

A Conundrum at Temple Church, Midlothian

Mystery Letters

Whilst out at Temple in December I decided to walk around the little ruined church, when I was checking for details inside it, something told me to walk to the front, the East end, when I looked up I noticed these letters on the pillar of the window.

At first it looked like VI then looking closer it could be VD, if it is the latter then it could mean " Verbum Dei " meaning word of God, or Visio Dei meaning " Vision of God ". This is obviously a fillet put in to repair damage, the piece of stone that the letters are on could have been used from a damaged headstone. I wonder when this was done, was it during the reformation or was it done in the earlier part of the last century, I doubt if we will ever know, however, the letters have been carved out by a real craftsman as you can see.

So here we are again, yet another conundrum, first the stone on the belfry with the letters VÆSAC MI HM which we are told means " Vienne Sacrum Concilium Militibus Johannis Hierosolymitani Melitensibus " or "The Sacred Council of Vienne, to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and Malta". I do not think this is probable and I have my own view on what it means but will explain at a later date.

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