

PETER BALL

Peter Ball was born in Coventry in 1943. He did not have a religious upbringing and he left school at 14 and went to Art College. Subsequently he had many different jobs (factories, teaching etc) until his art work "took off". He has been married three times and lives in Newark, with a studio on the Welbeck Estate.

He has a great affection for Southwell Minster: it was the first church he ever visited at the age of 12 and it made a great impression on him. Peter uses all kinds of wood for his works - unseasoned, reused, driftwood, etc, and he says that the shape of a piece of wood meets him half way when he is working. He has works in several other cathedrals and churches as well as the Minster, but most of his secular pieces are of a more pagan nature.

He has four sculptures on permanent display in the Minster, although others have been shown for short periods.

His four sculptures in the Minster are:

The Christus Rex, Christ the King or Reigning Christ which was made in 1987. The body from unseasoned elm and the arms from 18th century oak taken from is carved Ossington. The whole thing is coated in copper with highlights of gold leaf. It weighs 7 cwt and is suspended by 4 wires and a safety line.

Christ the Light of the World stands in the south eastern transept chapel of the same name. That is also made from 18th century oak from the stable block at Ossington.

The Pieta (Mary holding the dead Jesus in her arms) is in the niche in the east wall of the south transept. This work was Peter's suggestion as a memorial to Pamela Irvine, of whom he was very fond, and was given by the Very Revd J. Murray Irvine.

Ecce Homo is a moveable piece! The wood (jarrah) is actually an old railway sleeper which Peter bought in Newark. The metalwork is pewter with copper sulphate, and the crown of thorns is made from barbed wire.