

St Peter's Church

Hutton Cranswick



A Brief History

This booklet is based on the findings of Mr James Anderson, who was for many years the Headmaster at Hutton Cranswick School.

Chapter 1. The coming of Christianity

In the year 669 AD Wilfred became Bishop of York, having come from St. Andrew's Monastery, Hexham – only forty-two years after King Edwin's conversion and baptism at York.

Wilfred was largely responsible for the spread of Christianity in East Yorkshire through the sending out of missionary priests. The St Andrew's Churches at Middleton, Bainton, Hutton Cranswick, Foston and Ulrome show one of the lines of their travels. Hutton Church, now St Peter's (according to Crockford's Directory "formerly St Andrew's"), is the only one to lose its original name.

Little more is known of the pre-Norman Church and there is no mention of it in the Domesday Book (1086), though much land in the village was now owned by the followers of William the Conqueror.

Chapter 2. The Beginnings of the present Church

As the building took place over a considerable period it would be well to indicate the very approximate dates for the different styles of architecture involved.

Norman	after 1066 to 1175 AD
Early English	1175 to 1275 AD
Decorative	1275 to 1350 AD
Perpendicular	1350 to early 1500s AD

Only fragments of the Norman building remain. The doorway belongs to this period, though much restored, and the porch is a much later addition (1876?).

Pieces of Beakhead ornament dated around 1140 are built in above the windows at the west end of the north and south aisles.

In the East Riding there is a unique collection of Norman Fonts at Cowlam, Cottam, (now at Langtoft) and North Grimston. The Hutton Cranswick Font is now in the Hull and East Riding Museum at 36 High Street Hull. Apparently being discarded at the time of the restoration of the building in 1876, it was found on the vicarage rockery.

Round the font are several roughly cut panels: the Tree of Life; a rampant animal (probably intended, for a lion is usual; usually it is on its four feet); a winged dragon, a man ringing two bells, which occurs very rarely; two men wrestling; an archer shooting; the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). The Lamb of God is combined with three spearheads, a device never seen before by J.R. Allen, the author of a book on Early Christian Symbols; two male figures; and a man holding a human head by a rope.

The pillars of the chancel arch have Norman dog-tooth moulding on the capitals, which continues to the wall on each side. The arch itself, however is of a later date.

The first two arcades of the nave are Early English. The double respond suggests that the third and fourth arcades were added at a later date to double the length of the Church, but copying the former style. The tower itself belongs to the perpendicular period, as do some windows. This suggests that the latter arcades were added about that time.

The following paragraph is taken verbatim from an entry near the font:

"The Church was given by Joan, widow of Gilbert Gertrude, to the Priory of Watton and on the 18th December 1302 it was appropriated to the Prior and Convent thereof after the cession or death of Robt. de Pickering, then Rector of the same, and then a vicarage was ordained there in for a perpetual vicar, personally to reside and serve the cure of souls, and be presented by the said Prior and Convent, to whom on the 5th December 1433 licence was granted to present one of the brethren of their own monastery, or any other secular, able clerk to this Vicarage of their Patronage, which therefore was wont to be governed by a secular priest."

A rather mutilated headless stone effigy in a gown is to be found near the Lady Chapel in the south aisle. Dated in the fourteenth century, it very probably depicted Joan, widow of Gilbert Gertrude. Close by is a restored early English piscina.

This close connection with, and patronage of, Watton Priory and Convent continued until the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1538-39.

Chapter 3. Ancient Will

At this point, coming towards the end of the Catholic heritage under the leadership of Rome, a will dated 1509 contains several points of interest.

Mr Thweng of Rotsea left "to the said Chirch (Hutton) warke for three seargies ... for to burn for ever wthin the said chirch upon holy daies in service time ... oon afore the cucifix; oon afore our Lady of Pytie, and the oder afore St Andrew." Several bequests were made to a small (Catholic) chapel at Rotsea. A male swan was left to the Prior of Guisborough (N. Yorks), who owned land in Rotsea from 1300 until the dissolution of the Monasteries.

At the same time a grange belonging to Meaux Abbey was built at Cranswick, surrounded by a moat, on the site of Cowholme Farm in Station Road.

Chapter 4. The Reformation and Church Patronage

With the dissolution of the monasteries, 1538-39, came the Reformation, when Henry VIII broke away from Rome. The Patronage of Hutton Church now passed to Henry VIII (Protestant, till 1549), Mary (Catholic 1533-58) and Elizabeth (Protestant, 1558-1603). In these troubled, changing times, it was little wonder that the Rev Thomas Whitely (1553-54) was deprived of his living. This is shown on the list of Vicars dating from 1273.

The Patronage of the Church passed to the Hotham family in 1664, where it continued almost without a break until 1906. Since this date, the Patronage has been in the hands of the Archbishop of York.

Chapter 5. Ancient Tablets

Several pieces of ancient tablets have been used in the construction and restoration of the external walls of the Church.

Just below the west-facing clock is part of a coffin lid with incised "Calvary" cross of about 1200. (The base of the cross would normally have steps).

On the north side of the Church is part of another coffin lid, thirteenth century; the ends of the arms of the cross are lost.

High up on the north of the tower is a stone with two incised trefoil-headed, window-light forms of about 1400, possibly from the side of an altar tomb.

On the West Side of the tower is an ancient Mass dial, in a circle of six inches diameter. Another very small Mass dial is on the south side, only three inches across. It is not far from a modern benchmark, in the centre of this small inset of lead, with a line inscribed denoting a height of 92·8' above sea level.

Near the oil tank, and on the same wall of the chancel are two parts of the same fifteenth-century incised floor slab; the incised figure is perhaps that of a priest in his robes. The section with the head is missing, as is more than half of the remainder. The fragments of the inscription are:-

(A) ---ienc domine misere ob-----

(B) -----anime ai-----

There are several mason's marks on the stones in the tower, mainly like a capital H on its side; also at least one in triangular form.

Chapter 6. Eighteenth Century

Early in the eighteenth century there was a movement towards the removal of chancel screens from churches in the East Riding. In the period 1723-25 this was removed from Hutton Church on the orders of the Archdeacon Dr Dering.

In 1743 Archbishop Herring's visitation took place. This indicated that there were 148 families in the village, (2 Papists, 2 Anabaptists, 2 Quakers, the remainder Church of England). There were three places where children were taught, not above 40 "at present not 30".

"The Vicar does not reside in his Cure, but at Sowersby nr Hallyfax. He hath a dispensation for non-residence." He had however a resident curate.

The Churchyard wall was built in 1760. Sir Charles Hotham gave 10,000 bricks for that purpose out of a Lockington brick kiln. The bricks were laid by some husbandmen of Hutton Cranswick at the price of 8 shillings per thousand.

In 1802 Mr Horner (Sunderlandwick) presented the silver Communion Vessels to the Church.

Chapter 7. Church restoration 1875-76

In the spring of 1875 urgent attention was given to the Church "having fallen into the most dilapidated condition", and it was decided to endeavour to collect funds sufficient for its complete restoration. The Patron of the living 5th Baron Lord Hotham, "responded most liberally, and his example was readily followed".

The outcome was that Mr Ewan Christian (of Whitehall Place, London) drew up plans and superintended the work of restoration. The main contract went to Mr Padbury, builder, of Selby. A completely new roof was built, the stonework was partially rebuilt and resurfaced throughout (with the exception of the tower) and the Church entirely re-seated.

The ladies of the village raised £160 to defray the cost of the stained glass East window, and Mrs R Reynard donated the font.

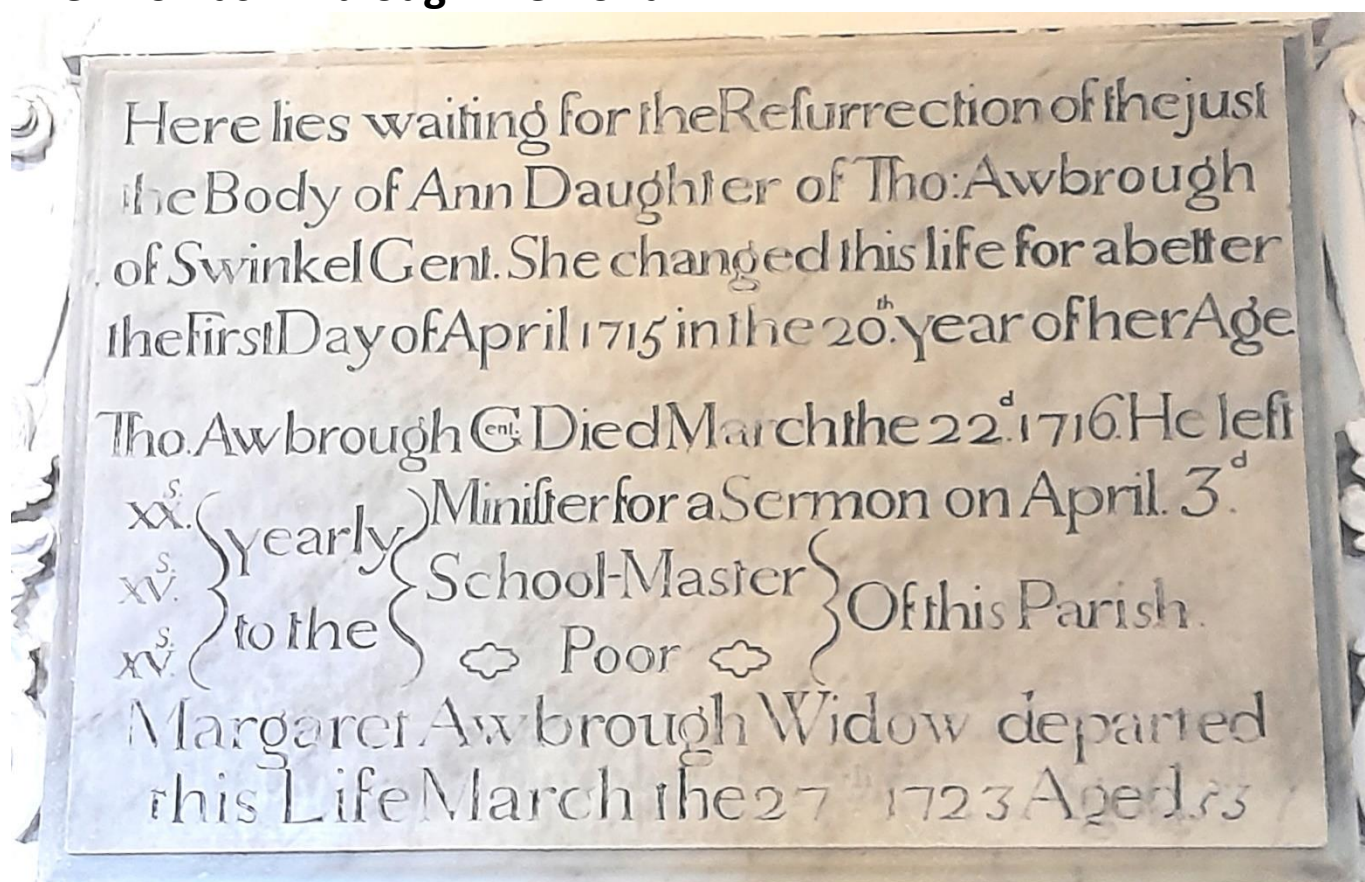
To quote a contemporary edition of *The Driffield Times*: "The appearance of the sacred edifice, both internally and externally, is that of a newly erected building, and 'Once more His house is standing firm and stately as of old'."

The cost of the restoration was over £3000 (compared to £800 for building the School and Schoolhouse in 1874). Lord Hotham gave £2000 of this; and he had already built a new vicarage (now the old vicarage) in 1874.

The opening service was held on 17th August 1876 when his Grace the Archbishop of York rededicated the Church.

Chapter 8. Monuments and Stained Glass Windows

The Thomas Awbrough Memorial



On the north wall of the nave is a tablet commemorating Ann (d.1715) and her father Thomas Awbrough (d. 1716) of Swinekeld. He left:

20 shillings to the Vicar for a sermon on 3rd April

15 shillings to the schoolmaster of the National School "for teaching three poor children free of expense".

15 shillings to the poor.

The Reynard Family Memorials (Sunderlandwick)

On the north wall of the chancel is a memorial to Simon Horner (d. 1829) and his widow; Stained Glass windows commemorate Edward Horner Reynard (d. 1883) his widow Elizabeth (d. 1891) and

their second son C E Reynard (Lieut. RN d. 1879) with brass tablets and memorials to other members of the family.

The War Memorial



The Lady Chapel was restored by Mrs Reynard in memory of all the men of this parish who fell in World War 1 (1914-1918), their names being inscribed on a brass tablet.

The window was installed in memory of her son Capt C.F. (Peter) Reynard. On the left is a representation of St George, the portrait being of Capt Reynard. On the right is depicted St. Michael, the portrait being of Capt Reynard's friend, who was also killed. On the altar are two bronze candlesticks to the memory of Miss Palmes, who succumbed to influenza whilst nursing in a military hospital. There is also a brass crucifix to the memory of Capt Reynard.

Chapter 9. Twentieth Century Additions

The Organ was installed in 1914 at a cost of just over £400; the money was raised by public subscription. The Carnegie Trust contributed £200 of this, and Mr Joel Dossor £100. There was a surplus of £50, sufficient to build the oak vestry screen in the N.W. corner of the nave. The Organ was dedicated on 2nd October 1914 by the Bishop of Hull. Previously the source of music was a harmonium.

The Electric Light was installed in 1932 by Thomas Douthwaite, ex-churchwarden in memory of his wife, the gift being recorded on a brass tablet near the font.

The Clock was installed by his widow to the memory of Abraham Branston (d. 1934, aged 96 years), as recorded on a brass tablet near the previous one. His grandson, Mr John Branston, recounted that the cost of the clock was £100.

The Bells. For three centuries the bells had called parishioners to prayer. In the course of time their tone had deteriorated greatly, and at the end of World War 11, (1939-45) a major effort was made to install a peal of bells worthy of this fine building. The credit for the realisation of this project must go largely to the Rev. George Storer, who worked unceasingly until the work was completed.

The description of each bell is given in some detail, as every one is most significant.

6th Bell (cast 1635, recast 1949 & 1963, 19½ cwt). Ancient inscription (in Latin) 'Glory to God, Peace to Men.' Modern inscription: 'These bells were restored by public subscription in the memory of the men from this parish who fell in the 2nd Great War, 1939-45, and also a thank-offering for victory and peace.'

5th Bell (cast 1678, recast 1949 & 1997 12½ cwt.). Ancient inscription (in Latin) 'O come let us sing unto the Lord'.

4th Bell (cast 1678, recast 1949 10¼ cwt.). Ancient inscription (In Latin) 'Glory to God in the Highest'.

3rd Bell – The Children's Bell (cast 1949 8½ cwt.). Inscription: 'The cost of this bell and fittings was raised by the Sunday School as a thank-

offering for the preservation of the Parish Church from enemy action, and also in memory of Joan and Mary Severs who, with their parents, lost their lives March 18/19 1941. We will remember them.'

2nd Bell –The Farmers' Bell (cast 1949. 7½ cwt.). Inscription: 'O come Let us Worship.'

1st Bell (cast 1949. 6¼ cwt.). Inscription: 'To the memory of Jesse Barker, Parish Church Clerk, who died 1st May 1924, and his wife Frances, who died 1st January 1946. This bell was given by their daughters Kate, Dora and Elsie'.

The total cost of the bells and their installation was £1500. The dedication Service was held on 15th July 1950, when his Grace the Archbishop of York officiated. This fine peal of bells has been of special interest to the Beverley & District Association of Change Ringers, whose members have visited on several occasions.

The Children's Corner was installed in 1953 at the eastern end of the north aisle, almost directly underneath the roof which was damaged by an enemy incendiary bomb in 1941. The installation was efficiently carried out by Messrs P H Sissons & Sons, (Beswick).

The new Vicarage was built in 1967, paid for from the proceeds of the sale of the former Vicarage built in 1874.

The Churchyard Gates (erected to the memory of John Arthur Dossor, d. 1931, and his wife Mary Elizabeth d. 1947) had fallen into disrepair. Mr & Mrs K Simpson undertook to have them replaced. Their construction was entrusted to the expert hands of Mr L Johnson, who also designed them. They were completed and placed in position in June 1982.

Chapter 10. The Church Rooms

In 1884 plans were drawn up to build an infant School under the auspices of the National Society of the Church of England. The total cost, including furnishings was £250, met by public subscription. The principal donors were; Lord Hotham £33, Mr E Reynard £23, The National Society £50, Government grant £75. An interesting donation

was £10 from George Hudson, the Railway King, who was constructing the Hull to Bridlington line at the time.

The building came to an end as an Infant School in 1923 because of a continual decline in the village population (from 1415 in 1861 down to 872 in 1931). It then reverted to the Church, not without some controversy.

For more than half a century it served as a Sunday School and, usefully, as a building for Church meetings and social events.

However over the passage of time the building needed large sums of money to be spent on it, which the Church could not afford. Because of this it was sold in due course to the Parish Council, who after a public meeting to decide what to do with it, demolished it and the land reverted back to the village green.

Chapter 11. The Re-ordering of the Church 2017-2018

The Church was substantially re-ordered in the years 2017-2018. This entailed installing a new kitchen, disabled toilet facilities and several storage cupboards. The kitchen and toilet are at the Western end of the North aisle. Pews were removed from the back of the nave and also from the South aisle, to which area the font was relocated. Finally the bell ringing chamber was repositioned onto a mezzanine level at the West end of the church and is accessed by a magnificent spiral staircase. The area underneath the new ringing chamber is now a small meeting room. The Ellacombe frame is located in a cupboard in the meeting room.

This whole project cost £180,000, which was raised mainly by local fund-raising, but also with grants of £10,000 from York Diocese and £15,000 from Garfield Weston. The newly re-ordered area was blessed and opened by the Bishop of Hull, the Rt Rev Alison White on 25 February 2018.

References

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The East Riding of Yorkshire

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Early Christian Symbolism

J R Allen (for information about fonts)

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