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Loweswater Church

Centenary

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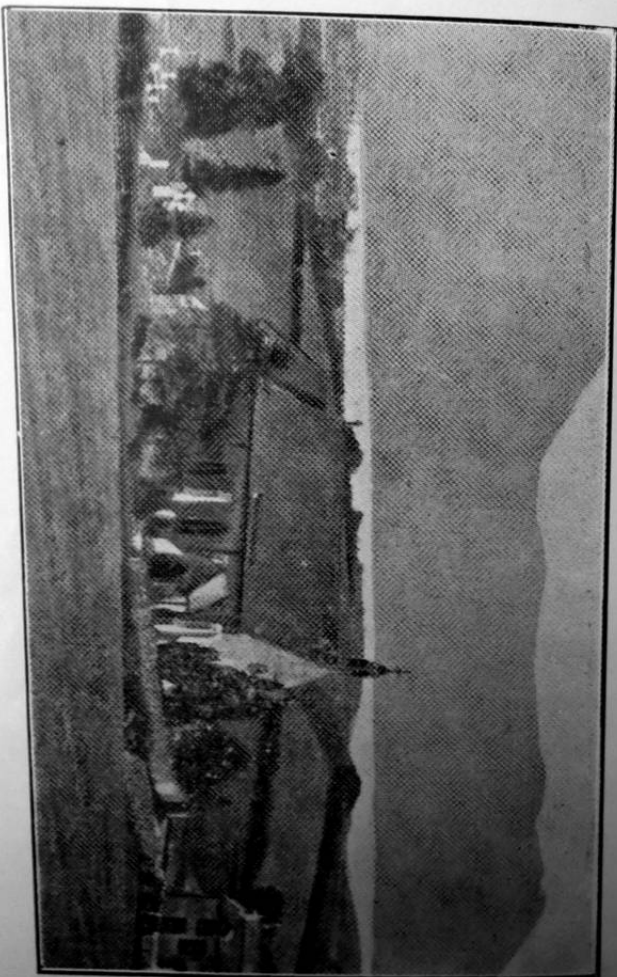


A Few Notes on the Church
and Parish.

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LOWESWATER CHURCH, 1929.

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ON THE
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PREFACE

AS the information available is extremely meagre, the following are no more than what is indicated by the title. I am only too conscious of their fragmentary character, but, scanty as the record is, it seemed a pity that it should not be recalled and put into print, and the coming celebration of the centenary of the present Church's consecration seemed to be an appropriate occasion for doing this.

I had originally intended to include photographs of all the incumbents of the present Church, but as this would have almost doubled the cost, I did not consider it advisable. I hope, however, to have them all enlarged and framed and hung in the Vestry, where anyone who wishes to do so, may see them.

J. ROWLAND.

Loveswater Vicarage,

3rd August, 1929.

A Few Notes on the Church and Parish of Loveswater.

The early history of the Church and Parish of Loveswater is lost in antiquity. The earliest mention of them both is about the middle of the 12th century, when Loveswater is reputed to have been the estate of Randolphus de Lindsay, who about the same time gave a church at Loveswater to the Priory of St. Bees. This is probably the foundation for the tradition, which still exists in the parish, that monks from St. Bees used to come out to Loveswater Church to take services, etc., and also that the dead from Loveswater used to be carried via the "Corpse Road" through Holmwood, for burial at St. Bees. The old bell of Loveswater, which dates from the 14th century, and which was one of the first to be cast in Cumberland, probably belonged to such a church.

The suppression of the Monasteries (1536-1539) would interrupt the ministrations of these monks at Loveswater Church, and the earliest mention—and only then by implication—in any existing document, of a church or churchyard is the year 1578 when, according to a note by a Curate of Loveswater 160 years later, "the oldest scrip of register that could be found at this church after I came to it bore date 1578 which was the 20th year of Queen Elizabeth, the rest being lost." The Chalice and Lid bearing date 1371, which is one of the earliest specimens of beaten silver, ought, there is good reason to believe, to read 1571. Now these two dates, 1571 and 1578, look very much like the settling down of church life after the great upheaval caused by the dissolution of the monasteries, and it is very probable that this was approximately the time that Loveswater first had a resident Curate.

As to who the first Curate of Loveswater was, there is no authentic record, but the first name mentioned—before 1600—is that of Westray, and as it would be only 22 years from 1578 to that date, it is possible that he was the first Curate of Loveswater to reside there permanently.

Nothing whatever is known of the church or churches which must have existed in Loveswater at this time. The local and rather persistent tradition that the earthworks at Bargate, near the foot of Melbreak, are the remains of a former church, is confuted by the Cumberland Archaeological Society, which is of the opinion that these earthworks, like those at Lanthwaite, belong to the time of the Early Britons, and we are compelled, however reluctantly, to accept their expert opinion.

The next Curate, John Borranskail, held the office for 73 years, and died the year after he retired, being buried at Loweswater on May 22nd, 1674. He must have been at least 96 years of age, and it is therefore not surprising that he was unable, during his later years, to keep the register entered up, and also that the old register was lost. When his successor came, an account was taken throughout the parish to make up the deficiency for the preceding eight years (1665-1673) but the register from 1632 to 1665 is lost completely. From 1674 the registers are intact.

At this time, the inhabitants of the "Chapelry of Loweswater" as it was called, together with those of Ennerdale, Eskdale, Netherwasdale, and Wasdale Head, were obliged to contribute to the repairs of the Mother Church of St. Bees.

As the earliest entries, including Burials, in the registers are dated 1626, there must have been a Churchyard at Loweswater during Borranskail's time, and he himself was buried there. It is of course possible that the Churchyard dates back to 1578, the date of the lost register. According to a later tradition, as Loweswater in early days possessed many skilled weavers, it was a mark of special honour to be "buried in woollens."

The next Curate of Loweswater was Patricius Curwen, who was a member of the ancient family of Curwen, of Workington Hall. He was born at Ribton Hall, Camerton, being ordained Deacon to the Curacy of Loweswater on March 15th, 1673, by Bishop Rainbow, of Carlisle—presumably by Letters Dimissory from the Bishop of Chester, as Loweswater was in the Diocese of Chester at that time. He "exhibited" on the Visitation of the Bishop on 30th June, 1674. Four years after coming to Loweswater he married Barbara Fisher. In Daniel Fleming's "Book of Accounts" the following item appears for 29th June, 1684: "Given at Ambleside Chapel to Mr. Curwen, a poor Preacher, 2/-." Mr. Wright was Minister of Ambleside at the time, and the entry evidently refers to a day's duty performed by Mr. Curwen. On 24th September, 1686, he obtained a faculty to teach boys at Loweswater. In 1690, his brother Anthony, of Lamplugh, married (at Loweswater Church) Ann Fox, of Distington, and their daughter was Elizabeth Pearson, Widow, of Thrushbank. It was during Mr. Curwen's incumbency that William Woodville, a Citizen of Carlisle, who probably at one time lived at Water End, left £50 to the poor of Loweswater, not receiving parish relief, an account of the distribution of which has been kept since 1689, two years after it was left. In 1700, Mr. Curwen left Loweswater for Lorton, where he died and was buried, 6th October, 1707. He had six children, all of them born at Gillerthwaite.

The next incumbent was Andrew Naughley, a Lector, that is a Reader, and not an ordained clergyman. It was probably for this reason that he was only at Loweswater for a year or so. According to a note, it was about this time that the belfry of the

church was completed by John Bowman, of Ullock. This was presumably the church which was taken down in 1827 in order to build the present one, but there is no record of when it was built or consecrated.

There is nothing known about the next two Curates, John Tiffin, who came to Loweswater in 1702, and John Harrison, who came in 1705, but it is to the next one, Henry Forrest, who became Curate in 1708, that many notes about these early times are due. He came to Loweswater Chapel a few weeks before being ordained Deacon in May, 1708, but he was not ordained Priest until 1730, and so, as he was Curate for 22 years before being ordained Priest, the chief service of the Church, the Holy Communion, must only have been celebrated very rarely, possibly only at Easter, and even then by a visiting Priest, although the Prayer Book rubric had long before ordered that "every Parishioner shall communicate three times in the year at least, of which Easter to be one." But this was a period of spiritual deadness in the Church in England; hence the need for the Evangelical Revival and the preaching of John Wesley.

Mr. Forrest seems to have aspired to become a poet, as is shown by the following verses which he has left in the register:

Honour the Idoll which I most adore,
Receives no homage from my knee,
Content in privacy I value more,
Than all uneasie dignity.

and also:

Let him that would ascend the tottering seat
Of Courtly grandeur, and become as great
As are his mounting wishes, but for me
Let sweet repose and rest my portion be.

He has left a note that the sycamore trees in the Churchyard of Loweswater were planted 26th of February, 1710, but these have no doubt disappeared long ago.

When he had been Curate for 14 years Bishop Gastrell of Chester, sent a list of questions to be answered by him, and his replies are very interesting.

There was no free school in the parish at that time, only a "Petty School" taught by himself, in the church.

The Parish at this time was divided into four "Quarters," viz.: Thackthwaite Quarter, containing the township or village of Thackthwaite; Low Quarter, containing the two little towns of Mockerkin and Scoggill; and Park Quarter and Middle Quarter, which together comprised the township of Loweswater.

Until this time the Curate of Loweswater had always received a stipend of £4 11s. 6d. per annum, an incredible amount, even after making allowance for the change in the value of money

which has taken place since that time. This was the yearly interest on £55 stock, part of which had been left by will and the rest made up by the inhabitants, nothing being given by the Impropiator of the Tithes to the Church. This stock was lodged by equal proportions in the hands of 12 Sidesmen for the year, that is, three in every Quarter of the parish, according to the turn of the estate, changing every year, being always reckoned a parochial duty incumbent upon their estates or the possessor thereof. In 1723 Queen Anne's Bounty augmented the living by lot to the extent of £200 at 4 per cent., thus adding £8 per annum, bringing the annual stipend up to £12 11s. 6d. There is small wonder that Mr. Forrest refers to this augmentation some four or five times; it is difficult to see how he existed before.

The Parish Clerk at this time received 16/- per annum and some other small dues at Funerals, Marriages, etc., out of which he paid 3/8 to St. Bees Church yearly, as an acknowledgment to the Mother Church, which was then reckoned to be 11 miles distant.

This same document states that the particular (or peculiar) custom of the parish in making the Church assessments was this: "The Churchwardens do at first pay all the charges out of their own pockets and so are out of their moneys till the Candlemas following after they are out, at which the Churchwardens make the Assessment."

Mr. Forrest was 25 years of age when he came to Loweswater and 58 when he died, being buried at Loweswater 18th March, 1741, and his wife Elinor five days afterwards.

Joseph Wilkinson, his successor, only lived six months.

During the short incumbency of the next Curate, Joseph Simpson, the old Church stock was reduced from 1/8 per £ to 8d. by reason of the Quakers refusing to pay 1/8. This meant a reduction of his stipend from £12 11s. 6d. to £9 16s. 6d. To make up for the loss he raised what he could by subscriptions.

As he had been baptised at Embleton in 1720, he was probably only just 23 years of age.

In 1744 Thomas Cowper, who was the son of John Cowper, of High Snab, Newlands, began his incumbency, which lasted for 51 years. To him also, as to Henry Forrest, we owe a lot of the information contained in the old register. The year before he came to Loweswater, he had been ordained Deacon to officiate in the Chapel of Wythop, and was made Priest on 10th March, 1744, to officiate in the Chapel of Loweswater, at 25 years of age.

The patronage of the Curacy was at this time in the hands of the above-mentioned Sidesmen or Chappellen, and it was by these Sidesmen of Loweswater that Thomas Cowper was nominated

to perform the office of Curate on July 15th, 1744. He married Faith Sumpton, of Lorton, in 1746, the ceremony being performed in Loweswater Church by Mr. Tyler, Curate of Lorton.

He has a note about the seige of Carlisle by the Young Pretender, in 1745. He also gives several bits of information about the church.

In 1751 the roof was taken off the body of the church and the south side was slated with Ewe Cragg slates, and in 1753 the roof was taken off the chancel and a great part of the church was plastered. Whether in each of these two cases the roof was taken off intentionally or by storm is not stated.

About the same time (1752) John Tiffin left £20 for the poor of Loweswater.

Another of Mr. Cowper's notes says: "On the 6th October, 1756, was the greatest storm of wind known to any man living."

He also seems to have been fond of writing verse, as witness the following:—

To the memory of Anne Banks, who died October 23rd, 1757, Spinster, of Low Park, a charming singer of Psalms, aged 33 years.
Sweet harmonist that died in youthful days,
Thy life was one continued song of praise,
Thy pious soul that charmed the sons of men,
Now wakes into a more seraphic strain,
And chants in concert with th'Angelic Choir.
All glory to the Lamb, whilst list'ning saints admire.

He has also left the following notes: "On 7th September 1760, happened the flood on Brackenthwaite Fells, which landed over the ground at Lanthwaite, etc." "On the 7th January, 1757, there fell a pretty thick snow which laid on the ground till the 10th, when and upon the next two days it was followed by one of the thickest snows that ever was seen by any person then living, and laid upon the ground for many days. Many houses were buried in snow and many sheep died, and on January 11th no service was done in any churches in Cumberland."

In 1770 he lost his son John, aged 20, and a few days afterwards Sarah Hudson, of Kirkgate, aged 21, was buried as well, and he writes of this as follows: "She and the said John Cowper were pleasant and lovely in their lives, and in their death they were not divided, their graves being contiguous at the South-West corner of the Church." Their gravestones are still to be seen.

In 1778, Mr. Cowper tells us, "the church was ceiled, flagged and peded, and a new pulpit and reading desk were then made in it."

Until the year 1780, as already mentioned, the only school had been that taught by the Curate in the church, but in that year the School-house was built, "because it was not thought fit to teach in the Church as formerly." This school is still in existence, being now known as "Rose Cottage," just below the Vicarage. The school in its new building was still taught by the Curate.

In the following year, 1781, the Schoolroom at Mockerkin was built by the inhabitants of Mockerkin and Sossgill, upon a piece of land given by Mrs. Mary Mirehouse in her life-time, who also by deed dated 12th March, 1781, gave £200, the interest to be applied to the use of the school. Mockerkin and Sossgill children were to be admitted at a reduced quarterage. Mary Mirehouse was probably born at Miresyke in 1711.

Three years after this, 1784, John Nutt gave £5 for the poor of Loweswater. He was probably born at Ashhill in 1704.

When Mr. Cowper came to be Curate of Loweswater, his salary was £9 16s. 6d., but when he had been here nine years, Queen Anne's Bounty augmented it by £200 at 4 per cent., thus bringing it up to £17 16s. 6d. per annum, and three years later, Queen Anne's Bounty again augmented it by £200 to meet a benefaction of £200, consisting of £100 given by William Stratford, L.L.D. (who would appear to have been Commissary to the Bishop of Chester) and £100 subscribed by others. This brought the living up to £33 16s. 6d. but two years afterwards the Bounty was reduced to 2 per cent., which meant another reduction to £17 16s. 6d. Four years later, in 1762, the above capital sum of £800 was expended in the purchase of Fangs Farm. This last transaction and the preceding augmentation in which Dr. Stratford took part are recorded on a stone on the inside of the present vestry, by the door.

Thomas Cowper was buried at Loweswater on January 26th, 1795; his gravestone is still to be seen in the Churchyard

The next two Curates, John Barnes, who held the office for 16 years until his death in 1811, and Lancaster Dodgson, who was Curate for 17 years until his death in 1828, each had an Assistant Curate for most of his time, the reason for this probably being that the Curate himself spent very little time in the parish, which was not an uncommon thing in those days. Mr. Dodgson was the first incumbent to be presented by Lord Lonsdale. The living was augmented once when Mr. Barnes was Curate, and twice during Mr. Dodgson's time. The year before Mr. Dodgson died, the old church was taken down, in order to build the present one.

This brings us to the end of the period of the old register. One interesting feature of this time is the variety of trades, etc., held by people in Loweswater. Whereas now there is no one except farmers, in those days there were Weavers, Joiners, Smiths, Tailors, Shoemakers, etc. As the means of communication were so poor, country parishes had to be more self-contained, instead of being dependent upon the towns as they are to-day.

With Jeremiah Atkinson, who was appointed to the living by Lord Lonsdale, Landowners and Sidesmen, we come to the first Curate of the present Church, as he came in 1828, being the year after the old church was taken down, and the year before the present one was consecrated. He must therefore have been present at the consecration ceremony which was performed by the Rt. Rev. John Bird Sumner, Bishop of Chester (later Archbishop of Canterbury), on August 24th, 1829 and dedicated to Saint Bartholomew. This church, as will be seen from the photograph, was a modest and compact structure.

At this time Loweswater is still referred to as "A Chapelry in St. Bees Parish" and, as it had always done, still formed part of the Archdeaconry of Richmond and the Diocese of Chester, but during Mr. Atkinson's time it became part of the Archdeaconry of Westmorland and the Diocese of Carlisle.

Mr. Atkinson was the last Curate to be Priest and Schoolmaster at the old school, which at one time held as many as 72 children. In 1839, 10 years after the church was consecrated, the present school was built at the expense of John Marshall, Esq., of Hallsteads, who was Lord of the Manor of Loweswater, on land given for the purpose by John Hudson the elder, of Ullock, and endowed by public subscription, which small endowment was placed in the hands of five trustees, vacancies to be filled at Courts Manor, or failing this, at Vestry Meetings. For many years after it was built, school fees were charged, these at one time being 5/- per quarter. Mr. Atkinson, no doubt, continued to be Priest and Schoolmaster at the new school.

Until 1832 there was no house set apart for the parson; he got a house where he could. Mr. Atkinson lived for part at least of his first four years at Lowe House, Brackenthwaite, but in 1832 the Vicarage was built (then called the Parsonage) and he went to live there. He died on 23rd February, 1858 and was buried at Loweswater. There is a tablet to his memory on the north wall of the church.

He was succeeded by Eldred Green, whose daughter, Miss Green, is still alive and paid a visit to Loweswater only a few days ago, and to whom I am indebted for several bits of information. The year after he came, 1859, the Churchyard was enlarged—the only enlargement of which there is any record—by a quarter of an acre of land, given by Miss Skelton, of Foulseyke, for the

purpose. At the Vestry Meeting held to consider this extension, the first proposal was that a rate of 6d. in the £ should be levied to defray the cost, but a subsequent amendment that the required amount should be raised by voluntary subscriptions was carried.

At this time there were four or six large square pews in the church, and all the pews had doors. There was also a "three-decker," that is, a combination of pulpit, reading desk, and clerk's desk, in the middle of the aisle. There was a gallery at the west end, in which the choir sat, and before the commencement of each hymn, the old clerk of that time, John Wilkinson, of Spout House, Water End, used to walk down from his desk and up into the gallery, where he blew a "pitch pipe," to start the hymn, as there was then no harmonium. Mr. Green got a harmonium, which Mrs. Green played, but to the end old John Wilkinson continued his walk up and down for each hymn.

Shortly after Mr. Green came, Bishop Villiers of Carlisle, who was a big, fine-looking man, held a Confirmation at Loweswater, and the story goes that after the service was over, Mr. Green, who was much less in size than the Bishop, asked one of the farmers, Harry Pearson, what he thought of the Bishop, to which he replied that "Laal men need du vara weel for parsons, but he would ha' made a gran' farmer."

When Mr. Green came to Loweswater, the living was worth about £60 per annum, but it was augmented before he left, one of the principal subscribers being Miss Hudson, of Kirkhead, to whose memory there is a tablet on the south wall of the church.

About this time, the schoolmasters were a Mr. Craig, a Mr. Denwood, and a Miss Wood.

Mr. Green left Loweswater in 1866, having been here 8 years, and after going to Yorkshire and the South of England, returned to Cocker mouth in 1874, to be Vicar of All Saints. He was still there when the present Vicar, Canon W. H. Parker, went to be his Curate in 1880, but died the following year.

The next incumbent, George Mercer Tandy, was a big man, physically (he was over six feet) and mentally. Born in Calcutta, he came over when 2½ years old in the same ship as W. M. Thackeray, who was about the same age and whom he is said to have curiously resembled in many ways. His initials were almost the same, also his height, and both were contributors to "Punch." They never met again.

He was a Scholar and Exhibitioner of St. John's College, Cambridge, where he passed as 37th Wrangler in 1842. He was Curate, at various times, of Whitfield, Farlam, and Lanercost. In the Undercroft at Lanercost, when out with a friend practis-

ing with pistols (hair-trigger) his pistol went off unexpectedly and pierced his friend's coat; this stopped pistol practice. In 1860 he became Perpetual Curate of Newlands, and in 1866 he came to Loweswater.

He was very well read and a severe critic, and only a few weeks ago his name was recalled in the Carlisle Diocesan Gazette as one of a group of clergy, strong churchmen, scholars and archæologists, but none the less zealous parish priests, who had much influence in the Diocese 50 years ago. It is common knowledge in the parish, even now, what a strenuous time he had on Sundays. First of all Sunday School in the morning, then Mattins (probably followed by Litany and Ante-Communion), after lunch a journey by dog-cart to Mockerkin for an afternoon service in the school there; then on to Messer for another one there, and then back to Loweswater for Evensong. He took a keen interest in the school, going in to teach every day, the schoolmasters in his time being first George Watson and afterwards George White. He also conducted evening classes in the winter.

During his time the charities left by William Woodville, John Tiffin and John Nutt were combined into one, consisting together of £63 2½ per cent. Consols held by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds in trust for the Charities, the annual dividend of which continued, as before, to be distributed by the Vicar and Churchwardens on St. Thomas' Day every year.

Mr. Tandy is said to have been a very kindly, generous man, most athletic, and a great walker. He was never married. During his time Mr. Woodmason, who was then Vicar of Buttermere, used to come to Loweswater to give special mid-week addresses in Lent. After his death—he was buried at Loweswater, the wooden cross by the Smithy-road gate marking his grave—Mr. Tandy, who dabbled in spiritualism, professed to communicate with him.

Mr. J. W. Brown, of Carlisle ("X" of the East Cumberland News) has published a good deal about him and of his personal lampoons.

The late Joe Wren, who was his churchwarden at Newlands and a great admirer of him, used to tell an amusing story of a gathering at Loweswater Vicarage, when, amid a cloud of soot, a hobgoblin appeared down the chimney with great red eyes and much clatter. "Tandy ran for t' gun—gat under t' teabie. Ah was fretted to death misel'. But it was nobbut a Jenny Hewlet (owl)."

It used to be said that he never wore an overcoat, but only a Scotch plaid in all weathers. Latterly, however, he did wear a coat.

He, too, was something of a poet, as the following odd verse from "A Ventilation Ode" (re Wigton Church) will show:

Half choked with dust, my breathing flags,
And painfully the music drags,
And kneeling—hassocks stuffed with rags,
 Feel hard and bumpy.
My waistcoat swells—I fear the worst,
The buttons fly—I'm like to burst,
Oh! for a pint to quench my thirst,
 Of Aqua-Pumpy.

Oh ye in "Throstle Nest" who dwell,
Quoth Dr. T. "you'll feel no smell
" If windows, aye, and doors as well
 " Be opened wide :—
" Let out old air ; let in the new,
" To sweeten every musty pew,
" Sweep cobwebs down and spiders too,
" Believe me, nothing else will do,
 " Let this be tried."

He left Loweswater in 1883 for Westward, where he died in 1899, but by his express wish he was buried at Newlands. He was the brother of Henry Tandy, a banker at Penrith, whose daughter, Mrs. Romney, of Skinburness, is his surviving niece, to whom I am indebted for a lot of information about him. There is no lack of evidence that he was a faithful parish priest.

His successor, William Thwaites, who came from Cleator Moor, was only here for four years, but a lot happened in those four years. The year after he came (1884) a faculty was obtained for extensive alterations to the church, which were completed in 1886. They consisted of the following: The church was re-roofed, the windows taken out and replaced, a new Chancel, Vestry and Organ Chamber were built at the East End, the Gallery with partition wall then forming a Coal-house, Stair and Vestry, was taken down; a new entrance porch was built at the north side, and a Baptistery at the West End where the doorway had been, the Church was re-floored and re-seated, the Pulpit, Prayer Desk and Communion Table were removed and replaced, and the Bell Turret was improved. The cost of all these alterations must have been considerable, and their effect was to increase the architectural beauty of the building and also the accommodation. Before this time there had been two bells with chains, but one of these, already mentioned, which belonged to the 14th century, having Lombardic letters round the outside of the base, and being one of the first bells to be cast in Cumberland, was sold to Crosthwaite Church, for the Parish Room there, but later was found unsuitable, and now rests in the south-east window of Crosthwaite Church. One cannot help hoping that some day it may find its way back to its original home. The present bell is a comparatively new one.

About the same time (1886) part of the township of Bracken-thwaite in the Chapelry of Lorton and Parish of Brigham, that is, the part of the parish which now lies at the far side of the Cocker, was added to Loweswater, and it thus became "The Consolidated Chapelry of Loweswater," the incumbent being styled a "Perpetual Curate," the fees for marriages in Loweswater Church still belonging to the Vicar and Parish Clerk of St. Bees.

Mr. Thwaites continued Mr. Tandy's work in the school, and at Mockerkin on Sunday afternoons, when Mrs. Thwaites held a Sunday School in the Vicarage kitchen. The G.F.S. was started in 1883 and is still being carried on. The Sunday School Treat in those days used to take place on St. Bartholomew's Day, and was given by Mrs. W. Wilkin Lumb. At Easter, there used to be a climbing party—of which we fortunately still see a few members every Easter—who were a great help on the Sunday, and on the Monday used to give an impromptu concert, which was a tremendous success in several ways.

Mr. Thwaites left Loweswater in 1887 for Egremont, where he and Mrs. Thwaites did a great work. He retired in 1923 to Keswick where he lived until his death in 1927. His widow is still there with her married daughter, Mrs. Hetherington.

John Gamble, who succeeded Mr. Thwaites, was really the first "Vicar" of Loweswater, as it was during his time (1895) that the living of St. Bees was vacated; the marriage fees ceased to belong to St. Bees, Loweswater becoming a "new parish" and its incumbent a "Vicar."

In 1897 the school at Mockerkin was closed on account of the lack of sufficient funds to maintain it.

In 1899 the first hot water heating apparatus was placed in the church and remained in use until a year ago.

In 1903 the Education Act of the previous year came into force, with the result that Loweswater School came under new management, the Trustees being represented by four foundation managers and the two local authorities by one each.

The living was augmented in 1906 and 1914, and an illuminated list of subscribers to the first of these, worked by Miss Faith Bell, now hangs on the Vestry wall. This list includes a gift of £50 from Archdeacon Sherwen.

In 1914 the Board of Education made a scheme for Mockerkin School, the endowment being placed in the hands of five trustees—three appointed by Loweswater Parish Council and two by the Cumberland County Council—and to be used for helping children attending other schools in various ways mentioned in the scheme. In 1919 Mr. George White, the master of Loweswater School, retired. He had been here for forty years, having been brought

by Mr. Tandy. He was succeeded by Miss Lennox and then by Mrs. Wilson.

Mr. Gamble had a large family, two of his sons being killed in the War. Another of his sons, John Leonard Gamble, is now Vicar of Milnthorpe. Mr. Gamble retired in 1914 and went to live in Cockermouth, where he died the following year at the age of 65, being buried at Loweswater. Mrs. Gamble died in 1919, also being buried at Loweswater.

The next Vicar, John Joyce, came to Loweswater in 1915, from being Rector of Waberthwaite. He was therefore here for most of the War period, a difficult time for everyone.

In 1919 a Petrol Gaslight installation and a Brass Lectern were placed in the church as a memorial to the five men from the parish who had lost their lives in the War.

In 1924, Mrs. Wilson retired from the School, being followed by Mr. William Barnes, who was succeeded by Mr. D. C. Wren.

Mr. Joyce resigned at the end of 1926 and went to live in Devonshire, and now does occasional duty in the Diocese of Truro.

There is little to write about the last two and a half years, except to say that in 1928 a new and up-to-date low pressure heating apparatus was placed in the church and the south and west walls were plastered, and this year a red carpet has been placed in the Sanctuary and Chancel, the money for these things having been raised by means of a Bazaar and a later Sale of Work, both held in 1928.

Other gifts to the Church have included:—

An Altar Cloth presented by Mrs. Mandale (formerly Miss Furness, of Jenkin Hill).

An Altar Cross and Vases, in memory of Mary Lorina Muckley, of Loweswater Hall, who died in 1877 at the age of 22.

A solid silver Alms Dish and also Alms Bags, presented by Major J. H. Robinson, J.P., of Foulisye, in 1905.

A handsome Reading Desk, in memory of departed relatives, presented by Mrs. Peter Burnyeat, of Latterhead, in 1908.

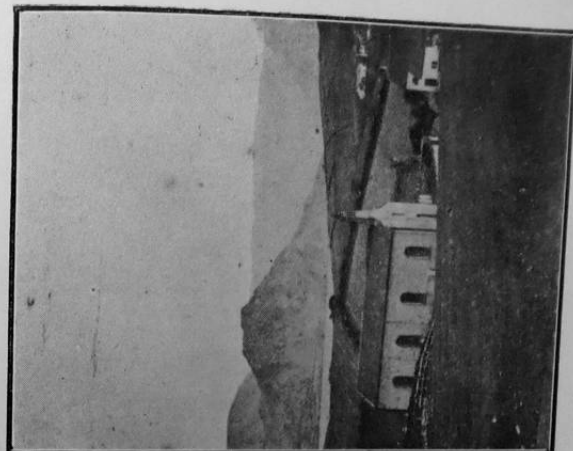
An oak Litany Stool, a Curtain to screen off the Organ Chamber, an Umbrella Stand, and several other useful things, presented by Miss Banks, of High Park, in 1923.

It is not surprising that after seventy years, the Churchyard is at the moment practically full, and will require extending in the immediate future.

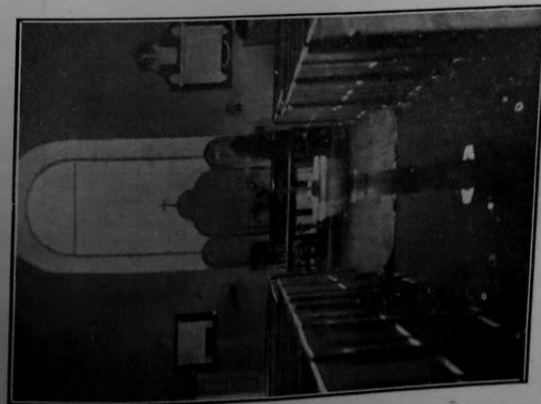
Before concluding these notes, I should like to mention the names of a few of the old families no longer in Loweswater, to whom the Church and Parish have long ago been indebted for help and generosity: The Skeltons, of Foulisye; the Mirehouses, of Waterend; the Hudsons, of Kirkhead; the Fletchers and (later) Lumbs, of Mockerkin; the Woods, of Godferhead. All these families have tablets to their memory on the walls of the present church, and they, together with the Woodvilles, of Water End, John Nutt, of Ask Hill, and Burnyeats, of Latterhead, will all be remembered as Benefactors at the Centenary Celebrations on August 24th and 25th.

Incumbents of Loweswater.

?	Westray	
1600?	John Borranskail	
1673	Patricius Curwen	
1701	Andrew Naughley	
1702	John Tiffin	
1705	John Harrison	
1708	Henry Forrest	
1742	Joseph Wilkinson	
1742	Joseph Simpson	
1744	Thomas Cowper	
1795	John Barnes	
	1795	Joseph Harrison (Assistant Curate)
	1797	Samuel Norman do.
	1801	John Nicholson do.
	1805	Jonathan Stainton do.
1811	Lancaster Dodgson	
	1818	Jonathan Stainton (2nd Licence) (A. C.)
	1821	Joshua Clark (Assistant Curate)
	1824	Martin Mayson do.
	1826	Henry Hake do.
1828	Jeremiah Atkinson	
1858	Eldred Green	
	1866	John Jones do.
1866	George Mercer Tandy	
1883	William Thwaites	
1887	John Gamble	
1915	John Joyee	
1927	John Rowland	



LOWESWATER CHURCH. EXTERIOR. 1829.



INTERIOR BEFORE 1884.