

GazNews

March 2002

TACS Gazetteer News

Issue 13

Memorial Panels—Special Issue

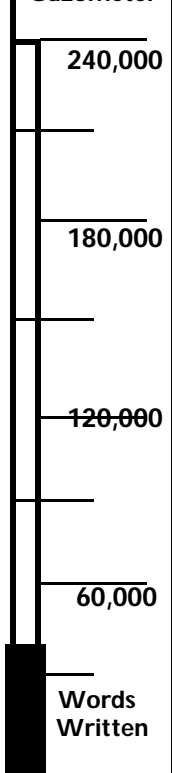
In the course of Gazetteer visits around the country, I've come across many of these lozenge-shaped memorial panels, the one seen here (at St Petrock's in Exeter) being set within an ornamental frame; normally, they are installed individually at dado height along aisle walls. They don't occur everywhere: they seem more prevalent in midlands churches, but also pop up in the Isle of Man, Devon and Essex, where Brightlingsea's All Saints Church has an amazing 212 square panels (not yet seen by me—so you know what to do if you're in Brightlingsea!). There seems to be very little information available on the design, manufacture, installation, ordering or even etiquette (who was allowed to have one, was it simply the biggest donation, were clergy favoured etc etc) of these panels; surely someone, somewhere must have written a thesis on their distribution? Some more examples are shown overleaf, and any further information on the history of these attractive panels would be much appreciated.



Database nears 4,600

I'm pleased to say that our list of tile and architectural ceramic in situ locations, which began (in the distant past!) with the Location Index forms, is now rapidly approaching 4,600. Intuitive estimates have put the eventual total at around 5,000, but my recent visit to the Isle of Man yielded over 30 new locations, and the just-published book on High Victorian church architect Henry Woodyer, a keen user of Minton encaustics, has led to the inclusion of 20 more sites. This may indicate that the total of extant sites might well rise to nearer 6,000 than 5,000, given the chance to do enough in-depth research. And, of course, brand new installations will continue to be added to the database. But time flies, and Gazetteer publication date (probably towards the end of 2003) draws nearer! So let's get writing.....
Lynn Pearson, Gazetteer Editor

Gazometer



More free stuff!!

Yes, yet another free download on the TACS website—courtesy of Dr Dennis Hadley and the Victoria & Albert Museum Archive of Art and Design, we are able to offer the 44 page list of **Powell's of Whitefriars opus sectile locations** as a downloadable pdf file—don't worry about the technology, check out the website www.tilesoc.org.uk and scroll down the home page to the Free Downloads section, you'll find all the instructions you need there. It's easier than it sounds! The list is packed with detail on dates, artists and designers; many of the (mostly) churches listed are extant, and often have decorative tiling schemes along with the opus sectile work.

The Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society would like to thank the following organisations for supporting the Gazetteer Project:

**School of Art & Design,
University of Wolverhampton**

**The Pilgrim Trust
The Manifold Trust
Cumming Ceramic Research Foundation
The Scouloudi Foundation**

TACS Gazetteer News is published by the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society, registered charity no: 289090.

Comments on content, and site information, may be addressed to the Gazetteer Editor at 9 The Poplars, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AE 0191 285 2863

e-mail: lynnpearson@gosforth3.demon.co.uk
www.tilesoc.org.uk

Database Site Count

Date	Number of Sites in Database
February 2002	4581
February 2001	3977
January 2000	3485
March 1997	1443

A Mixed Bag of Memorials



Let's begin with the Isle of Man, where—among the 15 or so memorial panels spotted—this example at Ballaugh Church was the sole dedication to a non-clergyman; the others commemorated Rowley Hill, a previous Bishop of Sodor and Man, and other local clergy. There was

a clear difference in style and quality between the Petty Officer's memorial (1904) and the earlier clergy memorials.

For more abundant memorials, there's nowhere, it seems, like Stoke-on-Trent, where the little-seen St Peter Ad Vincula in Stoke (not far from Stoke railway station) has an unusual display.



There are many differences in design, and even a few floor memorials as well as

the double dado strip. The dates are mostly 1870s to Edwardian, with 1870s and 1880s being the most popular, and perhaps it is significant that those dates would also be applicable to opus sectile memorial installations, which presumably would cost rather more than a simple (if large) tile. Thus it seems that there was a

fashion for public church remembrance in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and just into the twentieth—could this be associated with the death of the Prince Consort, and the long mourning period of Queen Victoria?

Possibly the best set of memorials in the country is to be found at Hartshill Church, Stoke-on-Trent (normally open



only for services). Here the highly-glazed panels are set on a red and black zigzag pattern background, and there is also the well-known floor memorial to Herbert Minton,

(above) whose grave lies beneath the chancel. Less renowned are the set of lozenge-shaped memorial floor panels at St Mary Magdalene, Newark (normally open), which commemorate everything from the borough surveyor to the installation of new windows, as well as more conventional dedications. Wall memorials have also been reported at a former



church in Derby, and at churches in Sussex and Northamptonshire; so far, there seem to be none further north (on the mainland, at any rate) than a line drawn through Newark and Stoke, ie just north of the Wash. Perhaps these late nineteenth century ceramic lozenges were a more democratic, easily accessible form of monument than the magnificent stone memorials seen in earlier churches.

Read GazNews in colour on the TACS website!

