

Under the floorboards

The memorial stone of the Scotchmer family was revealed during the recent replacement of the floorboards near the font. Thomas Scotchmer, along with his fellow warden John Ling, gave a copy of Toinard's *Evangelicorum harmonia* to the library in 1733. Both were members of the Common Council in the town; Thomas was a woollen draper and John a grocer.

Also on the memorial stone is John Scotchmer who is listed as a subscriber in Robert Catchpole's *Choice collection of church music* published by Mr W. Green in Bury St Edmunds in 1761. Between them Mr Green, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Steele, booksellers in the town, purchased 50 copies.

Subscribers to this volume give an insight into life in Bury in the mid-eighteenth century.

Both the preachers and the ministers of St James' subscribed. The preachers were John French (1745-1758) and his successor, Frederick Wollaston. The minister, John Sharpe (1751-99), was responsible for baptisms, marriages and burials. Mrs Katharine Brinkley, widow of the previous minister also contributed.

Another subscriber with a memorial stone is the Revd Dr Bernard Mills who had been at St Mary's. He gave the library Bishop Gilbert's *Exposition of the Thirty-nine Articles* and his son, Edward, became the preacher here in 1792.

Bury musicians Mr Samuel Frost, Organist; Mr Newton, Music-Master and Mr Wood, the Dancing-Master all ordered the book. Two copies went to Signor Passerini, Master of Music and leader of the Opera in London.

Amongst the other subscribers are: Lord Maynard, Sir William Bunbury, Sir William Gage, Hon Felton Hervey, Mr Sergeant (attorney at law), both Thomas Warren senior and junior (map-makers), Mr Winterflood and Mr Sturgeon (surgeons), Mr Lincoln (optician) and Misael Remon Malfalgueyrat, MD (male midwife).

Stephen Dart