

FROM THE MINSTER OVER 100 YEARS by Mr Richard Beaumont

We must now return to the episcopate of Bishop Mosley who succeeded Bishop Heywood in 1927. The Mosley family which comprised his wife and daughter Betty and son Michael and Mrs Mosley's brother and sister, all took a very active part in the life of the Minster. Miss Mosley soon became engaged to the Reverend Michael Ridley, the only curate at that time, and their wedding hastened his departure elsewhere, leaving the Archdeacon without official help. In Mr Ridley's place the Bishop asked his friend, the Reverend Colin Redman, to come as his domestic chaplain, to look after ordinands and to serve as curate. Mr Redman had for some years been a missionary in Madagascar and his hardships there had impaired his health, though this had in no way weakened his spirit.

His influence on the parish, the young in particular, was enormous. There must today be treasured samples of his leg-pulling postcards, which he was in the habit of dropping through letterboxes before the birds were fully awake. His death in 1937 was a shock to all who knew him; it was the loss of a man whose presence had surely radiated the spirit of Christ. Perhaps the 471 names on the Electoral Roll at that time shows something of his influence on the parish. There are less than 400 today when the population has grown threefold.

Meanwhile the Minster had received some publicity, from outstanding performances at Christmas 1932 and 1933 of "The Glorious Pageant of the Holy Nativity", a production of a Mr Claye and the Elves family from Gate Burton. The idea of a "Stage Play" in a Cathedral 50 years ago seemed revolutionary and almost shocking.

VANDALISM

Vandalism to the West Window is nothing new! On 17th March 1856 the Canon Residentiary, George Wilkins, wrote to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners regarding the proposed re-glazing of the West Window at the time of the restoration work as follows:

"He (Ewan Christian) ordered the great west window to be leaded in new glass and an estimate was transmitted to him. This was for common glass, which we all know, for church work is very thin and fragile. I put off the execution of this work for the reason I shall now very shortly begin – that as this fine window is more exposed than any other in the church to the rude assaults of stone-throwing boys and is continually broken and from its position, difficult from time to mend, I am very anxious that instead of the common glass, glass in quarries, pressed or cast should be substituted".