

A WALK AROUND ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WINTERTON

WELCOME to the Parish Church in Winterton. It is likely that the first church in Winterton was a wooden structure but no records of this survive. The current stone building was dedicated in 1203 but parts of the church are much older. Winterton [though not the church] is mentioned in the Domesday Book [1086]. There is Saxon stone work in the base of the tower and much of the church is Early English in style. It is possible that the lower section of the tower and the nave were built by Hugh d'Avranches, first Norman Earl of Chester, who was the major landowner in Winterton at the time of the Domesday Survey. He died in 1101.

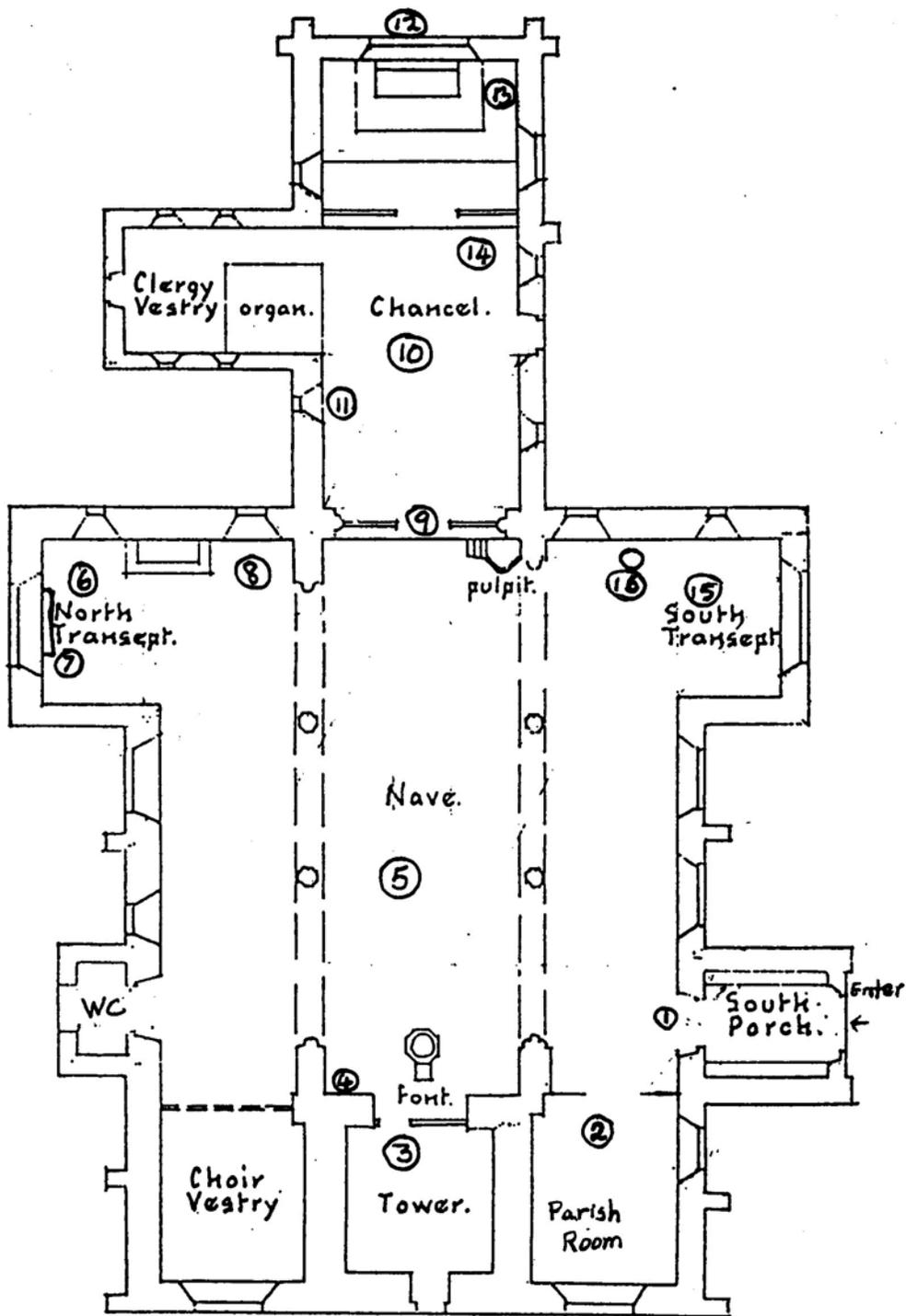
In common with all ancient churches there have been many repairs and alterations at All Saints. During the Civil War [1642-1660] the church was ruinous and had "...scarce either a bit of glass in ye windows or of Lead upon ye roof..." and it "...lay almost open to all Storms...". But by 1690 Thomas Place had paid for major repairs making it "...one of ye most Beautiful Churches in ye Country". More recently the clerestory in the nave was added in 1903.

The walk starts at the SOUTH PORCH with its old wooden door (1) which has a smaller inset door. The interesting ironwork is probably of local craftsmanship & may be 14th or 15th Century. To your left is the PARISH ROOM (2) created in 2001.

Continue in a clockwise direction to the early 20th Century FONT. On the wall above you will see two plaques naming the Vicars of Winterton since 1220. Behind the font is the Tower Screen with a door to the RINGING CHAMBER (3) at the base of the tower. From outside the church you can see that the tower has two belfries. The newest one on top of the tower was added around 1200. It has a peal of six bells, of which five were cast in 1734 and the newest in 1899. They are rung regularly by our bellringing team for services & celebrations.

In the corner of the Ringing Chamber you can see the weights which control the tower clock [look for it when you go back outside]. This clock was made by local craftsmen [clockmaker, John Robinson, and blacksmith, Matthew Beacock] in Winterton in 1834 and is still wound each week by hand. Part of the mechanism is unique to Winterton.

Inside, on the south wall of the tower, are some stone fragments which may have come from the old rood screen. There is also an amusing 18th Century grave



inscription which reads:

Hear ly(eth) the body of John Rhodes
dy(ed) Sept 21 Day 172? fair well
vain world i seen anouf of ye an now i am
gone i care not what they can say of me.

Over the WEST DOOR is a stone lintel carved with a cross. It may be an ancient grave stone.

Above the Tower Screen there is a narrow doorway which may at one time have led to the West End gallery [erected in 1754 but taken down in 1872]. This Gallery was used by the musicians & singers who led the music before the organ was installed in 1840. To the right of the Tower Screen there is a collection of the band's instruments & part books (4). [These have been temporarily removed for restoration]

From here you will get a good view of the NAVE (5) which is Early English. Note the octagonal pillars with interesting leaf designs. The pitch pine pews were provided in 1872. To your left on the wall of the North Aisle you will see two memorials for those who gave their lives in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. [The Town War Memorial is located outside in the churchyard at the east end of the Chancel]

The main NORTH TRANSEPT (6) window is a fine example of flowing Early English decorated style tracery constructed in the mid 14th century. Under this window is an unusual Tudor ALTAR (7), which used to be at All Saints, Gravelly Hill, Birmingham, though it was probably made for the church of St Peter, Ledes (Leeds). It is richly carved depicting St Peter being rescued by Our Lord as he steps out of the boat. Nearby is a votive candle stand, made recently by local craftsman John Fletcher. Pause awhile here, light a candle & bring before God those you love or who are in need of prayer at this time.

Before leaving the North Transept notice the curiously carved gravestone of WILLIAM TEANBY (8) a local worthy who ran a school for several years in what is now the choir vestry. The epitaphs were cut in an ancient 'court hand' by himself & apparently he used this stone as a dining table! He also used his coffin as a cupboard: There is a translation of the epitaphs nearby, made by the Winterton Local History Society.

Now walk through the ROOD SCREEN (9) erected in 1905 in memory of Dr. Thomas Fowler, D.D., a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. The screen has five panels of fumed oak, with tracery above one cornice beautifully carved with the inscription "in His temple doth every man speak of His honour."

The CHANCEL (10) is Early English style [probably late 13th century]. Of the stained glass here, the most notable are two windows by Mr Tower, who was successor to the famous firm of Kemp of London. Both bear the distinctive trademark of a sheaf of corn, superimposed with a tower. One is on the North West wall (11) & the other is the JESSE WINDOW (12) at the east. This depicts the genealogy of Jesus, starting with Jesse the father of King David. The organ was originally supplied by Beeforth & Corbett of Hull in 1840 but was only moved here from the North Transept in 1885. It was originally located against the tower wall.

On the South wall of the Sanctuary is a relief of a COAT OF ARMS (13) which is the "Insignia of Peter Gerynge". This name appears in the parish register around 1563 though the relief may be later. There is a BRASS (14) on the floor near the altar rails, now incomplete, in memory of John Rudd. The two women in Tudor dress are probably his two wives.

The SOUTH TRANSEPT (15) is now used as a children's corner & has a fine window similar to that in the North Transept. The medieval FONT (16) is a plain eight sided Early English example, mounted on a pillar capital that was replaced during restoration. For many years it was in the yard of Gilby House until the then owners kindly returned it to the church in 1952. It is now used for most baptisms. Above the font is a fine painting of the Holy Family by Rafaelle Mengs. It was presented in 1844 by Lady Boynton & was for some years part of the reredos behind the High Altar.

As you leave this historic & beautiful [Grade I listed] church pause awhile & pray for those who worship here, week by week. We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to our church. Please do visit us again!

YOU are very welcome to join us at one of our services. Our usual services take place:

8.00 am 1st Sunday

10.45 am 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday

9.15 am Tuesday

But please refer to the notice board, Parish Magazine or our website for any changes or additions.

For enquiries about services, weddings, baptisms & funerals please contact the Vicar, the Revd Alice Nunn on 01724 732262.

If you would like to find out more about our church and its heritage, please visit our website at:

<http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/winterton/>

You will find our calendar of services and events, information about our church and our worship and much more about the heritage of our building and our community.