

The Abbey Church  
of  
St Mary the Virgin  
Nuneaton

**History of our  
Donated Items**

The Abbey Church  
of  
St Mary the Virgin  
Nuneaton

1. Rood Screen.
2. Lychgate.
3. Processional Cross.
4. Millenium Panels.
5. Choir Stalls.
6. Mothers Union Banner.
7. Book of Remembrance.
8. Paschal Candle Stand.
9. Stations of the Cross.

**History of  
Donated items**

# Rood Screen

The Rood Screen was donated by Emma Augusta Bland and designed by H Breakspear FSA. It is in memory of herself and also in memory of Handley Manners Ferrier Bland the only son of her brother John Henry Bland & Stella Beatrice Annabel Bland (nee McCaul).

Handley died aged 13, he was a Naval Cadet and died at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, Whippingham Isle of Wight.

Handley Manners Ferrier Bland's Christian names come from within the family. Handley is from his gt gt grandmother Jane Mary Handley (1747 - 1835) who married Thomas Bland. The Handley's were a prominent Newark Family. Banking, Brewing, MP etc.

Manners is from his grandmother Louisa Manners (1813 - 1892) who married William Handley Bland). Louisa was the gt gt gt granddaughter of the 2nd Duke of Rutland.

Ferrier is from his great grandmother Maria Ann Maxwell Ferrier (1814 - 1840) who married George Bott Churchill Watson MD. (their daughter married J B McCaul Stella's father) The Ferriers were a prominent Irish Family.

The Bland family came to Nuneaton around the 1870s. Their father William Handley Bland born 1807 in Newark was a Vicar. He married Louisa Ann Manners in Grantham Lincolnshire in 1834. William died in Grantham in 1890 and his wife Louisa died in Nuneaton in 1892. They had six children:

Louisa b 1835 d 1843 (Aged 8)

Emma Augusta Bland b 1837 d 1921 (Aged 84) Emma donated the Rood Screen and brought up her brother Thomas' two children after the deaths of both him and his wife.

Thomas Bland b 1840 d 1881 (Aged 41). Thomas was a solicitor in Nuneaton and married Julia Harriett Craddock in 1872, they had 2 children Margaret Ann Bland b 1874 and Mary Huntington Bland b 1876. Sadly Julia died in 1877 and Thomas in 1881. At that stage their two young children were brought up by Thomas' Brother John Henry Bland and two Sisters Emma Augusta Bland and Katherine Elizabeth Bland until John Henry's death in 1900 (aged 45). The two children were then brought up by Emma. Margaret married John Ross Finch a Vicar in 1901. Mary married Frederick Septimus Clay OBE Solicitor and Town Clerk for Nuneaton in 1903.

William Charles Bland b 1847 d 1928 (Aged 81) . William did not come to Nuneaton with the rest of his family, He had married Frances Palmer (a Vicar's daughter) in 1870 and they farmed in Warwickshire.

Katherine Elizabeth Bland b 1852 d 1931 (aged 89). Katherine lived with her sister Emma, brother John and the two children of Thomas until she married Charled Dudley Somerville Bowmer a Bank Clerk 1903. Katherine died in North Malvern.

John Henry Bland b 1855 d 1900 (Aged 45). John was a solicitor in Nuneaton and upon his brother Thomas' death he along with his two sisters brought up Thomas' two children. In 1896 John married Stella Beatrice Annabel McCaul and their son Handley Manner Ferrier Bland was born the following year. Sadly John died 3 years later in 1900. Their son Handley became a Navel Cadet at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, Isle of Wight but died there aged 13. After his death Stella moved from the Isle of Wight to St Marylebone, London where she married Ernest Loftus Colley Gratton Companion, Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) Cmdr Royal Navy (ret) in 1915. Ernest was one of the first sub mariners , he came out of retirement in 1916 and was in charge of Wireless Telegraphy at Cape Helles. Ernest and Stella did not have any children

# Rood Screen



Designed by Harold Brekspear

## Dedication Inscriptions

To the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of  
Handley Manners  
Ferrier Bland  
Naval Cadet, only child  
of John & Stella Bland  
Born 7th August 1897  
Died 5th June 1911  
R.I.P.

This Screen  
& Rood were  
given by Emma  
Augusta Bland  
for many  
years a devout  
worshipper in  
this church  
who entered into rest  
Oct 29th 1921  
R.I.P.

## Background to the Inscription

Handley Manners Ferrier Bland  
b 1897 in Nuneaton and d 1911 at the  
Royal Naval College, Osborne I.O.W.

He was the only son of John Henry  
Bland (Solicitor) and Stella Beatrice  
Annabel Bland (nee McCaul)

Emma Augusta Bland b 1837 in  
Grantham and d 1921 in Nuneaton.

She never married and was the sister  
of John Henry Bland

# The Lychgate

Made in 19 ??  
as yet  
we are uncertain  
of the  
Manufacturer

The Lychgate is in  
remembrance  
of  
Mabel Betts

# Lychgate



## Dedication Inscription

AMDG and in loving memory of  
my sister Mabel Betts  
died 28th October 1958

FGB

"I was glad when they said unto me we  
will go into the house of the Lord"

## Background to the Inscription

Mabel A Betts b 1881 d 1958  
was the sister of Herbert Charles Betts.  
He was a local Schoolmaster and the  
St Peter Window is dedicated  
to him.

# The Processional Cross

Made in ?  
as yet  
we are uncertain  
of the Designer  
or Manufacturer

The Cross is in  
remembrance  
of  
Keith Mayo

# Silver Processional Cross



## Dedication Inscription

In Loving Memory  
of Keith Mayo  
A.D. 1920 - 1930

## Background to the Inscription

Ernest H. Keith Mayo b 1920 d 1930  
was the only son of Walter & Hannah May.  
Keith's sister was Ann Mayo to whom  
the Resurrection Window is dedicated.



# The Millenium Gospel Panels

Painted by  
Kathy Priddis  
wife of  
the Bishop of Warwick

The panels were  
donated  
by  
Anne Mayo  
b. 1925 d 2001

# The Millenium Gospel Panels



There are three panels, and they feature the story of the coming of the gospel, a landscape of gospel events, and the adoration of Christ set among the terraced houses of the town.

## Dedication Inscription

The Millenium Gospel Panels  
Painted by Kathy Priddis  
Donated by Anne Mayo  
Decidated by the Bishop of Warwick  
on the 3rd September 2000

## Background to the Inscription

Anne Cecelia Mayo b 1925 Nuneaton d 2001 Nuneaton.  
Anne was a Teacher  
and taught at Abbey Infant School  
and Camphill Infant School.  
In 1995 Anne was chosen to receive Maunday Money  
the Queen presented the money at Coventry Cathedral

# Choir Stalls

Installed in 1936



The Choir Stalls are in  
remembrance  
of  
William and Jane French

# Choir Stalls



## Dedication Inscription

To the glory of God and in loving  
memory of William and Jane French  
these stalls are given A.D. 1936

## Background to the Inscription

William French (Hatmaker)  
b 1863 Atherstone d 1932 Nuneaton.

He married Jane Wright in 1891 in Nuneaton.  
She was b 1860 in Cubbington and d 1934  
in Nuneaton.

They had 4 children Francis 1893, Joseph 1895,  
Rita 1897 & Alfred 1900. There were also 3 children  
from William's first marriage Francis b 1886, William b 1888 & Edith b 1889.  
Edith was a school teacher and married  
Herbert Charles Betts (Schoolmaster)  
(see dedication for the st Peter window)

# Mother's Union Banner

Framed &  
in 2002

The framing is in  
remembrance  
of  
Hugh Taylor Currie  
b. 1925 d 2001

# Mothers Union Banner



## Dedication Inscription

To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for  
91 years of the ministry of the Mother's Union at the  
Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, Nuneaton  
The branch was closed in April 2002 and the banner framed  
By Doreen Currie in loving memory of her husband Hugh

## Background to the Inscription

Hugh Taylor Currie b 1924 Glasgow d 2001 Nuneaton.  
He married Doreen Forvague in Nuneaton in 1948. She  
was b 1924 in Nuneaton.

They had 1 child Janice b 1964 in Nuneaton

# The Book of Remembrance

Donated in 2002

The Book is in  
remembrance  
of  
Alan Tomkins  
b. 1940 d 2000

# The Book of Remembrance



## Dedication Inscription

This book was given In Loving Memory  
of our friend Alan Tompkins  
May 1940  
July 2000

## Background to the Inscription

Alan J Tompkins b 1940 in Birmingham  
and d 2000 in Nuneaton



# Paschal Candle Stand

Donated in ???

The Stand is in  
remembrance  
of  
Alan Harry Hudson  
b. 1919 d 1997

# Paschal Candle Stand



## Dedication

The Paschal Candle Stand is in memory of  
Alan Harry Hudson  
husband of  
Betty Hudson

## Background to the Inscription

Alan Harry Hudson b 1919 Birmingham d 1997 Nuneaton.  
He married Betty M C Barton in Nuneaton in 1946.

They had 1 child Nicholas b 1953 in Nuneaton

# Stations of the Cross

Donated in 2007

They were donated by  
14 families in  
remembrance  
of  
their loved ones

# Stations of the Cross



## Dedication Inscription

Dedicated on the 14th January 2007 by the Bishop of Warwick  
Given by generous donation  
The Allred Family in memory of loved ones

Joan Cox in memory of loved ones

Trevor and Elizabeth Daies in loving memory of Richard

Daid, Margaret, Stuart and Gwyneth Evans in loving memory of  
the Evans and Sauders families

Michael Goldsmith in loving memory of Ann

Brian & Janet Goodyear and Peter & Veronica Grice in loving memory of  
Frederick Hilda Goodyear

Audrey Haswell in loving memory of husband Ronald Haswell

The Hayes family in loving memory of  
Eleanor May Hayes and Mary Dagnan

Betty Hudson in loving memory of Alan Harry Hudson

The Lawrence family in loving memory of of Robert and Margery

Mary Nason in loving memory of of Frederick Charles Nason & Dorothy Nason

John and Yvonne Osbourne in loving memory of  
Eva ^ Russell and Catherine & George Osborne

Joan Reeves in memory of her beloved husband Ted

Irene Widdows in memory of loved ones