

St Hilda`s Church, Bilsdale Priory

List of incumbents from 1407 to present day

1407 William

May 17th Thomas Barker de Billesdale Sep. in cimiterio de Byllesdale Domino Willelmo, capellano,xyd. Ad unam candela exhibendum coram Trinitate in caella predicta, vs.

(Reg. Test.,iii269d.)

1476 Richard Graye

May 20th

Willelmus Horsley de Bylesdale Sep. in cimiterio capelle de Bilesdale, Ricardo Graye, vicario ibidem, meum optimum animal, nomine mortuarii mei.

(Reg. Test., IV,91d.)

1542 Thomas Swaill

Oct 24th

Lawrence Kirke of Billisdale. My soul to God Almightye, to his mother Marie, and all the hevynlie company, and my bodie to be buried in the church erthe of sancta Ilde in Billisdale. My curate Sir Thomas Swaill a witness.

(Reg. Test.,xi,653d.)

1572 Michael Watson

Lawsuit. George Rudd c. Richard and Walt. Bankes- a debt for 6s.8d. for "browne bleize cloth" bought by or for Michael Watson priest of Bilsdale 1572.

1599-1633+ Anthony Lainge

He was ordained priest in Durham Cathedral in 1590 and became curate of Bilesdale in 1599. He was mentioned in visitation calls until 1633.

1640 John Leng

Was mentioned in visitation calls of 1640

1662-1684+ Raduphus(Ralph) Hague (or Haighe)

Deacon in 1638, priest in 1639. Moneren Preacher diocesan (ie Licenced to preach within the diocese and province). Curate of Bilsdale 1662. Visitation calls till 1674. Mentioned in Parish Register in 1684.

1680 Henry Mason

Was Curate of Ingleby Greenhow and was a subscriber in 1680 and 1697 as Curate of Bilsdale.

1690-1720 Richard Carr

Son of Robt. Carr vicar of Kirby-in-Cleveland. Was Curate of Bilsdale in 1690 when mentioned in visitation calls. Was mentioned as Curate in Parish Register up to 1720.

1699 Wiliam Gastell

Signed the Register as Curate.

1721 William Laws

Marriage Register states that Banns were published by Mr Laws, Curate of Bilsdale

1721-1726 William Deason

From Deed concerning land at Yarm

1777-1786? James Metcalf

1797-1846 John Dixon

A native of Troutbeck, Westmorland, vicar of Ingleby Greenhow and Bilsdale. Monument in Ingleby Greenhow Church. Died March 6th 1846 aged 80 years

1846-1859 John Fletcher

He was vicar at the time of the St Hilda's rebuild in 1851. He was vicar of both Bilsdale and Ingleby Greenhow parishes but he lived in the new house built in Bilsdale. His wife Frances left money to both parishes to supply gifts of coal at Christmas. When a widow she also contributed largely to the cost of the new build of St Giles church, Marfleet, Hull. "This was built in stone in 1884 at a cost of about £1,500. £1,000 was left for purpose by Mrs Frances Fletcher (nee Barmby)" (Genuki)

1860-1873 Arthur Bolland Skipwith

During his time at Bilsdale he was secretary of the British Counties` Chess Association, and editor of The Chess Player`s Chronicle. In September 1865 he was winner of the first British Counties Chess Association Tournament held that year in Redcar and was successful in other later competitions, though it was said that he had a habit of falling ill early in a tournament especially if things were not going well for him.

1873-1903 Charles Wright M.A. Trin. Coll Camb

He was instituted in March 15 1873. It was during his time of office in 1896, that St John`s Church was first commissioned.

1903-1906 William John Hermitage

He was instituted on November 10th 1903. Resigned the Benefice on October 31st 1906.

1907-1914 Joseph Parry

A member of a Liverpool Welch family, whose father and brothers were also clergy. He was curate at Danby when William John Hermitage resigned. He was appointed as vicar in November 1906 and was licensed to the Benefice by the Archbishop of York on April 11th 1907. His patron was the Rt. Hon. William Ernest, Earl of Feversham. He died 12th January 1914.

1915-1924 Joshua Parry

At the time of his brother`s death he was curate at All saint`s, Ipswich. He was instituted at Ingleby Greenhow Church on 28th July 1914. His move in 1924 took him to St. Stephen`s, Ayres Quay,

Wearmouth. From there he went on to hold posts in various parts of England before his death in 1930.

1924-1930 David Basil Landon Nedwill

The Rev. Nedwill died in office on 28th May 1930. He was buried at St Hilda's by the Bishop of Whitby, Archdeacon Linsay and the Rev J Alcord of St John's, Bilsdale. His grave is just to the right of the porch. The chancel screen was erected in his memory. It was dedicated on March 20th 1931.

1930-1938 Gilbert Charles Binyon

The first meeting of the Parochial Church Council with him in attendance was on October 16th 1930.

He was a published writer. Amongst his works are "The Christian Socialist Movement in England" (1931) and "Socialism in Historical Christianity in the early Church" (1936)

He left office at some time between March and June 1938. There is a portrait of him in the vestry of St Hilda's thought to have been painted by a later vicar, Rev Mowforth.

1939-1943 Herbert Clay

1943-1953 Edward Hamilton Mowforth BSc

His wife became head mistress of the village school. He enjoyed painting, watercolours and oils. A painting of the Sunday school children now hangs on a wall in the nave of St Hilda's and also portraits of some of past vicars hang in the Vestry. His move from Bilsdale was to St Chadd's, Lastingham. He was also responsible for the church at Appleton-le-Moors where he remained until 1957.

He was the last vicar to reside in Chop Gate. He died in 1977 and is buried at St Hilda's.

1954-1959 Fred Cordingley M.A.

Between 1953 and 1979 St Hilda's shared the same vicar with St John's, Fangdale Beck. The vicar now resided at Fangdale Beck.

Born in Pudsey. He was ordained at Manchester Cathedral in 1940, first went to St James's at Salford, then to All Saint's, Maldon before taking up the living at Bilsdale. From here he went to the parish of Birdbrook and Sturmer where he was instituted on May 12 1959. He resigned the living on May 30th 1971. He eventually returned from Essex and had a bungalow built in Helmsley. (A Birdbrook web site)

1960-1974 Richard Hardcastle

He retired as vicar of this parish in April 1974 and went to live in York.

1974-1978 Robert Worrell

It was in 1974 that the Church Commissioner's made the decision to sell the vicarage in Chop Gate. It was in December of the same year that this parish was re-joined with Ingleby Greenhow and Kildale. The Rev. Robert Worrell was instituted as priest-in-charge on Dec 15th, by the Bishop of Whitby.

1978-1982 Cyril Kettle

In the 1950's aged 35 Rev Cyril Kettle was chaplain of Mission of seamen in Middlesbrough. It was reported in the press that he called upon the Christian girls of the area to meet lonely sailors at the Dockside and in competition with the usual type of girl they met there, take them along to the Seaman Mission to dance, play cards etc.

He died at Ingleby Greenhow on 7th March 1982 (during a service)

In his memory, daffodil bulbs were planted close to the south door, by the children of Chop Gate School.

It was in 1978 that St John's Fangdale Beck, joined the new parish of Upper Ryedale.

1983- 31st May 1996 Maxwell Keith Timbrell

There was a period of interregnum until the summer of 1983 when Rev Max Timbrell was appointed.

He was born in Sydney, Australia. He joined the order of the Brotherhood of The Good Shepherd, whose work was involved in providing ministry in the Outback. He spent 5 years in England as a curate in the London area in the late 1950's. He met Margaret, who was nursing in Nunnington, whilst attending a Conference in England. They were later married in Nunnington, which is where they retired to in 1996, after many happy years in Bilsdale.

During his ministry he was supported by Margaret, a reader, who regularly conducted Evensong, and shared enthusiastically in the activities of the Dale.

He died on Sunday 17th February 2013, after a very long illness and was buried in Nunnington.

1996-2003 Richard Rowling

He was licensed at St Andrew's, Ingleby Greenhow on 28th August 1996. In the summer of 2003 he became Rector of the Benefice of Thirsk and served here for 12 years. During this period he performed the roles as the Rural Dean of Mowbray Deanery, Archdeacon of Cleveland and Canon of York Minster as well as becoming advisor on rural affairs to the Archbishop of York. He resigned his post as Rector of the Benefice of Thirsk to be Anglican Chaplain to HMP Northumberland in the Diocese of Newcastle. taking on the role of prison chaplain in Northumberland.

2005- to date Anne Heading

Until 2005 there had been two years of interregnum. During this period Westerdale became part of the parish of Danby and Kirkby in Cleveland joined this Benefice.

Rev Dr Anne Heading who had previously been assistant curate at Fletchamstead was appointed as priest-in-charge of the Benefice of Bilsdale, Ingleby Greenhow, and Kildale with Kirkby in Cleveland

Sources

Most of this information was collated from church records by Rev Cordingly, and has subsequently been updated from recent records and personal knowledge.