

Spirit and Faith Eleventh in the series of Millennium issues



St Edmundsbury Cathedral Today's cathedral was begun in 1503, yet remained unfinished. The Millennium project will finish the north transept, cloisters and dramatic central tower.

Church Floodlighting The Church Floodlighting Trust provides lighting to places of worship for all denominations, emphasising the church as a focal point of the community.

St Patrick Centre This visitor centre in Downpatrick, the reputed site of St Patrick's grave, will contribute to developing the town's potential as an ecclesiastical and historical centre.

Mystery Plays Known in medieval times as the Corpus Christi Play, the York Mystery Plays were traditionally performed outdoors in York from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

The Spirit and Faith issue will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 7 November.



Denis Waugh



Jacky Merralls/Nick Cistone



Ken Griffiths



James Morris

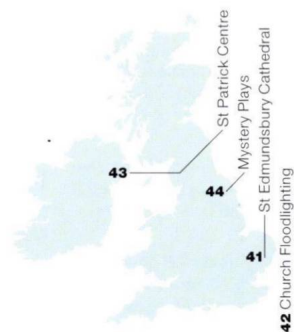
for 2000, inspired by Millennium projects throughout the UK

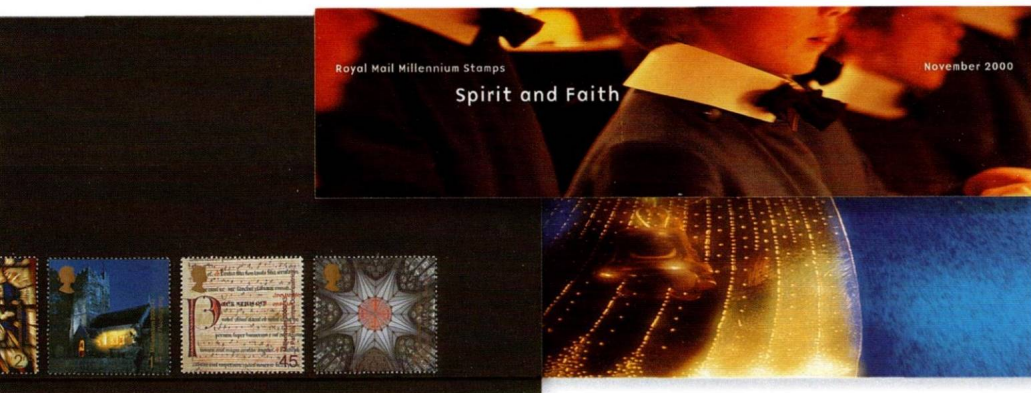


A scene from the York Mystery plays staged in York Minster, the subject of the 65p Spirit and Faith stamp.

The 2nd class stamp represents the Millennium project to finish construction in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk

- Ss Peter and Paul Church in Over Stowey, Somerset, on the 1st class, represents the Church Floodlighting Trust
- The St Patrick centre in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland is the subject of the 45p
- York Minster chapter house, on the 65p, symbolizes the York Mystery Plays, seen in the surroundings of the Minster for the first time in July 2000.





A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.95) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

2nd 1A gold ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C cerise ● 1D new blue ● 1E grey-black ● P95 phosphor

1st 1A gold ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C cerise ● 1D new blue ● 1E bright blue ● 1F black ● 1G grey-black ● P96 phosphor

45p 1A deep reddish purple ● 1B olive-sepia ● 1C red ● 1D black ● 1E gold ● P96 phosphor

64p 2A gold ● 2B greenish yellow ● 2C cerise ● 2D new blue ● 2E grey-black ● 2F black ● P97 phosphor

For nearly 1000 years the site of the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, has been a place of worship and pilgrimage. On 2 December 1999, The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Rev Richard Lewis, officially marked the start of construction work at Suffolk Cathedral. The project has received a Millennium Commission grant of over £5 million. Stained glass windows have featured on 1971 and 1992 Christmas stamps.

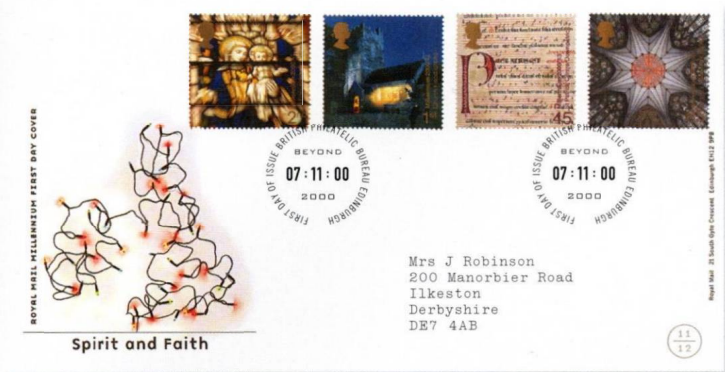
The Church Floodlighting Trust will provide funding support to floodlight up to 400 churches, attention being paid to energy efficiency and environmental standards.

The St Patrick Centre will celebrate the life and legacy of St Patrick. The stamp depicts a 12th century Latin Gradual in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Inclusion of St Patrick's feast suggests that the Gradual was for an Irish Benedictine monastery. Reference to a bishop suggests a place with a cathedral, the only such place in Ireland at that time being Downpatrick.

The York Mystery Plays are based on the Bible and tell the story of mankind's spiritual journey from Creation to the Day of Judgement. The stamp features part of the 14th century conical roof of York Minster's chapter house. A roof boss in the Minster featured on the 3½p stamp in the 1974 Christmas set, the Minster on a 1969 Cathedrals stamp.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 7 November, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Downpatrick must reach the Bureau by the date of issue. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Downpatrick postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0029' (Bureau), or 'FD0030' (Downpatrick). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Downpatrick postmark. A non-pictorial Downpatrick postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD0030 NP'.



Details of sponsored handstamps for 7 November will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. That in the Spirit and Faith pack, entitled *Eating Chips with the Saints* is by David Hart who was born in Aberystwyth in 1940, and now lives in Birmingham. He has worked as an Anglican curate in London, a university chaplain in Birmingham, and as an arts administrator. In 1998 he became the first Writer in Residence in a cathedral – at Worcester. A freelance writer for the past three years, he won the National Poetry Competition in 1994 and was runner-up in 1996. He was Birmingham Poet laureate 1997-9. His poem, *Eating Chips with the Saints* was written after a visit to Downpatrick to research St Patrick – where he did actually eat chips in the grounds of the abbey there.

STAMP BOOKS Two Christmas stamp books will be available from 7 November: £2.70 containing 10 1st class Church Floodlighting stamps and £3.80 containing 20 2nd class St Edmundsbury Cathedral stamps. The books have been printed by De La Rue. The cylinders are as follows: 2nd class B2A gold • B1B greenish yellow • B1C cerise • B1D new blue • B1E grey-black • B2O phosphor; 1st class B1A gold • B1B greenish yellow • B1C cerise • B1D new blue • B1E bright blue • B1F black • B1G grey-black • B21 phosphor.

Next Millennium issues The last set in the Millennium 2000 series – Sound and Vision – will be issued on 5 December. This features Ringing in the Millennium; Year of the Artist; the Wales Millennium Centre (Canolfan Mileniwm), Cardiff; and TS2K Talent and Skills 2000, London. Details next month. The final Millennium issue – The Future – will be issued on 16 January. The entire series will then comprise 25 sets, 100 stamps in total. The Royal Mail Millennium collection was granted Millennium Product status by the Design Council in December 1999 •

