

## ***St Julien's Church, Winkle Street, Southampton***

A team from Southampton Archaeology Society visited the church of St Julien on 12th June 2018 to carry out a graffiti survey.

The church dates to c 1190 and was much restored in 1861. It was the chapel of the Hospital of St Julien or God's House, founded circa 1185 as an almshouse and a hostel for travellers on pilgrimage to Canterbury. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1939 it was used regularly by French Protestants and is thus also known as the French Church. An annual service, in French, is still held here.

The exterior is of coursed stone rubble with a tiled roof. The squat tower has an archway beneath. The nave and chancel are of 2 bays each with transitional style windows.

The Leper's Squint Stoup Monument, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century, commemorates the nearby execution of Richard Plantagenet, Lord Scrope of Masham and Sir Thomas Gray of Northumberland in 1415 for their part in the conspiracy against Henry V.

Although most of the original wall surfaces have been lost as a result of the 19<sup>th</sup> century restorations, a small quantity of historical graffiti was found. Most of this was around the exterior of the west doorway, and inside the north door, with a few traces elsewhere within the church. A fine cross within a circle by the north door has been protected with a sheet of perspex, and two other circles, one containing a cross, were found close to this one. A small amount of graffiti was found around the circular window surround on the south nave wall, but was too worn to be legible. A number of initials, many very abraded, with some dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century were found around the west doorway. On the north side of the doorway, low down, is a "VV" or Marian mark next to what seems to be a very worn cross, the date 1644 and a triangular arrangement of dots beneath. The position of this stone suggests it may have been moved.

Inside the vestry is a painted wooden cupboard, probably dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On one of its side panels can be seen faint traces of carefully drawn pencil concentric circles, forming "daisy wheels". These are thought to be apotropaic symbols, and it is interesting to find them in this relatively late context.

The church is not usually open, and permission has to be obtained from the agent of Queen's College Oxford, which owns the land.



*Entrance to the Church*



*Marian mark "VV"*



*Cross and concentric circle*



*Abraded initials*

Karen Wardley