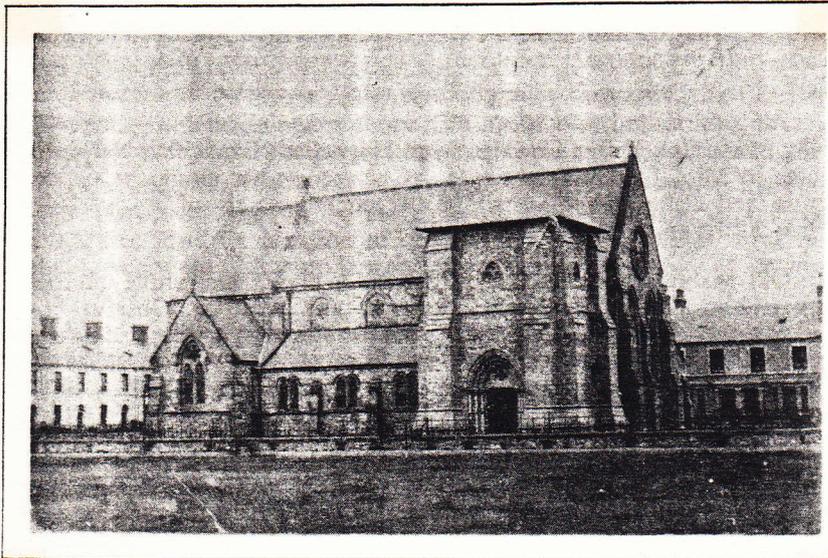


Early 1900's



Silloth that was a very great golf match at Leeds, that I told you about. Twenty-six of the best professionals were playing. They played two rounds and counted strokes. Prizes were given to the first six. Vardon was first with 114 for the 2 rounds. Herd was second. Taylor 3rd. Renouf was 6th & got a prize. He played well. R. Brown.





Christ Church in 1870.

Christ Church 1983



Churches in the area

St John's Church, Skinburness, was licensed by a Bishop Halton in 1301 but it had a very short life, except that the site was used for burials when divine worship had ceased to be performed there. It was in the fourth field from the Grune Point, now long since ploughed over, though chippings of sandstone have been observed, indicating the remains of masonry. Some exploration was done but had to be given up owing to the great number of internments found; meaning that the burial-ground was more extensive than the few years of the known history of the chapel would account for.

A lease of 1582 to John Tiffen of property granted to Christopher Matthew in 1567 mentions 'the chapel called Saint Johnes Chappel de Groyne', with an acre of land worth 20d a year. In 1732 it was described as 'the acre on the Groyne called the Chappel, anciently belonging to St John's Chappel there'; and it was then sold with the adjoining pasture to the inhabitants of Skinburness.

Today (1983), it is still known by the last surviving Miss Glaister of Grune House, as Chapel Field.

Christ Church

The land the church was built on was given by the Railway Company, and the foundation of the church was laid on 8 September 1869, and it was opened on 8 September 1870, and consecrated on 23 November 1871. The church is built in the 'Decorated Gothic' style, and its facing of Irish granite gives a very clean and attractive appearance. The church will accommodate 500 people.

In June 1878, the tower was commenced but only two storeys were completed in January 1881. The third storey and spire were added later, the topstone being placed on the spire on 10 August 1883.

A single bell from the Loughborough foundry, dated 1871, was bought by subscription and erected on a frame in the churchyard on 27 June 1872, and was used until a set of bells was installed in the completed tower in 1883. The bell was then given by Mr Banks to Waverton Church but was found to be too large so it went to Highmoor, Wigton, and Mr Banks gave another bell to Waverton. This peal of eight bells, presented to the Church chiefly by the munificence of Mr Banks of Wigton and friends, upon which the Westminster chimes were struck, were made by J Taylor & Co., Founders, Loughborough, makers of the Great Bell of St Paul's, London.

The clock, a memorial to a George Moore, was fixed into the tower on 8 August 1884 at a cost of £220, strikes the quarters on the second, third, fourth and seventh bells, and the hours on the tenor bell. In the belfry is a manual apparatus which enables one person to play tunes on the bells. The bells were rung for the first time on 6 October 1883.

The total cost of the church, tower, spire, clock, bells and organ was approximately £7200.

In 1900 a wrought iron arch and lamp were presented by Lady Scoresby Johnstone of Midlothian. In 1904 an oak reredos (an elaborately carved screen and wall panelling behind the church altar), was given by an anonymous donor - later, after her death in 1914, disclosed as a Miss Skelton of Skinburness.

In its 110 years the church has had to withstand many battering storms, and has needed, from time to time, expensive repairs. The latest needed are major repairs to the tower and bell frames required because of the effects of damp on the timbers over many years, and corrosion on the metal parts of the ringing mechanism. The church supporters are hoping to raise £15,000 this year (1983) to enable them to carry out the repairs to the church tower and clock. A further £20,500 would be needed to restore the bells so that they can ring out again as they did 100 years ago on 6 October 1883.

St Paul's Church, Causewayhead

This church is a neat Gothic ediface erected in 1845 at a cost of £850. It can seat 350, and possesses many beautiful stained glass windows, rich in scriptural symbolism.

The Parsonage house, a stone structure in Elizabethan style was erected 1851-2 at a cost of £1000; now the main building on the Tanglewood Caravan site.

Congregational Chapel, Wampool Street

This church was the first place of worship to be built in Silloth, its foundation stone being laid in April 1862, and it was opened in the following December with seats for 300 people.

The building was bought for the Roman Catholic Church and was consecrated for that faith on 8 September 1953. Prior to getting that building the Roman Catholics in Silloth first used a room above the Corner Cafe, Lawn Terrace, to hold their mass; then a Father Dawson bought 8 Esk Street and two downstairs rooms were converted into a chapel.

The Glaister sisters, from Grune Point, provided flowers for the altars at all the venues for 60 years until 1979.

At present a church hall with upstairs flat is being built adjoining the church.