

GREAT THINGS TO SEE IN ST. OSWALD'S, BURTON IN LONSDALE

1. A New Church?

Have you ever considered when the church at Burton in Lonsdale was built? Or how its construction came about? It is an interesting story. In fact, until 1868, Burton only had a Chapel of Ease, the main Church being situated in Thornton in Lonsdale. In 1870, the present church was built, at the cost of £10,000 by Thomas Thornton Esquire, born in the village. The architects were Paley and Austin, a renowned architectural firm of Lancaster who worked on many other similar northern construction projects. On the 21st April 1870, the Church was consecrated by Lord Bishop of Ripon, who was met by a full congregation, ringing bells and a jubilant choir. Thomas Thornton commented: *'...It has always been my desire to do everything in my power which would benefit Burton in any way.'* Indeed, it is thanks to Thomas that we have the church today.



2. Wonderful Windows - Shrigley and Hunt

Why not take a closer look at the windows? The South Aisle windows were probably designed by [Shrigley and Hunt](#), famous stained-glass designers and other examples of their work can be seen in Lancaster and Chichester Cathedrals, as well as various churches around London. It isn't just the South Aisle windows which might catch your eye - the East Window, with its rather beautiful pelican, was designed by [Hardman & Co.](#), a renowned stained-glass manufacturer based in Birmingham.



3. Ding Dong Merrily on High

We think one of the best reasons to visit Burton in Lonsdale is the spire. In fact, you'll probably see it well before you approach the village, such is its scale! We recently attained a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Fund to restore the spire. The race to fundraise the remainder and reach the target figure was a project which really brought together the local community. The Church tower is home to one of Burton's best kept secrets; the six original bells and frame by Warners of London. Our bell ringers club at the Church to make sure our bells reach their full potential. One keen campanologist on Youtube described the bells at 'amongst the best Warner bells I've rung' and posted a [video of them in full song](#). Even better, why not come and have a listen for yourself?



4. Ode on a Burton Urn



Once you are back on the ground, take a closer look at the display of Burton pottery. Did you know that the village used to be called 'Black Burton' because of its links with pottery? Actually, this is a bit of a mystery: some say the nickname came from the dark clay used to make the pots; others claim it was the black and smoky chimneys...what do you think? The pottery industry lasted for about 300 years in the village, which in its industrial heyday was home to no fewer than thirteen potteries (or sixteen, depending on who you read), each producing the distinctive 'yellow on brown' design. The last pottery closed in 1944 - the 'last potter' was Richard Bateson who began throwing pots at Waterside Pottery aged just 13. If you want to know more about Burton's pottery heritage, why not have a look at Lee Cartledge's [pottery blog](#) or [newspaper article](#), which give a potted history (pardon the pun) of Burton potteries. And of course, do make sure to pop along to the Church and see some of the finest examples for yourself. We look forward to seeing you there!

5. They Shall Grow Not Old - Burton's famous son...



Laurence Binyon by William Strang (commons wikimedia)

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Verse from : [For the Fallen, Laurence Binyon](#), 1914.

These famous and familiar lines, as poignant now as they were when they were first composed by Laurence Binyon in 1914, have a little-known connection with Burton at Lonsdale. Laurence, born 1869, was a local boy and his father, Reverend Frederick Binyon, was Vicar at Burton from 1867. Laurence only lived in the vicarage until he was five, yet he was later inspired by the surrounding landscapes of his youth to write another famous poem, [Inheritance](#). Laurence went on to study at Oxford and became a writer of art history books, plays and poetry. He did not serve in WWI, but composed *For the Fallen* in reaction to the horrors of the Battle of Mons. It has become a cornerstone of English poetry, [set to music by Elgar](#) and oft-quoted at Remembrance Services up and down the country. If you are inspired to find out more, you can also read some of his other poems, such as [The Healers](#) or [Fetching the Wounded](#). Come to see how Laurence Binyon and his father are commemorated in our Church, and let us know your favourite Binyon poem.

6. The sons of Burton commemorated

'Fight the Good Fight': Prayer Requests for Soldiers of WW1

For those heading off to fight in World War One in 1914, an uncertain future lay ahead; it is only with hindsight that the horrors of this brutal conflict that they were about to encounter are understood. For their families too, the fate of their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers were unknown, and nowhere is the preoccupation about their safe return better reflected than in the Prayer Request on display in Burton Church. Below a prayer for the 'Sailors and Soldiers of the King', the names of many men for whom prayers were to be said are listed. The handwritten names, with their battalion and regiment details proudly detailed alongside, are a symbolic reminder of the worry and concern afforded to the families of those who fought. For some, their boys were sadly not destined to return; their names are inscribed on the village's war memorial. Do come and see the prayer request in the Church too - a fitting commemoration not only to those who lost their lives, but to the suffering of their families. As Binyon's poem correctly predicted: *We Will Remember Them*.

At Burton Church, we remember many of the village residents who gave their life in service for their country. J. Kettlewell, Lance Corporal of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 10th Battalion, died in France on the 26th July 1916, aged just 24. His grave is a Commonwealth War Grave, commemorated at Gordon Dump Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle in France. A range of archived documents can be [found here](#). Reading the commemorative plaque in the Church, and seeing his mother's name, Mrs D. H. Kettlewell of Thornton Cottage, Burton-in Lonsdale, brings home the human aspect of these deaths; like all of those who lost their lives, he was someone's son, someone's friend. In addition to the plaque, the Church displays a beautiful wooden cross, worn with time, but a fitting tribute for a village boy who gave his life for his country. The plaque and the cross offer a moment's reflection for the losses inflicted not only during the World Wars, but others past and present. We will, indeed, remember them.

