



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

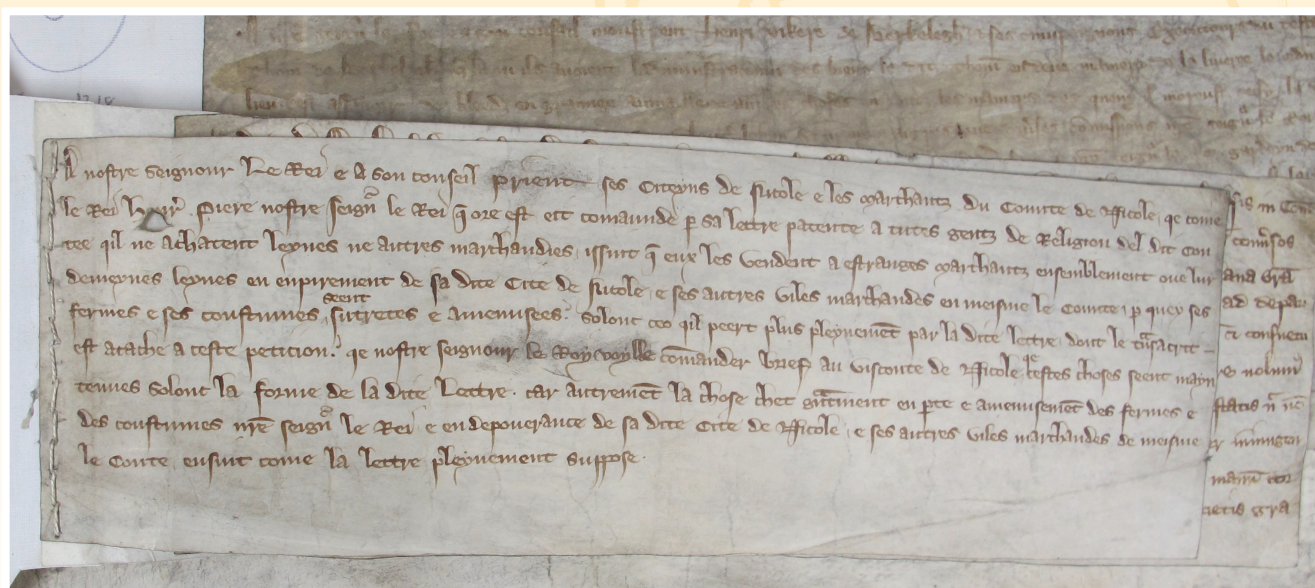
Welcome you to the 12th issue of the News Review!

It is fifty years since my Oxford supervisor sent me to Lincoln to investigate the huge and unexplored registers of John Buckingham, bishop of Lincoln from 1363 to 1398 (LAO, Registers 10&11: institutions; 12: memoranda; 12B: writs). 'Make a list of the contents of the *memoranda* register', he said, 'and bring your findings back to me'. This I duly did, in several notebooks, and he identified 'crown-church relations' as a suitable thesis subject. He also wrote to two great ladies in Lincolnshire history to warn them of my coming: Mrs. Varley, the county archivist, and Miss Major, the supremo of Lincolnshire medieval history, who had retired to Lincoln from the headship of an Oxford college. From both I received a warm welcome, generosity and kindness far beyond the call of duty. The archives were then housed in the old prison, where documents were stored in the cells, and the reading room was in the former debtors' day room. Every morning and afternoon a signal tapped on the internal phone system summoned 'trusties' to tea with the archivists in their mess-room. There, Joan Varley, Michael Lloyd, Mary Finch and Judith Cripps asked me about my work, gave encouragement and made helpful

suggestions. Another reader was Sir Francis Hill, who at that time was gathering material for *Victorian Lincoln*, and he had us in stitches as he recounted scandalous stories of past city worthies which were, even then, too spicy to appear in print.

At week-ends, before I got a car, I explored parts of the county by buses which wove in and out of the villages, and I fell in love with the landscape. A particular memory I have is of going to Belton House before it belonged to the National Trust, and, ahead of the building's opening time, eating my picnic alone in the park, with just the deer for company. Also, in the course of writing my thesis, I discovered much valuable material about Lincolnshire history which was housed outside the county, in what was known then as the Public Record Office (now The National Archives). I was delighted to publish some of this as Lincoln Record Society volume 81 in 1992 (*Clerical Poll-Taxes in* →

TNA SC 8/335/15818A: A petition from the citizens of Lincoln and merchants of Lincolnshire, requesting that a writ should be sent to the sheriff of Lincolnshire, to maintain Henry III's order to all the religious of Lincolnshire not to buy wool or other merchandises for selling to foreign merchants (c. 1272).



the Diocese of Lincoln, 1377-1381). I believe strongly that a valuable service which the LRS can provide is to publish Lincolnshire material which is housed outside the county, so making it accessible to local readers.

When the chance came to move from the University of Aberdeen in the late-1980s, the option which most appealed was the University of Nottingham. This was because of its proximity to Lincoln, both Lincolnshire Archives Office and the rural county. Later I was honoured to be invited to join the Lincoln Record Society's council, and to observe, at first hand, the remarkable work it does in furthering the county's scholarship, both directly, through its own publications, and by assisting others. Continuing the theme of editing documents which are housed elsewhere, Gwilym Dodd (my successor at Nottingham) and I are completing a volume of 'Petitions from Lincolnshire', which are housed at The National Archives, and which we hope will be issued to members next year. We have found this an exceptionally interesting, varied and exciting project, and we hope that members will feel the same. As for those notebooks on Buckingham's register, filled in the late-1960s: I still have them, though

am slowly transferring the material onto the laptop, and starting to fill out the rough listings I made. It is my hope one day to present this material to LRS members, and I thank subscribers for their patience!

This issue of the News Review celebrates some of the Society's most recent activities – notably our very successful spring conference at Bishop Grosseteste University – and the launch of the second volume in our Occasional series of publications. A former President of the Society, Professor Michael Jones, reports on the launch of the *White Book of Southwell*, which was produced with the assistance of the LRS. Also our Honorary General Editor, Dr Nicholas Bennett, whets our appetites for the next volume in the popular Lincolnshire Parish Clergy series. And Dr Duncan Wright, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology and Heritage at Bishop Grosseteste University, shares some of the findings from an excavation that took place in Lincoln over the summer. We hope you enjoy it!

Alison McHardy



PIPE ROLL SOCIETY BOOK LAUNCH

The White Book of Southwell

A two-volume edition of the principal collection of medieval deeds relating to Southwell Minster, 'the greatest of all the medieval collegiate foundations of England' (A. Hamilton Thompson) was formally launched on 16 May 2018 by the Rt. Rev. Paul Williams, bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. A team of four editors, led by Professor Michael Jones (president of the Lincoln Record Society

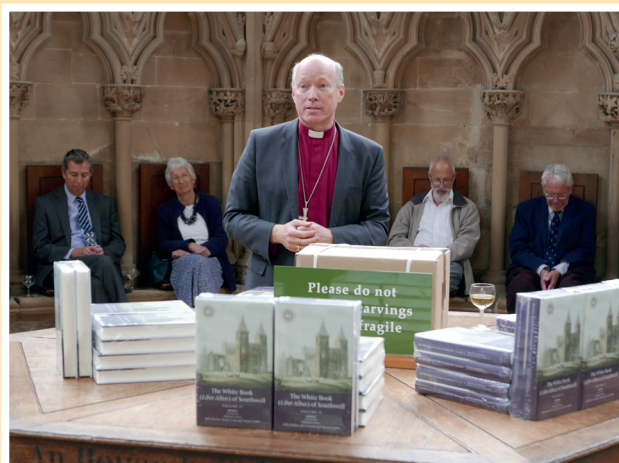
2007-15), also drawing on the expertise of several other scholars, spent over ten years preparing the complex edition from the Minster's main medieval cartulary, the *Liber Albus*, now curated by Nottinghamshire Archives. The edition, published by the Pipe Roll Society, was successfully completed in part thanks to a generous grant from the Lincoln Record Society, for which the editors



Members of the editorial team and the Minster community at the launch of the *White Book of Southwell* in the Chapter House, Southwell Minster, 16 May 2018 (left to right: Professor Michael Jones, Dr Teresa Webber, Dr Jean Cameron, Dr Trevor Foulds, Professor Julia Barrow, Dr David Crook, Bishop Paul Williams, Dr Paul Cavill and Rev. Canon Nigel Coates, who received a copy on behalf of the Dean and Chapter) © Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire.

are extremely grateful. Chiefly compiled between c. 1350 and the late fifteenth century, the earliest records copied into it date from shortly after 1100, and a few additions were made after 1550. Well-known to antiquaries and local historians since the days of Sir William Dugdale and Dr Robert Thoroton (d. 1677), they provide a record of the Minster's privileges, granted by popes, kings and archbishops, together with a very wide range of other documents concerning the governing body, the largely autonomous Chapter of sixteen prebendaries, and their estates from around 1100 up until the Reformation.

Most of the lands and benefices acquired by the Minster were located in Nottinghamshire. However, it also came to possess livings in South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, where the alien priory of West Ravendale was transferred to the Chapter by Henry VI in 1439, to enhance its diminished endowments after disruption caused by the Black Death and its recurrences. Henry VIII briefly abolished the Chapter in 1540, only to relent three years later. Suppressed again under the Commonwealth, the Chapter was restored by Charles II so that it was not until 1841 that the old Chapter was finally abolished. Some of Southwell's resources were then used to endow the new dioceses of Ripon and Manchester, while this mother church of Nottinghamshire, which had been part of the archdiocese of York since at least the tenth century, was transferred between 1837 and 1884 to the diocese of Lincoln. The *White Book* provides not only the major source for the institutional history of the medieval Collegiate church of St Mary's, Southwell,



Bishop Paul Williams launching the White Book of Southwell in the Chapter House, Southwell Minster, 16 May 2018. Seated in the prebendal stalls, left to right: Mark Dorrington (former Archivist, Nottinghamshire Archives), Dr Elizabeth Jones, Dr Trevor Foulds, Professor Michael Jones © Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire.

and those that served it, but also incidentally furnishes a rich fund of information relating to the pastoral care and spiritual guidance the Chapter offered, as well as illuminating wider social and economic matters affecting the townsfolk of Southwell and the agrarian routines of the peasantry in the many neighbouring villages forming the remarkable ecclesiastical 'Peculiar of Southwell' in the later Middle Ages.

Michael Jones



A PREVIEW OF

Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214-1968: A Biographical Register: Volume 3

The Archdeacon had seen it all before – or so he thought. Although in his eighty-eighth year, William Kaye was remarkably fit for his age and his vigour of mind was unclouded. He had held office as Archdeacon of Lincoln for the past forty-seven years and had no thoughts of retirement. As he drove along the country lane on 7 June 1910, on his way to induct the newly-appointed Rector of Tothill, it must have seemed a routine occasion, merely the latest such ceremony of the many hundreds over which he had presided since his appointment in 1863. But, as we shall shortly discover, this induction was to be dramatically different.

Go to Tothill today, and you will find no church, just a clump of trees where once it stood. You would search with difficulty for the grave of that new incumbent, who died in office in 1921 and who was buried in this churchyard. Tothill Church, declared redundant by the Diocese, was demolished in 1976. This part of Lincolnshire – the rural deanery of Calcewaith – has suffered more than its share of redundant and lost parish churches. "This is Withern

– the church 'redundant'. Redundant? – when the village is teeming with life? Some blunder seems to have been committed here. And, going on, round this immediate neighbourhood, what do we find? Gayton-le-Marsh: church demolished; Tothill: church demolished; Muckton: church demolished; Authorpe: church demolished; South Reston: church demolished ... Evidently, in this part of Lincolnshire, the Christian Church is in full retreat." So begins, in characteristically forthright manner, Henry Thorold's book, *Lincolnshire Churches Revisited*.

The deanery of Calcewaith will be covered in the third volume of *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214-1968: A Biographical Register*. Work on the volume provides some background to this picture of ecclesiastical decline. This part of east Lincolnshire was one of the most fertile in the county for church foundations. By the early thirteenth century there were as many as forty churches in the deanery, stretching from Swaby and Ulceby on the eastern edge of the Wolds to Theddlethorpe St Helen and Trusthorpe on the coast, with a large area of Marshland →



villages reaching from Gayton-le-Marsh in the north to Willoughby-cum-Sloothby in the south, the whole district being centred on the market town of Alford.

The number of churches in the deanery began to decline at an early stage: by 1300 the two churches of Holy Trinity and St Mary in Bilsby had been united into one benefice and a similar process took place in Swaby with the churches of St Margaret and St Nicholas. Some marginal settlements were abandoned. The church of Dexthorpe was united with that of Well some time before 1444, while the last vicar of Calceby church was instituted in 1637; the ruins of the church here can still be seen. In 1602 it was reported at Mablethorpe St Peter that 'bothe church and Chauncell weere swallowed up with the sea' some fifty or sixty years earlier, while a terrier from Aby recorded in 1707 that 'in the times of the unhappy usurpation, the church, steeple and chancel were pull'd down by Sir Henry Vane'.

At the same time, the number of beneficed clergy in the deanery was shrinking. The livings of Mablethorpe St Mary and Stain were united in 1661, those of Anderby and Cumberworth in 1733 and Claxby St Andrew and Well in 1737. Several other livings whose endowments were no longer sufficient to support an incumbent were placed under sequestration, the cure being served by a part-time curate. During the eighteenth century, Little Cawthorpe, Farlesthorne, Haugh, Hogsthorpe, Huttoft and Theddlethorpe All Saints found themselves in this situation. Other poor parishes were held in plurality. The effect of this can be seen in the deanery return for the bishop's visitation in 1768. Only three parishes (Alford, Maltby and Withern) were served by a resident clergyman; in another five livings the incumbent was non-resident but lived near enough to serve the cure in person. The remainder of the churches in the deanery were held by non-resident incumbents or were under sequestration.

This sorry state of affairs was gradually transformed. First, the gradual impact of augmentations of parochial endowments, partly by Queen Anne's Bounty and partly by private donors, so increased the income available to the poorer livings that by the 1840s there was no parish in the deanery that lacked an incumbent. Then, from the 1830s onwards, the work of successive reforming bishops such as John Kaye increasingly enforced the standard of full residence among beneficed clergy, together with the provision of adequate housing. The result was that by the early 1870s nearly every parish in the deanery could boast a resident incumbent. Bilsby and Farlesthorne were held together, as were Sutton and Trusthorpe, while the incumbents of Hannah cum Markby and Haugh, lacking suitable houses in their parishes, resided in nearby Alford. The only parson of the old school, a thorn in the side of successive bishops, was Thomas Lovett Cooper, Rector of Mablethorpe St Mary, who lived in distant Rutland and was continually at odds with the unfortunate curates whom he engaged to serve the parish.

Tothill, though one of the smallest parishes in the deanery with a population of just 60 in 1871, had never been too

poorly endowed to maintain its rector. An unbroken succession of incumbents had held the living since the thirteenth century, the majority of whom had resided in the parish. A new rectory house had been built in the village in 1854. Here in 1910 came a new rector, John James Thomson. Born in Derby, Mr Thomson had been educated at the University of Glasgow where he had been awarded the degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity. Ordained by the Bishop of Liverpool, he had served a number of curacies in Lancashire, including Horwich where he had met and married Edith Hope, a member of the church choir. In 1908 he had moved to Lincolnshire as Rector of Authorpe, not much more than a mile from Tothill itself.

As the Archdeacon and Rector-designate drove up to Tothill Church on that June evening, it quickly became apparent that this was not to be the usual ceremony of induction. 'An extraordinary scene was witnessed', wrote the reporter from the *Grantham Journal*, 'when all the parishioners assembled ... and formally protested against the living being conferred upon the rev. gentleman.' What was it about Mr Thomson that they objected to? His private life was above reproach. He had not been accused of introducing extreme High Church ritual at Authorpe, nor had he been heard to espouse 'modern' or heretical theological opinions.

Archdeacon Kaye, a man of firm and uncompromising views, insisted to the parishioners that he was required to carry out the law. The churchwarden of Tothill refused to sign the necessary document and none of the parishioners would enter the church while the induction ceremony was being performed. As it was necessary to have a witness to the ceremony, a message had hastily to be sent to Mr Thomson's theological student who was boarding with him at the Rectory. This was probably John Thomas Maynard, a young Cornishman who was living at the Rectory at the time of the 1911 Census; he was later ordained and in 1921 succeeded Thomson as Rector of Tothill, having in the meantime married Mrs Thomson's sister.

A few days later, another newspaper report explained the reason behind the protest. It appears that the respective parishioners of Authorpe and Tothill wished to remain independent, and accordingly refused to acknowledge, by attending the induction ceremony, the holding of the two livings in plurality. It was stressed that 'The objection was not personal to Mr Thomson, who hopes that the people will respond to his friendly overtures'.

The protest of the parishioners was in vain. After the First World War, unions of parishes continued unchecked. Between the wars, seven pairs of parishes in Calcewaith deanery were officially united, among them, in 1922, Authorpe and Tothill. From 1944 the two churches were held in plurality with Gayton-le-Marsh. Today, as we have seen, all three villages have lost their parish churches, while the whole area once covered by the medieval deanery of Calcewaith is served by just four incumbents.

Nicholas Bennett





Professor David Stocker, President of the Lincoln Record Society, introduces the conference.



THE AFTERMATH OF WAR IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Our Spring conference this year explored the aftermath of war in Lincolnshire, for a period spanning over eight hundred years. The Lincoln Record Society were welcomed back at Bishop Grosseteste University, on Saturday 28 April 2018, for a varied programme of papers which explored multifarious aspects of Lincolnshire life throughout several periods of conflict. This included the 1215-1217 civil war, the First and Second World Wars, and the Cold War. Our speakers used a wide range of interesting evidence to investigate these topics. For example, David Crook discussed the fall-out from the 1217 Battle of Lincoln, which led to the siege of Newark castle in 1218, drawing our attention to the importance of evidence from a Muster roll held at The National Archives. The depiction of life in a POW camp at Sutton Bridge was sensitively captured by Andrew Kerr's paper, which explored letters and images created by German prisoners, casting light on the discontent arising from the prisoners' post-armistice incarceration. Andrew Jackson provided a window into the fiction of Lincolnshire-born novelist Bernard Samuel Gilbert and his account of a pre-war and wartime rural world that was passing away, in an imaginary district called 'Bly'.

The theme of the use and re-use of buildings also featured prominently in the programme, with several papers exploring this idea. Andrew Walker examined the construction of memorial halls in the post-World War One period, within a wider historiography exploring the development of the village hall and rural community movement. Rob Wheeler dispelled the myth that Lincoln's council house programme was one of the consequences of the First World War, drawing attention to its pre-war origins. And John Manterfield explored the aftermath of the First World War in Grantham and its legacy of improved facilities, providing 'Homes fit for Heroes'.

A paper given on behalf of Abi Hunt discussed the emergence of modern agriculture in Lincolnshire, demonstrating that change did not uniformly take place across the county just before, or immediately after the Second World War. Dan Ellin gave a fascinating paper representing the new International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln, exploring the often unacknowledged source of dissonance in the memorialisation of Bomber Command. And Emily Gibbs used Lincoln as a case study to explore the unique nuclear fears, experiences and cultures which developed during the Cold War, using evidence from local newspapers to trace Lincolnshire's relationship with nuclear weapons.

The diverse range of papers provoked many interesting questions and much stimulating conversation. Many thanks on behalf of the Society to Andrew Walker, for putting this conference together, and to all who attended.

Marianne Wilson



Dr John Manterfield explores the post-war improvements to Grantham.





LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY OCCASIONAL SERIES BOOK LAUNCH

Farming and Society in North Lincolnshire: The Dixons of Holton-le-Moor, 1741-1906

More than fifty members and friends of the Society gathered on 15 June 2018 in Holton-le-Moor's unique Moot Hall to celebrate the launch of the second volume to be published in the new Occasional Series. Dr Richard Olney's book, *Farming and Society in North Lincolnshire: The Dixons of Holton-le-Moor, 1741-1906*, represents the fruits of nearly fifty years' work on the Dixon family archive, starting in the 1960s when the author was researching his doctoral thesis on nineteenth-century Lincolnshire politics and continuing with the transfer of the records from Holton to the Lincolnshire Archives, and his subsequent work in cataloguing the entire collection.

The Dixon archive is remarkable in that not only does it record the building up of the family estate in Holton, from a minor purchase in 1741, to the point where they owned the whole parish, but also that it includes detailed and lengthy series of farming records, including crop books and even the wage books kept by individual agricultural labourers.

Introducing the book, Dr Olney gave us a flavour of these archival riches, paying tribute to the assistance he had received over the years from successive generations of the Dixon and Gibbons families. The current representative of the family, Jonathan Gibbons, then launched the book, paying tribute to Dr Olney's scholarship in producing such an eloquent account of the life and work of the Dixon family and their place in the farming community of north Lincolnshire.



The audience assembled, ready for the launch of the second volume in our Occasional series.



Dr Nicholas Bennett, Honorary General Editor of the LRS, Dr Richard Olney, author of the volume and a representative of the Dixon family, Jonathan Gibbons.

The afternoon concluded with a magnificent tea, in the best LRS tradition, and a number of those present took advantage of the kind invitation to explore the gardens of Holton Hall. The Society is greatly indebted to Jonathan and Rachel Gibbons for their generous hospitality throughout the afternoon.

Nicholas Bennett

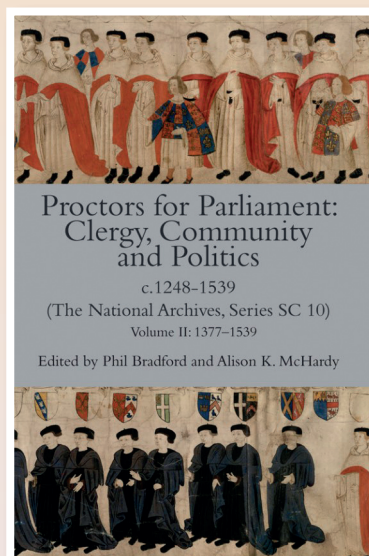


PROCTORS FOR PARLIAMENT

Clergy, Community and Politics, c. 1248-1539.

This volume will be published shortly by the Canterbury and York Society and includes much material about the county and ancient diocese of Lincoln. It is being offered to LRS members at the special price of £25, plus postage and packaging, which is a substantial saving on the publisher's price of £35. If you would like a copy, please contact the CYS treasurer:

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Part of a bone object, probably a Roman comb, found by a student.
Image credit: Lynne McEwan

UNCOVERING LINCOLN'S HIDDEN HISTORIES

Earlier this summer, the archaeology department of Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) undertook an excavation at St Hugh's, a property located on Newport, in central Lincoln. The excavation was designed to enable undergraduates and visiting international students to learn the key skills of archaeological fieldwork, but the project also acted as a meaningful research exercise. Located at the junction of Rasen Lane, St Hugh's is a Grade II Listed Building, which was recently purchased by the university, with the aid of a European Regional Development Fund grant, in order to house the Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre. In addition to its built fabric, St Hugh's is located in an area of significant below-ground archaeological potential, which the archaeologists at BGU sought to explore.

During the Roman period, the land lay adjacent to the northern extension of Ermine Street, a route that is perpetuated today as Newport. In the medieval period,

the area developed into the suburb of Newport and was unusually demarcated by a formal boundary—a ditch and earthwork bank – which survived mostly intact until the eighteenth century, but which today only survives as a slight scarp in the grounds of the BGU campus. The suburb was served by two churches, St Nicholas and St John; the unequal distribution of land belonging to each church suggests that St John was a later parish, and that its property was carved out of the existing parish of St Nicholas. The area which was later to become St Hugh's was situated on the edge of Newport Green—a long, narrow market place which formed the backbone of the suburb. Perhaps more significantly, historic maps also indicate that the area later occupied by St Hugh's was the location of an Augustinian Friary, the only major institution in the suburb, which was founded in the thirteenth century. There is little documentary evidence relating to the friary, and the boundaries, internal features and history of the house are poorly understood. →



Excavation of a post-medieval wall.
Image credit: Lynne McEwan



Fragment of Roman pottery, decorated with 'chilli' design.
Image credit: Lynne McEwan



Detail of the fragments of the bone comb.
Image credit: Lynne McEwan

With such significant archaeological potential, the excavation team decided to excavate two trenches at St Hugh's; one at the front of the property, and one at the rear. Investigation at the front identified at least one Roman tenement onto Ermine Street. Situated outside of the city walls, the form of this structure and the character of the finds recovered, suggest that it was probably a trader's tenement. This would likely have been comprised of a shop at the front of the property, behind which would have been a workshop and domestic space, and a yard or garden at the rear. Excavations found a burial at the interface of the inside and outside space, in what

is often called an eaves-drip location, a feature formed by water falling from the roof of a building and creating a linear or curving indentation in the ground. Burials such as this are closely connected to traders' properties, and may have brought good luck or protection to the building. As expected, little archaeology relating to the medieval period was found in the front trench, as this would have been occupied by Newport Green. However, medieval walls were identified in the back garden of St Hugh's during the final week of fieldwork. These remains were buried at a significant depth (c.1.5m) due to later landscaping and, while it is difficult to be certain at this stage, it is highly likely that these deposits relate to the Augustinian Friary and later private residence.

This summer of archaeology has proved hugely exciting, with the discovery of some wonderful finds and features, and has allowed the excavation team to characterise the nature and quality of the remains in the grounds of St Hugh's. The team expect to return next year, and for several more seasons, so that they can learn even more about historic Newport, and continue to train future generations of archaeologists at the same time.

Duncan Wright



Excavation of honeycomb-coloured medieval walls, lying directly beneath a post-medieval successor. Image credit: Lynne McEwan

