your church tour



## About All Saints'

The village of Beeby is mentioned in Domesday Book but no church is recorded. The earliest part of the present church is thought to be the south aisle, which has a 13th-century doorway. The north aisle dates to around 1300, the clerestory and west tower to the 15th century. The spire was never completed; the reason for this is not known and may simply be attributed to a lack of funds. The chancel was rebuilt during the restoration funded by George Calvert, who was rector between 1818 and 1865. His addition of exuberant carvings to the 14th-century arcade illustrates his passion for medieval design.

Of the three bells, one is late 14th century, whilst the others date to the late 1500s.

The well to the north-west of the church, which may have had sacred significance before the Reformation, was also restored by Calvert, then again in the Coronation year of 1953.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1990.

# 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.

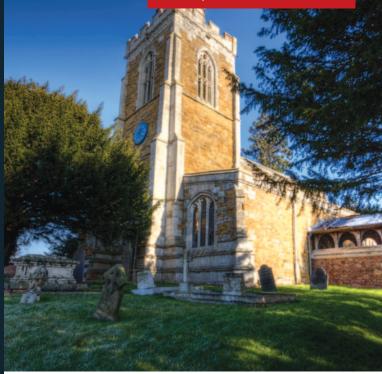
#### Help us do more

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



#### visitchurches.org.uk

The Churches Conservation Trust 1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE Tel: 020 7213 0660 Registered Charity No: 258612 © CCT 2012



# Church of All Saints

## Beeby



## The historic church of All Saints 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The **font** has a 13th-century base, with fine dogtooth carving between the colonettes, surmounted by a later, possibly 17th-century, basin. The unusual faceted wooden cover is probably 18th century.
- 2 The **chancel screen** is 14th century but was restored in 1893. The **wooden screen** which now surrounds the chapel in the south aisle, also dates to the 14th century and has tracery typical of that period.
- This 19th-century Gothic-style **Commandments board**, which also includes the Lord's Prayer, takes the form of a double-arched window with intricate carved tracery at the top.
- The **royal arms** were installed during the first wave of restoration in 1816-1837, at the time the chancel was rebuilt. Royal arms were displayed in churches from the time of Henry VIII.
- 5 The **box pews** are rare survivors of Victorian restoration. Although their exact date is uncertain, this style of seating was common in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The intact box pews on the south side of the nave contrast with the rows of later bench pews on the north side.
- 6 The **stone carvings** added by Calvert between the nave arches depict an extraordinary array of subjects, including a serpent, skull and crossbones, an angel and a crucifix. A king and bishop look down from the tower arches.
- 7 The narrow 13th-century **rood staircase and doorway** would once have led to the now missing medieval roodloft. They would originally have been used to access the Crucifix on top of the screen.
- 8 The **east window** was commissioned in 1843 and is signed by the influential Victorian stained glass artist Thomas Willement. The main figures in the window are Noah, Daniel, Job, Abraham, Moses and Elijah with the symbols of the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John shown above.
- 9 The **aumbry** has an intricately carved wooden door depicting the Adoration of the Shepherds with an ox in the background. It is believed to be 17th-century Continental work installed here by Reverend Calvert.

This **monument** is dedicated to Edward Lawrence, the Royalist rector of Beeby at the time of the Civil War. The Latin inscription commemorates Lawrence's capture and death following the Parliamentary victory in 1645.

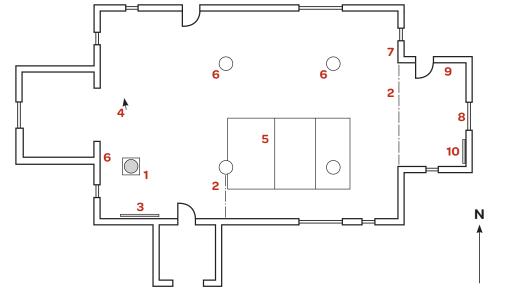














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