

## Tour of St Edmund's Church, Roundhay



Photo courtesy of Leeds Photographic Society

## 1. Entering by the North Porch.

St Edmund's is a large grade II listed building consecrated in 1909.

In the later years of the 19th century the area west of Roundhay Park from Oakwood to Street Lane was being developed residentially but there were no places of worship and for members of the Church of England their parish church was St John the Evangelist at Moor Allerton 2 miles away.

Three residents sought to provide an Anglican church to support the growing community. The circumstances were unusual. As a general rule Anglican churches are "planted" where ecclesiastical authority sees a requirement but in the case of Roundhay it was local people who felt the need and took the initiative.

Mr Carby Hall was chosen as the architect. W Carby Hall was a designer of houses and shopping parades and St Edmund's was the only church he designed. The church was planned on a grand scale with rich furnishings and stained glass. It has a wider than usual nave with comparatively narrow aisles. All the seats are in the nave affording optimum sight-lines for the congregation. It is of an unusual construction being of reinforced concrete with a stone facing.

Many people who come into the church remark on how impressive the building is. Internally the church is 159 feet long from the baptistry wall to the east window, 75 feet wide in the transepts and 54 feet wide in the nave. The peak of the timber vaulting is 48 feet above the floor in the nave and 28 feet in the chancel.

2. **Font and Font Cover**    **The font** was given by the children of the parish who subscribed towards it for several years. The font is made of alabaster with panels of bronze, representing The Nativity, The Martyrdom of St Edmund and the Baptism of our Lord. It was dedicated in October 1910.

The design for the **font cover** is based on examples of font covers found in East Anglia and is perpendicular in its character. The materials used are fine Austrian oak, fumed to a dark colour and ebony inlay. The cover was dedicated in January 1914.

**Stained Glass Windows** St Edmund's has 17 stained glass windows. Fourteen of the windows were made by James Powell & Son of Whitefriars who played a leading part in the quest to produce a less "flat" and more luminous range of coloured glass, i.e. glass of medieval quality. (Can you spot the whitefriar in some of their windows?) Several of these fourteen windows were designed by James Hogan who designed the two windows in the great central space of Liverpool Cathedral. Two further windows were made by Charles E Moore and one by Victor Milner. Only the Memorial Chapel had stained glass windows fitted before dedication. All the other windows were filled with plain glass. The original glazing still remains in the two windows near the servery.

3. **West window** The great west window contains four lights and represents Christ blessing the little children. Four small windows below depict St Edmund's crown with the arrows and symbols of our Lord's Passion. The window was designed and made by Victor Milner whose work was very much in the style of the Gothic Revival. This window was the first of our stained glass windows to be installed in 1912.

4. **Vicars' Board** The first services of Roundhay New Church, as the church was first named, were held in the church hall. The first clergyman, Rev C E Coade, was appointed on the terms of "stipend and accommodation". The parish of St Edmund was not legally constituted until 13<sup>th</sup> October 1910 and Rev O'Connor Fenton, who had been appointed as perpetual curate in January 1904 and had overseen the first phase of the church being built was instituted as **the first Vicar** on

16<sup>th</sup> December 1910. A window in The Memorial Chapel is dedicated to Rev O'Connor Fenton and was paid for by public subscription.

### **5. Stained glass window depicting The Crucifixion and The Resurrection**

The left hand light depicts the Lord Jesus' Crucifixion with Mary, his mother, and John standing at the foot of the cross.

The right hand light shows the Resurrection and the small picture below depicts Jesus meeting Mary Magdalen in the garden.

Designed by James Hogg, cartoon by Harry Stammers, made by James Powell & Son and installed in 1944 at a cost of £275 as a gift by legacy of Lucy Maude for Thomas her husband. Lucy Maude was not a member of St Edmund's but her husband had been before he left the Church of England for the Church of Christ. Mrs Maude gifted three of our windows.

### **6. South Transept window showing the Story of St Edmund**

This window depicts the story of Edmund, King and Martyr, the Patron Saint of the parish (and during the Middle Ages the Patron Saint of England).

St Edmund was King of East Anglia from AD 855 (crowned at only 15 years old) to 869. He was killed by Danish invaders on 20 November 869 after refusing to denounce his Christianity. Edmund was tied to a tree as a target for Danish archers and then beheaded. Legend has it that when friends came to collect his body they could see a wolf guarding the head in some bushes.

The story is illustrated in twelve scenes in four tiers of three. Eight lights in two windows are designed to be seen together but separated by a structural pier.

Designed by Rupert Moore for James Powell & Son. Installed in 1970 at a cost of £2400, the window was a gift of Mrs Marie Ridge. Sadly

Mrs Ridge died in December 1968 but she would have seen the design before she died.

## 7. **War Memorials**

**The bronze war memorial tablet** inscribed with 42 names commemorating those local men who had served and died during the Great War was dedicated on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1921. Some three months later, on the initiative of the Vicar, the bronze St Edmund's crown was fixed above the panel enclosed within a wreath of olive branches also in bronze. The crossed arrows point upward as they do on the table in the Memorial Chapel. Generally, however, where the symbol appears elsewhere, the arrows point downwards.

**The World War Two Memorial** commemorating 35 local men who had served and died for their country was dedicated in November 2014.

Our **Post World War Two Memorial** matching the World War Two Memorial was hung in 2017. At present this memorial commemorates the life of 18 year old parishioner and Gunner Kim MacCunn who was killed whilst peace-keeping in New Lodge Road, Belfast in June 1974.

8. **The foundation stone of the church** was laid on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1907 by W L Hepton, one time Lord Mayor of Leeds, and the Prayer of Consecration was offered by the Bishop of Knaresborough. Under the stone is embedded a glass vessel hermetically sealed containing an Order of the Ceremony, the Parish Magazine for July 1907 including a list of subscribers, newspapers for that day and coins.

9. **Bishop Mano Rumalshah's cross** Presented to St Edmund's Church on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016 by the Rt Rev'd Mano Rumalshah, Bishop (Emeritus) of Peshawar, in thanks-giving for his fifty years of ministry in the Church, beginning in England as a curate in St Edmund's. The cross is a miniature replica of the cross in the East window of Peshawar Cathedral. It was made by local craftsmen following traditional designs.

## 10. Memorial Chapel

The Memorial Chapel with its 3 stained glass windows on the theme of the Te Deum was dedicated in October 1925.

## 11. East Window depicting the Last Supper

Five lights. Designed and made by Charles E Moore. Installed in 1950 at a cost of approximately £2000. A gift of Marie Ridge who also donated the reredos below.

## 12. Modern Carvings by Jon Vogler and son

Jon Vogler, a much esteemed member of our congregation, initially trained in aeronautical engineering. In later life he gained a BA in fine art at Leeds Metropolitan University and an MA in contemporary art practice at Leeds College of Art, specialising in letter-cutting and sculpting in wood and stone. He died in 2017.

A wooden cross with the words “Be Still and know that I am God” was made by Jon and his son Justin and installed under the East window in 2012.

A wooden sculpture of supplicating hands crafted by Jon was given to the church as a leaving present by a former curate, Rev Diane Flynn.

Two stone sculptures designed and made by Jon are also situated in the chancel.

## 13. Organ

Built by the internationally-renowned local company J J Binns of Bramley Organ Works – now sadly defunct – the organ was dedicated in December 1909 by the Bishop of Knaresborough. The opening recital was given by Edwin Henry Lemare, the celebrated organist and composer.

St Edmund’s had no chancel at that time so the organ was installed in the North Transept and connected to the console in the south transept

by yards of lead piping. In 1935 the organ was moved from its musically advantageous position in the north transept to its present location.

The organ was gifted by Mr Bowring (church treasurer at the time) and his sister Mrs Wright in affectionate memory of their father and mother. A plaque is affixed to the wall to the left of the organ.

**14. Alabaster Pulpit** Given by the family of Mr James Hare (the prime mover in the plans to build the church and one of the first churchwardens). It is octagonal, built of alabaster with green marble engaged columns separating the panels each carved with gothic tracery. The sounding board over the pulpit is of carved oak.

**15. North Transept Window depicting The Nativity and Adoration of the Shepherds and Magi**

Three light window. The three panels at the base illustrate the hymn "All things bright and beautiful". The window was designed and made by Charles E Moore and Installed in 1948. This window was a gift of Marie Ridge (a Sunday School Superintendent) who had also gifted the small scale altar table underneath the window which had been dedicated in October 1946.

Marie Ridge, a major benefactor of St Edmund's, also later funded the east window in the chancel and the St Edmund's window in the south transept.

**16. Stained glass window in memory of Flight Sergeant Adam Boulton**

One of three windows, along the north aisle illustrating scenes from the early history of the English church and people.

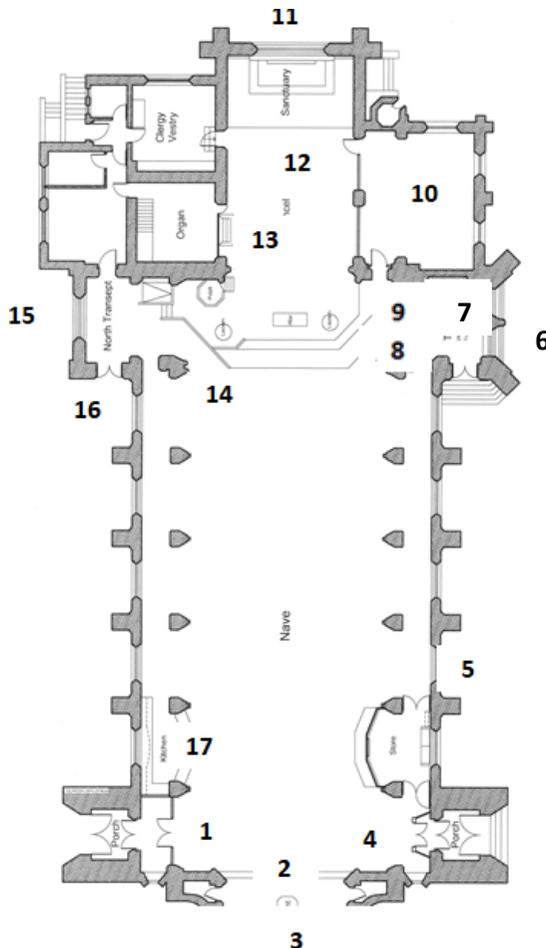
Two lights. St Gregory and the English children. The Martyrdom of St Alban.

The window, designed by James Hogan for James Powell & Son, was installed in 1944. The window is the gift of Mr and Mrs Boulton in memory of their son, Flight Sergeant Pilot Adam Desmond Stanley

Boult, RAF Volunteer Reserve, who gave his life for his country on the Burma frontier on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1943 aged 22 years.

### 17. **St Edmund's servery**

In 2014 the present servery was installed by Wharfedale Construction Ltd adapting the church to reflect the needs of the congregation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



*St Edmund's Church Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 1JN*

*[www.stedmundsroundhay.org.uk](http://www.stedmundsroundhay.org.uk)*

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