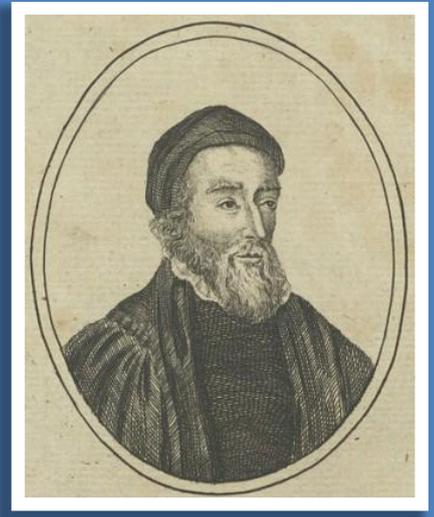


# BERNARD GILPIN



THE FOLLOWING TIME LINE gives a flavour of the main events in the life of Bernard Gilpin. Numbers in brackets indicate Gilpin's age – something worth considering alongside his achievements. I hope to update the time line with details of Gilpin's visits into 'wild' Northumberland, once a date or dates can be ascertained.

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**1517** - Bernard Gilpin was born, one of the youngest children and fourth son of Edwin Gilpin of Kentmere, Westmorland.

**1533** - At the age of sixteen, Bernard Gilpin attended Queen's College, Oxford.

**1540** – Gilpin [23] graduated with a Bachelor of Arts.

**1542** – Gilpin [25] graduated with a Master of Arts. He was ordained in this year.

**1549** – Gilpin [32] graduated with a B.D.

**1552** - Bernard Gilpin [35] left Oxford and became Vicar of Norton (near Stockton) in the Diocese of Durham in November 1552.

**1553** - Bernard Gilpin left Norton in April or May 1553.and travelled to Europe in the early months of 1553.

**JULY 1553** - Queen Mary I ("Bloody Mary") ascended the throne and began the restoration of Roman Catholicism to England.

**1556** – Bernard Gilpin [39] returned to England from his visit to France, Germany and Holland and was presented with the Rectory of Easington and made Archdeacon of Durham by his Uncle, Tunstall, Bishop of Durham.

**MARCH 1557** – Bernard Gilpin [40] accepted the offer of Rector for the parish of Houghton-le-Spring.

**OCTOBER 29TH 1558** - Bernard Gilpin [41] became the Rector of Houghton-le-Spring.

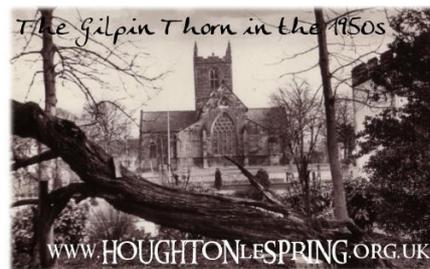
**NOV 17TH 1558** - Queen Mary I died.

**1566** – Bernard Gilpin [57] cofounded the Kepier School in Houghton-le-Spring around 1566 with his friend, John Heath, a London merchant. The Royal Charter was signed in 1574 and the school became known as the Royal Kepier Grammar School.

**OCT 27TH 1582** - Bernard Gilpin [65] made out his Last Will & Testament. Around this time he said in a letter to a friend: "I have a very weak body, subject to many diseases." A plague was raging through Houghton at this time and may have prompted the will-writing.

**FEBRUARY 1583** - Gilpin [66] was in a weakened state following an incident which occurred in Durham Market Place; he had been struck down by an ox!

**MARCH 4TH 1583** - Bernard Gilpin died at the age of 66 years. He was interred the next day in a grave inside Houghton Parish Church. A large altar tomb was later erected on the site.



**1884** [date adjusted] - The Tercentenary of Bernard Gilpin's death was marked. The parishioners of Houghton-le-Spring raised the funds to purchase, install and maintain a clock in the Church tower. This clock can still be seen to this day.

**1967** – Gilpin's tradition of roasting an ox to feed the parish's poor was resurrected at Houghton Feast by the Rotary Club of Houghton-le-Spring and continues to this day.

**1983** [date not adjusted] – Funds were raised by the parishioners of St Michael & All Angels Church for the installation of a magnificent stained glass window in the West wall of the church. The window depicted the life of Bernard Gilpin.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- :: The Gentleman's Magazine & Historical Chronicle Vol 63, Part 2, 1793
- :: The Life of Bernard Gilpin by William Gilpin, 1824
- :: Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography & Mythology, 1870
- :: Memories of Bernard Gilpin, 1884
- :: The Last Will & Testament of Bernard Gilpin, 1582, proved May 16th 1854.
- :: Wikipedia (Gilpin's year of ordination)

