

FITTINGS AND OTHER ARTEFACTS IN THE QUIRE

STARTING FROM THE SOUTH QUIRE AISLE ENTRANCE OUT OF THE CROSSING

ROMAN CEILING PLASTER

Although this plasterwork, painstakingly put together from recovered fragments, is displayed in the vertical, it once graced the ceiling of a bath-house of the Roman Villa in Southwell. It was discovered during an archaeological "dig" in 1959 off Church Street near the old Minster School buildings. A cupid and fishes can be seen as well as what looks rather like a turtle. The painting is at least sixteen hundred years old.

The archaeologists concluded that the original bath-house must have been replaced by a second and probably larger one. During reconstruction, the plaster was scraped off the ceiling and the fragments left to lie on the floor. Then a new floor was concreted in. During the dig the fragments were found, recovered and painstakingly fitted together. There are more fragments, but they do not make a recognizable picture.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This series of 14 touchable sculptures cast in aluminium by the artist Jonathan Clarke was originally destined for the rear garden of Sacrista Prebend in Westgate. (A companion piece by Clarke – "The Road to Emmaus" – is at the front of that building). Persistent vandalism of the latter led to the Stations being confined to the Minster. They are displayed at different times in three different locations in the Minster: the south quire aisle, the Chapter House passage, or the Chapter House itself. The square columns upon which the sculptures rest were funded by the Friends of Southwell Cathedral in 1999.

THE CHAPEL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

This former Chantry Chapel has been known variously as the Blessed Walter Hilton Chapel, the Southwell Saints Chapel and the Boys Chapel. It is now designated as a secluded place reserved for private prayer and contemplation. Individuals may come and kneel in prayer, or light a candle to a loved one, or complete a petition card. There is an aumbry in the east wall and a double piscina in the south wall, which also has a tomb niche.

The fittings within the Chapel are: *Christ the Light of the World* Another sculpture carved by Peter Ball and completed in 1990. The Friends of Southwell Cathedral contributed to the cost. *Votive Candle Stand*. The candle stand was designed by Martin Stancliffe, made by Don Barker and Houghton's of York and given by the Friends of Southwell Cathedral in 1992. *Sedilia* There is a set of three-seat stone sedilia on the west side of the chapel. *Wooden lectern* This is by Robert Thompson of Kilburn

SAINT OSWALD'S CHAPEL

This chapel is dedicated to St Oswald, Archbishop of York from 962 to 992, who had an important role in establishing the Saxon Minster. The fittings within the Chapel include:

Altar The altar frontal featuring a raven is by John Piper (An alternative bright green frontal, given to the Minster by the Diocese of Natal, may be in use). Piper also did the gilding and other refurbishment. The artist's research told him that St Oswald had a raven as a personal device: unfortunately he looked up the wrong St Oswald. The real dedicatee was an Archbishop of York and represents a further strong York connection for the Minster. He died in Worcester in 992, washing the feet of the faithful on Maundy Thursday – he was Bishop of Worcester as well as Archbishop.

The other St Oswald lived from 605 to 642. After the pagans had killed King Edwin in 633 and Christianity had been sent into retreat, Oswald fought back, seized the throne of Northumbria and revived Christianity throughout the north. Stories about him relate that his constant companion was a pet raven. He revitalized York as a Christian centre, so the "wrong" Oswald does have a link with Southwell after all!

Reredos The limed oak Reredos was designed by W D Caroe and carved by Messrs Boulton of Cheltenham. The figures were gilded in 1990 at the expense of Mr Eric Freckingham under the supervision of Ronald Sims (Cathedral Architect at that time).

Credence Table The credence table is by Robert Thompson, with an incised mouse.

Altar Rails The two altar rails were made in memory of John Haxley, Canon of Norwich, who was at the Minster from 1883 to 1900. The red kneelers were embroidered in 1982 by a group led by Mrs Wakeling, the wife of the 7th Bishop of Southwell.

Sedilia A set of three-seat stone sedilia is on the south wall of the chapel

THE CHANCEL AND SANCTUARY

Much of the oak furniture was made in the workshops of Robert Thompson of Kilburn in North Yorkshire in 1949. All pieces carry a small carved mouse. The Communion Rail is a fine pierced work by Thompson, featuring the characteristic rippled top produced by the use of the adze, an ancient hand tool. There is a mouse low down to the north and to the south. The three-person Kneeling Desk on south side is another outstanding piece of Thompson work, delivered to the Minster in 1949. The small Kneeling Desk in lighter oak on south side is a later work by Thompson.

The Cathedra (Bishop's Chair) is on the North side. It is by Robert Thompson and was made as a memorial to Bishop Mosley. There is a carved mouse on the left (east-side) arm support. The desk was given by the parish as a memorial to Bishop Hoskyns in 1926. The Dean's Chair and Kneeling Desk are made of oak and are by Robert Thompson in 1957. It is a memorial to Provost W J Conybeare who was rector from 1919 to 1945 and bears his coat of arms. The small Kneeling Desk on north side pairs with the one on the south side and is of the same date.

The small panelled credence table on the south side had been an altar in a village church near Devizes. It was found in a farmhouse, covered in paint and in use as a cupboard. It was bought, cleaned and given to the Minster. The fine marble floor in the Sanctuary was laid in 1887.

THE SANCTUARY SEDILIA

The stone seats with a decorated canopy on the south side of the sanctuary date from about 1340. Such seats are for the use of the clergy officiating in the Sanctuary. Three seats are the normal complement, but here there are five: a very rare provision. The Sedilia have not always been in this position, as evidenced by the fact that they obscure the lower part of the window. The piece underwent some restoration work in the nineteenth century, carried out by the brothers Bernasconi.

THE AIRMEN'S CHAPEL

This chapel was, some believe, the site of the Chantry Chapel founded by Richard Sutton in 1283 and dedicated in honour of St Peter and St Paul. It is also, perhaps, the site of the tomb of Archbishop de Corbridge. It became the Airmen's Chapel in March 1984, the title being transferred from the chapel now called The Pilgrim's Chapel. There is an aumbry space in the north wall and a double piscina set into the east wall. The fittings within the Chapel include:

The Altar The altar in this chapel is made from pieces of wood taken from crashed aircraft during the First World War, and was made by apprentices at an RAF station near Sheffield. It was formerly used in the church at Norton Woodseats and given to the Minster in 1919. The oak kneeling desk was made by RAF Cranwell in 1926 and the communion rail was made at RAF Newton in 1984. The cross is made from used shell cases.

The Triptych The triptych (a painting on three hinged panels, which can be in either the open or the closed position) was created in 1988 by Hamish Moyle, a member of the Little Gidding Community, and was inspired by Dame Edith Sitwell's poem *And Still Falls the Rain*, a work which speaks of sacrifice and the tragedy of war. On the communion rail is a miniature of the triptych, enabling both positions to be examined. On the back of the replica is the text of the poem.

The carved lectern The provenance of this lectern, with its very fine carved wooden eagle, has not been determined

The small kneeling desk This is of oak and was made at RAF Cranwell in 1926

The Chair In the south-west corner of the chapel is a chair which has a small plate on the back carrying the inscription:

| |
|---|
| <p>In loving memory of MURRAY JOHN TOWNLEY 1926-1997 "They shall mount up with wings as eagles"</p> |
|---|

The Communion Rail This was made at RAF Newton in 1984. The top is of teak and carries a carving of an albatross.

The Kneelers The embroidered kneelers were designed by Professor Anne Morrell and embroidered by local ladies.

The Carpet The blue carpet with the RAF crest was given by the variety artistes Elsie and Doris Waters ("Gert and Daisy") in 1941 "in thanksgiving for the devotion and bravery of the RAF in the present conflict"..

ST THOMAS'S CHAPEL

This was possibly the site of the first Chantry Chapel, founded in 1241 by Robert de Lexington and dedicated in honour of St Thomas the Martyr (Thomas Becket). The south wall of the chapel has a set of five-seat sedilia. There is an aumbry in the north wall and a double piscina in the east wall.

At the present time this Chapel is being used as a Clergy Vestry, with a curtain closing it off. For the moment, therefore, visitors do not have access to it. From outside, however, it is possible to see, above the curtain, something of the three very fine two-light windows by Kempe which the Chapel contains. The fittings within the Chapel include more work by Robert Thompson:

THE QUIRE PULPIT

The Quire pulpit is of teak and was designed by W D Caroe and made by Robinson of Bloomsbury. The carving shows the Virgin and Child. The pulpit was the gift of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and was dedicated by Bishop Ridding on 9 May 1897. The words inscribed upon it read "In the beginning was the word". Until 1987 every preacher climbed into the Pulpit using stairs from the Airmen's Chapel, but in that year the arrangements were remodelled by Ronald Sims: the previous entry was closed with a new panel and a new opening was created on the other side of the pillar, allowing new steps to be built from chancel level.

MODEL OF THE MINSTER This was made by Clive Holmes from Holton-le Cley, a serving Fire Officer in Cleethorpes who requested anonymity when he

presented it to the Minster. It contains 35,000 matchsticks and took three years to build.

ECCE HOMO (“BEHOLD THE MAN”)

Another wooden sculpture by Peter Ball, made from part of a railway sleeper, with copper for the hands, feet and head. This is often to be found in the North Quire Aisle, west of the Airmen’s Chapel, but it may be positioned elsewhere.

MOTHERS’ UNION BANNERS

Hanging on the north wall just to the west of the Model Case is a Mother’s Union banner. It is inscribed Southwell Minster and is the banner of the Minster Branch. Nearby is the Diocesan Banner, which is on a metal stand. It was made in 2003 to replace a previous fabric which had become worn and carried the legend THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL. In 2006, after the name of the Diocese had been changed, it was necessary to send the banner back to the maker (Juliet Hemingray of Derby) for the wording to be altered to THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL AND NOTTINGHAM.

ROYAL COAT OF ARMS

Above the string course just to the west of the Library Door is a diamond-shaped board. At first sight a hatchment, it is in fact the Coat of Arms of Charles I with the date 1629 upon it. 1629 was the year that Charles I dismissed his third Parliament and embarked upon an eleven year period of Personal Rule: as a consequence, there may have been an order to churches to display the Coat of Arms. It is surprising that the board survived the Commonwealth period in such a Parliamentary town, but it may have been hidden. The Friends of Southwell Cathedral paid for its conservation in 1995.

WYMONDESOLD DONATION BOARD

To the west of the Royal Coat of Arms is a rectangular board with the following inscription:

Thomas WYMONDESOLD
of Lambeth in the County
of Surrey Esqr gave unto
this Church a sett of Chimes
and 20s per An: for ever
toward the keeping of
them 1693
D.C. Res

Mr Wymondesold's Chimes were badly damaged by the disastrous fire of 1711, but were repaired and are still in use today, playing one of three tunes at 12.00 noon and 4.00 pm.

ROYAL MAUNDY

Immediately beneath the Wymondesold board is a montage recording the visit by Queen Elizabeth II in 1984 (the Centenary of the Diocese) to distribute the Royal Maundy.

LARGE CHARITY BOARD

High on the north wall of the Quire is a large board recording Donations to the Poor of the Parish of Southwell. There are two columns and the text reads:

Left column:

Dame Frances PIERPONT gave Novr, 5th, 1621, an annuity of 10[£] payable out of an estate situate in the parish of Bleasby, now in possession of Sir Richard SUTTON, Bart to be distributed equally at Michalmas amongst ten of the most indigent & aged persons.

Bartholomew FILLINGHAM Esq^r, gave March 20th 1696, the sum of 100[£] to purchase land: the rent of which is to be distributed yearly in bread at the Church between Christmas and Easter.

Bartholomew BURTON Esq^r gave also the sum of 100[£] & Jeremiah BRAILSFORD Esq^r Oct^r 9th, 1725, the sum the sum of 10[£] for the same purpose as the last mentioned charity. Henry NICHOLSON Esq^r gave March 14th 1677, one moiety of his lands, and tenements in Elston, for the benefit of the poor: the rents of which are half yearly to be distributed amongst, so many persons, as the sum shall extend to at the rate of 10^s each: the same person is not to have this charity two half years successively.

William THORNTON Esq^r gave Augt 27th, 1714, the sum of 3[£] 12^s payable yearly at Martinmas out of the rents of a messuage in Southwell, now in the possession of Mr LITTLE, to purchase coats to be given to six poor persons; the same person is not to have a coat oftner than once in three years.

Right column:

Jeremiah BRAILSFORD Esq^r gave March 5th, 1717, the sum of 10[£] to the Justices of the peace of the liberty of Southwell, to purchase coals for the use of the poor, subject to such trusts as are mentioned in the overseers book. Mrs Margaret CROFTS save Jany 9^h, 1719, the sum of 1* 8^s to buy flax, to be given yearly about Candlemas to four poor women, that have no yearly collection

Thomas BRAILSFORD Esq^r gave July 13* ", 1744, a house in Easthorpe with it's appurtenances, & ten cow-gates, & 3 feet in Easthorpe pasture for the instruction of ten poor children in reading, sewing, & knitting.

Richard STENTON Esq^r gave, Augst 9th, 1771, the sum of 150[£], to be placed out upon mortgage: the interest of which is yearly to be applied to the instruction of ten poor children in reading.

The Rev^d John LAVERACK gave, June 5th, 1775, the profits arising from the stone-cross close to be applied yearly to the education & cloathing of such a Number of poor children, as the same shall extend to.

The Rev^d Richard BARROW gave. May 4th, 1787, the sum of 2[£] 12^s 6^d to purchase coals for the benefit of the poor, subject to the same trust, as y^e 10[£] left by Jeremiah BRAILSFORD Esq^r

N.B. A more particular account of these charities is to be found in the overseers book.

At the foot of the board we have:

The Revd Henry HOUSON

Parish Vicar

Thos BRUNT

Edwd BUCKLOW

Richd ELSAM

Richd FLETCHER

)

)

)

)

Church-

wardens

Jon HUCKNALL

Willm NICHOLSON

Overseers

Jon RICHARSON

Pinkit 1788

THE HISTORIC CHAPTER LIBRARY

Immediately to the west of the Chapter House passage is a door, which when entered, leads up some steep and awkward steps to the Historic Chapter Library, housed on the floor above the Pilgrims' Chapel to the north of the quire. The space has had a number of uses over the centuries and was previously called the Old Treasury.

The present door is seventeenth century and is of painted deal. The two vestry doors nearby were designed by W D Caroe in 1919.

It is established that the Canons of the Collegiate Church had a library before the Civil War although little is known about it. In 1548, in a valuation made for the Chantry Commissioners of Edward VI, 'certaine books in the librarie' were recorded and valued. Most of the contents of the Library were lost with the scattering of books and charters in the churchyard by Scottish soldiers in 1645. After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, the Chapter was re-established, and by 1690 a start was made in creating a library. A fine collection of books

was given by a certain Edward Lee of Norwell, and many are still identifiable since they have his signature.

The restored collection was housed in the old Grammar School chamber at the west end of the south nave aisle eastwards from Booth's chapel. Lee's collection was augmented from time to time by gifts from the canons and vicars and by a few books bought by the Chapter in the eighteenth century. In 1784, Booth's chapel and the library were pulled down and the books were then housed in a new room built to the east of the south transept. This building was in turn pulled down in 1825 and the books removed to the music school and vicars' vestry (now the Airmen's Chapel) where they remained until well into the twentieth century. Finally the books were put into the old treasury. The historic archives, however, were for many years housed in the parvise room above the north porch, accessed from the north side triforium. In 2003, most of this archival material was deposited at the Nottinghamshire Archives in the City of Nottingham, although catalogues are still maintained in the library.

The Historic Chapter Library is bounded on the south side by the north wall of the quire and on the west side by the inner east wall of north transept triforium. In the middle section of the latter there is a small blocked doorway: it is clearly visible from the ground floor of the transept, on the inner side of the walkway. The Library has four windows to the east, which look down onto the inner "courtyard" area bounded by the Chapter House, St Thomas' Chapel, the north wall of the quire and the Chapter House passage. On the fourth (northern) side of the Library, the windows look towards Church Street.

THE QUIRE LECTERN

The Eagle Lectern in the Quire was made in Tournai in 1503 and was the property of the monks of Newstead Abbey. During the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-40) the monks wrapped up the lectern and lowered it into the Abbey lake. They were summarily banished and the Abbey and the estate were given to Sir John Byron, so the monks were never able to reclaim the lectern. It remained beneath the water for 250 years, at which point the lake was drained and the lectern discovered. After cleaning, it was sent to Nottingham to be auctioned: eventually it was purchased by the Dean of Lincoln, Sir Richard Kaye, a former Prebendary of the Minster, who presented it to the Minster in 1805.

THE CHANDELIER

A brass chandelier hangs above the Eagle Lectern. It carries the inscription BONI EX BONIS 1769. For many years the ornamental finial, taking the form of five swirling tongues of flame, had been missing: but through the generosity of the Friends of Southwell Cathedral, a new finial was cast in 2006.

QUIRE STALLS

There are four blocks of stalls on both the north and the south side

THE SIMPSON STALLS

The four blocks of Choir Stalls (two to the North and two to the South) were carved in 1886 by Charles Henry Simpson (1856-1936), who was the principal woodcarver for the firm of Cornish and Gaymer, North Walsham. They show a multitude of wonderful carvings of plants, animals, insects, musical instruments and mythical creatures. There are also two Green Men, one looking very much like a cat. The cartoons of C H Simpson's carvings were presented to the Minster in 1934 and are in the Chapter Library. From time to time they are on display in the three glass display cases in the Chapter House passage.

THE CAROE STALLS

The blocks of stalls to the east of the Simpson pews were designed by W D Caroe and were dedicated on 5 February 1902. They were also made by Cornish and Gaymer, but it seems unlikely that the carver was C H Simpson, as the work is clearly not to his standard. known.

THE MUSIC STAND

The music stand, permanently positioned on the north side at the eastern end of the more westerly of the Simpson stalls, is of oak and was made by Robert Lee of Southwell in 1947.

THE PULPITUM STALLS

There are six misericords under the clergy stalls, carved from oak and dating from the 14th century. The stall to the south of the centre aisle is the Bishop's stall, whilst the one to the north of the aisle is the Dean's. The decoration on the back of the southern stall is called diaper work and the stall itself is usually known as Wolsey's Stall: it was used by him when he lived for five months in the Archbishop's Palace in 1530 and preached in the Minster.

Details of misericords in the six stalls, named for their offices:

Bishop: Dryads with tails which turn into foliage

Bishop of Sherwood: Green Man with two boughs from mouth

Archdeacon of Nottingham: Samson breaking jaw of lion

Dean: owl or beetle, with human head and tail which turns into a branch

Assistant Bishop: Kneeling figure holding foliage

Archdeacon of Newark: Seated figure with a bough springing from side

THE WOODEN SCREENS

There are oak screens between the stalls and the quire aisles on both the north and south sides. These are in the three most westerly bays, but not the fourth. They were erected between 1875 and 1887 by Cornish and Gaymer, to replace the plaster screens built by the Bernasconi brothers (which had canopies over the back row of stalls).

HONORARY CANONS

The back rows of stalls on both the north and south sides, and extending across both the Simpson stalls and the Caroe stalls are named for the Honorary Canons. (New Canons are "placed in their stall" at a service in the Minster). All such stalls carry the names of the Parishes, not names of individuals.

NAMED STALLS IN THE QUIRE

(Prebendal Stalls shown in Capitals. Nameplates reproduced exactly as styled)

Chancel (to the east)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| No plate | | Kelham |
| Rufford | | Welbeck |
| Thurgaton | | Lenton |
| Beauvale | | Mattersey |
| NORWELL PALISHALL | | NORMANTON |
| DUNHAM | | EATON |
| NORTH LEVERTON | | OXTON & CROPWELL I |
| RAMPTON | | WOODBOROUGH |
| Rector Chori | | HALLOUGHTON |
| BECKINGHAM | | NORWELL OVERHALL |
| Retford | | NORWELL III |
| OXTON & CROPWELL II | | NORTH MUSKHAM |
| Ecumenical Canon | | Ecumenical Canon |
| SOUTH MUSKHAM | | SACRIST |
| Churchwarden | | Churchwarden |
| Churchwarden | | Churchwarden |

Pulpitum (to the west)

SCREEN ORGAN

This Nicholson organ came from St Peter's, Malvern Wells. The existing 1934 case by W D Caroe was cleaned and repaired and the Nicholson pipework installed. The project was funded by the Friends of Southwell Cathedral and the first use took place at Easter 1996.