

## **PRESS RELEASE: YORK CIVIC TRUST**

### **SYDNEY SMITH: PLAQUE UNVEILING AT MORE HOUSE HESLINGTON**

1. On April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11. 30. a.m. a York Civic Trust plaque, commemorating the Rev. Sydney Smith (1771-1845), will be unveiled on the front of More House, the Roman Catholic chaplaincy of the University of York, where he lived from 1809-1814.
  
2. There is a special fitness in this plaque to an Anglican parson placed on the walls of a university's Roman Catholic chaplaincy. Sydney was perhaps the foremost social reformer to argue for Catholic Emancipation in a time when Catholics were an underclass, forbidden access to higher education.
  
3. The unveiling will be marked by:
  - a brief eulogy by Emeritus Professor Graham Parry of the University of York English department;
  - followed by two short prayers, one by the Catholic chaplain, and one by an Anglican parson;

it will conclude with the presentation to the chaplaincy of a copy of Sydney's *Peter Plymley Letters*, the satirical pamphlets that caused a sensation, and paved the way for equal rights for Catholics