

**Decree of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 4 Edward VI (1550)
decreeing the Chapel of Rossendale to have all such rights and privileges as
Parish churches.**

(Newbigging pp 151-5)

"...And for as much as the Castle and Church of Clitheroe, being their parish Church, is distant twelve miles from the said forest, and the way leading between the said parish Church and the Forest is very foule, painful and Hillous, and the country in the winter season is so extremely and vehemently cold, that the Children and young Infants in that time of the year, being borne to the Church to be Christened are in great peril of their lives, and almost starved with cold: the aged and impotent persons, and women great with child are not able to travel so far to hear the Word of God &c. and the dead corpses there like to Lye and remain unburied for lack of carriage.....

...and whereas also, before this time, the premises considered, the Inhabitants of the said forest, about the space of thirty-eight years past, or thereabouts, at their own proper cost and charges, made a chapel of ease in the said Forest of Rossendale....

...the lands within the said forest, which served before that time but only for the increase of wild beasts, now not only well and substantially manured and occupied, to the increase of tillage, corn, and cattle, but also to the great increase of people and Christian souls; for which there was at the time of the disforesting of the forrest not about the number of 20 persons in the said forest, there be in the said forrest at this present day, the number of 1000 young and old people....

...And all such Infants as shall be hereafter born and brought forth within the said forrest and other places before rehearsed shall and may be Christened within the said Chapel by the Minister or Priest there for the time being. And that all such as shall happen hereafter to dye and depart this world within the said forrest and other places aforementioned, shall and may be buried within the said Chapel or Chapel yard at the will and election of the said Inhabitants of the said forrest..."