



Frank Roper MBE (1914–2000) from Haworth in Yorkshire studied at Keighley and then at the Royal College of Art in London where he was a much-valued student of Henry Moore.

After war service he came to Cardiff in charge of sculpture and later as Vice Principal at The School (later College) of Art.

Roper had already done some church work in Cardiff before meeting George Pace who asked him to join the select band which included Epstein and John Piper who were helping to restore the blitzed Llandaff Cathedral. Pace and Roper collaborated on much ecclesiastical work for about two decades, working on churches and cathedrals throughout England and South Wales.

A modest man, Frank Roper is still little known despite the range, depth and geographical extent of his superb mastery of wood, bronze, silver, aluminium, glass and ceramics. He enjoyed much private patronage as well as commissions from corporate bodies, but the greatest amount of the work that he produced is to be found in the scores of churches that he adorned with statues, windows and ecclesiastical furnishings large and small.

Exhibitions in Llandaff Cathedral (2001-2002) have begun to broadcast the full extent of his achievement. Something of those exhibitions is here presented – a few examples to advertise this self-effacing master – to provide an introduction to his work and to share some of his inspiration and vision.

The photographs on this page show Frank Roper with one of his much loved mechanical 'toys' that were ingenious versions of clocks and fountains. Also the two grave markers worked by him, stones chosen from the beach below the church of St Lawrence on Lavernock Point near Penarth, the town where he and Nora, his wife and collaborator, lived for so many happy years.



The cover picture is of Frank Roper's aluminium figures of St Michael and anti-Christ (1978) on the exterior of St Michael's College Chapel, Llandaff that was designed by George Pace in 1959.

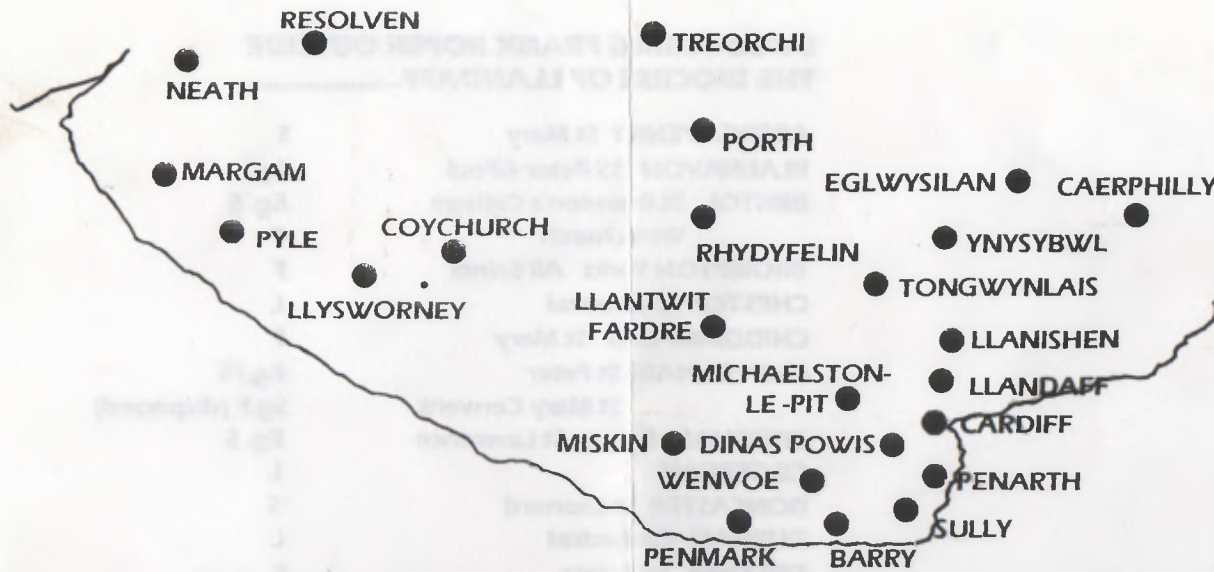


From the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Newcastle Emlyn, West Wales and dating from 1972–3, come seven panels from a set of Stations of the Cross.

The Road to Calvary is stylised to bind the separate stages on the way to Golgotha. Nora Roper would have been deeply influential here in the choice of colour — the sombre metal silhouetted against the lambent glass.

DISCOVERING

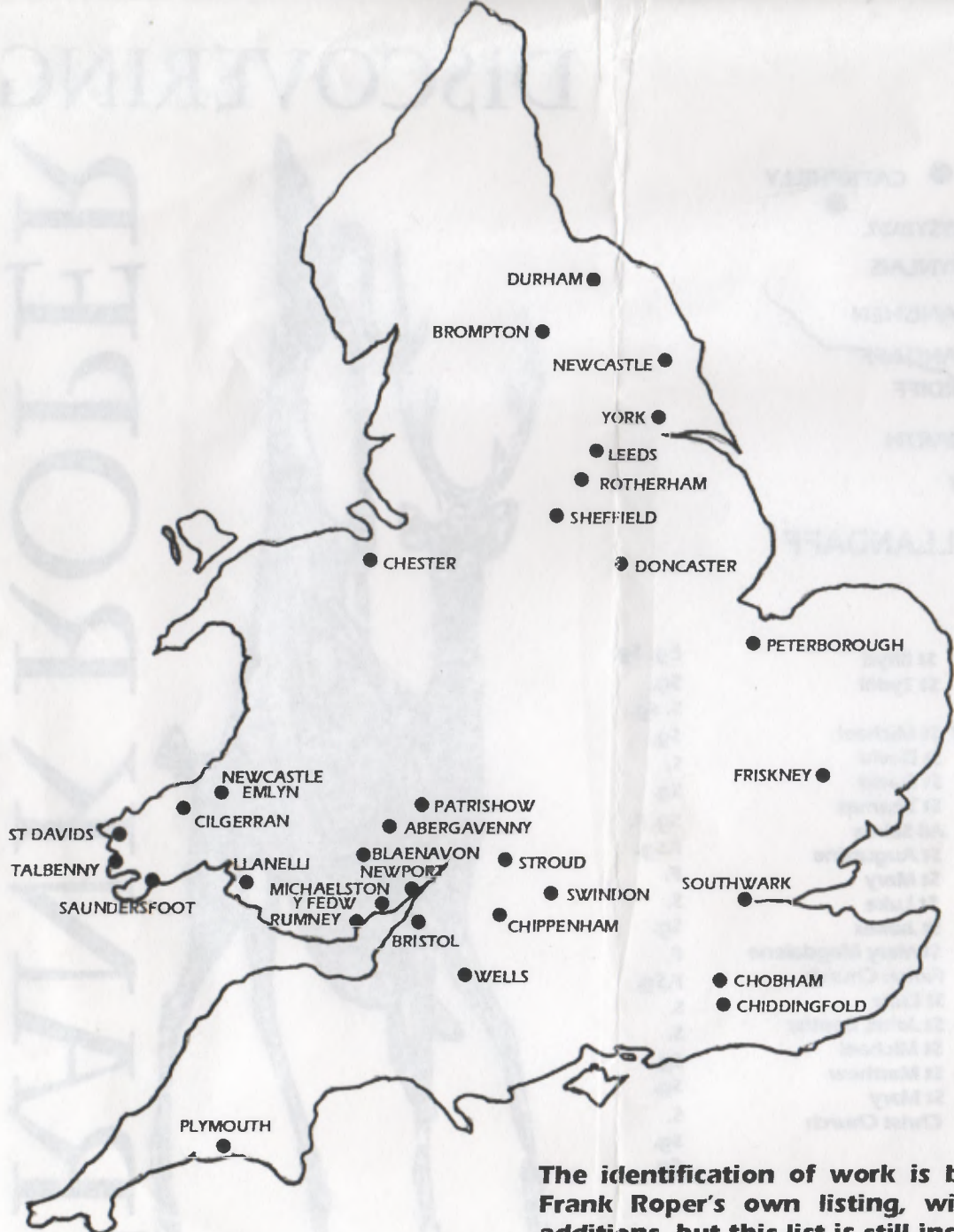
FRANK ROPER



WORK BY FRANK ROPER IN THE DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF

DISCOVERING FRANK ROPER IN THE DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF

BARRY	All Saints	Sg.	LLANTWIT FARDRE	St Illtyd	Eg. Sg.
CAERPHILLY	St Martin	Sg. F.	LLYSWORNEY	St Tydfil	Sg.
	St Andrew Penyrheol	S.	MARGAM ABBEY		S. Sg.
CARDIFF	Christ Church, Roath Park	S.F.	MICHAELSTON-LE-PIT	St Michael	Sg.
	St German	S.	MISKIN	St David	S.
	St John, Baptist	S.	NEATH	St David	Sg.
	St Martin, Roath	F.L.S.		St Thomas	Sg. F.
	SS Samson & Dyfrig	S.	PENARTH	All Saints	F.Sg.
	St Saviour	S.		St Augustine	F.
	Ely- Church of Resurrection	F.S.	PENMARK	St Mary	S.
	Fairwater- St Peter	F.S.	PORTH	St Luke	Sg.
	Llanishen- St Isan	S.	PYLE	St James	F.
	- St Faith	F.Sg.		St Mary Magdalene	F.Sg.
	Lisvane - St Denys	F.S.	RESOLVEN	Parish Church	S.
CIMLA	SS Peter & Paul	F.	RHYDYFELIN	St Luke	Sg.
COYCHURCH	St Crallo	Eg.F.	SULLY	St John, Baptist	Sg.
DINAS POWIS	St Peter	Sg.	TONGWYNLAIS	St Michael	Sg.
EGLWYSILAN	St John	Sg.	TREORCHI	St Matthew	Sg.
GELLIGAER	St Catwg	Sg.	WENVOE	St Mary	S.
LAVERNOCK	St Lawrence	L	YNYSYBWL	Christ Church	Sg.
					Sg.
LLANDAFF	Cathedral	F.L.S.			
	Howell's School	S.			
	St Michael's College	S.			



DISCOVERING FRANK ROPER OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF.....

ABERGAVENNY St Mary	S
BLAENAVON SS Peter & Paul	Sg.
BRISTOL St Brendon's College	Eg. S
Whitchurch	F
BROMPTON Yorks All Saints	F
CHESTER Cathedral	L
CHIDDINGFOLD St Mary	F
CHIPPENHAM St Peter	Eg.FS
St Mary Convent	Sg.F (dispersed)
CHOBHAM Surrey St Lawrence	Eg. S
CILGERRAN	L
DONCASTER St Leonard	S
DURHAM Cathedral	L
FRISKNEY All Saints	S
GRIMSBY St James(?) Methodist Church	L
LEEDS All Hallows	Sg.L
Hunslet St Mary	Sg.L
Holbeck Parish Church	Sg. S
LLANELLI St Elli	Sg.
MICHAELSTON Y FEDW St Michael	Sg.
NEWCASTLE (?)	S
NEWCASTLE EMLYN Our Lady, Queen	
Of Peace (R.C.)	Sg.
NEWPORT Gwent- now at St Woolos	Sg.
PATRISHOW St Issui	S
PETERBOROUGH Cathedral	S
PLYMOUTH Stoke Methodist Church	Sg.
ROTHERHAM Bridge Chapel	S
RUMNEY St Augustine	Sg.
ST DAVID'S Cathedral	F
SAUNDERSFOOT Our Lady St Bride (R.C.)	Sg.
SHEFFIELD Cathedral	F
SOUTHWARK Cathedral	L
STROUD St Raphael's Convent	S
SWINDON St John	S
TALBENNY St Mary	S.Sg
WELLS Cathedral	S
YORK St Martin-le Grand	S

The identification of work is based on Frank Roper's own listing, with some additions, but this list is still incomplete, and the Roper Exhibition Group, Llandaff Cathedral would be grateful for further information.

KEY: Eg. Etched Glass. F. Furnishings. L. Lettering. Sg. Stained Glass. S. Sculpture