

The Wordsworths and Brigham church

John Wordsworth (1803-1875), son of poet William Wordsworth, was rector of Brigham Church for over 30 years, from 1832-1875.

There was another connection to this church. One of his sons, John (1837-1927), followed him into the clergy and for a short period also served in Brigham.

Known as John Wordsworth Junior, John spent the early years of his marriage in Brigham, and the registers record the ups and downs of life as he established a young family in Victorian Cumbria with wife Rose.

Baptisms

John and Rose Wordsworth were blessed with a number of children in their time in Brigham, before John moved on to the parish of Gosforth in the west of the county.

The church's baptism registers record the happy events.

1872 Mary Wordsworth

1872 March 31 No. 471	Thomas William Walker Son of	James & Jane	Johnstone	Broughton	Term Labourer	J. Wordsworth (wrote)
1872 March 31 st No. 472	Fannie Daughter of	Peter & Frances	Robinson	Brigham	Husbandman	J. Wordsworth (wrote)
1872 April No. 473	Mary Wordsworth daughter of	John and Rose Geraldine	Wordsworth (junior)	Brigham Vicarage	Clark	James Taylor Caret
1872 April No. 474	Elizabeth daughter of	Joseph and Mary	Walker	Atby Moss Gryssouthen	Husbandman	James Taylor Caret

1872
April 7th

Mary Wordsworth daughter of John and Rose Geraldine Wordsworth (junior), [of] Brigham Vicarage, [father's occupation] Clerk, [certified by] James Taylor Curate

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Brigham</i> in the County of <i>Cumberland</i> in the Year 1873						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian.	Surname.			
1873 June 1 st No. 539	<i>John</i> <i>illegitimate</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Curwen</i> <i>(prostitution)</i>	<i>Brigham</i>	<i>Shipman</i> <i>(no name)</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>Curate</i>
June 22 nd No. 540	<i>John</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Curwen</i> <i>Son of</i>	<i>John</i> <i>Rose Goodwin</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i>	<i>Brigham</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i> <i>Curate</i>
June 22 nd No. 541	<i>John</i> <i>Son of</i>	<i>John</i> <i>Margaret</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Brigham</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i> <i>Curate</i>
June 22 nd No. 542	<i>George</i> <i>Son of</i>	<i>Nicholas</i> <i>Mary</i>	<i>Gockney</i>	<i>Englefield</i>	<i>Carter</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i> <i>Curate</i>
June 22 nd No. 543	<i>Alfred</i> <i>Son of</i>	<i>Henry</i> <i>and</i> <i>Eloahed</i>	<i>Coathill</i>	<i>Lockwood</i>	<i>Sealer</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>Curate</i>
June 29 th No. 544	<i>Samuel</i> <i>Son of</i>	<i>George</i> <i>Mary Ann</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Grayson</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i> <i>Curate</i>
June 29 th No. 545	<i>Mary Ann</i> <i>daughter of</i>	<i>Joseph</i> <i>Sarah</i>	<i>McVay</i>	<i>Grayson</i>	<i>Engineer</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i> <i>Curate</i>
July 6 th No. 546	<i>Elizabeth</i> <i>Ann</i> <i>Son</i>	<i>William</i> <i>and</i> <i>Ann</i>	<i>Cowley</i>	<i>Little</i> <i>Broughton</i>	<i>Engineer</i> <i>Man</i>	<i>Wordsworth jr</i> <i>Curate</i>

1873 John Stanley Curwen
Wordsworth - family names often yield clues as to family connections. This baby's grandmother was Isabella Curwen, formerly of Workington Hall.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Brigham*
in the County of *Cumberland*

in the Year 1874

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1874 November No. 619	Margaret Ann <i>illegitimate</i>	Jane	Tyson	Brigham	Brigham	Worswick Curate
November 1 st No. 620	Joseph son of	John Smith	Slater	Gypswath	Collier	Worswick Curate
November 8 th No. 621	Andrew Groom son of	Siphrus and Mary Jane	Hodges	Brigham	Stonemason	Worswick Curate
November 29 No. 622	William son of	John and Robertine	Wordsworth	Brigham Learmouth	Book	Worswick Curate
November 29 No. 623	Mary Beat daughter of	William and Margaret	Davis	Gypswath	Collier	Worswick Curate
1875 January 7 th No. 624	William son of	James Watson	Watson	Brigham Learmouth	Brigham	Worswick Curate
January 31 st No. 625	Robert <i>illegitimate</i>	Jane	Poper	Over End Gypswath	Brigham	Worswick Curate
January 3 rd No. 626	Margaret daughter of	John Isabella	Smith	Stony Creek	Collier	Worswick Curate

1874 William Wordsworth -
many babies are named after forebears.
In this instance, young William had a very
famous great-grandfather, although the poet
had died 24 years earlier

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Brigham</i> in the County of <i>Cumberland</i> in the Year 18 <i>74</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Joseph Watson</i> No. 769	<i>Brigham</i>	<i>June 23rd</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>8 months</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Isabella Follows</i> <i>otherwise</i> <i>Fullas</i> No. 770	<i>Brigham</i>	<i>June 24th</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>5 weeks</i>	<i>W. Wordsworth</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>James Robinson</i> No. 771	<i>Grappenthwaite</i>	<i>July 8th</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>83 years</i>	<i>W. Wordsworth</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Jane Tweedale</i> No. 772	<i>Dewint. Row</i> <i>Brigham</i>	<i>July 10th</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>66 years</i>	<i>W. Wordsworth</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>John Barnes</i> No. 773	<i>Cockermouth</i>	<i>July 16th</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>56 years</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>(Rector of Whitham)</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Wilfred Robinson</i> No. 774	<i>Broughton Croft</i> <i>Brigham</i>	<i>July 19th</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>84 years</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>(Rector of Whitham)</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Sarah Johnston</i> No. 775	<i>Old Field</i>	<i>July 21st</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>33 years</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>(Rector of Whitham)</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Isabella Katharine</i> <i>Lillias Wordsworth</i> <i>(Eldst child of the Rev John Wordsworth Junr)</i> No. 776	<i>Brigham</i>	<i>July 26th</i> <i>1874</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>James Taylor</i> <i>(Rector of Whitham)</i> <i>Curate</i>

1874 - death of eldest child Isabella.
Childhood mortality was much higher in Victorian England

No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of	
		Houses	Un-occupied (U)							
II										
Deaf and Dumb										
Blind										
Imbecile or Idiot										
Lame										
WHERE BORN										
24	Kille Bank	1		John Shephard	Son	Head	Mar	75	Agricultural Labourer	Cumberland Gosforth
				John Taylor	Head	Mar	70			Do. Widdicombe
				Betty Do	Wife	Mar	28			Do. Gosforth
				Elizabeth Do	Daughter	Mar	43			Do. Gosforth
25	Rutley	1		John Hardworth	Head	Mar	33			Do. Bingham
				Reverend John Do	Wife	Mar	9			Cumberland Bingham
				Mary W. Do	Son	Mar	7			Do. Bingham
				Elizabeth Do	Son	Mar	3			Do. Bingham
				Christopher W. Do	Son	Mar	1			Do. Gosforth
				Alexander Do	Son	Mar	5 months			Do. Gosforth
				Sarah R. Smith	Servant	Mar	24			Do. Gosforth
				Mary Jane Irving	Servant	Mar	46			Do. Gosforth
				Elyabeth Booth	Servant	Mar	46			Do. Gosforth

By the time of the 1881 census, John and his family were living in their new parish.

They had one daughter, four sons, including a new baby.

‘Living in’ were a cook, housemaid and nursemaid.