

A Brief History of the Red Mount Chapel

- **1483 April** Robert Curraunt was told not to commence building without a permit
- **1483 June** He was granted a licence to build
- **1485** Prior William Spynke, the Benedictine (black) prior of St. Margaret's, was granted the lease of the land upon which the chapel stood. According to the Lynn Priory return, the chapel cost £38.4.0d to build
- **1497** Offerings totalled £34.13.4d and this sum was set against the cost of re-building the clerestory of St. Margaret's
- **1506** The upper chapel was completed at a cost of £14.11.0d – possibly by John Wastell, the master mason for King's College, Cambridge
- **1507** The altar was gilded; the organ, a lectern and music books were purchased
- **1536** Act of Suppression of the monasteries
- **1537** Benedictine Priory closed
- **1560** The chapel was defaced and a new key was made for 2d
- **1571** Six loads of roof tiles and three loads of timber (roof) spars were removed from the site
- **1573** Two women carried bricks from the mount over two days. The chapel was defaced and roofless
- **1577** The cistern and conduit of lead was leased to Thos. Robinson, plumber
- **1586** Twelve shillings were spent creating a study at the Red Mount for Mr House, vicar of St. Margaret's
- **1608** John Parkes and Robert Wright plus two or three labourers spent 11 weeks working at the Red Mount at a total cost of £10.18.0½d. Loads of mortar were brought from the council's storehouse. Parks & Wright were paid 1/1d per day and labourers were paid 9d per day – all plus 6d per week for beer
- **1641** 18 barrels of gunpowder were stored at the Red Mount during the Civil War
- **1665** The Red Mount was possibly used as a charnel house (a place used for keeping dead human bodies or bones) during the Plague
- **1754** The land and building were leased to Alderman Mixon, but he was not allowed to build a 'public house'
- **1780c** The chapel was used as stables when the ground floor was partially filled in and a door cut into the south wall
- **1783** The building was repaired as an observatory for students of navigation
- **1828** £250 was raised by public subscription by Reverend Edward Edwards and John Blencowe. The upper windows to the outer octagon were restored; pinnacles were added to the buttresses; the floors and stairs were re-instated plus other works, including the installation of stained glass from St. Nicholas Chapel into the windows of the upper chapel
- **1870** These stained-glass windows were reported as vandalised, but fortunately details were recorded by William Taylor in his **1840** *Pictorial Guide to King's Lynn*
- **1922** Wrought iron tie rods were inserted in the Priests' room
- **1936** Concrete ties sections were inserted into corners of the octagonal walls and its copper roof was replaced in corrugated iron
- **1942** A half-ton German bomb fell in The Walks adjacent to the Red Mount Chapel
- The chapel opened as a place of inter-denominational worship on a 50-year lease to the Roman Catholic church, but the lease was surrendered on 1st December **1988** as the terms were 'too onerous'
- **2000** Report to lottery commission requested
- **2008** Chapel (listed Grade I) and The Walks (listed Grade II open landscape) were restored and the chapel opened to the public

Note: Interestingly the chapel was only used as a religious building for some 50 years of its 530-year existence