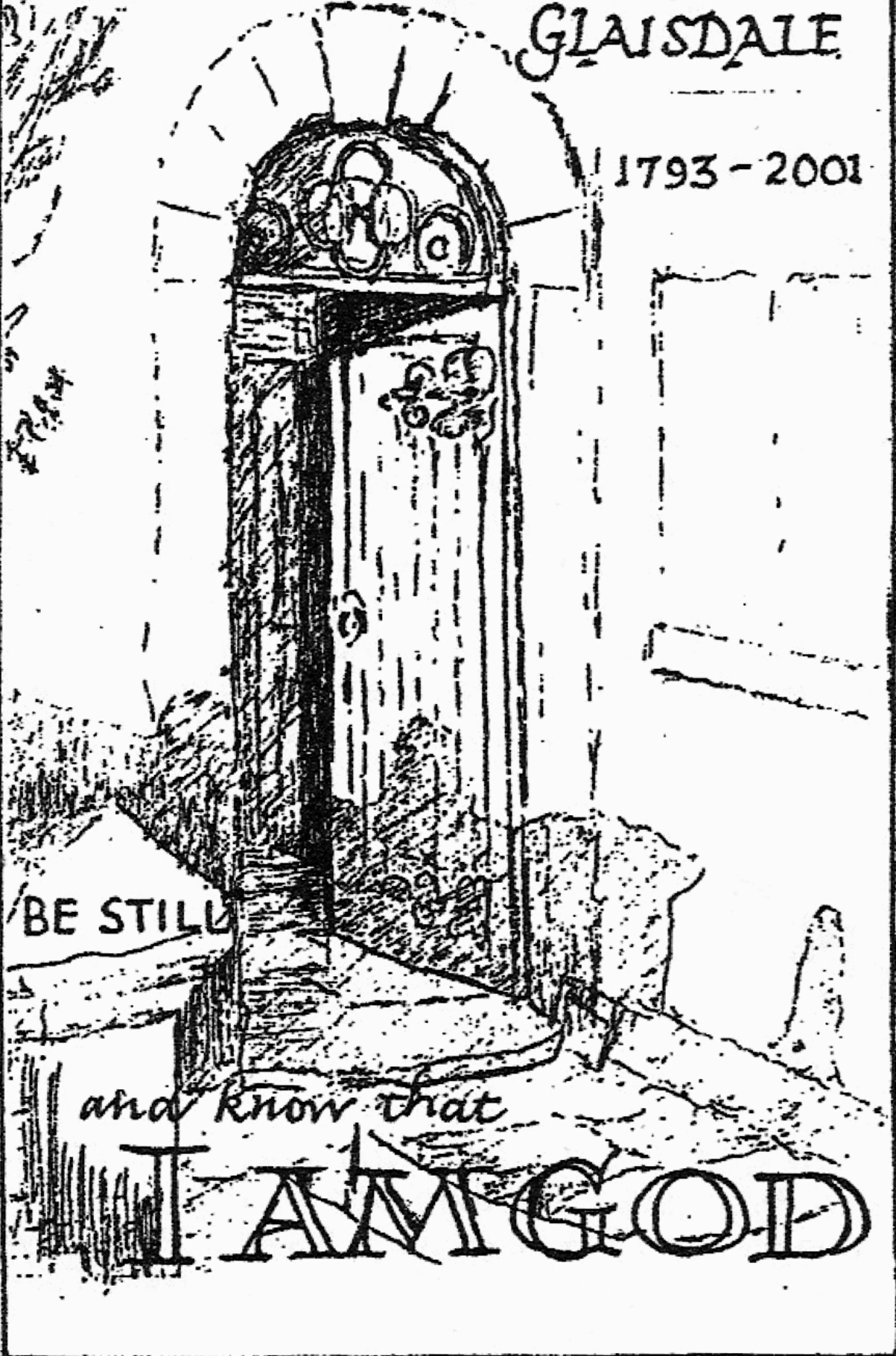


# ST THOMAS' CHURCH GLAISDALE

1793 - 2001



BE STILL

*and know that*

# I AM GOD

## A short history and guide to St. Thomas Church Glaisdale

It is undecided whether the name 'Glaisdale' comes from the Celtic word 'Glas' meaning 'verdant, fresh or blue', or from a personal name of a Saxon named Glas. As 'Esk' is Celtic for water, a Celtic origin is preferred.



**Robert de Brus II** (1100-1142) founded Guisborough Priory about 1119, an Augustinian priory comprising monks who were all priests. He had the advowson of Danby Church, which served the Esk Valley for baptisms, marriages and burials (so that from that time people of Glaisdale were registered on these occasions at Danby Church). The first recorded mention of Glaisdale is 1223 when Peter de Brus gave the Guisborough monks rights of pasturage and mining on the moors above Glaisdale Head.



**John Neville** (1539-1543), the third Lord Latimer of Danby, married three times, his third wife in 1533 being Catherine Parr. When he died in 1543 he wrote in his will, 'Also I give towards ye byldinge of ye chappell of Glaisdale five marks.' Four months after his death Catherine Parr married Henry VIII.

The date stone of 1585 to be seen in the side of the steps leading to the tower of the present building comes from the 'Chappell of Glaisdale', which was cruciform in shape, straw-thatched and was whitewashed both inside and out (as noted in the chapelwardens accounts of 1705).

**The communion table and font cover** also probably date from 1585. This table is now at the north side of the chancel, though unfortunately had its ball-feet sawn off in recent times. Note the 'capstan' shaped font with its 'elephant feet' base. The old church is said to have accommodated about 260, so probably had a gallery.

**The bell.** The Chapel (so called because it was a chapel-of-ease of Danby) had a bell dated 1626, but this was sold in auction in 1875, its present whereabouts unknown.

**Thomas Ferries**, Alderman of Kingston-upon-Hull, was the famed builder of Beggar's Bridge (1619) and left, in his will of 1630, £2.00 per annum for the repair of the chapel and £6 13s 4d for the 'preaching minister'. His portrait is seen below the gallery at the west end of the church.

### **Clergy serving Glaisdale**

From 1309 up to the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, Danby and Glaisdale were served by 'curati conductivi' as the priests from Guisborough Priory were styled.

#### *Assistant Curates of Glaisdale:*

George-Searle: 1661-1662 - assistant to Vicar of Danby.

John Proud 1693-1698 - assistant to Vicar of Danby.

John Proud 1710-1713 - assistant to vicar of Danby.

John Smith, MA. 1715 assistant to Vicar of Danby.

There appears to have been some re-organisation of parishes at this time, though Glaisdale continued to have connections with Danby, assistants began to be connected with the Parish of Lythe.

Johnathon Robinson - 1717 - was also Curate of Egton & Goathland under Lythe. In 1741 Glaisdale became a Perpetual Curacy (or separate benefice).

## *Perpetual Curates of Glaisdale*

Johnathon Robinson 1741-1778 (became Vicar of Lythe 1760).

Richard Robinson A.B. 1778-1806 (had been assistant to his father for 17 years).

Benjamin Richardson I 1806-1844 (buried near altar inside the church);

Benjamin Richardson II 1844-1868 (nephew of Benjamin Richardson I).

In 1750 the chapel end was in danger of falling, so had to be propped up by timber. It had a 'clock-hole', so must have had a clock or provision made for one. The chapel was swept once a year, 1/- was paid to the Singing Master and 2/- each year for ringing the bell on 'Gun Powder Treason Day'.

In 1792 it was decided to demolish the old chapel and put a new building put in its place. The present church was erected at a cost of £404 and was opened on 8th December 1793, the churchyard having been consecrated on 27th July and the first burial taking place on 8th August 1794.

The church had a tower, the nave had galleries on three sides, the ceiling was under-drawn, there were sash windows, box-pews on a flagged floor and a three-decker pulpit. The church was entered by steps and a door at the south-east corner. At this time Glaisdale was served by curates who were also curates of Egton and Goathland under the Vicar of Lythe. A parsonage house, comprising three earthen-floored rooms thatched with straw was situated in the present vicarage garden. Only part of a gable-end of this remains in the garden wall.



Viscount Downe (John Christopher Burton Dawney 1770-1832) gave to the church in 1799 the site of an ancient inn (situated in the former vicarage garden), dispute over which led to the building of the Mitre Tavern. A new vicarage was built in 1815 at a cost of £600.

In 1868, Glaisdale was made into a separate benefice with freehold, the Archbishop of York being the Patron.

In 1876 the Church was restored; two side galleries were taken out, the steps and door on the south-east corner were removed (the doorway blocked up), the sash windows were replaced by pointed windows with 'Y' tracery and frosted glass with coloured borders and the box pews were replaced by open benches of pitch pine. The flat white-washed ceiling was removed to reveal the timber posts and beams; the tower was raised with battlements and pointed pinnacles at the corners and furnished with a bell dated 1873. A new pitch pine pulpit and lectern were added, and an alms dish of brass (said to be a replica of one in Westminster Abbey) was given in 1876. 'Two chalices, two patens and a flagon, all of silver hall-marked London 1876, were the gift of the Corporation of the Trinity House, Hull in 'memory of Thomas Ferries, their mutual benefactor. Also in 1876 a new wing was added to the vicarage.

### *Modern Additions and Alterations*

In about 1960, a new organ was built in the gallery by Laycock and Bannister of Keighley. The old organ, which was behind the position of the present-day pulpit, was removed. The pulpit was then slightly further forward. The old organ stool is in the baptistery. The flooring at the east end had some steps removed, accommodating the choir stalls. There were then about eight choir members.

To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977, Revd. Barber, the vicar, and his wife painted The Royal Arms of George III and the coats of arms of the main benefactors of the church, which hang in the gallery. (The coats of arms were repainted in 1996 by Mr Brian Britton who was caretaker of the church from 1998 until his death in August 2001).

During the 1990s, the riddel posts and curtains from round the altar were removed and re-sited in the baptistery area. The altar platform and rails were also moved forward to enable the priest to face the

congregation during the Eucharistic Service. The choir pews were also moved into the gallery.

This created space within the sanctuary and between the pews and altar rail, thereby providing an area for multi-purpose use during a variety of services. A Whitby craftsman made the altar rails. The credence table bears a carving of a gnome - the signature of the Littlebeck woodcarver. A gold sanctuary carpet was added in 1989. There is also a sanctuary chair and prayer desk situated by the pulpit.

Outside on the east wall of the church is a carving by Mr Cliff Walker, a former landlord of the Angler's Rest (Moon and Sixpence).

#### Vicars of Glaisdale

Benjamin Richardson I 1844-1868

Benjamin Richardson II 1868-1872;

Henry Woollam LLB. 1872-1873 - his assistant G.S. Terry 1873-1874;

Edwin Evers 1874-1876;

Philip Ahier 1876-1897. (Deposed by the Archbishop, before which he was assisted by H.R. Harrison, A.W. Hedges and Robert Bee.)

Ellis Mackie 1897-1902;

William Winning 1902-1930;

Frank Frost 1930-1940;

William Coggill 1940-1950;

A.C.B. Molony 1951-1958;

Arthur Gaunt 1958-1963;

J.F. Shreeve 1963-1968;

F.T. Barber 1959-1978;

Walter F. Hail 1978-1984;

Desmond M. Buike 1985-1993

Bruce Harrison 1993-1999

David King 1999-2000

On-1st November 2000 the United Benefice of Middle Esk Moor was created comprising the former parishes of Glaisdale with Lealholm, Egton, Grosmont and Goathland.

David King Vicar 2000-2008

Christine Haddon-Reece 2008-

December 2001 - revised Sep 2010

The most recent addition to St. Thomas' Church is the stained glass window in the middle of the south side of the church. It has been erected in memory of Richard Smith (1935-1999), who was churchwarden for many years. The following description of the window was provided by Alan Davis, the artist who designed and executed the window.

The inscription on this window reads:

**"In Loving Memory of Richard Thomas Charles Stratford Smith, 1935 -1999."**



The window is based upon the opening phrases of Revelation 22 which reads:

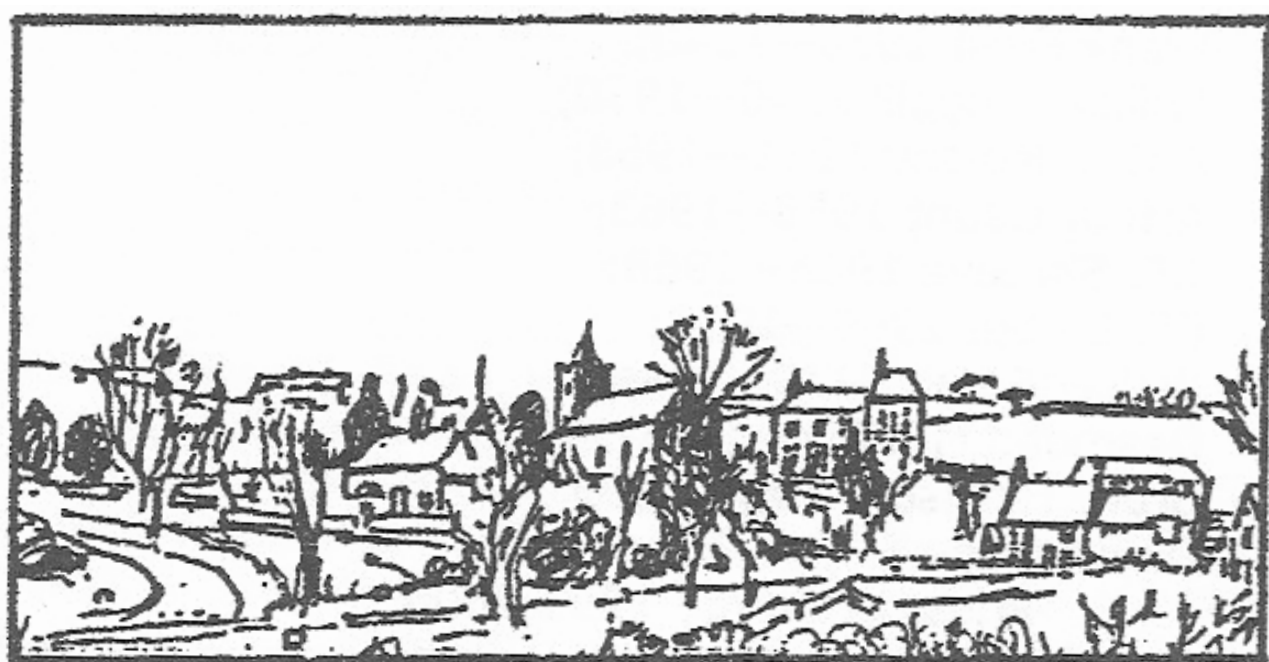
*"The angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal and coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb. On each side of the river was the tree of life, which bears fruit twelve times a year, once each month".*

I have chosen this theme to link the window to the area in which it is situated:

The river which is a main feature to Glaisdale and was an important part of Richard Smith's life as he was a keen fisherman. The tree whilst relating to the surrounding countryside shares symbolic links between heaven and earth. The Tree of Life is echoed in the 'tree' of the cross and in Christ, 'the True Vine' who provides the living link between God and mankind.

### ***The symbols:***

- *The Star* *Heaven, the Almighty.*
- *The Angel* *The messenger.*
- *The Twelve Globes* *The twelve months in which the trees bear fruit.*
- *The Tree* *The tree of life, the Cross.*
- *The River* *The River of Life also signifies perpetual flux of the created world.*
- *The Fish* *Christian symbol. The soul swimming in the water of life.*



Leaflet produced for the dedication  
of the Richard Smith Memorial  
window - December 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. †