

## A History of the Reredos in Crosthwaite Church, Keswick

### Placed in position in December 1889

The Reredos is of British Heart of Oak, simple in design, and in accord with the time of the last rebuilding of the fabric of the church, but rich in detail of carving. Those who remember how from early and up to historic times the oaks of this valley were famous, will be glad that the wood should have been selected in keeping with the material from which, with little doubt, the first Church of St Kentigern would be built, when in 553AD the natives hewed down the oaks and made a clearing in the forest, where Kentigern set up his cross.

As a symbol of Jesus Christ the true Vine, a beautifully carved vine scroll, leaf and tendril, runs along the front of the canopy. Above and below, the ornament consists of Oak, evergreen Holly and Olive leaves – the Oak from strength, the evergreen holly for immortality, the Olive for peace. Within the canopy, where the midribs or delicate groinings meet, in place of the conventional knot or roe, have been carved on small bosses the initials of the various benefactors of the parish, as follows, from left to right as one faces the reredos:-

- R.I, Rx            Richard I, King, who conferred a deed of gift of Crosthwaite and the Church of the Same to Fountains' Abbey. Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1199
- A. de R.            Alice de Romili (wife of Fitz Duncan, nephew of David, King of Scotland), Lady of Egremont and Skipton, who is believed to have rebuilt the church about 1180; and also Alice de Romili (daughter of William, son of Duncan), who granted the whole Moiety of the village and mill of Crosthwaite, in the occupation of Roger the Cleric, to Fountains' Abbey, with the advowson of the Living, in the reign of King Edward II – 1311
- E.III,Rx            Edward III, King who confirmed the character of the aforesaid Alice de Romili at Haydon Bridge, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July in the first year of his reign – 1382.
- M.P.                Lady Maude, wife of the great Percy of Northumberland, the probably donor of Our font, and possible builder of our church – 1382
- J R  
A                    Sir John Ratcliffe, the endower of the chantry of Our Lade of pity; and Dame Alice his wife – 1529.
- J.B.                Sir John Bankes, the donor of the charity which bears his name.
- T.G.                Thomas Grave, donor of a parochial charity – 1666
- H.T.                Hugh Tickell, donor of a parochial charity – 1685
- G.W.                Grace Wren, donor of a parochial charity – 1751
- P.U.                Peter Uldale, donor of a parochial charity
- A Rose            Symbolic of the Diocese of Carlilse
- F.H.                Francis Huntingdon, donor of a parochial charity – 1734

- J.C. Rev. James Clark, donor of a parochial charity – 1769
- D.D. Danile Dover, builder of Applethwaite Schoolroom, 1828
- J.S. James Stanger, builder of the Sunday School, 1833, restorer of The Church 1844.
- O. Miss Ogle, donor of a parochial charity – 1852
- H.D. Henry Denton, do nor of a parochial charity – 1857
- M.R. Mary Rooke, benefactress to the belfry – 1882
- TH, H.H. Thomas Hewitson, Henry Hewitson and John Hewitson, benefactors of the Fitz Park  
J.H. and High School Trust; and donor of the Cottage Hospital – 1880 – 1889
- A.D. Ann Doulgas, donor of the mosaic pavement – 1889

The panels in gilded metal, are pictorial representation of the Birth, Death and Resurrection of our Saviour, designed by Mr Margetson. The work on these panels was caried out by the Keswick School of Industrial Arts, by Mrs Rawnsley, Messrs J Birkett, R Temple and G Dickson.

The Mosaic pavement was prepared by the leading firm of Mosaic makers in England, Messrs Burke & Son, Newman Street, London. The design consists of the emblems of our founder, St Kentigern, together with the arms of Fountains' Abbey, to which this Parish was attached for more than three centuries.

The body of the pavement is made of cream white marble from Nimes in France. It is set round with a border of black Italian marble and white Carrara. The marble was laid down by Angelo Jacone, who worked under Salviati in laying down the celebrated mosaic pavement in St Mark's, Venice.