

# All Saint's Kneelers

Dorothy Toyn

Whilst rummaging through the bits stored in various nooks & crannies in the Vestry when it was decorated I came across a very moth eaten board with information about the Kneelers at All Saints.

It has the number of each one, the Saint it depicts and the person who did the tapestry, together with its designated position within the church. The more I looked the more fascinated I became and decided this was part of the history of All Saints that needed to be preserved.

Jean Lord kindly filled in some details of the project back in 1976, which was instigated by Dorothy Haw, wife of Rev Reginald Haw – the incumbent of the time. The kneelers were designed by Joy Norris, colours were controlled by the Diocese and Joy researched the history of the Saints for the designs.

The kneelers were stitched together by Margery Hotson, wife of a local GP. She had to hire an industrial machine to do it and of course they were all worked by mainly parishioners – men and women, and some did several!

The following are the names of the Saints and some are repeated several times.

St Aiden x 2  
 St Alban x 3  
 St Andrew x 3  
 St Ann  
 St Anthony of Egypt  
 St Augustine  
 St Barbara x 2  
 St Basil x 3  
 St Boltolph x 3  
 St Brendan  
 St Catherine of Alexandria x 3  
 St Chad x 2  
 St Christopher  
 St Clement  
 St Columba x 3  
 St Cornelius

St Cuthbert x 3  
 St Dennis x 2  
 St Dorothy x 2  
 St Dunstan  
 St Edmund  
 St Elizabeth of Hungary x 2  
 St Eric of Sweden  
 St Etheldreda  
 St Faith  
 St Gabriel  
 St George x 4  
 St Helen x 2  
 St Hubert x 2  
 St Hugh of Lincoln  
 St James the Greater  
 St Jane x 2  
 St James the Great  
 St Jerome  
 St John of the Cross x 4  
 St John The Baptist x 4  
 St John the Evangelist  
 St Julian  
 St Kentigan x 2  
 St Lawrence  
 St Leo x 2  
 St Leonard  
 St Magnus x 4  
 St Margaret x 2  
 St Mark  
 St Martin  
 St Mary Magdalen x 2  
 St Mary the Virgin x 3  
 St Matthew  
 St Michael the Archangel  
 St Nicholas x 3  
 St Olaf x 3  
 St Patrick x 3  
 St Paul x 2  
 St Paul  
 St Peter x 4  
 St Raphael  
 St Richard  
 St Richard  
 St Richard  
 St Sebastian  
 St Swithin x 2  
 St Sylvester  
 St Theodore x 2  
 St Theresa

St Thomas x 2  
 St Ursula  
 St Wenceslas  
 St Wilfred x 2

The next list contains the names of people who worked them. Some are 'Mr' or 'Mrs', others just initials. It is interesting to note that several people worked 2 or 3 of the kneelers and some did four but N Baynam and M Gredy did six each, M Marks did thirteen and J Addis managed seventeen!

M Addis  
 R Addis  
 M Archer  
 N Baynam  
 C Beebee  
 S Beebee  
 Mr Bignell  
 J Bridges  
 Mrs Bridges  
 K Bullock  
 Mrs Bullock  
 Mrs Burnard  
 A Campbell  
 Mrs Chapman  
 J Checkley  
 W Clegg  
 E Dale  
 B Dale  
 Mrs Dale  
 C Dixon  
 Mrs Dobbin  
 D Edington  
 L Elsdon  
 Mrs Gilbert  
 M Gredy  
 B Hart  
 D Haw  
 J Hill  
 N Hotson  
 Mrs Iley  
 Mrs Johnson  
 E Jory  
 J Lawrence  
 B Lewis  
 J Lord  
 M Marks  
 S Matley  
 Mrs Michael  
 A Morison  
 C Murkin  
 J Norris

S Norris  
 C Ricketts  
 E Rowan  
 B Sandford  
 P Sledge  
 C Smith  
 J Twiddie  
 J Twiddy  
 H Van Weede  
 A Vingoe  
 M Whitbread  
 Mrs Whittle  
 K Worrin  
 J Wright

Each hassock is numbered from 1 to 198. However, some numbers are missing – it could be that the details fell off the old chart, as there were on sticky labels, or they may not have existed at all. The actual number that we have detail of is 123, so more research is needed to see if the numbers and names all tally.

The layout of the hassocks is too large a diagram to reproduce in the magazine, but I will put it at the back of the church for people to look at. I wonder how many - if any - still remain where they were planned to be? One day I might just check them and see!

Next time you are in All Saints have a look and see which ones are in the pew where you are. They are great designs so have a look and see what you can find. They are all labelled on the back with the Saint and the number.

## **To Start a New Year**

A New Year is unfolding – like blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with things that are truly good - with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others. As we make our resolutions for this year ahead let us go forward with great hope that all things are possible with your help and guidance.