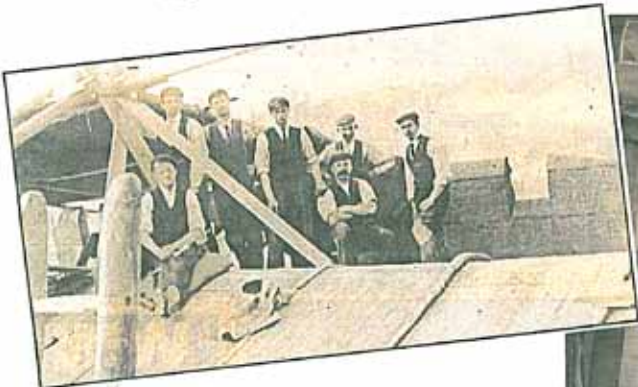


HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COVENTRY

TIME CAPSULE: Latest find ties in with photograph of workers discovered four years ago

Church's roof reveals city life a century ago



AN amazing coincidence has matched up a time capsule found in the roof of Holy Trinity Church in Coventry with a picture of the men who placed it there more than 100 years ago.

The site manager who found the capsule is the same person who discovered the picture four years ago.

The capsule dates back to 1902 and the workers who placed it in the chancel roof had a keen sense of their own moment in time.

Queen Victoria had only just died after a record-breaking 63 years on the throne and her son, King Edward VII, was due to be crowned that August. As the country prepared to celebrate his Coronation and move properly into the Edwardian era, the workers carefully rolled up a half-penny copy of the Daily Mail from 16 June, 1902, and left it in a specially drilled hole along with a note of their own names.

Their message to the future was discovered by Andy Munro, site manager for Midland Conservation Ltd, the Birmingham firm hired by church authorities to tackle the latest round of repairs.

Mr Munro is very familiar with Holy Trinity – four years ago he was overseeing work on the roof of

By Barbara Goulden

the priest's room on the first floor when he found the Edwardian photograph shown here.

It seems certain that the men in the picture placed the capsule.

He said: "Now we seem to have found the names of at least four of these men, who traditionally are known as plumbers because they dealt in leadwork."

"The capsule they left was found lodged near the apex of the 45ft-high roof which is painted with stars and lies just beyond the tower."

"Leaving a small memory is a good idea – I remember we left a copy of this old photo and our own names in a capsule after we finished work on the north choir aisle."

Mr Munro, along with his team of masons and carpenters, expect to spend the next 26 weeks on the £270,000 job of replacing lead, timber and renewing stone parapets.

But when they take a tea break, the scaffolding workers have enjoyed reading the 1902 newspaper with its reports about the "Real Cure for Hooligans" and a huge illustration of a military tattoo at Aldershot where English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish troops combined together to play the Coronation March for the still uncrowned King and his Queen.

CHURCH wardens at Holy Trinity have borrowed money from English Heritage to begin vital repair work on the roof. They are appealing to Coventry and Warwickshire people to leave a bequest to the church in their wills.



HIDDEN FOR MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS... Andy Munro, site manager for Midland Conservation, with the newspaper found in the roof of Coventry's Holy Trinity Church; (inset left), an image of workers on the roof in 1902. **Main pictures: James Balfour**

CHURCH FACTFILE

- 1113:** First recorded reference to Holy Trinity Church
- 1400s:** Following an earthquake in the city the famous Doom Painting showing the Last Judgement is painted high above the central aisle. This was soon hidden under limewash.
- 1539:** The 11 priests at the church are reduced to two following the Dissolution of Monasteries.
- 1665:** The original 230ft spire on the church is blown down in a gale, crushing a small child below.
- 1666:** The spire is rebuilt.
- 1831:** The medieval Doom Painting is rediscovered.
- 1940:** The Second World War and as the nearby Cathedral burns, Holy Trinity is saved by Canon Clitheroe and three others who rush round putting out incendiary bombs.



NOW AND THEN... Workers today on the roof of Holy Trinity and (left) the photograph showing the workers believed to have planted the time capsule.