



MILLOM CHURCH, BEFORE THE RESTORATION OF 1858.

ART. XVIII.—*The Parish Church of Millom.* By the
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Read at the Church, September 4th, 1923.

FIRST PERIOD.—So far as known, there are no pre-Norman remains. The Rev. R. D. Ellwood suggests that the old base of the sundial may be pre-Norman. I doubt it, but think it probable there was an older stone marking a cross of streets for which this Hill is a more likely place than Low House, the actual intersection.

But there are three considerations in favour of a pre-Norman foundation: (1) Kirksanton is shown quite early to have been *daughter church* to Millom, yet it is mentioned in Domesday Book though the Mother Church is not; (2) the income of the Norman Church was rectorial, held at the disposal of the Lord of Millom and granted away by him Saxon-fashion—not as by right of his seigniori but rather as lay priest. At any rate, the endowment was older than the Norman Church; (3) “Children’s field” or “Childrum” is one of the Castle field names, on the left of the road going from the Castle to Lowhouse. Locally it is explained as “children’s field,” because it is behind the old school, now a cottage near the Church gate. But it is mentioned in the Terrier nearly 100 years before the school was built. *Cill-dhruim*, “ridge of the chapel,” in Gaelic, was the form which I suppose it would originally have, and the ridge would be the upstanding hill on which the present church and castle stand; or the raised bank connecting them with the main road which goes over the Knott. If the name is a survival of Gaelic, it points to the existence of a chapel here before the Norman settlement.

SECOND PERIOD.—The de Boyvils were Lords of Millom from about 1130 to 1250, the latter date including the life of the Lady Joan, wife and widow of John de Hudleston. We have some remains of the de Boyvils' Church:—

(1) The south window in the chancel is probably *in situ*; (2) Mr. Ellwood thinks that the window on the north is also in its original place. I am doubtful, owing to the length of the chancel; (3) the north door also belongs to the period, but for similar reason I doubt whether it is in its first position; (4) there are also three window heads, two in the chancel and one in the present west wall of the nave, which have been built in as ordinary material.

If the present chancel is of its original length, I would suggest that it was:—

(1) Either the original nave; or (2) it was a separate building altogether, of which the west wall was only pulled down after the new nave and chancel arch had been erected. This might account for the irregularity in the width of the chancel in proportion to the arch, and for the fact that an alteration was not made. But this belongs to a later date.

The dedication of the church is Holy Trinity. There are three references:—

(1) 1183-1216. A grant made of land by Henry f. Arthur de Millom in which the fount of Holy Trinity is given as a fixed landmark. When I lived at Millom I was told that the Holy Well was near the embankment, but this charter indicates a position near Gallowbank which must now be covered by the railway line. There is, however, just the possibility that the High Road is intended, in which case Deer Leap well, now also lost by modern improvements, might be the site; (2) 1220. Grant by William f. Hugh, of the Church of Holy Trinity, to Furness; (3) 1250. Grant to John Hudleston of

market and fair to be held at the feast of Holy Trinity. This, no doubt, would be at the Churchyard Cross, and perhaps gives the date of the old base.

THIRD PERIOD.—This period commences with Sir John de Hudleston II, or about 1252, and lasts until the middle of the fourteenth century.

In a Roll of Arms, co. Yorks., temp. Ed. II (1307-27), Sir John bore arms Gules fretty argent; Sir Adam bore the same with border indented or; Sir Richard bore the same with label azure; and Sir Richard, the nephew, the same with label or.

I suppose that one of the two latter is commemorated on the font and the sundial. There is no chiselling to show the tinctures; probably they were painted.

The early part of the period was one of considerable increase in population. There were at least three salt industries within a mile or two, and a fishery at Houbergh, i.e. Holborn Hill (not, I think, Haverigg, as Mr. Ellwood suggests, though I believe there were fishing-boats there), and New Town was probably coming into existence.

Beside these there would be an increase of retainers at the castle.

I think that this would account for the commencement of work at the Church. Soon after the close of the Boyvil occupation, the nave was widened and the chancel arch built, probably with intention to carry out a much larger scheme of improvement. Then all work was stopped. Why?

The reign of Edward II is connected with the protracted Scotch wars. The Taxatio of 1316 (Furness Coucher), as compared with that of 1291, shows that the church revenues of Millom—and if so, all the revenues of the parish—were suddenly diminished by losing three-quarters of their income, and it is stated that this was due to the ravages of the Scots. The battle of Scots Croft, in Whicham, traditionally remembered, may have been

fought when Robert Bruce came round the coast in 1322. After this date there was evidently a revival and building was going on in the castle after 1335. At the church, the pointed arches of the south aisle seem to speak of this time, slightly different from the enlargement of the nave, and yet considerably earlier than the much more elaborate work of the Hudleston Chapel. I think this break and continuance is also suggested by the pillars; the arches are similar but the pillars are different.

To the first part of this period the wooden effigy is supposed to belong; the lengthened chancel also, or (if that be not accepted) the insertion of the east end window and possibly the side window and the piscina.

But an even more interesting matter is the pointed archway at the west end. Mr. Ellwood suggests a rush-bearing door. That may have been a later use, but it was more likely the entrance to a priest's cell. Mr. H. S. Cowper thinks that the church had a western tower, pulled down at the siege of the castle (1644), and that this arch led into it.

The south door (walled up) may belong to the same period as the chancel arch, or even earlier; but if so, it has been transferred once or twice. It is not possible to see much until the gravestone has been removed and the foundations examined, both within and without. Another problem needs solution—the stone of the arches and of the sundial head is different from the rest. Where was it quarried? And if the source can be ascertained, is there any history connected with it?

FOURTH PERIOD.—This is probably the most interesting of the Hudleston and so of the Millom history. In the early part it coincides with the wars in France, and in the latter part with the Wars of the Roses. As central figure may be taken Sir Richard, who was with Sir William Harrington of Aldingham at the battle of Agincourt in 1415. He married Sir William's sister, and

of their children we may study so much as remains of the features of the son, Sir John, upon the alabaster monument. Their daughter Anne married Thomas Stanley, of Dalegarth Hall. There are difficulties in understanding the various marriages recorded at this time, but they include Pennington, Fenwick, Neville, and others—and it almost appears as if in making further alterations in the church the owners of the castle had decided to erect or rebuild the south aisle as a memorial chapel to the different members and connections of the family.

The south windows and that at the west end locally called the Fluke window belong, it is supposed, to the earlier part, and the great east window to a somewhat later date in this period. The Fluke window is not unique; there are several in different parts of the country, but only that in Dunblane Cathedral is so large, and if I am correct—speaking from a drawing obtained for me—it lacks the tracery which has been restored in our church.

The altar tomb, recording various marriages, has been described in these *Transactions*, o.s. xii, 128-132. The effigies are those of Sir John Hudleston, who died 1494, and his wife. One of the shields has a local interest even to-day, for a bugle horn stringed is the sheep-mark of Millom Castle; and that it refers to the Boyvils seems probable because the mark is called a "hottil," evidently a corruption of *hatterel*, the crest of the de Boyvils adopted by the Hudlestons. With these shields must be included those of the sundial head, which are said to be Hudleston, Hudleston with a label, Chaucer and Broughton, the latter showing that the date of the dial cannot be later than 1495.

During the time of the Reformation there is nothing to record of structural work in the church. There seems to have been little if any break in the continuity of the services, and I believe there are references showing that though there might be conformity to the law, there was little other difference.

FIFTH PERIOD.—The next period of history, therefore, is the time of the great Rebellion. The Hudlestons were Royalist, and the castle stood a siege in 1644. The vicarage, which stood in what is the playground of the old school, was pulled down at that time. But in the church there was much destruction. The Hudleston chapel was almost completely wrecked; the great east window much broken; the side windows and the Fluke window smashed and tracery broken; the niche over the north door robbed of its figure, and the tombstones mutilated. The glory of the church departed and has never been fully restored. T. Denton says that in 1685 the castle was much out of repair, and we can see from Buck's picture that that was still so in 1739. And if there was no money to spare for the castle there was certainly none for the church.

SIXTH PERIOD.—So the period of destruction gradually merged into one of depression in church affairs. With the declining prosperity of the owners of the castle, the church was left more and more to the care of the parishioners at the hands of the Church Jury. The side windows were blocked up, one being used as a porch entry in place of the north door. Another, also blocked, was a convenient place for the erection of the monument to the memory of Joseph and Bridget Hudleston, and there is another near the organ to Sir Barantyne Hudleston of Salt House. The church has been whitewashed and plastered in places. A gallery was erected "to mak more room," and pulled down again years afterwards "to mak more room." Part of the church was ceiled to keep draughts out, and later the ceiling was pulled down on condition it caused no expense to the parish. More light was obtained by breaking square openings in the north wall, and at a later date they were blocked up again. The east window in the church was blocked up as far as the tracery, and wood used in place of stone; I believe there is some still.

But though there seems to have been a happy-go-lucky method of dealing with the structure, there rose up in those days a very pleasant respect and love for the old church and all its quaint traditions. That spirit has not died out, and I hope never will; but I could wish there had been a recorder for some of the old sayings of those days, such as the Clerks of the Church have passed on—the little that I was able to gather is due in large measure to the present Clerk, William Kitchen, and his father—such things as the woman who last did public penance in the church; the pet magpie of the castle and its visit to church; the dog-whipper and his audible remarks to one of the visitors; the barrel-organ which could not stop; and the tolling of the bell by Poor House boys because the Clerk forgot to return.

The last period of church history is the restoration of 1858 under Mr. Allen. The old oak was removed in favour of modern pews (only a scrap remains). The floor was raised to the level of the first chancel step; and later two bells were recast to make one of heavier type, and the bell turret removed and rebuilt for a single bell; and two (or three) round-headed windows. During Mr. Irving's long vicariate much good work was done throughout the parish, but the church itself remained practically as it was since Mr. Allen's day, and with some minor alteration, as you see it now.