

## St. Cuthbert's Church, Halsall

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### Introduction

A watching brief was carried out at this site in 1996 by the Merseyside Archaeological Society at the request of the Parochial Church Council.

The site is located at grid reference SD 370103 in west Lancashire district, approximately 6km east of Formby and 5km south of Southport. A narrow trench was excavated in the churchyard in advance of installing an outside toilet. No stratigraphy was recorded.

### Finds report

A total of 20 pottery sherds, 1 complete saucer, 3 clay tobacco pipe stems and 2 glass sherds was recovered during the excavation. As the finds are unstratified, this report describes them by type and in chronological order.

### Pottery

#### 16th/17th century

Base of Cistercian-type ware jug or tall drinking vessel, 11cm diameter, sand adhering to glaze on the base. Orange-red fabric, some slight banding of buff clay, with many inclusions of quartz and iron <0.5mm. Dark brown glaze all over, patchy and granular on the interior. Possibly made in Rainford (Coney and King 1982, 243; Philpott 1985, 87 and 94).

#### 18th century

Base of lead-glazed vessel, possibly a posset pot. Pale buff hard coarse fabric, inclusions of quartz <1.5mm and iron <0.5mm. Clear lead-glaze producing a honey-yellow colour, heavily crazed (Innes 1985, 106-7).

Rim of large dark-glazed storage vessel, 33cm diameter. Orange-red fabric, some banding of buff clay, with inclusions of quartz and iron <0.5mm. Red-slipped all over with glossy brown glaze, patchy on exterior and unglazed top of rim. Probably locally made, possibly Prescott (Philpott 1985, 102).

#### 18th/19th century

2 joining sherds of dark-glazed storage vessel. Orange-red hard fabric with some banding of buff clay, with inclusions of quartz <1.5mm and iron <1mm. Glazed interior, half-glazed exterior. Heavily rilled. Thick black shiny glaze. Probably made in Prescott (Cresswell and Davey 1989, 98-9).

#### 19th century

Base sherd of large dark-glazed storage vessel, 22cm diameter. Highly fired orange-red fabric, with

inclusions of quartz and iron <0.25mm. Thick black glossy glaze.

1 sherd lead-glazed earthenware with white-glazed interior.

8 sherds under-glaze blue transfer printed earthenware, 1830-40.

2 joining sherds bone china, applied lilac blue sprigging, from a cup. 1830-45.

1 sherd feather-edged, under-glaze blue earthenware, 1800-50.

1 sherd white glazed earthenware, 1800-50.

1 sherd under-glaze blue transfer printed small bowl, late 19th century.

#### 20th century

1970's Bilton's saucer.

### Clay Tobacco Pipes

#### 19th century

3 clay tobacco pipe stems, late 19th century

### Glass

#### 17th century

Mid 17th century, pale green bottle base, c. 7cm diameter, lightweight thin glass, shallow kick-up 1cm and rough pontil mark. Many tiny bubbles within the glass and a few small quartz inclusions (Dumbrell 1983, 47).

#### 18th century

First half 18th century, dark green bottle base, thick glass with high kick-up 4cm. One large conglomerate of mainly quartz inclusion 15mm (Dumbrell 1983, 37).

The finds have been deposited in The Museum of Lancashire, Preston, Ref. No. EQ 116.

### Bibliography

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