

BOURNE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

**Our aim is to restore and re-open
the Cemetery Chapel, built in 1854
and still in it's original condition..**

Will you support us?



This beautiful building was opened on the 26th of May 1855, yes, that is over 154 years ago, and it has been standing, virtually unchanged, for that time.

Burial services were held in the chapels between 1855 and December 2001, and the chapel was finally closed to the public in 2004, by Bourne Town Council, although the building is still used by council workmen.

This chapel is the oldest listed chapel of it's design, the only other example being in Worcestershire, and the Bourne Chapel pre-dates it by 12 years. The building is in remarkably good condition, although much work is needed to remove the ravages of time, however it is the opinion of various official bodies, including English Heritage and the Victorian Society that the building can be, and should be preserved.

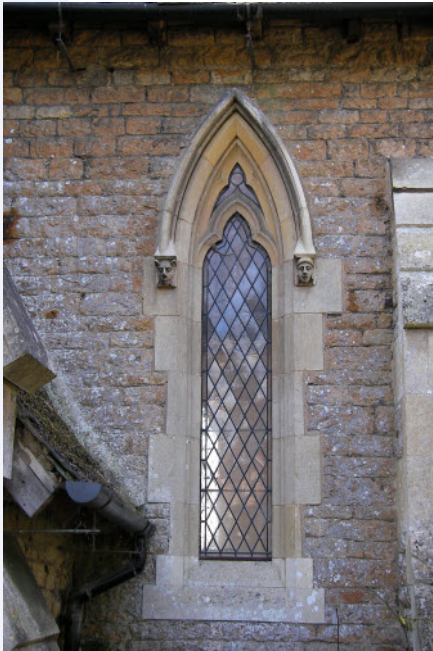
The Department of Culture, Media, and Sport granted the building the status of 'Grade II listed building of special architectural and historical interest' on the 4th April 2007, on the advice of English Heritage, following a visit by their adviser.

The Chapel was designed in 1854 by Edward Browning, architect, of Stamford, and was the design chosen from others submitted to be built for the new Bourne Cemetery. The accepted design also included a Lodge to a similar design, which was demolished in 1960 and a modern bungalow was built in it's place as residence for the cemetery keeper.

The opening of Bourne Cemetery in 1855, was the result of the passing of the Burial Act of 1854, by Parliament. This Act was necessary to bring order to the process of burials, as at that time burials took place in many different locations. Following the act, burials were not permitted other than in approved cemeteries, and for Bourne that meant there were no church burials after 1855.

The chapel design is most unusual, in that it incorporates two chapels, one Anglican, and one Nonconformist. It was typical of the Victorian period to have two separate chapels, one for each group, however the Bourne design incorporated both into one T-shaped building. As you face the building the entrance to the Anglican Chapel is on the left, and the Nonconformist chapel entrance is on the right.

There are many fine attributes to the chapel building. The outside is characterised by a fine landscaped setting, finely crafted finishes such as carved head-stops, trefoiled gablets, and a graded Collyweston slate roof.



Inside the building it is apparent that there are subtle differences between the designs of both chapels. The Anglican chapel has a porch with a cross finial, a three light window on the gable end, and biblical inscriptions on the wall plate inside.

The Nonconformist Chapel has a rose window over the entrance, lancet windows on the gable end, and no biblical inscriptions.

The floors of both chapels are laid in alternating red and black Minton tiles.

As you can see from the picture on the left, the building is in remarkable condition, it is almost completely original, indeed even the doors are those fitted in 1855.

As this project moves forward, Bourne Preservation Society will ensure that progress reports are published, to keep the population of Bourne, and other interested parties, advised of progress, and it is expected that this building will again be in regular use by members of the public before too long.

The Victorian Gothic Bourne Cemetery Chapel, is a beautiful building, in a beautiful setting, if you would like to help preserve the history of Bourne, and it's beautiful old buildings, please support Bourne Preservation Society by either becoming a member of the Society, or simply by making a donation, both can be carried out using the information on our website, or the contact details on the back of of this leaflet.

Become a member of Bourne Preservation Society by visiting our website, or using our contact details for membership information and the necessary application form. In return for your support, membership will entitle you to receive a bi-monthly newsletter, with details of fundraising, progress, events - and highlighting other Society activities and projects. We also hold monthly meetings at Wake House in Bourne, where speakers will illustrate a variety of topics of general interest.

Check our website and local press for details.

Should you feel that saving and restoring the chapel is a worthy cause, and we hope you will, but do not wish to become a member, you can still help us by making a donation to our fundraising, see our website, or use the contact details below, for details of how to donate.

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