



About St Benedict's

This church houses a wealth of furnishings and fittings from the early-medieval period to the modern era.

Situated between the disused Horncastle Canal and the village of Haltham, St. Benedict's is made of local greenstone and is notable for its unusually large east window, its tracery is considered to be the finest in Lincolnshire.

The name Haltham means 'settlement in the wood'. The Domesday Book records two mills present in the area, but the church is not mentioned. The exact foundation date of the church is unknown, but most of the building fabric dates from the 12th to the 15th centuries, suggesting the church was founded not long after the Domesday Book was compiled.

During the 19th century St. Benedict's began to fall into disrepair. It was recorded in 1842 that the church was 'an ancient structure which has suffered much from the hand of time'. Fortunately, the parish carried out major restorations in 1880 and 1891. The seating capacity was also increased at this time in order to accommodate a growing congregation.

The church was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1979.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

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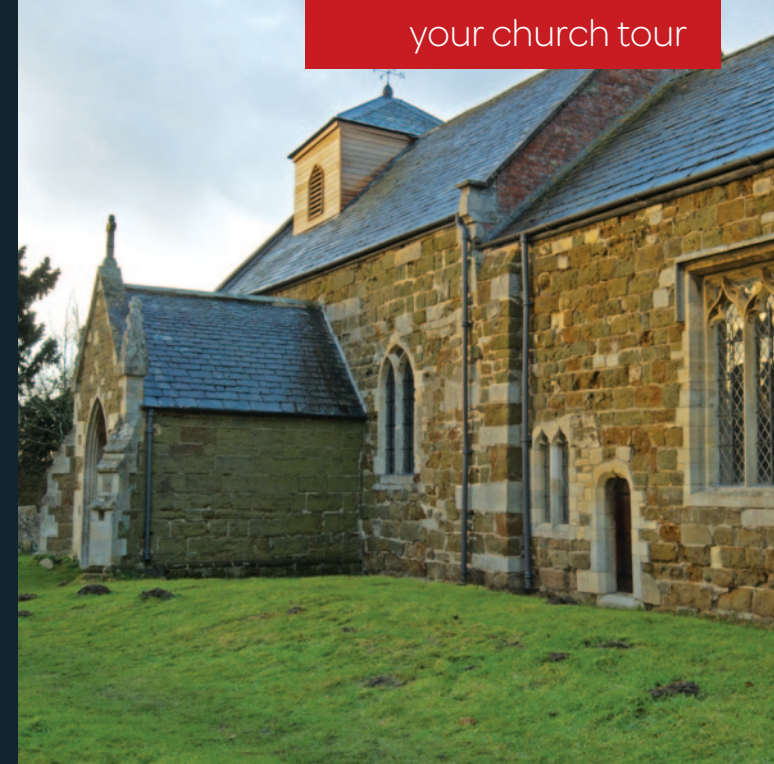
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Church of St Benedict

Haltham-on-Bain



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The historic church of St Benedict

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 Painted on vertical wooden planks above the tower arch are the **Royal Arms of Charles I** and the **Ten Commandments**.
- 2 The 15th-century hexagonal **font** has a deep bowl decorated with a diaper work of flowers. The oak cover is carved in a sympathetic style and is modern.
- 3 The medieval **parclose screen** has been reused to form an L-shaped **box pew** for the Dymoke family.
- 4 The church contains both medieval and 18th-century **pews**. The latter retain their original ends, with curved elbow rests and lozenge-shaped poppy heads, one of which displays a heraldic shield. Some of the pew numbers are still visible.
- 5 The 14th-century **roodscreen** has been cut down, the traceried lights now providing a low screen dividing the nave from the chancel. Other parts of the screen, together with some 17th-century panels, were worked into the three-decker pulpit.
- 6 In the floor of the chancel are two **ledger stones**. One is medieval and plain. The other, its inscription now faded, reputedly covers the remains of a member of the Dymoke family.
- 7 The 14th-century **piscina**, of an unusual angled design, was used by the priest to wash the Eucharistic vessels. It has two small cusped ogee arches and its fluted bowl is unusually well preserved.
- 8 The **priest's door** on the south wall is set very low and would have been used by the priest to access the chancel. It is carved with graffiti dated 1723.
- 9 The Norman **tympanum** above the south doorway displays a central consecration cross surrounded by a curious mix of decorative motifs, including chevrons and Celtic knots.
- 10 The churchyard contains the remains of a **medieval cross**. The octagonal base, made of limestone, is all that survives. The top of the base contains metal fittings of a later date, suggesting it was at some point used as a sundial.

