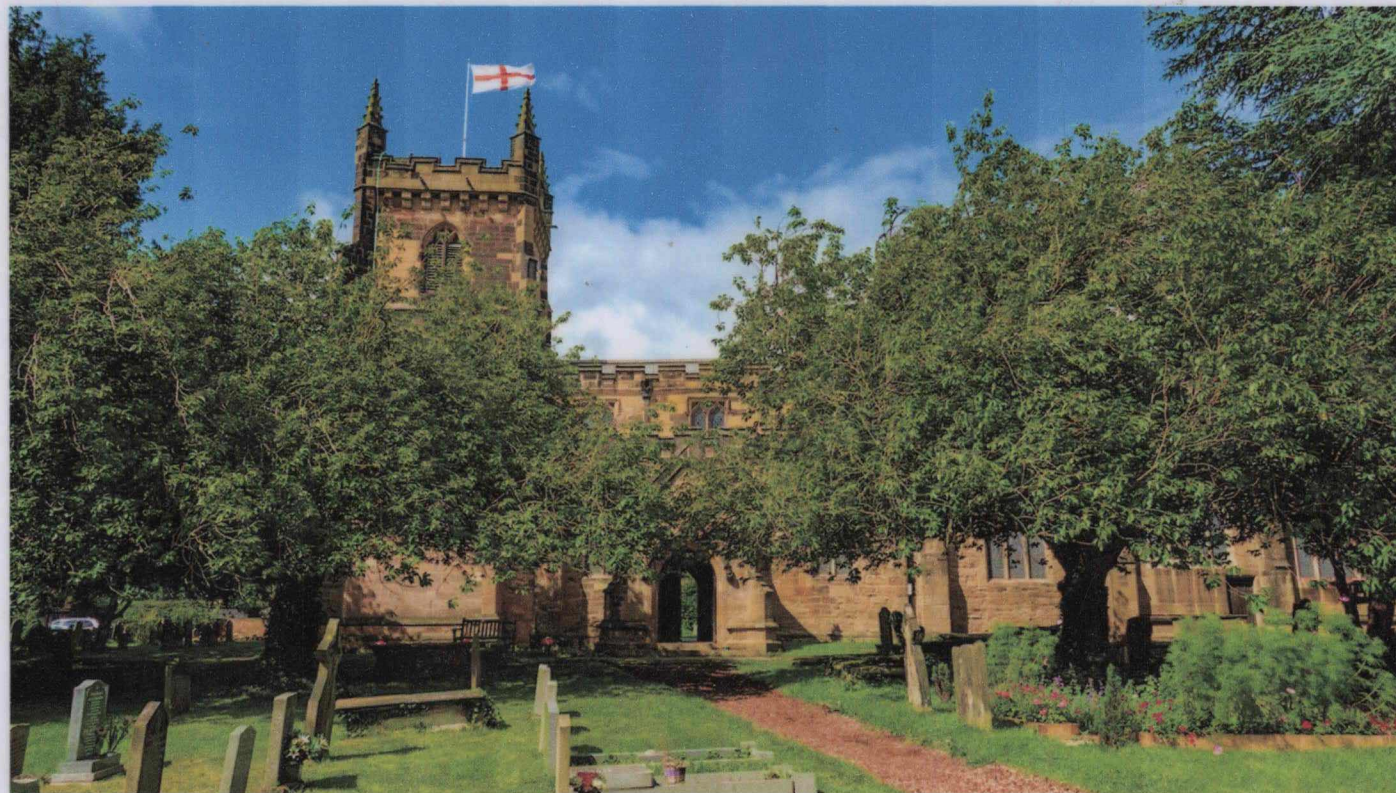


A Guide to St. Oswald's Church, Methley

Part 1 North Side

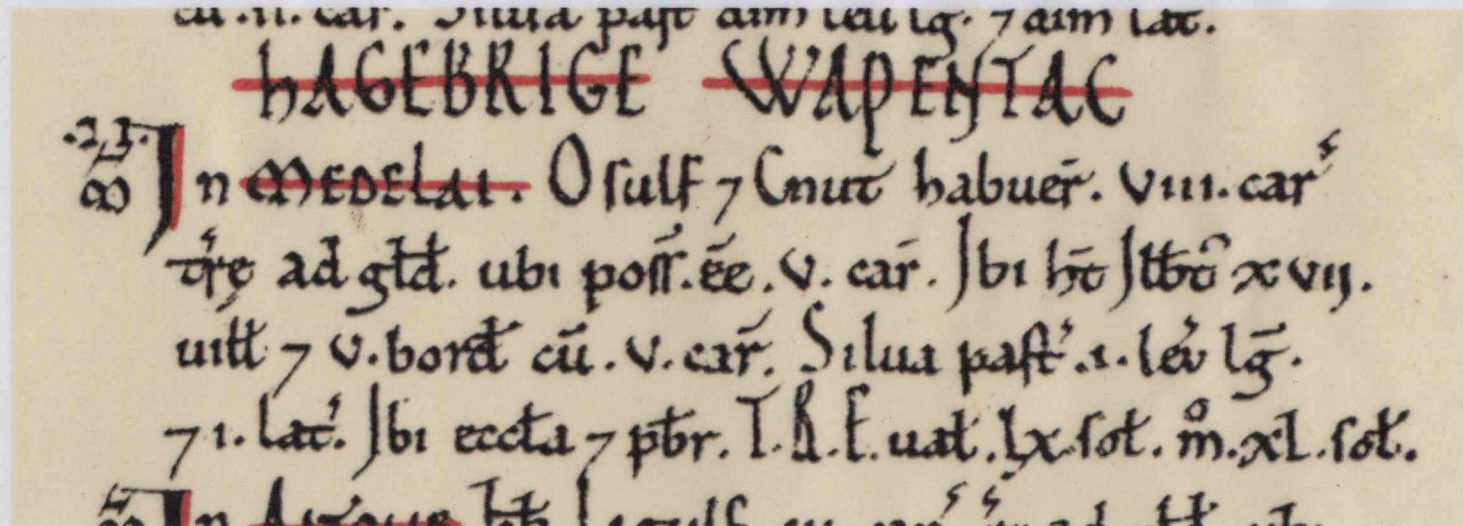


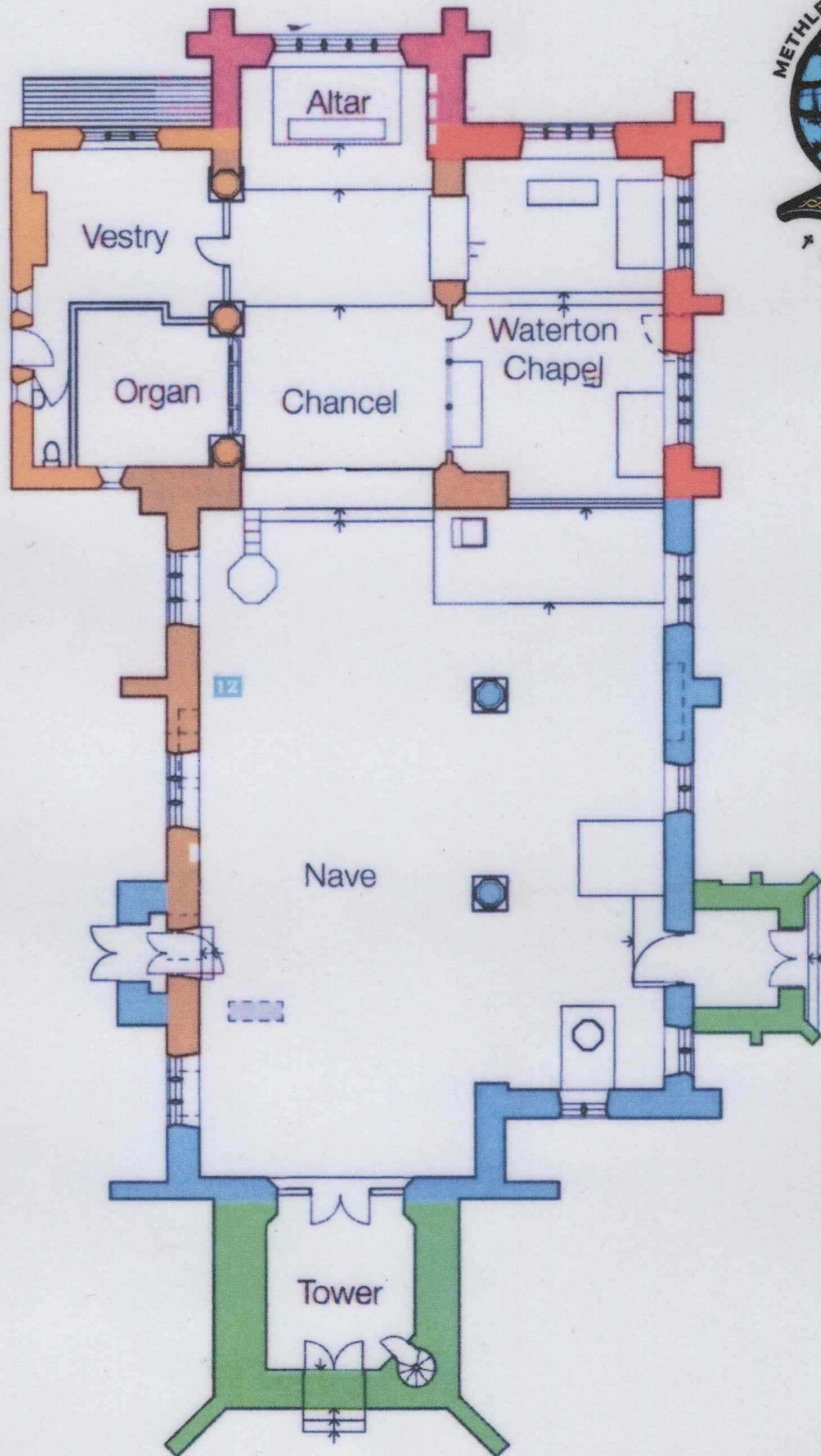
Foundation

The Domesday book writing of the Parish of 'Medalai' states 'there is here a church and a priest'. The Saxon owners, Cnut and Osulf were ousted and the land given to the Norman Ilbert de Lacey, Lord of the honour of Pontefract. We have no information on the first church built on this site other than the original would have been constructed within what was the Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria. Methley Church is dedicated to St. Oswald, third King of Northumbria who died in 642. As with many Saxon churches the Normans rebuilt it in their own style, and probably charged the local Saxons for the privilege. The Norman remains are to be found in the North wall. The church was further rebuilt at the beginning of the 14th century. Records in 1304 show that John de Methley, Lord of the Manor, had permissions for mass to be said in the manor house for three years which suggests the rebuilding took place at that time.

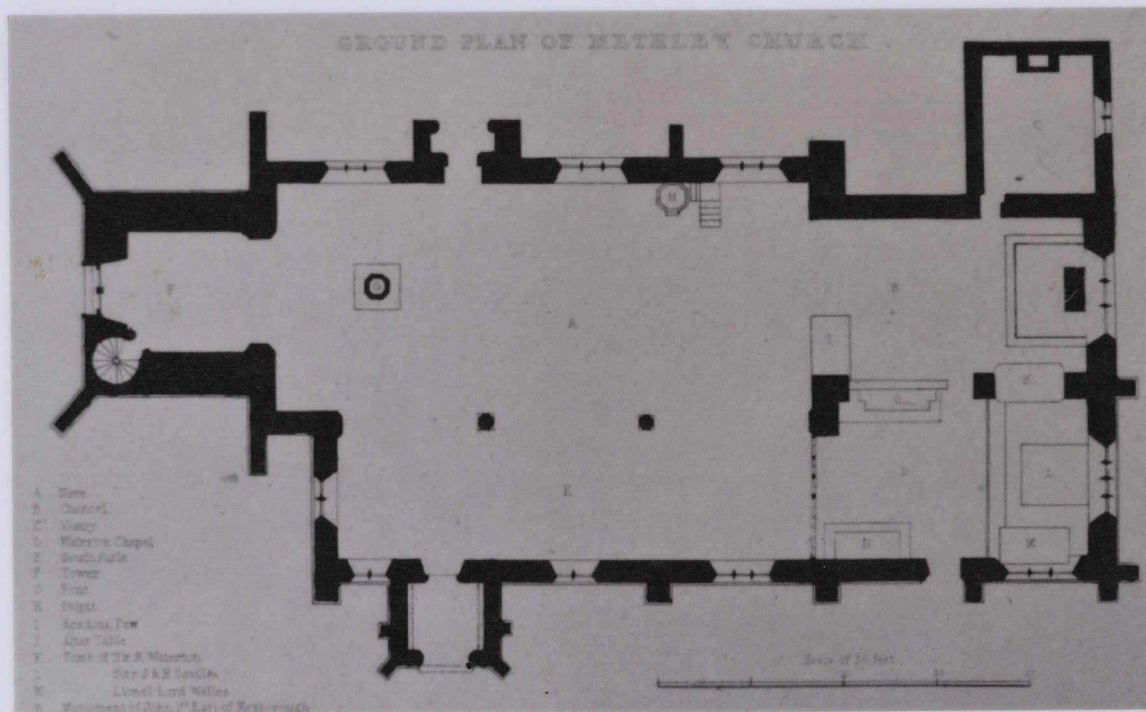
Methley and Domesday

Methley (Medelai) is recorded in the Domesday Book, in the hundred of Agbrigg and the county of Yorkshire. It had a recorded population of 23 households a church and a priest in 1086, putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded in Domesday. Prior to this time the manor belonged to Saxon Lords of the Manor Cnut and Oswulf. After the Norman conquest the manor passed to the Ilber de Lacy who fought with King William at the Battle of Hastings. The Manor was valued at 60 shillings in King Edward's time and by 1086 this had fallen to 40 shillings

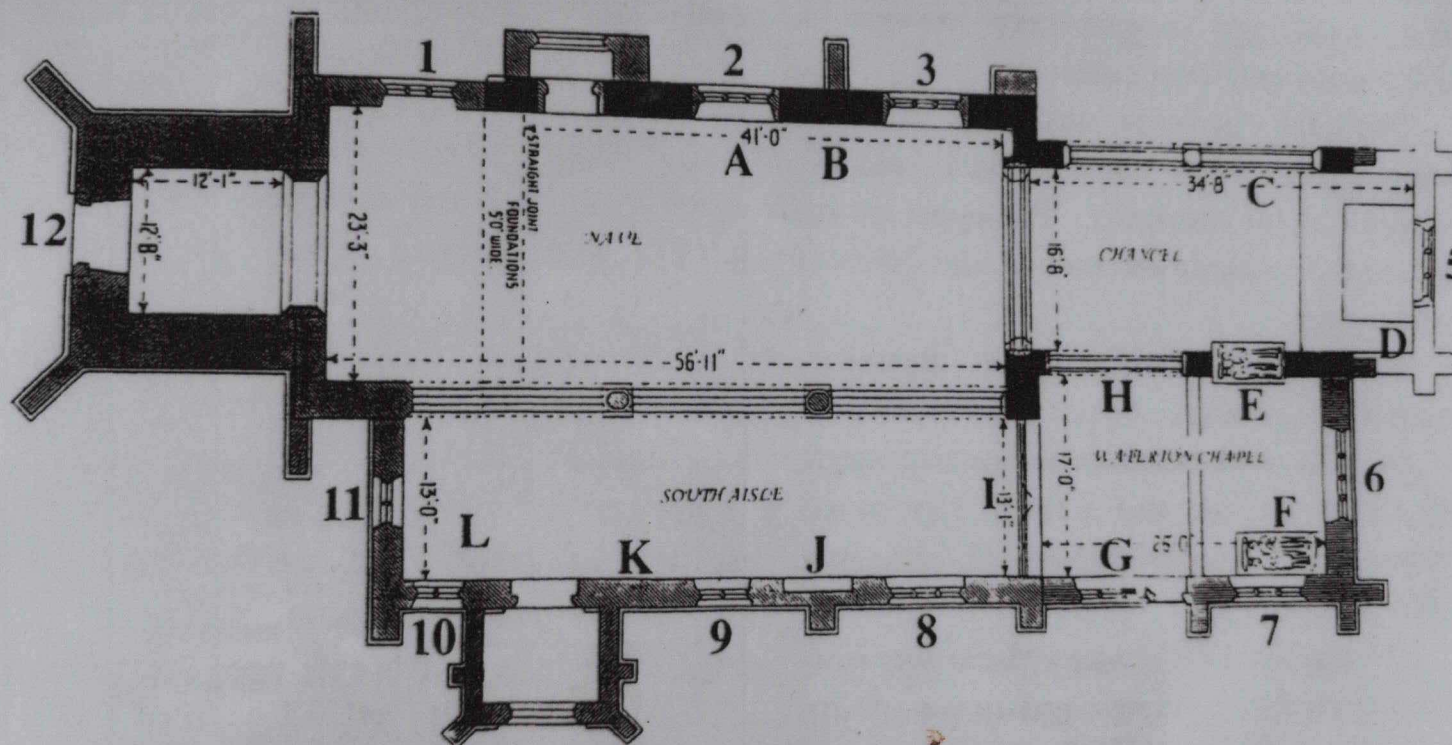




Legend:		
Foundations of Saxon church		15th Century
12th Century		19th Century
1300-1350 AD		20th Century
1350-1400 AD		



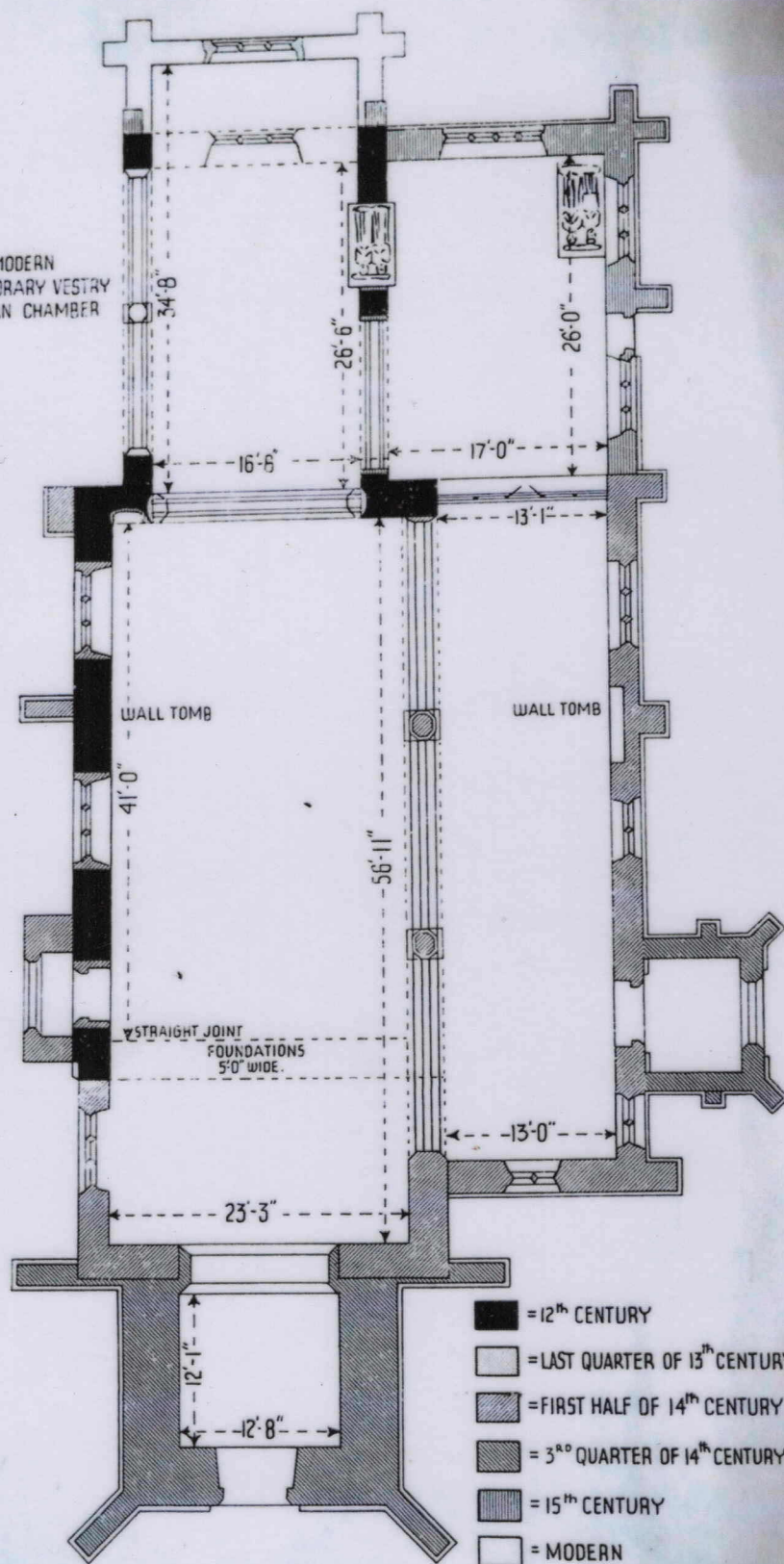
Prior to re-installation the font at Methley was located in the middle of the knave towards the west door where the back pews are now located.



Plan of church post-1901

There was a temporary vestry of wood covered with corrugated iron sheet, which also served as an organ chamber.

MODERN
TEMPORARY VESTRY
& ORGAN CHAMBER



PLAN B, drawn by Sydney D. Kitson, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., in 1921.

(Block lent by the Thoresby Society).



A print from 1844



Methley Church and Hall



Photograph of St Oswald's Church taken between 1844-1901

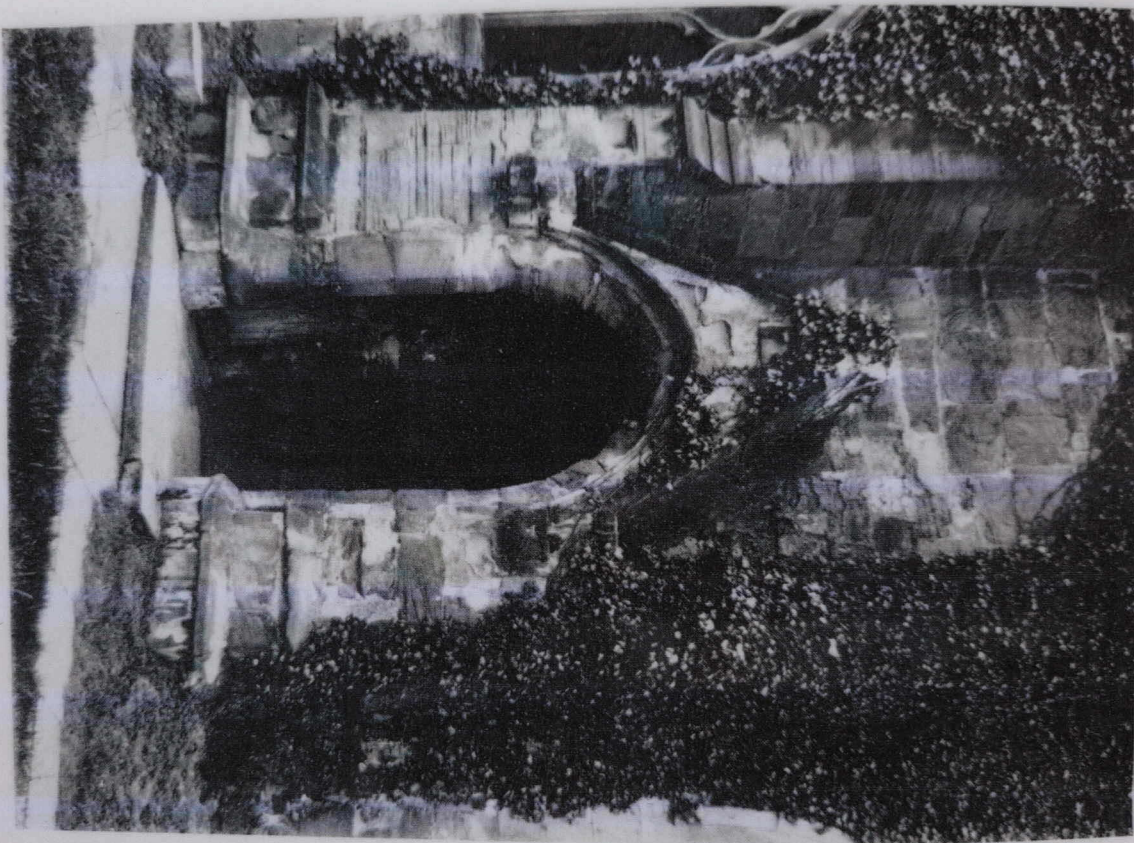


Fig. 1. NORTH PORCH, BEFORE 1900.
(From a photograph belonging to the Thoresby Society).

PLATE

THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1936

What is This Hay Diet?

of Making People Think About Food

"Medico" we had such a variety of diets, chiefly from low that when you sit a breakfast of eggs and rolls and coffee you your system? Or that soup, roast beef, York potatoes, and a sweet shorten your life by A merciful Providence he only by giving you a ly, but, sooner or later, e dining-table will find

we had such a variety of diets, chiefly from America, each one acclaimed for a while. Now what of this Hay Diet? On what grounds does Hay make such claims for his system of organising one's meals? Here, briefly, is his explanation.

The human body is a chemical combination of certain elements which are in proportion of four alkaline-forming elements to one acid-forming, and health depends entirely on keeping up this chemical ratio. All disease is caused by excess of the acid elements, and can be cured by neutralising this acid until the health ratio is restored. Obesity and wasting both being manifestations of acid poisoning, the fat and the thin can be brought to normal by approximately the same diet.

As cooking destroys the vitamins, it is essential that a considerable part of the



for the Hay Diet is pure vegetarianism with just that difference. It is true that he panders to popular taste by allowing meat, though he states definitely that "the really significant amount of protein needed is supplied by fruits, greens, roots and milk without recourse to animal flesh or even eggs."

Therefore, to keep healthy, all that is necessary is to live chiefly on raw foods and shun the sources of acid formation which are, firstly, the use of too much concentrated foods, such as meat, eggs, cheese, beans, lentils, and all grain foods; secondly, the free use of processed refined, adulterated starches and sugars, such as white bread, pastries, white sugar and sweets of all kinds; thirdly, the use of incompatible foods such as starches and sugars with proteins and acid fruits; and, finally, to avoid consumption, which must be controlled by one or more enemas daily.

Typical Day's Menu

If we stick to these principles we are promised renewed youth, enhanced efficiency, freedom from fatigue, and "an all-conquering power that goes with good health."

Here is an example of a typical day's menu—

BREAKFAST.—An orange and a glass of hot or cold milk, as desired.

LUNCH.—Steamed spinach with egg yolk; creamed carrots; large raw vegetable salad dressed with lemon juice.

DINNER.—Vegetable soup without meat.

SPIRE TOO HEAVY FOR FOUNDATION

Alternative Plans Being Considered for Methley Church

THERE is some doubt of the advisability of rebuilding the spire of Methley Church, which was recently removed to allow of the repair of the tower which supports it, and it has been suggested that the tower might be left as it is.

The tower dates from the 12th or 13th century, and was never meant to support a spire, which was added at about the end of the 18th century in accordance with the rather florid architectural enthusiasms of the period.

The result is that the weight of the spire is forcing the walls of the tower outwards. Cracks big enough to admit a man's fist have appeared in the upper walls.

The stones of the spire, numbered to facilitate rebuilding, lie in the churchyard, but there is a suggestion that the tower might be left without the added adornment of a spire. Although in this condition the church presents an unfamiliar appearance, it is claimed that the omission of the spire would not damage the architectural unity of the building.

Curate's Doubt

"I very much doubt whether the spire will be left off," said the Rev. J. H. L. Phillips, curate of the church, when a "Yorkshire Evening Post" reporter inquired about the matter. "It is said that if the spire goes up again it is possible that in 27 years time the walls of the tower will once

NIGHT FA' RAV

MOTORIST T' COURT

Following an accident in Harrogate Road on Sunday night, Rola married, foundry bottom, of Spunbridge, Huddersfield a special West Rid to-morrow.

Firth was detained by the Metropolitan taken to Oley. The Oley issued a desert they wanted to interview of a sports car which the accident, he being into the three men i hotel. The driver of was struck of the 1 (32), of Moorfield 7 spent, and a Buggy Bramley Old Boys de from head injuries pneumonia, with whom Ernest Atkinson (20), who is in the last of a prison and a tract Ouse (20), of Dear Cusson and who was discussing the treatment for shock. Atkinson was state poorly.

Back to Domesday

Methley Church dates from Norman, or possibly Saxon, times. A church existed there in the time of Domesday, and it has been said that parts of the existing building may date from that early time, though a more accepted view is that the earliest visible remains are those of an Early Norman Church.

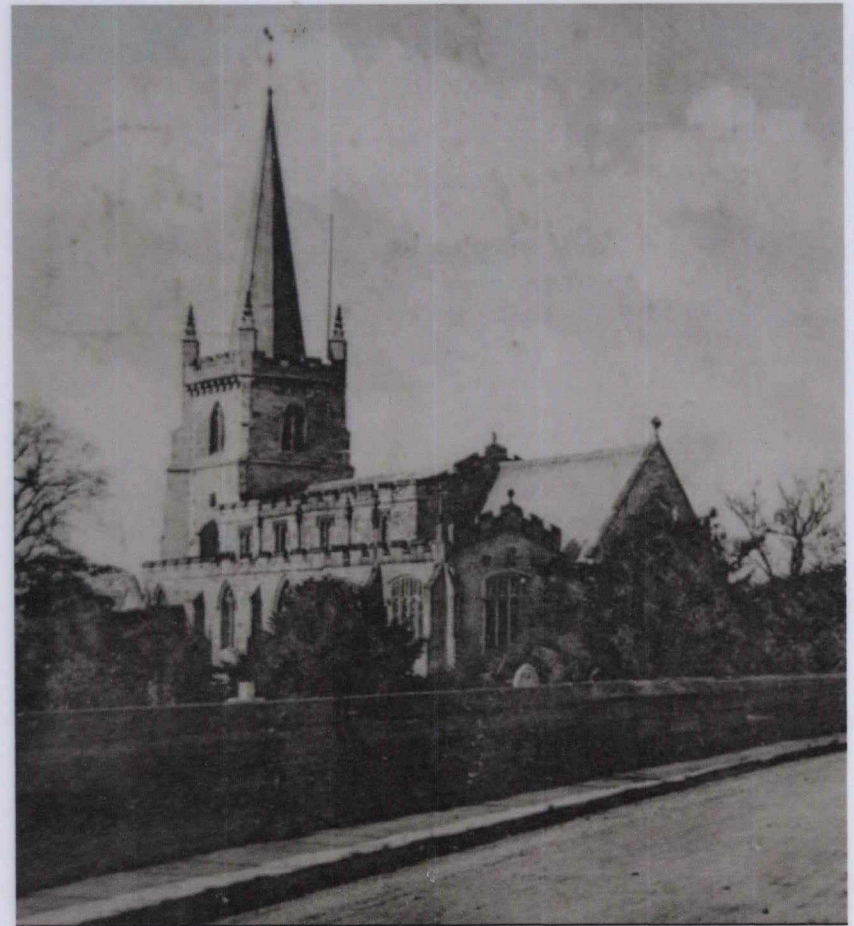
The building was altered a good deal in the early part of the fourteenth century. There is a side chapel with a series of exceptionally fine and interesting tombs, which was erected towards the close of the fifteenth century. One of the windows contains pre-Reformation glass of great beauty.

THURSDAY

The death occurred of Mr. John George S. "Sam" of the Port of Mr. Stone, who was on his way to 1897, and from 11 death.

Tower and Weather Cock

The original spire of Methley Church was added at the end of the 18th century and rebuilt in 1901. Due to concerns about the weight of the spire on the tower it was removed in 1936 and the copper weather cock removed to the vestry.



Postcard c 1950's.

Note the church can still be seen from the road. The trees along the south side have grown considerably since.



A changing Churchyard



2020

1900's



Yorkshire Critters

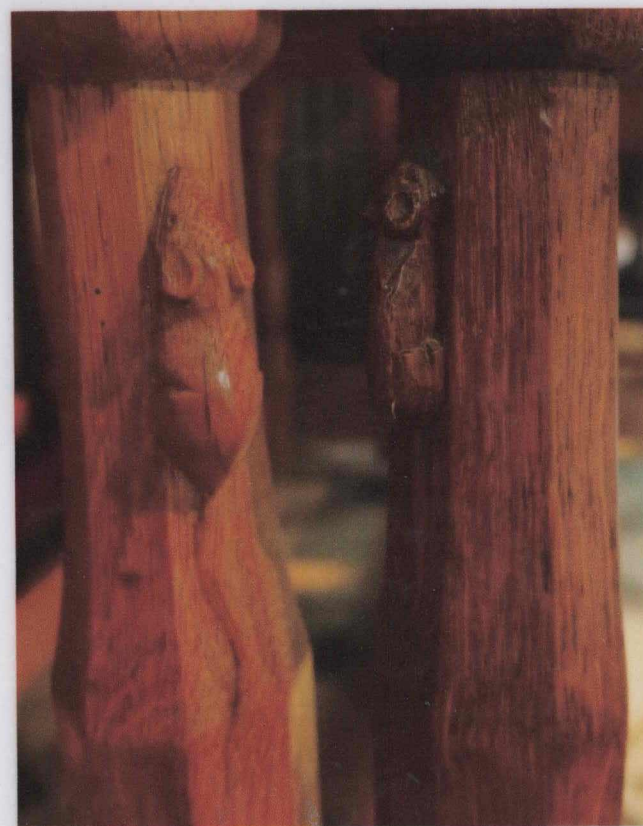
We have items in the church from four Yorkshire arts and crafts furniture makers, three of them apprentices to Robert Thomson of Kilburn

Robert (Mouseman) Thompson

Tom (Gnomeman) Whittaker

Albert (Eagleman) Jeffrey

Derek (Lizardman) Slater





Graffiti

The church has collected centuries of graffiti in the stone and woodwork. This particular engraving on the Victorian pews was made by R. Amery, 1877.

On checking the census there was a Richard Amery living in Methley, the son of Matthew Amery, a farmer at Woodrow. He would have been 23 in 1877.



Coffin Stools

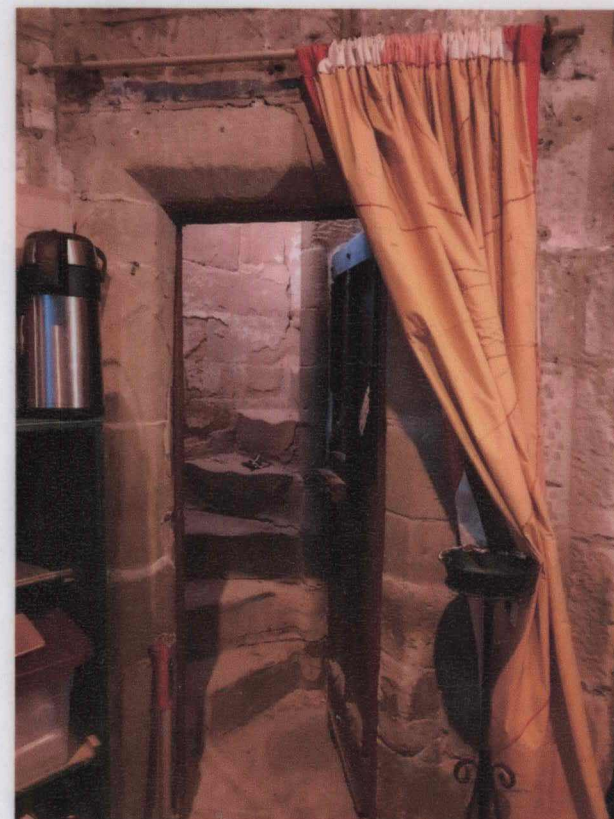
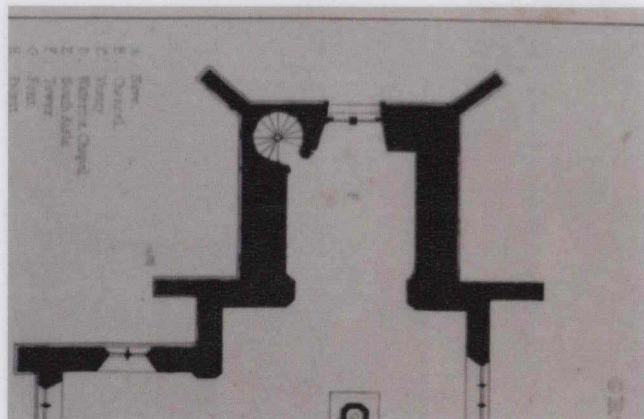
The well worn coffin stools beside the Choir Vestry are believed to be 17th century.



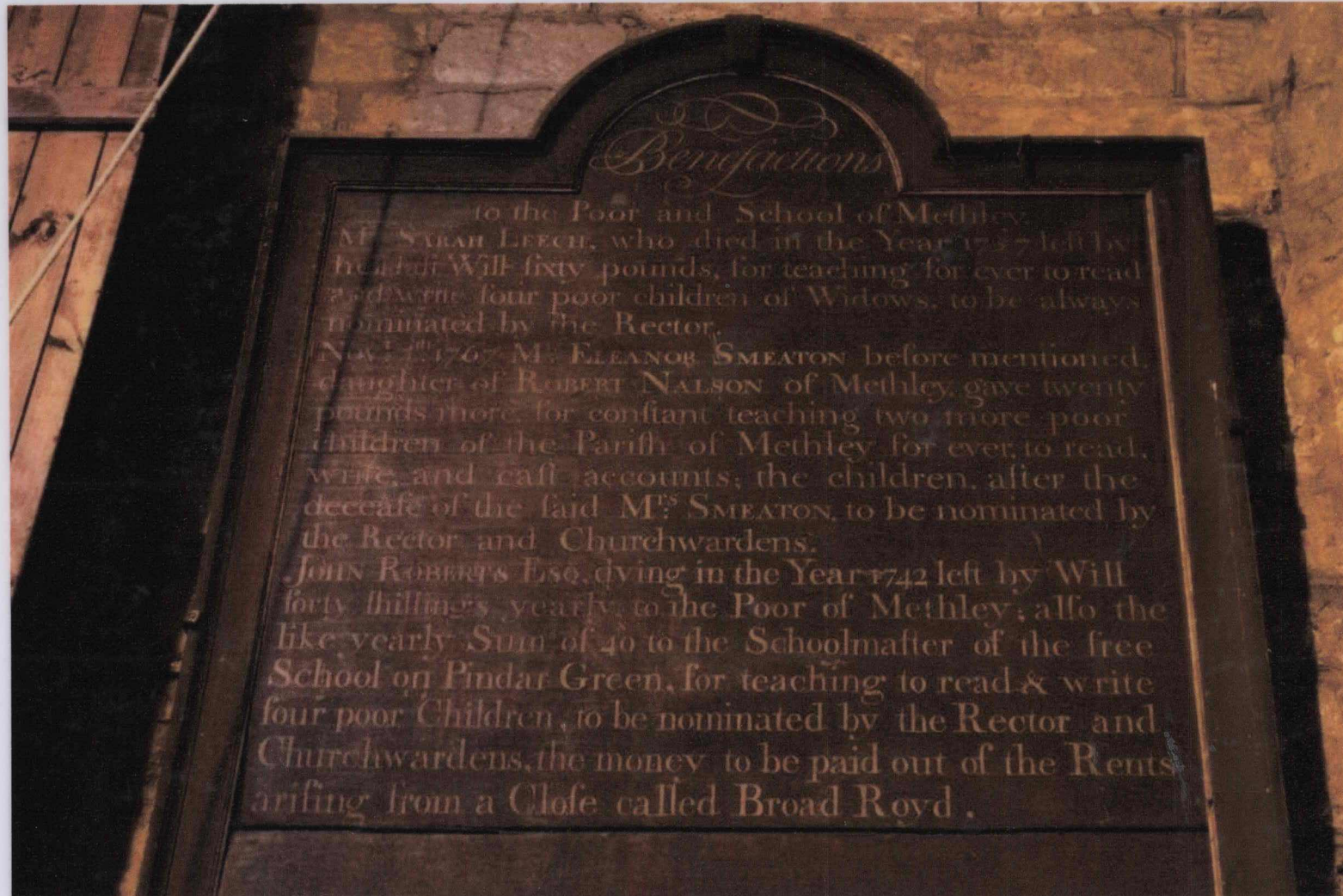
Tower Steps

The tower is 15th century. The spiral steps were built into the south west corner of the wall.

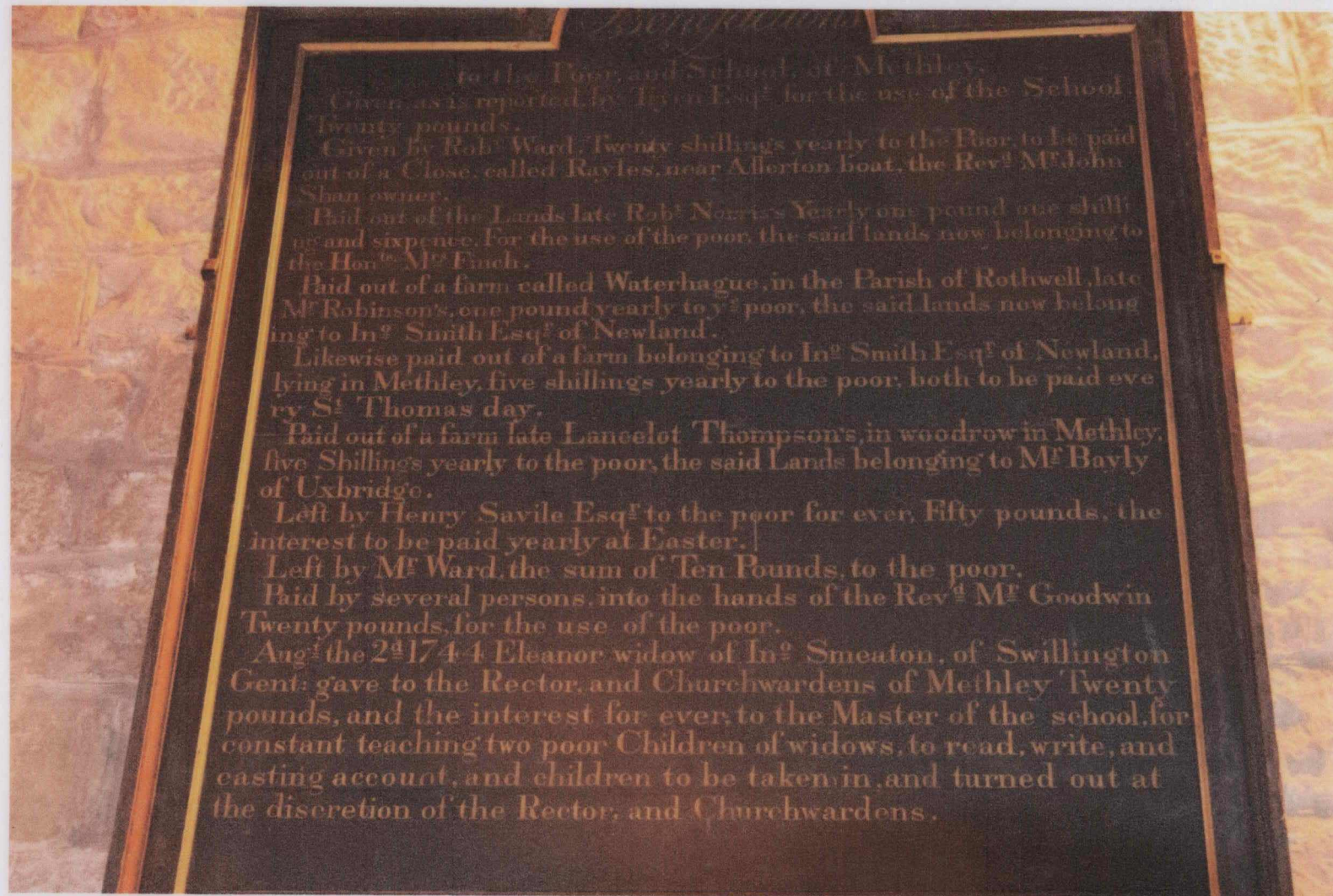
They lead to the clock room, belfry and onto the tower roof.

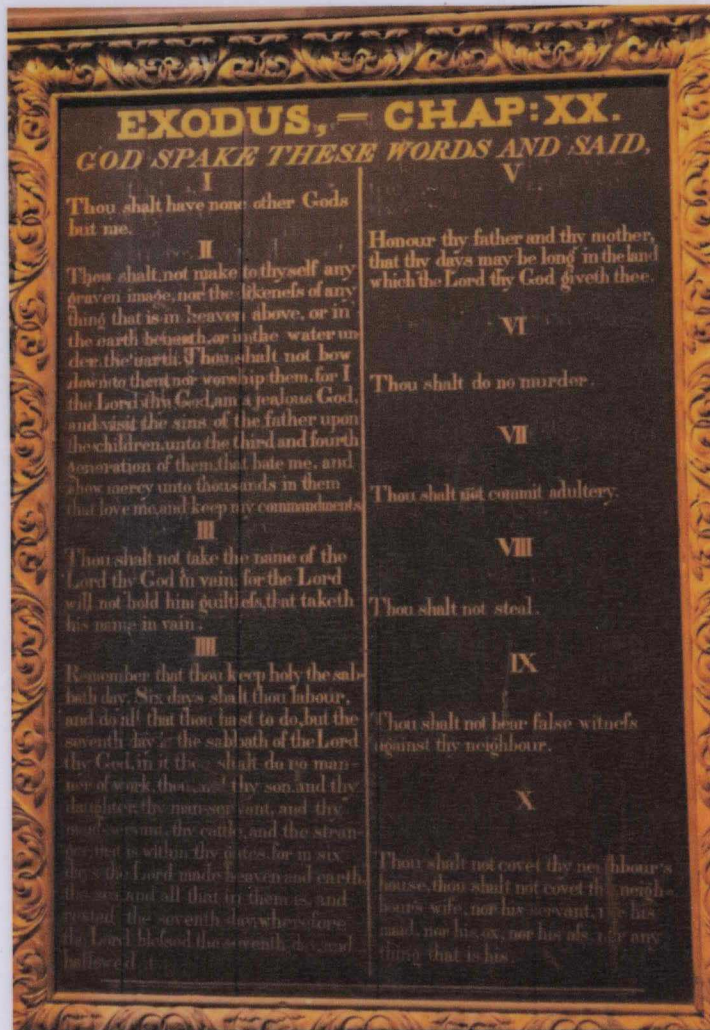


18th century Benefactors Board



18th century Benefactors Board





The Tower - Ten Commandments

The large wooden tablet in the tower was originally an alter screen described in Yorkshire Churches (1844).

‘A huge expansive alter screen of wood, ornamented with Corinthian pillars, enshrined the ten commandments with their gilt frame, and flanked by large pictures of Moses and Aaron, half hides the East Window. At the centre of the top is a dove descending, and over all something between a star, cross and a monstrance. There are no traces of the piscina or sedilia, but these must have been removed’.

The Bells

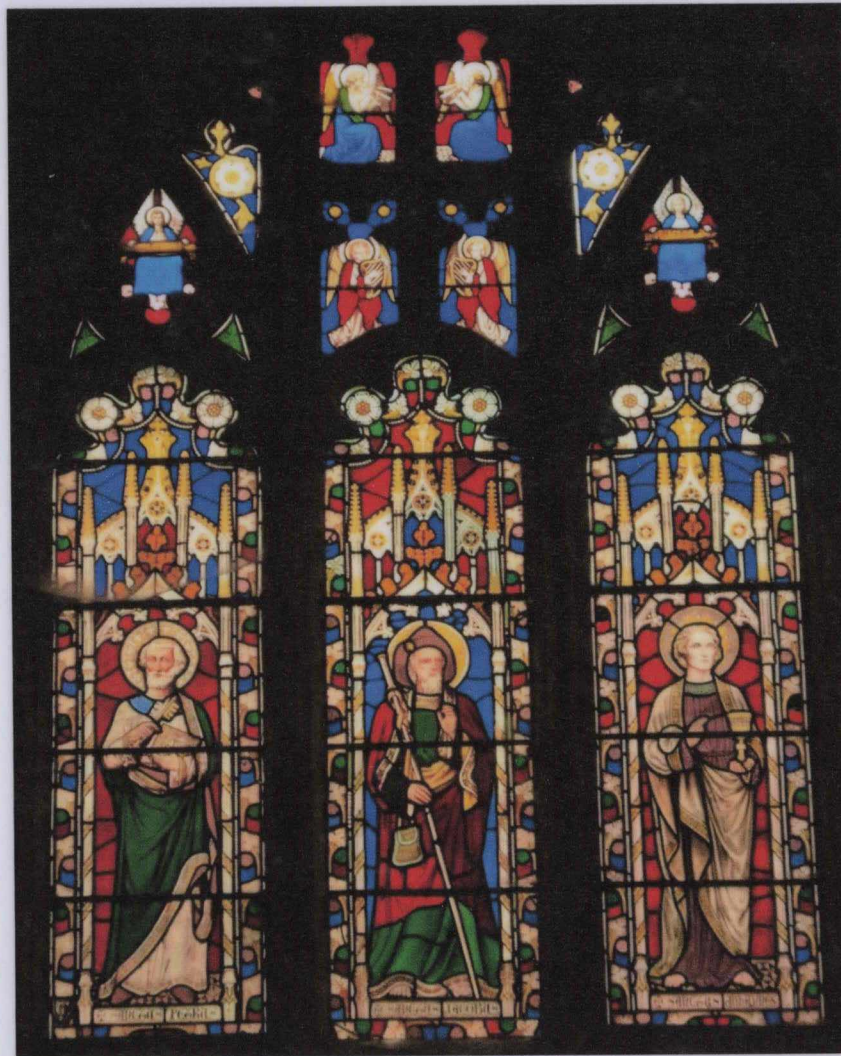


The three bells in the tower were cast in 1812, one of them being inscribed 'James Harrison of Barton on Humber Founder'.

In 1900-01 they were quarter turned and hung on a new frame of oak and iron.

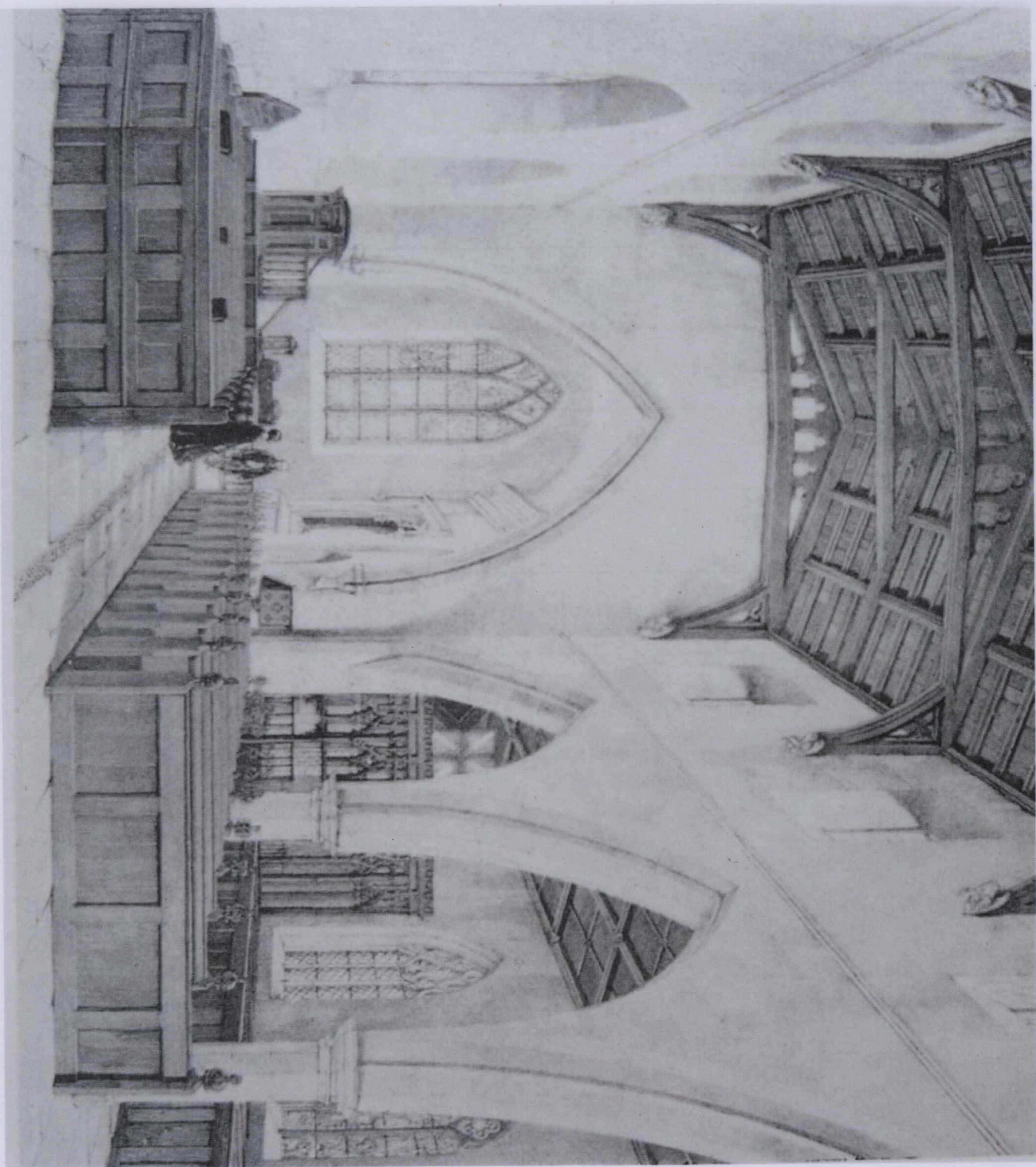
The large bell rings the hours using a hammer mechanism connected to the clock, and the smallest bell is currently rung before the beginning of each Sunday service.





Tower Window

The Tower Window has three lights containing the figures (left to right) of St. Peter, St. James the Great and possibly St. John.

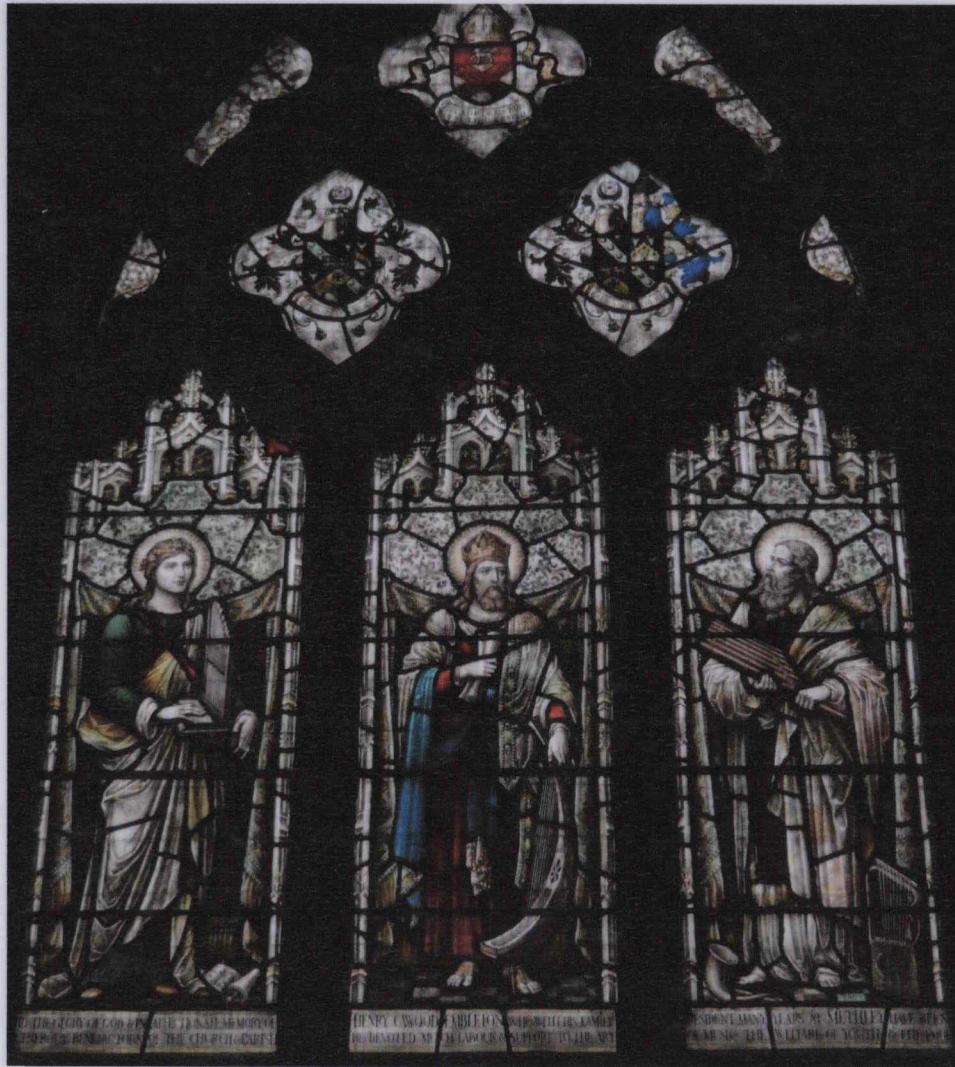




Mothers Union Banner

The banner (Virgin and Child) was presented to the church by a Miss Totty in 1947 along with a silver sanctuary lamp.

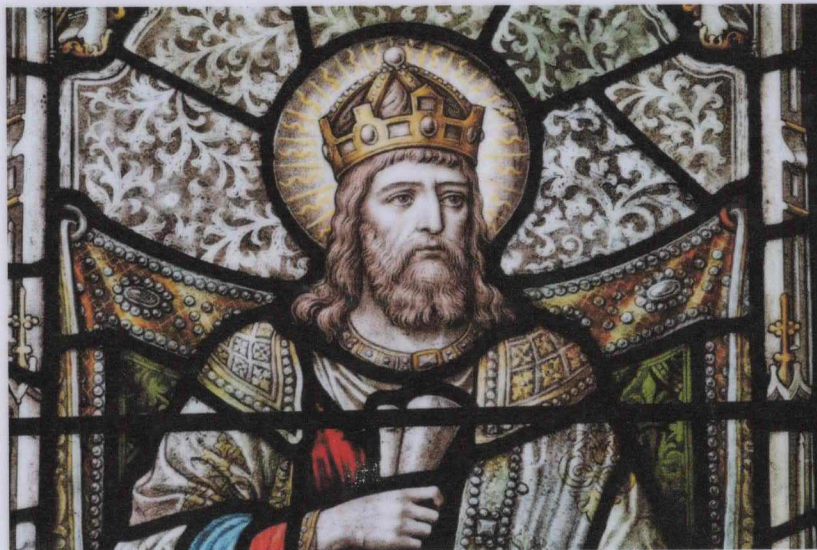
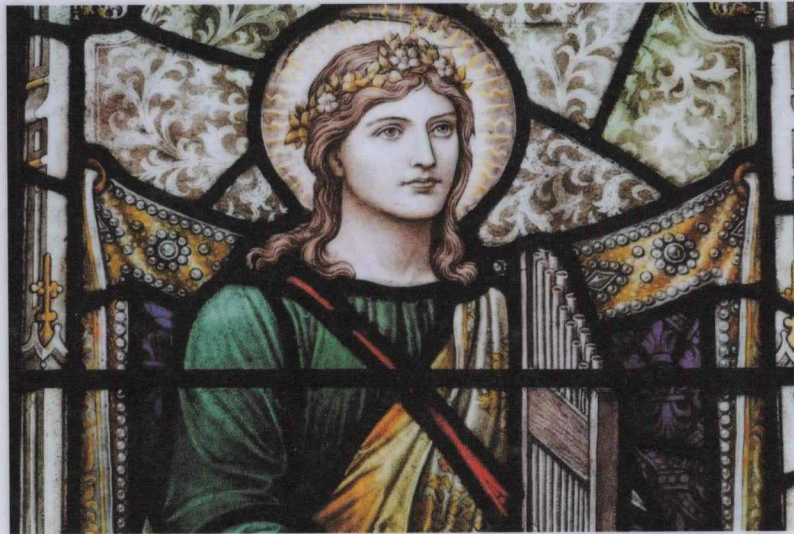
(Kirk. G. The Churches of St. Oswald's, Methley and St. Margaret's, Mickletown, Near Leeds, 1955)

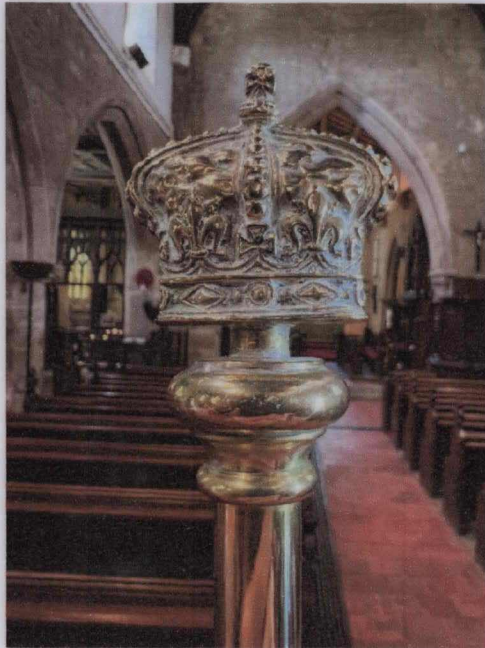


Embleton Window

The window consists of three lights, St. Cecilia (Patron saint of Music and Musicians), King David and Jubal, son of Lamech. The arms above are of Ripon Cathedral and the Embleton family.

The inscription reads 'To the Glory of God & in affectionate memory of Henry Cawood Embleton who with his family resident many years at Methley have been generous benefactors of the Church and Parish. He devoted much labour and support to the art of music, the welfare of youth and the poor' -d. 1930. Glass by Heaton, Butler and Bale, London.

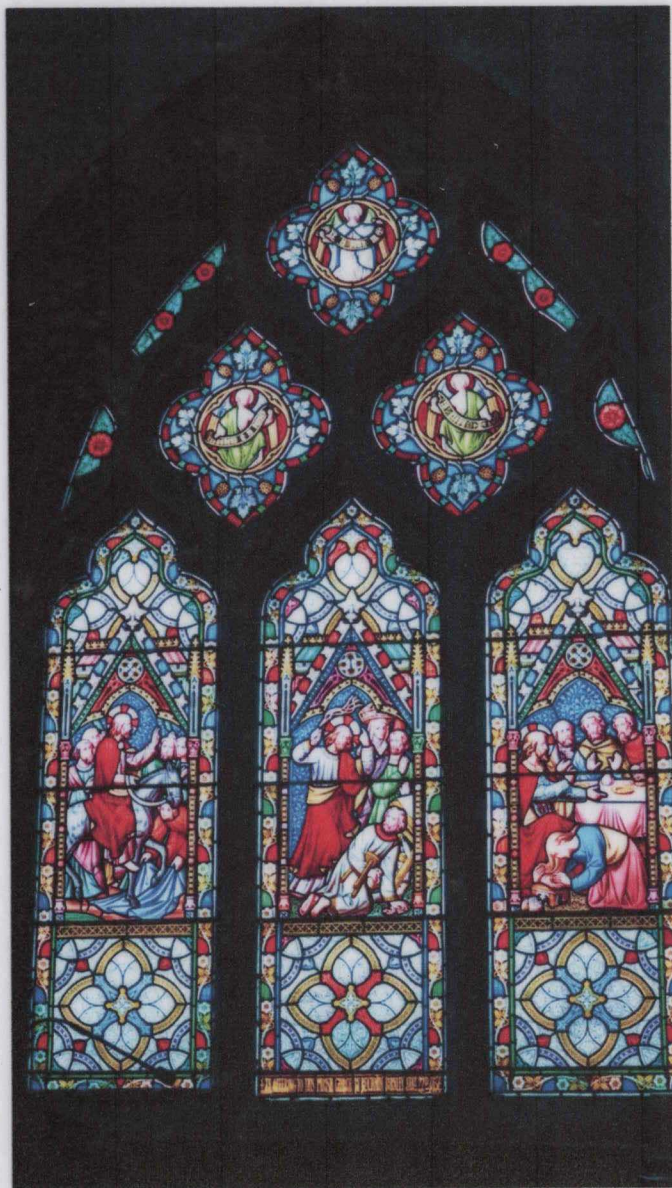




Church Warden Staves

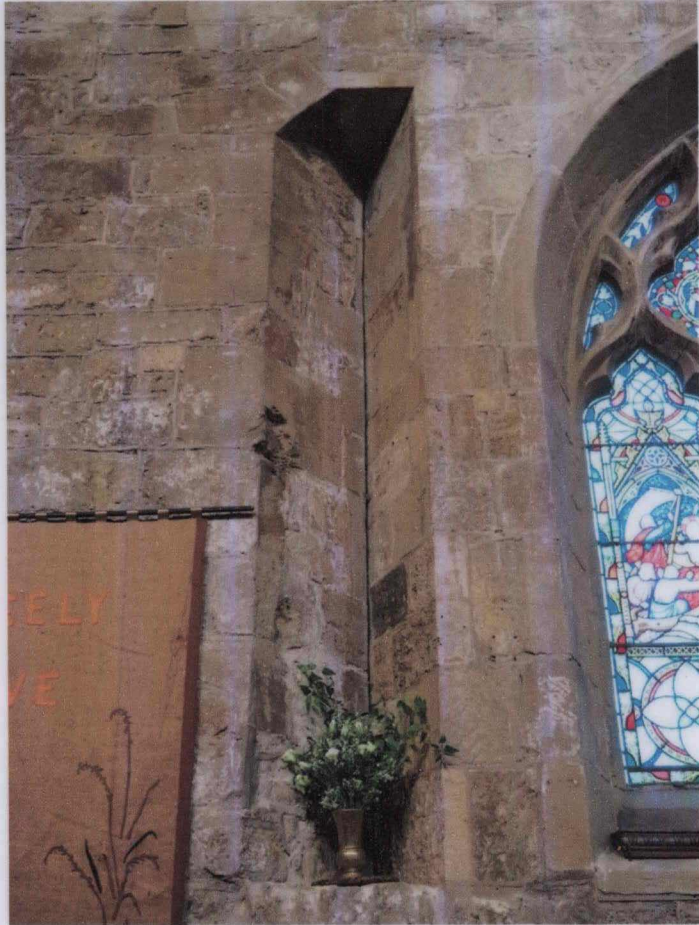


Church Warden Staves, also known as a Wardens' Wand, Tip-Staff or Prodder goe back to the earliest days of the Church of England. They reflect a time when a sceptre or staff was carried as a symbol of office and authority. Early duties of church wardens included ensuring good behaviour in the church and churchyard, putting a stop to rowdiness and fining people for being boisterous, riotous or indecent. As a 'prodder' the staive may be used to tap members of the congregation who fall asleep. Ceremonially the church warden staves may be used in a procession on special occasions.



North Wall (Burnley Window)

The three lights window on the North wall depicts The triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Cleansing of the Temple and the Feet Washing. It is inscribed 'An offering to this Parish Church by Benjamin Burnley, Jan. 22nd. 1856.



In the North wall of the knave there is exposed a 13th century lancet window (slender pointed arch window)

(Pevsner, N. The Buildings of England. Yorkshire West Riding. 1967)



Hollings Tablet (17th Century)

Translation

“(This Church was reseated) with authority of the Archbishop by me, Roger Hollings, in 1624. May God, the Judge of right, give me a seat in heaven.”

Pews

The pews in Methley are 19th century, and each pew end is individually carved.





Crucifixion

Charles Robert Owen Medley CBA, RA (1905-1994) was an English artist who painted in both abstract and figurative styles, and also worked as a theatre designer. He was a friend of W.H. Auden and suggested to him he should write poetry.

In the 1930s he worked with the left-wing Group Theatre, designing sets and costumes for plays by W.H. Auden (who was Medley's lover at the time), T. S. Eliot, Christopher Isherwood and Louise MacNeigh. He also supervised set designs including masks by Henry Moore. Medley and Moore also worked together as tutors at the Chelsea School of Art.

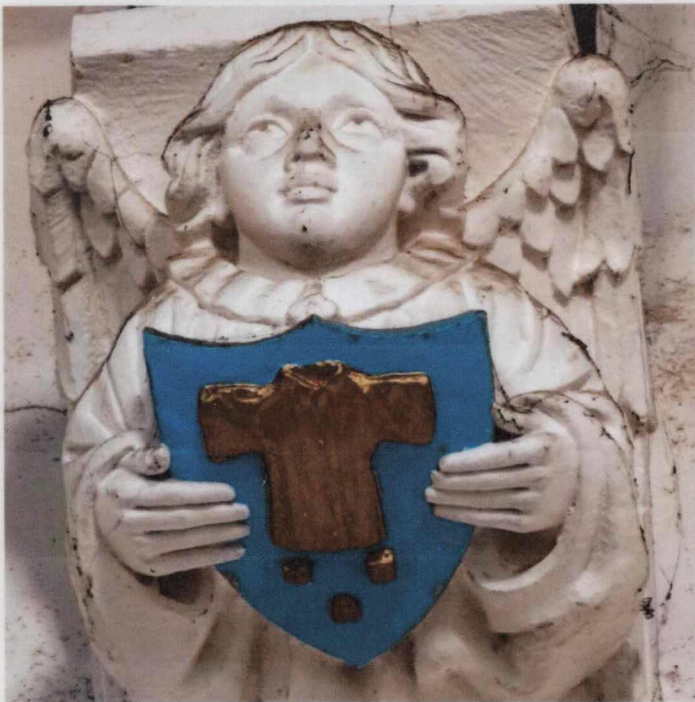
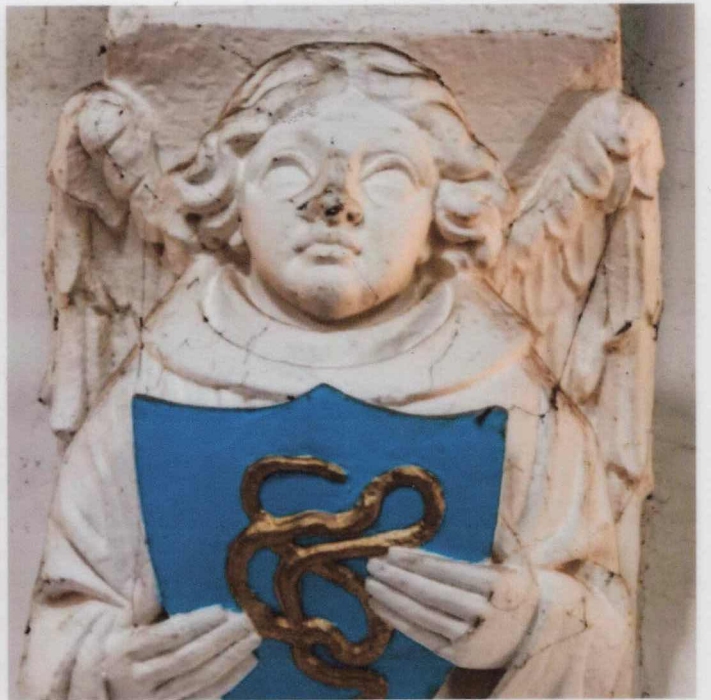
During the war he worked on camouflage in the Middle East.



Alan Bennett

In 1998 Alan Bennett recorded a visit to Methley in his diary, later included in his book *Untold Stories*. 'The church (noted from Pevsner) is locked and when we go to the vicarage for the key the

woman who answers the door asks me for some identification. When I show her my railcard she glances at it briefly and says 'Yes, I thought it was you' (which isn't quite what identification means).' He described the church as well worth a visit, crammed with monuments. He also noticed the Robert Medley Crucifixion portrait and said he meant to ask the vicar (Rev Gill Lurie) how it got there but she was so keen to tell him about Henry Moore he forgot to ask!'





Layman and Priest

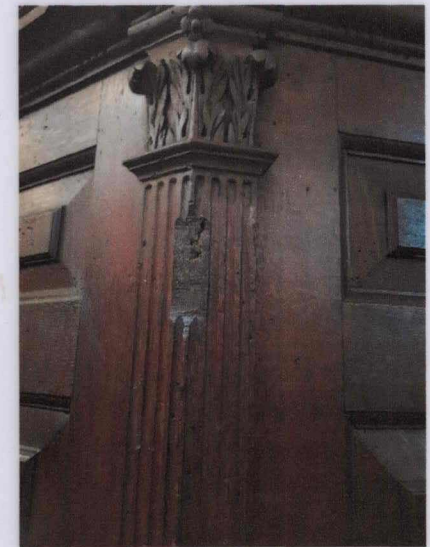
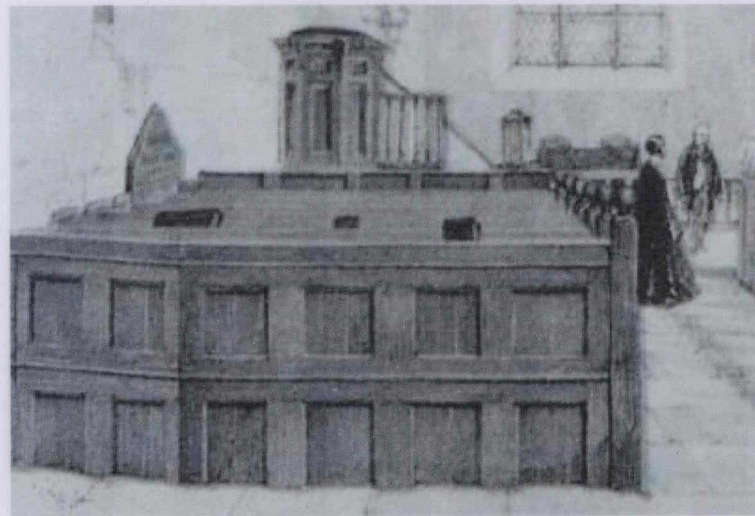
In the south and north walls of the knave are two effigies of an unidentified layman and priest. They were placed in their present position in 1901.

They are carved in high relief which is integral with a supporting slab and it is clear that the slabs originally fitted together, witness the (indecipherable) inscriptions which run around the edges of the slabs and are carved in identical characters. These are two displaced parts of a single tomb.

According to an old manuscript source the effigies represent two brothers, a lawyer and a priest who were buried together. The record states they 'fit damus' (built (this) house) which seems to mean they were responsible for the building or rebuilding of all or a substantial part of the church, probably the south aisle.

Pulpit

The octagonal Oak Pulpit, of the Queen Anne period, was a gift in 1708 of Gilbert Atkinson, rector, who out of the previous 10 years collections caused a pulpit to be built. It was subsequently repaired in 1901. Thanks to an early Victorian sketch we can also say it was altered. The current steps appear to have been added at that time.





St. Oswald

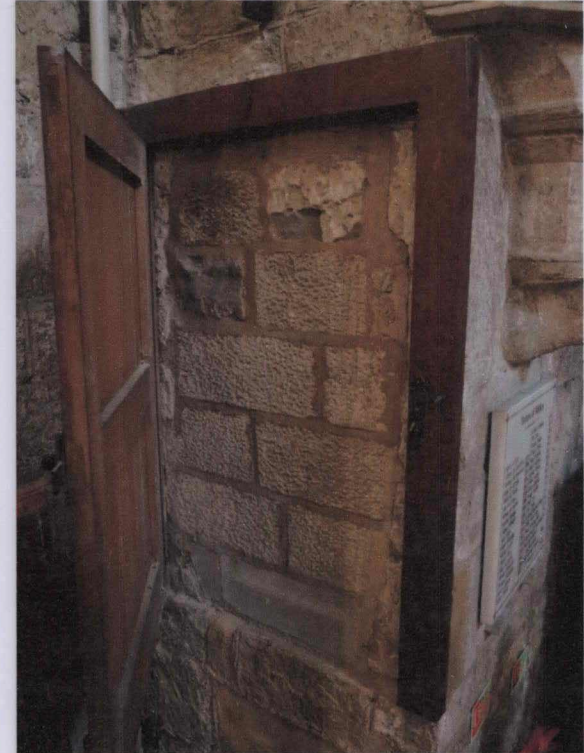
The 14th century figure of St. Oswald was originally fixed over the South Porch. It had become badly weather worn and during the 19th century was moved inside the church.





Rood Screen and Loft

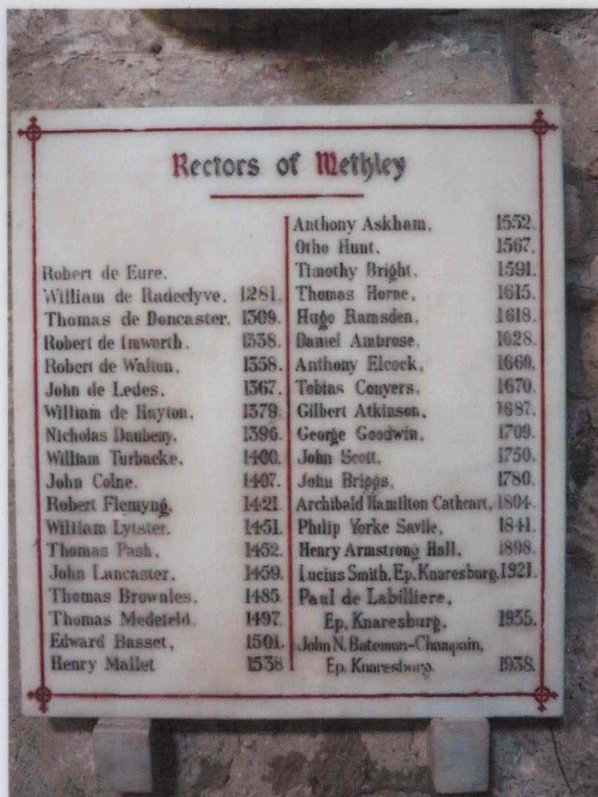
Methley like other medieval churches had a Rood Screen at the chancel arch, with figures of Christ Crucified, His Mother and St. John. It is referred to in various parishioner wills from the 15th and 16th centuries. The Rood had an altar associated with it, and in 1522 Roger Gyeg provides a priest to sing, at the



rood altar, 'Mass of Jesus of the Friday. Roods and their Lofts were destroyed during the Reformation, but screens often remained. At Methley all traces have disappeared. In 1900 a cavity in the north wall was discovered, now filled with new stonework and fitted with a door.

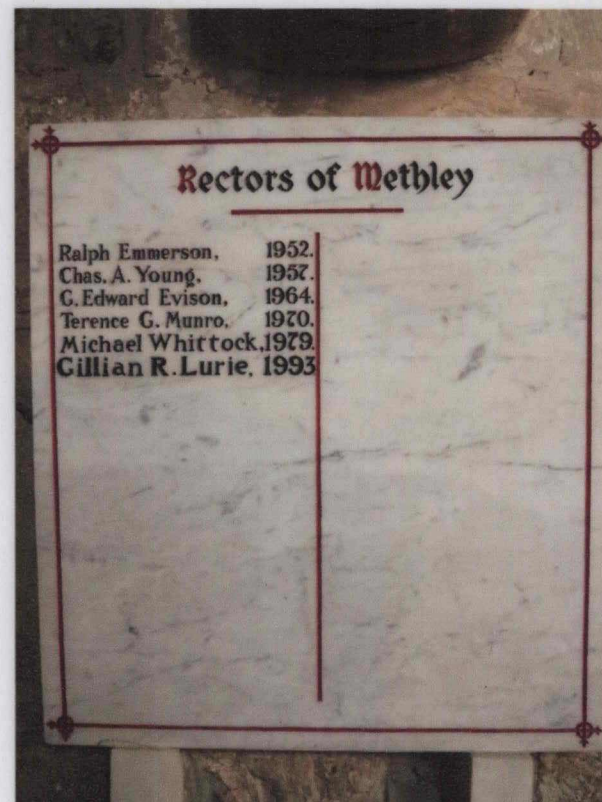
Rectors of Methley

The two boards either side of the chancel arch list the rectors of Methley from 13th century to Revd Gill Lurie in 1993. On her retirement and following restructuring the Vicar of Methley and Oulton was appointed.



A rectangular marble plaque with a decorative border, mounted on a stone wall. It lists the names and years of rectors of Methley from 1281 to 1538. The text is arranged in two columns, with the year on the left and the name on the right.

Year	Rector
1281	Robert de Eure.
1309	William de Radeclive.
1309	Thomas de Doncaster.
1338	Robert de Inwerth.
1358	Robert de Walton.
1367	John de Ledes.
1379	William de Hayton.
1396	Nicholas Danbery.
1400	William Turbacke.
1407	John Colne.
1421	Robert Fleming.
1451	William Lytster.
1452	Thomas Pash.
1459	John Lancaster.
1485	Thomas Brownles.
1497	Thomas Medeteld.
1501	Edward Basset.
1538	Henry Mallet.
1552	Anthony Askham.
1567	Otho Hunt.
1591	Timothy Bright.
1615	Thomas Horne.
1618	Hugo Ramsden.
1628	Daniel Ambrose.
1660	Anthony Elcock.
1670	Tobias Conyers.
1687	Gilbert Atkinson.
1709	George Goodwin.
1750	John Scott.
1780	John Briggs.
1804	Archibald Hamilton Cathcart.
1841	Philip Yorke Savile.
1898	Henry Armstrong Hall.
1921	Lucius Smith, Ep. Knaresburg.
1935	Paul de Labilliere, Ep. Knaresburg.
1938	John N. Bateman-Chanquin, Ep. Knaresburg.



A rectangular marble plaque with a decorative border, mounted on a stone wall. It lists the names and years of rectors of Methley from 1952 to 1993. The text is arranged in two columns, with the year on the left and the name on the right.

Year	Rector
1952	Ralph Emmerson.
1957	Chas. A. Young.
1964	C. Edward Evison.
1970	Terence G. Munro.
1979	Michael Whittock.
1993	Gillian R. Lurie.



Church Organ

The earliest record is from 1522 when Roger Gyeg, of Methley, bequeathed 'to howse of the organs' (organ case) but it is believed there was no organ until the 19th century. An organ was installed by subscription in 1843. A replacement was installed c 1877 for £300. Following the building of the new vestry and chancel a new organ and organ chamber was installed in 1926 funded by Henry Cawood Embleton. It was built by Abbott and Smith, of Leeds, and comprises two manuals and thirteen stops, encased in oak, designed by Messrs Chorley and Gibbons.





Altar Rail



The altar rail was made by Robert (Mouseman) Thompson.



Reredos

The small stone Reredos, which had previously been 're-arranged' was restore in 1924 and set up above the Holy Table and beneath the new East Window. It has a perforated canopy and in the centre are sculptured figures of Our Lord and St. Mary Magdelene.



The Reredos is 'In loving memory of Charlotte Maria the beloved wife of George Savile. Erected to the glory of God by her husband, brother and sister. AD 1879.



Clergy Chair

Beside the Waterton Monument is a Victorian reproduction of a 17th century gothic Wainscot Chair.

On the back is an inscribed plaque:

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of his
father and mother

Richard Crossland Farrer and Emma Farrer

This chair is given to Methley Parish Church by
Percy Robinson Farrar

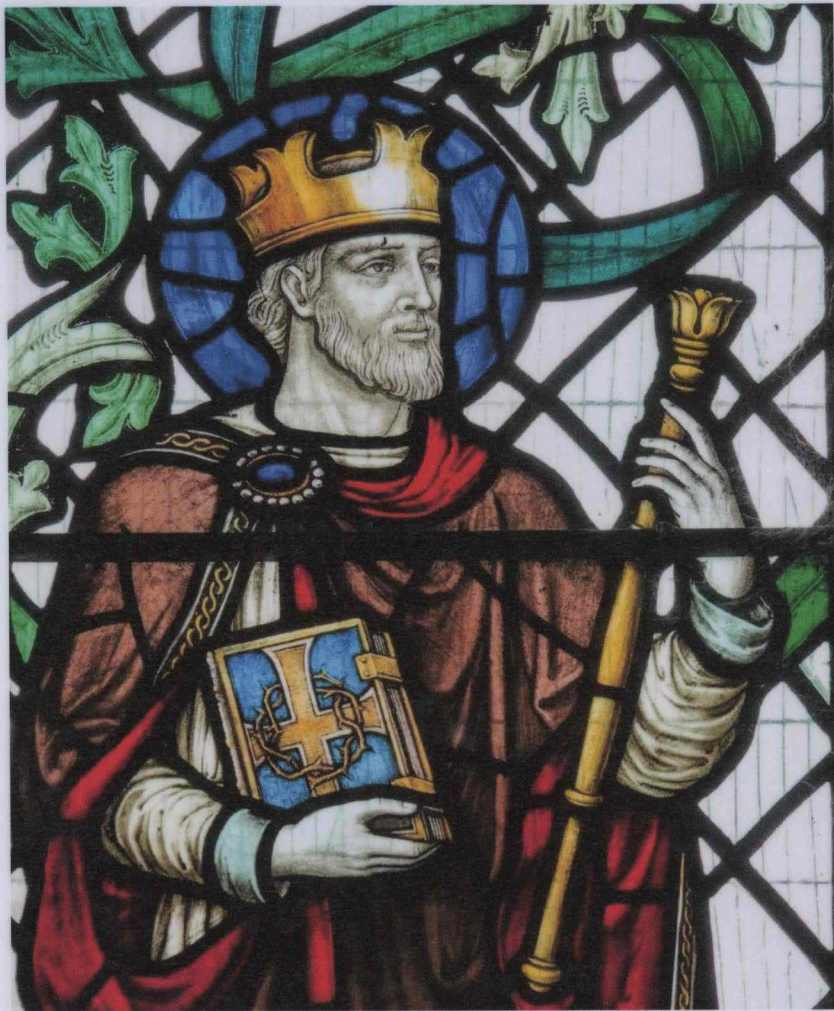
Organist and Choirmaster

1928

East Window



The East Window (five lights) depicts paradise and the crucifixion with Christ crucified on the Tree of Life. The figures left to right are: St. Oswald, Virgin Mary, St. John and St. Paulinus. Above the crucifixion is a Pelican. The window was erected by Henry C. Embleton in 1926.



In medieval Europe it was believed the Pelican pecked at its breast to feed its young and became a symbol of the Passion of Jesus and the Eucharist.



Vestry Screen

Although the Vestry was built in 1926 but
the Vestry Screen is 17th Century.



Vestry Window

The vestry window was installed when the chancel and vestry was re-built.

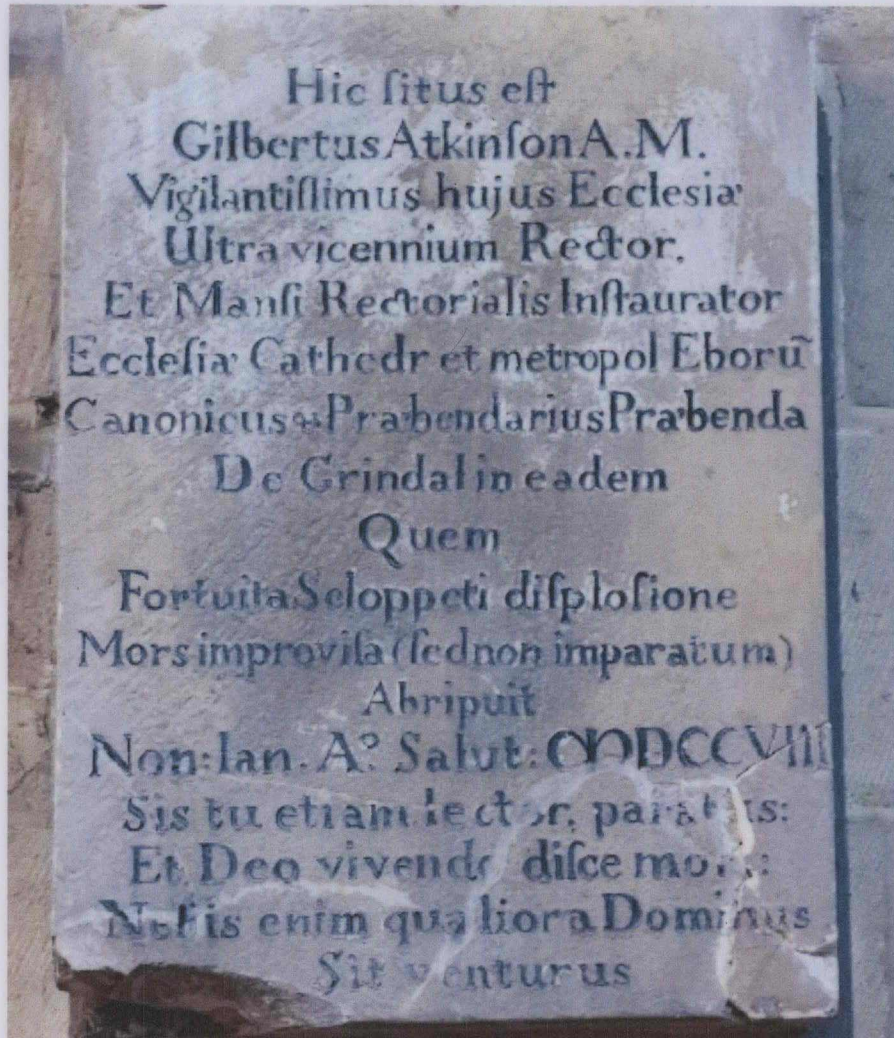
The Victorian Ascension window was originally the East Window in the chancel installed in 1874 but was replaced by the current window in 1926. The window was in memory of The Hon. & Rev Arthur Savile, Rector of Foulmire, Cambridgeshire.



Vestry Window

The image taken from an old postcard shows the original Victorian East Window. It was removed in 1926 and cut down removing the bottom half of the saints, and the rose window above. The angels were repositioned in the current place along the top of the new window.

Gilbert Atkinson Memorial tablet



Here lies Gilbert Atkinson, M.A.

A most vigilant Rector of this church For over twenty years,
And restorer of the Rectory House; Canon and Prebendary of
the Prebend

Of Grindale in the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of York.

Whom,

By the accidental discharge of a gun,

Sudden death snatched away (yet not unprepared)

On the Nones of January [5 January], in the Year of Salvation
1708.

Be you also ready, reader: And by living for God, learn how to
die: For you know not in what hour the Lord Will come.

Mystery Photo

A family photo recently discovered hidden behind a photo of the church taken about 1900. We put out an appeal on social media to identify the family, but without success

