

An Interesting Re-discovery.

The earliest Walesby Church Register was started in 1580. Where we have separate registers for Christenings, marriages etc., the first registers contained everything that happened in the parish. These old registers deteriorate badly in Churches where there is no consistent heating to level the temperature and humidity. Some years ago the Diocese "adopted" the County archives at Shire Hall - with their air-conditioning - as the depository for the Church's documents etc. This first register was deposited there in October 1959, with others.

Late in 1941, the Vicar at that time (Canon C. G. Everitt) was glancing through this first register, when he noticed a sheet of parchment stiffening the binding under the inner cover. When he exposed a small part of it, he saw that it contained a manuscript and musical notes; with another sheet inside the back cover.

These sheets were carefully removed from the book, and were found to be two leaves from a Latin service book dating from early in the 15th century. (the 1400's) The first English Book of Common Prayer for use throughout the Church of England had been published in 1549 - just 31 years before this Register began. The Parish Priest at that time, Fr. Robert Blackwood would have felt that there was no further use for his old book, and used these pages to stiffen the binding of his nice new register.

These pages, written by hand, were almost certainly produced in one of the neighbouring monasteries - Newstead or Rufford or Welbeck Abbey? Separate manuscripts were written for the various people taking part in the service; our two sheets were for the cantors (singers) leading the singing for the psalm while priest and servers entered (introit); and while the Gospel book was brought to the people (Gradual); and while the bread and wine were prepared at the altar (Offertory); and while the people were receiving the Sacrament. They are the psalms used on Christmas morning and Ash Wednesday.

It is intended to lend these sheets to the Minster for the summer for display - they may attract some more interested visitors and perhaps help the Minster Appeal Fund. Further than that, we must think how best to use them. They are obviously valuable. The only similar Manuscripts in existence were found at East Drayton. They are in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

pro

brum conculan

telme

omine non secundum peccata nostra fac

as nobis neque secundum iniquitates nostras retribuas

nostris. Domine ne me in iheris iniquitatum

nostrarum antiquarum atque anticipant nos misericor

die tu es quia pauperes facti sumus nimis Adiuua nos

deus salutaris noster & propter gloriam nominis tui

domine libera nos & propitius esto peccatis nostris

propter nomen tuum exaltabo te domino

mine quoniam suscepisti me nec delectasti

inimicos meos super me dominus clamavi

unt omnes fines terre salutare de

nostri iubilate deo omnes nisi terra **N**otum se

at do

minus saluta re sui umante

comspectum gentium reatu uitustacionem suam

Alleluia

et sanctificatus

illuxit nos bis uerba genitudo do

minum quia hodie descendit lux magis ha super terram

Cui sunt celum et terra est terra in orbem terra

rum et plenitudinem eius nisi tu fundasti iustitiam tua

et nudi et unipreparatio se distinque Viderunt omnes

fines terre salutare deo nostri

in medium silentium teneant omnia & negantur

qui si medium iter habent omnipotens sermo tuus domi

ne de celis a regalibus sedibus ue Dominus regnauit

de cœli in diuitiis dicitur dñs sui timorem & præmixit seruatu

re evocare. Speciosus sol ma pre filii ho

nus am dñs regna mla

Trista uit cor me um uer buim

bs num dico ego opera mea re gi lingua mea cala

mus scribe uero citer scriben Alleluia

Dominus regnauit Deus enim Tolle puerum

& matrem eius exuade interram puda de funere funerem qd

¶ Vnde nunc habemus in ante re & culta o ieiunemus & plo
re misericordia domini num qui a multum misericordis est di
mittere peccata nostra deus noster.

Miserere omnium domine & nichil odisci eorum
que fecisti disimilans peccata hominum propter penitentiam
parvorum filiis quia tu es misericordia nostra ut

noster. Miserere mei deus miserere mei quoniam in te
confidit anima mea ex ore Miserere mei deus ut
miserere mei quoniam in te confidit anima mea
sicut anima mea a te dedit in oblatione & libatione