

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH CARLTON SCROOP

*A Guide
for Visitors*



Price £1.50

Saint Nicholas Church, Carlton Scroop

Saint Nicholas Church and the village of Carlton Scroop are both mentioned in the Domesday Book:

*"In Carletune Harold had 5 carucates of land
There is a priest there, and a church."*



The North aspect of the church showing

The church, which faces the village green, is mainly built of local Lincolnshire oolitic limestone, but brown rubble, ironstone masonry was used for the lower part of the square tower and is Anglo-Norman. The wide arch from the tower into the nave is of the same age. Most other parts of the fabric of the church are in the "Decorated" style, although the plain, single-chamfered North

doorway, now blocked up, is also Norman. It is said that this door was used by members of the Scrope family (Sir Geoffrey Le Scrope purchased the Manor and Advowson in 1317) until the last member died, when the doorway was sealed.



The South-facing Porch

The South-facing porch, which has a pitched stone roof on single-chamfered transverse ribs, the chancel and the two great arches on either side of the nave date from the 13th century (though the North lancet window suggests a possible earlier date for part of the chancel). The date, 1616, above the porch indicates that some later alterations were made. The two aisles and the top part of the tower are 14th century structures. The ashlar-faced upper parts of the tower are dated 1632.

the tower records the fact that:

A tablet on the wall inside

"On Sunday in the night the 14th November 1630 the steeple of this church fell and broke down the roofs of the nave and the two isles (sic).

The said steeple and roofs were re-built before the 24th day of May, 1633 and the roofs were leaded, the windows glazed and the bellframes, seats, desk and pulpit were all finished before the 5th day of October in the same year to the sole charge and cost of Mr. John Palmer of this parish."



*Saint Nicholas Church as it was 200 years ago
(from a drawing, dated 1803, by C. Nattes)*

The roof was rebuilt and raised in the latter part of the 19th century, much changing the outside appearance of the building. From inside the church one can clearly see the line in the walls where the roof originally rested.



The church as it is now



The Font

The traceried stone font, just inside and to the left of the main doorway, is more than 500 years old. It has a square base and an octagonal bowl ornamented on each face by carvings representing Decorated style windows.

Norman Arch

The nave is headed by the massive Norman archway entrance to the tower. The columns supporting the arch have big capitals and rather clumsy pinnacles.

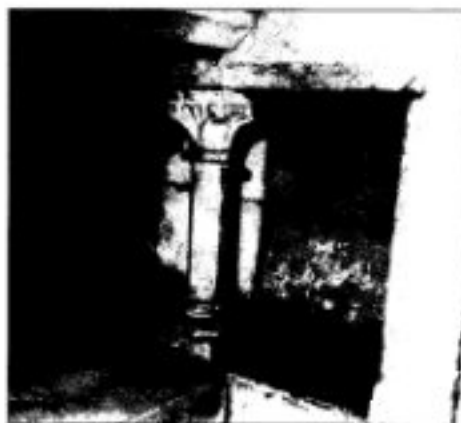


The low two-bay arcades along the North and South sides of the church, with octagonal pier and wide, double-chamfered arches, are probably Decorated style, as are the North and South aisle windows. The North aisle details look a little older than the South.

At the front of the North aisle two very old carved pews remain.

Piscinas

By the side altars, in the North and South aisles, are piscinas (perforated stone basins for carrying away water used in rinsing chalices etc.), and statue brackets.



In the chancel there is a double piscina and sedilia (seat for the priest) set into the stonework of the South side-wall.

The Stained Glass Windows



Memorial Window

Above the font in the West wall of the South Aisle is another window depicting Saint Nicholas and Saint George, to the memory of the men of Carlton Scroop who fell in the Great War of 1914-1918. Their names are recorded in the glass at the foot of the window (see left).

The South aisle window, above the altar, was inserted in the 19th century, and dedicated to the Virgin Lucy the Martyr, in memory of Lucy, wife of William Andrews, Rector of the Parish. The glass is by Charles Eamer Kempe (1837-1907), whose highly acclaimed work can be seen in cathedrals and churches throughout the country. It is thought to be an early example of his work.



Detail from the Kempe window

Above the main altar, the **East window** is a fine specimen of the architecture of the reign of Edward III. It is known as the **Newmarch window**, and displays an important, fine and rare example of 14th century, Medieval, stained glass, depicting two kneeling figures, each holding shields and originally thought to be the donor and his wife.

The Knight, wearing chain-mail and a crimson cloak, carries a Newmarch shield, while his companion wears a blue robe and bears the shield of the Briddeshall family. This latter figure bears the restored head of a priest, brought from another church and added at a later date, as also was a figure of Christ in Benediction carrying an orb in his left hand which was inserted at the top of the window



The Newmarch Knight

An entry in Bishop Dalderby's Register, held in the Lincoln Archives Office, clarifies the identity of the two figures as it records that John de Newmarch, Lord of the manor of Carlton Newmarch, as the village was then known, presented William de Briddeshall, chaplain, to the vacant living of the parish in 1307. The tracery of the east window was a record of this event, with priest and patron kneeling before a lost figure of a saint. John de Newmarch was dead by 1310, which dates the window at about that time.



Roodloft Stairway (above)

The Pulpit (left)

The pulpit is Jacobean, 17th century, and made of oak, resting on a base with little arches round it. Part of the old roodloft stairway is still to be seen in the wall above and to the left of the pulpit.

The Palmer family, already mentioned in connection with repairs to the damage caused by the falling in of the steeple, were obviously important members of the community in Carlton Scroop during the seventeenth century. An inscribed floor slab under the altar in the South aisle commemorates Dame Jane, wife of Sir Lewis Palmer of Northamptonshire, and daughter and co-heir of Robert Palmer of Carlton Scroop. She died in 1649. Brasses in the floor of the South aisle in memory of other members of the Palmer family have, sadly, been removed.

Memorials on the tower walls and another in the North aisle of the church are to the Petchell/Peachell family. One sad memorial in the tower records the deaths of five children of John and Anne Peachell:

“One John died in 1687,
the other John died in 1691,
Mary died in 1690,
Thomas died in 1689,
Francis died in 1698.”

The memorials on the wall of the South aisle are to members of the Hurst family.

The Canvas Tablets hanging on the north wall had been torn and left to rot for many years in the base of the tower. They were expertly restored by the Lincoln University Fine Arts Conservation Department allowing them to go on display in the church.

The Millennium Kneelers were the idea of Mrs Gilly Worth who researched the designs, organised the stitchers and made them up into the kneelers now hanging in church. They depict the symbols of various patron saints to reflect the professions, hobbies and interests of parishioners of Carlton Scroop and Normanton and where possible, the stitchers have made the appropriate kneeler. More information on the saints can be found on the notice board at the back of the church. Other kneelers show subjects illustrated in the windows of the church. The start of some well known hymns decorate the choir kneelers. The long alter-rail kneelers mark the main Christian festivals with Easter being the central symbol on the middle kneeler.

The seating capacity of the church is for 175 worshippers and the church registers, now in the Lincoln Archives, date from 1558.

Bells The church has a peal of three bells. The oldest is dated 1613 and bears the inscription, "God save the Church". For many years the peal could not be rung as the bell-frame was unsafe, apart from one bell being used as a call to worship, however the frame has recently been made safe so the bells can now be chimed although not fully rung.

To the North the church overlooks open farmland where, it is said, once stood an early manor house or castle. The pond, still there, is believed to be what remains of its moat. Recycling is not a 20th century phenomenon: the cottages immediately to the East of the church, known as "The Row", and a small farm-house a short distance beyond them, adjacent to the main road, were built with stone taken from the original building.



South-West aspect

Across the lane facing the church is the old National School which was built, together with the Master's house, in 1841, to serve both villages of Carlton Scroop and Normanton. The school closed in 1973 and both buildings are now private residences.

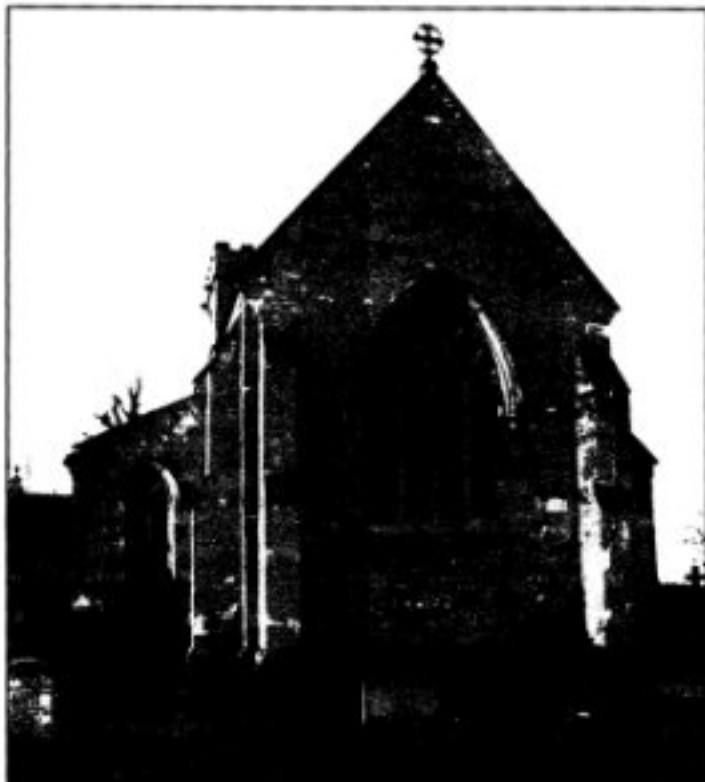
Clock

The clock has been converted to run electronically to avoid the precarious weekly climb up long ladders to wind it and allow better timekeeping. The clock's dial is on the south side of the tower. In 2013 the clock hands were mended and the dial completely refurbished and remounted using stainless steel fixings. All this remedial work was made possible by the very generous donations of Mr Simon Hutton, of Carlton Scroop, and Mr Ian Frudd in memory of his late wife Julie, close friends of Mrs Tracy Atkinson.

The Future

If you have enjoyed looking at and reading about this lovely, historic church perhaps you would like to consider making a Gift Aided donation, or even contributing regularly towards its upkeep. Major projects such as the reroofing, costing many thousands of pounds, are necessary to stop the rain from entering. Carlton Scroop is only a small village and struggles to raise the funds needed to maintain the church. If you feel that you can help in any way, whether financially or with cleaning or flowers, please contact the treasurer or any member of the Parochial Church Council.

Thank you.



Saint Nicholas Church from the East

This booklet was produced by

Ann and David Hopkinson

*with help from: Margaret Bartle
Joy Bristow
Malcolm Hage
Ted Heginbotham
John Lodge
Denis Oliver
Simon Payling
and others*

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Updated and reprinted by Tracy Atkinson July 2010