

# The Story of Saint Mary's, Illingworth (1525-1925).

BY THE

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"Thy Hand, O GOD, has guided Thy flock from age to age ;  
The wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page ;  
Our fathers own'd Thy goodness, and we their deeds record ;  
And both of this bear witness, ONE CHURCH, ONE FAITH, ONE LORD."

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## PREFACE.

The following pages do not profess to be more than a short sketch of the history of a Church endeared to the people of Illingworth by the associations of many generations, but it has seemed to be necessary, in order that the local story should be properly understood, to give—as a back-ground to it—some brief account, also, of the general Church history of the period with which the story of S. Mary's has been contemporaneous, and this has, naturally, been done from the point of view which commends itself to one of the “Anglo-Catholic” school of thought, but the Author hopes that he has not been guilty of any injustice in his presentment of it. Yorkshiremen, whether they entirely agree with him or not, will not find fault with him for saying what he believes to be true. The appendices are intended to supply particulars of interest which, if given in the body of the book, might interfere with the easy reading of the story itself.

As soon as it became known that the Author was about to undertake this work, ready assistance—frequently entailing considerable labour upon those who wished to help him—poured in from all quarters, sometimes by word of mouth, sometimes by loans of literature, sometimes by letter, sometimes in other ways, and the writer desires all who thus assisted him to accept his hearty thanks for their great kindness. Besides Mr. G. T. Ramsden (who, most generously, invited him to explore the old documents in his possession, at his London house and, not only threw open to him the whole of his interesting

collection, but, also, gave him the invaluable help of his personal assistance), and Mr. Clifford Binns (who managed to secure for him a complete set of articles, by "Graptolite," which deal with Illingworth, and appeared in "The Halifax Guardian" forty years ago, and have been of incalculable usefulness) the Author is, also, deeply indebted to Miss Ambler, Mr. J. W. Bates, the Rev. H. F. Booth, Mr. J. Brabbin (Littleborough), Mr. T. Braithwaite, Mr. Arthur Brear, Mr. Lewis Cockroft, Mr. Clayton (Luddenden), Mr. Joseph Crabtree, the Rev. H. Edwards (who wrote a series of useful articles in the "Parish Magazine" some years ago), Mr. W. Eglen, Mrs. J. F. Farrar, the Right Rev. Bishop Frodsham, Misses E. and F. Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Greenwood, Mr. T. W. Hanson (author of "The Story of Old Halifax"), Mr. Clifford Hitchen, Mr. Ellis Hodgson, Mr. Irvine Hodgson, Mr. George Howarth, Mr. Harry Hustwick, Mrs. J. A. Jenkinson, the Misses Jubb, Mrs. W. Lassey, Mr. John Lister, Mrs. F. Moore, the Rev. W. E. Mountford, Mrs. Priestley, Mr. T. Ramsden, Mr. A. Ratcliffe, Master W. Ratcliffe, Mr. R. W. Smith (whose former researches have been most helpful), Mrs. Speak, Miss Speak, Mr. Rufus Stirk, Miss E. Sutcliffe (of Hopwood Lane), Nurse Taylor, Mr. Councillor A. Turner, Mr. Seth Whitham, Canon J. M. Wilson (author of "The Vicars of Rochdale"), and my own children. If any names are omitted in this list, the Author trusts that the error will be forgiven, as accidental, and owing merely to the great number of his kind assistants.

The labour of discovering, verifying, comparing, interpreting, choosing or rejecting, and arranging the various details

with which it has been necessary to deal has been very great, and it is, almost, inevitable that errors will have crept in, and that disappointments will be caused, but the Author has done his best to present, in readable form, the history of what Mr. Gillmor called "the dear old Church," and has had in constant view, not only the present generation of readers, but, also, those who shall come after, and who will desire to know the doings of their predecessors. It is, mainly, for the sake of these latter that it has been deemed wise to make reference to so many living persons and their activities.

The work of putting this little volume together has been a task of absorbing interest, and it has been, also, a labour of love. It has recalled, in very vivid manner, the words of the Empire's poet :—

" Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet !  
Lest we forget ! Lest we forget ! "

G. R. O.

ILLINGWORTH VICARAGE,

F. of the Nativity of the B. V. Mary, 1924.