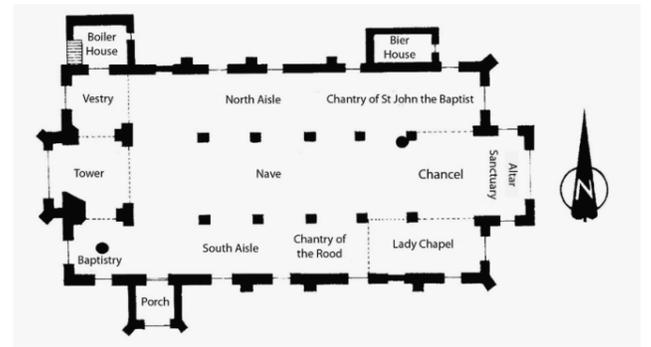




St. Michael the Archangel, Kirkby in Malhamdale

A Walk around the Church



Introduction

The building you are in dates from the end of the 15th century. We know that an earlier church, probably Norman, was gifted to the White Canons of the abbey at West Dereham in Norfolk in 1199 and the Scandinavian name *Kirkby* suggests that there was probably a church here when the Danes invaded in the 9th century.

The church retains many original features, thanks largely to its then patron, Walter Morrison, who insisted it was not Victorianised during a major restoration in 1879/80.

Entrance

The gates through which you came in were made in the late 20th century by local blacksmith John Clements with the trout created by local carver David Tippey. To the side the planter is an old font removed in 1880. Note the heavy oak beam recessed into the wall used in former times to bar the door against raiders.



Baptistry

The font is probably Norman and was reinstated in 1880. The oak and cast-iron lid was made in the 20th century by local craftsman Bill Wild.

Set in the floor are three interesting 13th century priest's coffin lids.



South Aisle

The massive chest against the tower pillar is thought to date to the 14th or 15th century. It would have held church papers or vestments and the vicar and churchwardens would have held separate keys to the three locks. Note the high back to the churchwarden's pew that would have protected them from draughts.

The niches in the pillars would have held brightly painted statues of Our Lord, The Virgin Mary and various saints prior to the Reformation in the 16th century.



Chantry of the Rood

Chantries were small chapels within a church where a chantry priest would say masses for the souls of the dead. When, in 1545, commissioners of Edward VI closed many of the chantries the Chantry of the Rood was allowed to continue because it housed a Grammar School.



Lady Chapel

Used as an organ chamber from 1884 this was restored as a chapel in 1984. The Jacobean altar table was a gift from Idle Parish at that time. Note the memorials to members of the Lambert family of Calton Hall. That to Major John Lambert of Civil War fame is a 1984 addition.

The small brass plate under the south window is well worth reading.

Nave and Chancel

The choir stalls and front pews were new in 1880. The other box pews were reduced in height at that time. Look out for the carved initials and dates. The main roof timbers are almost all from the 15th century.

Sanctuary

The main east window was gifted in 1957 in memory of Florence Illingworth. The small panels in the north and south windows are fine examples of 17th century continental glass and were also gifts of the Illingworth family. The altar rail is Jacobean - note that the spindles are all slightly different. The wooden panelling from 1923 is in memory of Walter Morrison, the coats of arms are for families and religious houses related to the history of the church.



North Aisle

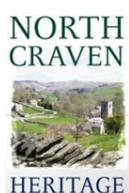
The high box pews are also Jacobean, note the early dates carved on them. The coloured glass windows here are all memorials and depict the saints of northern Britain.

The blocked-up door near the vestry is known as the devil's door that used to be left open during baptisms to let out evil spirits. The current vestry was formerly the baptistry and thus next to the door

Tower

The West End Room at the base of the tower was glazed and the ringing floor above installed in 2010. The room is used for meetings and for children's activities during services.

The tower holds a ring of eight bells. The oldest and heaviest, the tenor, was cast in 1602 and was a gift of the Lambert family of Calton. Two others date to the 17th and 18th centuries and a further five bells were added in 2002 after great fundraising efforts by the bellringers.



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