



About Holy Trinity Church

Today's church of Holy Trinity at Coverham mostly dates from the 13th century; however, the Anglo-Saxon carved masonry that is now incorporated into the building suggests that this has long been a religious site. The nearby Coverham Abbey dates to 1202, and it seems that the abbey ministered to the local population. The present building may have been erected by the abbey.

The original main entrance to the church was through the south porch indicating that the original medieval settlement lay to the south of the church. Coverham was the 16th century birthplace of Miles Coverdale who was famed for his translation of the Bible in 1538. The church underwent extensive renovation during the Victorian period; much of the chancel was rebuilt in 1854. The north wall of the nave was re-built in 1878; it was during this episode of renovation that the box-pews and the gallery at the west end were taken out. The lovely tiled reredos at the east end, and the tiles in south aisle date from 1878.

The combination of the tiles and stained glass create a little jewel of a church, and a visual feast.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

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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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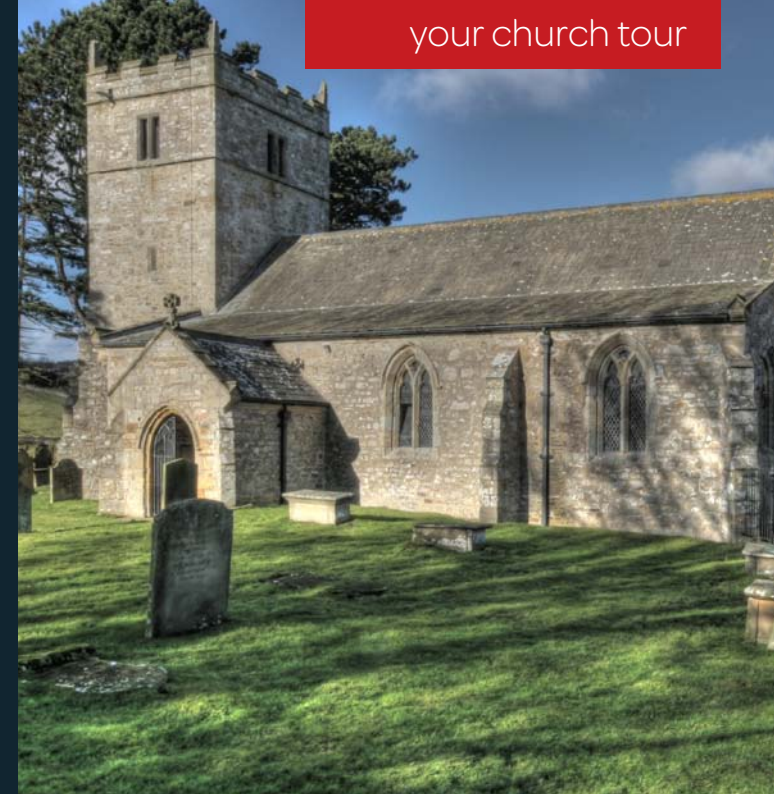
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Church of
Holy Trinity

Coverham



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The historic Church of Holy Trinity

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The east **door jamb** to the south door is part of re-used grave slab with a floriated cross.
- 2 An **Anglo-Saxon cross** has been used as the door lintel above the main entrance into the church.
- 3 Edmund Smith's fine **Neoclassical wall monument** of 1798 shows the classical influence that pervaded much 18th century art and architecture.
- 4 **Coverdale Window** 1878. This fine Victorian window contains the arms of Miles Coverdale and the See of Exeter in the central light. The flanking lights contain the arms of other local families.
- 5 **The 14th Century Arcade** has octagonal pillars without base or capital.
- 6 The **First World War monument** illustrates the decimation of local families robbing them of many if not all their male members. There are 62 names listed from this small community, with six named Walls, five Watson and four Osborne.
- 7 **Stolen glass panel.** Here is a poignant image that reminds us of the vulnerability of these beautiful buildings. This ghostly image is a repair (1996) that at least hints at the image of the 'Good Samaritan' created in 1880. The vibrant colour and fine detail of the accompanying light of 'Christ and the children' shows what has rather sadly been lost to future children and their families to enjoy.
- 8 The **east window** has reticulated tracery, a style much used during the mid 14th century. The tracery is made up of circles drawn into ogee shapes (ogee is a curved line made up of a concave and convex section rather like a reversed elongated S) and it results in a net-like appearance. The stained glass dates from 1878 to commemorate the Topham family.

- 9 A **piscina** was a sink for washing the communion vessels and is often found in the sanctuary area of medieval churches. This one dates from the 14th century and has the letters TP in the spandrels of the ogee arch (this is a double curved arch made up of a convex and concave part). The TP may stand for Thomas Piggott of Melmerby.
- 10 These fine **Victorian tiles** in the south aisle are by Maw & Co.

