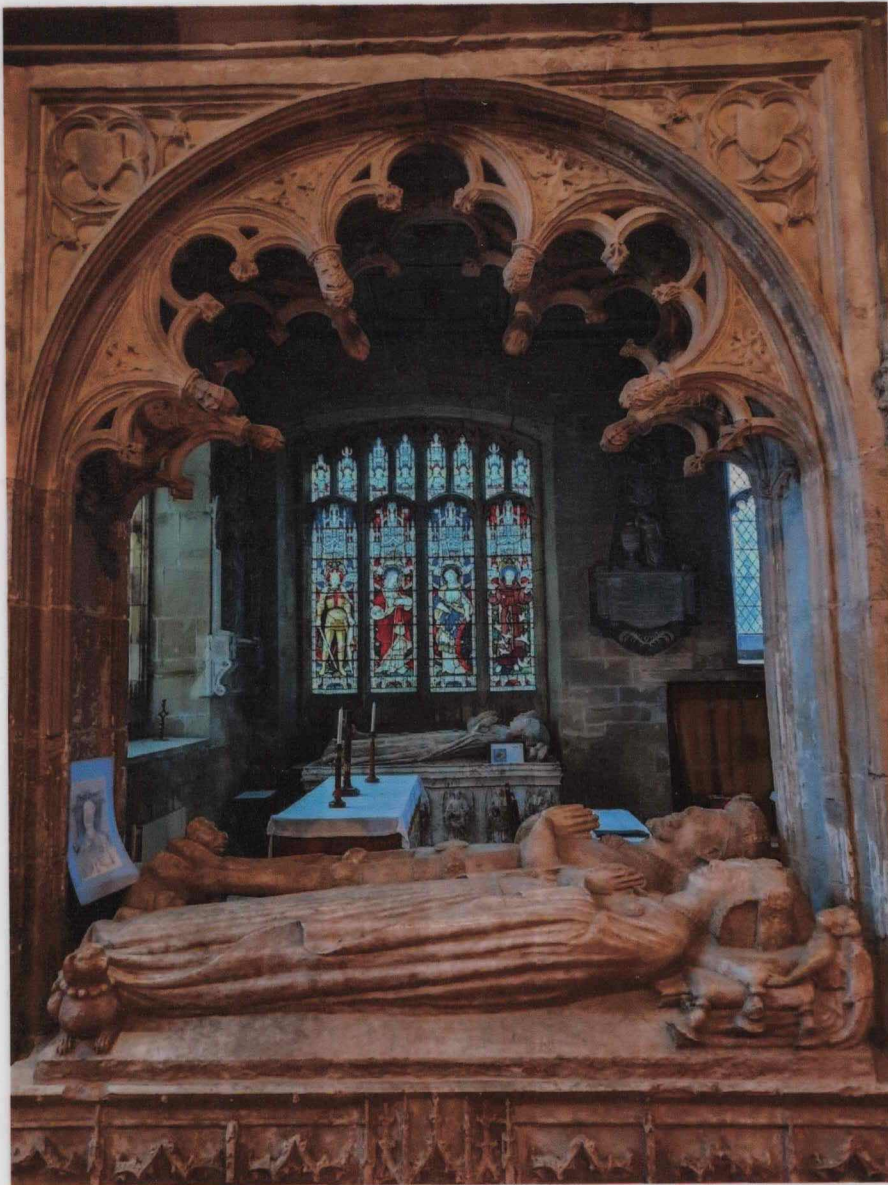


A Guide to St. Oswald's Church, Methley

Part 2 South Side



Waterton Monument

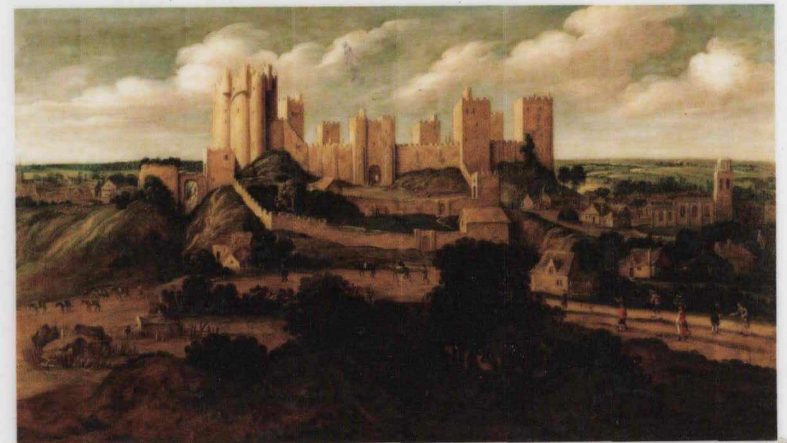


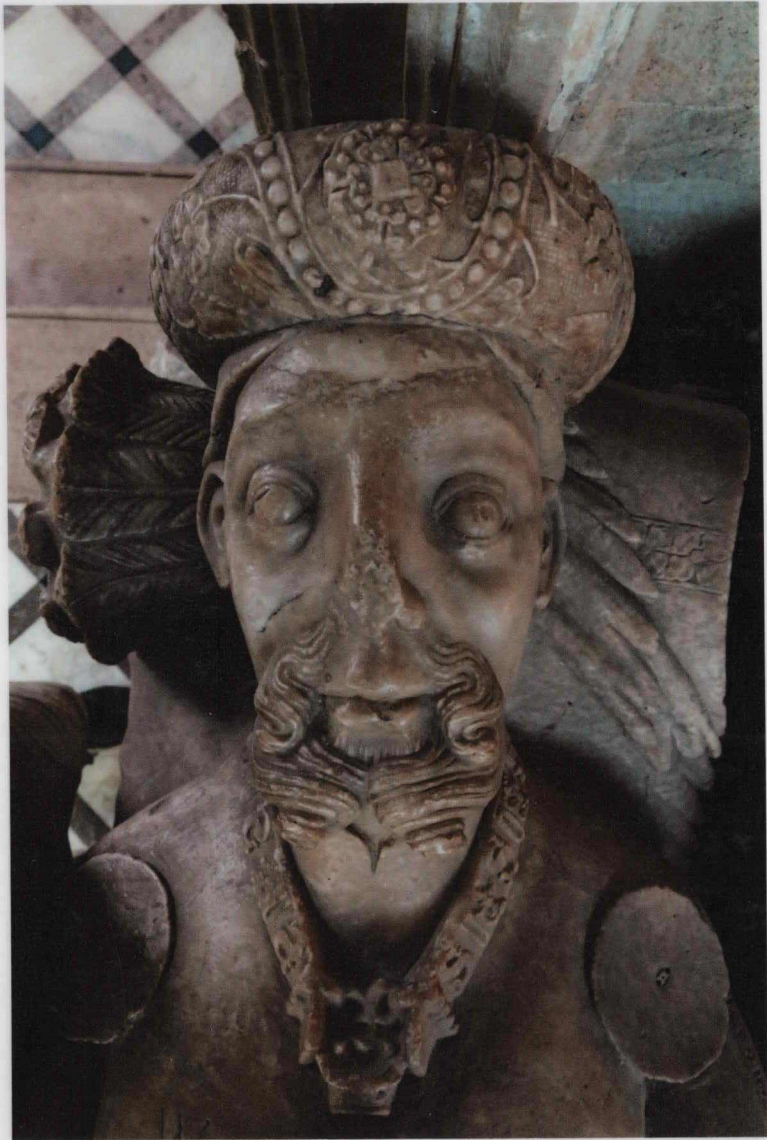
The canopied Waterton monument contains alabaster effigies of Sir Robert Waterton (died 1425) and his wife Cecily, daughter of Sir Robert Flemming.

Sir Robert is wearing plate armour, his feet resting upon a lion symbolising his valour, his head upon his helmet which bears a plume of feathers; about his neck is a chain, he wears a richly decorated belt from which hangs a dagger. His headdress is unique and takes the form of a large orle, a wreath of padded cloth.

Lady Cecily wears a mantle fastened with cords to brooches, pointed slippers and a square headdress decorated with flowers and jewels. At her feet are two small dogs symbolising her fidelity.

Sir Robert served under Henry IV, V and VI and was Constable of Pontefract Castle. He was responsible for Richard II when he was imprisoned there in 1400. Also following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 Robert held a prisoner, Jean Le Mangre (Boucicault), Marshall of France for ransom in Methley. The





Waterton Chapel



The Chantry Chapel (or Waterton Chapel) on the South Side of the Chancel was build by Sir Robert Waterton, Lord of the Manor of Methley in the 15th Century. A Chantry Chapel provided for in his Will of 1425, and three chaplains so that Masses could be said for his soul. It has a timbered roof adorned with angels (which match the angels in the Chapel window). Although

restored the traceried wooden screen is also 15th century and consistent with the date of the chapel itself. The rectangular priests doorway is also contemporary with its erection.



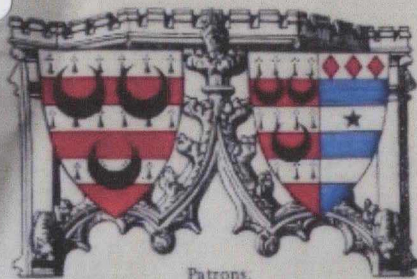
Henry Moore

The Castleford born artist and sculpture was a frequent visitor in his youth to St. Oswald's when he came to see his aunt who lived in Methley. Whilst here he studied and sketched the sculptures, corbals and memorials. Moore also

helped fund restoration work on the medieval memorials.

"Methley Church, just outside Castleford, contains the first real sculptures I remember. I was very impressed with the recumbent figures, particularly by the simplicity of the woman's head"

(J. Hedgecoe. 1986. Henry Moore)



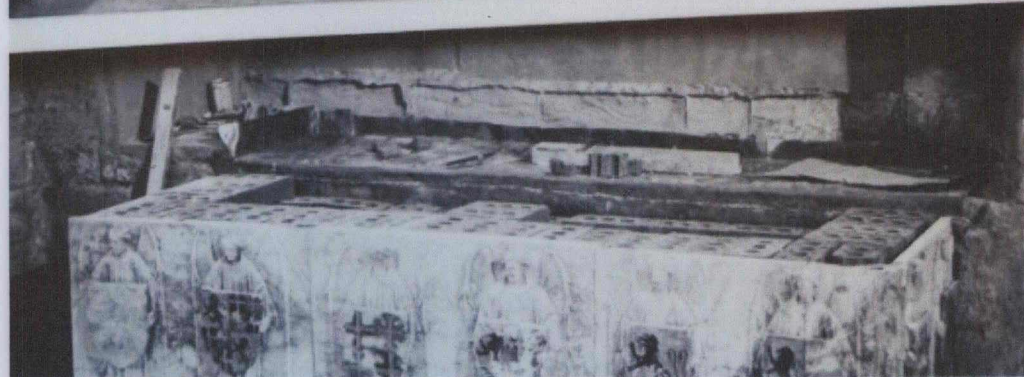
Patrons:
His Grace The Duke of Norfolk, K.G.
Rt. Rev. David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds
Rt. Rev. David Young, Bishop of Ripon
Henry Moore Esq., O.M.

The Waterton Chapel Appeal

Parish Church of
St. Oswald, Methley



Chairman:
David A. R. Waterton-Anderson,
Flat 9, 114, Dib Lane, Roundhay,
Leeds, West Yorkshire. LS8 3AY.
Tel: Leeds (0532) 656832



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says David Waterton-Anderson

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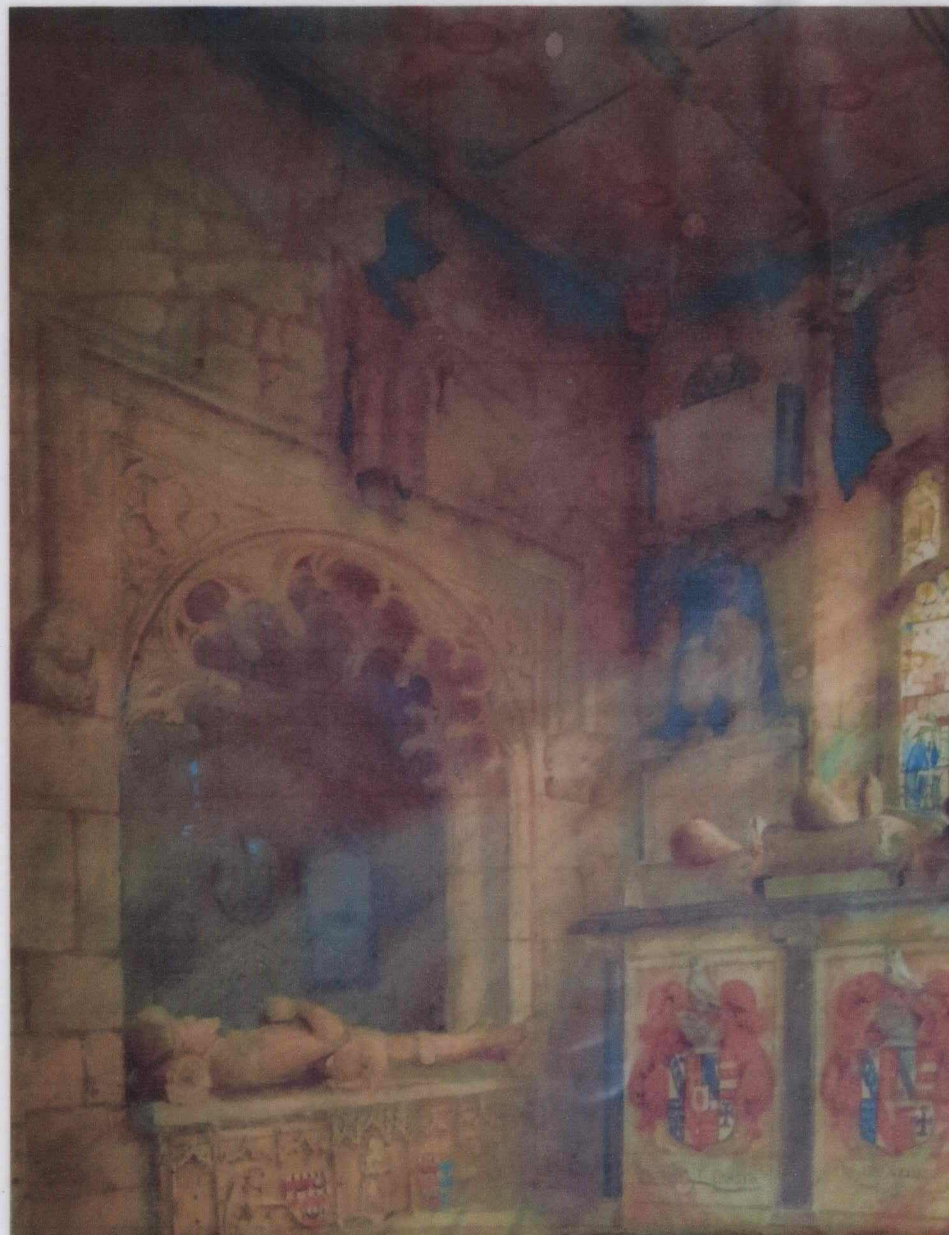
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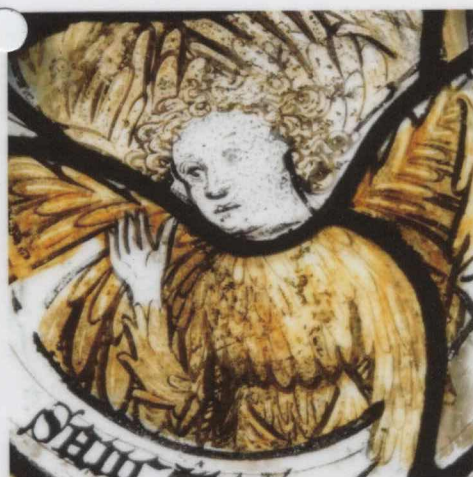
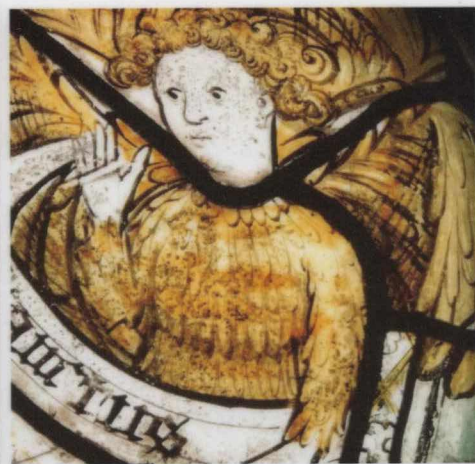
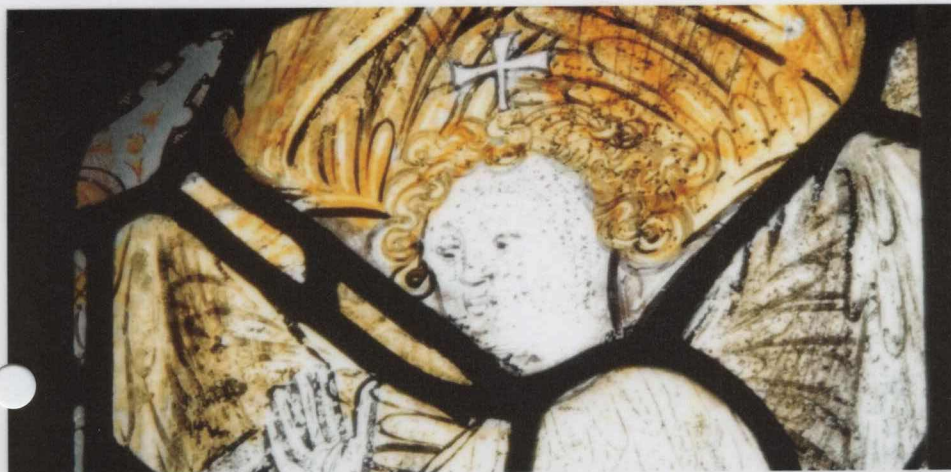
waterton Chapel East Window

All the remaining 14th century stained glass at Methley has been assembled in this window. In the 8 tracery lights are angels clad in feathers, each bears a scroll inscribed 'Sanctus'. The armorial shields are Waterton and Waterton impaling with Fleming. The figures left to right are Saints Jermone, Margaret of Scotland, Christopher, John the Evangelist, Augustine and Gregory.

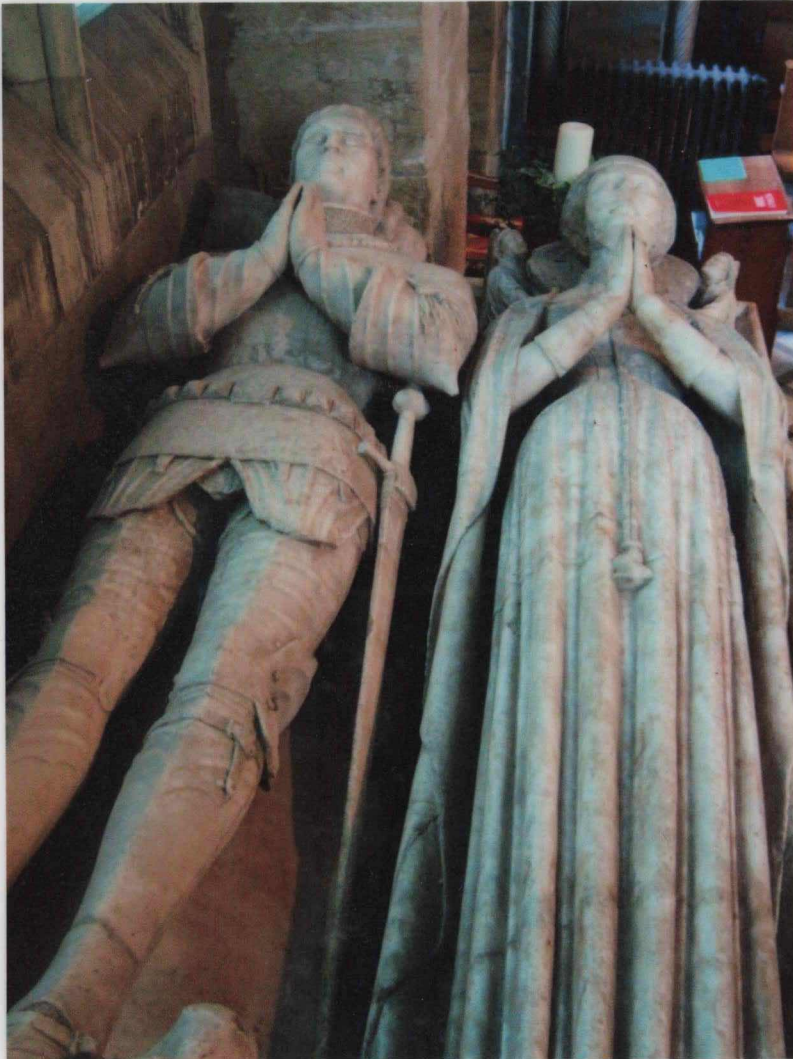
The glass was originally in sections of the East Window in the Chancel.

Details of 14th century glass





Welles Monument



The alabaster Welles monument contains effigies of Lionel, 6th Baron Welles and his wife Joan who was daughter of Sir Robert Waterton. Lord Welles was born 1406 and served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Joint Deputy of Calais, and was a Knight of the Garter in 1457.

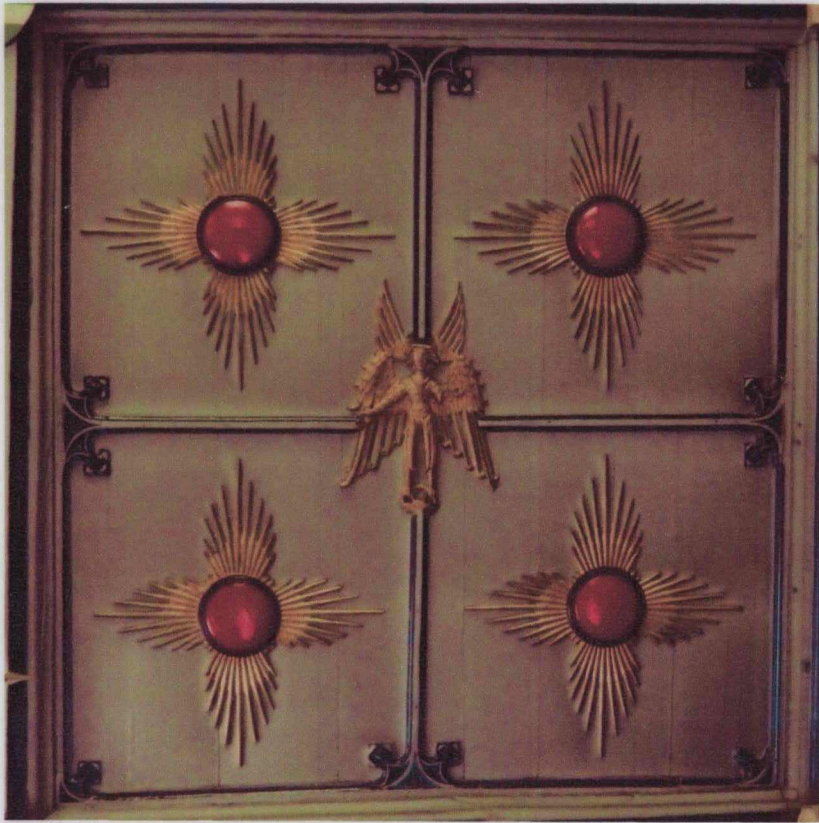
The figure of Lord Welles is clad in armour, his head, with hair cut short, rests upon his helmet, his feet upon a lion. He has a chain about his neck, a belt with jewels, and a garter with its motto upon his left leg. Over his armour is a surcoat including the arms of Welles.

Lady Welles wears a mantle embroidered with the arms of Welles and has a chain around her neck. At her feet are two little dogs, one asleep, the other pulling with his teeth at her mantle.

Lord Welles, a supporter of the Lancastrian King Henry VI, fell at the Battle of Towton fought on Palm Sunday 1461. Tradition has it that his body was brought back to Methley concealed in a sack.

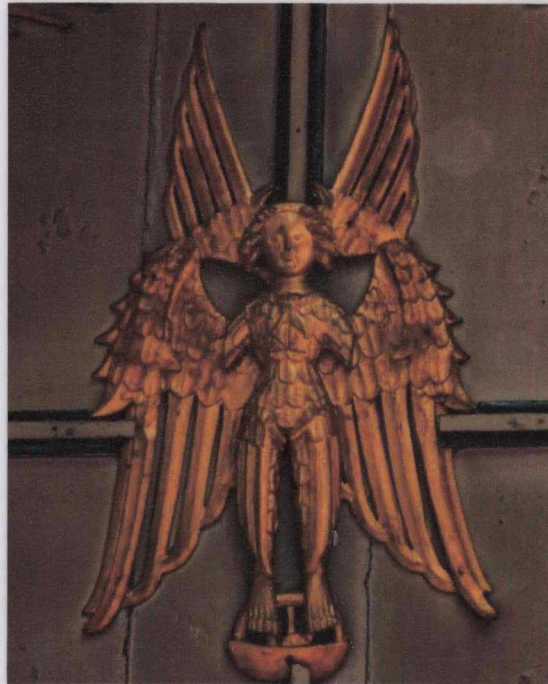


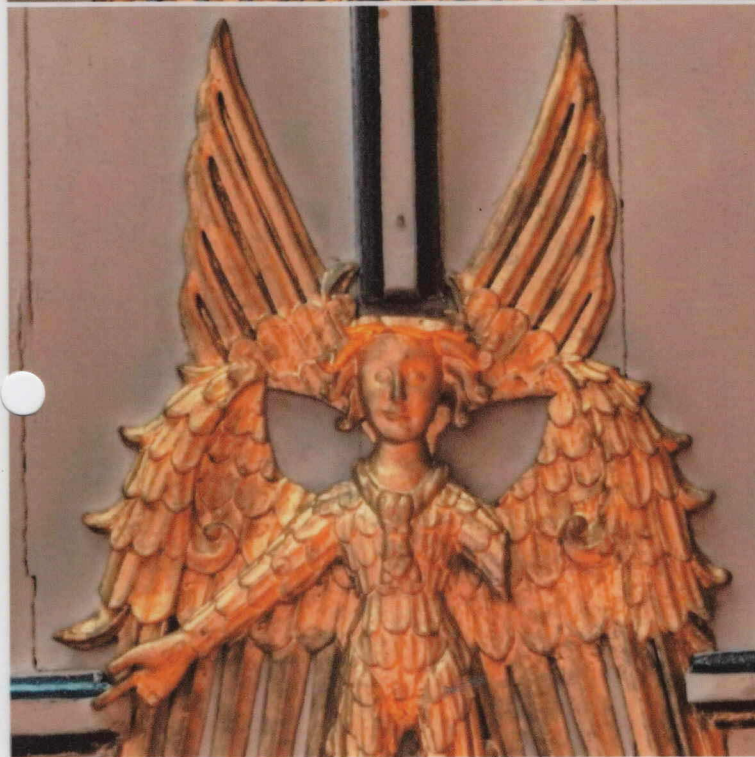
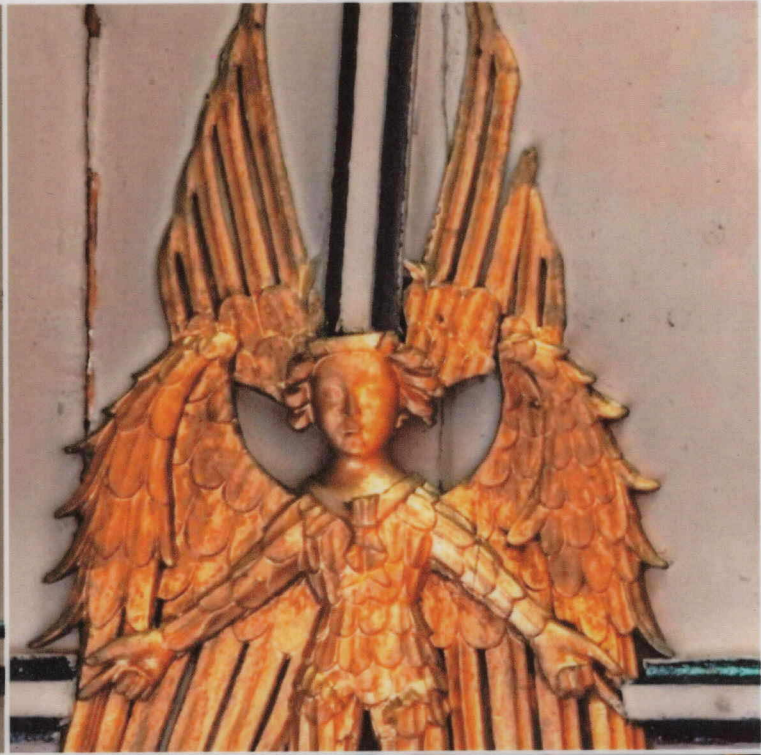
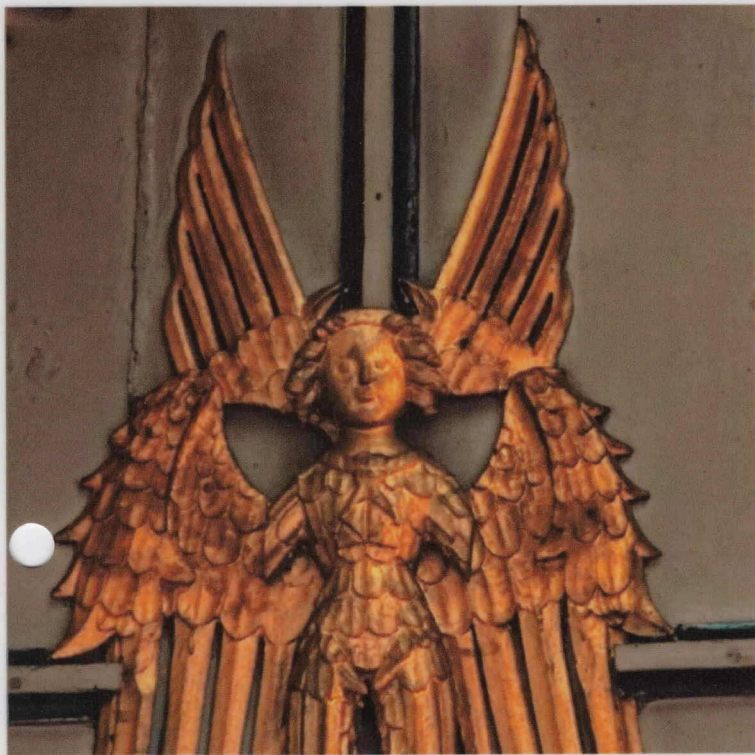




Waterton Chapel Roof

The roof is 15th century and the angels are individually carved. They were re-gilded in the 1950s.







Charles & Alethia Savile

The monument to Charles (d. 1741) and Alethia (d. 1759) Savile is in the classical manner of its time, with effigies in white statuary marble, his being dressed in Roman garb. She is shown seated facing her husband in an attitude of mourning which suggest she erected the monument. The sculptor is believed to be Peter Scheemakers, a Flemish immigrant.



The monument to Charles and Alethia Savile had a canopy which was removed along with the metal railing. The photograph would have been taken in the 1920s after the new chancel was installed. Note the Tudor monument which was moved to the South door.

Trap door to the Crypt



The trap door leads to the crypt which was sealed in the 1900s following the last interment. The door was opened in the 1950 and candle holders were still in place along the wall. At the base of the steps it was confirmed that the crypt entrance had been blocked with a wall.

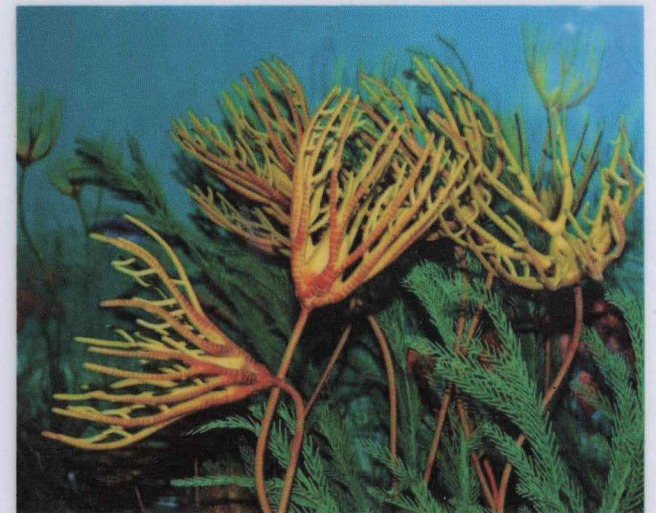
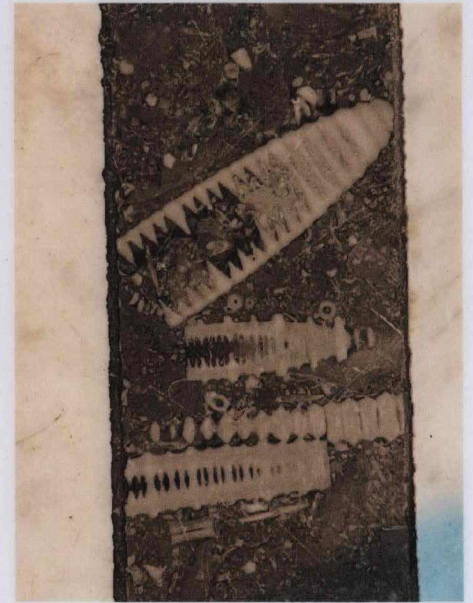
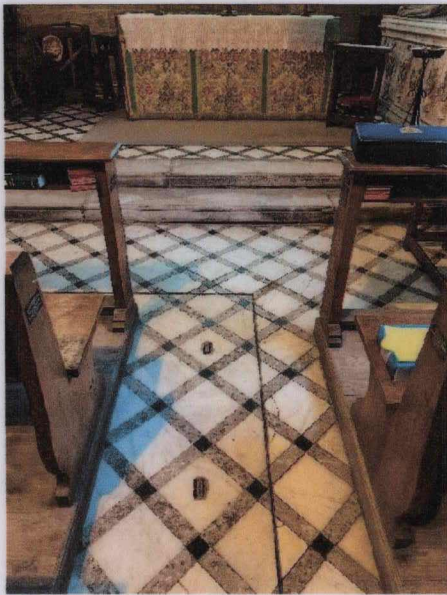


Duchy of Lancaster Kneeler

Since the 15th century the parish of Methley has been under the patronage of the Dukes of Lancaster. There are currently 42 churches in England of which HM The Queen is patron through her title as Duke of Lancaster. This kneeler was gifted to Duchy of Lancaster churches on her Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1997.

Fossils

The floor of the Waterton Chapel contains fossilised Crinoids. These are early ancestors of starfish that lived in the ocean 400 to 500 million years ago.



The Lizardman

The Waterton chapel pews installed in the 1950s were made by Derek (Lizardman) Slater.

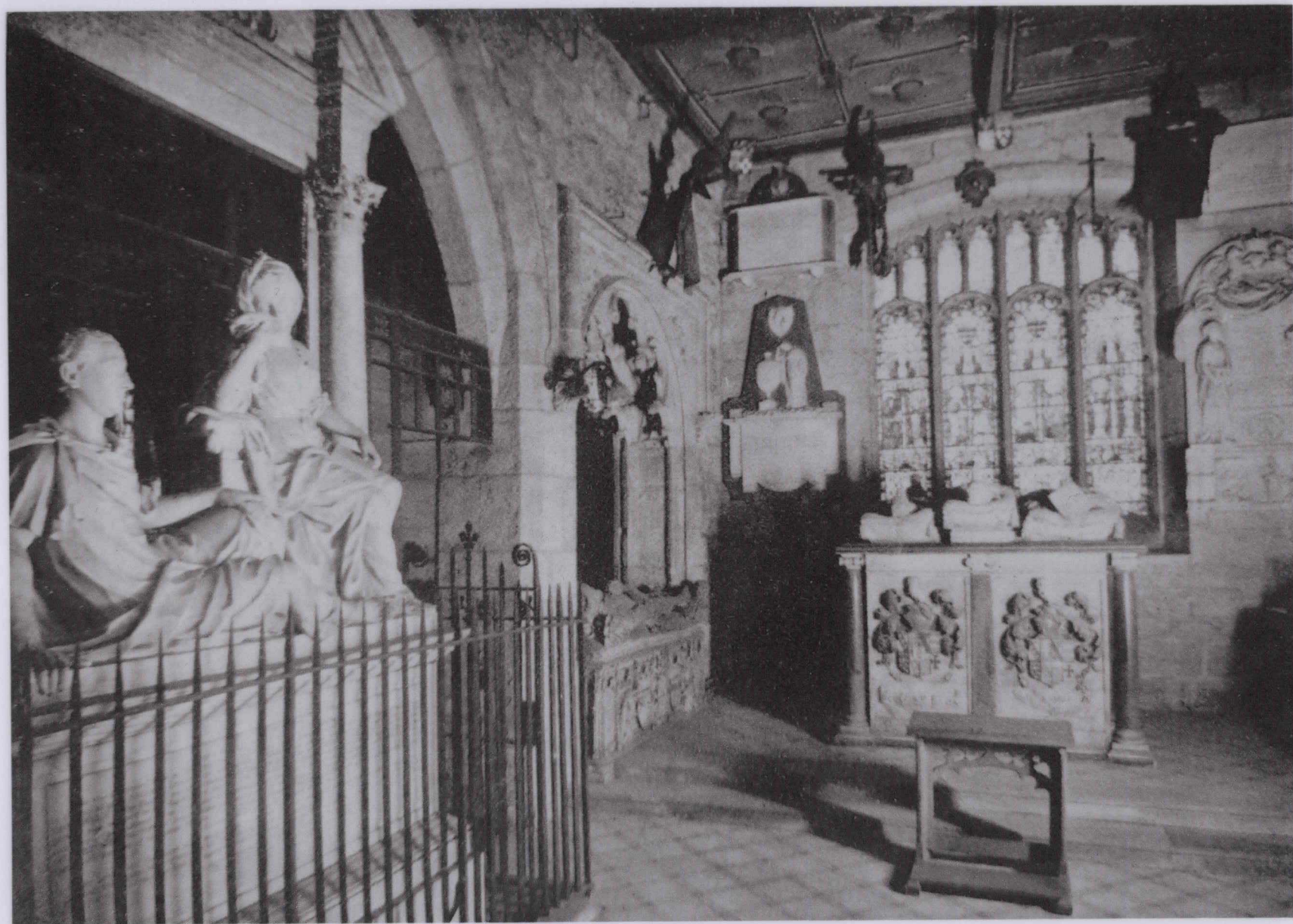


Yorkshire Churches, 1844



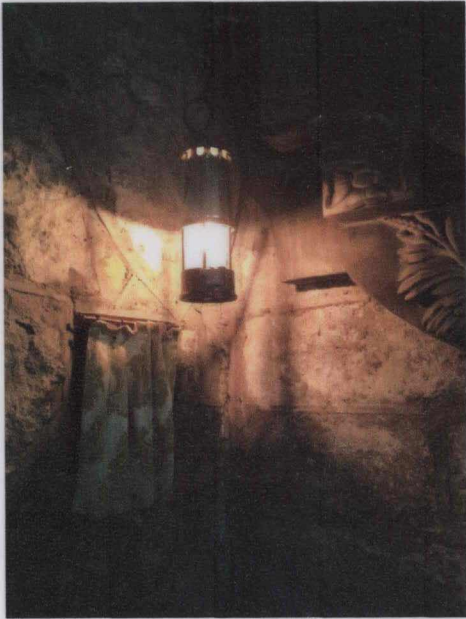
The Tudor Savile Monument was originally in the chapel







Methley Mining Display



COAL MINING IN THE PARISH OF METHLEY

These Tools and Equipment, used in Coal Mining, are hung to rest here in 1985 to mark the completion of the Underground Mining in the Parish of Methley.

The earliest record of Mining Coal in the Parish was 1346.

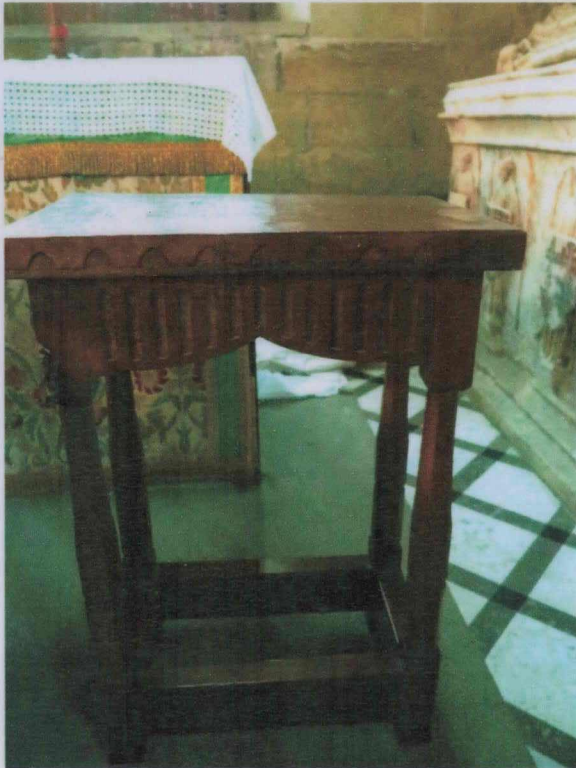
Coal Pits worked circa 1831 in various locations in the Parish were named Garden Pit, Mulberry Pit, White Hall Pit, Engine and Bye Pit, Ings Pit and Parlour Pit. Methley Junction shafts were sunk about 1845.

The last was Savile Colliery which closed in 1985.

This stand, (made from the type of wood used for cage guides at the Methley Park shaft, Savile), with the Tools and Equipment were donated by Savile Colliery Workmen, Officials and Management for the Harvest Festival Celebrations of October 1985.

The Gnome

There are numerous carved mice lizards in church but only one gnome. The credence table in the chapel was made by Tom Whitaker of Little Beck near Whitby.





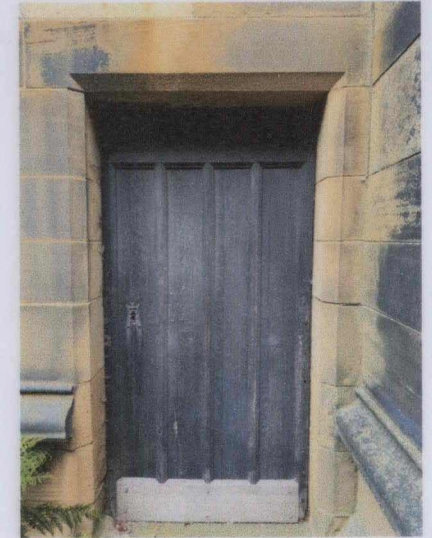
South Porch door



Sir Robert Waterton's
chest

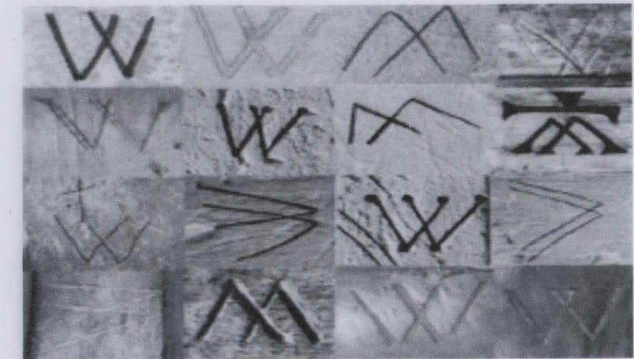


Left side of the
chapel door frame



Witch Marks

Also called apotropaic marks, graffiti marked into wood, stone and marble in churches and other ancient buildings across the country. There are other designs but a typical mark is the interlocking V's 'Virgo Virginum' in latin or Virgin of Virgins, an invocation to the protective powers of the Virgin Mary. These marks typically originate in the 17th century made by people to ward off the Devil and his witches. This is also the period when a local woman Mary Pannal in in the village of Ledston was put on trial as a witch.



7 Stained glass windows

The South East window of the Waterton Chapel (four lights) depicts: St. George, St. Rachel, St. Katherine and St. Francis. It was made 'in loving memory of Rachel Katherine Wallpole, Viscountess Pollington, who died June 21st 1854. Her only child caused this window to be erected 1901'.



John, Earl of Mexborough

John, First Earl of Mexborough is portrayed in peers robes. Copies of his grant have been laboriously modelled with the full text upon it, cast in metal and hung either end of the tomb chest. He look's over the spectators head and points up to heaven. He died in 1778.



The monument is signed and dated 1780 by Joseph Wilton, one of three sculptors who founded the Royal Academy.

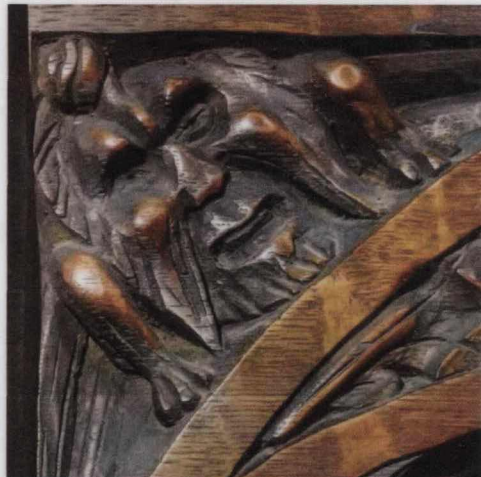
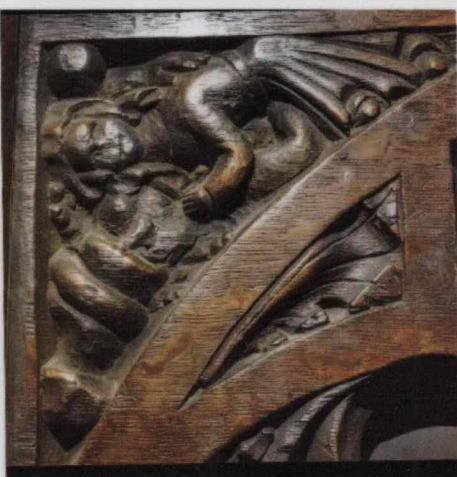
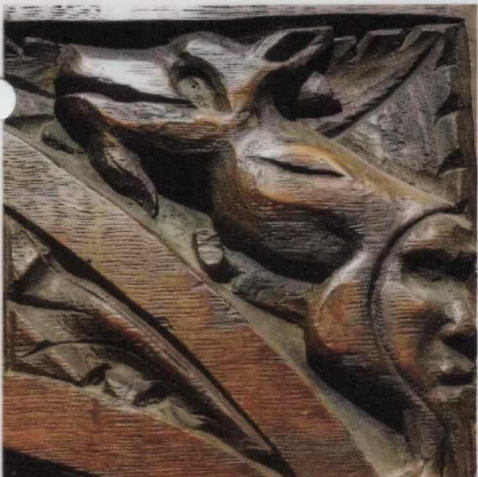
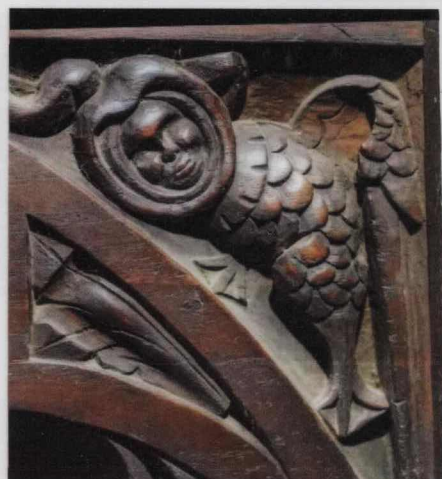
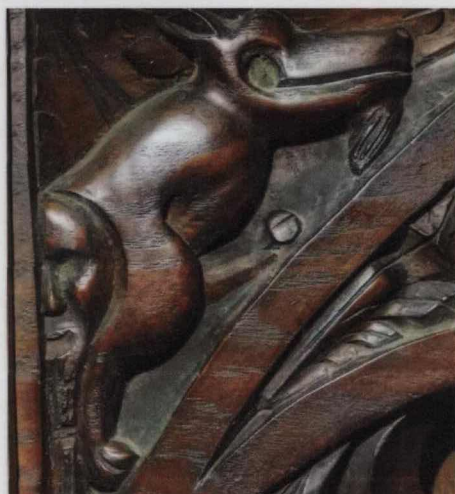
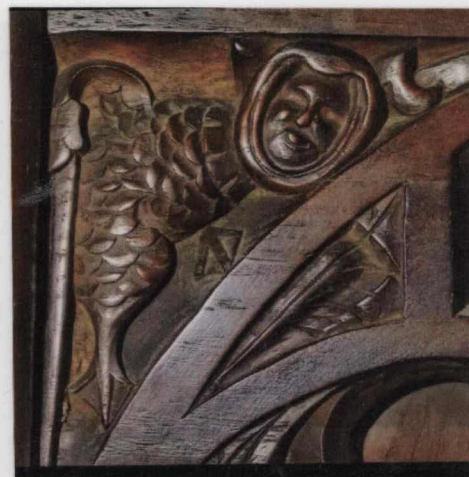


Waterton Chapel Screen



The traceried wooden screen is 15th century though with some restoration and was originally painted. Above the screen are shields and names:

Thomas Wombwell, William Skargill and John Waterton. There is a reference in 1816 (Loidis and Elmete) to another inscription since lost which read 'Pray for the soule of Roberte Waterton and Cecily his Wyf: that God will take to Hys kingdom their poor and endless lyf'.





The south arcade has octagonal piers and double chamfered arches and is of the 14th century
(Pevsner, N. The Buildings of England. Yorkshire West Riding. 1967)

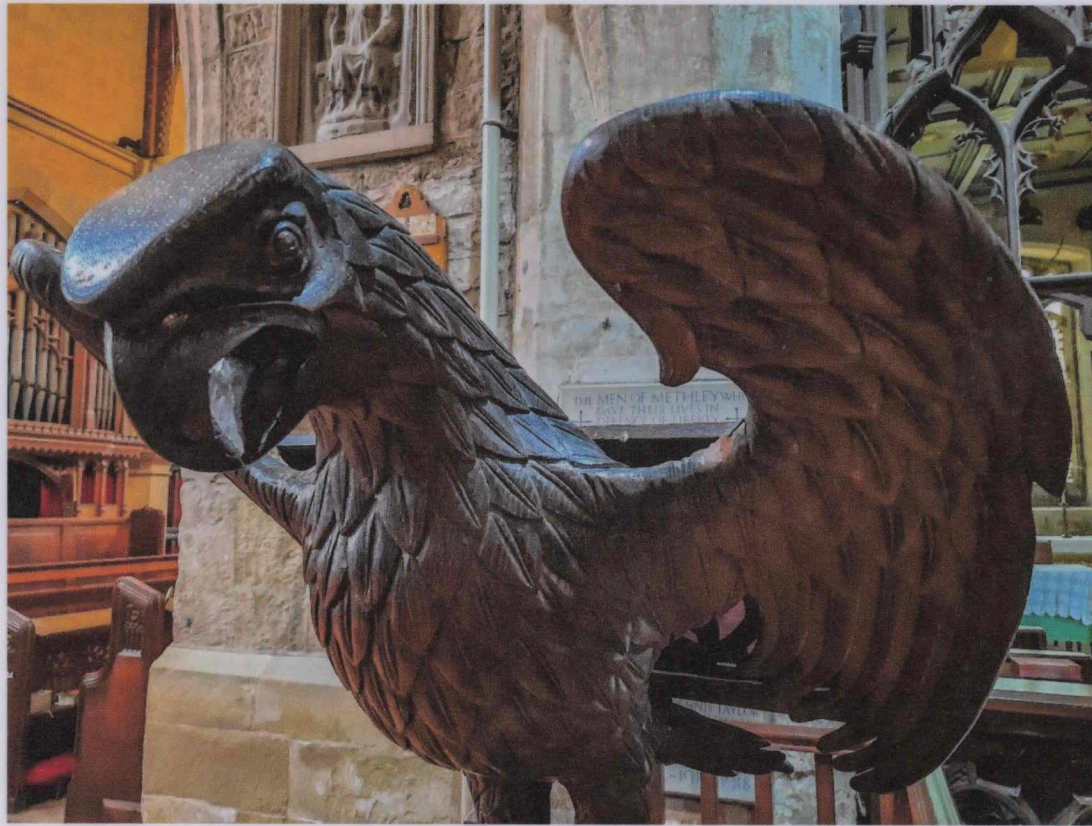


War Memorials

The 1939-1945 Memorial and
Roll of Honour is in the South
Aisle.

The 1914-1918 Memorial is in
the Churchyard.



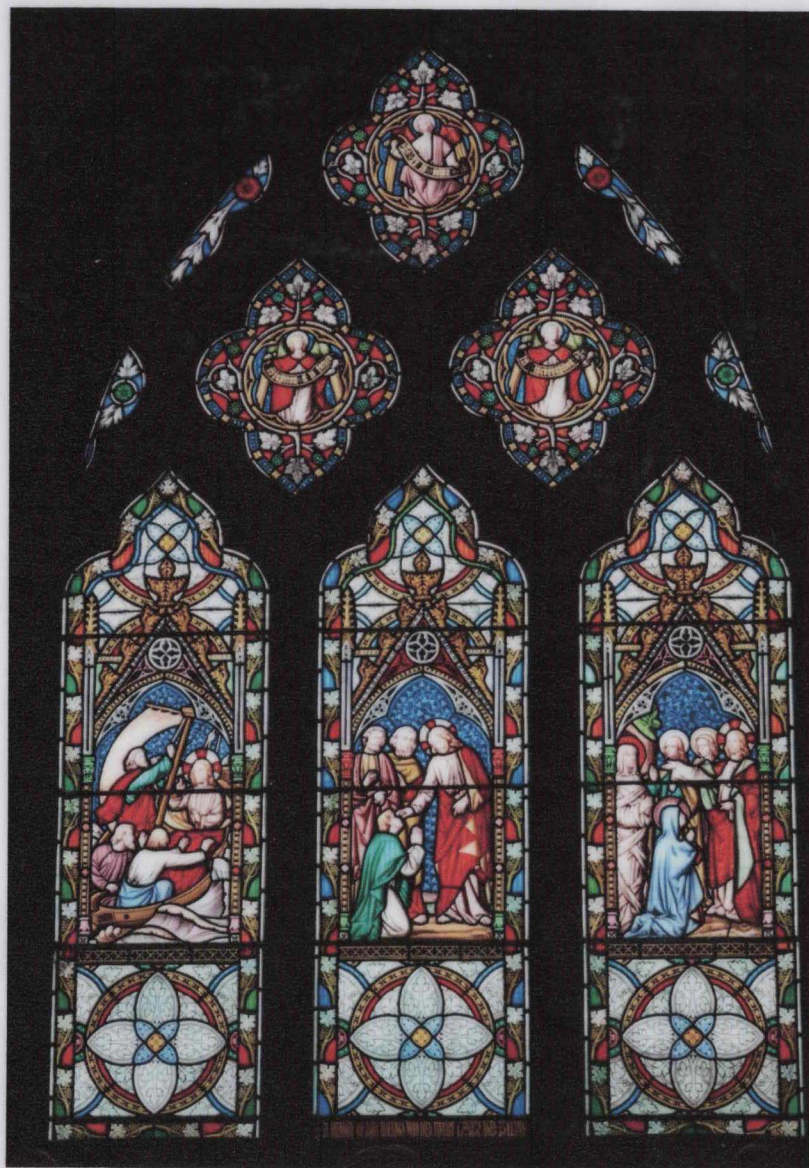


Lectern

The wooden lectern comprises an eagle perched on a globe, and an ornate pedestal formed of three traceried, canopied niches, each having a movable figure carrying a book, staff and lamb. It has no known history before the second half of the 19th century but is believed to be 15th century Flemish or

German. A plate records it to be 'An offering to Methley Church from David Leake, Easter Day, 1869'.





South Aisle Hollings Window

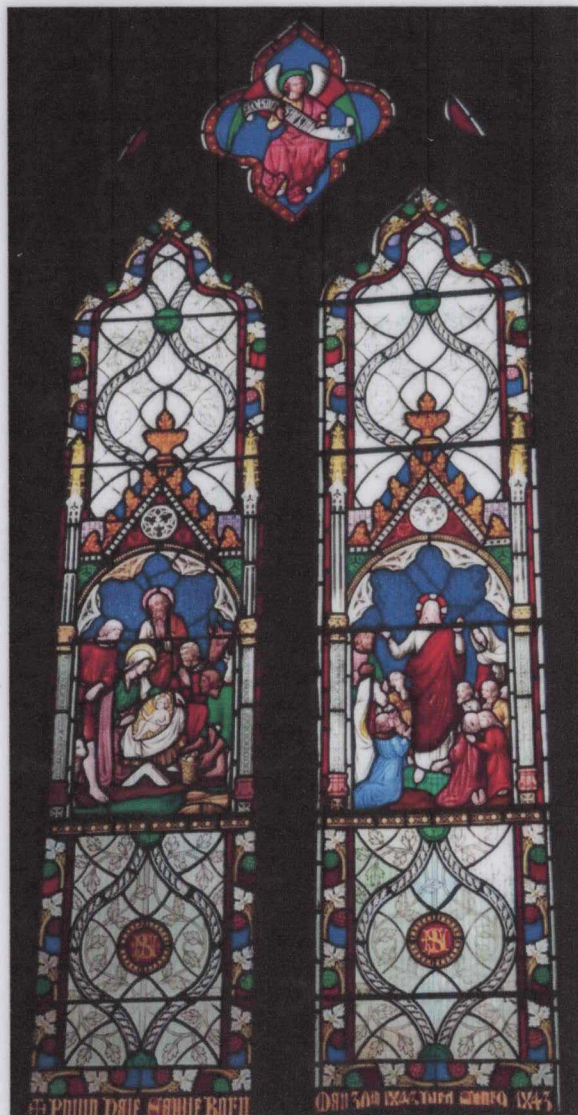
Three lights (Our Lord's Miracles).
Erected in memory of Jonathan Hollings
who died 1832.



South Aisle Window

The window is dedicated to two sons of the 3rd Earl of Mexborough. It is inscribed 'In Memory of Hry Alexr Savile, Born 3 Decr 1811, Died 1at March 1851 & Frederick Savile, B. 17th March 1817, Died 2nd April 1851'.

The scenes depict David and his friend Jonathan
'You have been beloved to me! Very precious was your love to me, more than the love of women!' (2 Samuel 1:26)



Corner of South Aisle

The window in the South East corner of the South Aisle (opposite the Font) depicts The Nativity and Christ Blessing children. The window was installed in memory of Philip Henry Savile who died in infancy in 1843, son of the then Rector.



South Aisle Roof

We have no date for the South Aisle roof. The roof bosses are interesting.



Savile Monument



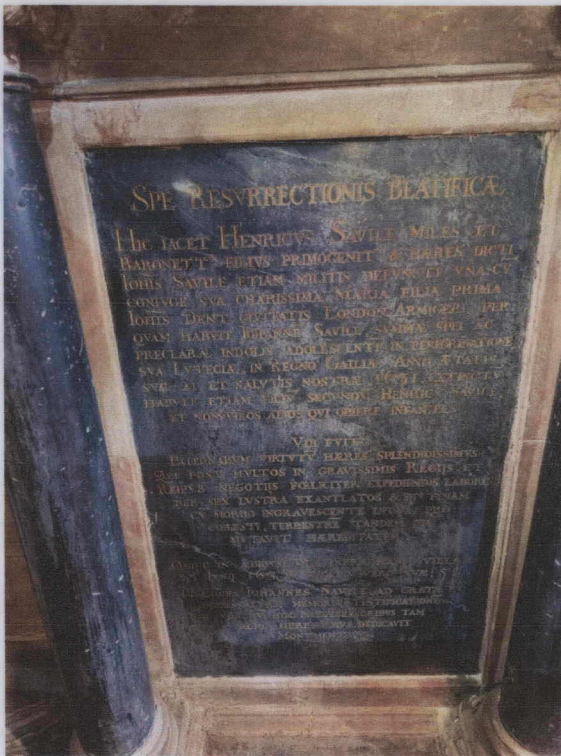
The Savile monument contains three recumbent figures, those of Sir John Savile. His son Henry Savile and Sir Henry's second wife Elizabeth Wentworth.

Sir John Savile, Baron of the Exchequer to King James I, is wearing a judges robes. He bought the manor of Methley in 1590 and lived at Methley Park. He died in 1607 and was buried in London, his heart was removed and interred at Methley.



The central figure is Sir Henry Savile who died in 1632 and beside him his wife Elizabeth. At her feet is the figure of a boy holding a skull, an unnamed child. At the foot of the monument are two small baby figures. One is named as that of their daughter Helena and the other an unnamed son.





This Latin funerary inscription commemorates **Sir Henry Savile, 1st Baronet of Methley** (1579–1632) and his family, located in the Savile Chapel of St Oswald's Church in Methley, West Yorkshire.

English Translation

In Hope of the Blessed Resurrection

Here lies **Henry Savile**, Knight and Baronet, firstborn son and heir of the said Sir John Savile, Knight, deceased; together with his dearest wife **Mary**, eldest daughter of John Dent, Esq., of the City of London.

By her he had:

- **John Savile**, a youth of the highest promise and distinguished character, who died while traveling at Paris (*Lutetia*) in the Kingdom of France, in the 21st year of his age and in the year of our salvation 1631.
- A second son, **Henry Savile**, and several others who died in infancy.

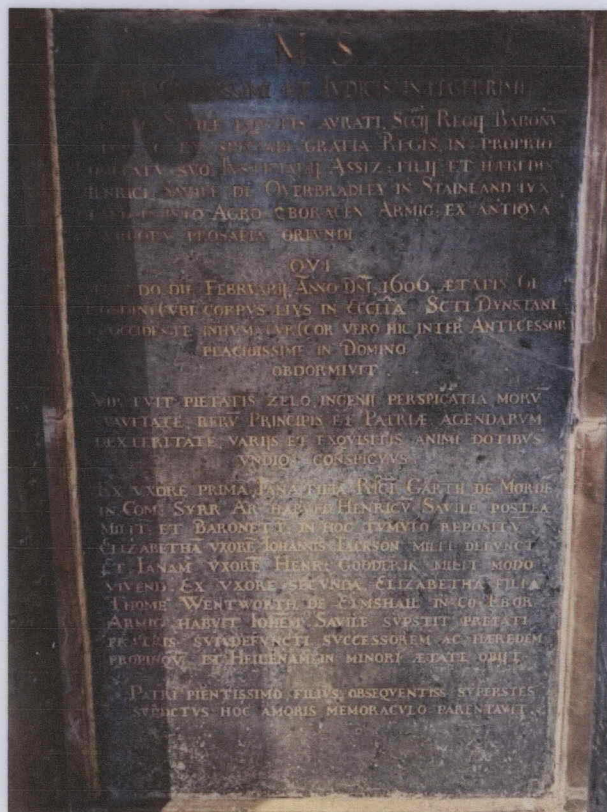
HE WAS A MAN Most illustrious heir of his father's virtues, who—after enduring many labors over the course of thirty years (*six lustra*) in successfully discharging the weightiest royal and public affairs, and after a lingering struggle with a worsening illness—at last piously exchanged an earthly inheritance for a heavenly one.

He died in his house within this town [Methley] on the 23rd of June 1632, in the 53rd year of his age.

The aforesaid John Savile [his half-brother / kinsman successor], in testimony of grateful and everlasting memory, dedicated this memorial offering to predecessors so well deserving.

Key Historical & Epigraphic Highlights

- **Lineage & Loss:** Sir Henry Savile was the son of Sir John Savile, a Baron of the Exchequer. Despite fathering sons (John, Henry, and infants), all predeceased him without surviving issue—most notably his heir John, who tragically died at age 21 on the Grand Tour in Paris (*Lutetia*) just a year before Sir Henry himself.
- **Extinction of the Baronetcy:** Because he died without surviving male heirs in 1632, his 1611 baronetcy became extinct, and the Methley estate passed to his half-brother, John Savile.
- **Classical Allusions:** The inscription uses classical Latin terms such as *Lutetia* (Paris), *lustrum* (a 5-year period; *sex lustra* = 30 years in public office), and standard Scribal abbreviations (such as superscript ⁹ for *-us*).



This is a 17th-century Latin funerary monument dedicated to **Sir John Savile** (1545–1607), an eminent Elizabethan and Jacobean judge, politician, and Baron of the Exchequer.

Inscription Breakdown & Translation

Heading & Titles

M · S (*Memoriae Sacrum* — "Sacred to the Memory")

Translation: "Of that most renowned man and upright judge, John Savile, Knight Bachelor (*Equitis Aurati*), one of the Barons of the Royal Exchequer, and, by special grace of the King, Justice of Assize in his own county; son and heir of Henry Savile of Overbradley in Stainland near Elland in this County of York, Esquire, descended from the ancient

"Who, on the 2nd day of February in the year of our Lord 1606 [1607 New Style], at the age of 61, in London (where his body is buried in the Church of St. Dunstan-in-the-

West, but his heart is placed here among his ancestors), most peacefully fell asleep in the Lord."

"He was a man distinguished on all sides for his zeal of piety, perspicacity of mind, sweetness of manners, dexterity in handling the affairs of Sovereign and Country, and for various and exquisite gifts of the soul."

By his first wife, **Jane**, daughter of Richard Garth of Morden in the County of Surrey, Esq., he had

- **Sir Henry Savile**, later Knight and Baronet (buried in this tomb).
- **Elizabeth**, late wife of Sir John Jackson, Knight.
- **Jane**, current living wife of Sir Henry Goodricke, Knight.
- **Second Marriage:** By his second wife, **Elizabeth**, daughter of Thomas Wentworth of Elmsall in the County of York, Esq., he had:
 - **John Savile**, surviving successor and next heir to his aforementioned deceased brother.
 - **Helen**, who died in childhood (*in minori aetate obiit*). "To a most devoted father, his most dutiful surviving son, having been withdrawn [mourning], offered these funeral rites with this memorial of love."

Key Historical & Epigraphic Context

- **Separate Heart Burial (*Dilaceratio Corporis*):** The text notes that while Sir John died in London and was buried at **St Dunstan-in-the-West (Fleet Street)**, his heart was extracted and brought back to his ancestral home in Yorkshire (St. Oswald's Church, Methley) to rest alongside his kin.
- **Dating System:** The date 2 February 1606 reflects the **Old Style (Julian) Calendar**, where the new year began on March 25. In modern reckoning, his death occurred on **February 2, 1607**.
- **Legal Significance:** Mentions his special royal dispensation to serve as a Justice of Assize in his own home county of Yorkshire—a privilege typically barred in English common law to prevent local bias and conflict of interest.

Savile Arms / Leeds Arms



The arms of Leeds originated in the corporate seal of 1626 under the charter granted by King Charles I. The owl and stars were part of the arms of Sir John Savile of

Howley Hall, MP and Alderman of Leeds when the original council was formed.



Pre-reformation Piscina

Up until the reformation five altars stood in Methley Church. There was a high altar at the east end of the chancel, the altar of Our Lady in the chantry chapel, the rood altar which stood at the foot of the rood screen, about where the chancel steps are, and the altar of St. Margaret which stood at the west end of the aisle on the north side.

A piscina, a basin for washing the Communion or Mass vessels, is now obscured by the piano. This is believed to indicate the

position of the altar of St. Nicholas. The drain hole is still visible.





The Eagleman

This table was made by Albert Jeffrey of Sessay, whose mark was the eagle. He was an apprentice to Robert (Mouseman) Thompson of Kilburn and the table top has a typical Thompson 'adzed surface'. He also made the Bishop's Chair and altar at St. Thomas's, York.





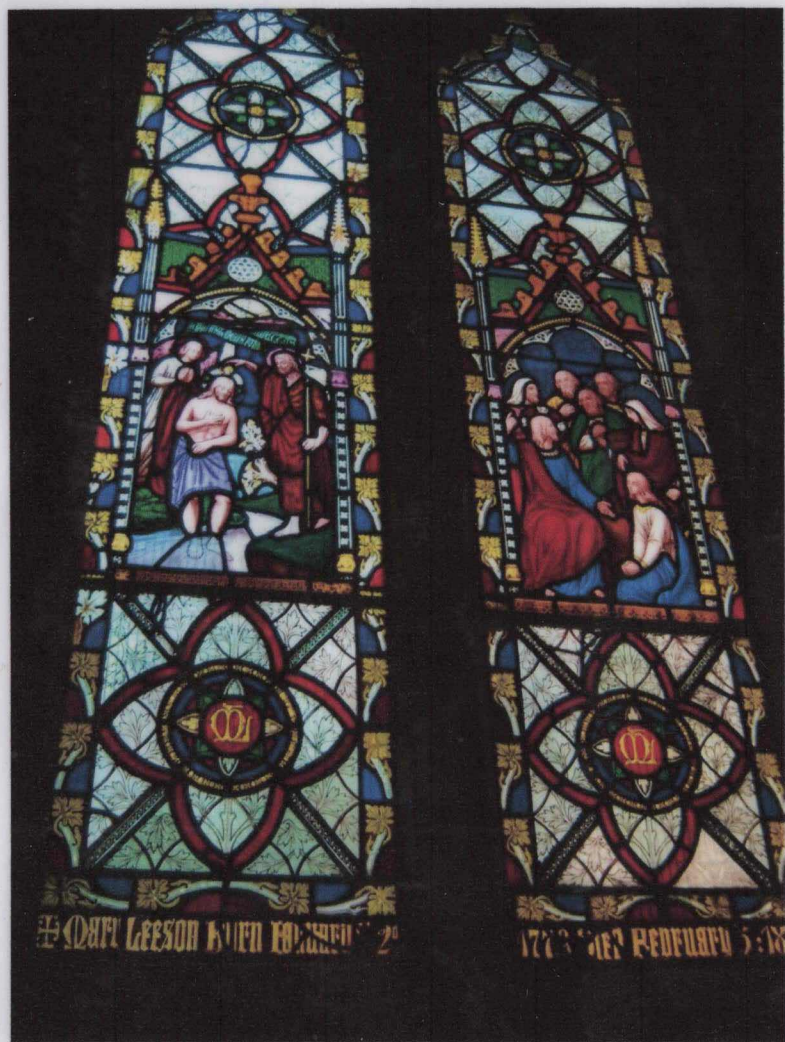
The Font and its cover

Sir Stephen Glyne described the font as 'an octagonal bowl, of debased character, with a wooden cover of tabernacle work of similar date but handsome' (1869). The font was discarded some time after this date but reinstated in 1898 by a new Rector. The bowl was found in a poultry yard and the stem used as a stone bench by a mason in the village. The based had been lost and the whole reconstructed from previous sketches. The short-lived font was described as 'a smug characterless Victorian atrocity, enthroned beneath the fine canopy'.



The Font and its cover

By his will dated 23rd January, 1584-5 Richard Webster, a painter, buried at Methley in 1584 bequeathed 'unto the making of a fair tabernacle and cover to be made of fair timber to cover the foote (font). The canopy was originally painted to look like stone but this was stripped away as part of a Victorian restoration under the care of the Countess of Mexborough in 1854.



South Aisle (Leeson Window)

The window beside the font was installed in memory of Mary Leeson who died 1849.



Pre-reformation Holy Water Stoup

A recess between the south door and the Saville monument indicates the position of a stoup that would have contained holy water.