

# WOMERSLEY ST MARTIN

## Case Study

### SUMMARY OF WORKS

- Removal of one row of pews at west end
- Creation of a narthex containing toilet and kitchenette facilities
- Lowering the external paving and door to create level access into the church
- Removing all the pews in the south aisle to create a gathering area



West end prior to works



West end after works



New level access into the church

St Martin's is a Grade I Listed church, which is dominated by its C14th crossing tower and broach spire. The tower originally had an open-work parapet of which only a fragment remains. The nave is largely C13th, although the windows have C14th tracery and the clerestory was probably added at this time. The broad south aisle is C14th, as is the transept and the stone vaulted porch. The lean-to north transept is largely C14th, but the chancel was largely rebuilt in C19th and a significant restoration was carried out by G F Bodley in 1895/6.

After the closure of the village hall, the church was left as the only public space in the village. Some of the activities such as coffee mornings and meetings were moved to the church but this was hampered by a lack of toilet and kitchen facilities and no space for gathering. Entrance through the main west door was down steep steps and although a ramp was used it was still precarious for wheelchair users. The new proposals addressed these problems by lowering the ground outside the west end to the level of the church floor; screening off the west end with a narthex which included space for an accessible toilet and kitchenette; and removing the pews in the south aisle to create a space where people can gather.

The church is now ready to begin welcoming people again and fit for use as an accessible worship and community space.

Grade I Listed

Architect: Ulrike Knox

Works completed: 2020