodate those taking part in their ceremonies. Two piscinas in the Chancel, the blocked-in priest's door replaced by the shoulder-arched doorway and the two different kinds of exterior moulding, all point to the Altar and east wall having been moved eastwards about twelve feet. The Triple Sedilia suggests three officiating priests at least. Two mason marks by the east sedilia link up with one in the Porch and others on the Tower stairway to suggest a date for the extension about 1250.

In the Porch on the east bench there are two crosses, a Maltese cross and a Latin cross. The former suggests that a Templar squire served his vigil before Hartburn altar, and at the assembly on the following day of their Preceptory was raised to Knighthood for service on the last Crusade. In 1312 the Pope ordered the suppression of the Templars. In England their property was given to the other great crusading order, the Knights Hospitaller, called at first, St. John of Jerusalem and later, of Malta. The Latin cross in the Porch might represent a similar raising of one of their members to serve on their island fortress of Rhodes. Today the Knights Templar use both crosses in their regalia. I feel these marks are among the most interesting features of our ancient church.

In the year 1200 William de Lisle of Woodburn and of Thornton in Hartburn parish gave a carucate of land ie. about a hundred acres "to the glory of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Master of the Templars" for prayers to be offered on his behalf. In the early 1800s the gift was remembered in naming a piece of land east of the church, "Temple Thornton." Later a folly was built there, a dove-cote made like a church tower. A note taken by a member of the Newcastle Society of Antiquarians from records at Valetta tells us that in 1338 Brother Leonard had built a house at Thornton because everything had been destroyed at the dissolution of the Templars. The land itself was valued at £7.50p and expenses included £3.05p for "a chaplain not at table" ie. not residential, who would in all probability be one of the Hartburn clergy; also for "oil and wine and wax for use in their chapel." In the Visitation of 1578 no mention is made of such a house, so only the Porch

contains a reminder of this interesting link with the past.

In 1968, following major repairs to the roofs of the church, we found the stone-slated roof of the Porch to be in poor condition. Remembering that from 1706 - 1720 our church wardens had made collections in the parish for many churches needing repairs, usually raising about 2/6d or 12^{pp} (on page 51 you will find a list), I wrote to several inviting repayment. The idea caused interest and amusement, working out how much this would be in modern currency values. Among forty-six who replied were St. Martins-in-the-Field, St. Clements Dane, St. Mary Redcliffe called by Queen Elizabeth 1st, "the finest parish church in England," as well as the cathedrals of both Derby and Southwell.

At the entrance to the Tower there is a "lion" settle finely carved in walnut, dated 1901 given recently by Mr. J. Anderson whose family formerly lived at Broom House. Other gifts include a pair of Victorian bottles for use at the Holy Communion and a number of carpet pieces and hassocks worked by ladies of our own parish and visiting friends. Any reader willing to help either by embroidering a hassock or by helping to pay for the work would be warmly welcomed.

* * * * *

THE CHURCH PLATE.

Through the wisdom and generosity of our forefathers we possess several pieces of valuable silver. It has become necessary to keep all but one of these in the safe-keeping of the Bank. However we make regular use of our Chalice with its date of 1663, which serves as a constant reminder of the very many communicants who have shared and handled it along with ourselves since that date over three hundred years ago.

- (1) Silver Paten. Saucer or platter shaped 8½ inches in diameter. Three worn marks; Leopard's Head Crowned; Date letter "L" or "E" Maker GH under Three Stars but unrecorded by Jackson. (1) I hazard a guess at 1622. Mr. W. McBryde who has advised me on the silver of our three churches, and who provided much new information, agrees with this date. He suggests a London maker.
- (2) Silver Chalice. 8½ inches in height, 3½ inches in diameter at lip, 4 inches at base and bowl 4 inches deep. Weight 13 ounces. No Hallmarks but an inscription "Hartburn Church, July 20th 1663" In fact a fine example of a gentleman's drinking cup, probably given to replace one lost or stolen during the Civil War.

(1) Sir. C. J. Jackson "English Goldsmiths and their Marks."

- (3) **Silver Paten.** Three claw feet, 9 inches diameter, rim shaped. Two sets of marks. (a) Five marks—Leopard's Head Crowned, Lion Passant, Three Castles, Date Letter "C", Maker "IC". This and the two flagons (see below) also made by Isaac Cookson represent his best period at Newcastle. The date is 1742. (b) Four marks, which show that the original silver was reduced in size in 1746 were added. (See note below)

They are: Lion passant, Three Castles, Date Letter "G", Maker "RM". These refer to Robert Makepeace, 1746-7. Hartburn Register No 3 records items (3) & (4) being acquired in 1743.

- (4) **Two Flagons.** Jug-shaped, height 8 inches, diameter at mouth $3\frac{1}{4}$ and at base $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, completed with double curved handle. Hall marks are as for the Paten above, except the Date letter "D", indicating 1743-4. Also by Isaac Cookson at Newcastle.

- (5) **One Chalice and Paten** bought from the Bradford Memorial Fund, silver, of modern design, dated 1962 and 1963 respectively. London manufacture.

In addition the Cross and Candlesticks on the High Altar were presented by Mrs. Cookson in 1892, the embossed pair in the north aisle were given in 1880, and the modern set in iron has already been mentioned.

Rectors and Vicars of Hartburn

The Patronage belonged to the Lord Bishop of Durham until about 1850 when, for some reason that I have not been able to discover, it passed to the Lord Chancellor acting for the Queen. The Parish belonged to the Diocese of Durham until the separate Diocese of Newcastle was constituted in August, 1882.

The first traceable Rector is Ostredus in the reign of Henry I, between 1100-1135. 1174 Robert of Hartburn (A.F.D. County Hist. Northd. Vol. 8), who might also have been Robert de Sotindona, King's Clerk and counsellor. 1253 Hugh de Florenton when the great tithes were taken over by St. Albans Abbey. Thereafter Vicars were appointed.

Vicars

(Hodgson's list and my notes; my list from 1794):—

- 1300 Robertus.
- 1302 Thomas de Errington (Buried Chancel).
- 1310 William de Wickesall.
- 1315 John de Percy (Reg Pal Dur II 736).
- 1316 Robert de Tymparon (1315 Meldon).
- 1316 Hugh de Sapie.
- 1326 Gilbert de Barton (Also Mitford).
- 1346 Geoffrey of Stokton (About this time English became legal language and the "de" tends to drop. Compare other church lists).

- 1354 Thomas de Stokesby.
- 1362 Rob de Aukland (1387 Meldon, 1411 Edmundbyers).
- 1387 John de Tudhowe.
- 1393 Tho de Pittington (Gift in Thornton of Newcastle and Netherwitton's will 1429).
- 1433 Henry Strother.
- 1460 Will Lamb.
- 1475 Richard Swynburne.
- 1496 John Gray (Son of concubinary priest but Pope's nuncio gave him a dispensation to be priested and to hold two benefices, as an absentee if he wished).
- 1500 Gerard Lilburne (Also Kilbourne).
- 1539 John Brandling (Master of St. Thomas's, Newcastle 1540).
- 1544 Robert Bushell.
- 1554 Ralph Todd L.L.B. (Vicar of Woodhorn).
- 1569 William Stevynson.
- 1575 Richard Stancliff.
- 1576 Richard Hancock (Appointed by Queen Elizabeth. Also of Ponteland). His nephew, Richard, lived at Low Angerton (1641).
- 1599 Humphrey Grene (1584 Longhorsley, 1587 Bolam).
- 1608 Edward Wigham A.M. (1616 Ponteland).
- 1630 William Lindsell A.M.
- 1632 John Machom A.M.
- 1636 William Flathers.
- 1636 John Snape A.M. (1629 Stannington. Ejected by the Roundhead Presbyterians. Taught at Whickham until restored in 1660 but died on his return. "He was plundered and harassed from place to place and being weak and infirm died under his troubles."). Ralph Ward A.M. (Chaplain to Col. Fenwick. 1653 Vicar of Wolsingham and then of Hartburn until Snape restored. After the Act of Indulgence 1672 taught a school in York but was fined several times and imprisoned by the infamous Judge Jeffreys. Freed 1685. Died 1691 aged 62 years).
- 1660 Matthew Bonner (1639 Curate All Saints; Master St. Thomas', Newcastle Daughter baptized 6th September 1679)
- 1680 Richard Bellasis A.M. (Induction recorded in our Register).
- 1680 Charles Elstob A.M. (Induction recorded in our Register).
- 1683 Edward Cotes.
- 1685 Laton Eden (Married daughter of Wm. Aynsley, of High-laws. Large family baptised here. Buried in Chancel).
- 1735 Richard Werge A.M. (1713 Curate of Alnwick. 1745 supplied straw to Government army at Morpeth).
- 1748 John Sharp D.D. and grandson of Archbishop Sharp. 1762 became Archdeacon of Northumberland, 1768 Canon of Durham and promoted to higher Canonry 1791. Plural Vicar of Bamburgh 1773. Added north wing of Vicarage, School-cum-hearse house and the Grotto).
- 1792 Charles Plumtree A.M. (1794 Longnewton and Haughton-le-Skerne).
- 1794 Thomas Davison A.M. (Born 1753 Stokesley. Eton, Oxford. (see notes over leaf)
- 1833 John Hodgson (The Historian of Northumberland. Rector of Jarrow 1800-24 where he helped to invent safety lamp. 1824-33 Vicar of Kirkwhelpington. Buried at Hartburn).
- Richard Croft.
- 1845 Bellby Hodgson B.A. 1889 James Clegg Kershaw (died 1918)
- 1856 Edward Anson.
- 1909 William Clissold Curtis.
- 1916 Dan Wrigley.

Rev. B. Hodgson (at Hartburn aged 81 yrs.)

ducted in ye Reall actuall & corporate poffeſſion of ye Vicarage & paryſh Church of Hartburn . . ." Both took an acknowledgment "comonly called ye Declaration agft ye Folemn League & Covent." These were troubled times with religious discord pulling away from the church of the land. Soon the steady hand of Laton Eden is felt. He came in his fortieth year and was buried here, aged ninety.

1694 "Jane Stokell buried at ye diall stob." **1695 & 1703** Directions about burial in the church or chancel, 10/- or 6/8d. to be paid respectively to the parson "before breaking the ground that the church may be kept in order as it ought to be." **1696** Then as now churchwardens had to attend the Archdeacon's Yearly Visitation at Morpeth or Alnwick, paying the regular fees. Often the parson, curate and clerk attended. A surplice had to be provided and washed. 1/- was the cost for washing at Christmas, Easter and sometimes for Whitsunday. Reference to the surplice comes regularly throughout the XVIIIth century at Hartburn. The Archdeacons reminded our Wardens recently that the provision of a surplice was a parish responsibility still. Other items in that year are "for lime and laying it on," "band for church door," "glisning windows," "laying flags and setting stalls," "bowl of cols," and sheeps' bones were bought for slating.

1699 An order not to harbour strangers except at householders' own charge and **1700** the constable was to move on vagrants. A list of poor persons receiving parish help was kept by the wardens for each district. **1702** "sircloth washing," "spaid, showl and basin for use of parish 19/8d." **1707** "washing surplice, mending spade and church shovel 3/-." **1706-7** Repairs to the roof cost £41. William Brockett "plummer" then promised to keep the roof (of the nave) which measured 19 yards by 8 yards in good repair. A note in the next Register reads: "In the year of our Lord God 1706 The roofe of ye body of ye Church and ye Steeple Roofe were all sufficiently repaired" and continues "1706 August ye 13 New roops for the Bells being sone chattered with the Repairing the Church did not laft Long." "March 6 1709/10 a paire of New rops for the Bells."

1707-18 A Brief was a special collection in church and throughout the parish. The money, usually about 3/-, was taken to the official collector in Morpeth whom I presume sent it up to London for the charity concerned. In 1709 a collection was made for St. Clement Danes, St. Martin in the Field (fire), Cannongate Church in Edinburgh "in North Brittan" (fire), St. Mary Radcliffe in Bristol (decay—commonly called the finest parish church in England). Other famous churches helped include Woolwich Church and Long Melford. Private property and persons were also suppor-

ted, the Castle and Church of Oxford, Thames Street in the Parish of All Hallows, London (now Toc H headquarters), "Morpeth Abby for Robt. Wilkinson" who came to collect the sum in person. "Wm. Bowyer, Printer of London," and "The Cow-keepers." In these ten years we have a note of 138 Briefs covering many counties in England. The Isle of Wight and Ireland occur and "by fire at hounds ditch in St. Botolphs" as well as "ye Reformed episcopall churches in Polland and Polish prucia." A puzzling example was the "protestant church of Millau in Courland," which I thought at first meant Millom in Cumberland. I was a long way out. What do you think? The answer as well as a full list will be found in Chapter VIII.

1710 "Mending the Church Bible." Overseers to "remove such as likely to be troublesome," i.e. a financial burden on the parish. "For carrying away a woman . . . 6d."

1713 "Lancelot Robson of Wallenton" was baptized. In 1838 another Lancelot Robson was elected to the Four and Twenty Miss Susan Robson, who has drawn our etchings, is a descendant of this family.

1716 "April 3rd Widow Lattimoor of North Middleton has yt day Recd Now and Before the full Fun of Twenty Shill being in full for one year due at May day Next 1716 for the Maintainance of her Lame Son." Also in that year the four churchwardens each paid a share for mending the Bridge:—**1717**. Geo. Wardell is Charged for the Bridge Lofs 14s. 11d., Given to Tho Wardell for Lime and Leading Stones and Sand 16s. 0d.; Willm. Glendinning is Charged for the same 18s. 6½d. (made up) July 2, 1717 pd ye day and before to Lyall Robfon and Geo. Wardell 16s. 6½d. and for wafhing the Sirplhth the laft year two times 1716 2s. 0d. to Jno Robinfon (Clerk)." Later in year "Given to Lyonall Robfon in all for Repairing ye Bridge 11 10s. 0d." and "More to Tho Wardell for Leading Stones for ye Repairing ye Bridge 2s. 0d."

1718-24 Formal permission for erection of pews; "Gavin Aynley of Little Harle to erect adjoining Longwitton Pew and that of East Shafto." "Pew on N. side which shall contain the window and a yard on each side." "Matthew Sopwith of high Angerton on S. side of ye church southwards from ye Pulpitt oppositt before ye Little window two yards broad." "Adjoyning Mr. Laton Edens pew." "Pew adjoyning Reading Desk." "Robt. Twizal, of Hart Grange pew to begin at Bell house to the north corner."

1718-1722 Repairs to pews, church gate, mending flags and church roof. "Looking after ye bastard child" "Paid to ye innocent boy" (perhaps simple or idiot). "Nurse Sopwith received £2 10s. 0d. for maintenance of ye charity boy

and for two shirts and a pair of shoes for the boy." £5 was paid to the Vicar of Whelpington for taking care of a boy chargeable to Hartburn. A formal order to pay "Robert Maggs of flooly house in ye chappelry of Netherwitton £1 10s. 0d. a year for ye time of his natural life and 3/- this day on his promise not to ask or demand any more from the Parish of Hartburn."

1723 Archdeacon Sharp's Visitation instructions (father of later vicar):—"That the Roof of ye North and South Aisles or wings of the Church be new covered . . . The Window at ye East end of ye South Aisle to taken down low as formerly and glazed. It would be very proper to sash it as is done in ye North aisle. The south window of ye church (next to ye last mentioned) should be glazed throughout, all ye stone work in it being taken away & ye Window made entire. The top of Mr. Grey's seat to be taken away that it may not intercept ye light from ye pulpit and reading desk. The pulpit to be strengthened and a new reading desk and Clerks seat to be erected before ye pulpit. A Paten for ye communion. The flagon to be mended or exchanged. The little ash tree growing upon ye south wall of ye church and two ash trees growing near ye Chancel wall on ye north to be rooted up." "Ordered before ye Easter 1725. The great doors to be mended at the bottom. The old cover of the font to be altered and made convenient for common use. The Beam lying acrofs ye Church over ye Font is to be taken away. A Chest with Locks and keys for ye Books, Vefsells, etc." He ordered the seats to be floored with flags or boards, the walls to be "plaistered where it is wanting and whitened and ye Commandments to be wrote anew upon ye partition between ye Church & Chancell & chosen sentences of scripture to be wrote upon ye walls. Rails should be placed before ye Communion Table." The roof work was done by "Richard Harrison, plumber, of Alnwick," who was to "repair and keep them for his natural life. Parish to find coals and a pot."

Also in 1723 the Pulpit was strengthened and the new Reading Desk supplied. Two sash windows were made in the south side of the church. 1724 "The Church all plastered where it wanting and whitened & Chancell also plastered and sentences written on by the famous and ingenious Thomas Whittle." Tradition says that he arrived from Whelpington riding on a goat, settling here at the Cambo end. It also associates his name with the Skull and Crossbone motif on the Grave-stones. He was buried at Hartburn in 1731 still described by the Clerk, John Robinson, as "an ingenious man." "1727 Paid to Thomas Whittel for his

work in church £2 1s. 9d." "For the binding of an Appren-tice £2."

1730 Absentees of the Four and Twenty to be fined 1/-.
1732 "Elizabeth Heppell buried aged 100 years. 1733 Widow Robson buried by ye diall stone. 1744 Edward Bone of Needless Hall byers 96 years. 1747 Arch Gibson, of Rothley beside a stone coffin. 1751 John Wood of High Angerton said to be 107 years." In the three years from 1727-29 there were 60 burials. Up to 1751 eight were buried inside the church including Mr. Eden and Mr. Werge; also in 1741 "James Taylor labourer to Mr. Wm. Dixon plurr of Newcastle who was killed by a fall in Hartburn chancell & buried in ye same place." 1736 At his Visitation the Archdeacon had recorded "Improp (i.e. Lay Rector) late Ld. Derwentw. Resid Fam. 260 (of whom) 39 Presb. No School. 3 Sacmt, 50-60 come."

1737 Richard Werge, Vicar. Sounding Board fitted over pulpit 1739 "Two surplices washing; repairing Church yard dick, mending the mount, glazing window; Blacksmith for two iron hinges for Ch. door and opening a window at the Longwitton pew." 1742 "Holland for surplice £2 18s. 6d." 1743 "Mary daughter of Michael Ayton of Rothley. This child got private baptism above two years before she was received into Church by neglect of her parents." 1745 The Government troops marching against the Young Pretender halted for the night of November 4th at Morpeth. "Parson Werge of Hartburne sent awaine Load and a Cart load of straw on Sunday ye 3rd November." (From John Robinson's Book who was our Parish Clerk.) I would like to read this book which I think is in manuscripts if any reader knows of it. 1751 "Plumer to repair roof of church and wall on north side of the Church and new sashed window to be made in the said wall at the most convenient place."

Excommunications "July 12, 1752 That Mary Garfil of Camboe having stood excommunicate about eighteen years for the crime of Fornication upon her doing penance this day in our parish church had her Absolution publicly read in time of Divine Service. John Sharp." "April 13th 1755 This day Catharine Philipson of Camboe was declar'd excommunicate publickly in the congregation. Witness my hand Isaac Johnson Curate." "March 16 1760 This day Thomas Thompson of Saughhouses in this parish was declared excommunicate in the congregation. Witness my hand, John Sharp, Vicar. John Straker, Christopher Arthur (His mark) Churchwardens." A note also at the back of this Register tells of buying surplices and spades. One of the

latter lasted sixteen years. Also of the purchase "of two silver jugs and a silver sarver and the steeple poynted all in 1743." This was the Isaac Cookson silver in use still.

The Vestry Books 1752-1836; 1835-1939

The Four and Twenty met in the Vestry under the Tower which was made more comfortable. Coals were regularly bought as was a set of tongs and payment was made for lighting the fire. An Easter dinner for the Vestrymen was bought from the Rates. Yet in 1754 and 1758 men elected as Wardens were in trouble for refusing office, while for more than ten years after 1819 six or seven were fined each year for non-attendance at the Vestry meeting.

1752 "We order the partition between the Church and Chancel to be taken away from the Top to the underneath rail and the commandments and King's arms to be placed at the lower end of the Church." This was the (ancient) Rood Screen. The King's Arms was a fairly common feature demonstrating loyalty in the XVIIth Century to the Stuarts and in the next to the Hanoverians. 1755 Repairs to the Vestry—a board floor, wainscoting, seats and plastering. These were the fittings so sadly destroyed in 1966 because of dry rot. Also in 1755 a puzzle, "To repair and enlarge the Vestry window." "6 soulmart heads 2/-." I think these were martens, a kind of weasel. A per capita fee was paid for foxes too. 1756 Two full rates were taken for building a parish stable and one for a school house. (Further notes later. 1760 "We order that the groats (4d.) for Soulmart heads are not to be allowed to be paid for the future." 1761 "To repairing the Dial upon the Church Porch with lead." 1762 "A herse" to be bought for the benefit of those within the Parish. There were often complaints about it being taken beyond the boundaries. 1763 "Door of Eastermost of the Stables to be enlarged with arched top for the High Hearse."

1764 The Archdeacon's Visitation. The whole roof including the aisles (and chancel, listed separately for the lay rectors) to be examined and new lead laid. The pews to be flagged or floored at owners' expense and some to be lowered. The font cover to be mended. The tongue of the larger (deeper?) bell to be mended. The four upper windows of the Tower to be louvred. The pews in the Chancel to be repaired where broken. In August we learn that both bells had been rehung — "for ale when bells hung 9/-." Other items include "curled hair" for mortar, "Album, white lead and oil." "Plummers bill £21." 1766 "Holland for surplice £2 2s. 0d." "Altar cover of scarlet plush with decent fringe

£3 5s. 8d." 1773 Middle aisle flagged. 1774 Porch reslated. "Coffin for a poor man 2/-." "North Aisle lead mended."

1777 "Easter dinner liquor 10/6, Easter dinner £1 10s. 11½d. To 2 gallons of Brandy £1 5s. 0d., 2 galls. of Ale 10/-." All this on one account. What a party! The accounts also show Dr. Sharp paid 5/- rent each year for keeping his chaise in the school-cum-stable. 1780 Plumber £17. Carpenter £15 15s. 0d. . . . Always roof repairs. 1783 "To snuff and tobacco 1/9½." "To a Pott 12/-." 1788 "Masons bill £11. Butter 4d., Potatoes 8d., Tobacco and Sugar 1/8d." All paid from the Rates. Gravel was provided for the paths and their upkeep became an annual charge. "A besom for church 3d." 1797 The Vicar, Mr. Davison paid "one guinea for space south of the pulpit to annex to his own pew in the south east corner to belong to the Vicar and his successors for ever." Repairs to the school-house chimney "if possible to convey smooke up." 1810 "Cleaning church and Punch ladles 10/10d." Next year straw mats were provided for the Communion and Font steps. £8 13s. 4d. paid for a metal chest for the Registers, one third being paid by Netherwitton chapelry.

1821 The pews were to be painted at the owners' expense. They were:—Sir John Trevelyan 8 for Longwitton, Whitridge and Cambo; Lord Decies 5 for Shafto, Fairney Chesters and Rothley; Ralph Atkinson 9 for Angerton and South Middleton; Sir Chas. Loraine 1 for Old Denham; The Vicarage 2; and one each for East Corridge, West Corridge, High-laws, Todridge, North Middleton, East Thornton, West Thornton, North Farm, Temple Thornton, Hartburn Grange and the Parish or Strangers' Pew. 1827 A velvet pall and a blackcloth pall with tassels were bought for hiring along with the hearse. 1830 The Easter dinner cost £7 3s. 10d. and "Extra liquor, Sugar and glasses broke 14/2d."

1832 The Archdeacon's Visitation of 1826 had drawn attention to holes in the north wall of the Chancel. This year General Sir Thomas Bradford wrote to the Lay Rectors, the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital pointing out the ruinous condition of this north wall which was nine inches out of the perpendicular. The roof was also decayed and in danger of collapsing. He said the repairs would cost £351 but if the Commissioners would give him sufficient space for a pew in the Chancel, then he himself would pay half, together with a further £40 "for building a flue and other personal items." 1835 The Vestrymen agreed to build a gallery to receive an organ promised by the General arranging that the famous Newcastle architect, Mr. Dobson,

then busy at Meldon Park, should draw up the plans. He made the gallery rest on the two west pillars. Besides the organ there was room for the singers and for four pews of four seats each which were allotted to Sir Thomas and to Isaac Cookson, Esq., who each contributed £16. This with voluntary subscriptions of £26 met the total cost of £58. A window for the gallery let into the clerestory was blocked up in 1892. It is not recorded when the gallery was removed. Also in that year Mr. Cookson was given permission to build a coach house near the Vicarage barns for use during Divine service.

1837 Repairs needed to the organ were to be made on "the most moderate terms possible." The cost was £7. That year saw our first Hymn Book of twelve pages containing thirteen hymns. Among them were:—"Awake my soul and with the sun . . .", "Hark! the herald angels sing", "Glory to Thee, my God, this night", "Great God! what do I see and hear", "My God! and is Thy table spread", "Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him". The first hymn book for a Church of England parish was produced by the Revd. R. Heber at Hodnet Church, Shropshire, in 1820, but authorization was withheld by the Archbishop of Canterbury until 1827 when Heber was Bishop of Calcutta. Hymns Ancient and Modern was not published until 1860.

1838 An "apparatus for heating the church" was supplied and converted to take a hot water system five years later. £78. **1840** The Churchwardens were to ask Lord Decies to repair or remove his escutcheon affixed above the East Shaftoe pew. The holdfasts can be seen in the north aisle wall. **1842** The church was flagged at a cost of £50 and the bell ropes were brought down into the Vestry. **1843** The church windows were renovated. Mr Hodgson had those in the aisles made into twin lancets and the heads in the Tower windows were renewed. It was agreed that the heating of the church should not be a rateable charge, but on the Vicar resigning the legal dues paid to him at Easter by all parishioners, the bread and wine for the Sacrament was to be a charge on the wardens. In fact this is ordered by the Prayer Book which includes the further provision that, "if any of the bread and wine remain unconsecrated the Curate shall have it to his own use." **1847** "1 doz. wine £1 6s. 0d."

1849 Cambo Church was built and endowed from his stipend by Mr. Hodgson in 1842. He was also responsible for setting Netherwitton up as a separate parish, reflecting the general Victorian mood to make every village a parish with its own parson, often inadequately paid. The Vestry

still felt that Cambo ought to pay rates to Hartburn and paid for Counsel's opinion. In **1860** the four quarters of Cambo, Angerton, Middleton and Longwitton were still paying the legal rates. **1854** The Tower was pointed and the east window filled with stained glass as a memorial to General Sir Thomas Bradford. **1862** Changes in local government are seen in that the names of the four quarters cease and only two wardens, representing the "north and south sides" were elected. **1867** The Church was insured with the Royal Exchange Office for £1,000.

1873 "In consideration of digging graves four feet deep and collecting bones and depositing them at the bottom of the grave the sexton's fees to be increased from 2/- to 3/-." The Church Rate ceased to be a compulsory payment, but the wardens retained a Rate book, collecting a voluntary rate for church and school repairs. Col. Atkinson placed stained glass in the aisles windows. **1876** The insurance was changed to the Church of England Life and Fire Assurance Office, Cheapside—the Church for £1,200, the Stained Glass for £400, the Pews, Pulpit, Desks, etc., for £400. The Chancel was not included being a separate responsibility.

Soon after he came Mr. Hodgson nominated Mr. Isaac Cookson twice in succession as one of the four wardens. Then the practice ceased and the old system continued. Thirty years later in **1879** the Vicar nominated Mr. Coull, while Mr. Liddell was elected as Parish warden, and both continued to be re-appointed for several years, establishing our present system. **1886** An improvement was made in the heating apparatus. **1888** Sparks up the chimney set the rafters of the Tower roof on fire. Fortunately the Vicar saw them as he was closing the study shutters and gave the alarm. The bells were rung . . . and the C. of E. Insurance Co. paid £58 for repairs to the Tower and to clothing of those who fought the flames. There was a second fire in 1907. In **1889** lights were provided and Mr. Cookson supplied Chancel lamps. Evensong was changed from 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

1889-1892 The Great Repairs

The exterior traces on the Tower wall of the original high pitched roof must have continually suggested a solution to the problem of repairing the roof. Return to what it was meant to be! So drawings were made and a faculty applied for and obtained. All these we have. Then Mr. Cresswell, the architect, took a longer look. The pillars and north walls were out of the perpendicular, the pillars some 2½ to 3¼ inches. The old walls are 3 feet 2 inches thick

resting on columns 1 foot 7½ inches. He felt that the lack of alignment was the result, partly of bad setting out by the original masons (the Tower is 6 inches nearer the south than the north wall), partly by settling or some Chancel failure in times past. He also noted from the measurements of the roof marks on the Tower, that the roof had been flatter on the north side by some 6 inches, itself causing strain to the north wall below. His calculations showed the weight of a flat roof to be 41 tons 17 cwts. per column while that of a high roof would be 46 tons 15 cwts. The weight of a safe permanent load was estimated at 42 tons. Therefore the flat roof was restored, the whole covering being inspected and made good. One beam of the original woodwork, thought to be not less than three hundred years old in 1889, remains. It is the third west from the Chancel arch. The holes at the ends are not Cromwell's bullet holes as some have loved to tell, but previous bolt holes. Chamfering showed that the old beams had not rested on corbals. Many of the purloins and about one quarter of the spars were used again.

The opportunity was taken of removing the plaster from the walls and the blocked-in Tower arch became visible, as well as the tiny pravisse window above it, the three stones with the St. Andrew crosses and traces of fresco painting of black geometric figures on tawny ground, which are no longer to be seen. Behind the Pulpit the remains of a hagioscope, corresponding to that in the north aisle was discovered and the built up priest's doorway nearby. On the other side of the Chancel, about 12 feet from the arch, the 1832 chimney flue was found within the wall. The face of this wall consisted of 4½ inches of brickwork behind the plaster, for which a 6 inch stone facing was substituted. The arches over the three lights in the east windows were only lath and plaster for about half the thickness, but two stones found inside helped to provide the original design and were themselves replaced. Old Norman stones from within the plaster were used to help to build up the space to the roof. The head of the second window east of the Chancel arch was found to contain rough brickwork and was repaired with new stone. Oak frames were provided to replace plaster frames. In the north aisle the head of the east window was found to be plaster, so a keel head corresponding to that opposite was substituted. The removal of the plaster also showed the intake of about 4 inches running the length of both clerestory walls. This together with the Norman masonry and other features discovered brought new light on the original church.

Following these large scale repairs many gifts were provided. Amongst these were the reredos in Caen stone, the

oak stalls and the Florentine lamps, the oak altar together with the cross, candlesticks, furnishings and frontal case (all by Mr. and Mrs. Cookson); the marble floor in memory of the Revd. B. P. Hodgson; the pulpit in Caen stone, the oak prayer desk and lectern (the family of Col. Atkinson) and a great variety of gifts, vases, books, cloths, renovating the font cover, etc. A wonderful Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday, 24th July, 1892. The previous oak pulpit, deal reading desk and Communion book were given to Burradon Mission Church in Killingworth Parish.

1898 Soon afterwards thanksgiving was put into a more tangible form. A copy of our Parish Magazine, No. 55, the earliest we possess has an article by Mr. Kershaw, the Vicar, telling of a gift sent to the Bishop of Perth, Western Australia, to help start a church. This comprised an altar cloth, altar linen, alms bags, book markers, sanctuary curtains, kneelers, silver chalice, silver gilt paten, cruets, altar cross, candlesticks, portable font, a Bible, Prayer Book, Office Book, alms dish, vases, font ewer and cases for the vessels and linen. In return we have the Bishop's Solemn Blessing under the seal of his Diocese.

1910 The Reredos was completed by the gift of statues of SS. Peter and Paul (Mrs. Cookson). **1912** The floor was lowered to reveal the bases of the pillars (Mr. Perceval). A new organ and radiator heating were provided.

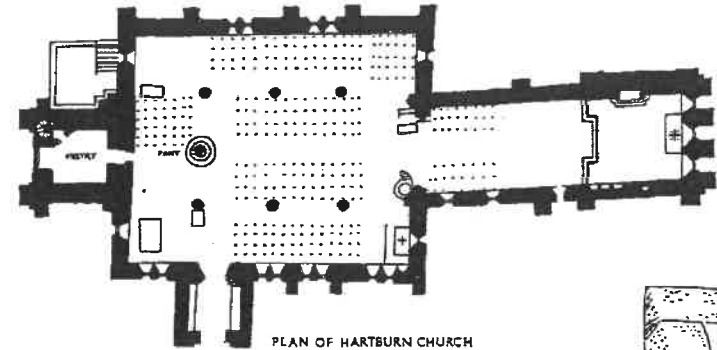
1918 The parish accepted its share of the first Diocesan Quota. The Diocesan total was £14,000; £480 was Morpeth Deanery's share and £22 that for Hartburn. It is now about five times greater for all three. Voluntary contributions gathered in left a balance in hand of £9! **1919** saw a much longer list of Sidesmen. The Minutes of **1920** were the last for the old Vestry. In future its sole duty was to elect the People's Warden. A link with the past was kept by fixing the number of the Parochial Council at Twenty Four. **1921** The Glebe Farm of 55 acres was sold to Mr. Straker. In that year the first women seem to have attended the Annual Church Meeting, namely Mrs. Straker, Mrs. Cookson and Mrs. Wrigley, the Vicar's wife. **1927** The Vicar noted that there were 118 communicants at Easter, the most ever known. In recent years the benefits of electricity and oil heating have been provided from legacies left by Mr. Snowdon and Col. and Mrs. Cruddas. Handsome pew fronts have been given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Straker and the south Aisle Altar was furnished and the window given in memory of Mr. Leathart.

By 1960 urgent renovations were required to the Vicarage, which the Parochial Church Council and Diocese tackled

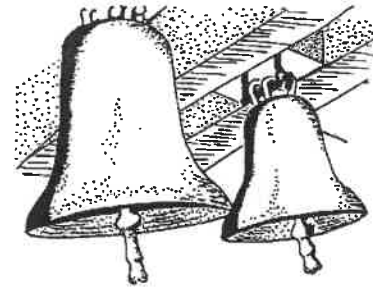
together. Loans, gifts and covenants all helped to meet the Parish share. Hardly had this work been completed than members were faced in 1965-6 with the need for equally urgent repairs to the roofs of the Tower, Nave and Chancel. The cost proved very high. Indeed the final bill has not been paid as I write. Once again the Lay Rectors faced and met their responsibilities. So too did our Churchwardens, officers and members of the Church Council. The Bishop and Diocese of Newcastle, the Historic Churches Preservation Society and the Incorporated Church Building Society all gave substantial support. So too did many of you who will read this. I have a list of all your names and thought at first to publish them but you know it would hurt, if I unintentionally omitted even one. All as far as are known are listed in our Church Records. There is one name that I will publish and that is Mr. Pearson's of Angerton Hall, for not long before he died, a large loan he had made for the Vicarage work, he gave as a gift towards the roof repair. Like so many of you he must be remembered as a "Friend of Hartburn." We all know this is one of the loveliest churches in the North, in a wonderful setting. I am glad to have found there are so many who appreciate its glory and its charm. You will always be welcome to share our worship and I trust in remembering those who over the past centuries have cared for our church, you will be strengthened in your Christian witness in whatever part of the Church you now have the privilege to serve.

"Hartburn the place of all I love
 Where all have lived who loved me;
 Green be thy woods and fair the flowers
 Which oft have bloomed around me"

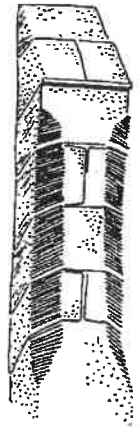
(Contributed by one who has lived all her life at Hartburn)



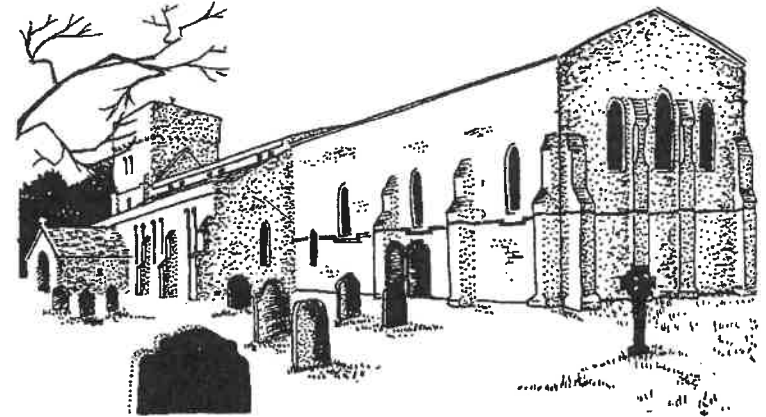
PLAN OF HARTBURN CHURCH



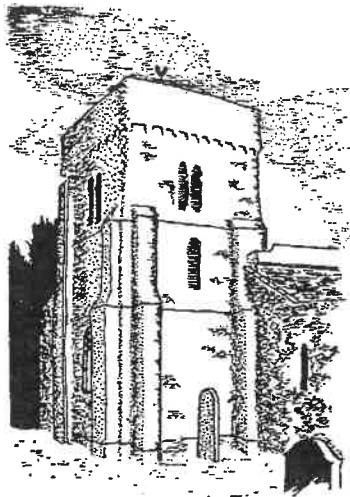
ANDREW AND MARY BELLS



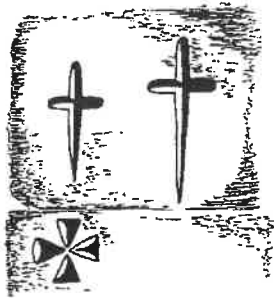
CHAMFERED BUTTRESS



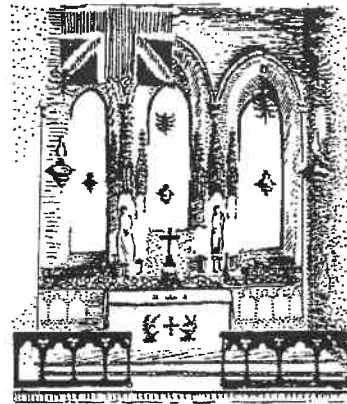
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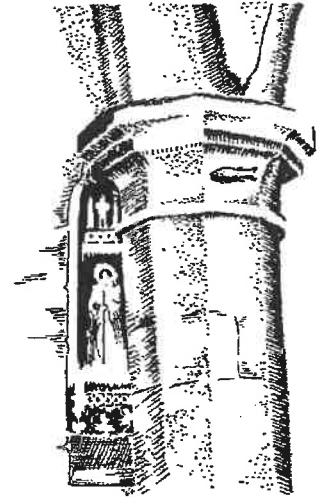
HARTBURN CHURCH TOWER



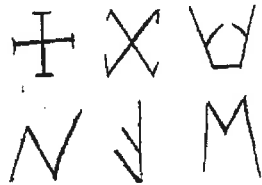
KNIGHT TEMPLARS MARKS



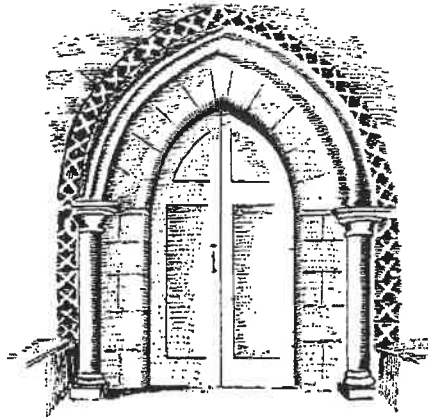
INTERIOR OF HARTBURN CHURCH



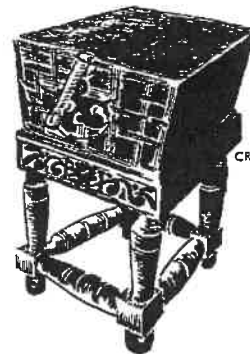
LEANING FISH PILLAR



MASON MARKS IN THE TOWER



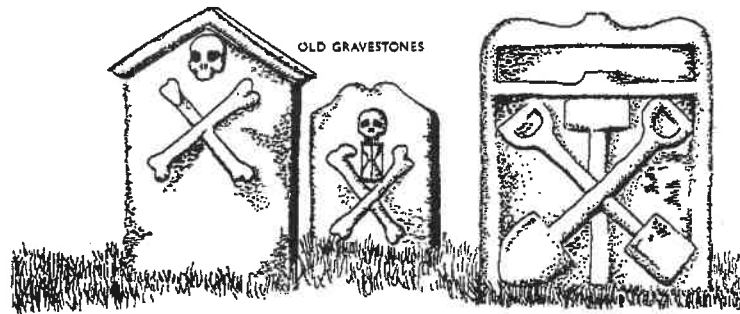
KNIGHT TEMPLARS DOORWAY



CROMWELLIAN MONEY CHEST

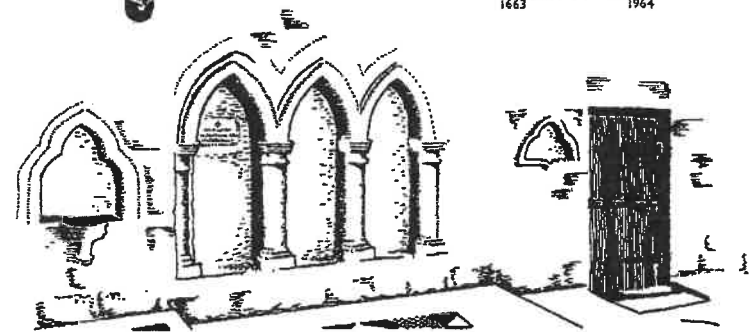


1663 1664

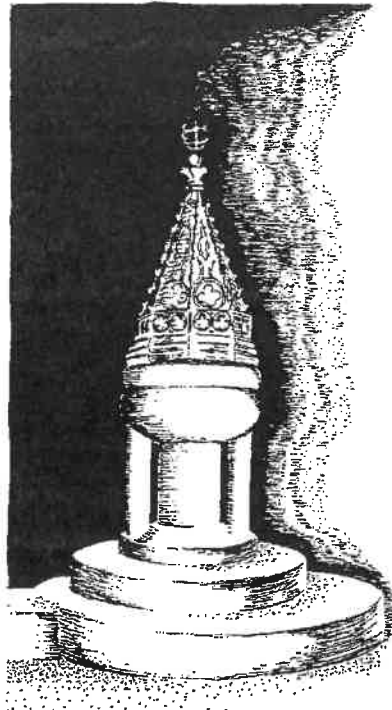


OLD GRAVESTONES

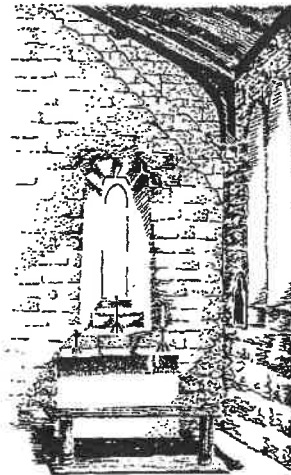
HARTBURN CHURCH



HARTBURN CHURCH



FONT



OLD COLLECTION BOXES

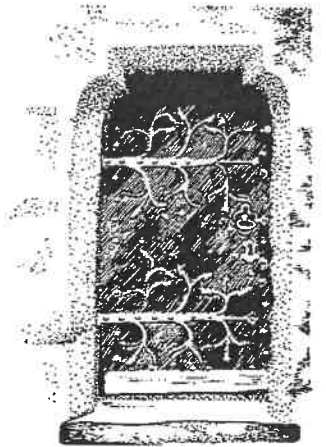


HARTBURN VICARAGE

HARTBURN CHURCH AND VICARAGE



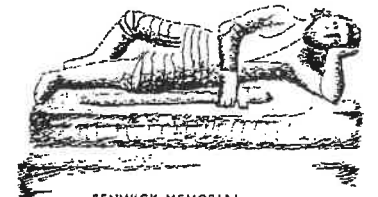
MELDON CHURCH



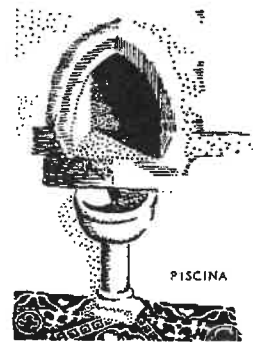
PRIESTS DOOR



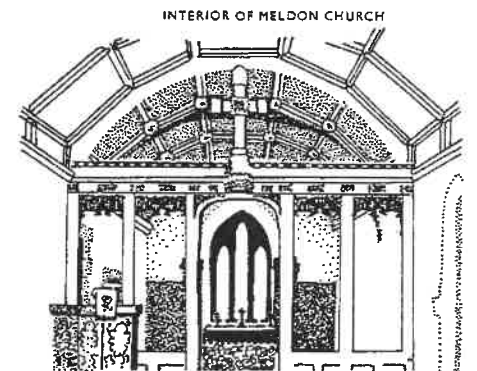
PRESENTED 1829



FENWICK MEMORIAL



PISCINA

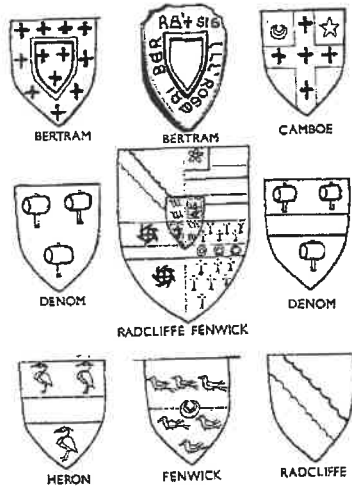


INTERIOR OF MELDON CHURCH

MELDON CHURCH



DEER KEEPERS HOUSE



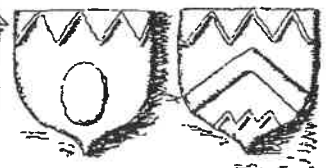
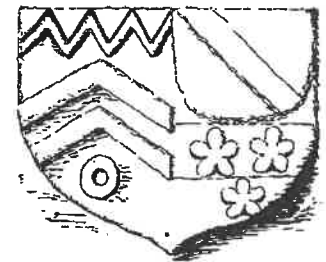
MELDON PARK



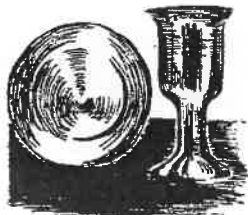
MELDON CHURCH, MELDON PARK AND THE KEEPER'S HOUSE



NETHERWITTON CHURCH

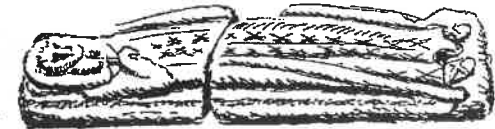


COATS OF ARMS ON EAST WALL

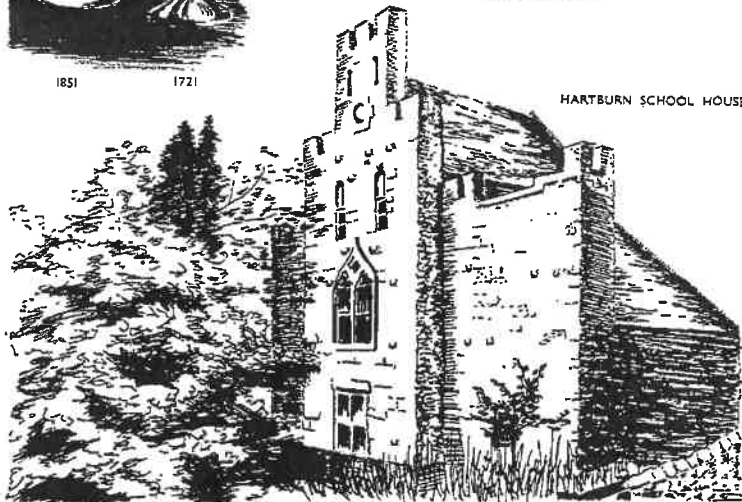


1851

1721

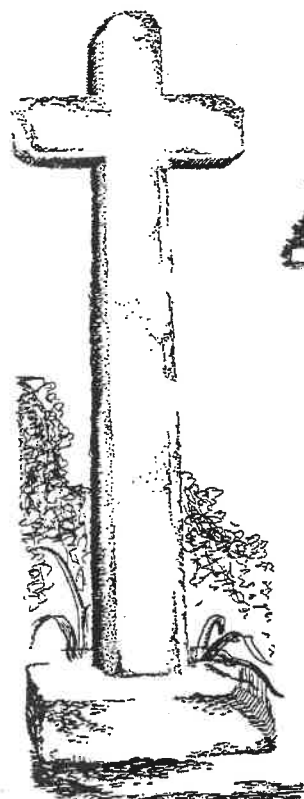


EFFIGY OF LADY

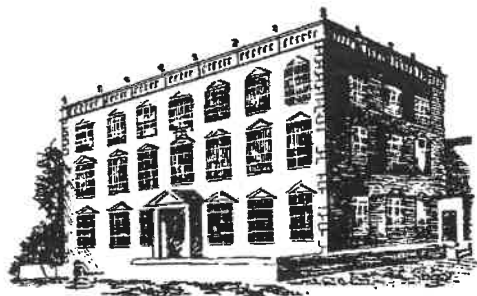


HARTBURN SCHOOL HOUSE

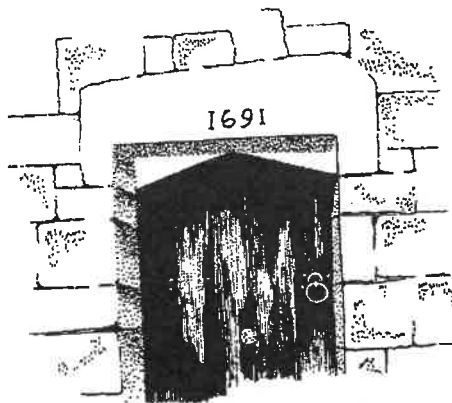
NETHERTON CHURCH AND HARTBURN SCHOOL HOUSE



NETHERWITTON VILLAGE CROSS

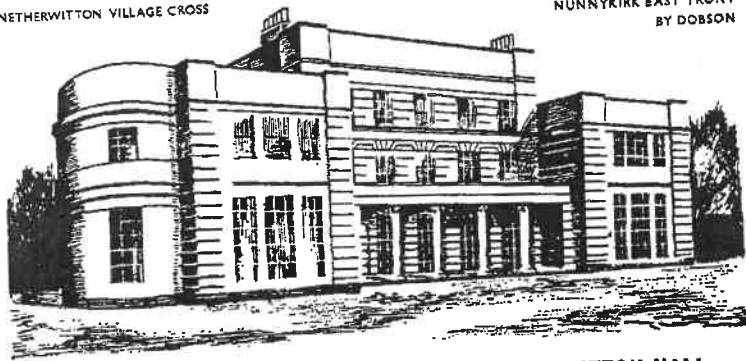


NETHERWITTON HALL



PRIESTS DOOR

NUNNYKIRK EAST FRONT
BY DOBSON



NETHERERTON CHURCH, NUNNYKIRK AND NETHERWITTON HALL

CHAPTER THREE

HARTBURN VICARAGE AND SCHOOL

The first living quarters of the Priest of Hartburn must have been in the upper room of the Tower, part fortress and part storage-barn. When the church was added he would have been able to see into it through the little window.

The oldest part of the Vicarage is the Pele Tower which might have been built soon after the 1250 alterations to the Church. The heavy masonry, chamfered pediment, doorway and vaulted ceiling are evidences of its great age. Next to be added was the south east extension, probably to provide a family house in Edward VI's reign. Again the massive walls, inside and outside, mark its complete dimensions. At the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign, when Ralph Todd became vicar in 1554, the upstairs chamber with a freestone chimney was built. A court case in which his nephew opposed a claim for dilapidations by Todd's successor substantiates this addition. By 1662 the Bishop of Durham's Registry, checking on the state of the Church's property following the Cromwellian interlude when so many of our clergy had been ejected by the Presbyterian Government, supplied a complete picture.

"There belongeth to the Vicarage of Hartburn a Mansion house, slated, consisting of a Kitchen, Hall, Parlour, Cellar upon the Ground, and the chambers over them, and two corn lofts over those chambers, and a Bakehouse and a calfhouse on the north side" together with barns and on the south west about twenty yards away "an orchard, cottage and byre attached." The account goes on to describe the glebe, detailing the fields, mentioning "Haupworth" as well as the fruit trees and other varieties; the number of days for grazing on both farm land and moor is listed, and also the "tithes of corn, wool, lamb, calf, foal, bees, "pigg", goose, turkey, duck, hen and all other small tithes from High and Low Angerton, the Miln, Marlish, Highlaws, Corridge, South Middleton, both Denhams, Roughleys, Birkheads, Coatyards, Ritton, Fowley House, Heally, Netherwitton, Shelly and all other places within the boundaries of Netherwitton except Netherwitton Desmesne for which 30/- is paid and 20/- for the glebe, and except Nunnkirk which pays 9d. for each farm (i.e. measure of land—old sense); of

wool, lamb and calf from East and West Shafto; and 6d. for a tithe pigg, 4d. for a goose and foal, 2d. for a hen from North Middleton, Rotherwith, the two Camboes, Harterton, Donkinridge, Harrwood House, Greenleighton, Rothley the Miln, East and West Thornton, Hartburn Grange, Longwitton, South Witton and the Broad . . . together with 40/- for Wallington desmesne, 10/- for Harterton, 30/- for that part of Greenleighton belonging to Mr. Fenwick of Nunnykirk — all to be paid at Martinmas and Easter." There was also a number of money sums for tithe hay from several farms. "2½d. was paid by every communicant of which 1d. was for bread and wine for the sacrament; 2/6d. for a wedding, 1d. for a christening; 5/8ths yard of linen or 8d. for a churching; 13d. for a burial; 4d. for banns."

About 1750 Dr. Sharp built the north Wing comprising "two very large rooms being a dining room and a drawing room in which his delight was to entertain his neighbours with musical performances with the assistance of Durham (Cathedral) Choir. His favourite instrument was the violin-cello and in the ecstasy of enjoyment he would throw off his coat and fiddle away, baronets and squires and their lady wives and daughters notwithstanding, in his shirt sleeves, till on one occasion he was black in the face."

When the Revd. J. Hodgson arrived in 1833 he wrote that much repair was needed and he opened up a door into the Tower making it useful for domestic purposes. "An upper room of the building he converted during his last long illness into a study which served as a bedroom, and here he died." Since 1960 the Vicarage has again been overhauled for its sagging roof was neither water-tight nor safe. In the course of the work when the old well reaching deep into the earth was sealed off, wooden tree-trunk water pipes were discovered. The house is now much easier for the Vicar and his family, while keeping the links which stretch back six, perhaps seven hundred years and more.

Hartburn School

We have a longhand transcription from a simple autobiography of John Robinson, born 1671 at Low Angerton, who went to schools at Gallowhill, "Bollham" and Meldon, learning to write and "Rathmetician". From May, 1693, to February, 1696, he taught a school "in Hartburn Church" but could not continue as Mr. Laton Eden wished his children to be taught Latin which Robinson could not do. He continued teaching on his own at High Angerton, West and East Thornton until in 1704 he became Parish Clerk at Hart-

burn and school-master the year after, living in "the clerk's house where the key was kept." By 1727 he was teaching again at High Angerton in an "ordinary school", complaining that there were at least four licensed masters. A license cost 3/4d. As Clerk he found the change-over from his "beloved Mr. Eden . . . to Mr. Work" (Werge) from Hart by Hartlepool very trying. He was "a very hard man and now we have a singing Master Teacher Tenor bass counter and Tribble which goes very ill with me . . . my master will let me sing none but give out ye line." However Mr. Werge kept him as Clerk long after his health had given out until his death in 1747.

Nine years later Dr. Sharp and the Twenty Four built the Parish Stable to serve a dual purpose, housing both hearse and school. There were three ground floor rooms, the middle one being 18 feet by 12 feet and the others 15 feet by 12 feet. The school was to be over the middle room, and was to be boarded and have a "cheenay". From that time there were regular references to school repairs, to the hearse and to a rent of 5/- p.a. for Dr. Sharp's use of one room for his chaise.

We have a copy of a Deed made in 1844 by which Mr. Hodgson made over the site of the School House and of the present School built in that year for "the education of poor children."

A Book of Accounts records that Saturday was a half-holiday and there was both a birch rod and a strap. The Master was paid £80 per annum inclusive of his salary as Parish Clerk. Costs were met from Pence paid by the children and Subscriptions, which in 1847 amounted to £23 18s. 9d. and £26 respectively. The Education Act of 1870, which made education compulsory, brought a Government grant of £13 17s. 0d. which by 1900 had risen to more than £100.

Further Notes Thomas Kay, 1683 Parish Clerk, probably some years earlier and later (1699) by handwriting in the Register No I, might also have been schoolmaster. John Robinson, clerk 1704-1747, schoolmaster (see text above). I think his mother was Jane Robbeson, died 1693 (stone 158 see plan of churchyard) and father, who married again, was Richard Robinson (died 1708 stone 19). Joseph Reed, clerk, schoolmaster 1747-1794 (stone 56) m-in-law lived to 100yrs.

The Glebe or Harpeth field. The Vicar had 52 stints or "greasy gates" on High Angerton moor. Because of disputes the Earl of Carlisle, represented by Ralph Wood, gent and William Aynsley, gent (Vicar's F-in-law) in 1718 enclosed the moor separating 32 acres as the Glebe in exchange for the 52 stints. "Harpeth" means the path along which the army passed, probably a reference to the Devils Causeway Roman Road. (Harbottle = army building). Hartburn Bunal Register No 2: 1716 "Esther... Schoolmistress Needleshall."

CHAPTER FOUR

THE PARISH AND CHURCH OF MELDON

The church of Meldon, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a small and most attractive building measuring twenty-three yards by six. Several features suggest an early date of around 1200 A.D. The lancet windows have heads mostly cut from single stones; the walls are of roughly dressed stone with wide joints, and the stones which are dressed are cut diagonally, itself an early mark; the buttresses are long without stages and where they are grouped in pairs at the four corners are set back a distance. The priest's doorway is shoulder arched and the east window is hood moulded—features which suggest a date about 1250. The triple lancets of the east window were probably inserted in the 1849 restoration and contain glass given by Col. Cookson, designed by Mr. Evetts to represent the four parts of the Harvest, the plough, the sun, the grain and the sheaf.

Within the church only a modern screen separates nave and chancel. This very simplicity points to an early date. Some thought it was a chapel belonging to Mitford, but in 1310 the Dean and Chapter of Durham won a legal decision showing that it was a "mother parish church". In the south wall of the Chancel there is a lovely plain piscina with pedestal. Alongside is an aumbry cupboard where the sacred vessels were kept. On the inside of the door has been carved the figures 18X9 and the initials I.R. These suggest the initials of the Revd. James Raine, Rector in 1822, whose initials are also on the Chalice and Paten. Notice the fine hinges, repeated on the church doors. In the north wall there appears to have been another piscina, which makes me wonder if the monument there had earlier been a chantry altar.

The effigy by the Font is that of Sir William Fenwick, knighted in 1616 by James 1st and described on a jurors' list "as of Meldon." His mother, "Meg o' Meldon", advanced the money which on closure of the mortgage brought the estate from the Herons to the Fenwicks. Folk lore describes Meg as being a miser, haunting the bridge by Meldon Mill. Sir William fought as a Royalist and had his estates confiscated by Cromwell. He died in London in 1652. The effigy pictures him in plate armour, his head bare with long curled hair. The estate must have been repurchased by

fine, for his daughter after first marrying a Royalist colonel who was killed in battle, then married Sir Francis Radcliffe, 1st Earl of Derwentwater. His grandson, the ill-fated earl, was beheaded in 1716 and the estate again being forfeit, passed to the Greenwich Hospital in 1735.

The glass in the windows shows the arms of the various families who have owned Meldon: Bertram, the founder; Walter de Camboe (c1240); the Denoms (c1360); the Herons (c1367-1620); the Fenwicks (c1620-52) and the Radcliffes (1652-1715).

The Church Plate

There are three pieces, a silver **Paten** and **Chalice**, both given by the Vicar, Mr. Raine, in 1824, although neither has a Date Mark. The **Paten** has three marks, the Lion Passant, the Duty Mark of George III and the Makers' initials — IL/IR. These were John Langlands and John Robertson of Newcastle, who worked about 1793. The **Chalice** has four marks; the Lion Passant, Three Castles, the Duty Mark of George IVth and Makers' mark IR/IW. These refer to John Robertson, Jr., and John Walton, so the date must be about 1824.

The third piece is a **Flagon** of silver to match the Chalice. It carries five marks; the Lion Passant, a Crown mark, the Duty mark of Queen Victoria, the Date letter "Z" and the Makers' mark H.W. & Co. It was made by Henry Wilkinson & Co. at Sheffield between 1867-8.

Outside the church door are an interesting pair of tombstones, set pillow fashion between uprights. One has a crudely carved skeleton of a child and refers to Margaret, daughter of James Thompson who died on October 6th, 1691, and to George, his son who died on December 30th, 1693. The other with its crossed bones and hour-glass, of which there are many examples at Hartburn of a later date, is difficult to decipher . . . "Thompson . . . in the 64 year of his age and born in this place." I guess this to be Ralph Thompson for on its reverse we read the date 1723 and in that year there was only one burial, "James son of Ralph Thompson of Meldon." Our Baptism Registers begin in 1706 and those for Burials in 1716, so we cannot be sure.

Rectors of Meldon

Pre-1250	John de Tinmue (Patron Roger Bertram). Odonel de Ford (Patron Roger Bertram).
c1250	Simon de Bifferly. About this time the Priors of Durham became patrons, being succeeded after 1539 by the Dean and Chapter of Durham.
1277	Roger de Askeby.

- 1280-1310 John de Norham.
 1310 Galfrid de Edenham (who should have received from Adam de Thornton's estate, his best horse and garment, but they were taken by the Abbot of Newminster, so complaint was made to the Bishop of Durham).
 1315 Robert de Tymparon (Priested in 1316 and presented to Hartburn).
 1316 John of Nassington (official-general to the Bishop of Durham; probably never lived here).
 1354 William de Darlington (who exchanged with Alan de Ulkiston 1326-54 Stamfordham).
 1364 William Pulhore.
 1369 Nicholas de Ingelby (Exchanged with brother John de Ingelby for Bywell).
 1378 John de Galeway (Resigned for St. Peter, York).
 1378 Reginald Porter.
 1381 William de Greystones.
 1382 Richard de Thornton.
 1384 John de Reggeton (Resigned).
 1384 William Marmill (Came in May and exchanged in June with John Burgheys).
 1387 Robert de Aukland (Hartburn 1362-64, perhaps also 75; exchanged Meldon for Edmundbyers with Henry Flynton in 1411).
 1425 Henry Driffeld.
 1430 Thomas Hebbeson, L.I.D. (Chancellor to Bishop of Durham. Resigned Meldon 1431, leaving 20/- to Meldon in his will).
 1436 William Doncastre (Dean of Aukland).
 1439 Alexander Surtees (Resigned).
 1440 William Easby (Resigned).
 1453 Richard Kighley (also Vicar of Mitford).
 1467 Adam Morland, B.C.L. (Resigned at Salisbury).
 1474 John Clerk, L.I.D. (Canon of Carlisle. Papal dispensation to hold several livings).
 1487 George Heron (Probably local family).
 1503 Christopher Wardell, L.I.B. (Forbear of Mrs. Cookson).
 1506 John Lambe (Summoned to Galilee Chapel, Durham, 1507. Resigned in Jarrow Monastery).
 1515 Anthony Heron.
 1516 Edward Fenwick.
 1572 Thomas Davison (By Bishop by lapse for non-appointment).
 1575 Henry Duxfield (Bolam 1578-87).
 1587 Humphrey Green (Also Bolam 1587).
 1602 Thomas Whitacres.
 1610 John Wood, A.B. (1637-8 Charged in High Court for having "neglected if not deserted the cure of Meldon". His Counsel replied that the cure was supplied with a sufficient minister and that he could not personally reside therein for want of a house.) 1552 Ejected by the Presbyterian Government.
 1652-1660 Thomas Bendelowes (Held Meldon and Mitford, living in Meldon parsonage built by Wood).
 1660 John Wood restored (Died 1675—65 years after being first presented to Meldon).
 1675 George Forster (Bolam 1640. Ejected but had small farm at Low Angerton. Visited masons building vicarage for intruder, giving them 1/- for a drink, saying "Work on, my bonny lads, I'll be back by and by.")
 1695 Charles Pye, A.B.

- 1726 William Noble, A.M. (Certified 1754 that his curate, Mr. Gordon, Vicar of Mitford, held a monthly service here).
 1762 Isaac Nelson (Vicar of Mitford 1759; drowned at Mitford-Morpeth stepping stones).
 1772 Richard Witton (Long time Hartburn curate. Held also Rennington and Rock where he died.)
 1820 William Smoult Temple.
 1822 James Raine, M.A. (Important official at Bishop's Court, Durham. Collected many legal documents. Here rarely. Gave silver plate.)
 1859-68 John Pedder. Principal of Hatfield College, Durham University. In 1862, Maldon Rectory was built.
 1871 J. Chalmers.
 1880-91 John William Mason. (1882 Diocese of Newcastle separated from Durham).
 1892-3 R. J. Hepple.
 1894-1913 Joseph Albert Whitelock, M.A.
 1913-1923 William Sykes.
 1925-37 John Henry Ellis.
 1940 William Maddison, M.A., Canon.
 1956-61 John Malcolm Macnaughton, M.A.
 1963-5 Stephen Scott Huxley.
 1965 Arthur Ferguson Donnelly, M.A., Canon.
 1983 Ranald Alexander Macdonald M.A.
 1828 James Raine. Second Master Durham School. Librarian to Dean and Chapter of Durham. Edited one of the volumes of Revd John Hodgson's History of Northumberland. Published similar work for Durham.

Notes for the Map on Page 2

- 1 Muggers Rest - field. Baptism Reg of Hartburn 1788. Alice d of John & Alice Todd of Newton in P of Hartburn. Parents said to be travelling between
- 2 Temple Thornton with Tower-dove-cote (Foliz)
- 3 Hartburn Doors (fields)
- 4 Goosehill (field) where wild geese have come for many years
- 5 Green riggs (field)
- 6 Bowman's grave (field) Cannot trace in Registers
- 7 Darky field
- 8 Wiltchecroft (wood)
- 9 Hospital (wood) Probably planted when Greenwald Hospital owned estate 1765-1800s.
- 10 Paradise (wood)
- 11 Jennys close. (field) Jenny said to be bodger and who did her courting here
- 12 Cockplay (wood) Astride railway.
- 13 The Hough
- 14 Toft Hill Toft = homestead
- 15 Devils Elbow
- 16 The Trench
- 17 Cold (au) (wood) In low hill
- 18 Scotland (field)

Names of fields, woods, etc

- 19 Collocres (field) Probably most interesting of our names: "collected across", shrub known to be here in living memory.
 - 20 The Clappas (field): Possibly from Grid-scaring.
 21. The Jingsing Gate. Gate had been at entrance to Longhorsley road. Again within living memory.
 - 22 Bumblelaw bank: Perhaps the hill (now) of the Bumblebees
 - 23 Dunter Knowes
 - 24 At Hartburn. Skeetum - bank & burn.
 - 25 Jacks Flat (field at Thornton Wood) - where horse races were held.
- Names in brackets refer to villages in our registers now non-existent
- The letter T indicates site of Tiled sheds.
 The letter (B) indicates beautiful places.
 26. Cross Butts (field) - probably archery site at Low Angerton.

CHAPTER FIVE

GENERAL NOTES: THE REGISTERS

1250 Roger Bertram 3rd gave patronage to Robert Stichell, Bishop of Durham, as well as selling some land in Molesden to the Parson of Meldon. 1277 Robert de Lisle, Bishop of Durham, exchanged the patronage with the monks of Durham for a living in Lincolnshire. 1310 Priors of Durham and Lanercost disputed ownership, latter claiming it as a chapel of Mitford. Durham patronage being proved and finding it to be a "Mother Parish Church" Lanercost Priory had to pay £200 to Durham Priory and £200 to the Crusades, a very large sum in those days. 1556 At Morpeth Roger Heron was ordered to do two days' penance in church for the crime of fornication, which was commuted to a fine of 20/- for the fabric of Meldon church. 1599 "Their church is downe and unslated in default of Roger Heron who hath all the lyving of the parish in his hands."

1609 Roger Heron's will included "2 fether beds, 5 bolsters, 6 pillows—40/-; 10 coverings and 5 pr. of blanketts—33/4d.; 13 quishions, 2 long carpets, 3 short carpets 16/-; 3 cupboards and a presser 30/-; 3 liverie tables, 5 long tables, 3 formes, 7 buffet stooles, 4 long settles, 3 chaires, 2 iron chimnies, 2 crookes, 3 iron barres, 4 spittes, 4 brasse pottes, 4 cawdrons, 2 kettles and one little pann, a frying pan, a bread grater and a lattin kettle; milking vessells, 3 butter kitts, brewing tubb, 3 wort tubbs & 2 beare barrells, 2 bee hives, corn cheste, pewther vessell, 30 peaces & 16 spones, 4 silver spones, a pewther chamber pott and one of glass, a can and 4 drinking glasses, 5 candlesticks, a brass mortar and a pestell, a bottle and a stone pott; seckes, wallets and poakes; a woullen wheile & wollen cards; 4 table clothes and 1 ewer clothe, 12 yards linen clothe, 3 hand towells, 2 dozen & 4 table napkins, pair curtens and vallances; 2 dozen trenchers . . ." (Note no upholstered seats; wort for herb beer; beehives for sugar; metal very valuable.)

1670 The wall from Dyke Neuk to Meldon marks the side of the Fenwick's Deer Park. At Meldon Mill the "Deer Keeper's House" has stone mullions and hoods, witnessing to the fine architecture of those days, as well as bricked up windows reminding us of that tax.

1736 Hodgson writes that the church was "many years without covering or walls and was rebuilt and repaired by the chairity of Dr. Thomas Eden in 1736 and is now covered in slate." Mr. Gordon, curate here and Vicar of Mitford, added, "I myself purchased a decent pulpit and reading desk and a full set of pews with Dr. Eden's money out of a given-up meeting-house in Morpeth. The churchyard is part of Meldon farm but still retains its own boundaries."

The Registers

These start in 1706 but in a tattered state. At the beginning is a simple inventory: "Note of church utensils of Jany 7th 1727; 1. The Bell, 2. The Surplice, 3. The Bible, 4. The Prayer Book, 5. The Cushion, 6. The Pulpit Cloath, 7. The Table Cloathes, Green and Linen." Beneath this another note records "A Letter from the Bishop of Durham to his clergy for a general collecion for Propagating the Gospel in foreign parts was read in Meldon Church on the 2nd day of August 1752 and collected for that charitie six shillings on the day following."

From the frequency of the curates' names in the wedding registers, the rectors seem to have lived away from Meldon from 1753-1859. Of the 255 weddings recorded in this period, at only two did the rector officiate, the Revd. W. S. Temple in 1820 and the Revd. J. Raine on Easter Sunday, 1851, which looked like a special visit. When Miss Emma Donna Cookson married the Revd. John Shadwell, Rector of Southampton in 1836, John Collinson, Rector of Gateshead officiated. Lancelot Shadwell, "Vice-Chancellor of England", and Isaac Cookson were the witnesses.

There is only one Vestry Book and in an introductory passage the Revd. J. W. Mason wrote that there was no existing book when he came in 1880 and he had himself provided one in 1885. He continued that Mr. Cookson was the only church-warden from 1880-85, being followed by Mr. Snowball. The records show little enthusiasm. None attended the annual meetings of 1890 and '91, while often in the years up to 1913 only the rector and a churchwarden were present. They would meet in the Vestry and adjourn to the comfort of the rectory. The arrival of Mr. Sykes sparked off a little enthusiasm but by 1929 only the rector and his wife were present at the Annual Meeting. It was the same a year later. However I note that Mr. Hall, our Hon. Treasurer, became a sidesman in 1927. Hartburn and Meldon were united in Canon Maddison's time, the patronage being shared between the Lord Chancellor and the Dean and Chapter of Durham.

Rivergreen

There are many beauty spots in our parishes: Garden House, Hartburn Bridge, Meldon Mill, Broom House, Healey Mill, to mention but a few. Rivergreen, an extra-parochial district between Meldon and Molesden offers as pretty a picture as anywhere in the North. The name is from Sheriff's or Reeve's Hill, probably because Baron Bertram's Steward lived there. It appears that this manor was given to the Knights Hospitallers with the Priors of Brinkburn exercising oversight. In 1700 there was a pottery where Garden House now stands, "a very good earthenware pottery, the best in the North" according to the Newcastle Courant of 1740. The nearby Clay Cottages reminds one that blue china clay was mined in these parts.

From the "Newcastle Journal."
"A Sale of some detached portions of the Greenwich Hospital estate took place in the great rooms of the auction mart, London in April 1832. The manor of Meldon, including Meldon Park estate and farms, with Meldon Park Corner Inn and premises, and the North and South Needless Hall farms was sold to Isaac Cookson, Esq, Alderman of Newcastle."

CHAPTER SIX

THE PARISH OF NETHERWITTON

The Saxon Earls of Northumberland owned and ruled over all that we loosely call Netherwitton — Longwitton, Netherwitton, Nunnykirk, Ritton, Wittonshield together with Wingates and Stanton (Longhorsley Parish) — from which our present worshippers are drawn—and a great deal further afield, especially to the north. William the Conqueror softened the settlement of his barons by allowing Waitheof, Earl of Northumberland to retain his possessions and after his execution, his son Cospatrick, who fled to Scotland, later regained this estate at least. In Henry 1st's reign it formed part of Julian's dowry, Cospatrick's daughter, when she married Ralph de Merlay, Baron of Morpeth. In 1138 these two together founded Newminster Abbey, endowing it with revenues from Stanton, Nunnykirk, Ritton and "part of the woods of Witten." The ruins of this abbey lie just west of Morpeth on the Mitford Road. "Witten" seems to have meant "woods" and the area has always merited the description of later years, "the beautiful and productive vale of Netherwitton with its extensive woods and plantations." Therefore it is of special interest that today just north of the village there are two of the biggest oaks in the country, the King oak, 13 feet round, and the Queen, 11 feet round.

The lords of Netherwitton had complete powers of life and death over those who lived here. "Gallowshaw" reminds one of this. Records of 1257 and 1290 prove their right to hold a market at Witton on Mondays, which provided a useful, regular revenue as would their five-day Fair which began on the Eve of the Feast of St. Lawrence, August 10th. The Lords of the Manor also possessed entire control over milling, baking and the brewing of ale. By the end of the XVIIth century the Fair had been given up for the gathering together of a lot of "idle folk" had become a great nuisance. The pleasant side, that of meeting and dancing around the village cross seems to have lasted another century. The Cross, dated 1698, is now in the grounds of Font House, ~~where~~ the old well has been re-opened by Mr. Trevelyan.

In the years after the Normans, the Fenwick clan, whose "chiefest house was at Wallington" established themselves over a wide area including Longwitton and Stanton. In Henry VIII's reign Sir Ralph of Stanton joined his Walling-

ton kinsmen in a Border raid. The English version claimed a great victory, nine hundred Englishmen defeating two thousand Scots taking two hundred prisoners. North of the Border these figures are given in reverse. The only point of agreement seems to be that Sir Ralph and seven others were left as prisoners. At Stanton there are the remains of a pele tower dating to the late 1400's, while the Selby farmhouse next door, also of a good age, was advertised in the Newcastle Courant in the 1700's as a "proper gentleman's house".

The de Merlay property in Netherwitton itself passed to the Somervilles of Staffordshire, part of whose tenancy agreement in that county was to provide those couples who could prove they had been happily married for a twelve-month with a fitch of bacon. From the Somervilles Netherwitton passed to a Welsh knight named Ap Griffiths, who sold it in 1405 to Roger Thornton, of Newcastle. Thornton is reputed to have been a Dick Whittington-type character. Born at Netherwitton and therefore very possibly tied to the estate, he is said to have escaped to Newcastle, where, after a year and a day, he became a free man. He seems to have arrived there in 1382 and obtained shelter from an uncle. By 1400 he had not only made his fortune but had helped the city to obtain a charter and was himself first Mayor of Newcastle. Over the next twenty-seven years he was re-elected a further eight times, and also represented the city in Parliament on several occasions. Much of his wealth came from the Durham lead mines of Weardale, the ore being sent overseas in his own ships for refining. Leland, writing between 1536-42, says: "Thornton, mayre of Newcastle, borne ye Witten, He purchased 800 marke land and died wonderful riche, sum say by pieces of silver oure taken on the se."

Thomas de Pittington, Vicar of Hartburn, and John de Fenwick, chaplain, were associated with him in the purchase of the Netherwitton estates and in 1428 they released all their rights to him "together with the advowson (patronage) of the chantry of the altar of St. Nicholas in Witton chapel." In Roger Thornton's Will the Vicar was left £5 and the chaplain £10. This Will is a wonderful document; legacies of cash or of lead for roofing were left to a long list of monasteries, nunneries and friaries all over these northern counties, together with handsome gifts to the Newcastle churches and "to the chappell of Witton-by-the-water 6 marks." Masses were to be said for him by all who received legacies, including "I will that 30 priests sing for me two years next after my decease, ilk priest having for his soulds by year eight marks." May he be in peace.

Witton Castle was built by Roger Thornton, whose town house was in Westgate. Other buildings for which he was responsible were the Guild Hall in Sandgate, "a square haul place for the Towne", where the city revenue was kept in a box called the "hutch"; and next to this an almshouse, the "Maison de Dieu", for a chaplain and fourteen poor men and women. Two hundred years later the Guild Hall was remodelled by Robert Trollop, of York, and above the Almshouse he built the Merchant Venturers Hall with its still elegant hammer-beam ceiling. For his services Trollop received the Freedom of the City in 1657. Of special interest to us is the fact that Trollop also built Netherwitton Hall, thus forging a double link between Sandgate and Netherwitton. There is a tablet with the Thornton arms over the north door of the Hall.

Cromwell's army was billeted at Netherwitton Hall on the night of August 11th, 1651. The Quarter Master General, John Mosely, certified that "2,450 horses belonging to the 9th Regiment of Foot, the Lifeguards and two regiments of Horse with their baggage were all quartered upon the grounds of Lady Thornton, of Netherwitton." Payment was made for "30 loads of hay used in the foot soldiers tents . . . for 3d. per horse per night £30 12s. 6d.; 30 loads of hay £18; a barn burned by the soldiers £16; 16 sheep killed by the soldiers £3 4s. 0d.; oats destroyed 39 bolls 1 bushel £13 16s. 8d.; peas 2 polls 1 bushel £1 17s. 6d." The sum total came to £95 5s. 6d.

The Thorntons were Royalists and Roman Catholics. Their estates were sequestrated in 1652 but they were allowed to buy them back for a fine. In the Hall was said to have been a Roman private chapel. On the top floor, a panel of an innocent looking cupboard, swings open to reveal a "priest's hole" about 6' x 4' and 6' high but without light. There is no knowledge that it ever sheltered a priest although tradition says it saved Lord Lovat's life in the '45 Rising.

The Chapel of Netherwitton was Anglican and although the Thorntons as lay rectors had the revenues, it appears they rather naturally neglected their responsibilities. In 1682 Nicholas Thornton was "presented" at the Archdeacon's Court for the chancel "being out of repair". Together with their Radcliffe relations they worshipped in a Roman chapel at Witton Shields where initials and dates can be seen, e.g. NT 1608 and HMT (Henry and Mary) 1680. John, son of the above Nicholas, joined the 1715 Rising, being captured but reprieved. £13,520 was the fine for the re-purchase of the sequestered estate. By her marriage in 1772, Margaret, whose portrait is at Font House, brought the estate to Mr.

Walter Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, Somerset, and so to the family of the present squires. Mr. Trevelyan immediately associated himself with our church and district, becoming churchwarden in 1776 and High Sheriff of Northumberland in his turn.

Nunnykirk

The Venerable Bede wrote of a nunnery at a place called Wetadun, which was destroyed by the Danes in the IXth century, and a feasible suggestion has been made that "Wetadun" was a form of "Witton". A Saxon cross-shaft found at Nunnykirk, although after the Danish invasions, clearly suggested a church building here and as Bede described a miracle of St. John of Beverley at Wetadun, a cross might well have been erected to mark such a site after the Danes had gone. Sir Charles Orde, who told me of this, thinks the name "Nunnykirk" may be older than its association with Newminster Abbey through the De Merlays. If in Saxon days Netherwitton meant "by the lower woods" and Longwitton "at the far end of the woods"; then Nunnykirk could have had an older Saxon name, Wetadun or "Overwitton" "above the woods".

Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the Fenwicks obtained this property from the King and, although they sold it to Sir Ralph Grey in 1623, continued to live in it as his tenants. It was sold to the Wards in 1716 and came to the present owners by the marriage of Anne Ward to William Orde. Possibly they lived at Morpeth but their son was in residence at Nunnykirk in 1814 and was High Sheriff in 1819. He was described by Archdeacon Singleton in 1826 as "one of the principal parishioners". Raleigh Trevelyan, Esq., was addressed at the same time as "Joint Improprrietor". Both the Ward and the Orde families were and have been staunch worshippers at Netherwitton chapel. In 1825 the famous architect, William Dobson, of Newcastle, began to remodel Nunnykirk House. His name is associated with Eldon Square, the Royal Arcade and St. Thomas' Church, Barras Bridge and with Meldon Park.

Longwitton Hall

This house, incorporating evidences of a much older one, offers a view as lovely as any in the county, stretching away beyond Hartburn over the Tyne Valley into Durham County. At one time it belonged to the Swinburnes, who sold it to Sir Walter Blackett, another of the Newcastle magnates who developed the coal, iron and shipping resources of Tyneside.

In 1688 he bought the Wallington Estate from Sir John Fenwick who was beheaded nine years later for conspiring against William III. In 1777 the estate passed to Sir John Trevelyan, who had married into the Blacketts and afterwards Beatrice Trevelyan took Longwitton as part of her dowry when she married Ernest Augustus Perceval, son of Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister 1809-1812. Later there being no direct Perceval heir, Longwitton passed to Thornton Trevelyan, Esq., renewing the old Saxon connection with Netherwitton. It may help the reader if I mention that while this family and that of Wallington are related, it is not an immediate relationship.

On the southern edge of the Longwitton estate on the banks above the Hart are or were the Holy wells or Thruston wells. They were springs coming through the face of the cliffs. Here we are told Guy, Earl of Warwick fought and killed a dragon. It was a long struggle, for no matter how many times he struck and wounded the dragon, it returned fresh to the battle. Then he saw that by having its tail hooked into the spring, its wounds were continually being healed. It was not until he was able to manoeuvre himself into that position, that he succeeded in slaying the creature. In the haugh of the Harbeth opposite is a vaguely seen cutting, marked on the map as "the dragon's den".

Page 40 paragraph two - Roger Thornton. His entry as a poor boy into Newcastle has been described in a jingle:-

"At Westgate came Hodge Thornton in
With a hop, and a halfpenny in a ram's skin."

Note. Although the village of Thornton in the Parish of Hartburn came to be owned by the Thornton family, neither appears to be the source of the others name. Tradition says Roger Thornton came from Netherwitton, documents show he bought Witton Castle or tower in 1405.

Your help in the upkeep of our ancient churches would be appreciated for our numbers in all three parishes are small, about 300 - of whom a proportion never help. I suggest three ways in which as a friend of Hartburn you might help:-

- i By giving a Covenant
- ii By sending a subscription (if you wish, for investment for future income and emergency)
- iii By a bequest in your will.

As Vicar I will gladly send any necessary forms.

CHAPTER SEVEN

NETHERWITTON CHURCH AND ITS REGISTERS

Up to 1834 when Netherwitton became an independent ecclesiastical parish, it had always been a chapelry of Hartburn. Yet while the vicars exercised their authority in all legal matters, the chapelry had a privileged and very independent existence. Marriages were solemnized in the church; it had its own churchyard, its own registers; and under a curate, except on rare occasions when the vicar attended, its own two chapel-wardens and members of the Four and Twenty attended to the affairs of church and village. They settled the rates, providing for the upkeep of the chapel and churchyard, the care of the poor and all village matters as at Hartburn.

Until Roger Thornton's time I cannot find trace of a "big house" nor of a church at Netherwitton. Of the two clergymen associated with Thornton, one was the Vicar of Hartburn, who had the oversight of Netherwitton and drew tithes from the whole parish. The other described as "chaplain" was most probably Thornton's private chaplain-cum-personal secretary. His bequest to the "chantry of St. Nicholas" at Netherwitton makes me think that he was the builder of the chapel here, dedicating either an altar or the altar to St. Nicholas, through his association with that church in Newcastle. It is not until the dissolution of the monasteries that the name of St. Giles is used to describe the church. Edward VI took the endowments and possessions of all chantries in 1552 and gave to Morpeth Grammar School for its re-endowment the possessions of "all the chantry of St. Giles founded in the chappell of Witton in the parish of Hartebourne." This consisted of five "farms" made up of sixty-four sections scattered throughout the chapelry. I cannot help feeling there are reasonable grounds for doubting to whom the chapel was originally dedicated, St. Nicholas or St. Giles.

As to the date of the building of Netherwitton Church, my view is that Roger Thornton was the founder. He is known to have been keenly interested in churches and religion and mentioned our church in his will. Nor have I found mention of a church here before then. The present building is Victorian but the capital of the pillar of the chancel arch behind the pulpit is clearly older than its

counterpart and could well date back to the 1400's. In the Chancel there is a life-size effigy of a lady wearing a wimple and long-sleeved gown. Her clothing is similar to that of Roger Thornton's wife in a brass at All Saints' Church, Newcastle, where they were buried. Our effigy might represent Agnes Thornton and as it was found when digging foundations for the later building, perhaps another of her husband is nearby still. Her most lovely smile or smirk is alone worth a visit and the way her thumb is hooked around her necklace. On the walls both in the Chancel and on the east wall outside are coats-of-arms of the Thorntons. That in the Chancel, set over a cross joins the zig-zag of Agnes with the circle of Roger Thornton and the Lumley bird. The last named married Roger II's daughter, dying in 1608. There are some decorative fragments incorporated into the Vestry wall.

Records show that in Queen Elizabeth's I's reign the curate was "Mathew Swane, meanly learned, of honest conversacion and qualytes," who had a nett income of 55s. 10d. per annum. There was no plate. Later in her reign we read that vestments were still in use here; "in the chantry of Sent Giles of Witton, one grene vestment, one vestment of whyte crewell (fine worsted) with the appurtenances and two latten candlestyks." (Latten—a fine kind of brass.) 1587 "Lowrance Thornteton of Witton-upon-the Water" directed his "bodye to be buried in the chappell of Wytton amongst the sepultures of myne ancestors." 1633 Mungo Barnes of Netherwitton, was presented at court for calling Andrew Hall, curate of Nethewitton, "base lousie rogue and did pull by the throate and strick him on the breast." Admitting his fault he was ordered to "publiquelie and solemnlie acknowledge the offence . . . and he shall be denounced excommunicate in the chapel of Netherwitton. Upon his petition a commission is granted to Mr. Mark Wallack, curat of Hartborne to absolve him from the excommunicacion after the pennance." 1680 "We have not a large Bible or alms chest, nor a decent pulpit but are endeavouring to repair it." 1682 Nicholas Thornton presented for having the Chancel "out of repair".

The Church Registers, 1696

1696 A rate set for unspecified church repairs. 1707 For the churchyard wall and for a "sircloath" (Surplice). 1700 A legal notice promulgated as at Hartburn against vagrants. This was signed by Laton Eden, vicar, Thomas Gibson, curate, and members of the Four and Twenty. 1719 A rate for the poor based on the "rack rent". (The total rent paid

by tenants.) 1723 "I do promise fairly and directly to see ye present child if born alive now in the body of Mary Todd of Netherwitton be taken care of and maintained, nursed and brought up without charge or Detriment to the Parish of Netherwitton aforesaid, to assure to see the same performed. I here subscribe my Name. Test. Thos. Bourne, Curate, Churchwardens John Troller and William Curry." I think this child was baptised Ann but died about one year old.

1726 Our Chalice has the letters and date "TS AHIW 1726" engraved on the cup. I was very pleased to discover that Thomas Stockdale was curate for two years from 1726-8 and then that the churchwardens for 1726 were Andrew Hunter, of Folly House, and John Willson, of Combhill. In the Rate book I found this entry, "1726 May ye 12. An account of what money is to be paid to ye poor parishioners within ye chapelry of Netherwitton for ye year ensuing. Ed. Towres £2 0s. 0d., Gil. Hunter £2 0s. 0d., Js. Brown £1 19s. 0d., Wid. Foggin £2 0s. 0d. In all for ye poor £6 19s. 0d. And Communion Cup £2 10s. 0d. In all £9 9s. 0d. Signed Thos. Stockdale, Curate." 1728 "Cushion to ye pulpit 6/-". A sash window was provided for ventilation. 1735 Mr. Ward, of Nunnykirk, signified he would maintain the poor of Ewsley and Nunnykirk at his own charge and would not contribute to the Parish rate for this purpose. Several others took advantage of what must have been an easement of the Poor Law.

1753 and 1757 Two Land Exchanges

Soon after John Sharp became Vicar of Hartburn he arranged through the Diocesan authorities two exchanges with John Thornton. First the Church gave up 560 square yards of chapel-yard on the east side of the church for an equal amount on the south side and the Squire promised "to continue a road unto the said chapel yard of the same breadth he has already begun it, and will hang a gate at the Chapel yard sufficient for a wheel carriage to enter, and will also enclose the whole chapel yard with a sufficient wall built with lime" Since the east side, the parish's responsibility would be lengthened, he "will repair the additional part of it and a stone will be set up at the place. And as further consideration Mr. Thornton will build and uphold a footbridge of wood at the lower cross-ford, and will also grant free passage over the Bridge in the Town of Netherwitton and undertake to uphold the said bridge, and will grant a foot-way through the fields by the roadside from the upper cross-ford to the Town of Netherwitton; and also engages to leave open to the parishioners their usual way to church that is

to say through the High Street till such time as the bridge be built." William Ward, Esq., and members of the Twenty Four also agreed to the scheme. One sees from this how improvements were being made to the frontage of Netherwitton Hall by removing the old village to its present site.

One property, the "old vicarage", remained spoiling the new view. Four years after the first exchange the Vicar and Mr. Thornton gained the Bishop of Durham's consent to an exchange of the house in ruins and site belonging to the Vicar "by the avenue in front of Mr. Thornton's house" for a similar site and building to be erected by the Squire. The Deed was delivered in December, 1757. I am not sure when the house, which later became the vicarage, was built. It was the Vicar's property and I cannot find that it was ever occupied by the curates; Henry Johnson, curate 1769-89 was living at Stanton in 1782; James Thomson 1792-1812 lived at Nunriding; Richard Wearing 1829-34, vicar 1834-57, lived at Hartburn, then at the Barnes, but at his death was described as "in the Parsonage".

1755 Roof of south aisle repaired. 1757 Ownership of Pews is listed as follows: South Aisle 1 & 2, Lance Allgood, Esq., 3 & 4 Ralph Foster and George Baker. Nave, south side, 4 pews to William Ward, Esq.; north side, 1 James Thornton, 2 Coal House and Netherwitton Mill, 3 Coatyards, 4 Comb Hill, 5 Folly House. The two at the west end were unclaimed being in disrepair. 1758 The Newcastle Courant told of a pitman being dug out of a coal pit at Longwitton, alive, having been buried eight days. 1759 The system of Briefs or collections must also have been in use at Netherwitton but, unfortunately, we have only those for this one year from July to October. They include Anderby Church (Lincs.), Chalk (Kent), Wapping, Tadcaster, Lutterworth (associated with John Wycliffe in Leicestershire), Wendlebury (Oxford) and "For Hagen Church in Westphalia 12s. 2d."

1764 The Archdeacon, Dr. Sharp, at his Visitation ordered improvements to the reading desk and pulpit, including the sounding board, two windows to be opened in the west end and the pews to be flagged where necessary. In other years we are told of repairs or purchases:—the surplice, gates, roofs, Bible, Prayer Book, Shovel, church-yard walls, etc. 1826 Archdeacon Singleton at his Visitation found the church satisfactory but wrote that "the Plate is unworthy of this neat place of worship and the highly respectable congregation which attends it." His suggestion that one chalice was not enough fell upon deaf ears, for it was not until 1851 that the church possessed a paten (plate for the bread at Holy

Communion), the gift of William Orde in memory of Maria, his mother. Hodgson says that the church had been restored not long before, and he was writing in 1827, but we have no record beyond this later satisfactory fabric report. I should think that the fabric was indeed sound for the chapelry to be raised to parochial status in 1834.

By 1864 repairs to roof and windows showed that a full scale restoration was becoming due. This was tackled when Mr. St. Clere Hick was vicar and was carried through in two parts between 1881 and 1887 at a cost of £1,457. £666 and £520 were spent on building works, £220 on the organ, £48 on stained glass windows and £13 on lamps. Ten years later water, previously carried from the village, was installed at the Vicarage, both "H and C". Mr. Bell found the house now "very comfortable".

The Church Plate

As already noted there are two pieces both silver; The Chalice has four marks; Leopard's Head Crowned, Lion Passant, Date Letter "T" or "L", Maker's Mark RB. This was made by Richard Bayley (cf. Jackson, op. cit., 187) and made in London 1726 (probably). The Paten has five marks; Leopard's Head Uncrowned, Lion Passant, the Duty Mark of Queen Victoria, Date Letter "Q", Maker's Mark EB/JB. E. & J. Barnard were the makers, in London, 1851-2.

Curates and Vicars of Netherwitton

1428	John de Fenwick? (Chaplain to Roger Thornton).
1560	Matthew Swane.
1578	Thomas Smythe.
1633	Andrew Hall.
1658-60	George Forster (The ejected Vicar of Bolam; 1675 Meldon).
1700	Thomas Gibson.
1719	Joseph Ion.
1721	Thomas Bourne.
1726-8	Thomas Stockdale (Chalice).
1729	William Richardson (Teacher at Morpeth Grammar School).
1738-44	Richard Werge (Vicar of Hartburn took all meetings, so perhaps no curate).
1745-64	Isaac Johnson. (Also Vicar of Corsenside. Buried at Hartburn 1764)
1765-8	Richard Witton (Curate at Hartburn; 1772 Rector of Meldon).
1769-89	Henry Johnson. (Lived at Stanton Hall)
1792-1812	James Thomson. (wife, Anne, d. of Thos Sheen. Newcastle upholsterer)
1813-29	Thomas Davison (Vicar of Hartburn seems to have taken the services in these years)
1829-34	Richard Wearing, 1834-57 First Vicar.
1857-63	Daniel Mitford Cust.
1863-71	Perival James Watts.
1871-76	William Tanner.
1877-88	John St. Clere Hick.

1898-1910	George Edmund Holland, M.A. (died aged 42 yrs)
1911-12	Bathurst G. Wilkinson.
1913-14	R. J. Simpson.
1914-17	A. J. Bratt.
1917-21	Hugh C. A. S. Muller, M.A.
1922-23	George Oswin Alan Jackson.
1923-27	C. M. Smith.
1927-30	L. A. T. Rickaby.
1931-47	William Nankivell.

In Plurality with Hartburn with Meldon

1948-55.	William Maddison, M.A., Canon.
1956-61	John Malcolm Macnaughton, M.A.
1963-65	Stephen Scott Huxley.
1965	Arthur Ferguson Donnelly, M.A., Canon.
1983	Ranald Alexander Macdonald M.A.

Further notes

- 1693 "Thos Richson, curat of Netherwitton" Marriage Register of Hartburn. 1694 ref. in Baptism Register of Hartburn.
- 1755 John Shotton, curate.
- 1788-91 John Peart, Vicar (died aged 32 years. Buried at Netherwitton)
- 1891-98 Colin E.B. Bell, Vicar

A copy of one of many receipted bills
Churchwardens of Hartburn

		To Thomas Gibson	
		s.	d.
1864	July 27 To Repairing and Painting spouts two lots	12	6
	Painting Guts two lots and Repairing	8	6
	Painting 3 Doors and sixteen Do's	9	—
	7 Pains of Glass Putting in	13	6
	Railing Church yard fence back Posts	8	6
	August 3 46 feet of 1 1/2 Memeel Deal at 4/6 per foot for 15	4	—
	Beards and Nails for gutter Board	2	0
	October 26 30 feet of Gutter Board & memel at 4/6 per foot	10	0
	6 Beards of Cork 1-6 long 4 inches square	3	6
45	38 Single Sack Nails about 1 Day	3	4
	January 7 Taking down spouts and working over and		
	Painting up	3	9
	5 feet of 3/4 Norway Batton 3 1/2"	1	6
	To Painting and Patching	3	0
	1 Pain of Glass Putting in	3	0
	4 Small Do's	1	3
	22 = 10 feet of 3/4 Pine Deal for spout & boiler	3	0
	To Shiplin sixteen Culling spout and Paint	3	0
	1 lb of Black tea for cleaning Grating	1	8
	5 pints of oil for blaking stones in tower and Bell loft	1	3
		£ 5	6 - 1 -

March 21st settled from street Thomas Gibson

CHAPTER EIGHT

FURTHER NOTES FROM OUR REGISTERS

NUMBERS BAPTIZED AND THE POPULAR NAMES						
Hartburn	Years	Total	Girls	Boys	Names & TIMES	
	1678-1681	97	48	49	Mary 39 John 38	
	1725-1729	154	62	92	Ann 30 William 31	
	1760-1764	143	Average 63	80	Elizabeth 23 Thomas 24	
	Total 14 years	394	173	221		
Netherwitton	Years	Total	Girls	Boys	Names & TIMES	
	1702-1706	119	61	58		
	1790-1794	78	34	44	Mary 26 John 39	
	1813-1818	66	32	34	Elizabeth 23 William 28	
	1850-1854	57	24	33	Ann 15 Thomas 25	
	Total 21 years	320	151	169		
Hartburn	Years	Total	Girls	Boys	Names & TIMES	
	1813-1893	1602	20	1893-1972	454	57
Netherwitton	Years	Total	Girls	Boys	Names & TIMES	
	1813-1893	799	10	1893-1972	342	43
Meldon	Years	Total	Girls	Boys	Names & TIMES	
	1813-1893	407	5	1893-1972	147	18

LITERACY AS SHOWN BY WEDDING SIGNATURES								
Hartburn	Register No.	Date	Total Weddings	By Licence	Brides Who Made Their Mark	%	Bridegrooms Who Made Their Mark	%
	7	1771-1787	174	—	115	43%	41	23%
	8	1788-1803	161	42	82	50%	36	22%
	11	1803-1812	84	26	47	55%	28	33%
	13	1813-1839	234	58	88	37%	40	17%
Netherwitton	Register No.	Date	Total Weddings	By Licence	Brides Who Made Their Mark	%	Bridegrooms Who Made Their Mark	%
	3	1754-1768	18	Nil.	15	83%	7	39%
	4	1768-1812	180	31	90	55%	46	25%
	9	1813-1839	35	7	14	40%	6	17%

DID PEOPLE DIE YOUNG?											
Hartburn	Years	Total	Under 20 yrs	Over 20 yrs (70-79 80-89 +90 M. F)							
	1813-1853	703	205	29%	208	29%	110	82	16	106	102
	1854-1951	798	154	19%	294	36%	187	90	17	149	145
Netherwitton	Years	Total	Under 20 yrs	Over 20 yrs (70-79 80-89 +90 M. F)							
	1813-1853	329	82	25%	112	34%	54	40	18	62	60
	1854-1951	488	110	22%	168	34%	90	69	9	77	91
Meldon	Years	Total	Under 20 yrs	Over 20 yrs (70-79 80-89 +90 M. F)							
	1813-1853	88	33	37%	19	21%	9	9	1	10	9
	1854-1951	189	29	15%	41	21%	23	17	1	19	22
	Total	2595	613		842		473	307	62	413	439

Netherwitton	Hartburn
1793 William Charlton 106 yrs	1732 Elizabeth Hebble 100 yrs
1815 Sarah Thompson 100 yrs	1751 John Wood 107 yrs
1821 Samuel George 102 yrs	1796 Eleanor Sanderson 100 yrs
1864 Stephen Shipley 100 yrs	1905 Barbara Harle 101 yrs

ABOUT BOOKS Bishop Heber produced the first Anglican Hymn Book in Calcutta about 1827. We have an original copy of Hartburn's own booklet dated 1837. "Ancient & Modern" came out in 1860.

In 1853 Hartburn Church had a Lending Library started by the Revd. Richard Croft. By 1875 it contained 374 books.

Briefs or Collections made at Hartburn between 1706-1720

- 1706. Iniskilling (?). 1707. Spilsby (Lincs.); Little Port (Isle of Ely); Gorsley (Glos.); Heavitree (Devon); Church & Castle Oxford; Southam (Warws.).
- 1708. Shrireland ? (Middsx.).
- 1709. Shadwell St. Paul (Middsx.); "Accombery", Alconbury Weston (Hunts.); Great Yarmouth (Norf.); Wincanton (Soms.); Charles Street, St. Margaret-on-Thames (Middsx.); Bewdley (Worc.); Lilburn (Antrim, Ireland); St. Clement Danes & St. Martin in the Fields (London); Cannongate ("Edinburgh in North Brittan"); St. Mary Redcliffe (Bristol); Holtmarket? (Norf.); Market Rasen (Lincs.); L(H)arlow (Essex); "Lanvilling", Llanfyllin (Monts.); Stoke by Clare (Suff.).
- 1710. Stockton (Durham); North Street (Faversham, Kent); Durrant ? (Kent); Rotherhithe Wall (Surr.); Chalfont St. Peter's (Bucks.); Ashton-on-Mersey (Ches.); Mitau (Kurland 56°N 23.4°E).
- 1711. Cockermouth (Cumb.); Wishaw (Warws.); St. Mary's, Colchester (Essex); Cardigan (Card.); St. Helen's, Edington (Lo.W.); Twyford (Berks. & Wilts.); Pavenham (Beds.); Eynsham (Oxon.); Ide (Devon); Rotherhithe St. Mary (2nd) (Surr.); "Patrick Steel of Edinburgh"; Long Melford (Suff.); Woolwich (Kent); Market Rasen (2nd) (Lincs.) and Fadmoor (Yorks.).
- 1712. "Richard Salter of St. Stephen's Parish, Coleman St., London" (Walbrook E.C.4); Whitchurch (Salop); Little Brickhill (Bucks.) and Towcester (Northants); "Charles Empson in ye Towne of Booth in ye East Riding of ye County of York"; West Tilbury (Essex); Thames Street, All Hallows, London (By the Tower); St. Clements in Hastings (Suss.); Pensford St. Thomas, Bristol (Soms.); "Colovrton overton quarter mafl overton lancy" ?; St. Olave, Southwark.
- 1713. Southwell Church, Nottingham (The Cathedral); Burton-on-Trent (Staffs.); Blandford Forum (Dorset); Rugely (Staff.); "For William Adams in the town of Hoathill in the parish of Sheriff Hales" (Staffs.); Warmingham (Chester); Woodham (Essex); Leighton (Salop); St. John Baptist, Southease ? (Suss.).
- 1714. Marychurch (Devon); St. Margaret at Cliffe (Kent); Quatford (Salop); Witheridge (Devon); Chilton (Berks.); Dorchester (Dorset); Burslem (Staffs.); Sheepwash (Devon); Bottisham (Cambs.); "Robert Wilkinson of Morpeth Abby"; "William Bowyer, Printer of London"; "For the Cowkeepers in Sept. and October 1715"; New Shoreham Church "Essex" (Suss.); Ruthin Church (Denbigh); St. Nicholas (Warwick); Preston Bagot (Warws.); All Saints (Derby) (Cathedral); Yorksey ? (Lincs.); St. Giles, Newcastle-under-Lyme; St. Peter's, Chester; Blymhill Church (Staffs.); Slimbridge (Glos.); Dryneton ? Drayton (Staffs.); Kentford (Suff.).
- 1715. Holy Trinity, Sunderland; Wrexham (Denbigh); Walkerith Gainsborough (Lincs.); Mitcham (Surr.); Lythwood or Lyth-hill (Salop); Liverpool (Lancs.).
- 1716. St. Mary's, Lichfield; Spalding (Lincoln); Burton (in Lonsdale) (Lancs.); "Jn Aaron of Little Drayton in ye parish of Idsall Alias Shifnal in ye county of Sallop" (Shifnal appears to be some distance from Little Drayton); Upton Cross (Essex); Tempsford (Beds.); Ottery St. Mary (Devon).

1718. Cholmarch and Ryton (Salop); Ridgmont (Beds.); Houndsditch, St. Botolphs, London; "Episcopall Churches in Polland and Polish prucia"; Whittington (Staffs.); Helthwaite ? (West Riding); Frampton (Dorset); Hardstoft (Chesterfield, Derbys.); Bodmin (Cornwall); Old Berry Church (Oldbury, Glos.); Bedwin ? Church (Kent); Elingham (Norf.); Wisbeach (I. of Ely); Wensley (West Riding); Arnold (Notts.); Putley (Ledbury, Glos.); Dolgelley Church (Merioneth); Arley Church (Staffs.); Barnwell St. Andrew's the Less, Cambridge; Sherifs Hale (2nd) (Staffs.); Wilcot and Ensdon (both Salop); Grindon Church (Staffs.); Habberley Oldroeston (Hunts.); Old Radnor (Radnor); Habberley (Kidderminster, Worcs.); Deeping St. James (Lincs.); Headington (Oxon.); Hinstock (Salop); Biggleswade (St. Albans); "Cheltenham and Litchfield? in County of Gloucester"; Thornton Hough, Bickley and Barnston (Chest.).
1719. Hartlepools Church (Durham); St. John, Bapt. (Chester).
1720. Gravesend (Kent); St. John, Wapping (Middsx.) and Dorchester (Dorset).
1723. Unfortunately, our record of Briefs end with this entry. Yet they must have continued for those of Netherwitton come later.
- A number of these churches have responded to my invitation to associate themselves with the repair of our ancient Porch roof. When the work is completed a list of their names will be hung in the Porch reminding us of this most interesting link-up.

HOUSES AND THEIR DATES AS IN OUR REGISTERS

1672 Thornton	1684 West Shafto	1698 Birkheads
1678 West Thornton	1685 Farnley	Healey Mill
Hartburn Grange	1686 Font Green	Colt Park
Hartinton Hall	Needleshall	Greenley Pike
Low Angerton	Old Park	1699 Langshaws
East Thornton	1687 New Deanham	Swilaw Houses
Wallington	Grange Moor House	Hartburn Cole House
Corridge	Elf Hills	The Moor House (N)
Longwitton	1688 Shelley	The Coal House (N)
Netherwitton	Donkinridge	Witton Coal Houses
Old Deanham	1690 Marlsh	1700 The Duffel, Duvel (N)
High Angerton	Wallington Duckett	? Doehill.
South Witton	1693 Wittoncleugh	"Burnis Kruke in
1679 North Middleton	1694 Thornton New Houses	Hartburn"
Cambo	1695 Wallington "Wish" H.	K(R)ey Goumehead
Hill Head	1696 Netherwitton Register	1701 Falahouse (?)
Hartburn	begins	Laurie mill (?)
Rothley	Ritton	Parkhead
Whitridge	Healey	1702 "Ye Crowne Doge" (?)
Greenleighton	Follyhouse	Witton Moor House (1699)
1680 Highlaws	Stanton	Wittonshild
Witton coat	Combill	Red path
1681 Saugh house	Whitehouse	1703 Dykehead
East Shafto	1697 Ously (Ewesley)	1704 Falabrog/lys
Broad Dean	Roughleys	Healeyside
1682 Rothley Shield	Coat yards	Camblea
1683 South Middleton	Nunny Kirk	Rothley mill
Wallington Mill	"The Clerks House" (N)	

1705 Combill	1738 Parkmoor Edge (Neth)	1787 Bent House
Longshaws Mill (cf 1700)	1739 Whitridge White House	1788 Meldon Lane
1706 Meldon Park	1740 Needleshall Barns	1791 Meldon North Park.
Buckshaw House	Needleshall Byers	1796 Greenside
1707 Meldon Register starts	1741 South Middleton Cole House	1797 Northside
Meldon	1742 Gallowshaw	Rivergreen Mill
Kirkhill	1743 High Angln Broom House	1798 Pityme
Foumervlaw	1744 High Angln Hirds House	1799 Howlett Hall
1708 Wallgn. East New Houses	1745 Penny Hill	1801 Harwood Gate (see 1802)
Wallgn. Broom House	1746 Prophil House, Needles-	1804 Netherwitton Barns
Newbiggin Saugh House	hall	1807 Wallington Garden House
Gallowshill	Doehill	1810 Low Angln South Streads
1709 Edenbrough.]	Harwood	Temple Thornton
1710 Cleughpils	Keyhurst	1812 West Marlish
1711 North Middleton Mill	1747 Clockmill	1815 New Harwood
Red soil house (Red path?)	1748 Coldrife	Thornton New Houses (cf 1699)
1713 Nethwn. Hirds House	1749 Netherwitton Mill	1817 Gallowshill Toll Bar
1715 Bagerrah Shiel in	Todridge	1818 Harwood Toll Bar
Harwood	Priors Croft	1821 Nethwn. Garden House
Windgates	1750 Low Angln East Field	Clay House
Nethwn. Ye New Houses	Wittonstone	Stanton Fence
1717 Wallgn. Close House	1751 Lonning House near	1826 Ruffe/Ralph Shiel
Newbiggin New Houses	Wittonstone	1833 Angerton Old Mill
East Thornton Hirds H.	1752 Whitridge Park Head	1835 Longwitton Dene House
Usley Roas (Ewesley)	Meldon Park House	Coal law
Landshamil (cf 1705)	Meldon Park Corner	1840 Woodbine Cottage
1718 Donkstone Gate near	High Angln Hill Head	1852 Meldon Garden House
Needleshall.	1754 Chesters	1859 Tileworks (Hartburn)
1719 Nethwn. Lennier	1757 Witton Hill Head	1861 Meldon Mill
Sunnyside (? Nethwn)	1758 Birkylburn (of this parish)	1864 Meldon Station
1721 Bulbush	1760 Rugley Walls	1871 Thistle cock
Linkinfield	High/Low Farnelaw	1872 Dyke Nook (cf 1752)
1725 Whitridge Coal House	Longlee House	1879 Meldon Tillery
1726 High Angln Hals Hill	1763 Rothley Moor House	1899 Bickerton, Highlaws
1728 Needleshall Moor House	1765 Meldon Red House	1904 Font House
1729 Highwood House	1768 Thornton Moor	Middleton Hall
1731 The Belion	1769 East Corridge	
1732 Rivergreen	1770 Longwitton Moor House	Note: My list only states
Witton Hirds House	1771 Meldon West Farm	the first date a house is
1733 Harwood Head	1778 Longwitton Garden House	mentioned in our Registers.
1734 Park Houses (Nethwn)	1780 Rothley Park	Clearly some are older than
South Middleton Moor H.	1781 Middle Deanham	the Registers. Yet the later
1735 Park Walls (Nethwn)	1782 Scarlet Hall	references suggest the
Follyhirds House	1783 Meldon South Farm	development of roads,
1737 High Angln Moor	1784 Old/West Deanham	estates, enclosures etc.
Whinney House	1785 Clayton White House (cf 1770)	MS.

PLACE NAMES AND THEIR MEANINGS

Cambo : camp on the hill
 Bolam : town on the hill
 Rothley : clearing in the forest
 Angerton : meadow homestead
 Py me : field of graves
 Wallington : homestead of the Welshman
 Riplington : homestead on the ridge
 Middleton : the homestead in the middle
 Haywood : the boundary wood
 (between Redesdale and Hartburn)
 Thistlecock : low ground with thistles
 Greenleighton : homestead on the
 grassy hill
 Longlea : the long clearing (cf. Langley)
 Shelley : clearing where land shelves
 Bellton : hill pastures
 Ritton : homestead by the stream (vithe)
 Saughouse : boggy place
 Newbiggin : new town
 Deanham : village in the valley
 Gallowshaw : copse by the gibbet
 Gallowshield : shelter by the gibbet
 Wittonshield : shelter in the wood
 Stanton : the stone houses
 The Cleugh : cleft in the hill
 Healey : possibly - the hidden field
 Highlaws : high or steep hills
 Redpath : path through forest
 Clay cottage : clay pits for pottery
 Toft-hill : homestead on the hill
 Broomhouse : from broom or gorse

Buckshaw : copse of the deer
 Thornion : homestead by the thorns
 Witton : homestead in the wood
 Doehill, Hartburn : places frequented
 by the deer
 Fourmartlaw : hill of the four martins
 (species of polecats)
 Howlett-hall : place of the owls
 Ewesley : field of ousels (thrushes)
 Coalyards : sheep-shelter (cot)
 Rivegreen : 1277 Revehow - the
 Reere's (sheriff) haugh (low-
 lying ground)
 Harfinton : homestead by the deers
 path
 Todridge : fox-ridge
 Comethill : ridge (cam) of the hill
 Coltpark : cold pastures
 Corridge : carr-crag or rock or
 Corves' hall
 Marlsh : from the de Merlay's
 Meldon : the place of the mark or
 Scarlet-hill (possibly hill) Cross
 the hill with the steep clearing
 Whitridge : ridge bare of woods
 Birchheads : birchwoods by the
 water spring (heads)
 Park (pearroc) : enclosure for
 deer in a forest
 Needless-hall : possibly named in
 fun because it has long been good
 land. I think this is a post Reform
 Act name
 Longshaws : Long copse

Ham : village
 Tun, ton : homestead
 Worth : enclosure
 wick, wick : farm
 Hlaw : hill
 Lea, leaf : clearing
 Haugh : low lying ground
 Feld : open country
 hed : heather
 Sike : small stream
 eal : floodable land

dic : ditch
 Shaw : copse
 steel : ridge
 Hall : stone built house
 rod : forest
 shield : shelter
 angr : meadow
 tod, dod : fox
 Toft : homestead
 grange : from grain - farm
 vithe : stream
 har : boundary ii army (Harbottle -
 army building)

TRADES AND WORK NOTED IN OUR REGISTERS

HARTBURN Register No 2 1705-25 and No 6 1759-98

Miller, wright, gardener, teacher (mef), pitman, bailiff, servant (mef), brewer, common soldier, butcher, Scotch-drover, travelling potter, school-master, blacksmith, tailor, farmer, husbandman.

Register No 9 1798-1812 Thatcher, shepherd, weaver, tailor, carpenter, joiner, Agent, butcher, innkeeper, mason, herd, shoemaker, Miller, baker, pitman, cooper, cordwainer, blacksmith, slater, mariner, gardener, groom, molecatcher, cow-doctor, farmer, husbandman.

Register No 10 1798-1812 As above plus coachman.

Register No 12 1813-1893 Publican, cooper, pitman, engineman for Longwiton pit, shoemaker, carpenter, tailor, weaver, gardener, blacksmith, slater, Thatcher, servant, superintendent to buildings (Angerton), steward, mason, sailor, trimmer, tanner, schoolmaster, shepherd, toll-gate keeper, carrier, Greenwich pensioner, butler, coachman, woodman, cartwright, cordwainer, miller, gamekeeper, dyer, bookbinder, husbandman, farmer, yeoman, countryman, labouring man, labouring woman, molecatcher, lime-burner, hind, plasterer, grocer, tilemaker, sexton, butcher, drainer, veterinary surgeon, platelayer, stone quarryman, station clerk, groom.

NETHERWITTON Register No 1 1695-1750 Tailor, pitman, weaver, "tinkler", joiner, mason, farmer. Register No 2 1749-90 As above plus Schoolmaster

Register No 5 1813-1893 Carpenter, labourer, pitman, cooper, woodman, shoemaker, butler, joiner, herd, publican, servant, tailor, shepherd, gamekeeper, under-keeper, chapel clerk, sailor, weaver, miller, manufacturer (at the mill), Thatcher, slater, wood-turner, groom, dyer, fuller, carrier, tanner, farmer, husbandman, countryman, mason, school-master, wood merchant, blacksmith, gardener, miller, razor-grinder, tilemaker, tinsmith, hawker, farm-steward, shop-keeper, mole-catcher, hind, carter, Esquire, mill-wright, labourer, relieving officer, navy, bankman-in-charge, railway-servant, miner, Sawyer, surface-drafter, quarryman, lime-burner and grocer.

MELDON Register 1798-1812 (43 entries) Labourer, husbandman, agent, gardener, tailor, Esq., miller, nurseryman, mason, farmer. (most labourers)

Register 1813-1967 Labourer, carpenter, pitman, mason, shoe-maker, blacksmith, miller, Esq. (Rivegreen), Parish Clerk, hind, cartwright, nurseryman, weaver, joiner, teacher, husbandman, carrier, butcher, huntsman, servant, coachman, gentleman, shop-keeper, school-master, brick-layer (1851), woodman, farm steward, shepherd, mole-killer, seepant (Army), Coachman, station-agent, tilemaker, game-keeper, plate-layer, groom, butler, floor merchant, tailor, painter, surface-man, stud-groom, stableman, contractor, first whip, motor mechanic, engine driver, roadman, stockman, landowner, Company director, private soldier.

