

TRAIL 1 - WEST OF KESWICK

Overlooking the A66 on the way from Keswick into West Cumbria, **BRIGHAM** church is a landmark of the Derwent Valley. It was for long the parish church of Cockermouth and Fletcher Christian, "Bounty" mutineer, was baptised at Brigham on 25th September 1764.

At WORKINGTON the traveller from the south may find something familiar in the massive portico of St. John's Church in Washington Street for it is an enlarged copy of Inigo Jones's church at Covent Garden. At the station end of the town is the church of St. Michael dating mostly from 1770 and 1890.

Take the Seaton Road and continue to **DEARHAM**, where Dark Age enthusiasts will find a remarkable collection of carvings from a thousand years ago, including a large circle-headed cross with ring-chain decoration.

By Crosby the trail goes on to **CROSSCANONBY**, a trim little Norman church beautifully situated on a ridge beside the Solway. look out for the Viking 'hogback' tomb outside the church, the cross shaft fragment in the porch with the dragons biting themselves, and the carved gallery inside. The chancel arch is believed to be a re-used Roman arch.

Turn inland again to Crosby, along the main road towards Aspatria for a mile and turn right for **GILCRUX**. Notable are the Norman chancel arch and the plain Norman font. Behind the altar is a copy in glass of Leonardo da Vinci's painting 'The last Supper' made by Chance Brothers in 1865.

South to **BRIDEKIRK** where in a church rebuilt in 1868-70 - the brick interior is unusual for its time - stands the most remarkable of all Cumbrian fonts. It dates from the 1100's. The teaching panels show Adam and Eve being driven out of Eden and Christ's baptism. In runes you will see an inscription which means 'Rikart made me and to this glorious place carefully brought me'; and there is Richard himself, working with his hammer.

Bear left out of the village, cross the A595 and go by Blindcrake to **ISEL**. The small church is set almost alone beside the Derwent, in a broad vale overlooked by Isel Hall. This is another church that took shape around 1130, with carved stones (including a strange triskele or three-linked knot) that carry the history of the site back to Viking times.