

**NB** Not all of the questions have been answered here but I thought it was high time that some of them were. The rest will appear with the second batch.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

*Very basic questions, like "Where is the exit?", have been ignored. Also I assume that everyone knows the answers to "What is the difference between a Minster and a Cathedral" and to "Is this place called South-well or Suth'Il? I guess everyone also knows how to direct visitors to local places such as the Post Office, the various churches, the Workhouse, etc, and or can show them on the town map. (Sorry, we can't afford to give away copies of the map - they can be purchased at the Post Office if people really want one). Details of the week's services are on the sheet on the desk; services for Christmas, Easter etc are on special leaflets available as we approach the season, and details of organ recitals and other concerts are on special leaflets if available, or can be found in the diary).*

### **The Building**

#### **The Nave**

When was the Minster built? The present building began soon after Archbishop Thomas II's letter of 1108, and it replaced the smaller, Saxon church of c956. Building began at the east end and the Romanesque, or Norman, church was completed in 50 or 60 years. Then, c1234, Archbishop Walter de Grey had the quire demolished and rebuilt in the Early English style. Archbishop John le Romaine had the Chapter House built in the 1290's. The last piece of building work, apart from changes to windows, was in c1340 when the pulpitum was installed.

Why was the Minster built here? What was so special about Southwell? King Edwy gave lands here to Oskytel, Archbishop of York, c956. Shortly after that the Archbishop built a large church here. It was conveniently situated, near the River Trent, near the Great North Road and near to the Fosse way so it was good for communications. The Archbishop now had important churches at York, Beverley, Ripon and Southwell, thus making it easier to get round his Province.

What use is the Triforium? Originally the triforium was simply a roof space above the side aisle, with its roof resting on the lower, outer wall of the Minster and reaching to the higher one. In the nave the triforia have been floored so that they can be used for storage. The south triforium also houses the pipes from the nave organ and some of those from the quire organ. At one time people were allowed up there, but these days health and safety legislation forbids that.

How old is the north door? It is very early 14th century, c1300.

How did the north door get broken - there is a crack right up it? There is no definitive answer as far as I know. It could simply be age, it could be weather, it could be the result of having the small door let into it, or it could have been slammed too often. No doubt there are other possibilities.

How old is the west door? There is some disagreement about this. Pevsner says that it is 12<sup>th</sup> century; Dimock, in his book of 1898 gives it the same date as the north door; and it has also been given as 15<sup>th</sup> century

Where are the hooks where Cromwell's men tethered their horses? If they ever did, the hooks have long since disappeared.

Who embroidered the Welcome picture on the Information Desk? Mrs Jean Collacott, one of the Minster Stewards.

Why have you taken out the pews? / When were the chairs put into the Minster? As far as we know there have never been any pews in the Minster. At first congregations would either have stood for the whole service, or knelt on the floor; or, if they were old or infirm they would "go to the wall" and sit on the stone bench which runs round the nave and transepts.

## **The Transepts**

How old is the Tympanum? Various dates have been proposed, but the Minster regards it as a Saxon Tympanum. The Minster Archaeologist thinks it is, and the fact that it was obviously an older stone which was made to fit above the doorway and that the style of carving is very Saxon or Vikingsesk, leads us to believe that Saxon is the most likely period.

What is the meaning of the word "Tympanum"? In architecture the word has two slightly different meanings. Either the recessed space between and arch and the lintel of a doorway or window below it - as in the north transept (our Saxon tympanum was not originally made for this place so it is not exact). Or a panel, sometimes decorated, between an arch and a gable (small pointed feature) - as over the seats in the Chapter House

What is the large wooden chest by the south door? It is a cope chest. It is the shape and size of a cope so that these vestments can be laid out flat to protect embroidery, especially when gold thread is included.

## **The Quire**

Where are the Stations of the Cross and who is the sculptor? The Stations of the Cross were Made by Jonathan Clarke in 1999. They can usually be found in the south quire aisle, the 14<sup>th</sup> Station being nearer to the east end. Blue leaflets are available near the first Station to help people to follow them. These Stations were originally made to go in the garden at Sacrista Prebend. There are some large wooden plinths in the garden and when they are needed for a retreat group the metal sculptures are taken across.

When and in which lake was the Newstead lectern found?/Is there any information about the quire lectern? The lectern was made in the very early 16<sup>th</sup> century for Newstead Abbey. It bears a Latin inscription which, in translation reads, "Pray for the soul of Ralph Savage and for the souls of all the faithful dead". Ralph Savage lived at nearby Kirkby. During the 1530's, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, the monks are said to have put the lectern into their lake (fish pond) before the King's Commissioners arrived. The monks were expelled and the Newstead lands were given to the Byron family. In about 1750 the lectern was found by an uncle of the poet and passed to a Nottingham dealer. It was acquired by Sir Richard Kaye, a Prebendary of Southwell, and was subsequently presented to the Minster by his widow in 1805. We have always believed that the lectern was not English, but when it went to the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2003 their expert wrote, "the possibility must remain" that it is from an English workshop. However, some years ago Mr Richard Beaumont asked someone from the University of Louvain to study the lectern. She took it apart and had a good look at it. The casting marks she found, she believed, identified the lectern as made in Tournai. She also took some scrapings from inside the column to make a positive identification. Neither John Meredith, who was Head Verger at the time, nor I, heard any results. We are hoping that any correspondence Mr Beaumont had about the lectern would have ended up in the Minster library. Everything from that time has now gone to the County Archives Office, and I hope that very soon we will get there to see what we can find out. So, watch this space.

Where are the misericords? In the six canopied seats on the east side of the tympanum.

## **The Chapter House**

When, how and why was the Chapter House formed?

## Memorials

Why is there a memorial to the Katyn Forest murders?/Is there a memorial to Polish Soldiers? There is a large Polish community in Nottinghamshire because so many Poles came here during the war either to fly with the Royal Air Force from local Stations, or to work in the coal mines. The Polish Association was anxious to have a memorial in the County. Most of them are Roman Catholics, by the cathedral in Nottingham does not have memorials of a non- religious nature, so asked if it could be here, especially as Southwell is close to Newark where there is a Polish cemetery (General Wladyslaw Sikorski was buried there until Poland left the Communist bloc, when he was returned to his native land). The memorial is on the north wall of the Airmen's Chapel and a small casket of earth from the Katyn Forest is in the wall behind the plaque. Every year, on the first Saturday morning in May, there is a Memorial Service in the Minster for all those who died at Katyn. Polish branches of the British Legion, old soldiers and children in national costume are among those who attend. A Polish priest is in attendance to lead the Polish Prayers and readings; both National Anthems are sung.

Is there a photograph of Bishop Hoskyns? Presumably the questioner wanted a post card of the bronze in the north transept. There is not a card, but both front back are pictured in the Jos Hall coloured guide book.

## Graveyard and Cemetery queries

Is it possible to locate the unmarked grave of a still born child from 50 years ago? It is, provided the child was buried in the new cemetery, but this should be referred to one of the vergers as they keep the plan of the burial ground.

I am enquiring about a grave 180 years old. If there is still a grave stone in the churchyard you can trace it in the book about grave stones, ledger stones and memorials, and then find out where it is on the churchyard plan (in the tube on the shelf). If there is no longer a stone, the librarian may have a record of the burial to show, though the actual burial record will have gone to Nottingham for safe keeping.

Were any paupers from the Workhouse buried in the Minster Churchyard? Probably not as the Workhouse lies within Upton parish. However a Matron from the Workhouse is buried here, so it is just a slight possibility.

## Carvings

Is there a stone carving of a little man with toothache? Yes, as you go into the Chapter House Passage, pass the small Reyntiens windows and you will find him on the right, at the bottom of a dripstone; he is the second carving before the door to the Chapter House roof.

Have the carvings in the Chapter House been restored? None has been restored in living memory. If you compare old photographs with the present day you will notice that in places there has been further deterioration, and also there are many carvings which have obviously been damaged a very long time ago. These days the policy is not to restore carvings but to conserve them as much as possible.

Are there any Green Men in the Minster?/ Have you got any information about the Green Man?

Where is Peter Ball's work? Peter has four pieces in the Minster. The Reigning Christ, or Christus, high above the nave altar; the Pieta, on the east wall of the south transept; Christ the Light of the world in the candle chapel; Ecce Homo (Behold the Man) which is usually in the north quire aisle near the vestry door, but it is always moved for Time Travelling and sometimes for other occasions.

What is the name of the Mouse Man and how many mice are there in the Minster? The mice all came from the Thomson workshops at Kilburn in Yorkshire. There are 26 of them (not 28 as the mouse leaflet says!). Some of them are not visible. For locations please see the list in the big folder.

## **Pastoral**

When is the next Parish Surgery? The Canon Pastor normally available to arrange Baptisms, Weddings or to deal with other problems in the Minster Centre from 6.30-7.30 p.m. on the first Friday in each month.

How many weddings do you have a year?

## **The Clergy**

The Dean, The Very Revd David Leaning, the Residence, Vicars Court The

Precentor, The Revd Canon Jacqui Jones, 2 Vicars Court

The Canon Pastor, The Revd Canon Richard Davey, 3 Vicars Court The

Bishop, the Right Revd George Cassidy, Bishops Manor

The Priest Vicar, The Revd Professor Myra Shackley, 47 Eldon Street, Tuxford Canon

Robin Turner, Bishop's Chaplain

Canon Mark Brown, Canon Missioner

The Ven. Gordon Ogilvie, Archdeacon of Nottingham

The Ven. Nigel, Archdeacon of Newark

Why doesn't the Bishop appear on the Who's Who board? The Bishop is bishop to the whole Diocese of Southwell but he is not part of the Minster Staff. The Dean is responsible for the running of the Minster. The bishop is Visitor to the Minster and he has his throne or Cathedra, here (that is what makes it a Cathedral); he uses the building for Diocesan events but otherwise he asks the Dean if he may have the service in the Minster, or the Dean can invite him to come.

What are the duties of the Priest Vicar? Although in some cathedrals the Priest vicar is a full time member of staff and often sings the services, the Revd Professor Myra Shackley has a full time job at Nottingham Trent University and works at the Minster as a Self-Supporting Minister for a few hours each week. She celebrates the Communion on some Sunday mornings, some weekday mornings and some of the services at Sacrista Prebend. Myra is also a member of the Chapter and as such she heads up a couple of committees, the Visitors' Committee (which covers the Stewards, Information Desk, Chaplains and everything concerned with visitors to the Minster) being one of them.

Is John Ogilivy still the Archdeacon of Nottingham? The Ven. Gordon Ogilvie is Archdeacon of Nottingham. If you cannot find the names of Diocesan clergy when asked, please ring the vergers as they have got an up to date copy of the Diocesan handbook.

Are prebendaries and Canons the same thing? Why different names?

## **Other Personnel**

Readers: Sister Barbara CSL

Mrs Jenny Derbyshire

Mr Edwin Ward

The Rector Chori: Mr Paul Hale

Assistant Organist: Mr Simon Bell

Librarian: Mr Brian Whitehouse; he is usually in the library on Tuesday mornings, but arrangements can be made to meet him at other times.

## Shop

Do you, or the shop sell a) Post cards of the Tympanum? Not at the moment but it has been photographed and we should have some soon. b) prayer cards? There are some in the main shop. c) stamps? These are also sold in the shop.

We would like to have cards of the individual green men in the Chapter House and also of the various leaf capitals. Some may be done but it is not financially possible to do them all. How about having a picture Poster of the Minster? The County Council used to produce one, but there would not be sufficient demand to make it possible for us to do one.

## Oddities

Is it true that someone once stole the cockerel from the tower? Yes, in the south west tower was shrouded in scaffolding so that work could be done on the lead pepper pot. One morning the weather vane had disappeared. A few days later, when Canon Collins was walking his dog early in the morning, he found the cockerel, a little bent, propped up against the west door with a box of eggs underneath him! It was presumed that students (possibly but not certainly) from Brackenhurst, had taken the bird.

Is Southwell Minster anything to do with Westminster? No! Westminster seems to be the only other Minster that some people have heard about, but there are plenty of others, some which, like Westminster, were monastic foundations, and others, like Southwell Minster were large churches with a collegiate foundation.

In Canterbury the organist is not allowed to practice when the cathedral is open. Do you get fed up with the noise? If it is too loud to hear what people are saying, Yes!

## Windows

Have any of the windows got wheat sheaves? Yes, the Kempe Studios frequently put the wheat sheaf symbol somewhere in a window; the wheat sheaf is taken from the Kempe family crest. The Minster has a number of Kempe windows. Those in the Airmen's Chapel and St Oswald's Chapel do not have wheat sheaves. Each of the windows in St Thomas' Chapel has one. The lights of the two panels in the sanctuary are marked with the wheat sheaf, as is the window in the south quire aisle. Some of these also have a little tower on top of the wheat sheaf. The Archangel window in the south naᵛe aisle has a shield with three wheat sheaves.

Your welcome leaflet says that the east window is 16<sup>th</sup> century but the inscription there says it is 19<sup>th</sup> century. Which is right? The lower four lights are 16<sup>th</sup> century Flemish glass which was originally in the Temple Church in Paris until the time of the French Revolution. It was spotted in a Parisian shop by Henry Gally Knight who purchased it and gave it to the Minster in 1818. The date of installation appears in Roman numerals at the bottom of the panel which illustrates the mocking of Christ.

Is there a William Morris window in the Minster? No.

How long has the Angel window been in place? It was put in during the summer of 1996 and dedicated in July of that year.

Was the west window made in England? Yes. It was made in Keith Barley's Studios in York.

How much did the west window cost? / Was there an appeal to help to pay for it?

The Dean says that the window cost approximately £160,000. There was an appeal in the late 1970s and some of the money raised at that time was earmarked for windows. It was invested and over the years accrued a considerable amount of interest.

What is the meaning of the word "predella" when relating to the west window?

How old are the brightly coloured windows? (the O'Connor windows)? / Which one got a prize at the Great Exhibition? Six of them are dated 1851, but the 7<sup>th</sup>, the one next to the Kempe Archangel window, is 1865. The two windows to the west of the north door were both exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851, and it was the one in front of the Information Desk which received a medal with Honourable mention.

What does "presepe" mean in the window behind the font? The word is more often spelt "praesepe", meaning stable or manger.

How old are the windows in the transepts? Who did them? The windows in the south transept were put in during December 1998 and those in the north transept followed in March 1999. They were designed by the Minster architect, Martin Stancliffe, and they were made in Keith Barley Studios in York. The circles are designed to reflect the plain roundels in the clerestory windows, and the pastel green and gold design has a Celtic flavour. The ground floor window nearest to the Kiddey carving incorporates a remembrance panel for the British Legion; this panel was damaged by vandals in January 2003 and was replaced by Keith Barley in November of that year. As part of the last appeal for the Minster fabric the Headley Trust gave a donation of £30,000 specifically for improving the glass and that was used for these windows.

### **Worship**

Why is there a candle burning in the nave? / Why is there a red light in the transept?/ Why is there a light burning in St Thomas' Chapel?/ Why are there different coloured candles about? As in the Chapel of Christ the Light of the World, candles are often a sign of prayer and these points are all places at which people might like to pray briefly. The candle in the nave burns as a reminder that Jesus said "I am the Light of the world", and that we are in his presence in the Minster.

A large white candle is kept burning in front of the aumbry in St Thomas' Chapel because the Sacrament is reserved there. Jesus is present in Bread and Wine. The light burns so that people will know that the Sacrament is reserved there and many of them will genuflect in a brief moment of worship or stop to say a prayer.

The blue light burns beside the statue of the Madonna and Child. The Virgin Mary is the Patron Saint of the Minster. The colour blue is always associated with her. Many people pause here to say a short prayer.

Beside the carving of the Pieta in the south transept a red light burns. Red is traditionally the colour of the Lord's Passion, so it is an appropriate colour to put beside this representation of the dead Christ in his Mother's arms. Again it is a place for prayer and there is a kneeling desk with a suggested prayer in front of the sculpture.

Why is the Minster choir wearing blue cassocks today? The choir give up their red robes for Advent and Lent to mark the solemn, penitential seasons.

Where are people married? Most weddings take place in the quire, but sometimes, if there is to be a very large congregation, they are held in the nave. Either way, the bridal party enters through the west door and processes up the nave aisle

What do the letters on the service sheet mean (BCP & CW)? BCP is short for the Book of Common Prayer, and CW is short for Common Worship. The Book of Common Prayer was published in 1662; Common Worship came into use in 2002. BCP services are very traditional whereas CW services are in modern language and allow for plenty of variation in the prayers.

What is a credence table used for? It is a small table or a ledge on which the bread, wine and water are placed before they are taken to the altar to be consecrated at the Eucharist.

Can you explain what Christingle is all about?

Will Evensong be cancelled or put at a different time because of the concert? The time of Evensong hardly ever varies. It goes ahead at the advertised time. Concert organisers are advised of this.

### **Visitors**

How do we book a guided tour? Call at or telephone the Minster Office (give instructions of how to reach the office, and the telephone number). The secretary there will tell you if your chosen date and time is available and will make a provisional booking. She will give you details about visits and about how to book refreshments if you require them. She will also give you a booking form. When you return the completed form, a firm booking will be made and the chief steward will be informed. If you have asked for a guided tour she will then arrange for enough guides to meet you on the day.

What is the most interesting thing to see? There isn't really an answer to this one as

House and the West Window, and the Thomson mice for the children.

Is there a pay phone? Not at the Minster. The nearest telephone kiosk is outside Dunham House (up the west walk, cross the road and turn left. The kiosk is a few yards along, almost opposite Bishops Drive)

### **Practical**

Where is the lost property office? In the Vergers' vestry.

What is the name of the tune the clock is playing (4p.m.) It usually plays a hymn tune named Southwell, but sometimes it is changed to play Bedford. It can also be set to play the National Anthem on special occasions.

Can you tell us how to contact the person who organises the flowers for weddings? Mrs Barbara Green, Tel: 812709.

How many visitors, on average, do you get each day? How is the cathedral funded?

### **The Friends of Southwell Cathedral**

Who or what are The Friends?/ Where do we send the completed application form?

### **The Town**

What is there to see in the town? If you aren't sure, we have several leaflets for people to look at, and one or two to give away. They can also look at our copy of Betty Arundel's book (available to buy in the shop).

### **History**

Why were there no monks?

