



**Welcome to All Hallows  
Walkington  
A Guide for Visitors**

# Introduction

You are now standing in a peaceful, well kept, English village church. "How old is it?", you are already asking. Alas, we cannot give an accurate answer.

By A.D. 700, churches and monasteries were well established in and around Beverley and St. John of Beverley was actively visiting country districts within his diocese. Bede tells us that St. John paid a visit to Bishop Burton, but there is no record of his having been to Walkington. St. John's foundation in Beverley was ravaged by Danish invaders. but it revived strongly under the patronage of King Athelstan, who visited Beverley, endowed the church there in 938. and granted the right of sanctuary. of which the roadside stone near to the traffic lights at the eastern end of the village is a reminder.

The early charters of the Priory of St. Cuthbert at Durham refer to the ... church of 'Valchintuna' and we know that the Bishop of Durham had properties in Walkington as part of his manor of Howden. There was undoubtedly a Saxon church on this site. but no trace of it now exists. There is no specific mention of a church or priest in Domesday Book, though nothing can be inferred from this, as many places known to have had a church at that time are not so mentioned.

The church's earlier registers were sent to London as evidence in a lawsuit *ca.* 1780 and never returned. As a result of this inexcusable act. we can only guess at much of the earlier history of the fabric. Why. to quote just one example. is the perpendicular tower so superior in design to the rest of the building?

Fortunately we know much more about the past incumbents of Walkington: even then, the earliest we can name is Robert de Heminbrough (*ca.* 1223-1228).



We suggest that you now move over to the font to begin your tour of the church.

# The Baptistry

The square, late 18th century font - said to resemble a Roman altar - is unremarkable, but the font cover is an excellent example of the craftsmanship of the late local joiner. Mr. Rotsey Lawson (1869-1949).

There were three bells in the tower as early as 1552. Three bells – perhaps the original three – were recast in the 18th century and rehung in the mid-19th century.

The present ring of six bells was dedicated in 1959 during the incumbency of the Rev. N.A.H. Lawrance, the result of an appeal which raised the then huge sum of £1880. Two of the bells are appropriately inscribed: "Given by the People of Walkington. A.D. 1958"

In 1818, £700 was raised by an appropriate levy on the rates in order to re-roof the nave and carry out other extensive rebuilding work. The men who took part in this major restoration carved their initials on the wall near the tower door. They also wrote their names on a piece of paper and tucked it into the apex of a beam in the roof. This lay undiscovered until the 1980's; now, however, we are able to put names to the carved initials (mainly of workers from Beverley).

As you stand facing the nave, imagine that the floor level is raised by about 1 metre. The great chancel arch would then appear out of proportion and the bases to its pillars would be invisible. Until the turn of the century, this was indeed the case; it took the eye of a distinguished architect to deduce that the original floor level had at some time been raised. Excavation of the floor to its original (present) level in 1900 revealed the magnificent medieval stone coffin which now lies behind the font. This find suggests that the filling in of the floor may have been done *ca.* 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Look towards the chancel and note that it deflects noticeably towards the south. This deflection may have been due to a surveying error, or it may have been done intentionally to depict the inclination of Christ's head on the cross.



Proceed down the steps into the nave ...

## The Nave

The pews were donated by Major J. D. Ferguson-Fawsitt (brother of the Rector) in 1886 at a cost of £200. The rear pews at the south side were occupied at the turn of the century by the village Drum and Fife band, which provided music for the services: notice that these pews were fitted with an extra upper ledge on which to hold the sheets of music. Note also that part of the upper ledge of the rear pew has been cut away to accommodate the bass drummer and his instrument. Walkington lost a proportionately large number of its young men in the Great War: their names are recorded on the memorial plaque near the north door and on the village memorial in the churchyard. Wall plaques in memory of individuals who died on land and at sea were also placed in the nave by grieving relatives. The church clock was donated in 1919 by the Plimpton family in memory of Capt. Robert A. Plimpton, who was killed in Flanders.

On the north side of the nave near the south transept there is a brass plaque in memory of Mary Dawe, wife of the Rev. M.W.B. Dawe (*Rector* 1891-1926). The Dawes left their mark in many ways on both church and village: for example, they laid out a magnificent sweep of lawn between the church and the Rectory (now the Old Rectory in the main street). Michael Dawe's parents generously paid for the rebuilding of the north porch of the church in 1921.

Major Ferguson-Fawsitt (known locally simply as 'The Major') donated the brass eagle lectern in 1888 at a cost of £105 . . . in memory of his devoted wife Annie Eliza Ferguson-Fawsitt who restored the church in 1882; and died before it was completed, and his father Rev. Daniel Ferguson ... late Rector and Patron of Walkington, and Margaret, his beloved wife.

The oak pulpit is early 17th century, with very long elongated blank arches. Older photographs show that the pulpit was formerly mounted much higher than it now is. Why the Jacobean pulpit should be the only surviving piece of ancient woodwork is yet another one of our unanswered questions.



At the pulpit, turn left into the north transept ...

## The North Transept

Here you will find the earliest identifiable stonework in the fabric, part of a 12th century grave cover built into the bottom of the west arch (near the electricity switches). Below it you will see a chevron-moulded stone, possibly late Norman. The colourful windows a memorial to Margareta and Robert Dunning; in fact, this transept used always to be known as the Dunning Chapel. The marriage of Margareta Ferguson, grand-daughter of Daniel Ferguson (Rector, 1808-59), to wealthy farmer, Robert Dunning, in 1871 was very significant, since it united two families of considerable local standing.

Before you leave the north transept. take note of the magnificent lozenge-shaped heraldic memorial - known as a hatchment - to Major Ferguson-Fawsitt.



Now move across to the south transept ...

## The South Transept

Facing you is a beautiful example of a 14th century curvilinear window with five lights.

During repairs to the fabric in 1934, Mr. Sidney E. Lythe, the local building contractor, realised that the east wall of the transept contained a window which, at some time, had been filled in. Removal of the plaster revealed a medieval window, which was restored as nearly as possible to its original state: you can see it on your left. The present glass was installed recently to commemorate Harold Lythe's 64 years of unbroken service as church organist (1903-67). Harold's building talents - like those of his brother. Sidney - are also much in evidence throughout the church.

It is interesting to note that the two windows in the south transept differ markedly in style from the other windows in the church. which are all in the straightforward perpendicular style.

Look carefully at the western arch and see if you can spot another portion of medieval grave cover which has been built into it.



Turn now to face the chancel arch ...

# The Chancel

The chancel arch is unusual in that the two bases are quite dissimilar in style. The intriguing suggestion has been made that the present bases may be capitals taken from much older arches.

The oak choir stalls, made locally by Mr. Walter Lawson (whose father, Rotsey, was mentioned earlier), were dedicated in 1953 in memory of the Rev. H.B. Greeves (Rector, 1926-47). The design was taken from one by the distinguished church architect. Temple Moore, in Farndale church; the same design had already been used at Walkington for the two reading desks. Harry Greeves was a talented organist, and was responsible for the installation of the present organ *ca.* 1930. He was also the driving force behind the building of the choir vestry in the 1930's.

Looking up on your right you will see a handsome plaque on the south wall dedicated to 'Divine Eliza'. It must have cost a pretty penny; yet Eliza's husband, the Rev. J. Middleton Clowes (Rector, 1792-1807), was said to have been bankrupt. On the north wall there is a memorial tablet to Randle Hancock, (Rector, 1751-1777). During part of his incumbency, he had become involved in a bitter dispute over a proposal for the enclosure of the parish. It was said of him that "... there is not a man in all the town who can abide him". The Latin inscription on his memorial ('later days will show what kind of man he was'), is perhaps, therefore, not without significance. Out of sight, beneath the carpet, there are memorial inscriptions in the floor to other former Rectors and to members of Randle Hancock's family.

Immediately on your right as you face the altar you will see the 'Lawson' window - dedicated in 1938 to the memory of Helen, daughter of Rotsey Lawson. The chancel, however, is dominated by the east window, made by Harry Harvey of York in 1970 to replace the cracked and decaying Victorian window. The present window depicts Our Lord in Majesty with a company of Saints. The tracery shows Archangel Michael, and the two Greek letters, Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω): the lower corners of the window show the Annunciation and the Nativity. Notice also the Hand of God, the dove, and the signs of the evangelists (human head, lion, ox, eagle).

# *A Place of Prayer*

All Hallows is a place set apart for prayer and worship. We hope that you have enjoyed your visit and that you will find time to spend a few moments in prayer in the side chapel, where you will find a prayer leaflet and other resources.

We hope that the prayers which follow are ones you can say in your own hearts.

## *A Prayer for Ourselves*

Dear Lord, of thee  
Three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly;  
Love thee more dearly;  
Follow thee more nearly;  
Day by day.

(Prayer of St. Richard)

## *A Prayer for the Church and for our Homes*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

(A Prayer from the Service of Compline)

# *The Churchyard*

As you leave, take a look at the well-maintained churchyard. Note the gravestones which bear the names of generations of Walkington women and men – Oliver, Ash, Lawson, Lythe, Hodgson, Marshall ... Under the clock you will see that of Oliver Cromwell Oliver - an unusual name for a remarkable village character.

Here, side by side, lie the wealthy benefactor of the church and the poor village labourer. The latter may have no expensive granite memorial; yet let it not be forgotten that he played his own important part in creating the history of the church and of the village.

Have a last glance at the exterior of the church. You will see that the fabric has been patched and rebuilt over the years with different materials. Here is no great architectural gem; yet here is a place of peace and tranquillity in which the people of Walkington have worshipped the living God over many centuries.