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The History  
of the  
Church of St. Michael  
Bracewell



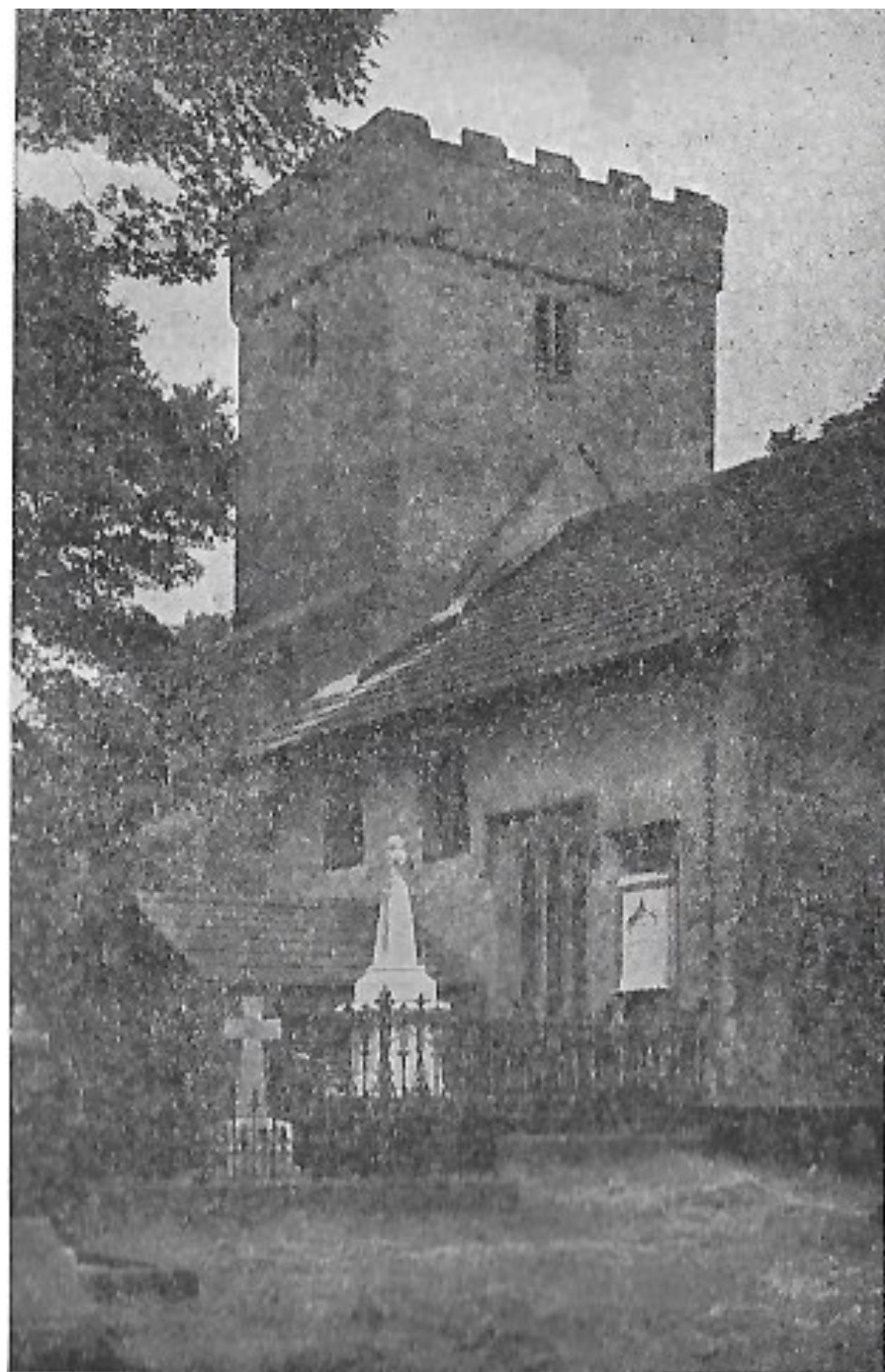
To Commemorate the Octo Centenary



The History  
of the  
Church of St. Michael's  
Bracewell



1153 - 1953



# The History of Bracewell Church

1153 - 1953

## Foreword

It is altogether fitting that a history of the Church should appear during the Octo Centenary Celebrations and we are greatly indebted to Mr. A. M. Gibbon, M.A., the History Master of Ermysteds Grammar School, Skipton, for this revised edition.

In the course of research, he has found new and interesting sidelights in Bracewell's history, has corrected some errors and has produced a long felt need.

It is our hope that this edition will provide residents and visitors, for a long time to come, with an authentic guide to a Church, which for antiquity, charm and beauty, is perhaps unequalled in Craven.

Colin C. Mackay,  
Bracewell Vicarage,  
September, 1953.

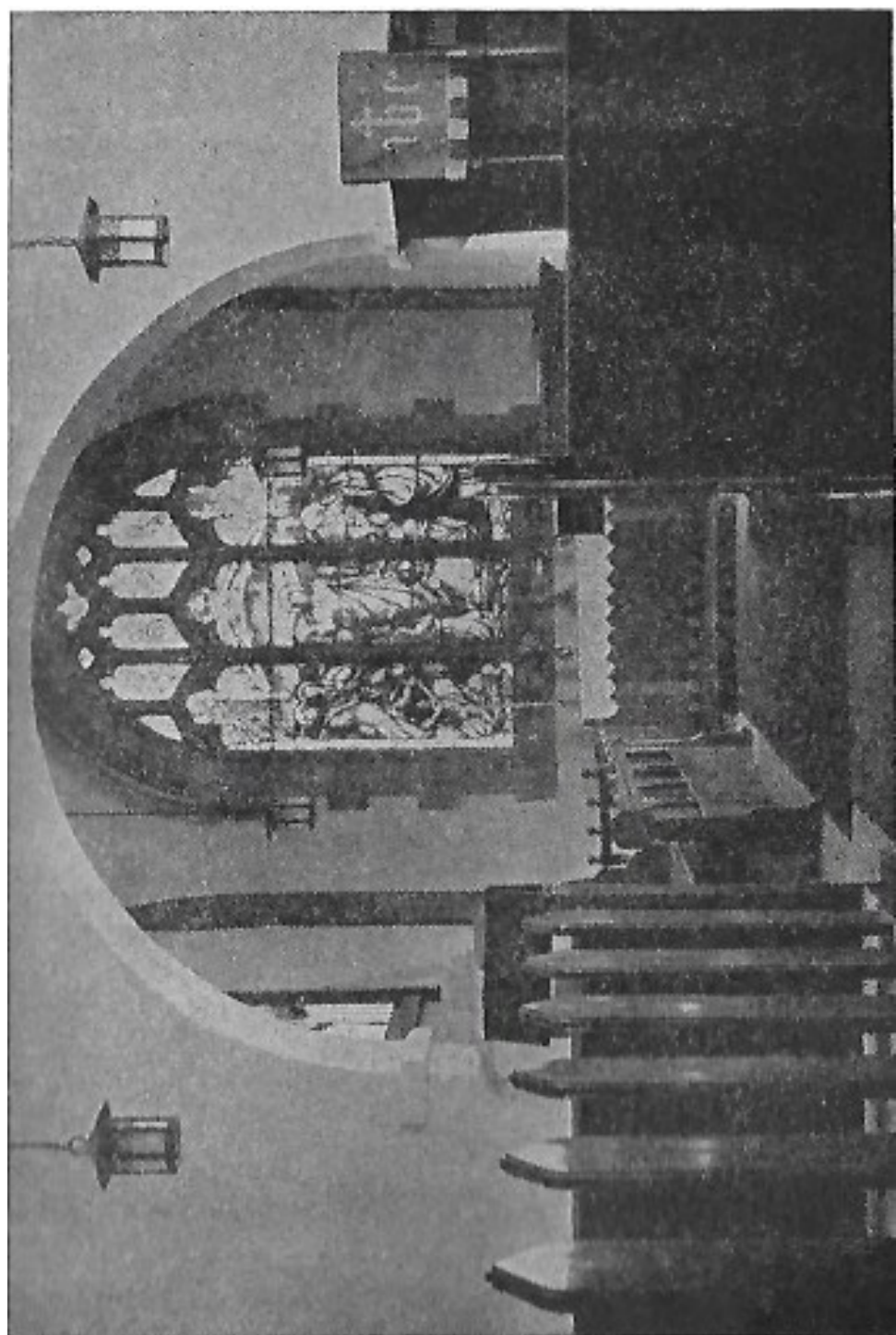
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to express my thanks to Capt. Stephen Tempest for kindly interest and help. He has allowed me access to family records at Broughton and given me every facility in the use of the Library there. I am especially indebted for permission to reproduce the illustrations of the fine old windows that were once the pride of Bracewell. They are, in fact, reconstructions by the late Mrs. E. B. Tempest from notes made by Dodsworth in 1621.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking also various members of the Vith Form of Ermysted's School for helping in the search for records and especially F. W. Challenger, for the pen and ink sketches of interior features of the church.

A.M.G. 1953





## The Story of St. Michael's through Eight Centuries

The Church of Bracewell in Craven stands on high ground about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Barnoldswick on the road to Gisburn, towards the south west corner of the old and extensive Deanery of Craven. A small church in a tiny parish, it is to-day combined with the two churches, Gill and St. James, under the Vicar of Barnoldswick.

This Church of St. Michael has character, beauty and personality of its own. For more than 800 years it has stood in a dominating position overlooking the little parish, the centre of the daily life and thoughts of the dwellers of the houses and farmsteads scattered around. Here is the very mainspring of local country life and here the witness of continuity and change, blended into harmony. This harmony of old and new is perhaps the most striking feature of the church. From dignified Norman chancel arch and doorway and the simple old font to the 15th Century side aisle and from thence to the 19th Century plaster and the 20th Century electric lighting, so beautifully lanterned by local craftsmanship, a little lesson in local history, feeling and taste is illustrated to the visitor. Even the empty niches of the northern aisle and the evidences of puritanical destruction of the one time beautiful glass windows fit into the story of our changing yet almost changeless history.

"The poorest benefice in Craven," wrote Dr. Whitaker in 1807. Be that as it may. Bracewell is rich in interest and its church is one of the charms of Craven.

The documented story of St. Michael's takes us back to about the year 1100. Evidence of this is based on one of the Tempest records which shows Richard Tempest, lord of the Manor, conveying, in the early 13th Century, to Kirkstall, the benefice of Bracewell, "which I and my predecessors have had in advowson." Other evidence seems to confirm such early origins. The Manor of Bracewell, indeed was granted to Roger Tempest in 1085 and an obvious deduction is that a chapel grew up here under the benefaction and protection of the lord of the manor; this was the usual pattern, Norman lord erecting a chapel for himself, his householders and dependents. Certainly, records of Fountains Abbey, date a chapel before 1147, and an old record quoted in Whitaker's History of Craven refers to a Priest of Bracewell in 1135. A date

approximately 1100 would therefore seem reasonable to affix to the foundations of the old church and indeed, the evidences of Norman architecture still remaining only add further confirmation to so early a date.

It will be noted that I refer to "chapel" rather than "church" when dealing with this very early period, when Bracewell was within the parish of Barnoldswick having only the status, with Stock, of a "parochial vill."

These early Norman days were times of great confusion and during the reign of King Stephen (the dreadful "long winters," 1135 to 1154) there was bitter civil war in church and state, great priests and mighty barons throwing themselves and their followers into a complicated struggle, now on this side, now on that, concerned more with their feudal powers than their feudal duties. The Scots joined in the general confusion and much of Craven was desolated. We must keep this in mind in trying to understand the curious position that arose in the ancient parish of Barnoldswick in 1147.

In that year 12 Cistercian monks, with 10 lay brothers arrived from Fountains Abbey to establish a daughter house at Barnoldswick. Their story is told by one of the party, the monk Serlo, who, when old and decrepit some 60 years later, wrote as follows:

"The place of our dwelling was at first called Bernolfwick which we, having changed the name, call St. Mary's Mount. We stayed there for some years, suffering many discomforts of hunger and cold, partly by reason of the inclemency of the air and immoderate plague of waters, partly because, the kingdom being disturbed, robbers many times wasted our goods."

But there is much more behind the misfortunes of the monks than that somewhat simple explanation. Serious quarrels developed between monks and local inhabitants whom they evicted at Barnoldswick and at Bracewell. Extreme action was taken and the monks actually pulled down the ancient church of Barnoldswick to the ground. Appeal was made to Henry Murdac, the battling Abbott of Fountains and Archbishop of York. This great Cistercian potentate, by the way, had seen his own Abbey but recently despoiled and fired and, though Archbishop since 1147 was a refugee from York until his enthronement four years later. He referred the matter over to Rome where a friendly Cistercian Pope, Eugenius the Third, decided in favour of the monks. However, the monastic victory over the local inhabitants availed little. The



monks at St. Mary's Mount, whatever the reason, decided to move away to a new home at Kirkstall. One imagines that the difficulties at Barnoldswick were not confined to problems of the weather or the stubbornness of the folk there. We know that at this time the Scots were devastating Craven and had destroyed a number of churches and that the honour of Skipton was, in 1152, acquired by a nephew of King David.

It is possible too, that the local political atmosphere was less clement even than the weather; monks were not always popular with humble folk nor with many in high political places. At any rate, the move was completed on 19th May, 1153.

The end of the enterprise of Mount St. Mary brought a general settlement of the religious life of the ancient parish, and the chapels of Marton and Bracewell, from which at one time the inhabitants had been unrighteously evicted\* grew up into new significance as mother churches, each with its own parish.

Fortunately this new development in the history of St. Michael's can be dated with some certainty. The reader will perhaps excuse me if I deal with this in some little detail, if only to clear up some contradictions evident in various writings referring to Bracewell.

An undated reference at York is worth quoting, as published by the Surtees Society in 1862.

*"For I learn from an instrument of Archbishop Murdac, now in the treasury of the Dean and Chapter of York, that at the request of Abbot Alexander and the monks of Kirkstall, he erected the two chapels of Bracewell and Marton into mother churches, each one with its own parish as they still remain. 'Statuimus,' he says, 'quod duae capellae de Braycewell et Marton sint de cetero matres ecclesiae, quaelibet cum sua parochia.' There is no date to this valuable document, but it may probably be referred to the period when the Archbishop retired to Ripon, since it is witnessed, among other persons, by Capitulum Sancti Wilfordi de Ripona."* \*\*

It is really quite easy to date this document—and the fact that it was witnessed at Ripon does not prove anything, since the Archbishop was also (till his death) Abbot of Fountains. The point surely is that the Bracewell parish was erected by Murdac at the

\*Mem. of Fountains Abbey. Vol. 1. Surtees Society—But I am not clear what is meant by "evicted."] \*\* *ibid.*



request of Kirkstall, that Kirkstall Abbey did not exist until 1153 and that Murdac died on the 14th of October in the same year. Hence St. Michael's became the parish church of Bracewell in 1153, just eight hundred years ago as I write.

The chapel of Bracewell that we have so far been dealing with was typical of the original Craven church, which, according to Dr. Whitaker was "a plain Norman building with no tower, but with a semi-circular doorway and a handsome arch of the same shape between the nave and choir." What is left of this early Norman building is still easily to be recognised in the present Church.

## Description of the Church

The church consists of choir, chancel, nave, chantry, north aisle and tower. The choir, nave and chantry constitute the oldest part of the building. The choir is separated from the nave by a simple round Norman arch. In the choir the sacarium is enclosed by old oak altar rails of the Jacobean period. An ancient window in the chancel walls has been obviously blocked up and a more modern window inserted further east. The original window has been removed and has been replaced by one of perpendicular style; it is filled with stained glass and represents Christ blessing little children. Striking in design and colour, this window was executed in 1854, the work of C. Mayer and the artist E. Bailie. On the window sill is a brass plate bearing the following inscription: "To the glory of God, and to the memory of Robert Hopwood, who was born at Horrocks Hall, near Clitheroe, in the County of Lancaster, 6th January, 1773, became Lord of the Manor of Bracewell, 13th August, 1845, completed the restoration of the church 1848, and died at Blackburn, 15th July, 1853." The window is dedicated by his son, Robert Hopwood.

Within the sacarium, on the north and south walls, are two lofty panels containing the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Two flat tombstones are let into the floor of the chancel, both of the 17th century, one to a William Hudson and his wife and the other to members of the Talbot and Lacye families.

Perhaps the most interesting point about the church is the fact that it is one of the three Tempest churches of Craven (the other two being at Broughton and Kirkby Malham). To each of these

churches the Tempests were considerable benefactors and there is one unusual feature common to them all, canopied niches in the pillars of the nave. At Bracewell in the north aisle there are two such shrines, carved respectively on the west side of the octagonal pillar which carries the two bays and on the respond of the pillar which is built into the mass of masonry forming the chancel arch. It is unusual to find such shrines situated in a north aisle. The niches themselves would seem to date from the reign of Henry VII and this is the period of the building of the aisle, which runs the length of the nave and is connected to the much earlier Tempest chantry at the east end.

Little is known about this chantry. A certificate of 1546 merely reports "The chantry in the North side of the said Church called Tempest Chantry founded by Sir Nicholas Tempest, Knight, of yearly value £4 13s. 4d." The value here stated is much the same as other Craven chantries. Here, undoubtedly, members of the Bracewell Tempests would be interred and a priest would sing daily Mass for the repose of their souls and all Christian souls. A record at Broughton Hall shows that in 1506 Sir Thomas Tempest wished to be buried at Bracewell church "near the tomb of my father," and that he left 20 marks to the building of St. Thomas' chapel in Bracewell. The position of this chapel, if separate from the chantry, is not clear; possibly it may have been associated with one of the seven "lights" of the old church, namely—St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Nicholas, St. Leonard, St. Thomas, St. Margaret and St. Catherine or it may even have been an enlargement of the original chantry. The Tempest tombs are now lost, but there is an ancient slab with a cross fleury on steps incised on it, possibly the memorial to a priest and, between chantry and choir a slab with sword or cross which mark a Tempest burial place.

The tower is massive, with walls some five feet thick. A beautiful, lofty, pointed arch connects it with the nave and a small window, above this arch, allows a view of the altar from within the tower. Outside, on the eastern side of the tower one can clearly see the alteration that has been made to the level of the roof of the nave. A very similar feature appears also at the church of Broughton. In both cases roof of nave and tower date from early 16th century.

The font, situated in the western bay of the north side of the church, is unornamented Norman.

Anciently, one of the most attractive features of St. Michael's

was the windows of which a full description was written by Dodsworth in 1621. They contained the arms of Percy, de Clifford and Tempest (east windows), Bannister and Tempest (north), man in armour, on surcoat the Tempest arms, opposite, a lady kneeling (east, in north choir), and in other windows various armorial bearings. Fragments only are left to-day and they are scattered in haphazard fashion as though they have been used only for bits of repair work. In the south window of the north aisle one can see the martlet, the bird of the tempest, as a reminder of the lords of the manor.\* Windows and empty niches are obvious evidences at Bracewell of changing attitudes in religious beliefs.

Sir Stephen Glynn, who visited the church in 1860, wrote a summary of the various architectural details as follows:—

“This church resembles the last\*\* in many respects; it consists of nave and chancel, each with north aisle, west tower, and south porch. The chancel-arch is Norman, plain with imposts, and the south doorway within the porch is Norman also, with shaped edged mouldings and capitals, but no shafts. The windows are mostly square headed and labelled, of three lights. The roofs have stone tiles. The west window of the aisle is decorated, of three lights, of rather pretty tracery. The nave has an arcade of two pointed arches, wide and large, with plain octagonal capited pier. The chancel has two arches on the north of rather straight form and octagonal pier. The tower arch is plain and pointed. The tower is of two stages, the upper diminishing, has plain narrow openings and no door or buttresses. There is a battlement and plain corbel table, belfry windows of two narrow square leaded lights. The west window has a sort of fortified look with flat head. The font has a circular bowl on a block. There are niches not exactly similar, on the pier and respond. The church has lately been somewhat improved and has open benches.”

\*—The late Rev. S. T. Taylor-Taswell, suggested that at one time there were seven beautiful windows, each portraying a saint. I can see no evidence to support this view, which I think is based on a misinterpretation of the mention of the seven “lights of Bracewell” which were shrines, surely, not windows.]

\*\*—Gill Church.]



## The Last Two Centuries

Just over two hundred years ago, the Vicar of Bracewell was the Rev. Arthur Tempest, whose humble and scholarly life is the subject of much comment by Dr. Whitaker in his "History of Craven." He lived at the old Vicarage (later known as the Glebe Farm) — a little building which the Doctor somewhat angrily described as a "thatched cabin" and "miserable cottage." Father Tempest, as he seems to have been known, has himself left a picture of the state of his parish in 1743 which is worthy of full quotation. It is as follows:—

### Archbishop Herring's Visitation Returns 50

I. We have near the number of thirty families and dissenters in two families, one of the Baptists another of the Presbyterians.

II. We have no licens'd or other meeting in our parish.

III. We have no publick or Charity School but Parents and neighbours instruct one another's children as it is fit and required and bring them or cause them to come to Church.

IV. We have not any alms house nor Hospital nor lands nor Tenements left for pious uses.

V. I have dwelt in the Vicarage house severall years and continue therein with wife and family at Bracewell.

VI. I have no Curate.

VII. I heartily pray and do my endeavor that all who come to Church were baptised and when they are of competent age I wish they were confirmed, and I often exhort them to take care of these matters.

VIII. The public Service is read in the Church twice every other Lord's day and when occasion requires every Lord's day. The parishes wherein I serve being contiguous I serve at either of them once in every fortnight throughout the year.

IX. I call upon the parishioners Children and Servants almost every Lord's day in the afternoon and teach them in the Catechism.

X. The Lord's supper is generally celebrated four times in the year of which Easter is (sic). Number of Communicants is a dozen or sometimes near a score, at last Easter were not above a dozen.

XI. I read the exhortations appointed in the Church as often as the Sacrament is administered but seldom do any send in their names, though some have come or sent to me. I have not refused the Sacrament to any one.



The living of Bracewell is small, little above twelve pounds yearly. Means have been used to augment it by virtue of the Royal bounty but nothing hitherto prevailed. It hath been joyned with the peculiar of Gill Church in Barnoldswick for above seventy years but formerly it was a Vicarage of it self.

Attested by me,

ARTHUR TEMPEST, Vicar of Bracewell

After 1743 there is little information about the parish except from the registers, until we reach early Victorian times. The marriage registers from 1754 shed an interesting light on local life, fitting into the picture of simplicity so well illustrated from the returns previously quoted, made by Arthur Tempest to the Archbishop's visitation. Taking the period from 1754 to 1810. I find that not less than 80% of the brides; and 60% of the bridegrooms were quite unable to sign their own names. Presumably, parents and neighbours went on instructing one another's children. It was not until 1845 that a parish school was established.

Among the records of the church are the Bracewell returns for the first census, taken in 1801. They show a total population of 172 (81 males and 91 females) in 38 families. Occupations of the heads of families are given as 16 farmers, 2 traders and 20 "others."

For the nineteenth century more records become available as time goes on. There are copies of the "terriers," or statement of Church properties, for the years 1809, 1823 and 1875.

The terrier of 1825 shows gifts amounting in value to £1,000, made up as follows. (a) 4 acres, 3 perches of land, part of Yarlside Farm, valued at £200, from Lord Grantham. (b) £100 from Mrs. Pincombe's charity (Somerset). (c) £100 from the Vicar, the Rev. W. A. Wasney. (d) £600 from Queen Anne's bounty.

Later gifts have included approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land on the west side of the church, for an extension to the Churchyard, from J. H. Riley, the last squire of Bracewell and a silver flagon and silver paten from Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Hopwood (the only other communion plate being an old silver cup and cover).

The first mention of an organ is to be found in the churchwardens' accounts for 1860, in a simple entry—"to James Halmer for blowing organ, £1 4s." Presumably, at this time the "base violin," frequently needing a new string, went out of use, for there is no further mention of it. It looks as though this organ had only a short life; in 1875 there is mention of "a noble organ standing

at the west end of the Church, presented by John Turner Hopwood," and this seems to have dated from 1868. The present organ, a two manual by Richardson of Preston, standing on the north side of the choir, was installed in 1905 and an electric blower was added in 1951, dedicated to the memory of Eli Hanson, vergers and organ blower for over forty years.

The last of modern inventions to reach this ancient church was electric light, which was installed in 1950. It was a happy thought to introduce wrought iron lanterns of local craftsmanship; in a simple and beautiful way they blend new and old together.

The greatest event of Victorian times, so far as the structure of the building is concerned was the decision to undertake repairs on a large scale in the autumn of 1847 and spring of 1848. The Vicar (Rev. Thomas Hayes) wrote in the Churchwardens' Book : "The Church at Bracewell being much in want of repair, benches being mostly decayed and broken and uneven, top of steeple ready to fall, roof of steeple in danger of falling and all timbers therein rotten and decayed. Porch too nearly down and timbers of roof nearly rotted off, with no proper road into church yard, underwent a thorough and complete repair."

The accounts show what a lot of work was done to the interior, exterior and churchyard. Items of expenditure include the following : Paid for 84 loads of lime at 10d.—£3 10s; Repairs at Porch especially about arch over great church door—£2 10s.; To 2 gallons of boiling oil for mastic 7/-; To mason assisting carpenter in fixing ten commandments 8/6; Gave a boy for going twice to Foulridge to see if pulpit and reading desk were come 1/6d. On the receipts side is an item—Bell, 288lb. at 8½d.—£10 4s. A list of contributors shows well-known Craven folk including Messrs. Hopwood of Bracewell Hall, Lord Ribblesdale, Miss Currer (of Kildwick), R. H. Roundell and T. H. Ingham.

Further repairs were undertaken in 1861 when a special rate of 4d in the £1 was agreed on towards defraying the expense of the Church Roofing and Slating. This rate raised the sum of £25 12s.

The reference, in the earlier repair accounts, to the sale of a church bell reminds one that originally there seems to have been three bells. The remaining one now doing service is inscribed : "Gloria in altissimo deo 1718." It was made at the Jubbergate Foundry, York, by Edward Seller.

## The Incumbents

Bracewell was originally a rectory, the patronage of which was transferred from the Tempests to the Abbot and Convent of Kirkstall in 1229.\* From 1678 to 1750 Bracewell and Gill were held jointly. In 1934 the parishes of Barnoldswick and Bracewell were united. The patron now is the Bishop of Bradford.

A list of incumbents is displayed on two boards at the west end of the church. It reads as follows :

### St. Michael's, Bracewell

Date	Rectors	Patroni
1135	Lidolph Sacerdos de Bracewell	Abbas de Conventus
1231	Dns Mich de Torinton Cl.	de Kirkstall
1290	„ Henr de Berewyke. Subd.	„
1294	„ Thomas de Bridesell. Subd.	„
1306	„ Rob de Risseton. Priest.	„
1318	„ Rob de Bromley. Cl.	„
1327	„ P de Orre de Driffield. Pr.	„
	Vicars	
1347	„ John de Mikelfeld de Bolton.	
	Cap.	„
—	„ Rob de Wetewang.	„
1355	„ Nic de Brantyngham. Cap.	„
1368	„ W'mus de Fulford. Presb.	„
1370	„ Edm de Bolderstone. Diaconus.	„
—	„ Thomas.	„
1380	„ John de Otteleley. Presb.	„
1408	„ Tho de Lethum. Presb.	„
1441	„ Roger de Mauncel. Presb.	„
—	„ Tho de Lethum.	„
1457	„ Wm. Baxter. Cap.	„
1458	„ Rob Cryer. Presb.	Epus per lapsu
1471	„ Rob Holdesden. Cap.	Abb et Con de K.
1491	„ Tho. Bradley. Cap.	Epus per lapsu
1516	„ Rich Wilson. Presb.	Abb et Con de K.
1542	„ Rob Stocdale. Presb.	Epus per lapsu
1554	„ John Catlyn. Cl.	Domus John

[\*—The Tempests recovered the patronage on the dissolution of Kirkstall Abbey in the 16th Century.]

		Tempest Miles
1593	Tho Owlinge. Cl. A.B.	Rob Tempest Arm.
1637	Will Thompson. Cl.	
—	Tho. Whitehead (a Puritan).	Rushworth
1717	Arthur Tempest, A.B., Trin. Coll. Camb. 1683.	
1678	Isac Lancaster. Sep.-July 17th, 1717.	
1750	John Riley.	Thos Weddell, Esq. of Newby.
1765	Miles Burton.	
1780	Anthony Tunstall.	Will Weddell
1788	Solomon Robinson.	" "
1798	George Ferrimen.	Thom Weddell, Lord Grantham
1813	William Atkinson Wasney, A.M.	Lord Grantham
1842	Thomas Hayes, A.B.	Earl de Grey
1880	W. J. de la H. Underwood, B.A., T.C., Dub.	J. T. Hopwood T.F., J.H., & J.J.A.
1893	M. Clark Vincent, B.A., T.C., Dub.	Riley
1895	Edw. Thos. Peberdy, B.A., Lond.	" " "
1906	Stephen Taswell Taylor Taswell, M.A., Ch. Ch. Oxf.	" " "
1908	Herbert West, M.A., C.C. Camb.	T. F. Riley
December 1934	Parishes of Barnoldswick and Bracewell were united.	
1934-39	John Henry Warner, B.A.	
1939-46	William Bracewell, M.A. Hon. Canon Sheffield Cath.	
1946-	Colin Campbell Mackay, A.K.C. Hon. Canon Bradford Cathedral.	

## Notes on the above list

I find various modifications necessary :

(a) The name of Robert de Swillington should be added. He was Rector of Bracewell (and Linton) in 1289. He is mentioned in Archbishop John le Romeyn's Register.

(b) Robert de Riweston, mentioned above as 1306, is a doubtful inclusion. According to the Register of Archbishop Greenfield he was inducted in 1306 but his position was challenged. An entry later in the same register is as follows :



"1308, July 15th—Dispute between Nicholas de Stockton and Robert de Rissesfon who asserts that the Cistercian Abbot and Convent of Kirkstall, patrons of the Church, have presented him to the Archbishop by whom he has been instituted to the said Church.—He is warned to give up the benefice and refund revenues received."

Certainly Nicholas de Stockton was Rector in 1311, when he was granted leave of absence for one year and his name should therefore be added to the list.

(c) The name of Nicholas de Ottelay should be added. He was Vicar in 1363. (Calendar of Patent Rolls Edward III, 1361-1364).

(d) The names of Arthur Tempest and Isaac Lancaster are in the wrong order. These should read Isaac Lancaster 1678, Arthur Tempest 1717.

(e) One deletion should be made. It will be noticed that the first entry is a mistake. Lidolph, Sacerdos de Bracewell was not Rector, nor were the patrons Kirkstall Abbey in 1135 (there was no Kirkstall Abbey then!) He was a priest serving the chapel of the Manor and the advowson belonged to the Tempests, Lords of the Manor, until 1229.

As so many of our Craven churches display lists of Incumbents (most of them, I am afraid, taken without check from Whitaker's History of Craven), it might be well to add the following explanation of terms used.

**Sacerdos**—Cl.—**Cap.**—**Prest.**—May be simply translated as priest.  
**Subd.**—Subdeacon.

**Dns.** (should be **D's**)—**Dominus**—"Sir"—Title used before the Reformation.

**A.B.** and **A.M.**—The old method of designating the degrees we now know as **B.A.** and **M.A.**

**Epus per lapsu**—(This entry appears under the column of patrons) presumably means that the Archbishop was the patron, the appointment lapsing to him from Kirkstall. "**Epus**"—I take to be short for **Archiepiscus** (Archbishop).

## The Parish Registers

The Parish Registers, as at Gill Church, date back to 1587, the first entry being a baptism of April 13 of that year. There are three old parchment registers; the first covers the period 1587-1718

and is imperfect. The book containing registers from 1718-1753 is lost. The second begins in 1753 and ends in 1794 and the third continues to the year 1813. Some of the early parchments are bound together, but generally there is much dilapidation and many entries have faded beyond recognition. Some Elizabethan entries are beautifully and carefully written, as indeed are some of those of the 18th Century, but records of the period 1650-1670 are very untidy and often quite illegible. One curious feature of the registers is the evident interference of a certain Tempest Browne, son of Christopher Browne, who, determined never to be forgotten at Bracewell, has scrawled his name, with various quite irrelevant remarks in various parts of the parchments.\*

### Bracewell Hall

On approximately the same site there have stood various buildings which have at different times served as the home of the Lord of the Manor. Where the original Tempest mansion was is not clear, but it seems likely that the ruin known locally as King Henry's Parlour may have been an extension to, if not a partial replacement of, the original home. A beautiful ogee arch is the evidence for dating this building to the 13th or early 14th Century. A later building, presumably of the 16th Century, was a rare example, in Craven, of a large hall built of brick. Some 15 yards long it had two deep and lofty wings, one fragment of which, in the nineteenth Century, was still of great height. This building was partly demolished in 1656 when the Tempest connection with Bracewell came to an end. The distinguished family—which had seen service at Agincourt and Flodden and had taken an important part in actions against the Scots, was, in its last days, attached to the misfortunes of Charles I. The last Sir Richard devised the estates to a Puritan cousin and died deeply in debt. Though regarded by many as rightful heir of Bracewell, Sir Stephen Tempest of Broughton refused to test his rights in law and the long history of the Bracewell Tempests came to an end. Sir Stephen and his heirs thereafter were left to preserve the honourable family traditions of the Tempests from their home at Broughton Hall. Thus Bracewell Hall became a ruin but the fragments that were left of this brick building were so strong that Mr. J. T. Hopwood

[\*—It has been suggested that he was once Vicar, but I find no evidence of this and think it unlikely].

had to have them blown up before the site could be cleared for the building he erected in 1869.

This last building was in Scottish baronial style, with buttresses, turrets, battlements and gables. At the time of writing demolition proceeds apace and soon this mansion of the Hopwood family will have disappeared. Perhaps it is as well, for the last years have seen it with tea-rooms and gardens and boating lake as a sort of Barnoldswick pleasure resort; its last occupants were a local engineering firm.

A final word may perhaps be said of the Henry VI Chamber. The story associated with this has grown with the years, though documentary evidence is scanty. It is generally related that the unfortunate King took shelter at Bracewell after the Battle of Hexham (1464) before moving to Waddington, where he was finally betrayed by the Talbots. The late Mrs. E. B. Tempest, of Broughton Hall, a skilled antiquarian with unusual documentary sources and much knowledge of Tempest muniments was herself not satisfied with the usual story. Without confirming the story of refuge at Bracewell she added the information that the betrayal at Waddington was the work of the Tempests: Sir Richard was then owner of the manor and hall of Waddington and, wrote Mrs. Tempest:—

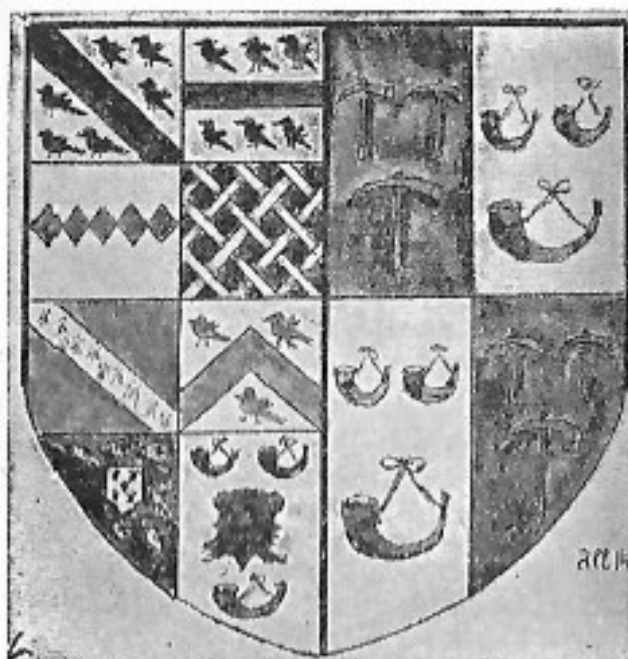
"Sir Richard Tempest with his brothers Nicholas and John and brother-in-law Sir Thomas Talbot of Bashall betrayed the hapless King . . . . As a reward for their treachery the three Tempests were in 1465 granted annuities, 'For the good and acceptable services done to the King (Edward IV) in taking our great adversary, Henry, late in deed but not of right, King of England'." How far this fits in with the story of the refuge at Bracewell is not clear.

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Photographs of Church by W. A. Harrison

Printed by R. B. Carr & Sons, Manchester Road, Barnoldswick





Escutcheon of  
Robert Tempest  
(about 1560)  
Painted on the  
Church wall.

Showing Left :  
Tempest, Thorpe,  
Hebden, Harrington,  
Rye, Waddington,  
Bolling and  
Bradford.

Right :  
Pigott (pickaxe) and  
Bradford (bugle).



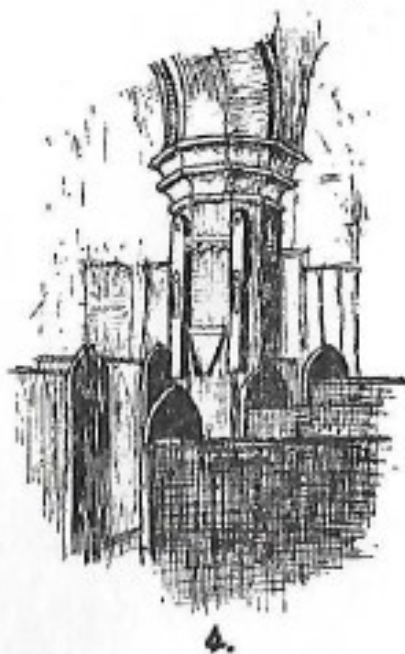
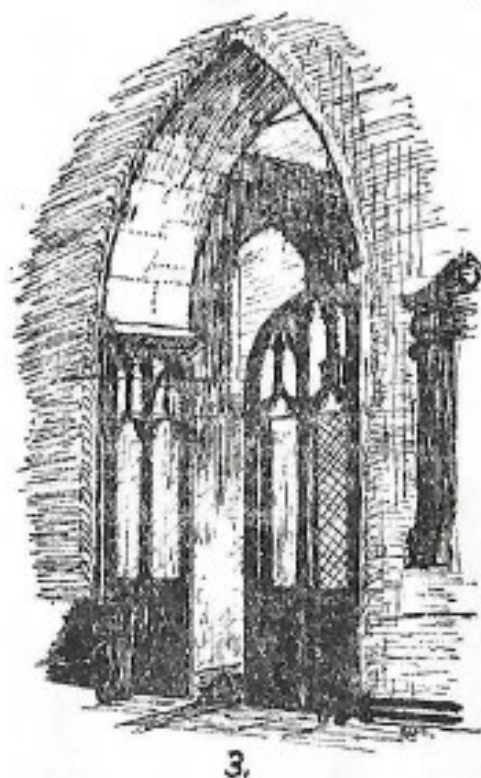
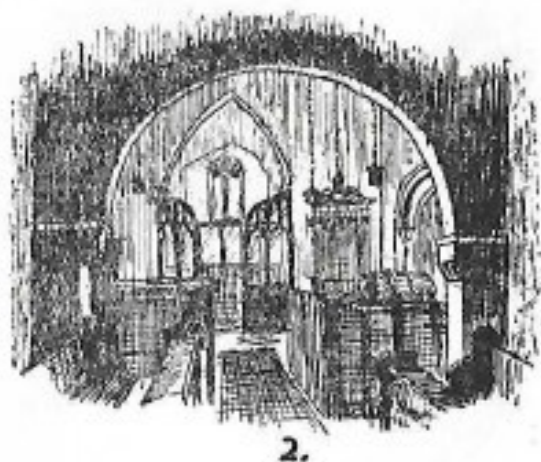
Window - South Side - 2nd window.  
Sir John Tempest and his five sons  
(about 1463).



Window - East side of N. Choir  
Probably Sir Richard Tempest  
and his wife (about 1427).

The above are from reconstructions, in colour, by the late Mrs. E. B. Tempest, to show features of Bracewell Church before Puritanical destruction. Photo, G. T. Seidewick





1. Capital - Chancel Arch (N. Side).
2. The Chancel Arch, looking W.
3. The Western Arch.
4. Niche in pillar. A feature of Tempest Churches.