

1 Summary of work done 1848-84

- 1848 2 Masons, under Archdeacon Wilkins, started on the West end of the nave, replacing the Gothic windows with Norman style ones.
- 1851 Ewan Christian's report (now lost) on the three towers.
- 1872 Galleries removed.
- 1878 Further report from Ewan Christian; Bishop of Lincoln asked another Architect, Street, to comment. He wanted to move the screen to a transept, but was overruled.
- 1881 onwards - new pepperpots and new nave roof (pepperpots nearly removed again in the 1930's, thought unsafe)
- 1850 onwards - cleaning off the limewash from the interior stonework

2 1884 onwards: The Minster as a Cathedral

Because the 1841 Act had stripped the Minster of its revenues, using them for the dioceses of Ripon and Manchester, Southwell was the only Cathedral with no revenue. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners were responsible for the finance of the fabric, stipends and wages - including those of "pew openers" (Query no pews) - therefore little change. The Cathedral Council only took over in 1962. The Minster was opened for the day of Bishop Ridding's enthronement, then closed again for work to continue on the Quire.

Masons – Cornish and Gaymer of Norwich had the contract for the work, but continued to employ the same two masons, John Gregory and John Cook, his assistant, employed since about 1830. By 1884 John Gregory was failing, his handwriting became illegible and he died in February 1855, never having had a day off, apart from Sundays, even working on Christmas Day. He was not replaced. John Cook worked alone until 1889, when he was given an assistant, retired in 1890 and died in 1896 aged 81. He only ever had 2 days off, after being hit on the head by an iron bar.

Heating etc. In May 1885, the congregation petitioned for better heating, but Ewan Christian said the cost would be too high, and that an external chimney would disfigure the Minster.

1886 Gurney Steve Co was asked to provide heating, estimate £151 for 4 stoves, 2 for the Quire, 1 for the Library (now the Pilgrims' Chapel) and 1 in the Chapter House; there were already 2 in the nave. These were installed, with a chimney in the South Quire aisle, but fumes caused stone erosion and the chimney was later struck by lightning.

No improvement until the 1920's, when the boiler house and hot water heating system was installed, which lasted until the 70's.

NB. Piped water was only brought to the Minster in 1893, at a cost of £90, plus £15 for the palace kitchen. Rent of 2/6d per quarter for each of the 4 fire hydrants, plus 2/6d each time one was opened. Electricity was not installed until 1929/35

3 Later Developments

By Candlemas 1888 restoration of the Quire was completed. For the first time in 400 years, the whole of the church was available for worship, though normal evening congregations were about 500.

The total cost was £24,000, only just over Ewan Christian's estimate. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave 380 chairs, 600 hassocks, a dais and canopy for the Archbishop costing £23.4.10d and a 'pianette' for the choir, costing £20.

Organ was now reported dangerous – to repair? – rebuild? – or replace? Ewan Christian opposed an

organ on the screen, but finally designed the case - organ divided, console in the middle. Completed in 1892 at a cost of £2,700.

Quire Roof – Ewan Christian wanted lead, commissioners insisted on slate.

In February 1895, Ewan Christian died aged 81. He had worked until 4 days before his death.

Nave Pulpit – Caroe (Ewan Christian's successor) submitted drawings, and asked if the congregation would object to a figure of the Virgin and Child – cost £150 approx.

Chapter House In 1896 cracks appeared which were attributed to the drainage work in Church Street, lowering the water table in the clay subsoil. Buttresses underpinned, and an iron bar inserted. NB. The problem still not fully resolved.

Clock In 1887, Canon Trebeck, Rector, asked the Commissioners for a new clock, but there was not reply. In 1895 one was finally provided from Joyce of Whitchurch, cost £250.

4 Ewan Christian

We owe him a great deal. He insisted on keeping the Minster as it had been, rather than altering it to his own taste, e.g. he based the pepperpots on Turner's sketch of the earlier ones. He worked on 2040 churches, including Carlisle Cathedral, at the same time as the Minster, also other Notts. churches, e.g. Upton, Halam, Norwell, Netherfield and Sturton le Steeple.

All his drawings and photos were lost, except for 6, which Provost Irvine brought here. The drawings finally turned up in Martin Caroe's attic but the photos have still not been found.

£235,000 from English Heritage just granted includes provision for photographing all the drawings, probably as slides.