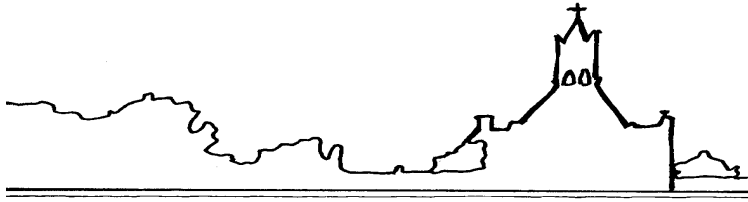


# Ellerton Church Preservation Trust



**Newsletter number 1**

**June 2004**

Dear friends, welcome to the first newsletter of the Ellerton Church Preservation Trust which must begin, alas, with some very sad news.

## **Stephen Warburton (1950-2004)**

Some of you will already be aware that Stephen Warburton - Secretary to the Trust since its foundation in 1995 - died suddenly on 19<sup>th</sup> January this year, at the age of fifty-three. He was a genuinely modest and unassuming man, and many who read the moving obituaries published in *The Independent*, the *Guardian* and the *Yorkshire Post*, realised with surprise the extraordinary range of his interests and the tremendous influence he had on the conservation of wildlife and landscape in Britain. More of you probably knew him as the polite bearded man who greeted you in the church porch on open days, answered your questions and charmed you into signing the visitors' book.

Stephen was central to the long, hard and ultimately successful campaign to protect the River Derwent and the magical landscape of the Derwent ings. From the early 1990s he was also tireless in his efforts to rescue and repair the abandoned Ellerton Priory church, realising that this ancient place of the spirit was essential to the cultural landscape of the Lower Derwent Valley. The glorious new east window, installed only four months before his death, was inspired by him and is his triumph. He last visited the church in November 2003 to see the wonderful nave pews, which were his gift to the Trust and the village.

On Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, the church will open as part of a **Special Village Open Day** organised by the *Yorkshire Wildlife Trust* in memory of Stephen. Simple refreshments will be available, and guided tours will take place at 11.30 am, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm. The lovely organic garden at *Tregonning*, beside the village pond, will also be open and clotted cream teas will be served from 2.30 pm. During the afternoon there will be a walk through the precious ings meadows led by Len Charlesworth - an ECPT trustee, local farmer and great friend of Stephen. We hope you might bring pic-nic to share in the churchyard or have a drink in the good, old-fashioned village pub, *The Boot and Shoe*.

Before his death, Stephen asked if he might have a memorial at Ellerton. The trustees are proud to be able to offer him this tribute, and a fine wall monument is to be commissioned by his friends and placed inside the church beside his favourite window.

## **A 'royal' window on history**

Speaking of windows, a tiny tribute to Stephen has also been included in our newest piece of stained glass. This Summer a splendid heraldic panel will be installed in the nave to complete our series of three representing the building history of Ellerton Priory. Made by Alfred Fisher, celebrated stained glass artist and Past Master of the Glaziers Company, the new window includes the arms of the mediaeval Gilbertine canons surrounded by the beautifully-lettered names of their Yorkshire houses, and is made of sumptuous 'streaky' glasses left over from a window Alfred made for HM the Queen's private chapel in Buckingham Palace in 2003.

## Events at Ellerton Priory, Summer and Autumn, 2004

We would be grateful if you could make a note of these dates in your diary, and share them with your friends.

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Ellerton Open Day in memory of Stephen Warburton - details above.

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Working weekend for volunteers: hay cutting and stooking, church-cleaning and rubbish clearing. Wear good boots and bring work-gloves.

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July

A practical **Weekend Workshop in Creative Ceramics** led by professional potter/tutor Ian Howie. Ian will talk about and show his own subtle work, as well as providing a sound, basic course in the fundamental techniques of ceramics. The Workshop will concentrate on hand-building techniques, although other methods will be discussed. **Places limited, early booking advised.**

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### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September

**National Heritage Open Day at Ellerton Priory church.** Help once again to make this the highlight of our year: stalls selling local produce, Christmas cards and books, an exhibition, activities, refreshments (home-made cakes) and inspired, educational tours led by Phil Thomas. Why not bring a pic-nic to the churchyard? As in previous years, **Heritage Open Day** at our magnificent 'sister' church in the picturesque village of **Warter** near Pocklington will be the previous day, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, so why not make a weekend of it?.

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September

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Note that *Tregonning* garden will be open on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Alas, it will not be possible to open the church.

If you are interested in securing a place on any of the Workshop Weekends, please contact: Phil Thomas, ECPT, 13 South Parade, York YO23 1BF. Tel: 01904 630097. E-mail: [york@enterprise.net](mailto:york@enterprise.net)

## New large-print guide books

Thanks to a generous grant from the *Local Heritage Initiative*, we now have specially bound and laminated Large Print guide books available; one for the church building and one for the stained glass. These can be borrowed for use at the church, or ordered by post from Phil Thomas - address given above.

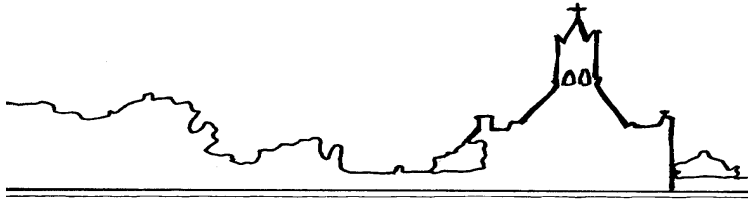
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### Directions

**Ellerton** is 14 miles south-east of York, just off the B1228 York-Howden road. The church is the last building at the far end of the village. Access is via a grass path and two steps.

**Warter** is on the B1246, 4 miles east of Pocklington. There is an ample village car park nearby. Access is via a sloping grass path and two very shallow steps.

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Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building  
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