



Friends of Spital Cemetery (FoSC) January News 2018

Welcome to the New Year. Thanks to Ian Thomason for our temporary logo this month. The word "angel" comes from *angelos*, the Greek word for messenger. Angels holding flowers symbolise life's fleeting quality.

Membership

We have finally introduced membership this year. Please download a form from the website <http://friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk> and send it to our new address c/o St Leonard's Mission, Valley Road, S41 0HQ or pass to a member of the committee. Membership entitles you to vote at our AGM and influence the direction of the Friends but also we will be printing and sending out quarterly bulletins with news and articles. We have an exciting year ahead; please join us and help to conserve and promote this amazing cemetery.

Christmas Tree Festival and the Nadin Window.

Over 12 thousand people walked past our tree (and 119 others) in the Spire in the two weeks of the Christmas Tree Festival and over 200 leaflets about FoSC were taken from our stand. All good. I had volunteered to be one of the stewards and apart from the warm welcome from everyone I met and lovely comments from the visitors, I found it interesting to look around. This building has existed a lot longer than the cemetery at Spital but there are obviously many connections. Did you know that the window in the Crooked Spire in the Lady Chapel is in the memory of Charles Harold Nadin, known for his postcards of Chesterfield? Nadin was a member of the parochial church council and a Churchwarden at the church. His sister Florence married a Unitarian, Harry Wragg. She paid for the window in memory of her brother and in 1944 commissioned one of the much sought after stained glass window makers of the time, Christopher Webb (Orchard House Studios, St. Albans) to make it at a cost of £980. This mid-20th century window departs from design features beloved of the Victorians, windows densely packed with impenetrable colour. It then became acceptable to allow clear light to come into the church through a stained glass window.



Charles Nadin is buried with his wife, Emily (a milliner) in the Anglican area of Spital Cemetery, near the rectangle which cuts across the straight path that leads downhill from the Chapels. His sister and brother in law are buried in the Non-conformist area, along the main path which goes north from the chapels. Charles' and Emily's parents are also buried in the Cemetery, much further down the hill in the Anglican area. They were butler and housekeeper for the Maynard family at West House.

Many thanks to Ann Hargreaves for her help with this information. Ann is Nadin's granddaughter. Liz Cook

Downloadable cemetery tour, with map

It is now possible to download a map and brief introductory tour to the cemetery from our website. <http://friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk>

Family and Local History Event

Are you interested in exploring your family history? Or maybe you'd just like to know more about one or two people buried in Spital Cemetery?

The Friends are running a family and local history event in conjunction with the Local Studies section of Chesterfield Library. The event will cover the resources available at the library and go through the basics of family research using the computer resources. As a case study we shall be using Ann Hargreaves, grand-daughter to Charles Harold Nadin, well known for his photograph postcards of Chesterfield. Ann has a number of relatives buried in the Cemetery.

Where: Chesterfield Local Studies Library, Beetwell Street.

Date and time: Wednesday 14th February at 10am-12pm

The event is free but **must be booked** as we need to ensure enough computers are set aside for our use. Please book through thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com by 7th February. If you would have liked to attend but are unable to make this date or time, please let us know as we may consider repeating the event if there is enough interest.



The Derelict Chapels

We are hoping that 2018 will see a better future for the derelict chapels in the cemetery. We are told that 'The Council is in discussion with a buyer for the chapels and we hope this will result in their long term sustainability.' We will watch developments with interest and look for assurances that this will be to the benefit to the cemetery as a place of remembrance, heritage and wildlife. We will continue to promote it to visitors and the residents of Chesterfield.

Extraordinary Ordinary Women.

We are collecting some wonderful stories about some of the Extraordinary Women buried in the cemetery and this will be the focus of our tours over the Heritage Open Days in September but we are still on the look out for tales of ordinary, unknown daughters, mums, grandmothers or great grandmothers. In his wonderful History and Guide about Chesterfield, Geoff Sadler talks of 'the women who kept the war effort going at home. They drove the Chesterfield trams, now increasingly a danger as track and vehicles began to show signs of wear and tear. They toiled in the munitions factories, like that of the Patent Electric Shot-Firing Company on Dark Lane in Newbold, where they made fuses and detonators for the hand-grenades know as 'Mills bombs'.' If you can help us in our search please contact the secretary thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com.

Dates for your diary in January

- The Cemetery Task Team meet on the second Saturday of the month 10-12.30 Meet at the chapels (Jan 13th) email lizcook80@icloud.com for more details.
- Cemetery Tours will take place on the 2nd Sunday of the month 1-2pm Meet at the bottom entrance on Hady Hill (Jan 14th) email thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com for more details

Happy 2018 to you all and we hope to see you soon.