

ANGING THE ARD

Life Guards mount, Horse
s, at Ilam; Nijmegen Com-
Grenadier Guards mount,
ingham Palace, at 11.30am.

ARCH NEWS

ev **Brian Castle**, Vicar,
ross St Peter
ingham), to be also
-in-Charge, Garretts Green
omas (same diocese);
ev **John Davies**, Assistant
e, Wavertree Holy Trinity
pool), to be
-in-Charge, West Derby
ood Shepherd (same
e); the **Rev Lynda Foot**,
rly Curate NSM, Coalville
Church and Bardon Hill
er (Leicester), to be
iate Minister NSM,
ing w. Kinoulton and
hton Sulney (Upper
hton) (Southwell);
ev **David Fudger**,
-in-Charge, Blackheath
Church of the Ascension
hark), to be
-in-Charge, Mansfield St
and St Paul (Southwell);
ev **Stuart Gay**, Curate,
ngdale Holy Trinity
rd), to be Vicar, Margate
lip Northdown Park
erbury).

ANSWERS

on page 28)

ORD WATCHING

HA
Very large or great. Indian Eng-
From the Sanskrit, Vikram
ndra, *Love and Longing in Bom-*
1977: "I muttered about how
were going to sell the place to
the f***ing dairy farmer's son
would give it some maha-
bhavy name like The Purple Ant
n."

SCOROBA

A small South American swan,
coscoroba, which be-
s to the family Anatidae and
s affinities to both ducks and
ns. The native name in Chile,
s: "A few coscoroba swans,
ppy, plain white, and definitely
ayard-looking."

Technology unlocks secrets of Abbey paintings

By **Dalya Alberge**
Arts Correspondent

INNOVATIVE technology developed in Greece for medical diagnosis is being used to examine the historic 13th-century wall paintings at Westminster Abbey for the first time.

Expensive pigments and sophisticated techniques are now emerging through the use of hyper-spectral imaging, which uses a special camera to examine the paintings under different wavelengths.

The halos, for example, are showing evidence of tin-foil relief with an oil glaze to resemble a precious metal while lavish pigments such as vermilion are showing up even in some of the under-drawing.

The technique, developed by Costas Balas University in Athens for the detection of cervical cancer, has been brought to Westminster Abbey with sponsorship from English Heritage. It allows conservators to take a microscope to the wall surface.

Scientific examination of paintings is usually based on the analysis of paint samples, mounted in cross section and examined in the laboratory.

David Park, director of the conservation of wall painting department at the Courtauld

ALAN WELLER



Art under X-ray: a postgraduate student from the Courtauld Institute uses the hyper-spectral imaging technology to analyse the 13th-century wall painting *The Incredulity of St Thomas*

Institute, said: "These are incredibly important late 13th and 14th-century paintings, among the best in Europe.

"Amazingly, although they have been conserved, they have never been technically

analysed in any detail. People haven't understood what they were made of. They are more complex than previously thought."

The project is being co-ordinated by Emily Howe of

the conservation of wall painting department at the Courtauld Institute of Art.

She said: "Since all painting materials have a characteristic spectrum, this technique can, for example, help us to differ-

entiate between pigments which are visually indistinguishable — for example, two different reds."

The examination focuses on a larger-than-life image of the 3rd-century French martyr in the chapel of St Faith. She was a virgin martyred for the Christian faith by being roasted on a bedstead or gridiron. Her cult was popular in England and France in the Middle Ages and this chapel was built in the 1250s. The 13th-century wall painting shows her wearing a crown and holding the symbol of her martyrdom, a gridiron.

Conservators are also studying the figures of St Thomas and St Christopher with the Christ Child on his shoulders, in the south transept, thought to have been part of a decorative scheme pursued by Henry III. A fleur-de-lys background which is now black was once gilded, tests show.

Pigments in the St Thomas and St Christopher paintings show extensive red lake, another costly material in this period.

Ms Howe said: "These are an extremely rare survival of the period. They represent the pinnacle of wall painting in England in the 13th century. I am astonished that no one had undertaken a scientific examination before."

FORTHCOMING

Mr J.N. Beaumont and Miss K.A. Eccles

The engagement is announced between James (Billy), son of His Honour Judge Peter Beaumont, QC, and Mrs Beaumont, of Felsted, Essex, and Katie, daughter of His Honour Judge Patrick Eccles, QC, and Mrs Eccles, of Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire.

Lieutenant L.H. Calisch, III and Miss V.J. Nelson

The engagement is announced between Tra, son of Commander and Mrs Scott Grundmeier, of Annapolis, Maryland, and Victoria, daughter of Captain and Mrs Arne Nelson, of Marylebone, London.

Mr A-J. Dittrich and Miss I.D. Peti

The engagement is announced between Andrew-John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Dittrich, of Mayfield, East Sussex, and Irena Danijela, younger twin of the late Mr Ivan Peti and of Mrs Jelena Peti, of Oakville, Canada.

Mr E.M.H. Guest and Miss M.M. Heanue

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Melville Guest, of Clapham, London, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Heanue, of Hornsey, London.

Mr A.R. Heggie and Miss I.M. Cator

The engagement is announced between Alistair, son of Mr Thomas Heggie, of Sudbury, Suffolk, and Mrs Anne Edwards, of West Bergholt, Essex, and Isabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cator, of Woodbastwick, Norfolk.

Mr H.J. Mackenzie-Green and Miss S.E. Shaw

The engagement is announced between Henry, elder son of Mr

Unmasking the totalitarian tale of Pigling Bland

By **Guy Liardet**

THE closing days of George Orwell's centenary year provide an opportunity moment to

jour and the all-important "pig papers" — their licences to go to market — which have been obtained from the police after "a good deal of trouble"

alone, finds he has Alexander's papers in his pocket, panics, gets lost and has to spend the night in a henhouse. The owner, significantly named

moor and revealed a beautiful landscape. "That's Westmoreland," said Pig-wig. Pigling no longer wants to go to market, he wants to stay at home.

pig is a young lady; is her name Alexander?" He decides to drive on and speak to the ploughman — automatically assuming that the ploughman