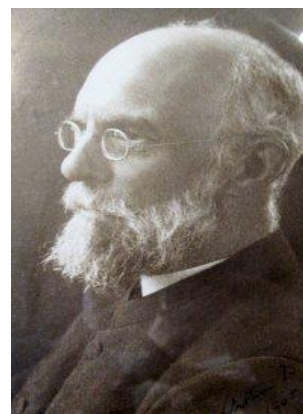


The tragedies and triumphs of a Pocklington vicar and his family

Last September's flower festival was such an outstanding success and that there is virtually no way anyone could 'follow that' in marking Pocklington's part in World War One. But history never stands still; and across the country museums and historians have already moved on to the aftermath of the conflict, looking at the survivors, both people and places. The vicar of Pocklington throughout the conflict, Rev Arthur T Fisher, had a remarkable career in the church, home and abroad, steered All Saints through major improvements, endured tragedy both personal and on behalf of his congregation, and saw his surviving family members go on to make their wide-ranging mark in the post war years.

Rev Fisher (pictured right during his time at All Saints) arrived in East Yorkshire in 1908 to become vicar of Pocklington, Ousethorpe, Yapham and Meltonby. He had returned to England from spending five years in the 1870s and early 80s as a Church of England missionary in India, where he got married, started a family, and founded a small church at Jandiala near Amritsar. He had gone out to the Punjab as a young curate, after being a stellar student Cambridge where he gained a first class degree in mathematics. The son of a London banker, he had had an upmarket upbringing in one of central London's posher addresses, Cadogan Place, the street where William Wilberforce spent his final years and where future Prime Minister, Harold MacMillan, was born.



Rev Fisher, wife Dora, and ten children settled into Pocklington's 'old' vicarage next door to Burnby Hall; and will have quickly established a connection with his new neighbours, the Stewarts – Arthur Fisher had spent the time before ordination as a mathematics teacher at King's School, Ely, a few years before Percy Stewart became a pupil at the same school.

Fisher's early years at Pocklington included supervising major works on the church. All Saints had been in a perilous state at the end of the 19th century, with fears it might even collapse. The restoration of 1902 stabilised the structure and replaced the rotten roof, but it used up all the monies raised and further improvements were still required. The newspaper report of the reopening of the church after the 1902 works, stated: 'The periodic fall of detached pieces of stonework from the tower render it dangerous to enter the church by the north door and serve as an ominous warning to the authorities!' Lumps were still falling off the tower when Fisher took over, and his first job was to launch another successful restoration appeal that saw All Saints' west end encased in scaffolding as the tower, bell frame and bells were all restored 1910-13. It was June 1914 before the bells rang out again.

It remained a roller coaster year, as Rev Fisher conducted the wedding of his third son, John, but was soon taking the first of numerous wartime funerals and memorial services at Pocklington and in the villages. And he also led the mourners in 1917 at the funeral of his own son, Thomas, a lance corporal in the Border Regiment, who fought in France and the Balkans, and was in line for a commission when he died of pneumonia aged 23. The military service was taken by Thomas' brother, John, now Rev John Fisher and a WWI army chaplain.

After the service in All Saints the coffin was conveyed to Yapham for burial accompanied by an army marching band.

Following the war John Fisher remained a civilian clergyman, and as Canon John Fisher he headed both church and council at Harlow in Essex – serving not just as Rector of Harlow for 36 years, but also as Chairman of Epping Rural District Council, in addition to being a local Justice of the Peace. His son, Ben, followed him into the church.

Another son, Godfrey, did not see active service in WWI because he was already working in the Foreign Office. Becoming a senior diplomat on both sides of the Atlantic, he was involved in the negotiations that brought America into the war in Europe in the early 1940s. He went on to be knighted and as Sir Godfrey Fisher KCMG, ended his days as Consul General for California. He was also an expert of North Africa history and politics. His daughter, Betty, married a baronet.

A further son, Arthur Rowland, was a doctor in WWI, serving as a Royal Navy surgeon on a wartime hospital ship in the Dardanelles. He retired from the navy as a Surgeon Commander and became a Dover GP; before being brought back into service during World War Two to organise the reception of casualties back to south coast hospitals. His son, Rowland, became a renowned marine artist who exhibited at the Royal Academy.

The youngest son, Cyril, enlisted at Pocklington into the Green Howards in the last year of the war at the age of 18. He fought in France and was promoted to Lance Corporal. Demobbed in May 1919, he emigrated a few months later to Canada, where he worked as an accountant for the rest of his days.

Rev Fisher's five daughters, Eva, Helen, Olive, Lilian and Dorothy are rather more difficult to track, though at least two played a significant part in the conflict. Three appear to have never married, two, Dorothy and Olive had long careers as schoolteachers and travelled widely, sadly Dorothy, who became a Lancashire headmistress, committing suicide when her sight failed in the 1940s.

Eva started out as a dispenser for a Pocklington chemist, then went on to qualify as a nurse and midwife in 1913. Lilian was one of the youngest female pre-war entrants into medical school, and spent the war years as a medical student in London hospitals, becoming a doctor in 1919.

Rev AT Fisher remained at All Saints until 1921, when, aged 69, he was succeeded as vicar by his curate, Rev Ian MacNaughton-Smith. And one of Fisher's last services at All Saints was the unveiling of the WWI memorial on the north wall.

After Pocklington, Arthur and Dora moved to Kent to be nearer family, living in retirement on the south coast and celebrating their golden wedding in 1932. They died within two months of each other in 1934, Dora aged 77 in February, Arthur aged 82 in April after 57 years in Holy Orders. It was a notable career, and his notable legacy lived on through his family.

Pocklington Church from the Saxon era to the present

The main event for The Friends of All Saints Pocklington for 2019 is a talk on the early history of the church, including new revelations on its earliest origins, by Chris Bond on Thursday 20th June, at 7.30pm, entitled: *Pocklington Church from the Saxon era to the present*.

Chris is a committee member of Pocklington & District Local History Group and also leads the Pocklington U3A Medieval Churches Group.

His U3A group visits have taken him to dozens of ancient churches across Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, and he has developed a particular interest in All Saints, researching and answering some of the age old issues about its structure




Chris will outline new perspectives on the history of All Saints. He organised the recent Ground Penetrating Radar study by Steven Rafferty of Discovery Surveys Ltd which indicated the site of a pre-conquest church located under the existing one, but at a lower level. Chris will evaluate these results and the evidence of the Norman church, its Early English changes and extensions, the Perpendicular developments, the degree of destruction at the Reformation, and the impact of Victorian alterations.

Also on show on the evening will be pieces of masonry, some believed to be from the first Norman structure, which were discovered during the early 20th century restorations.

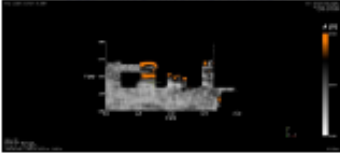
The event is free to Friends members, but is also open to the public, admission £3, so encourage your acquaintances to come along.

Chris' thoughts on All Saints' Saxon origins come at an opportune time as archaeological excavations around Pocklington reveal more and more about the town's beginnings. All Saints claims its history back to the early seventh century thanks to the discovery of the Sotheby Cross, dug up in the churchyard in 1835 with an ancient base found nearby declaring 'Paulinus hic praedicabit et celebravet A.D. 627' (the original stone did not survive, the current cross base is a Victorian copy). Some historians have questioned the validity of this, and previously any evidence for a seventh century Pocklington was scarce. But the recent dig on The Mile uncovered a rare mid-Saxon enclosed settlement, expertly dated as going back to the period around 650 AD, putting it intriguingly close to the time of Paulinus' Anglo-Saxon mission in the north.

GPR TARGET LEGEND

-  Shallow GPR target 0-100 mm
-  Feasibility represents a GPR anomaly related to the buried structure, possible void, stone?
-  Feasibility represents a GPR anomaly, possible void?
-  Feasibility represents a GPR anomaly at 200m. Edge of detection range, unknown target

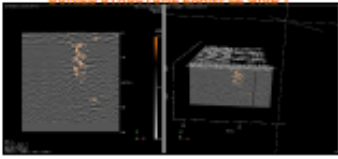
DEEP TARGET ANOMALY IN GRID 4



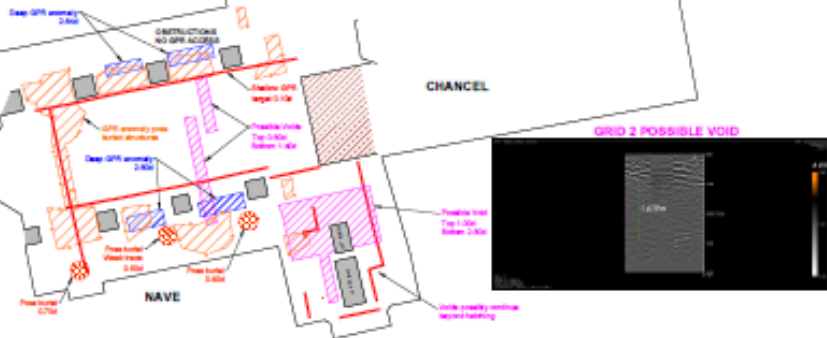
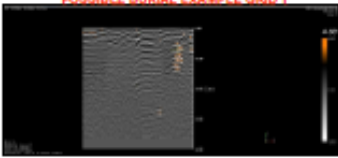
SHALLOW TARGET ANOMALY IN GRID 4



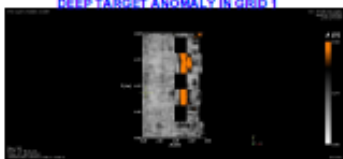
BURIED STRUCTURE EXAMPLE GRID 1



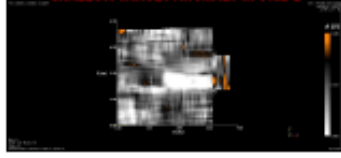
POSSIBLE BURIAL EXAMPLE GRID 1



DEEP TARGET ANOMALY IN GRID 1



SHALLOW TARGET ANOMALY IN GRID 2



General Notes

- GPR survey targets assumed from interpreting processed radar data only. Verification by excavation required to verify and provide the evidence of the location GPR anomalies.
- Survey limited out free of range. Company assumes no liability for any information provided within this drawing.

Disclaimer

This drawing is intended to provide information for the client's use only. It is not to be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the company.

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
NA	Not Applicable
SR	Standard Reference
...	...

LEGEND

Color/Pattern	Description
Red hatched	Shallow GPR target 0-100 mm
Orange hatched	Feasibility represents a GPR anomaly related to the buried structure, possible void, stone?
Pink hatched	Feasibility represents a GPR anomaly, possible void?
Blue hatched	Feasibility represents a GPR anomaly at 200m. Edge of detection range, unknown target

No.	Description	No.	Date



Church of All Saints
The Pavement
Rockington
YO42 2JL

Project: RCK 180418 001	Date: 25-04-2018	Scale: 1 of 1
Contact: 1.200@aj3		
NA no fee charged	SR	SR