

# Records of Harrogate

INCLUDING THE REGISTER OF CHRIST CHURCH (1748-1812), WITH SUPPLEMENTARY  
EXTRACTS FROM KNARESBOROUGH (1560-1753), NOTES ON THE PRE-REFORMATION  
CHANTRY & THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE WATERS, EARLY INHABITANTS, AND EXTRACTS  
FROM THE PARISH ACCOUNTS OF PANNAL, KNARESBOROUGH AND CLINT, AND FROM  
COURT ROLLS, QUARTER SESSIONS ROLLS AND MUSTER ROLLS

TRANSCRIBED, EDITED AND INDEXED

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WITH SIX ILLUSTRATIONS

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HARROGATE:—THE AUTHOR, PEMBROKE, PARK VIEW

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# Records of Harrogate.

## INTRODUCTION.

### The Pre-Reformation Chantry, St. John's Chapel, and Christ Church.

Although my original purpose was merely to issue the parish register of Christ Church, Harrogate, together with some account of the pre-Reformation Chantry on the Stray, yet the sight of my laborious transcripts of other local records lying still unprinted, has proved too great a temptation. And so, with the addition of the extracts from the Accounts of the Churchwardens, Overseers, Surveyors and Constables of Pannal, a mass of unconsidered trifles collectively of fascinating interest, together with various documents from the Public Record Office and lists of early inhabitants of the Forest, with various notes from the Court Rolls of Knaresborough, the volume has grown beyond recognition, to my own detriment, but to the advantage of my subscribers to whom I offer my thanks. While Harrogate does not occur in connection with Bilton in the Domesday survey, it does occur as a place-name at least as early as 1332, so that, from the point of view of antiquity its inhabitants can without shame speak with their enemies in the gate.

Although Christ Church, Harrogate, can claim no very high antiquity, it is indisputably the oldest church in the famous watering-place, seeing that St. Mary's parish, the second in point of date, was only formed from that of Pannal in 1824, and a third, namely Bilton, in 1858. Strong evidence exists that Christ Church is built near the site of the pre-Reformation Chantry of St. John (a chapel-of-ease to Knaresborough), the origin of which is wrapped in obscurity. In fact "it is very difficult, generally impossible, to ascertain the date of the foundation of chapels. They seem to have been erected by the piety of the inhabitants and were unconsecrated, so that the mother church should lose none of its income."<sup>1</sup> A tradition also exists and is recorded in the *Liber Regis*, that some chapels in the dioceses of York and Chester, having been originally erected for domestic use, afterwards became parochial, but were never consecrated.<sup>2</sup> With such families as the Pulleins and Slingsbys, Burnands and Bellinghams residing in Harrogate in early days, some colour is lent to this suggestion. The Rev. R. Mitton (p. 93), disposes of the possibility of the chantry having occupied the actual site of Christ Church. While he was not present at the building of St. John's Chapel, he would doubtless know many persons who were, and possibly the architect among them. Within the past few days I have been informed<sup>3</sup> that at some time during the vicariate of the late Mr. Fawkes (1887-1903), a discovery was made in the region of Elmwood School and St. John's Well of the foundations

(1) Per William Brown, Esq., D.Litt., F.S.A.

(2) Rev. J. R. Lunn, B.D., *Eccles. Rev. Deanery of Boroughbridge*, p. 32.

(3) Per A. C. Travis, Esq., M.A.

of an old wall about five yards in length, which, from the style of the masonry and other circumstances, was thought to be a part of the pre-Reformation Chapel. Hence it would seem possible that the present building lies near an ancient ecclesiastical site.

The scattered notices of the pre-Reformation chapel are few but interesting. Robert Cooke, Chaplain, mentioned as "Vicinus noster" in the will<sup>4</sup> of Thomas Bolton, of Harrogate, dated May 30, 1512, may have been an officiating priest here. The testator bequeaths "Roberto Kirkeby, capellano, unam juvencam pretii vs. ad celebrandum pro meo trentale<sup>5</sup> [illegible] et dicto Roberto unam le white sterk pretii ijs. viijd."

Elizabeth Kyrkby, of Harrogate, July 30, 14 Hen. VIII. (1522), leaves "xiijs. iiijd. y<sup>t</sup> is in John Hall handes to cause oon trentale of messys to be sayd for my husband & me, & the residew of the sayd xiijs. iiijd. to paye other dewties y<sup>t</sup> belonged to the Kyrk." Although no place is specified for the celebration of the trental, it would probably be said in the Chantry at Harrogate. Under debts are added: "To the Clerk for syngyng & dettes viijd. . . . .; for a trental of messes. . . .; for a messe for y<sup>e</sup> Santtes, ijd.; for reparacions xxd."

Also in 1522 (Feb. 13), Richard Derluff, of Knaresborough, "husbandman" names "Sir Robert (my brodder) & Sir William Derluff, chaplain (my sone)" as executors, leaving "iiij acre of land with the buyldynge lieng in the hamelett of Harlogate." These two chaplains, thus connected with Harrogate, may possibly have officiated in the Chantry on the Stray. The testator adds "yt Sir William my son have a masser."<sup>6</sup>

John Benson (1524-5), in his last testament says: "I wyll yt a trentall of messys be said for my soule & my father & my mother att Harlogate Chappell."

Richard Stevynson, of Knaresburgh, Oct: 11: 1532, bequeaths "Unto Sir William Deyrluffe xs. for a trental of messes to say for my sawle, for my fader & my mother & all my good benefacturs; to Sir Johne Syssetson iiijd, to Sir William Deyrluff iiijd. . . . . Theys wytnessith, Sir Johne Sissetson, Sir William Deyrlufe, John Kighley."

In 1539 (Mar. 10, xxxj Henry VIII.) John, Ann & Margaret Kirkbye are admitted as executors of the will of Robert Kirkbye, priest, of Harogate, whose will we quote in full (*Knaresb. Wills*, I.): "April 3, 1537. I, Robert Kirkbye, preyste, etc., to be buried within Knaresburghe Church yearde. I gyff to the sayd Church a boke called a Processioner; to the Piores & convent of Escholte ijs. iijd. I wull yt my ladie piores of Nun Arthington, her convent, have ijs. iiijd. to prey for my soull. I gyff to Jane Dacre my suster, a blyke whye; to Thomas Kirkebye, my olde gowne; to Jane Lambe, one yewe & one lamb; to Margaret Lambe, one yewe & one lambe; to John Kirkbye the thirde parte of all my goodes, besydes his porcions to bring hym uppe withall. To my funerall expenses to bryng me furthe withall, xxs. The reste off my goodes, not wytt, I give to John, Ann, Elizabeth & Margaret Kyrkbye, whom I make executors. I wull that my suster, Johan Kyrkbye have the order of the childer & their goodes as longe

(4) Francis Collins, M.D.: *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees Soc. vol. 104), wherefrom the succeeding extracts from wills are quoted.

(5) A series of thirty masses.

(6) Mazer or maple cup. J.T.F.

as sche keypthe her wedowe, & if yt sohe marie then I wull yt sche make a lauffull reknyng of all the goodes to my brother George Symson & Arthur Burton, & I will that they be supervisours, &c. I gyff my brother George Simson vs. & Arthur Burton all suche money as he owithe me; to my suster Simson a silver dalke<sup>7</sup>; & to Arthur Burton wyffe a silver dalke. I wull that one preyste have vs. to saye one trentall of massys for my soull & for all cremen soules, & to saye theym att Harrogate Chapell if yt neyburd<sup>8</sup> wull gif hym meytt & drinke, & if they wull not, then it to be doyn by the discrecion of Sir John Riddell<sup>9</sup>, wheresoever he thinkes it beste. In witnesse &c. Syr John Riddell. Debts owing to him. Sir Will. Gascoyne, Kt., for wages vjs. Rich. Mygeleye xxvjs. viijd. Hen. Inghland xxijs. Will. Foxe xvjs. Rich. Mylson vjs. viijd. Pet. Brexelay [?] vjs. vjd.

The witnesses on Dec. 1, 1540, of the "laste wull" of William Taylour of Harrogayte are: "John Sysstosone, preste, my ourate, Will Foxe, James Knolles, John Batty." This entry would seem clearly to indicate another Harrogate chaplain, attached to the Chantry.

John Lyndelye, of Harrogate, leaves a will dated Oct. 27, 1542, in which he says: "I gif xs. to a preste to doo a trentall for me at Harrogate Chapell."

In addition to the foregoing notices of the Chantry in the sixteenth century we find that it shared with other chantries in the dissolution of 1549, the fact being entered on the Court Rolls of Knaresborough in 1550. From the document, which is quoted at length, with a few minor omissions, we find the chapel was surrounded by its garden of half-an-acre in the tenancy of Ralph Stewerde, the last chantry-priest. The rough stone wall which bounded the enclosure of St. John's Chapel of 1749, until the enlargement of the churchyard, was said to have belonged originally to the sixteenth century chantry. The discovery mentioned previously, if true, would render this impossible. The fact that the modern Christ Church is built in the *quasi* Early English style does not in the least indicate that the chantry chapel belonged to the twelfth century, as has been asserted; but was more probably erected with many others in the fourteenth or fifteenth century. There is no doubt that the chantry would far surpass in architectural beauty its successor of 1749.

From the quaintly-worded document recording the dissolution, we learn that the last Chaplain, Ralph Stewerde, should enjoy the "profetts" of the chapel and lands adjoining to the end of his days; that it had been the King's intention to confer the emoluments upon "oure trustie s<sup>r</sup>uante John Cotton, gentleman," but that he had been slain when engaged in the King's service in Scotland, leaving his family in sore straits. Thomas Derley & William Adame described as "our louying subiecttes" then undertook the payment of Cotton's debts & received the grant of the chantry. Cotton also appeared to have benefited by the sale of chantry lands at Slaidburn. [D. of Lanc. papers, P.R.O.]. But in the following year, May 7, 1550, they trans-

(7) Obsol. A pin, brooch, clasp, buckle. N.E.D.

(8) Neighbourhood.

(9) John Riddall, chapl., 1520, w. John Pulleyn, Ant. Roos, Chr. Lyndele, gent., sues John Faceby, Eliz., his wife, John Picard and Alice his wife, for certain lands, etc., in this neighbourhood [*Yks. Fines*, Rec. Ser. II. p. 86.]