

# Silkstone reflects on the Church Heritage

a joint project between



**SILKSTONE  
ALL SAINTS**  
& ST JAMES THE GREATER  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

[www.silkstonereflects.co.uk](http://www.silkstonereflects.co.uk)

These poems were written for a joint project between 'Silkstone reflects...', 'Moving Words' and primary schools from Hoylandswaine, Silkstone and Silkstone Common, South Yorkshire.

'Moving Words' runs creative arts workshops for youngsters based around any themes requested by schools or other organisations. All their sessions feature drama, performance poetry and movement/dance with much of the material being bespoke.. See [www.movingwords.co.uk](http://www.movingwords.co.uk) for further information.

For Silkstone they decided to look at the past, present and future of the church and selected the Victorian period because this linked with the curriculum area studied by the schools involved.

The poems were written so that the children could add movement that would supplement the language i.e. not just copy the words. They needed to be accessible to the youngsters but, at the same time, make them think about the various issues involved. All poems are available free of charge from 'Silkstone reflects' or 'Moving Words'.

- 'Taking your time' - written to help the children visit a heritage site with specific reference to All Saints Church Silkstone.
- 'Dark' - inspired by Alan Gallop's excellent 'Children of the Dark' book, this piece tells of the horror of the Huskar Disaster of 1838, an event which is commemorated within All Saints' Church.
- 'What is it for?' - what is the role of the church in today's society?

The music used needed to suggest the mood of the topics but also capture the imagination of the children. 'Moving Words' wanted to find more links with the area and so obtained recorded music from Old Silkstone Brass Band [www.oldsilkstone.co.uk](http://www.oldsilkstone.co.uk) and made use of pieces suggesting the relevant moods and events.

For the **Final weekend** of the project 'Moving Words' again worked with Silkstone primary School to contribute to the opening of the **Bramah Gallery** and the Final **Commemorative Service**.

- 'A Bramah is the one that you should pick' - written to introduce the children to the Bramah Patent Lock
- 'Bramah the Planner' – Joseph Bramah was born in Silkstone in 17 and died in December 1814. This piece tells of some of the problems Joseph Bramah solved with his patents during a productive inventive life
- Inheritance - written specially for a service commemorating the ending of a Heritage project centred on a church. it is also suitable for thinking about the past and looking to the future

## The poems can be freely used.

Please acknowledge 'Silkstone reflects...' and the author of the poems Colin Trenholme when you do so.

Don Sisson  
Project Manager

Silkstone reflects on the Church Heritage.

**'TAKING YOUR TIME'**

Let's do this fast-  
'Cos history's the past.  
Why should we worry-  
It's all dead and buried.  
What does it matter-  
It's boring old chatter  
So-  
Let's do this fast  
'Cos history's the past.

Don't glance round quickly for you won't really see;  
Don't think 'This old stuff means nothing to me';  
Don't rush around- take your time and you'll be  
A thinker; a listener- and mostly it's free:  
Just-  
Search.

Think of the people who've sat in those pews.  
Hundreds or thousands-perhaps just a few.  
What can you find out and where are the clues?  
Maybe some here were related to you.  
Just-  
Search.

Think of the craftsmen who've used all their skills;  
With planes, saws and axes and chisels and drills.  
Labouring on through the hours and still  
Show pride in their work -and it helped pay the bills.  
Just-  
Search.

Think of the people who've prayed in this place;  
All here to worship; to show their best face.  
Labourers; land-owners: sharing one space.  
Some well-remembered.; some lost without trace.  
Just-  
Search

Let's do this fast-  
'Cos history's the past.  
Why should we worry-  
It's all dead and buried.  
What does it matter-  
It's boring old chatter  
So-  
Let's do this fast  
'Cos history's the past.

COLIN TRENHOLME 2013

'DARK'

Joseph is seven; his brother is ten.

'You need to start work, lad'. 'Me, mother, when?'

'Now, son, you're needed, you're about the right size.

Get thissen shifted and open yer eyes.'

It's dark, Mr. Clarke.

So dark.

Four in the morning; the knocker's been round.

Soon little Joey will be down underground.

'Eat up yer porridge, son, and drink what yer can.

Yer might be a lad but yer'll work like a man.'

It's cold, Mr. Clarke.

So cold.

'Get dahn that pit, Joey, you've ten hours more.

Do as tha's told, son, stay by that trapdoor.

Them corves will keep coming; keep 'old of yer rope;

You'll be fine down there, Joe, you'll be fine...I 'ope'

It's wet, Mr. Clarke.

So wet.

'Get out of there, Joey, summat's gone wrong.

Move yersen quick now, yer taking too long!

Don't go that way, Joey, hang on a bit.'

The shaft has been flooded; there's water in t'pit.

...He's dead, Mr. Clarke...

So dead.

COLIN TRENHOLME 2013

'WHAT IS IT FOR?'

What is a church for? What does it do?  
What is a church for? I'm not sure- are you?  
Is it just somewhere for people to pray?  
Is it just somewhere for those special days  
Like wedding and funerals? There must be lots more.  
Will somebody tell me- what is a church for?

I've heard it's a place where young people can meet  
For a chat or a coffee or to just take a seat.  
I've heard it's a place that does special events  
With craftspeople, artists and heritage weekends.  
I've heard it's a place that has stories to tell  
Through its windows, its history, its tower, its six bells.  
I've heard it's a place where the Vicar will say:  
'You're all welcome in for our free 'Open Days'.  
I've heard it's a place that has music, brass bands  
Where people can listen, enjoy, understand.  
I've heard it's a place that is peaceful and calm;  
Where all can feel safe, reassured, safe from harm.  
I've heard it's a place that says 'Silkstone Reflects'  
Not just on the past- but also 'What next?'

What is a church for? What does it do?  
What is a church for?  
Well, it could be...for you.

COLIN TRENHOLME 2013.

## **'DISCOVERING VICTORIANS'**

### **CHORUS**

**Let's discover Victorian times-**

**See what they're all about.**

**Let's discover Victorian times**

**There's loads we can find out.**

**Let's discover Victorian times-**

**When many things seem strange.**

**Let's discover Victorian times-**

**A time for so much change.**

In eighteen thirty-seven, Victoria became the Queen.

Her reign went on 'til nineteen-o-one, the longest that there's been.

And during that momentous time, so many things were done:

Inventions, laws, and new ideas- times changed for everyone.

No matter what your age was; if you were rich or poor;

Life would never be the same, of that you could be sure.

Housing, work and transport; schools and sport and crime.

Everything was moving on in those Victorian times.

### **CHORUS**

The first photographs were taken- 'I say dear, look your best'

Cars were used by just the rich-without a driving test!

Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone

'Can you hear me? Where's he gone? I'm talking on my own.'

Sending letters was transformed with post-boxes and stamps;

Whilst gas lights throughout London became electric lamps.

Bicycles were popular- but didn't move so quick.

And each town had its police force. 'Behave or you'll get nicked!'

### **CHORUS**

Water full of dirt and germs meant many people died

And sewage systems were installed in cities far and wide.

The first free public library- and then free education

Meant that Britain could become a so-much-brighter nation.

The first FA Cup Final; the first of Sainsbury's shops;

No more boys as chimney sweeps; all public hangings stopped.

A human voice recorded; a new rail service planned;

But still there was great poverty throughout this changing land.

### **CHORUS**

**COLIN TRENHOLME 2012**

**A BRAMAH IS THE ONE THAT YOU SHOULD PICK**

**If you're looking for a lock, look at a Bramah:**

**A Bramah is the one that does the trick.**

**If you're looking for a lock, look at a Bramah:**

**A Bramah is the one that you should pick.**

**Padlocks, safes and keys:**

**If you're in need of these,**

**Then Bramah is the one that you should choose.**

**From the eighteenth century**

**To the present day, you'll see**

**That when you buy a Bramah you can't lose.**

**If you're looking for a lock, look at a Bramah:**

**A Bramah is the one that does the trick.**

**If you're looking for a lock, look at a Bramah:**

**A Bramah is the one that you should pick.**

**Each Bramah key's unique;**

**So you won't find a repeat**

**They're reliable and strong and versatile.**

**With a special quality**

**And exclusivity**

**Yes, Bramah is the company with style.**

**If you're looking for a lock, look at a Bramah:**

**A Bramah is the one that does the trick.**

**If you're looking for a lock, look at a Bramah:**

**A Bramah is the one that you should pick.**

**C. TRENHOLME 2014**

**'BRAMAH THE PLANNER'**

**CHORUS**

Joseph Bramah was a planner  
With a right inventive manner.  
He liked to think up lots of things to make.  
If you wanted things improving  
Joseph B. would get them moving  
'Just give me time to think, that's all it takes.'

With the closet water freezing  
Joseph thought 'It just needs easing  
I think I know what this is all about.  
To get that toilet flushing  
Then the water must start gushing  
My flap-valve will soon sort that problem out.'

When folk said 'Ee, we are shocked  
All this stealing must be stopped'  
Joseph thought 'We'll put a stop to all that greed  
For I've got a new idea  
That will get rid of your fears  
The Bramah lock is just the thing you need.'

**CHORUS**

Metal-workers in a mess  
Cried 'We've tried out all the rest  
We need something that gives a special force'  
Joseph fired up his brain  
And he very soon exclaimed  
'My new hydraulic press will do, of course.'

Carrying beer could get folk vexed  
So this challenge was the next  
'We're fed up going up and down from t'cellar.'  
Joseph Bramah wouldn't fail  
'I'll create a pump for ale.'  
He really was a very clever fella.

**CHORUS**

**Colin Trenholme 2014**

## 'INHERITANCE'

Let us save what remains  
And protect it with care  
So when time moves onwards  
There is plenty to share.

There is plenty to share  
That reminds of the past;  
That can live and endure  
That is nurtured and lasts.

That is nurtured and lasts;  
Allows others to learn  
And give to those waiting  
When it's time for their turn.

When it's time for their turn  
To take charge and explore,  
Discover, examine  
And let them add more

And let them add more  
To our knowledge of man;  
Use the past for the future-  
Improving the plan.

Improving the plan;  
Improving its worth;  
Improving our chances  
To inherit God's Earth.

To inherit God's Earth  
We must use what we've gained.  
For the future of all-  
Let us save what remains.

**Colin Trenholme 2014**

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