



About St Martin's

Containing some of Lincolnshire's earliest ecclesiastical architecture, St. Martin's dates back to the 10th century. Waithe is mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Wade' and the church is also recorded in the entry. The tower, with its Romanesque double-arched belfry openings, is all that is left of St. Martin's ancient origins, the rest of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval building long gone.

Architect James Fowler rebuilt the church in 1861 at the behest of the Haigh family. This 'restoration' included the introduction of interior furnishings such as the font, pulpit and pews, in addition to the construction of the nave and the apse. The exterior of the church was rebuilt in a style reminiscent of 13th-century Gothic architecture. George Haigh of Grainsby intended St. Martin's to be a worthy mausoleum for his family and the chancel houses a number of Haigh family memorials.

The interior of the church is dominated by the striking Minton tiles decorating the floor and walls. The church is a striking juxtaposition of early medieval and Victorian sensibilities.

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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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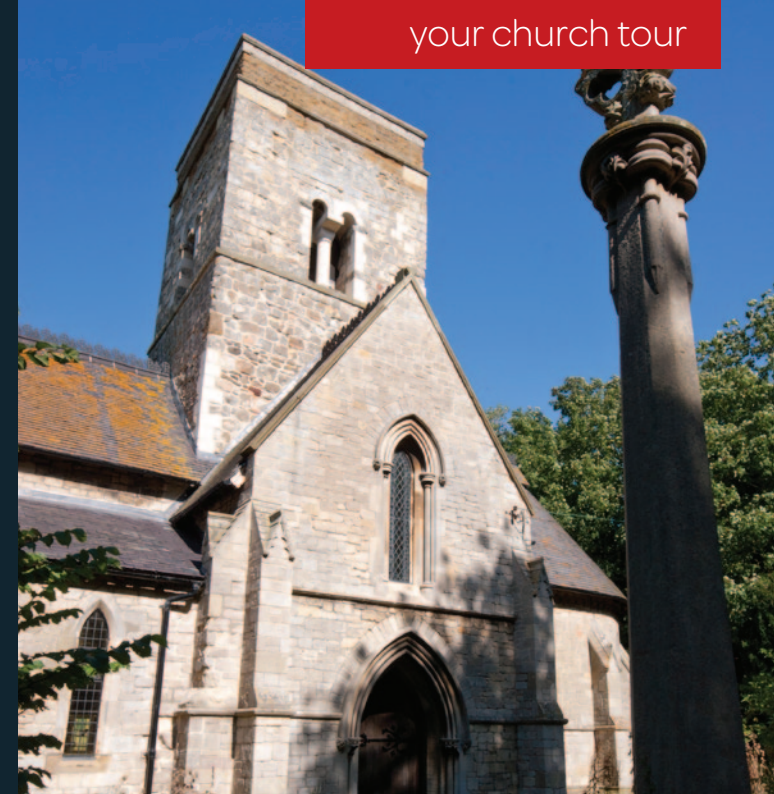


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your church tour



Church of St Martin

Waithe



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The historic church of St Martin

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The **carved faces** decorating the arches in the south aisle are probably medieval but may have been re-carved in more recent years.
- 2 The simple Victorian **font** incorporates 12th-century design, mimicking Norman blind arcading.
- 3 The **stained glass** was made by two firms, Ward & Hughes and Powell's of Whitefriars. Most of the scenes depicted are taken from the New Testament.
- 4 The **pulpit** was commissioned by James Fowler in 1861. It is made of limestone and decorated with marble colonettes and foliage designs.
- 5 The outstanding feature of this church is the array of **Minton tiles**. They form the main decorative element of the walls and floor in both nave and apsidal chancel.
- 6 The **World War I memorial** commemorates the soldiers from this parish who served and died during The Great War.
- 7 The tower still has its original **Norman arches**, reflecting the ancient foundation of the church.
- 8 The **reredos** comprises Minton tiles set into the wall. This is unusual as most reredos are free-standing furnishings.
- 9 In the chancel are several **tiled memorials** for the Haigh family, who owned the neighbouring Grainsby Hall, demolished in 1972. The memorials were made between 1834 and 1949.
- 10 The base and shaft of the **high cross** in the churchyard probably date to the 14th century. The top of the cross however is modern.

