

Religious Architecture 2020

January 2020: ALL HALLOWS, GEDLING

Thirteen members of our group visited All Hallows church, including a guest from Mapperley U3A. We were met by Verger, Dorothy Ritchie, who gave us a tour and a history of the church.

The oldest part of the church is the surround to the West Door dating from 1170-90AD. There is a spacious Early English Chancel of about 1230, and a five-bay Nave with North and South Aisles of about 1260 in an Early Decorated style. The Spire, the second highest in Nottinghamshire, at 180 feet, was added in 1300-1320. The location of the tower at the west end of the North Aisle provides a west front to the Nave.

The Roof, which was probably thatched, was replaced by the present lead-covered one in the 15th century, when the Clerestory Windows and the Aisles were also added. Since then the building has changed very little.

The parish church of All Hallows served the villages of Gedling, Carlton and Stoke Bardolph, when they were small farming communities, but increases in population caused a major reordering in 1872, when Pews for 500 people were installed.



A steep Roof replaced the flat lead one of the Chancel at the same time. The services at that time were Morning and Evening Prayer, which were conducted by the clergy from behind the Chancel Screen, but nowadays the Altar in the Nave is used. With a decrease in the congregation, the Pews have been replaced with comfortable chairs.

Carlton and Netherfield have since grown to sustain their own separate parishes.

Two famous cricketers who played for Nottinghamshire and England, are buried in the graveyard, Arthur Shrewsbury (died 1903) and Alfred Shaw (died 1907). Shrewsbury, a bowler, committed suicide but Shaw, a batsman, died of natural causes. The graves are just over the length of a cricket pitch (22 yards) apart.



February 2020: ST. PAUL'S, DAYBROOK

Sixteen members of our group visited St. Paul's Church, where we were given a warm welcome by Reverend Sally Baylis, vicar, who was on-hand to answer any questions.

Before the church was built, June 1896 – 1898, what is now its parish lay partly in the parish of St. Mary's church, Arnold and partly in the parish of St. John's Church, Carrington. In the 1880's a Mission Church built, being dedicated in January 1890, and was a daughter to St. Mary's Church. It later became the Church Hall.

John Robinson, founder of the Home Brewery donated the land on which the "big" church was to be built. Colonel Seely provided the finance, to start building work in June 1893. The Total cost of building the church was £26,000. The church was dedicated in February 1896, and the tower completed in 1898. The tower contains eight bells, casted by Mears & Stainbeck. The clock on the west side of the tower is by Gillet & Johnson (c1900).

The Nave is divided into four bays, above which is a lofty clerestory nearly fourteen feet high with eight traceried windows of four lights, all have clear glass. Here steps and a delicately wrought iron screen and gates lead into the Chancel. The Chancel, Sanctuary and Lady Chapel all have marble mosaic floors laid by Italian workers who were especially brought over to do the work.

The Pulpit and Font are of white Mansfield stone with marble shafts. The pulpit has three panels containing carved groups. At the angles are carved canopied figures variously depicting the Saints Paul, Peter and John. The font, a heptagonal basin has carved canopied figures at the angles representing Truth, Faith, Hope, Charity, Courage, Industry and Purity.

Behind the font is the First World War Memorial unveiled in 1923, and designed by Ninian Cooper. At the top is a crucifixion with two mourners "*Remember the men of Daybrook who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919*".

The Organ was built in 1896 by Augustus Gern, foreman to Cavaille-Coll, a great European organ builder. It was original water powered, with a hand-blowing device as a back-up. Restoration was carried out in 1924 by John Compton of London, and in 1950 and 1967, when it was virtually rebuilt by Roger Yates, who provided all-electric action and complete tonal revision. It is reputed to be one of the finest organs in the Diocese.



March 2020: DERBY CATHEDRAL

Twenty members of our group visited the Cathedral Church of All Saints. We were given a warm welcome by Derek Limer, ex-Verger, who having given a talk about the history of the cathedral, gave us a tour, answering any questions. In Sanctuary, ladies of the Cathedral's Embroidery Workshop (all volunteers) were repairing vestments and other holy soft furnishings.

The history of the church probably goes back to King Edmund in 943 AD as a royal collegiate church with a Dean and six prebendaries, or canons. Early in the 12th century, King Henry I made a gift of the church to Lincoln Cathedral, whose Dean became the Dean of All Saints. A Sub-Dean was also appointed as his deputy. The canons, together with many minor clerics, attendants and domestics lived in buildings along the north side of the church, which is still known as "College Place", though the present buildings are 18th century.



No trace remains of the Saxon church. At some time in the 14th century a new church was built, though whether this replaced the original or a later one is not certain. The present tower was built in the contemporary Perpendicular style, between 1510 and 1532, placing a pinnacle rectangular one, which had become structurally unstable.

Before the Reformation, the richly decorated church had at least 6 altars, sumptuous vestments and plate. During King Edward VI's reign, the College was dissolved and the rich trappings sold or destroyed. In 1556 there was a brief return to Roman Catholicism under Mary I, who bearing in mind the "Royal Origins" granted pensions to the dispossessed canons and allocated rents of some of the properties previously owned by the College to the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Derby (later the Corporation) to provide two priests for the church. The Corporation became responsible for the upkeep of the Chancel and the living of the church remaining secure outside the jurisdiction of the bishop, namely a "Royal Peculiar", a privilege withdrawn in 1857.

Over the centuries the fabric of the church had deteriorated so by the middle of the 17th century, its condition could be described as ruinous. Help was sought from the Corporation, which had been dilatory in their responsibilities for the Chancel. So in February 1723 the vicar, Rev. Michael Hutchinson started to demolish the church, overnight, forcing their hand. Hutchinson chose famous Architect, James Gibbs to design the new church, he had recently designed St. Mary-in-the-Strand, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London. The builder was Francis Smith of Warwick.

Gibbs designed a simple rectangular building in the Classical style, attached to the 16th tower and porch. A local ironsmith and gate-maker Robert Bakewell designed and made a wrought-iron screen which extended across the whole width of the church, which was finished 5 years after the first sermon was preached in the new church on 25th November 1725. In the Sanctuary he built a Baldachin, a canopy over the High Altar.

In 1884 the church was transferred in the then new Diocese of Nottingham and Southwell, which was created by the whole of Derbyshire from the Diocese of Lichfield and much of Nottinghamshire hived off from the Diocese of Lincoln. The Suffragan bishop to the Bishop of Southwell, held the title Bishop of Derby. They worked tirelessly for the creation of a Derby Diocese in its own right which was achieved on 28th October 1927. The new Bishop being enthroned the following day.

Her Majesty, the Queen has visited the Cathedral twice in her reign, firstly to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Diocese in 2002 and in 2002 to distribute Maundy Money.

The Bell Chamber has 10 bells, all over 300 years old and a carillon which plays various tunes on the bells three times a week. Early records imply there were 5 bells at All Saints in 1509, however there is every possibility most were replaced or recast in the following centuries.

On the south side of the Chancel, is the Cavendish area, where you will find the lavish Monument to Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, better known as Bess of Hardwick designed by Robert Smythson, who also designed Bolsover Castle and Wollaton Hall.

