

December 2008

Number 27

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- *Christmas 2008*
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Welcome to the twenty-seventh Friends Newsletter.

In our December issue we take this opportunity to thank so many Friends for their most wonderful support throughout 2008, and especially for everything that you have contributed this year.

June 2008 was the time of the first renewals for Friends of Pugin membership and we thank you most sincerely for your continued financial contributions which enable the Friends to be self-supporting. We thank you too for your kind donations, as these, together with your memberships, help the treasury of Pugin's Australian heritage to be known and appreciated all

around the world.

This year has seen continued significant and essential works on the Foundation's exemplar conservation project of St Patrick's Church, Colebrook. In this issue we bring you pictorial documentation of these conservation works. As with all heritage buildings, many of the necessary major works are not obvious but they include:

- ◆ Installation of ventilators in the stone work to block up the 'rat holes', named affectionately by the locals; in fact ventilators were not installed originally and there were only irregular holes in the east and west walls
- ◆ Substantial underfloor strengthening to



*Parish Priest Fr Terry Rush, assisted by Aidan Greener, blesses the new Shrine of Our Lady of Colebrook on 8 December 2008 (Image: Jude Andrews)*



enable the floors to carry the weight of the scaffolding and vertical lift machine needed for the conservation work

- ◆ Structural strengthening through tying the roofs and walls together with steel reinforcing
- ◆ Stripping of the original wiring, a fire hazard, and complete re-wiring

All of this 'hidden' major conservation work will ensure that Pugin's gem in the antipodes remains strong and sturdy for another 150 years.

Conservation which is able to be seen and in which all can rejoice includes:

- ◆ Cleaning of over 150 years of debris and dirt from the magnificent wooden roof
- ◆ The installation of sensitive and effective interior lighting which softly highlights the restored rood screen and crucifix, the altars and the shrine of Our Lady of Colebrook
- ◆ Conservation of all the crown glass (clear) windows
- ◆ Re-roofing including new flashing, guttering and downpipes, ensuring that the building will be safe from the elements and the birds which had made St Patrick's their home
- ◆ Refurbishing of the floor where the Our Lady of Colebrook's shrine has been installed

It has been yet another significant year in the life of the Pugin Foundation where we have experienced unique milestones, some of which may not be seen again in our lifetime. We also bring you images of some of the celebrations we enjoyed this year.

We commenced the year celebrating the patronal feast of St Patrick at St Patrick's Church, Colebrook, where we decorated the restored rood screen with branches of Tasmanian Blue Gum. This was a happy occasion with yet another indication of the re-emergence of Pugin's intentions for one of Bishop Willson's churches in the antipodes.

And so we came to the end of the year, with significant progress towards the realization of Bishop Willson's dream for the village of Colebrook, the parish celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the blessing of the shrine of Our Lady of Colebrook on 8 December. The exquisite statue was donated by Friend of Pugin Stephen Kerin in memory of his father Vincent Kerin. The pedestal and floor refurbishment, hanging lamp and candelabra were made possible through a bequest from the late Archbishop of Hobart, Eric D'Arcy. Again the rood screen for this joyous celebration was decorated with bunches of perfumed lilies with blue and white iris, tied with blue bows. The shrine was strewn with swags of white roses, blue sage and blue iris.

We are grateful to the Friends who cleaned, to Fr Terry Rush the Parish Priest and to the community of Colebrook and St John's, Richmond. Sincere thanks is given to Stephen and Shirley Kerin, Betty Vincent, Anna Greener, Dominique Oberhauser, Penny and Michael Wadsley, Philippa Brettingham-Moore, Mark Tuckett and in particular to Maria and Allan Myers whose very generous financial and administrative support enables the treasury of Pugin's Australian heritage to flourish anew.

And the bells continue to ring out daily across the Coal River valley.

We wish you and your families a very happy Christmas.

[Jude Andrews](#)  
Administrative Officer

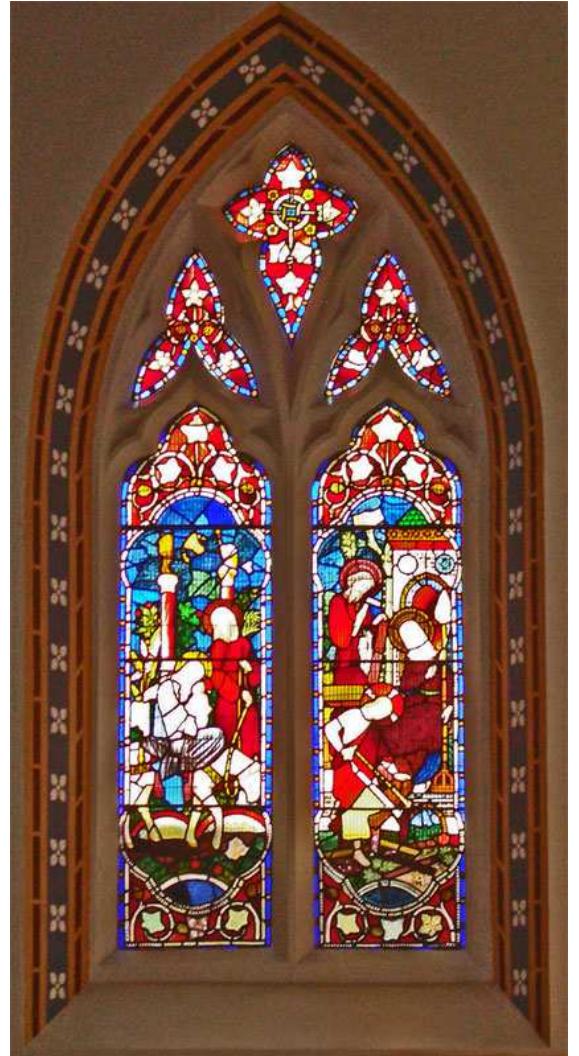


## Christmas 2008

In the spirit of this Season we bring you two images with related themes from Pugin's English churches.

The stained glass window is from the east end of the south aisle in St Thomas of Canterbury's, Fulham. Although much altered, this space was the site of Pugin's Lady Chapel. The left-hand light depicts the Flight into Egypt and the right-hand light is of the Holy Family at Nazareth.

Our second image is an historic one of the interior of St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham, dating from the early 1930s. It shows the eastern side of the chancel east end with a seated Virgin and Child image on a moulded corbel beneath a crocketed canopy. The image is facing the Lady Chapel which Pugin placed on the central axis of his design, to the east of the chancel, the centerpiece of three eastern chapels ranged across the end of the ambulatory.



Following successive re-orderings of the interior this beautiful statue has now found a home atop a column just forward of the reredos in the re-ordered Lady Chapel.

*Fulham window image: Jude Andrews*

*Nottingham image: courtesy Nottingham Diocesan Archive*



## 2008: a pictorial review



*St Patrick's Day, Colebrook, the rood screen decorated with Tasmanian Blue Gum tied with green ribbons (Image: Jude Andrews)*



*Above, the unstrengthened floor showing the floor joists unsupported between the nave column footings; below, Edrei Stanton inserts wedges between one of the new beams connecting the nave column footings and thereby halving the floor span (Images: Brian Andrews)*



*An electrician working on a light fitting amongst the debris of the work site (Image: Brian Andrews)*



*Wiring being fed under the floor from the new switchboard in the sacristy (Image: Brian Andrews)*



*The vertical lift machine on load-spreading sheets in the nave (Image: Brian Andrews)*



*Above, electrician Sam Beresford atop the vertical lift machine adjusts the aim of accent lighting for the rood screen; at right, stonemason Edrei Stanton repairs mortar work on the nave west gable in readiness for re-roofing of the building (Images: Brian Andrews)*

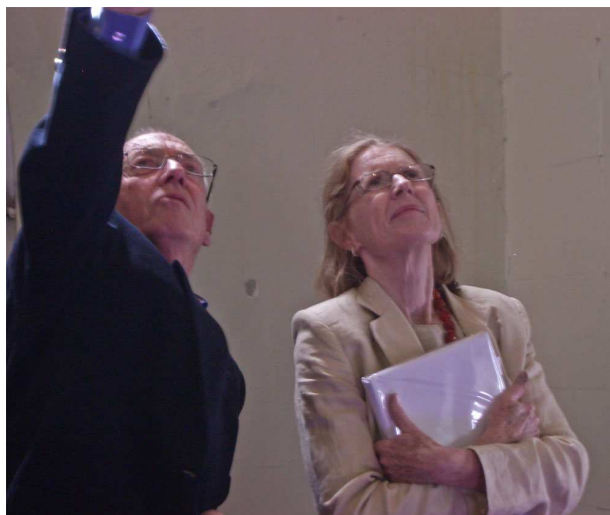
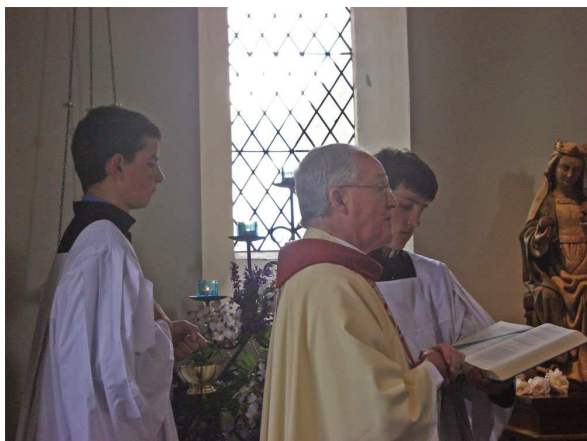




*Above, Dwayne Cosker replaces a ceiling section after tightening a steel reinforcing bolt in the nave wall; at right, the roofers at work (Images: Brian Andrews)*



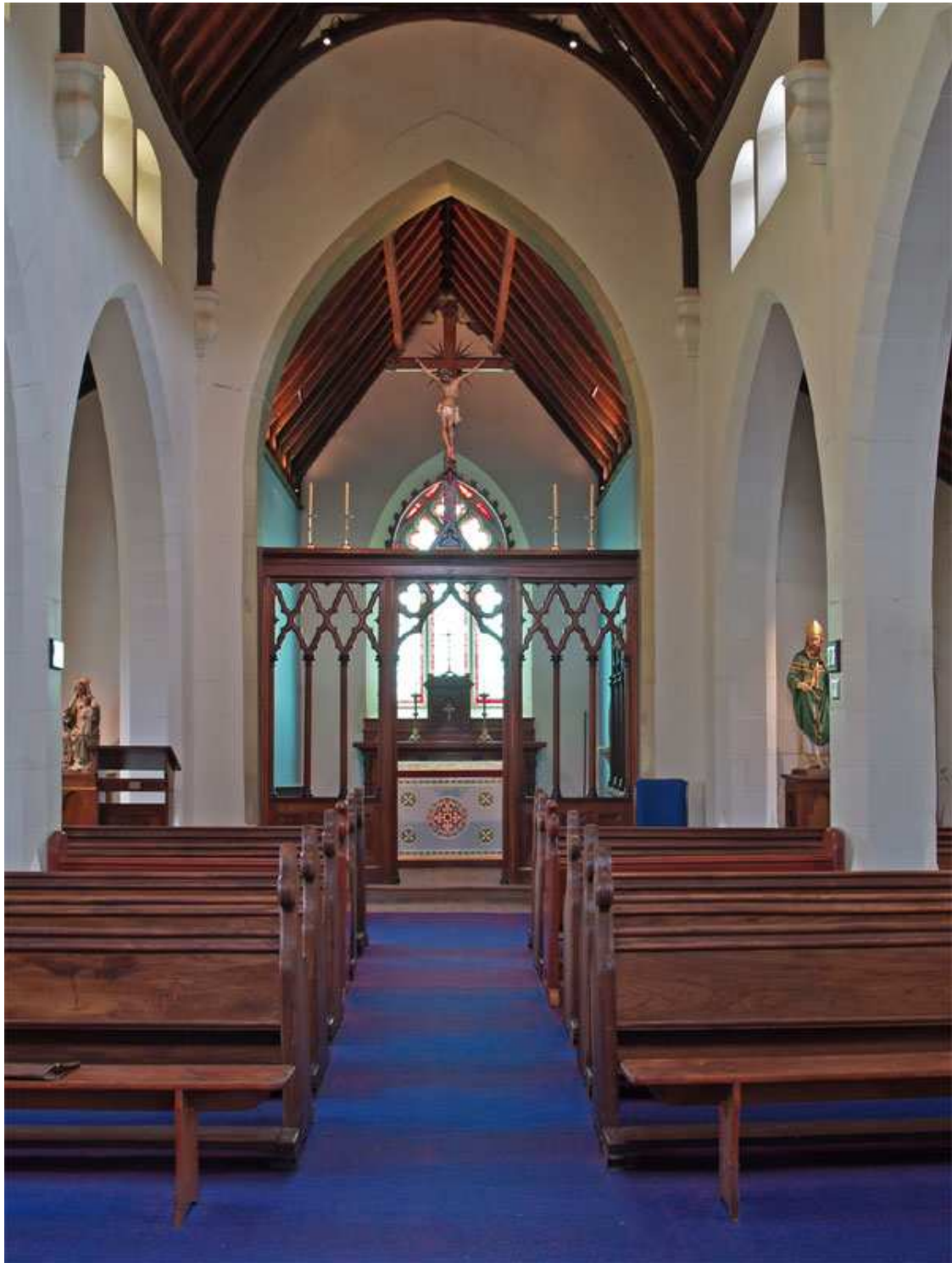
*A north-west view of St Patrick's on 12 December 2008 showing the re-roofing in an advanced stage of completion (Image: Brian Andrews)*



***The Feast of the Immaculate Conception and  
blessing of the shrine of Our Lady of  
Colebrook, 8 December 2008***

*Top left, Bede and Aidan Greener assisting Fr Terry Rush  
with the blessing of the shrine (Image: Jude Andrews)  
Top right, Pugin Foundation Executive Officer Brian  
Andrews shows Friend of Pugin Maria Myers the cleaned  
roof structure (Image: Jude Andrews)  
Left, Friend of Pugin Shirley Kerin with Our Lady of  
Colebrook (Image: Jude Andrews)  
Below, outside St Patrick's Church after the ceremonies  
(Image: John Miller)*





*The interior looking east on 12 December 2008, showing the new indirect lighting, including the optional uplighting of the nave and chancel roof structures and the accent lighting of the rood screen, altars, statue of St Patrick and shrine of Our Lady of Colebrook (Image: Brian Andrews)*