

Cathedral Echo



News and views from the Minster

Easter 1989

Floral view a real delight

EASTER daffodils outside the Cathedral are made even lovelier this year by the emergence of the building's east end from its veil of scaffolding.

The scaffolding has been in position for at least five years during which time restoration work has been carried out on the east aisle windows.

During this time the medieval stained glass was removed and sent to the Canterbury Glaziers'

Trust where it was reset into new lead.

On its return to Lincoln it was replaced in its original position, but this time double-glazed not with familiar sheets of glass but with clear glass panels cut to match the stained-glass shapes behind them.

"There is no evidence to the naked eye that the windows have been double-glazed.

"But it is hoped it will protect

the precious stained glass from the effects of the elements for many hundreds of years," said Mark Dicken, co-ordinator of the Cathedral's Fabric Fund.

It has taken five years to complete the project for just two windows positioned on either side of the great east window.

Plans are now in hand to carry out similar restoration and protection work on other precious stained-glass windows in the Cathedral.



• A spectacular view of the Cathedral's east end

Preparing for a new challenge

CATHEDRAL staff are busy preparing for the May installation of the Dean-elect, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, who says he is just itching to arrive and get on with the job.

At present he is Provost of Bradford Cathedral which, he explained is the same as a Dean but in a parish church Cathedral rather than one of the ancient foundations such as Lincoln.

Provost Jackson said he was completely overwhelmed when he received the letter asking him to consider becoming Dean of Lincoln.

Keeping

"I was just wondering who would take over from Oliver Fiennes when the letter arrived from number 10 asking me if I would consider it," he said.

At first, Provost Jackson had been reluctant. But after he and his wife Mary came to

Lincoln and met the Bishop and his wife they changed their minds and are now both looking forward to it very much.

He is already anticipating Lincoln will be entirely different from Bradford where he has spent the past 11 years.

"Bradford has an enormous population and has suffered enormous unemployment through the contraction of the wool industry of which it is still the centre.

"From what I have seen of Lincoln, I anticipate it will be a much slower pace of life although I don't really know what that means," he said.

Before we went to Bradford, Provost Jackson was vicar of St Peter's Church in Shipley for 12 years.

Born in Cheshire he has spent all his working life in Yorkshire starting as a curate at St George's in Leeds where he worked among

tramps and university students.

From there he went to Shipley where he also worked for Yorkshire Television for 10 years, as well as keeping up his parish work.

He and his wife, Mary, have three children: Tim (29) who works as a butler at Buckingham Palace; Robert (27) who is married and who has followed his father into the church; and Sarah (24), a nurse who is also married and with her doctor husband hoping to work for the Church Missionary Society for three years.

Unlike the Dean Emeritus, the Very Rev Oliver Fiennes the Dean-elect and his wife will not be living in the Deanery.

"We came to look at it and we honestly didn't know how they managed to live there all these years. It is so huge and cold," he explained.

Instead they will be living in Minster Yard until a house next to the Bishop's is ready for them.

Provost Jackson said he was looking forward to his installation on May 12. "I am itching to get on with the job. My guess is I will be particularly concerned with holding the whole team together."

Angle

Speaking of how he would feel taking over from a Dean who had filled the position for 20 years, he said: "I have to fill his shoes in the sense that I am the new Dean. But I do feel very inadequate.

"However, we are very different and I will be approaching the job from a different angle so it will be difficult to compare us."

Despite his initial reluctance to take the post, Provost Jackson and his wife are now very excited about the prospect.

"I am looking forward to demonstrating the relevance of the Christian Gospel to a city which is so dominated by the physical stature of the Cathedral itself," he said.

Minster comes out of the dark

AS dusk falls on Easter Day, a city council engineer will alter all the timeswitches on the Cathedral's floodlighting. This will enable the building to be illuminated after the long darkness of Lent.

Switching on the lights, which are arranged in banks of 10 or 12, has to be staggered. This helps to reduce the burden on the local electricity supply.



• Larry Dickens and Medina Hammad selecting exhibits to be put on display in the North Transept.

Exhibition idea proves a winner

SPRINGTIME visitors to the Cathedral are all benefiting from an idea thought up by Bailgate butcher, Larry Dickens.

Mr Dickens suggested he should make a donation to the Cathedral which could be used as a contribution towards funding a programme by which today's city and county children became the well-informed adults of tomorrow.

Now the ideal has come to fruition with an exhibition of children's art taking place in the North Transept between now and the end of April.

As well as Mr Dickens's donation, additional funding, was obtained through the Cathedral's Preservation Council, Lincolnshire and Humberside

Arts and local sponsors to fund resident artists, Medina Hammad, to work on the Cathedral Awareness Campaign.

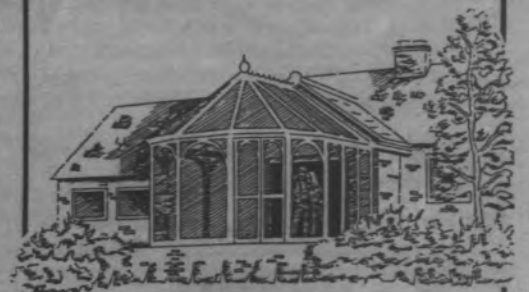
Miss Hammad's enthusiasm took her into numerous schools and colleges in the county. Scholars and students in turn visited the Cathedral where they experienced its imposing presence at first hand.

The result of this work is the exhibition of paintings and pottery which completely fills the North Transept.

The exhibition was opened by the Archdeacon, the Ven Christopher Lawrence, and children from William Farr School at Welton and Dunholme Primary School provided entertainment

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● Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln from 1885-1910

Picture tribute to kind bishop

AT Grantham in May 1907 when Bishop King dedicated the Church of St Anne a 16-year-old apprentice photographer, Walter Lee, had been instructed by his employer to obtain a picture.

The equipment needed at that time was, of course, somewhat cumbersome and was set up outside the parish room where the Bishop was to proceed after the service.

It came on to rain and the Bishop was ushered quickly into the hall.

However, he had seen the camera and smiled at Walter, saying: "I think I would like my photograph taken" and stood in the pouring rain to enable the youngster to get his "scoop".

At the time the Bishop was 78 and after his death in 1910 the photograph was reproduced as a postcard. It has been used to illustrate a number of books.

There are many stories of Edward King's kindness and in earlier times there can be little doubt that he would have become another Lincolnshire Saint.

Fulfilling key role in diocese link with people

by
Judy Theobald

WHEN you are admiring the splendid sight of the Cathedral it is easy to forget it is still the centre of a large and busy diocese.

Behind the medieval facade of many of its buildings there is a huge modern office system consisting of accountants, lawyers and secretaries all involved in the day-to-day running of this diocese.

Linking this bureaucracy to the people it serves, are the three Archdeacons of Lindsey, Lincoln and Stowe. Of these, the Archdeacon of Lindsey actually lives in the shadow of the Cathedral.

The Ven Christopher Lawrence has held the position of Archdeacon of Lindsey for the past five years.

A parish priest for 19 years and previously involved with in-service training for clergy, taking up this job was, he said, like coming from the front to the back end of the horse.

Constant

"In the beginning of the church they found they needed someone to look after the administration of the diocese and this was the Archdeacon's job.

"Nowadays, because there are so many rules and regulations involved with employment and buildings, not only do I need the constant back-up of the secretariat, I must also keep swotting up myself all the time," explained Mr Lawrence.

The Archdeaconry of Lincoln covers the south part of the diocese and the Archdeaconry of Stowe covers the north west. Mr Lawrence said the Lindsey area ran from south of the Humber to the bottom of the Wolds.

"In my area there are about 224 churches and 80

clergymen. My place of work is not in the Cathedral but out in the parishes so I am known as the 'almost always absent Archdeacon,' he said.

In his role he is responsible along with the Bishop for appointing clergy within his Archdeaconry.

"While the Bishop is looking at the candidate from a pastoral point of view, I have to be working out if the vicarage will be big enough for his family," he explained.

The Archdeacon is also involved when things go wrong. When there are disputes or when parishes have got into difficulties with their accounts, then he has to step in and try to sort out what has happened.

"It is at times like these when it helps that I am another clergyman because it enables me to understand how problems occur at parish level," he said.

As churches are exempt from statutory planning reg-

ulations, it is also his responsibility to approve any plans for alterations to church buildings. It's an approval which leads to the granting of an Archdeacon's Certificate an essential requirement before any work can begin.

Running

Again, although he has advisers in this area, over the past five years he has also had to acquire a great deal of knowledge himself and is now not only conversant with many modern building regulations, he is familiar with medieval building terms as well.

Although he lives very near the Cathedral he is not directly involved with its day-to-day running.

"As a canon, when I am in residence I am responsible for what goes on in the Cathedral and must be present at all the services.

"I also have to welcome groups of people coming into the Cathedral and during my period of residence I am in charge and am the person to whom people refer if they have any queries.

"It does help that I am part



● The almost always absent Archdeacon, the Ven Christopher Lawrence

of the Cathedral without having any direct involvement. Because I have no vested interest in any specific part of the Cathedral's daily life I am able to bring an impartial point of view to meetings."

A fourth generation Lincolnshire clergyman, he spent many years in a Scunthorpe parish before moving to his last job in London. But he still has great affection for the county.

"There are so many medieval churches throughout

the county often with tiny congregations but it is amazing to see what lengths these congregations are prepared to go to keep their churches alive.

"They are marvellously loyal and desperately anxious about the future of their churches."

As well as enjoying his work out in the wilds of the Archdeaconry, Canon Lawrence also loves being part of the Cathedral.

"It is a wonderful community and I am very happy to belong to it," he said.

Fond memories of a great saint stand the test of time

ALTHOUGH 800 years have passed since the death of Gilbert of Sempringham, he is still remembered as a very great English saint.

Gilbert had a great sense of partnership and his community, a mixed order of men and women, was the only religious community founded by an Englishman in the middle ages.

According to a spokesman for the Gilbert of Sempringham Commemoration committee, at present there is very little memorial to him.

"The village in which he was born, where his father was squire and where he was parish priest, is under the fields as is the greater part of the mother house of his order.

"It is proposed to mark this year with a memorial to St Gilbert on the exterior of the church at Sempringham. This will involve a sculpture and inscription commemorating the fact that this lonely place was once the mainspring of a holy life and a religious community," he said.

An increasing number of pilgrims are making their way to Sempringham and in recent years the Oblates of St Gilbert have been formed among Catholics and Anglicans in Nottingham and Lincoln.

Contemporary potter, Robin Welch, has made splendid pots for the Gilbert corner for prayer in the Cathedral.

People who would like to make a contribution towards the memorial which will be a focal point for pilgrimages are invited to contact the committee's treasurer, Mr Eric Iredale, 9 Fen Road, Pointon, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Cheques should be made payable to the St Gilbert Appeal.

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Lower voices lay foundation for choral delights

Musical dedication by men of the choir

CHORAL Evensong in a Cathedral. What could be more quintessentially English than that.

The timelessness of the daily round of psalms, the almost tangible atmosphere of prayer, praise and devotion are all exemplified and articulated by the soaring sounds of our Cathedral choirs.

Thoughts turn first to the almost-angelic boys whose clear treble voices give such clarity of sound — so transparent yet strong. It is sometimes hard to remember that the sounds emanate from rumbustious rugby-playing boys who, for five years or so, give their lives to the service of the Church.

But without the lower voices — bass, tenor and alto — there would be no foundation on which the boys could build.

It is to these men, the lay vicars, our attentions now turn.

Ability

Lincoln's lay vicars, numbering ten or a dozen, are also devoted to their lives of music but secondarily to their normal work.

There is a schoolteacher, an archivist, an insurance broker and local government officer among the stipendiary (paid, but not much) and supernumerary (voluntary) men.

They have two things in common — a love of Cathedral music and the ability to be at the Cathedral by 5.15 pm each week day. They also give up much time at weekends to ensure the proper performance of the Cathedral's round of worship.

The notion of a lay vicar

seems to be a contradiction in terms. After all, a vicar is a priest who, by virtue of being an ordained minister cannot be a layman.

But this idea leaves much to be desired. Our word vicar comes from the Latin word 'vicare' which means literally a substitute.

Occasions

Your parish priest, therefore, is almost certainly a substitute for a rector who, in days gone by, derived his living, probably, from glebe lands.

But today's choir men are substitutes for the medieval clerks who sang church services in centuries past. Often they were priests. So our modern-day lay vicars are, literally, non-ordained substitutes for clerks — ie lay vicars.

As they perform their duties from choice, it is quite certain that they derive great satisfaction from their work and it is to this sense of obligation that tribute must be paid in admiring the exceptional standards of performance now expected of cathedral choirs.

The BBC regularly broadcasts Choral Evensong on radio from our great cathedrals. Lincoln usually provides two such occasions each year.

Not only does a cathedral choir sound good, they look good too. They are, corporately, an important part in the performance of the liturgy. No cathedral procession would look the same without the formality of the "uniform" of the three dozen or so choir members.



Lincoln's lay vicars . . . fulfilling a vital role

Facts appeal helps solve bell mystery

by John Ketteringham

THROUGH the medium of a Chapter letter I recently asked if anyone could help me to trace the history of the small bell which hangs in an elaborate wrought-iron framework on the North East pillar supporting the Central Tower.

Cecil Jollands who was, of course, until recently Chapter clerk supplied me with enough information to put me on the right track. And the following is the result.

In the early 1920s a number of attempts were made to find a purchaser for Sudbrooke Holme, a large country house which was situated about five miles from Lincoln on the road to Wragby.

Unfortunately a buyer wasn't found and the house which had been built by Robert Ellison around 1759 was pulled down in 1928.

The contents of the house were sold during the previous year and a newspaper report of December 10 1927 on the auction states that: "Two old call bells were sold for £10."

It goes on to report the sale of four pairs of wrought iron gates. A picture of these gates suggests that a bell was hung in the metal work of each of the main gates. The prices realised at the auction for the gates confirms that there were two main gates which were sold for £95 and two small side gates (£14.10s and £20).

Auction

It appears that the gates had only been erected in 1910 and were made by Frederick Coldron and Son, ecclesiastical and artistic iron workers and blacksmiths of Brant Broughton.

Both bells were purchased by Robert Godfrey, clerk of works at the Cathedral who in 1924 had bought the Lodge of Sudbrooke Holme.

At a sale by auction on May 10, 1947 of a number of items from Sudbrooke Lodge

there appears "a Coldron hand wrought floral gate bell and bracket." The bell is now used as a signal to visitors that the Cathedral is about to close for the night.

If anyone has any knowledge of the whereabouts of the other bell I would be pleased to hear from them.



The call bell in its position at the Cathedral.

Minster extends welcome to new Canon



Canon Brian Halfpenny

LINCOLN Cathedral has just welcomed its newest Canon, the Ven Brian Halfpenny, Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force.

Canon Halfpenny was installed to the unendowed Prebend and Canonry of St Botolph. In medieval times the prebends were lands set aside in the diocese which the canons farmed in order to make their living.

Relating to places as far away as Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire, they give some indication of the size of the diocese in medieval times.

According to a spokesman for the Cathedral, there have always been strong links between the RAF and Lincoln Cathedral.

"During the last war the Cathedral was often a landmark used by pilots returning from Germany with damaged instruments and it saved a great many lives," he said.

Canon Halfpenny's duties will include taking services during his period of residence plus a daily recitation of the two psalms designated for his prebend duty.



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Churches of St Nicholas and St John the Baptist join forces to se

Playing key role within a thriving community

SERVING the 7,000 residents of the Ermine East and West Estates, the Stores Park Estate and the new Becksides development is the parish church of St John the Baptist.

Its vicar, the Rev, Mike Cooney, who has been in the parish for four years, said despite their apparent newness, some parts of the estates were 38 years old and many people living there now represent three generations of the same family.

"It's also a very nice area. I was really surprised when I came here at how nicely the gardens had been kept and how well-maintained the homes were compared with other inner-city estates I have seen in places like Coventry and Birmingham," he said.

The congregation of the church is also thriving. "At Christmas, 20 percent of the local population came through the door of the church which is a very large number of people," he added.

Welcome

Before Mr Cooney came to the parish, he was at the Church of St Hugh's at Scunthorpe and before that he was in an inner city parish in Coventry.

"The people here have been very warm and welcoming to both me and my wife and family," he said. "This really is a wonderful place to be and we are very lucky to live here."

Mr Cooney sees his church as being very much part of the local community. "I have always taken the view that it is not the job of the church to be an alternative society.

"It is our job to recognise that the Holy Spirit



● The Rev Mike Cooney with his wife, Mary, and children Clare, Paul and baby Frances outside St John the Baptist Church

does not only work through the church, but through all sorts of different channels and has often been to places long before the church has got there, he said.

When this has happened, I see it as our job as a church to give support. For example, there is an excellent group catering for the needs of the over 50s — the 50 Plus Club.

"It would be ridiculous to set up our own old

people's club but we can encourage our people to become involved with the existing one.

This kind of support extends to individual members of the congregation.

People who have become involved in local charity work are encouraged by the church in both spiritual and practical terms through fundraising events.

One church organisation which is thriving is the Mothers Union. At a time when in many parishes MU membership is dwindling, St John's has a thriving branch with, in some cases, four generations of the same family and even a few men.

As well as the church, there is also a community centre in Ermine West which is used once a month for a communion service and Mr Cooney said they were always seeking new uses for the community centre which would be of benefit to the local community.

Great

"If you have a building like this it is a waste of resources to leave it unused, particularly as there is a willingness on the part of the congregation to share the buildings," he explained.

One of the groups which the church is currently considering forming is one for mothers and toddlers. "I have 100 baptisms a year so I think there is a very great need for something extra for young families in the area," said Mr Cooney.

Mr Cooney is well able to understand the needs of young families. With his wife, Mary, and children Paul, Clare and baby Frances, he is very much a family man himself.

Uphill parishes

AT the beginning of March, two lively church Uphill parishes joined forces to become a group ministry. This Parish Profile looks at the life of

Help sp in divi of work

ONE of the advantages of the two churches forming a group ministry is they are now able to share between them Andrew Wilkinson, a Church Army captain.

At 22, Andrew believes he is the youngest member of the Church Army and the youngest minister in the Church of England.

Working for the two parishes is his first post since leaving college and is considered as a training position.

Having a member of the Church Army working in the parish can be a little confusing for many people who are not aware of the organisation's work.

"The Church Army was started in 1881, mainly because the Salvation Army had shamed the Church of England with the king of evangelism it was doing at street level," he said.

Growing

"The Church of England had become complacent about its position in society," explained Andrew.

It was Wilson Carlisle who realised the Church of England was doing nothing at street level and who believed it should be showing the love of God in a practical way, something which Church Army officers are still doing to this day.

Despite its Victorian origins, Andrew said the Church Army is a growing organisation so great are the needs of people in the latter part of the 20th century.

And despite, or even because of, our current prosperity, Andrew sees these needs as being pressing as they ever have been,



● Andrew Wilkins appealing to young people of parish through Church Army.

particularly among the young. "There is everything for young people now including many things which are not good for them like drugs. And the pressures are enormous.

"I have chosen to work young people because I think there is a great need for help," explained Andrew.

The three-year training Andrew received took him to the Rhine Army in Germany, soldiers stationed in Ireland and also to do work in Jersey.

But he is not in Lincoln as a youth worker. He

Prime example of a rare gem

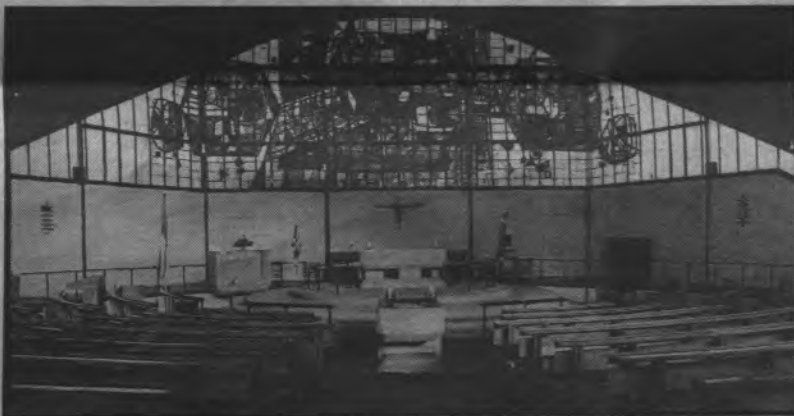
IN a county whose churches are gems of medieval architecture, St John the Baptist's church in Lincoln's Sudbrooke Drive stands out as a rarity.

Built just 25 years ago, it is still one of the newest churches in Lincoln and a classic of its time.

"We often get parties of people who have been to see the Cathedral, coming to see our church afterwards as it is such a complete contrast," said the Rev Mike Cooney, vicar of St John's.

The church was built in 1963 to meet the needs of the expanding Ermine Estates which had started life 10 years earlier and whose residents had previously used a local school and the existing church hall for worship.

Local architect, Sam



● A classic of 60s architecture — the inside of St John the Baptist's church, Ermine East.

Scorer, designed the church which is based on a circular pattern and intended to resemble a tent, symbolic of

man's nomadic passage through life.

The pews in the church also follow the circular pattern and as the floor slopes, like a cinema not only does everyone get an excellent

view of the altar, pulpit and font, they also get an excellent view of each other.

"It means people become very involved with each other and with the service and don't sit in the sort of isolation you

get in conventional pews," said Mr Cooney.

In fitting with the style of their time, the altar, pulpit and font are made of concrete with the altar set on a circular concrete plinth enabling the congregation to get round it during the communion service.

On the front of the pulpit, which also doubles as the lectern, is a sword. A proper military sword it symbolises the sword of the spirit of the word of God, referred to in St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the church is made of polished wooden planks which curve in a great span right down to floor level on both sides, emphasising the tent-like feel of the church.

Dominating the whole building is the east window which is described in more detail on the back page of this supplement.

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minister of the church and in this capacity is able to take some services. He helps out regularly at others.

He also attends local schools to take assemblies — with the help of Wilfred the racoon who is always welcomed by the younger children.

In the parish, his work involves him with the Tuesday Coffee Bar which meets in the Ermine West Community Centre run by the Lincoln Youth for Christ organisation. He is also involved with the monthly Christian music and drama concert for young people.

Workshops

"Something which I would like to see happening later in the year is a special all-night youth event, taking place in one of the churches," he said.

The event would include music and drama, art and writing workshops. The young people taking part would also be given a meal.

"There's always something very exciting about staying up all night when you are young. And this way, people will be given something constructive to do as well," he said.

Although there is a uniform to go with the job and Andrew's official title is "captain," he tends to play down both of these.

"I much prefer my Church Army sweatshirts or just an ordinary suit," he said. "I think it makes you far more approachable."

He is also very sure of the message he is trying to bring across.

"I want people to realise church doesn't have to be boring. You can have a good time and find out about God's love as well."

Vicar settles in at lively family parish

ON FEBRUARY 23 this year, the congregation welcomed its 12th vicar, the Rev Brian Wisken, who came to the parish having spent 13 years in Cleethorpes where he was team Rector to three churches.

Although he has only been in the parish a few weeks, Canon Wisken said he has found St Nicholas to be a lively family church having one of the largest quotas in Lincoln.

Active

The parish covers a large area of Lincoln's Uphill district and once served the Ermine area which is now St John the Baptist's parish.

"The congregation is very active and we also have an excellent mixed choir of both adults and children," said Canon Wisken.

"We also have many groups connected with the church — a Mothers' Union and Women's fellowship,



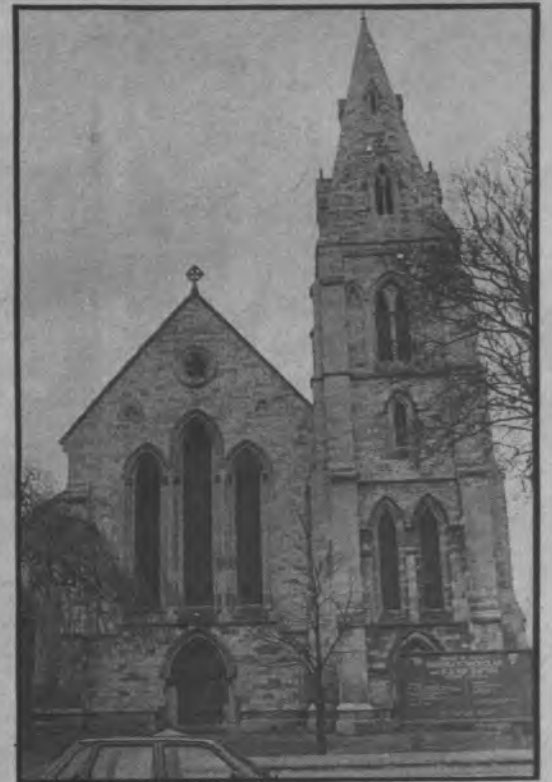
• Canon Wisken and his wife, Margaret, following his induction at St Nicholas' Church, Newport.

together with the uniformed organisations.

"The PCC also has various committees — the mission committee, educational and worship committee and a social committee so it is a

fairly active spread.

For reasons of history, Canon Wisken said the church had the unusual number of four church wardens, the normal number being two.



• St Nicholas Church in Newport.

Church built to fill void

COMPLETE heathens or violent sectarian bigots, were how the people of Newport were described by the Lincolnshire Advertiser in 1835.

The reason for this "crying evil" was put down to the rapid expansion of the local community which had not been met by the building of a church.

And following letters and articles in the local papers decrying the lack of a church or chapel in the town of Newport, workmen started on the present St Nicholas Church in 1839.

On November 20, 1840, the church was consecrated and immediately attracted large congregations. The new church consisted of a nave,

with a south aisle and a south west tower and broach spire.

It was erected by Mr (later Sir) George Gilbert Scott and was in the early English style.

Tradition

At the outset, it had no proper chancel, this being added in 1909 at which time the north aisle was added.

In true Victorian tradition, it is a large church and can accommodate up to 500 people plus a very large choir which is fortunate as the present vicar, Canon Brian Wisken, said the church still has a thriving congregation, attracting as many as 200 people to the 10 am communion service on Sunday.

Records reveal facts from 1210

ST NICHOLAS' Church in Newport was built in 1840, but according to Canon Wisken, records show there have been vicars of St Nicholas' Church since 1210.

"The original St Nicholas' Church was situated just outside Newport Arch.

As St Nicholas is the patron saint of travellers, it was the church at which people prayed for guidance and protection before they set out into the wild Lincolnshire countryside," he explained.

Canon Wisken added that many St Nicholas' Churches were set along side the main travelling routes and were for the benefit of pilgrims.



• All that remains of the old St Nicholas church on the corner of Newport and Church Lane.

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Weather takes toll on an ancient stone figure



● Feeling the worse for wear — the original angel which had to be removed for safety's sake.



● The source of stone which provided the raw material for the replacement.



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Tracing birth of new angel

HIGH on a pinnacle of the Cathedral's south east transept for hundreds of years a medieval stone angel looked out over the growing city of Lincoln spread out below.

As with so much of the Cathedral's external stonework, the ravages of time and the elements — not least in the form of acid rain — took their toll and in the interests of safety, the angel had to be taken down to make way for a replacement.

The carving of a new angel is a work of great art with skill even being needed to select the piece of stone to be used.

According to Mark Dicken, co-ordinator of the Cathedral's fabric fund, a suitable piece of limestone was found among the treasure trove of beautiful stone discovered when British Rail unearthed the old high level diverting line.

The Cathedral then commissioned artist-sculptor, John Roberts, to carve the angel and the three-ton piece of stone was then transported to the railway-arch premises at King's Cross in London where Mr Roberts works.

Speaking of his work on the project Mr Roberts said: "The hardest part was the first roughing out. It was physically hard work reducing the bulk of the stone and you have to get the measurements absolutely right at this stage. It can be very nerve wracking."

As well as examining and measuring the original statue, Mr Roberts studied similar angels in Westminster Abbey and Wells Cathedral.

At this stage, the Cathedral's own stonemasons started expressing an enthusiastic interest in the emerging work of art and it was decided to take the half-completed angel back to Lincoln with the request that Mr Roberts complete the task in the Works Yard.

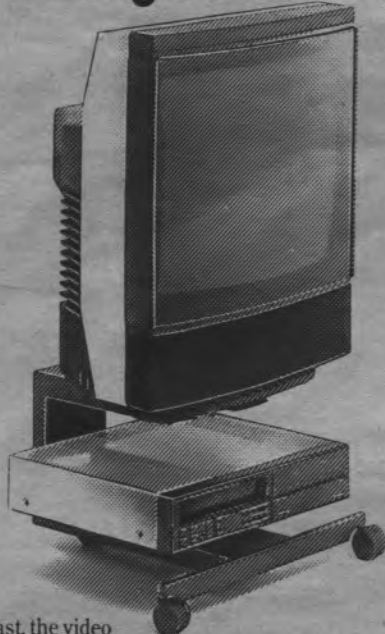
By the end of January the work was complete and the two angels were placed side-by-side in the Cathedral affording the opportunity to appreciate the sheer artistry which goes into such work.

The original angel will now be taking a well-earned retirement in comfort in one of the Cathedral's repositories



● Roughing out the piece of stone — the angel begins to emerge in John Roberts's King's Cross workshop

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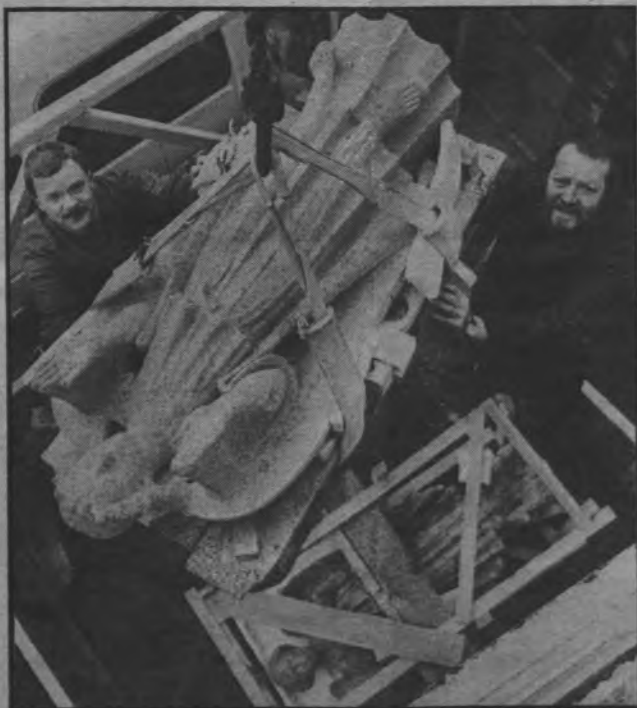
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Six-week visit puts focus on churches in Detroit

An illuminating experience

MACK Avenue in the U.S. runs for miles. It begins at the heart of a scarred city-scape and runs north west through Detroit's sprawling metropolis to disappear through Seven Mile, Eight Mile, Fourteen Mile and Twenty-three Mile as it stretches beyond the suburban hinterland.

Mack Avenue is where Henry Ford's first factory stood. Now it starts next to the Detroit Institute of Art's Ford wing and runs past the huge Harper Medical Centre to skirt the Eastern Market before it enters a dreary area of burnt out houses, decaying buildings and dilapidated warehouses ("demolished by

by
Canon Rex Davis

neglect" says the stencilled sign).

Then come the store-front churches and greater Gothic buildings now empty or occupied by newly formed black churches. To its right for 10 blocks or more all has gone, cleared for a new Chrysler plant stretching twenty blocks towards the river.

Then the background changes. More churches, but also a sinister feel of something else — the "crack houses" and signs of the

drug culture.

Beyond Alter Street, another change as Mack becomes the western boundary of "the Pointes" — a set of model suburbs between Mack Avenue and Lake St Clair.

Commentary

The big automobile dealers, the clutter of fast food outlets, the elegant shops and then at Eight Mile Road, a huge six-lane highway running seemingly to infinity, the scene changes.

Mack becomes the American dream, mile after mile of flag bedecked shopping plazas, mall, restaurants. Mack Avenue is both a running history of Detroit and a social commentary on it.

Some say Detroit's decline began in the depression years; others with the 1966-1967 riots; others with the huge guttered freeways which criss-cross the metropolitan sprawl; others in the extraordinary development of shopping malls which accelerated the flight to the suburbs.

Grosse Pointe is the summit of the suburban reality of the United States. Acres of squared blocks of

substantial houses, mansions even, with the feel of middle class respectability, well-being and security. The churches are strong, lively and white.

Spending six weeks as the ecumenical ministry couple in a major Presbyterian Church there was an illuminating experience. The congregation of 2,700 people is cared for by a staff of four pastors and 22 others.

It supports many programmes. Among these is the work of the Outreach Council. This helps mission programmes and also projects in the inner city, tow of which I visited.

At Fort Street Presbyterian Church, with its replica of the spire of St James Church, Louth, the "open door" programme provides meals and care for 500 people every Thursday.

The "crossroads" programme is run in association with the Episcopal Church.

One of the larger and more cohesive "store-front" congregations is also supported by Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. The East Side Emergency Centre is run by the Rev Ann Johnston, a pastor who shares a ministry with her husband in a former Lutheran Church.

The centre offers meals to 300 people a day; it runs a refuge centre for 35 women and children as well as a

dormitory for 16 men. The social programme helps with health problems, finding jobs and looking for accommodation.

The chronic conditions of thousands of homeless and poor in Detroit is an alarming reality as it is in many American cities. It is a frightening reality.

While many may lament the "suburban captivity of the churches" it struck me that in a concrete way the churches, like Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, have

taken seriously the need to build coalitions with the inner city churches which are at the front line of meeting the needs of the poor and homeless so well.

Importance

One crisis the city of Detroit faces is the decision of the Roman Catholic Archbishop to close 30 inner city churches. The sense of alarm, indeed, outrage, this has caused indicates something of the importance the churches have achieved,

even with tiny congregations, in establishing a real presence in social terms in the heart of the city.

A city in crisis recognises the substance of that church presence.

Six weeks, in meetings, at committees, sharing in worship and preaching, speaking at any number of sessions and discovering something of the inner life of the Presbyterian Church in a large and lively congregation is a rich ecumenical experience.



• Speaking on spirituality at the East Georgian Centre for elderly people.



• Canon Rex Davis, subdean of the Cathedral speaking with chairman of the nomination committee, John Williams

Wide variety of craft skills

LIKE the painting of the Forth Bridge, the work of maintaining, restoring and conserving Lincoln Cathedral is never ending.

But there the similarity ends. For Forth Bridge painters the work is always the same — painting steel. Boredom born of repetition is their greatest enemy.

But never could Lincoln Cathedral's craftsmen feel bored. Not only is their work inherently satisfying as they toil to preserve what is arguably the finest example of European medieval Christian architecture, but such is the variety of the tasks they tackle that new challenges confront them virtually daily.

The Minister's master masons are presently at work in three areas: The West Front, the South East Transept and the Chapter House.

On the West Front, the renewal of the stones of the parapet is complete and attention is now being turned to the conservation of the arcading and the sculptures.

The word conservation causes confusion. What does it really mean? As applied to buildings, the consensus of opinion is that the process of conserving a piece of architecture is that of preserving it in its present state for all time.

"Time-freezing" might be a fair description. Rather than renewing or replacing, a conservator applies techniques of skill and materials to ensure that no further deterioration will take place and that the structure remains safe and sound.

Revealed

It is a technique in relative infancy though one where great advances are being made almost daily — some of the techniques of 20 years ago have been discredited, but more have now proved their worth in the test of time.

Pinnacle S of the South East Transept has been restored and is all set to receive its new carved angel which is described elsewhere in this issue.

At the Chapter House repairs continue to the flying buttresses and the pinnacles: while much winter work is performed in

workshops, all will be revealed in the summer as the winter-carved stone is fixed in place.

The carpenters, too, are busy. The west face of the South West Transept roof has been extensively repaired. Rafters, wall plates and collars (tie beams) have all received attention as necessary and new close-boarding will cover the roof in the next two months.

New sheet lead can then be fitted and a further chapter in the history of Lincoln's roof repairs will draw to a close.

As ever, there is work to windows. Glass deteriorates, lead de-natures and stone shatters. A weather eye is kept on all windows: in some ways they are the most vulnerable parts of the building as deterioration can be virtually unseen though only evident when a sudden gale causes irreparable damage.

Lovely

The responsibilities of the Cathedral architect, surveyor and clerk of works, Dr John Bailey, extend far beyond the Cathedral itself. Most of the houses within the Minster's immediate vicinity belong to the Dean and Chapter.

The craftsmen's workshops are little altered since Victorian times though a programme has recently begun to modernise, extend and thus optimise the limited space available.

The conversion of a house into offices will free accommodation for the carpenters and an extended glazing shop is envisaged to enable the largest Cathedral windows to be repaired in Lincoln Glass, medieval especially, does not travel well.

No account of the maintenance of Lincoln Cathedral would be complete without a word of thanks to all who support the Fabric Fund and thereby make the work possible. To all in Lincoln, in the Diocese of Lincoln (the counties of Lincolnshire and South Humberside) and throughout the world who contribute to the fund's coffers, the Dean and Chapter is indeed truly grateful.

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Dedicated band of needlewomen keeps eye on fabrics

Team fights wear and tear

TUESDAY morning visitors to the Cathedral have recently been perplexed by the sound of heavenly voices coming from above their heads.

But rather than coming from a celestial source, the voices belong to the Vestment Restoration Group, a dedicated band of needlewomen which meets every week above the nave in the triforium.

According to Margaret Leyland, a member of the 14-strong team, it was formed 14 months ago to tackle the huge amount of restoration work needed on both vestments and altar furnishings.

The main aim is to counteract the effects of wear and tear on some of the Cathedral's precious fabrics.

Most of the wear has been to the metal threads incorporated into many of the designs. And once a month, Jean Wells — a professional metal thread embroiderer from Leicester — comes to the Cathedral for a day to oversee the repair work.

The thread used for this work consists of fine silver or gold wrapped round a central thread. Because of this construction it is extremely fragile.

Rather than sewing it through the fabric, it

by Judy Theobald

must be attached to the surface with silk threads — a technique known as couching.

The group has mostly been sewing for the servers, making albs — the white overgarment which they wear — and amices and apparels which are the neck cloths.

Their latest project is the restoration of a 100-year old altar frontal — a task which they began in February at the beginning of Lent and which must be completed by the first Sunday after Trinity in June.

"It is very cold working in the triforium, but it does mean there is enough space for us all to sit round the work when it is spread out.

"The works department has loaned us four halogen lamps. Not only do they provide us with plenty of light, they also serve to make us a little warmer," said Mrs Leyland.

But even when this current project is finished and the altar frontal is restored to its usual position, the Vestment Restoration Group will not be able to rest.

"Before she left, Mrs Juliet Fiennes, wife of the Dean Emeritus, and I got together and made a list of the work which needed doing. From what we can see, there's enough to keep us going for years," she said.



● Jean Wells (standing) overseeing the restoration of the precious 100-year-old altar frontal

Focus on futuristic design



● The dominant stained glass window

Window with giant impact

PEOPLE entering St John the Baptist Church in Lincoln's Ermine East for the first time are always amazed by the stained-glass east window which dominates the circular building.

According to the vicar, the Rev Mike Cooney, people either like it or loathe it. But they can't ignore it and everyone has their own interpretation of what it means.

To help people understand the futuristic window, visitors to the church are handed cards explaining the ideas behind the design.

It was designed by Keith New and installed in the

church when it was built in 1963. The theme of the window is the revelation of God's plan for man's redemption.

The central section, dominated by the crimson shapes, represents the Holy Trinity. The two small circular shapes — on the extreme right and left represent the open eyes of God and signify the revealed will of God in the incarnation of Christ — "the word made flesh."

The shape on the immediate right of the centrepiece with a green background, represents the nativity of Christ and the shape on the immediate left of the centrepiece, with a blue background, represents Christ's baptism.



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