

Churches in the Benefice

All Saints', Thorpe Bassett
 St Andrew's, Rillington
 St Martin's, Scampston
 St Peter's, Wintringham
 St John the Baptist, Yedingham
 St Edmund's, Knapton
 All Saints', West Heslerton
 St Andrew's, East Heslerton
 St Hilda's, Sherburn

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If you wish to talk further about
 matters of faith and commitment,
 please contact

Rev. Joe Kinsella 01944 758989

St ANDREW'S CHURCH

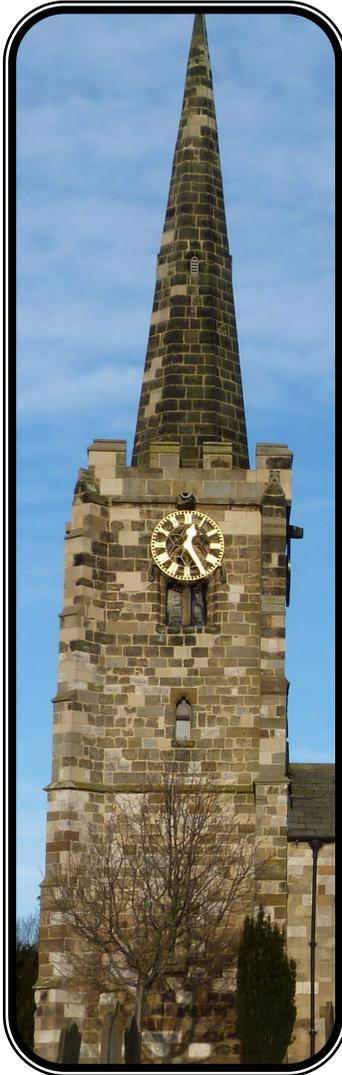


RILLINGTON

Benefice of Buckrose Carrs

A tour around St Andrew's Church, Rillington

Welcome to our church. Having climbed up the slope do pause for a moment or two to catch your breath before you start on our tour. You may often have noticed that a church is built on a hill or mound, either natural or man-made, and wondered why, especially if you are pushing a pram or your legs are not as young as they once were. The hill reminds us that Jesus was crucified on a hill on that first Easter and so started the Christian Faith. As you walked up you will have seen the wall surrounding the churchyard. Churchyards are usually surrounded by a wall, hedge or fence and this separates the House of God from the house of man as our own walls and hedges separate our homes from neighbours. The church yard seems small in comparison to the size of the village but years ago the village would have been smaller and eventually a piece of land at the end of the High Street was bought to be used as a cemetery. As you approached Rillington you would have noticed the tall graceful spire of the church. This raises our eyes to the sky and symbolises a finger pointing to God in His Heaven. You may also have been lucky enough to hear our clock strike the hour. It is one of only two accurate working clocks in the Benefice. Hopefully by now you are ready to commence your tour of St Andrews. You entered via the **Porch**. It is like an entrance to a home and in previous generations people were able to rest, conduct business or leave their wet clothes before entering a service. In the Middle Ages part of the Baptism and Marriage services were held here.



On the left you will find the carved stone **(1) FONT**. This is where adults, children and babies are baptised into the family of the Church. It has an iron and wood cover which was used to preserve the purity of the baptismal water. Today fresh water is used for each baptism. The font is early C13th and the cover is thought to be C17th. To



the right of the font is the **(2) BELL TOWER**. The wrought iron steps go to the first level where the bell ringers would stand to ring the bells. On the walls in this area are boards showing the Creed and Ten Commandments. There is also a plaque commemorating the erection of the clock in the tower and the addition of a third bell in 1908. One former parishioner donated £150 from his

home in Rio de Janeiro...photographs of the boards are on display **Move to the northern aisle and walk towards the vestry**. On the wall to the right here are remains of **(3) MEDIEVAL WALL PAINTINGS**. This C13th wall painting depicts the foundation of the church and the institution of its first priest, Robert de Okham in c1250. It is reported as being one of the most important medieval wall paintings in the area and is believed to be the only wall painting surviving of St John of Beverley. **Behind you** there is an impressive **(4) ROLL OF HONOUR** reflecting the large number of villagers who were involved in the Great War. Those who died have a cross against their name. As you **move towards the chancel** the **(5) EAGLE LECTERN** on your left has a small plaque showing that it was gifted by parishioners and friends in memory of the late Rev William MacDowall, vicar of Rillington 1864-1889. The **(6) PULPIT** stands at the other side of the Chancel entrance. **Turn into the Chancel** and on your left is the **(7) ORGAN**. This is still used today for church services but often our services in this church include the use of an electronic keyboard or guitar. **Continue into the Chancel and on the left**



you will find an **(8) AUMBRY** which is used to store sacred cups etc. for celebrating Holy Communion. The **(9) ALTAR** stands at the eastern end of the Chancel and on a sunny day catches the light shining through the large stained glass windows. St Andrew, after whom the church is



named, stands in the right-hand window. Turn around now and walk back to the Nave. **Look to the right on the pillars** and see the **(10) CARVINGS**, one an animal and the other a person's face. **Notice the (11) STAFF** with which the Churchwarden would



have kept order in olden times. Finally, **as you make your way towards the exit**, look up at the beautiful **(12) WOODEN CEILING** and then **cast your eyes upwards once more** as you approach the door and read the **(13) SIGN** over the door!



A hard order to obey but always worth trying!