

ODDS AND ENDS – BITS AND PIECES: AN UPDATE

The Provost 16th March 1996

Time Travelling

It is impossible to realise the long-term value of Time Travelling, to know how many seeds have been sown. It is one of the most important activities in which the Minster has ever been engaged. It costs between £10,000 and £12,000 to put on, and the future is in question.

The New Church Organ

The organ should be in use on Easter Day. Paul Hale has drawn up a leaflet about the inaugural recitals in which it is referred to as "The New Nicholson Organ", but after that occasion it will be known as the New Quire Organ. There will be a plaque on the Organ commemorating Mary and Charles Cope and their decision to leave half of their estate to the Friends of Southwell Minster. The dedication of the organ by the Bishop will take place on the evening of the 20th April. In 1812 the Head of the Minster School was Mary Cope's great-grandfather.

The West Window

The scaffolding will be put up on the 15th April. During the work the West Door will be closed Monday - Friday inclusive, but will be in use on Saturdays and Sundays, and also on occasions when required by the H. & S. at W. Regulations. At York the window is entirely ready for installation, and will be dedicated by the Bishop on the 7th July.

The Windows in the Chapter House Passage

These were financed from the donation to the Southwell 2000 Appeal by the Headley Trust, which was conditional on some part of it being spent on stained glass. These vestibule angels by Patrick Reyntiens depict (from the gateway to the Chapter House) six Biblical scenes: Adam and Eve being driven from the Garden of Eden; Jacob wrestling with an Angel; the Annunciation; the Flight into Egypt; Easter; the Ascension. Patrick Reyntiens and Martin Stancliffe will talk about the West Window at the A.G.M. of the Friends on the afternoon of the 15th June.

The Visitors' Centre

The roof timbers of the Refectory and the Shop are already in place, and the Centre will be ready for business in July. It will be called the Minster Centre. The Main Hall will contain exhibition material e.g. the memorabilia of the Queen's visit in 1984, items connected with our links with Sées, photographs of the foundations of the Chantry Priests House which were uncovered, and the 14th C ring of clasped bands with the inscription "Tomorrow I shall not be given today."

The South Transept

This will be left as a space to show what the transepts and the crossing look like. Then we may consider what, if anything, should be done.

The Present Refectory

The aim is to keep it for variable use, possibly for meetings. A section will be used for storage. The present counter area may be partitioned off for tea and coffee making for events in the Great Hall.

Information Desk

This will be inside the North Door of the Minster and will be staffed by the Guild of Stewards.

The Capital and Projects Fund

The Southwell 2000 Appeal led to the establishment of the C. and P. Fund, for the purpose of providing capital for:

1. The completion the Minster Centre
- 2 The provision of choristers' bursaries

The number of initial applications for places in the Choir has increased considerably, but too many of these are not followed up because of boarding costs at £4,000 p.a. Some cathedrals give 100% or 50% bursaries for boarders. We at present have £ 10,000 a year available and 11 boarding choristers. Our aim is to have 50% boarding bursaries.

3. To establish a Centre for Spirituality, which the Provost, on his appointment, to the minster, was asked to do by the Bishop.

1997: 50th Anniversary of the Friends of Southwell Minster

The Friends hope to provide Choir stalls for use in the nave.

Repairs: Progress

The safety and fire precautions in the central and western towers have been completed.

The repairs to the glass in the North Transept have been completed and, after the re-roofing of the Library, which will begin in April 1996, the southern side of the Minster will be reglazed. All reglazing should be completed by the end of 1997.

Fire Precautions

£70,000 has provided the required fire detection system.

BUT water and access for fire-fighting equipment must be brought nearer to the building.

1. There will be a large water tank under the NW corner of the Bishop's Garden.
2. Previous arrangements for access are inadequate because fire-fighting equipment is now larger. Access from Church St. is under consideration.

Security

This has been highlighted by the bomb alert during Ash Wednesday Eucharist (after the Gospel reading) when the service was suspended for 20 mins.

Stewards are asked to be vigilant about bags, which are left unattended, and suspicious behavior, and to contact the Vergers immediately if they are in any doubt. The Vergers will ring the police if they see fit. (Choristers have been warned to label their baggage, and not to leave it about unattended.)

Evacuation of the Building

The Vergers are in charge and will put the system into operation.

Tower Tours

We hope to be able to continue these tours, having met the safety precautions at present required (one guide fore and aft of each party, ropes and railings, maximum party number, radio contact with the ground), but there is a question about worn steps!

N.B. H. and S. at W.

At present we are exempt from SOME legal requirements: e.g. we do not have to have chairs in the Nave bolted to the ground – but for how long?...

The chains on the Chandelier and the Font cover have to be checked annually now.