

ART. XII. – *The Building and Endowment of Finsthwaite Church and School, 1723-5.*
By JANET MARTIN, M.A., B.LITT.

FINSTHWAITE, although an ancient settlement, had no church until 1724. Before that it was successively part of the parishes of Dalton, Hawkshead, and Colton, and traces of its attachment to all three remained for many centuries. The church at Dalton originally served an area which extended to Skelwith Bridge more than twenty miles to the north. That was the territory which Furness Abbey acquired *c.* 1160 by agreement with William, son of Gilbert de Lancaster, lord of the barony of Kendal.¹ Shortly after that agreement, and probably as a result of it, a chapel was established at Hawkshead to serve the northern parts of Dalton parish. It was first mentioned in a charter of *c.* 1200, when it already had a permanent chaplain and burial rights.² Hawkshead is eighteen miles from Dalton, and if such rights had not been granted Christian burial would often have been impossible. In 1348-9, when Archbishop Zouche licensed churchyards at Windermere and Grasmere, representations were made that because of the distance to the mother church at Kendal, the inhabitants were compelled in bad or wintery weather to allow their dead to remain unburied, or to deposit their bodies in woods, streams, or lakes.³ There is an element of common form about these complaints, but the difficulties of which the new burial grounds disposed were very real, and would certainly have obtained at Hawkshead in 1200.

Hawkshead served the northern part of High Furness for the rest of the Middle Ages. By the sixteenth century, an increasing population, supported by the clearing of uncultivated land, sheep-grazing, the manufacture of charcoal, and other woodland industries, was demanding a wider provision of church services. A church at Colton is first mentioned in 1531, and was given some measure of independence from Dalton in 1537. Fifty years later both Hawkshead and Colton were severed from Dalton, and Colton itself made parochial in 1676.⁴

Furness Abbey had eleven tenements in Finsthwaite in 1536.⁵ They were all held by tenants named Taylor, who were small farmers, augmenting their livelihoods by wood-working. Throughout the seventeenth century the population of the hamlet expanded, some new houses were built, and some members of the clan acquired greater prosperity than their neighbours. This growth of population was matched elsewhere, and was probably responsible for the building of an extension to Colton church in 1718-19, in which Clement Taylor, by then a prominent man in Finsthwaite, had a pew.⁶ Shortly afterwards, he and some of his neighbours moved to establish a church in their own village.

On 28 February 1724/5 the impropiator of the rectory of Colton, the minister, and the principal inhabitants signed their consent to an agreement by which Clement Taylor and his brother-in-law, Richard Robinson of Waterside, having undertaken to advance £200 towards “the perpetual augmentation of the curacy of Finsthwaite”, secured the right of presentation to it. Their £200 was to be matched by an equal sum from Queen Anne’s Bounty.⁷ The site had already been given by Henry Taylor of Lendin (or Landing, now Lakeside).⁸ The choice of the site is interesting. It lay east of the group

of houses then known as Plum Green, where there were three ancient tenements and at least one newer house, and at the junction of roads leading to Stott Park and Landing, and south towards another old settlement at Jolliver Tree, to Clement Taylor's own house (now Finsthwaite House), and to Finsyke and Town End.



Finsthwaite Church *circa* 1873.

The church was built over a period of about a year, from the summer of 1724. It is impossible to say, from the surviving accounts, just when it was started. Wood was bought in May and June, and the builder received the first payments in the following January and February. The church was a small structure, fifty-six feet long and twenty-four feet ten inches broad within the walls, with a western tower and a south porch. An estimate of the cost of the stone, £15 13s. 7d., survives, calculated on the cubic capacity of the walls, and is printed here as Appendix I. Roofing slate and labour were not included, though both are referred to in notes on the back. The total cost of the church and fittings was later estimated at £150.⁹

Some building accounts survive, and there are entries relating to the church in Clement Taylor's private account book,¹⁰ as he seems to have been in overall charge. The builder was an Ulverston man, Nicholas Cranke.¹¹ One account indicates that his workmen had laboured for 117 days at 8d. or 6d. a day up to the end of January 1724/5:¹²

Ja 1724[5]			
Acc ^t : of Money disbors ^d : towards Bulding The Chappel		<i>li.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
Imprimis To Cranks as follows			
38 dayes at 8 ^d :		1.	5. 4.
32 at 8:		1.	1. 4.
25 at 6:		0.	12. 6.
5 at 8		0.	3. 4.
5 at 6		0.	2. 6.
More to The Same 12 dayes		0.	6. 8.
Clement Taylor pd		3.	11. 8.

Ja'y 29 th : 1724[/5] Rec'ed the full Contents of This bill		
& all other Accts. per me		Nich. Cranke
Test. Geo. Braithw ^{te}		
To Rich ^d :	Fell pro 142 dayes at 4d per day	2. 7. 4.
Feb: 1 th	To W ^m Cowhird for leading Stones	
	29 dayes at 1 ^s . 5 ^d per day	2. 1. 1.
	More 14 dayes at 12 ^d per day	0. 14. 0.
	D ^f : to W ^m Cowhird in all	2. 15. 1.
Rob ^t :	Taylor wood to the Chappell	3. 8. 1.
	in all	6. 3. 2.

Eight pence a day was the standard rate for builders; other workmen are named in another account:¹³

an account of the days work at finsthwait Chapel wrought by William Ashburner 97 days at 8^d per day

		<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Reg ^d Grigg	96:	3:	4	0
Martin Wood	94	3:	2	8
W ^m Ashburner	97	3:	4	8
Ja ^s Dixson	100½	3:	7	0
Jo. Jackson	28		18	8
Ed. Atkinson	81	2:	14	0
Tho ^s Dixson	95	3:	4	4
	591½	19:	14:	4
			1:	4
		19:	13:	0
		3:	5:	6
		19:	13:	0

The money was raised in instalments as it was needed, and £3 5s. 6d. was the amount needed from each subscriber on this occasion; the odd 1s. 4d. was either carried over or written off. Below this account is the following calculation:

	<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>		<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Ja ^s Ba[ckhouse]	3:	5:	6		Mr. Harrison	6:	11: 0
M ^{rs} Taylor	4:	0:	0	before	M ^{rs} Taylor	6:	11: 0
now p ^d	2:	11:	0		Ja ^s : Backhouse	3:	5: 6
M ^r Harrison	6:	11:	0		Rob ^t Taylor	3:	5: 6
Rob Taylor	3:	5:	6		In all	19:	13: 0

Wood for the church was bought locally, some, as indicated above, from Robert Taylor of Stott Park, another of the principal inhabitants. Clement Taylor entered the details:

March 3 ^d 1724[/5]	
Acc ^t of Wood Mes rd for windows for Chapel of Robert Taylor to J. Walker	
1 tree	14 foot
2 tree	14 foot
3 tree	17 foot
4 tree	<u>15</u>
	60 foot

John Walker was the carpenter, and the occasion seems to have been mildly convivial. Clement Taylor noted: "Sp^t. at Stotpark wⁿ. Mes^d. Wood, J. W. Ro Taylor", but omitted to add the sum, perhaps feeling that he should not charge the entertainment to church funds. Three more large trees were bought from Edward Kellet, a woodmonger working in Clement Taylor's own woods:

D ^r . to Edw ^d . Kellet pro principal trees	
	<i>foot</i>
1 th tree	18.1
2 ^d tree	22.½
3 ^d tree	19.½

Payments were also recorded for "one whole tree pro a Lint pro Great window 5.0.", and also for "sparr", "ribb", and "lintren" wood. These are not specifically earmarked for the church, and as Clement Taylor was preparing to rebuild his own house these materials may have been for him. In April, however, he bought six trees from George Braithwaite of Stott Park, of which the sixth, measuring 12½ feet 10 inches, was indicated as "pro Chappel". The same uncertainty applies to payments for slate. Several loads of slate from Coniston were undoubtedly for the house, but a note, "Myles Drinkel bout slate at Troutbeck", may refer to the church.

Minor charges included 1s. 6d. for six side swills, 2s. 6d. for lining a lime kiln, and 2s. for 1½ pounds of hops, presumably for beer for the workmen. Laths and other wood were bought from "Mr Ford"¹⁴ for £5 in February 1724/5, and in March another tree, 16 feet at 10d. a foot, from Edward Kellet. By the summer of 1725 the work was drawing to a close. Payments were made for hair to strengthen the plaster, and for paint:

To Chappell one stone of hare	11d.
To The Chepell one st ⁿ . of Hare	11
6 p ^{ds} . of White Lead	
1pd. of Spanish White	
2 Quarts of Lineseed Oyle had of W ^m . Rowson	
3 bords to Chapel Doors being 17 foot ½	

Another half-stone of hair was paid for in July, when Clement Taylor also recorded the purchase of timber for the communion table, "had of E. Kellet in the Intack".

On 29 September he paid another bill:

To Rowson Taylor for washing sand and surving Lymmers at Chapel & Steeple	
2 days Table at Rich ^d . Fells	12.6
1 day at His Own house	
12 at Joliv'tree	
9 at W ^m . Cowhirds in all 24 dayes	

And finally in October 1725 he recorded:

10 Oct At Chapel Crank Ruffcasting to old Harry Crank 7 dayes to young Harry Crank 11 dayes at 4 ^d per day	
18 Pd Richard Fell in p ^t . towards Crank table at ruffcast Chap.	o. 6. o.

The workmen were boarded out locally, though not always in the village. Richard Fell, Rownson Taylor, and William Cowhird were not identifiable Finsthwaite men.

Another undated summary of payments survives below that of January 1724/5, headed "C T 2 note":¹⁵

pd to W ^m . Rownson	1.	0.	0.
to Ed. Kellet	0.	16.	8.
To Mr. Ford	5.	00.	0.
To W ^m . Rawlinson	0.	10.	0.
Cranks	3.	11.	8.
To J. Atkinson pro wood	13.	12.	1.½
To Jacob Park	0.	9.	8.
for Spiks when altred pews	0.	0.	4.
to Jo ⁿ Cowhird pro leading stones & parreck	1.	6.	0.
Jacob Park ¹⁶	0.	9.	8.
To Tho Denny for ale	0.	1.	6.
more for Mending bells Iron	0.	1.	0.

It appears from this account that the church was charged for some entertainment. Thomas Denny, who was paid for the ale, kept the inn at Newby Bridge. More details emerge from Clement Taylor's own accounts: "To Tho: Denny pro ale Ord^{er}d per H.T. 1^s MH CT. RR 6^d in all . . . 0.1.6". The initials are those of Henry Taylor, Myles Harrison, Clement Taylor, and Richard Robinson. Another payment to Denny on 20 March 1724/5 amounted to £2 6s. od. and was evidently for a more general celebration, perhaps when the roof was raised. The churchyard, 40 yards square, was walled at a cost of 14s. paid "To Wallers per the hand of M^r. Harrison for waling Chapel Garth 28 dayes".

The roughcasting was completed, or paid for, after the building was consecrated. On Saturday 24 July 1725 the Bishop of Chester visited Finsthwaite, and performed the consecration. All the necessary documents were copied into the churchwardens' new account book as the formal record of a judicial process. The first is the agreement with Colton, mentioned above. It is followed by two petitions from the inhabitants of Finsthwaite to the bishop asking for permission to establish a church, as they have difficulty in getting to Colton in bad weather, and in the second also asking the bishop to consecrate the building. Then comes the bishop's formal inquiry by questionnaire into the suitability of the building and the general efficiency of the enterprise (Appendix II). The replies to his questions form the basis for the deed of consecration,¹⁷ which was "read published and declared in the said chapel during Divine Service after the Nicene Creed on Saturday the 24th day of the month of July in the year of our lord 1725 by us Francis Cestrinsis". The bishop presided at a Communion service, for which there was a payment of 2s. 6d. "pro 26 whit loves". The clergy present were the ministers of Colton, Cartmel, and Urswick, and the curates of Crosthwaite, Cartmel Fell, Staveley, Aldingham, and Pennington, with several local laymen, two notaries public, and the Registrar of the Consistory Court of Chester, who brought the documents and received the fees. The churchwardens recorded the payments:

Fees of Consecration of Finsthwaite Chapel	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To the Bishop's Secretary	5.	0.	0
To the Chancellor & Register	1.	13.	4.

Draught of a Petition & Engrossment & Copy	0.	10.	0.
Stamps & Parchm ^t . for Engrossm ^t . of the Act of Consecration	0.	2.	6.
Registering of the Deed of Conveyance of the Land			
Petition & Act of Consecration at Chester	1.	1.	0.
To the Register tow ^{ds} . his travelling Charges	0.	10.	6.
	<u>8.</u>	<u>17.</u>	<u>4.</u>

There is no indication of how many people were present altogether, although 26 loaves argues a considerable congregation, nor of how the visitors were entertained when the formal business was completed.

The outside appearance of the church consecrated on that July day is clear from later photographs and the reconstruction of the builder's estimate. Its internal arrangements can be deduced from the lists of internal burials in the churchwardens' account book. At the east end, under the "great window", stood the Communion table, which was railed.¹⁸ Some contemporary churches had an open space in front of the table, but this was not so at Finsthwaite. A railed sanctuary was often a sign of High Church sentiment, but here there is no doubt that space was at a premium. Clement Taylor's own son was buried "At the Head of the Isle close to Clem^t Taylor's pew betwixt the pales of the Communion Table & the s^d. pew". To the west, and on either side of the "isle" were the pews allotted to the ancient tenements, most of whose owners had contributed to the cost of the church. There is a list of the pews in the churchwardens' book:

- The Seats in Finsthwaite Chapel beginning at the Pews on each Side, the
- 1st Belongs to Lendin & Plumgreen, M^r. Henry Taylor.
 - 2- To Clement Taylor's Jolivertree, & Waterside.
 - 3- To Myles Harrison's of Stotpark Robert Taylor's ibid & to Newby Bridge.
 - 4- To George Braithwaite's of Stotpark, George Taylor's of Plumgreen, & Laurence Harrison's of Stotpark.
 - 5- Cobby-House, Thom-Cragg, Finsyke, & Sinderhill - New House.
 - 6- Marg^r. Sawrey's, Town-End, & Thomas & Geo: Braithwaite's.
 - [7- two Houses at Elinhearth - erased].
 - 7- Samuel Robinson's, Charly Cragge & two Houses at Elinhearth.
 - 8- Chapman House, Nook, Borrow Hill, & Sinderhill - old House.

This list cannot be reconciled with a pencil sketch on the back of a copy of the consecration deed, which shows three blocks each of five pews in front of a curved Communion rail, with the space to the west occupied by rows of benches on each side of a central aisle. It is clear from the lists of burials that there was only one aisle, running to the Communion table between the pews:

Lawrence Harrison lies in the Isle 4 Foot from Myles Harrison's Pew-Door.

Mary wife of James Backhouse of Jolliver Tree is buried in the Isle close to the Pew belonging to Jolliver Tree.

The plan must represent some possible rearrangement of the seating which does not seem to have been carried out.¹⁹

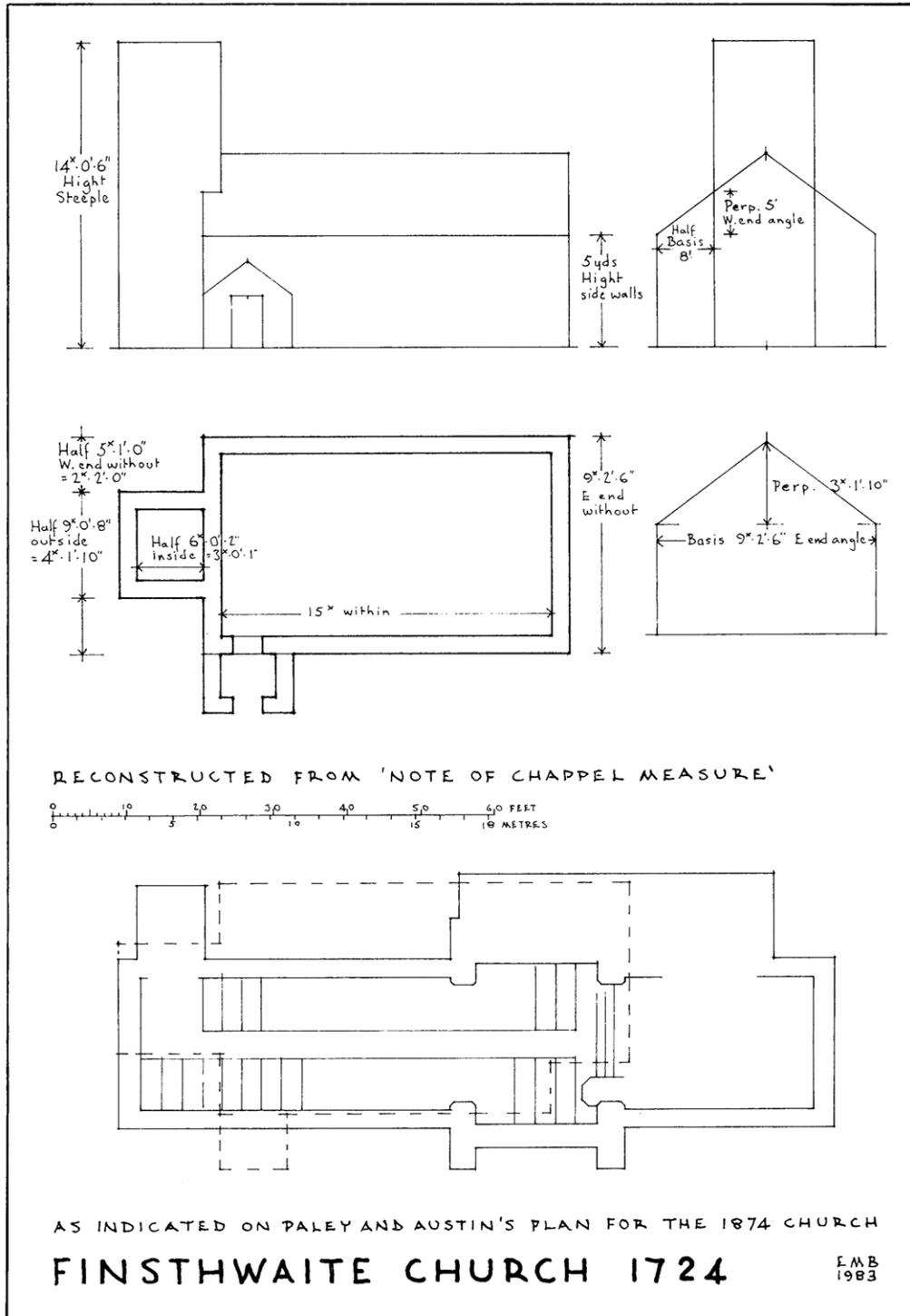


FIG. 1. - The Church of 1724 in relation to the Church of 1874 from Paley and Austin's plan.

West of the fixed pews were rows of benches for the poorer inhabitants, where the women sat on the north side and the men on the south:

James Cragg of Waterside is interred under the 3^d & 4th Forms above the Great Door where men sit.

John Prudah of Town End lies under the 6th Form below the Pulpit at the Distance of 2 Feet within the sole of the Women's Seats.

The pulpit was therefore on the north wall, between the pews and the benches. At this time the weekly sermon, rather than the infrequent Communion, was the principal feature of parochial worship, and the pulpit was the focus of the congregation's attention. The font stood at the west end:

Isabel Walker of Elinhearth widow is buried in the low end of the Isle next the Font close to the sole of the Women's Forms.

A doorway into the tower is also mentioned:

Margaret Walker of Elinghearth lies across the Isle next the Porch Door betwixt the Mens Forms & the low end of the Chapel close to the corner of the Wall next the Door into the Steeple.

There was also what in a medieval church would be called a priest's door, towards the eastern end of the south wall:

James, son of George Braithwaite of Stot Park lies betwixt Jolliver Tree Pew & the Waterside Pew cross the Isle from the little Door.

The pulpit did not survive the rebuilding of the church in 1874, but the oak table which stands inside the door of the present church is undoubtedly the Communion table of 1725, and a bench in a house in the village is said to have come from the old church. There was one bell, bought in York, and on 2 July 1725, just in time for the consecration, Clement Taylor recorded the purchase of a Communion cup. It weighed just over 8 ounces, and was bought from a William Soame, but the maker's mark is "G.S.", perhaps for Gabriel Sleath of London.²⁰ The cost was £3 1s., with a box costing 4d. One final fitting appeared in February 1725/6:

Reced.2 Feb. in cash for the Kings arms Framd. . . . £6 10s. 6d.

We may now turn to the financing of the enterprise. Although the inhabitants' original petition suggests that Clement Taylor and Richard Robinson were solely responsible for the first £200 of the endowment, it was in fact a communal affair. A list of sums raised for the endowment survives:²¹

The Particular Sums of Money that every person in the within mentioned agreement promiseth to pay in advance towards the building of the Chappell and raising a Yearly Sallary for the use within Mentioned

Impr ^s	Richard Robinson	forty-five pounds	li
	John Taylor	<i>Forty Five pounds</i>	45
	Robert Taylor	<i>Forty Five pounds</i>	45
	Geo: Braithwaite gives towards the use of a School only		15
	Henry Taylor	twenty Guineas	21
	Clement Taylor	forty Five pounds	45
	Myles Harrison	forty pounds	40

Likewise the afores^d Robert Taylor promiseth to pay such further sum in the behalf of his Brother Geo: Taylor as shall by Benjamin Brown be thought expedient to be given towards the same as wittnes his hand

	Robert Taylor	
George Taylor	five pounds	5
*Robert Sawrey	One pound one shilling	1- 1
*James Taylor	One pound one shilling	1- 1
William Parke	Ten shilings	0-10
William Danson	Two pounds ten shiling	2-10
Margrett Taylor	Twenty one shillings	1- 1
Laurence Harrison	Twenty one shill.	1- 1
*Christopher Dixon	Ten shillings	0-10
thoms danson	one pound one shilling	1- 1
*John Coward	one pound one shilling	1- 1
*Margarett Braithwaite	one pound one shilling	1- 1
*Marg ^t Taylor	ten shillings	0-10
*Dorothy Taylor	Ten shillings	0-10
John Rigge	five shillings	0- 5
William Taylor	1 pound	1

Memd^o the day & year within written that we the Subscribers hereafter written to promise to pay at the time within mentioned to the persons appointed to Receive the Advance money to the use afores^d these respective Sums annexed to our p^ticular Names haveing the same priviledge according to the Subscribers in the Article

Jo ^h Atkinson	one pound one shill.	£1:1:0
William Taylor	one pound one shilling	
Thomas Denny	one Guinea	
Edward Barwick	5 shill.	
James Danson	Ten Shill. & Six pence	

The first installments were paid on 29 January 1724/5, and were recorded in another list which gives some additional names:²²

Janery 29 1724 Then Reced. of the Advancers toward The Chapel
Salary as follows

	li.	s.	d.
Imp ^s of Geo: Braithwt	15	0	0
of James Taylor	1	0	0
of Margarett Taylor	1	0	0
of William Taylor	1	0	0
Reced of Rob ^t Taylor	50	0	0
of Tho. Denny	1	0	0
Reced of Geo: Taylor	5	0	0
of Rob ^t Gurnall	44	15	0
of Marg ^t Braithw ^t	1	1	0
of Margaret Sawrey	1	1	0
of Jo ⁿ Cowherd	1	1	0

How the money was passed on to the administrators of Queen Anne's Bounty is not clear, but the whole legal process began in March 1724/5 when Clement Taylor went to Lancaster to consult a lawyer:

Chapel Ac ^t	li.	s.
5th. To Law[yer] Gibson	1	1
A Journey to Lanc pro advice Ab ^t Chappel	0	3
10. Law[yer] Gibson at the same time		
Expenses to Lanc ^f w ⁿ he drew the Instrum ^t pro the sidesmen & Minister to signe & also the writeing w ^{ch} Bro. Rich ^d and I am to signe & Seal to the Gov ^{er} ners of the Bounty of Queen Anne	0	1 0
Sp ^t w. th M ^r Sympson	0	1 0
pro my Dinner & other Expenses at the same time		11:½
May 8 Journey to Lanc ^f w. th proposels and request stay ^d all night Expen ^d .	3	6
Sp ^t at Ulv ^f ston & wn. we went to Troutbeck & at Stotpark w. th B Brown ²³		6

The instrument “pro the sidesmen” has not survived, but it was signed with a modest celebration in May:

Sp ^t of the Chappel's Act w ⁿ we got sidesmens hands	0	7	0
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The endowment was considered enough to support a minister, and the Revd. John Harrison was appointed officially on 26 July 1725. Born at Isel in Cumberland in 1701/2, he had been educated at Hawkshead School, and had lived in the area since, probably as a teacher.²⁴ Until the parish acquired the house at Sinderhill for the use of the schoolmaster, the minister had no home. He may have lodged locally, or been boarded at several houses in turn, in the manner customary in the district at an earlier date. At Colton the minister's salary was collected from each house by the churchwardens²⁵ but at Finsthwaite the money came in from a different, and perhaps a more reliable source.

The endowment assured in 1724 was augmented in 1730 by another £400 from the proprietors at Finsthwaite and Queen Anne's Bounty. The first £400 had been expended on the purchase of a farm called Lindseys, in Garsdale, Yorkshire. The second served to buy another small property at Dyke Hall in Dent.²⁶ Both were a long way from Finsthwaite, and the collection of rents would have involved someone in at least two days' journey, but land may have been cheap to buy and not unprofitable to rent in the remoter parts of Yorkshire. In 1743 the two farms brought in £32 5s.,²⁷ and on this modest sum, together with the usual fees, Mr Harrison lived.

He had already one other small source of income, 12d. a quarter for teaching at the school in Finsthwaite,²⁸ and it was the establishment of the school which provided the stimulus for the building of the church.

In August 1723 John Taylor of Craikside (Penny Bridge) died. He had been born in Finsthwaite, where his father owned Jolliver Tree, and he bequeathed £500 to trustees for the “building of a Free School and maintaining a schoolmaster at Finsthwaite, The said School to be Erected as near Jollyvertree as can conveniently be”.²⁹ Money was raised by subscription to augment the bequest.³⁰

The School Acc^{ts} of money p^d Towards bulding the School

	<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Imp ^s per Geo: Braithw ^{ic} in Cash	0	19	4
Rob: ^t Taylor in Cash	0	13	6
Myles Harrison in Cash	0	3	0
Mr. Rob: Gurnall in Cash	2	0	0
Clement Taylor in Cash	0	19	10
Rich ^d Robinson	0	12	4

The school was built in 1724 on a small plot north of Jolliver Tree, land which in fact belonged to George Taylor of Chapman House next door. In 1730, in return for the use of a pew in the church, he made over to the school trustees

“All that his parcel of ground whereupon a School House was already erected situate near Jolliver Tree at the South east end of his close called Chapman Brow next adjoining the highway leading to Stott Park being in measure sixteen yards or thereabouts (with free liberty for the boys or scholars to play in the length of eight score yards from the highway and the breadth of three score yards from Joliver Tree Orchard Wall) for the use of the School House and scholars”.³¹

One further point may be made here. On 5 February 1724/5 the trustees of the church and school acknowledged a gift of £5 from George Taylor of Ealinghearth for the use of the school, and added a note that his children were to be taught at the same cost as their own. The careful rider to the receipt would seem to indicate some particular circumstance. In fact this George Taylor was a dissenter, a fact noted in the Colton register when he was buried at Tottlebank chapel in 1726. George Braithwaite’s gift of £15 for “the use of a school only” was a similar one, and in his case a special receipt was entered in the churchwardens’ account book. It is interesting to see that the church trustees were prepared to allow nonconformists to dissociate themselves from the church, while participating in the school.

The church followed so hard upon the school that we can assume, once it had occurred to the landowners at Finsthwaite that they would shortly have a schoolmaster, it was reasonable to suggest that he should also serve a church. From then on it was a condition of appointment to the church that the minister should also teach.

The school was also the means of providing a *de facto* vicarage. In 1729/30, James Dixon, a shoemaker living at Sinderhill, bequeathed the reversion of his house to Clement Taylor and Myles Harrison should his son not live to inherit it.³² When the son died young, the trustees decided to retain the house for the schoolmaster-minister. Not all the clergy in the eighteenth century lived there, and in the nineteenth it was held that they had not all taught in the school,³³ but from the beginning of the nineteenth century the house at Sinderhill became in effect the vicarage.

The later history of church and school are of interest and can be followed in some detail. Their development reflects the continuing life of the village, and the larger movements of society outside. The school building, now a house, still stands, but the church was rebuilt in 1874. Before it disappeared, the niece of a former vicar, Margaret Bigland, made a number of drawings of it. Her pictures and a few photographs, together with this account, may serve as a record of village piety, enterprise, and concern for education, which was by no means uncommon in our area, in all periods. Finsthwaite’s effort is not unique, and it is relatively late; but it is nonetheless worth setting down.³⁴

Appendix I
by E. M. Bottomley

Note of Chappel Measure

yds. Inch		yds. feet In:																																																																												
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Jacob Park's Man 6 Days Slating	50-days
Others 50 Days	24
Beamfilling 7½ Days	7-½
Working Groundwork & lying Soles 24 Days	80-½
	£ s d
	50 days at 12 ^d : 2:10:0
	Beamfilling
	7:½ 0: 7:6

The folded sheet of foolscap paper endorsed "Note of Chappel Measure" on the outside gives detailed measurements and calculations of the area of the walling, evidently after it had been built, taken by Clement Taylor. Its conclusion "485 $\frac{3}{4}$ Yards at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d per Yard £15: 13s 7d." with an "Advance" of 10s. "at ye Steeple" (on account of its extra height) suggests that the work was being paid for at a piecework rate of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d per yard. Alternatively this figure could be the cost of the stone used in the construction of the walls. No allowance is made for the window and door openings, probably because the extra work involved in forming these cancelled out any saving in the area of walling. From the inside and outside measurements given for the tower, the thickness of the walls can be deduced as 214 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It has been possible to reconstruct the church in diagramatic form from the dimensions given (Fig. 1).

On the reverse of the sheet are recorded some other details of the work. "Jacob Park's Man" spent 6 days slating and "others" 50 days doing unspecified work. Beamfilling (making up the tops of the walls between the rafters) took 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ days and preparatory work 24 days. Slating (more skilled work?) was paid for at the rate of 12^d per day.

For comparison Fig. 1 also shows a plan of the 1874 church taken from Paley and Austin's drawing and giving an outline of the 1724 church with its later eastern vestry.

Appendix II

Queries in order to the Consecrating the Chapel of Finsthwaite in Colton in the Deanry of Furness.

1. At whose Expence was the Chapel built, when was it built & upon w^t Occasion & on whose Ground?

Ans: At the Expence of the Inhabitants of the Hamlet of Finsthwa^{te} AD 1724 by reason of the great Distance from the Parish Church, & the Roughness of the Country upon Ground given & convey'd by M^r Henry Taylor for y^t Use.

2. In what Parish, how far distant from the Mother Church is it?

Ans: In the Parish of Colton about four Miles distant from the Mother Church.

3. What is the Length & breadth of it?

Ans: The Length is 56 Feet & the Breadth 24 Feet & 10 Inches within the Walls.

4. How is it endow'd & by whom, how hereafter to be repaired, and is there any Donation Deed or Conveyance?

Ans: It is endow'd with £200 given by Clement Taylor & Rich^d Robinson & 200 from the Govern^{rs} of the Queen's Bounty & is by agreem^t to be repair'd by the Owners of land within the Chapelry. There is no Donation or Conveyance save the Deed of the Ground on w^{ch} it is built & of the Chapelyard & save the Security by Bond given by M^r Taylor & M^r Robinson for the £200 given by them in order to procure the Queen's Bounty.

5. Is it to be parochial & is it furnished with Communion Table Pulpit Reading Desk, Font & other necessaries as there will be occasion for it?

Ans: It is desired to be parochial & it is furnished with Communion-Table, Pulpit Reading-Desk & Font & other necessaries on y^t Account.

6. Is the Rector or Vicar consenting to its being made parochial if it be to be so?

Ans: He is, & has signed his Consent & his Request to have it so.

7. Who is to have the Nomination of the Curate?

Ans: It is desired & Consented to by the Vicar of the Parish y^t the s^d Clement Taylor & Rich^d Robinson & their Heirs may have the Nomination in Regard of the £200 given by them.

8. Is it to be consecrated by any Name, & what?
 Ans: The Name is refer'd to the Discretion of the L^d Bishop 'Tis now called Finsthwaite Chapel.
9. Is Burial intended to be in the Chapel or Yard only if there be any Chapel Yard?
 Ans: Burial is intended to be both in the Chapel & Yard.
10. Is the Chapel Yard fenc'd out & how & what is the Circumference or Length or Breadth of it?
 Ans: It is fenc'd out with a Stone Wall & is in Length & Breadth about 40 yards each way.
11. Is there decent Pews or Forms & in w^t manner & to whom are they to be appropriated?
 Ans: There are six decent Pews in the East End of the Chapel erected by six of the principal Benefactors each at his own proper Charge & the Rest decently seated with Forms & are desired to be appropriated to the Owners of Land within the Chapelry.
12. What Townships Hamlets or other places are contained within the Boundaries Districts or Liberties of y^r Chapelry?
 Ans: The Hamlet of Finsthwaite containing about 160 Inhabitants.

Notes and References

- ¹ W. Farrer, *Lancashire Pipe Rolls* (Liverpool, 1902), 310-14.
- ² *Ibid.*, pp. 362-4.
- ³ A. Hamilton Thompson, 'Some Letters from the Register of William Zouche, Archbishop of York', *Historical Essays in Honour of James Tait*, ed. J. G. Edwards, V. H. Galbraith, and E. F. Jacob (Manchester, 1933), 332, 339-42.
- ⁴ *The Rural Deanery of Cartmel*, ed. R. H. Kirby and others (Ulverston, 1892), 82. The Colton registers which survive from 1623, show that Finsthwaite people baptized and married there, but most continued to bury at Hawkshead.
- ⁵ *Coucher Book of Furness Abbey*, ed. J. Brownbill, ii, Chetham Soc. 78, 1919, p. 631.
- ⁶ Lancashire Record Office [LRO] DDPd29/10-11.
- ⁷ LRO DDPd26/436 (copy); Finsthwaite churchwardens' account book, p. 9.
- ⁸ LRO DRCh37/51 no. 7. The indenture is dated 4 May 1724; Henry Taylor, his widowed mother, and their trustees grant to Clement Taylor and Richard Robinson, for a nominal 5s., a piece of ground 43 yards by 40 yards 'taken out of a certain close called the Little Parrock'.
- ⁹ LRO DRCh37/51 no. 4. This is an earlier version of the enquiries in Appendix II, drawn up before the church was completed.
- ¹⁰ LRO DDPd26/236. Other references from this source are not separately indicated.
- ¹¹ Cranke was not baptized at Ulverston, but he christened two children there in the 1730s, and he and his wife were both buried there, in 1755 and 1760.
- ¹² LRO DDPd26/437.
- ¹³ LRO DDPd26/438.
- ¹⁴ Richard Ford of the Newland Company: A. Fell, *Early Iron Industry of Furness and District* (Ulverston, 1908), 269.
- ¹⁵ LRO DDPd26/437.
- ¹⁶ The payment to Jacob Park seems to have been entered twice. He is one of the few identifiable workmen. He was living at Jolliver Tree when he married Elizabeth Coward at Finsthwaite in 1729, but had moved to Lakeside by the time he died in 1735. His will indicates that he was a waller and that although his property was not large he had debts owing to him of £203 7s. 10d.
- ¹⁷ There is a copy of the consecration deed and a translation among the parish records; another copy is LRO DDPd26/440.

- ¹⁸ It was perhaps at a little distance from the east wall, as is indicated by one of the burial records; Agnes wife of Robert Atkinson of High Cark in the parish of Cartmel is buried at the High End of the Chapel so as the Foot of the Coffin goes close to the wall exactly under the middle of the great window.
- ¹⁹ It can hardly have been an earlier scheme, being on the back of the consecration deed, although evidently some alteration of the pews was undertaken while the church was being fitted out (p. 129). The original earth floor was replaced by flags in 1771, and the sketch may indicate that the pews were rearranged then, although there is nothing in the churchwardens' accounts to confirm this.
- ²⁰ C. J. Jackson, *English Goldsmiths and their Marks* (London, 1905), 164, 173. The church still possesses this cup.
- ²¹ LRO, DDPd26/438. The entries printed in italics are in the hand of Laurence Harrison of Stott Park, who wrote for those unable to do so. Entries marked with an asterisk are signed with a mark.
- ²² LRO DDPd26/437.
- ²³ Benjamin Browne of Townend, Troutbeck, the High Constable of Westmorland, who was consulted on two occasions during the building of the church.
- ²⁴ LRO DRCh37/51, clergy bundle nos. 1-2.
- ²⁵ Francis Gastrell, *Notitia Cestriensis*, ed. F. R. Raine, ii, pt. 3, Chetham Soc. 22, 1850, p. 508n.
- ²⁶ LRO DDPd26/441-2, 20 Jan. 1727/8; DDPd26/443-5, Nov. 1731, Feb. 1731/2.
- ²⁷ LRO DRC/3/4, Finsthwaite terrier 1743.
- ²⁸ Gastrell, *op. cit.*, p. 510.
- ²⁹ LRO DDMc32/27.
- ³⁰ LRO DDPd26/437.
- ³¹ Quoted in a deed of 1912 relating to the school.
- ³² A copy of his will is in the churchwardens' account book.
- ³³ Cumbria Record Office, Barrow, Colton parish records PR2850/6/2 (old LRO number).
- ³⁴ I am grateful to the Archivist and staff at the Lancashire Record Office at Preston for much kindness during the preparation of this article, and to the Vicar of the parish of Leven Valley for permission to use the Finsthwaite records. My husband, Dr G. H. Martin, and Mr E. M. Bottomley have given valuable advice and assistance. Mr Bottomley has contributed (Appendix I) and given much time and skill to the reconstruction of the church which appears as Fig. 1. My special thanks are due to him.

