

# A short guide to **Bournville Parish Church** **St Francis of Assisi**



Welcome to Bournville Parish Church, which is dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi. It is a place of calm and beauty and a place of prayer beloved by those who worship here. We hope you will experience its peace and leave refreshed.

George Cadbury always intended there to be an Anglican church as part of his 'garden village'. Land was set aside for a Church and Church Hall by Bournville Village Trust in 1905. The Hall was built in 1913 and the completed Church was consecrated in 1925. The architect, William Alexander Harvey, designed the church on the early Christian basilica style. He created an open space, filled with light, which is simple but not plain.



The Baptistry is within the apse at the back of the church (the west end). The font is not the original, but one given as a memorial in 1984. It is of Portland stone and was designed and made by John Poole. Carved on the font are the words, 'For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body', from 1 Corinthians 12:13.



Turn from the Baptistry and look down the main aisle to the Altar. Behind the Altar is the Reredos curtain which was designed and worked by Anne Hemming at the Bournville College of Art. The design is a depiction of St. Francis' Canticle of the Sun.

"All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through all that you have made,  
And first my lord Brother Sun,  
Who brings the day; and light  
you gave to us through him."



Walk down the aisle to the Lectern. Although the design of an eagle perched on a globe is familiar, this particular one is special because it was made in 1920 by one of the earliest members of the congregation. Francis Thomas Ames of Sycamore Road, Bournville, a very able metal worker, cast it at the end of his garden. The cost of the Lectern, £100.00, was met by the teachers and children of the Sunday School.



Go up the step towards the altar into the Chancel. On your left is the Organ, built by Messrs Nicholson & Co. of Worcester. It was given to the Church by Cadbury Brothers and had originally been situated in The Girls' Dining Room in the Bournville Works.



Here in the Chancel the Reredos can be seen more clearly as can the Cross and Candlesticks on the Altar. These were given in memory of Roland Cartland, M.P. who was killed at Dunkirk. They were designed by W. Alexander Harvey. The Standard of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association is laid up in the Church and is situated beside the memorial to those who fell in the 1939-1945 conflict.

Turn to the right to enter the Chapel which was designed by Selby Clewer and built in 1966. The Chapel was given by Laurence and Joyce Cadbury in memory of their three children. The commemorative tablet is to be found at the main entrance to the Chapel. The Aumbry and Light and the Dove Corbel are further examples of John Poole's work.



Just outside the Chapel on the south wall there is a Memorial Window. It was given in memory of Lt. Christopher Barclay, R.N. who was killed on duty in March 1953. The window was designed and made by two local artists, Nora Yoxall and Elsie Whitford.

Quae sursum sunt quaerite.  
Seek those things which are above.

Colossians 3:1



The Scottish granite pillars of the Church are capped by beautifully carved Capitals. The outer four were carved by William Bloye when the Church was built. The remaining six are the work of John Poole.

On leaving the Church and reaching the top of the steps, it is worth turning to look back. This is the best place from which to see the carved wooden Tympanum above the door. This was carved by William Bloye and shows the famous scene of St. Francis preaching to the birds.

Walk round to the other side of the Church to the south door where there is a second Tympanum. This depicts St. Francis, Builder of the Church, carved by John Poole.

