

## RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE 2022

### January 2022: ST. GEORGE'S, NETHERFIELD

Twenty-one members visited St. George's Church, where we were given a warm welcome by John and Lillian Barnett. John gave us a potted history of the church, while Lillian provided us with refreshments. This was the first time for Val Knowles as Convenor.



Netherfield was a small village before the Ambergate, Nottingham & Boston & Eastern Junction Railway (1850) and then the Great Northern Railway (1852) reached nearby Colwick, then in 1875 the 1,132 yard Mapperley Tunnel was opened as part of the Great Northern Railway's Derbyshire & North Derbyshire Extension turning the Colwick Triangle into a major railway junction.

By 1879 the London & North Western Railway had joined the Great Central Railway in pursuit of access to Nottinghamshire's coalfields. It was about this time it was decided to expand the 1884 sidings at Colwick, together with an Engine shed and workshops. At the same time a distinct new settlement of housing and facilities such as schools for the railway workers and their families, was developing at Netherfield.

Between 1880 and 1900, a number of new streets of terraced houses were laid out, with Baptist, Free United and Primitive Methodists churches building chapels; together with St. George's Church (1886/7) on Netherfield Lane (later renamed Victoria Road.) A factory was also built near the church to provide employment for wives and daughters.

The southern part of Gedling's All Hallows' church parish was split into two parishes to accommodate St. Paul's Church, Carlton and St. George's. The church, designed by Ewan Christian, a leading architect of his time, was described in Pevsner's "Building of England" as a "towerless brick church". From the start it was "High Church", Roman Catholicism as practiced after King Henry VIII split from Rome, without unnecessary rituals.

For the last 10 years, St George's has been without a vicar, services being conducted by two retired octogenarian clergy. The congregation in that time has dwindled to 10 regular worshippers, sadly reflecting the decline of our State Religion in this country.



**February 2022: ST. JOHN'S, CARRINGTON.**

Twenty members of our group visited St. John's Church, where we were given a warm welcome by John, who gave us a guided tour of the church, while relating its history; afterwards we were given refreshments.

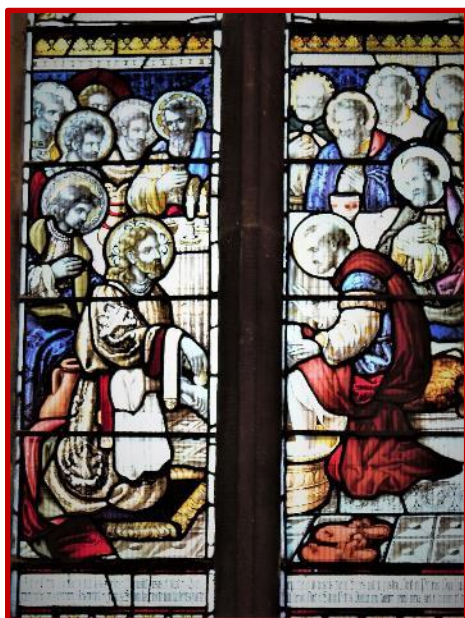


Their organist treated us by playing Variation 9 “Nimrod” from Sir Edward Elgar’s Variations on an Original Theme “Enigma” Op. 36, and Sir William Walton’s “Crown Imoerial” first performed at King George VI Coronation.in 1937.



The church was built in the 1840’s because of the expanding population in Carrington. Originally a Chapel-of-Ease for St. Leodegarius, it gained its own parish in 1902. Built in the popular Neo-Gothic style, this stone building was expanded by the addition of a chancel in 1874, together an organ, then further additions included vestries in 1894, further vestries, a north aisle and a Lady Chapel in 1923-24. Recent reordering of the church in 2009 saw the creation new West Porch, community and meeting rooms, kitchen, storage rooms, lifts and toilets.

The foundation stone was laid by Ichabod Wright on May 12th 1841, and the church was completed in March 1843; on April 6th it was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln. The population of Nottingham and surrounding villages were expanding very quickly, the Parish of Basford, for example contained 2,124 people in 1801, and 8,688 in 1841. Burton Bros. Built a lace factory in Carrington in 1831, then another larger one about 1839. The Chancel was consecrated by the Suffragan Bishop of Nottingham on 31st March 1873.



Ichabod Wright, a senior partner in a well-respected banking business live in Mapperley Hall with his wife Harriet and their surviving thirteen children, many of whom married into the upper echelons of Victorian society. Ichabod was the designer and the chief benefactor of the church, with a donation of £1,000. He gave the district the name of Carrington, after Lord Carrington from whom he bought the land, he laid out the street plan, the triangular market-place, plus land and £200 for the National School.

Harriet Wright died in June 1843, and Ichabod erected a memorial window to her. In that year there was just a church, but by the end of the century there were an enlarged and modernised church, two day schools, a vicarage, a Parish Room , a Mission Room in Sherwood and a church Institute in Carrington Market Place. Although not yet a parish church, it was the focus of the surrounding area.

The first curate was Thomas Bleaymire (former chaplain to the County House of Correction in Southwell) whose stipend was estimated at £166 17s 10p.

### **March 2022: ST. AUGUSTINE'S, WOODBOROUGH ROAD**

Fifteen members of the group visited Church of St. Augustine of England, where were greeted by Ian Wells, historian and member of the congregation, who talked about how the church fitted into 19<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham.



Following the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act 1829, which removed most of the substantial restrictions on Roman Catholicism in the U.K., iron churches began to be built in Nottingham, which were known as “Tabernacles”. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham’s population rose from 27,000 to 230,000, while its area increased from 1,000 acres to 10,000. Living conditions in some areas, such as “The Meadows” deteriorated, so new suburban developments, such as St Anns were commenced on land released for building after the Enclosures Act of 1845.

The intention to build an iron church on Woodborough Road was given to the Borough of Nottingham on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1879, it took 3 months to erect, and the Duke of Norfolk contributed £300, which probably covered the whole cost. Within fifteen years, the congregation outgrew the church, so in September 1920, plans were submitted for new stone church\*; its foundation stone being laid on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1921. Built in a Romanesque style, unique to Nottingham, to the design by John Sydney Brocklesby, its price was estimated at £10,000, but eventually cost £18,500, causing

Brocklesby to be sacked. Services were held in the Sacred Heart convent and St. Augustine's school during construction. The Lady Chapel was opened in May 1922, and rest of the church in 1923. There was no formal contract with the builders, and the church could not be consecrated while in debt, which took seventeen years to clear. Consecration by Bishop McNulty eventually took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1940. The church is now a Grade II listed building. .

N.B. Nottingham Cathedral was consecrated in 1844 by Bishop Wiseman, who 6 years later became the first Archbishop of Westminster.

On entering the church, via the main entrance (facing the sanctuary) there is a window depicting St. Winifred, made by Thomas Dexter, and dedicated to his sister. He incorporated into the stained glass, a small open hand with his name across it. This can also be seen in the three windows in the dome over the sanctuary depicting St. Augustine, St. Gregory and Christ in Majesty. A rood, the crucified Christ, hangs over the Sanctuary.

The Romanesque interior is lined with dressed ashlar stonework, featuring two large bays with saucer domes and a five-bay arcade which divides the chancel from the nave. The Lady Chapel at the west end has stained glass designed by John Hardman Studios in 1922. The arcaded apse at the east end has three stained-glass windows and small arched windows above. The Altar is rectangular with a marble relief carving of the Last Supper on the front, above hangs a painted crucifix.



The church was built with honey-coloured stone, but century of city grime has produced a rather forbidding exterior. The south side facing Woodborough Road resembles a sheer cliff with three hefty buttresses each containing a small statue; there is a similar arrangement on the north side, though the buttresses have no statues.

Mike Johnson

*Information sourced by David Colyer.*

*\*Around about 1905, the first design for the church in the style of Arts and Crafts Gothic, was by Nottingham Architect Arthur Marshall, consisting of seven bays with a light south-western tower, why it was not erected, is not known.*

## May 2022: ST. GILES, SANDIACRE

Twelve members of our group visited St. Giles' Church, in the Diocese of Derby†, where we were given a warm welcome by John, a historian, and a life-long member of the congregation. Later we were joined by the German-born rector, Olaf Trelenberg, after he had conducted a funeral service in the nearby graveyard.

We were given the interesting history of the church: The Grade I church, built on Saxon foundations, in the centre of hill-top village of Sandiraca\*, was erected in the 11th century, as a simple Norman Nave, the West Tower is 14th century; the large Chancel was added in 1342.

It has since undergone several re-orderings with further restoration taking place in Victorian times, in 1855, 1866 and 1883 when new additions included pews, bells, organ, and gas chandeliers. The church still retains some Romanesque features: the South Doorway, the Chancel Arch and two nave windows.

The present organ dates from 1977, built by Nigel Church in consultation with David Butterworth. Sandiacre, as we now know it, began to grow around the lower slopes of the village with the commencement of the Industrial Revolution. According to Simon Jenkins the church is in the best 1,000 churches in England.

Mike Johnson

† Until 1927, the church was under the auspices of the Diocese of Lichfield. In about 1280, the church or rectory was given by Bishop Longespee of Lichfield to a special prebend of his cathedral; from 1342 to 1347, the bishop held this prebendary.

\* According to the Domesday Book:

*In SANDIRACA Toli, Knut and Glædwine had 4 carucates of land [...] to the geld. [There is] land for 5 ploughs. Now Toli holds for it of the king. There are 2 ploughs in demesne; and 10 villans and 6 bordars have 5 ploughs. There is a priest and a church, and 1 mill [rendering] 5s4d, and 30 acres of meadow and a little scrubland. TRE, as now, worth 40s.*

*Note: Toli was a royal thegn (or thane - a man who held land for the king, or other superior by military service, ranking between ordinary freeman and hereditary nobles.*

## July 2022: WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Seizing the opportunity of a U3A trip to Worcester we visited the Cathedral as our July visit.



There has been a Bishop of Worcester since the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Dedicated to Christ and St. Mary, the first cathedral was founded in 680 AD by St. Oswald, who later built another in 983, when a Benedictine monastery was established, this continued until 1540 during King Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. Some of the last monks become the first Dean and Chapter.

Eastern parts of the cathedral were beautifully rebuilt from 1224 onwards, with Purbeck Marble and stiff-leaf carving and retaining the Impressive 11<sup>th</sup> century crypt. The Western half, although still Norman in outline were rebuilt piecemeal. The central tower fell down in 1175, but was not rebuilt until 1374.

In the centre of the Quire is the Tomb of King John\* (ruled 1199 – 1216) [1530, with a 1230 effigy.]



On the south side of the Nave is the Prince Arthur† Chantry, who died in 1502.



On the North side, right to the main entrance is a plaque commemorating Sir Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934), next to the “Dream of Gerontius” window, and to the left, the “Jesus” Chapel. To the south of the nave are 14<sup>th</sup> century Cloisters and the 12<sup>th</sup> century Charter House and entrance to the Dean’s Chapel and St. Wulfstan’s Crypt.

Mike Johnson

*\* King John angered the subjects with the loss of French lands by 1204, he fell out with the church and the Pope in 1208, resulting in him being excommunicated, although later this was revoked. Failure of an expedition against the King of France angered the Barons, which led to the 1215 Baron’s rebellion and the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1215. A year later, he died on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1216 at Newark Castle of dysentery, although a popular story, said it was after eating a “surfeit of peaches”. There were rumours he had been poisoned.*

*† Prince Arthur was King Henry VII’s eldest son who died at Ludlow Castle in 1502, changing the course of history; had he lived no King Henry VIII, no Dissolution of the Monasteries, no Church of England. He had married Catherine of Aragon in St. Paul’s Cathedral the year before. It is thought he died from a virus, which was epidemic at that time; Catherine survived it.*

### **Worcester, an Elgar pilgrimage**

Some years ago, my wife Margaret and I went to Hereford for a short break, and on the way, we visited “The Firs”, Lower Broadheath, the birthplace of Sir Edward Elgar O.M. (1857 – 1934), and his grave in the churchyard of the Roman Catholic church of St. Wulstan, Little Malvern (with his wife Caroline Alice).

His daughter, Carice Irene Elgar Blake (1890 - 1970), is buried next to them.

Although Elgar only spent his first two years at The Firs, he loved the area and when he was made a Baronet, he called himself Edward Elgar of Broadheath.

Now the U3A visit to the city of Worcester has given me the opportunity to complete the pilgrimage. Walking towards the Cathedral, on Severn Street, we passed a house where Elgar lived;



In Cathedral Square there is a statue to our eminent composer. In the High Street, a Blue Plaque, the site (No. 10) of “Elgar Bros. Pianoforte & Music Warehouse.” The Elgar Family moved here in 1863, living above the shop; he left in 1879. The actual premises do not exist, succumbing to a 1960’s town redevelopment.



In the Cathedral, he is commemorated with a plaque next to a stained-glass window (1935), dedicated to his oratorio “*The Dream of Gerontius*”, based on Cardinal John Newman’s poem the simple fable of an everyman-figure’s death and his Soul’s journey to the afterlife. On occasions played the organ, and in 1884, Elgar played under Dvořak during the Cathedral’s eighth centenary celebrations.

There is an *Elgar Route*\* around Worcester and 3 walks visiting sites and places significant the composer’s life, (\*you need a car).

Mike Johnson

### August 2022: NOTTINGHAM SIKH TEMPLE

Fifteen members visited the Siri Gura Singh Sabha Gurdwara on Nottingham Road, Sherwood. We were given a warm reception and hospitality, for which Sikhism is well-known. On entering the temple, we all had to have our heads covered; the temple is on two levels, the lower floor was the Dining Room, and the upper storey, the temple.

We were given an introductory talk, before we took off our footwear and climbed the stairs to the temple, a very large room with the *Nishan Sahib*, a saffron-coloured triangular flag bearing the *Khanda*, the symbol of the Sikh faith at one end; below which is the *Guru Granth Sahib* (the sacred Sikh scripture) the 11<sup>th</sup> Guru\*.

The Gurdwara is not only a place of worship, but also a “community centre” offering shelter, comfort, food, and historically a refuge for the homeless and destitute, irrespective of their religion.. We were told about Sikhism through a question and answer session.

Sikhism is a young faith, developed from the spiritual teachings of Guru Nanak (1469 – 1539), the faith's first Guru, and the nine Gurus who succeeded him. The 10<sup>th</sup> Guru, Gobind Singh, (1666 – 1708) named the Sikh scripture *Guru Granth Sahib* as his successor.

The core beliefs of Sikhism as articulated in the *Guru Granth Sahib* include faith and meditation in the name of one creator, divine unity and equality of all mankind, engaging in *sewa* "selfless service", striving for justice for the benefit and prosperity of all, honest conduct and livelihood while living a householder's life. Sikhism rejects claims that any particular religious tradition has a monopoly on *Absolute Truth*.

As a sign of their Sikh faith men wear a Turban, women as well if they wish; boys tie their hair in a topknot. Free of the caste system all Sikh males adopt the surname Singh meaning "lion" and the women Kaur meaning "princess". Each year Sikhs worldwide celebrate the events of Vaisakhi 1699, a milestone in Sikh History when Guru Gobind Singh decreed the formation of the *Khalsa* and fashioned the nation of Sikhs.

Mike Johnson

### **September 2022: ST. STEPHENS CHURCH, SNEINTON**

Twelve members of our group visited St. Stephen's Church, Sneinton. Where we were given a warm welcome by the Reverend John Blakeley and parishioner, Gillian who narrated a potted history, then conducted a tour of the church.

St. Stephen's Church is the parish church of St. Stephen with St. Matthias (formerly St. Stephen with St. Alban.) Located on one of the oldest religious sites in Nottingham, it is possible that a place of worship existed here in Saxon times, serving the inhabitant of Sneinton, then a separate village from Nottingham. Documents show the parish was under the control of Lenton Priory, supplying priest from its Cluniac order to service the church, and transference of land in Sneinton from William Peveril to the Priory about 1103 – 1108. Lenton Priory was dissolved in 1537 during the dissolution under King Henry VIII. During this unsettled time the church was regarded as a Chapel of St. Mary's Church, Nottingham's Mother Church, located within sight of St. Stephen's.

In 1558, a storm said to have been of "cyclonic power" raged in Sneinton killing several men and a child and damaging the church. The bells were deposited outside the churchyard, however the font stayed put. There are no records saying that a new church was built, so it assumed the fabric of the church was repairable. At that time maps show the church was located in the southeast corner of the site.

The second church was built in 1790, located on the original footprint. Owing to expansion of the population, in 1810, it was decided to build a larger church, using brick instead of stone.

In 1838 the then incumbent, Rev. Whyatt, also a curate at St. Mary's, engaged architects to build a new larger church.

The construction of the present church was begun in 1908, It was originally planned to completely rebuild the church, but proving to expensive, plans were altered, including the incorporation of the tower.

Mike Johnson

*For a more full history of the church, visit the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project website.*

### **October 2022: ST. MARY & ALL SAINTS, BINGHAM**

Twelve members of our group visited St. Mary and All Saints Church, Bingham.

Bingham, then spelled "Bingheham" is mentioned in the Domesday Book as part of lordship of Roger de Busli, but there is no mention of a church. However 1291, it is documented "Bingameshou" being ecclesiastically important of the "Bingham Deanery", suggesting a church

was founded shortly after 1086. In around 1225, the first known Rector of Bingham (name uncertain) began the building of the current church, known as All Saints' Church, starting with lowest part of the tower.

The building work on the church continued through the 13th century and into the 14th. The rest of the tower, together with the main building, were added over a period of 100 years. In less of 100 years after the original church was completed, a further wave of building took place, this time in association the new lords of the manor, the Rempstones, who replaced the now impoverished de Bingham family.

Sir Thomas Rempstone was almost responsible for founding a Guild of St. Mary in the church in 1400, employing a priest to pray for the new king (Henry IV (1399 – 1413)) and his family.

The effect of the Reformation on the church was minimal, although one of the reforms was the dissolution of the Guild of St. Mary, in 1553 its guildhall and assets were granted by the Crown to Thomas Reeve and George Cotton. During the Commonwealth, the Norman font was thrown out of the church, being replaced by a new one in 1663 after the Restoration.

In the 18th century Farming life was beginning to be modernised producing a greater income for the parson in the form of "tithes", resulting in Bingham as the richest parish in Nottinghamshire, based on the value of the tithes, "glebe land" (which the rector farmed himself) and other income.

In the late 19th century the church was unofficially named "St. Mary and All Saints", but the name didn't take hold until around 1950, and is now often shortened to "St. Marys".

*For a full history of the church go the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project Website.*