

The Art of Cyril Lomax

In October 2022 it was 75 years since Cyril Lomax died, after 49 years service with Holy Trinity Church, Washington. He had served as curate for his father, **John Lomax**, for two years before succeeding him as rector.

To mark this the Friends of Washington Old Hall, in a collaboration with the Church and Washington History Society, hosted an exhibition of his life's art in the Church itself. At the same time the National Trust showed five of his watercolours in the Old Hall. Samples from each part of the exhibition are set out below.



Exhibition
The Art of the Reverend Canon Cyril Lomax MA
Marking the 75th anniversary of the death of Washington's longest serving Rector
at Holy Trinity Church and Washington Old Hall

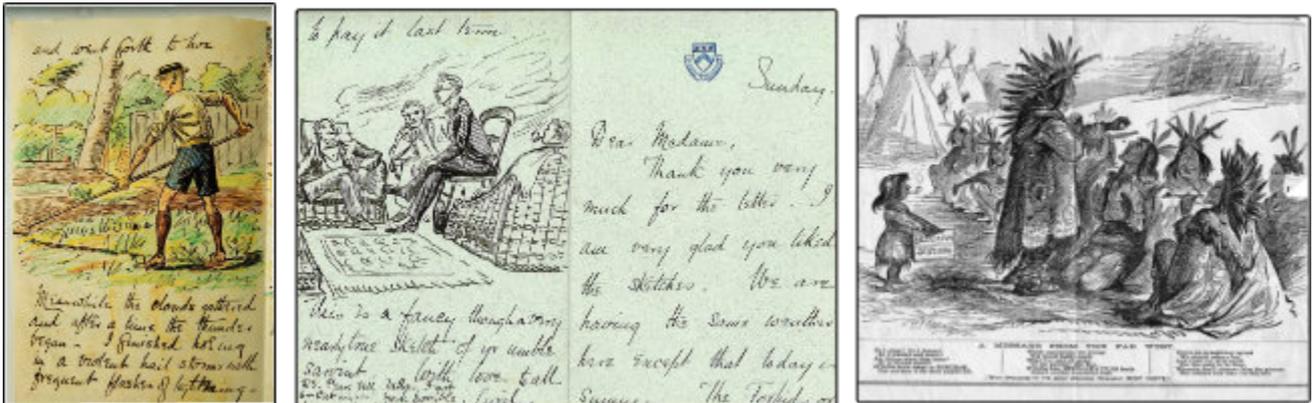


Born 1871 died 1947
Curate of Holy Trinity Washington 1897 to 1899
Rector 1899 to 1946

Holy Trinity Church, The Friends of Washington Old Hall, Washington History Society with the support of The National Trust and Washington Community Development Trust



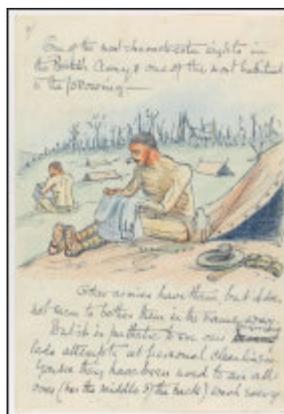
On display was examples from all parts of his life, starting his time as a pupil at Rossall School, Fleetwood (1885 to 1890, Lancashire- the 'Eton' of the Anglican Church, and as a student of medieval history at Keble College, Oxford (1891 to 1895). During this period he produced cartoon advertisements for Beecham Pills!



All of this shows his humour, best illustrated by the decorated envelopes he sent to family and friends.



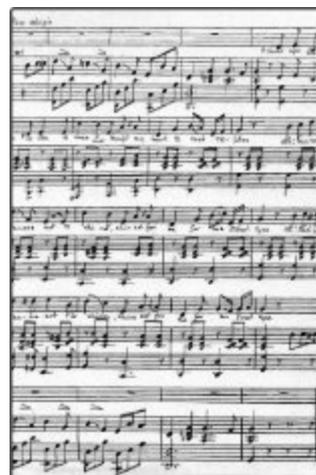
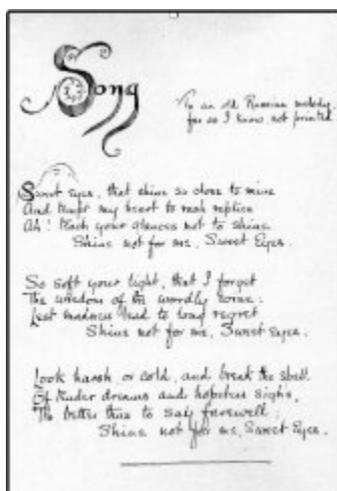
His style and, at times, humour, was also in his letters from the Somme in 1916, where he was a chaplain with the Durham Light Infantry. These are held in the Imperial War Museum.



We were fortunate in having an 1856 sketchbook of his father, John Lomax, showing the same drawing style, subject matters and humour that Cyril deployed in his own work.



He turned his hand to poetry, supported with illustrations and sometimes set to music. For the exhibition the choir of Holy Trinity recorded Cyril's 'Sweet Eyes', set to a Russian melody he had come across.





His artistic activities extended to carvings, and we were able to show a table and letter box made by Cyril



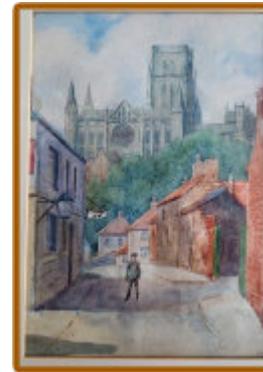
.In the nave and on the altar we exhibited no less than 11 of his paintings, and, during set up, realised that two from 1907 of Bellerby Farm, Washington and High Barmston Farm are oils, the remainder watercolours of scenes from his travels round the north east and elsewhere.



Bellerby Farm



High Barmston Farm



Below are three of the five, owned by the National Trust, that were displayed during the days of the exhibition in Old Hall.



Of course Cyril had a huge impact on Holy Trinity Church, adding the chancel and nave in 1902, and commissioning the War Memorial East Window. He decoated the altar rails and organ. There are many other references to the Lomax family around the church that were added to the exhibition catalogue.