



About St Martin's

No church is recorded at Whenby in Domesday Book, but a letter of 1287 hints at its early existence. However, the building that stands today is largely of the late 15th century. One of the bells, dating to the 14th century, may survive from the earlier church.

The Perpendicular-style building consists of a tower, nave, south porch and chancel, with a north aisle which extends eastwards as far as the chancel to form a small chapel. The crenellated parapets give the church a fortress-like appearance from the south.

The population of the parish was never large and according to an account written at the time, the church had fallen into disrepair by 1818. The building was subject to a restoration campaign in 1871, at a cost of £700. The repairs were carried out very sensitively as the church retains much medieval fabric to the present day, adding to its charm. The medieval south door was left untouched, as were the large 16th-century benches, two oak screens and the 15th-century font.

The surrounding churchyard, contained within a drystone wall, provides an enchanting setting. It is home to laburnum, holly and red-leaved prunus, with daffodils making it particularly attractive in Spring.

St Martin's was placed in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust in 1983.

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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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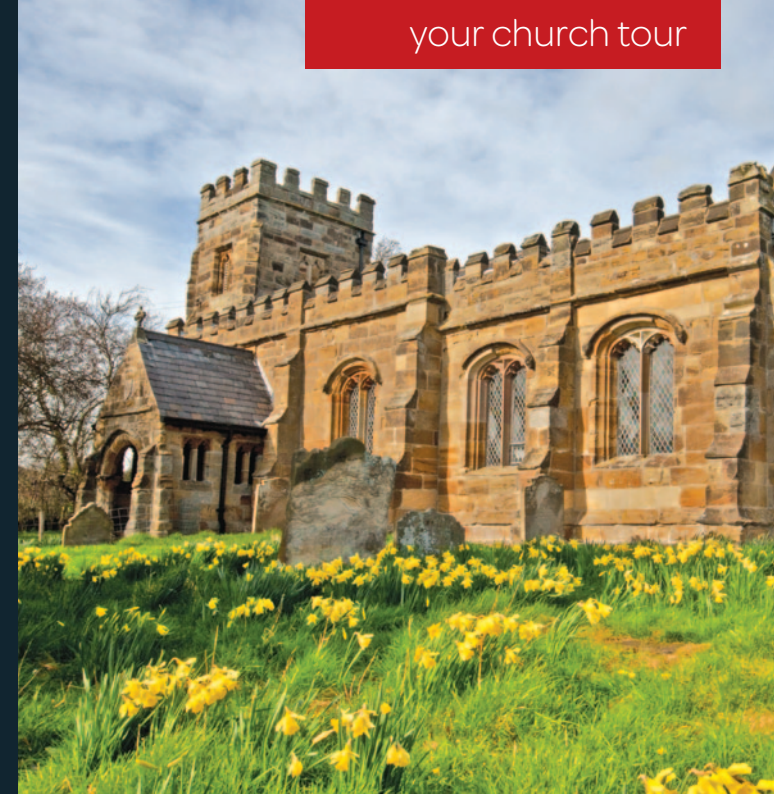
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Church of St Martin

Whenby



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The historic church of St Martin

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The octagonal **font**, dating to the 15th century, is mounted on a curiously narrow stem. The simple cover is of a later date.
- 2 Many of the **pews** incorporate medieval woodwork. Few parishioners were seated for worship until the later 1500s. Seating only became a standard fitting in the 16th century, after the Reformation.
- 3 **Royal arms** were a common feature of churches after Henry VIII's break with the Roman church, becoming a requirement during the late 1600s. The arms over the south door are of King George IV and are very similar to those at Dalby church, one mile to the north of Whenby.
- 4 The **carved pillar capital** at the west end of the church depicts the faces of medieval people, perhaps locals known to the mason. A fragment of much earlier stone carving can be found on the pillar in the north chapel.
- 5 Part of the **screen** dividing the nave from the chancel is medieval. The screen separating the north aisle from the chancel is 17th century.
- 6 The **south door** of the church is a good example of late-medieval work.
- 7 A **piscina** is located in the right-hand corner of the chancel, indicating the former site of the high altar. It was used by medieval priests to wash the sacred vessels after Mass.
- 8 The **communion table** in the chancel probably dates to 1871; that in the north chapel is 17th century.
- 9 The **stained glass** in the east window, depicting the Crucifixion, is by Burlison and Grylls, dated to 1919.
- 10 In the north aisle is a **harmonium** made by Story and Clark, a company founded in 1884 in the USA and famed for producing the world's first electric piano. This instrument dates to the late 1890s, during which time the company introduced pink-rimmed porcelain stop knobs.



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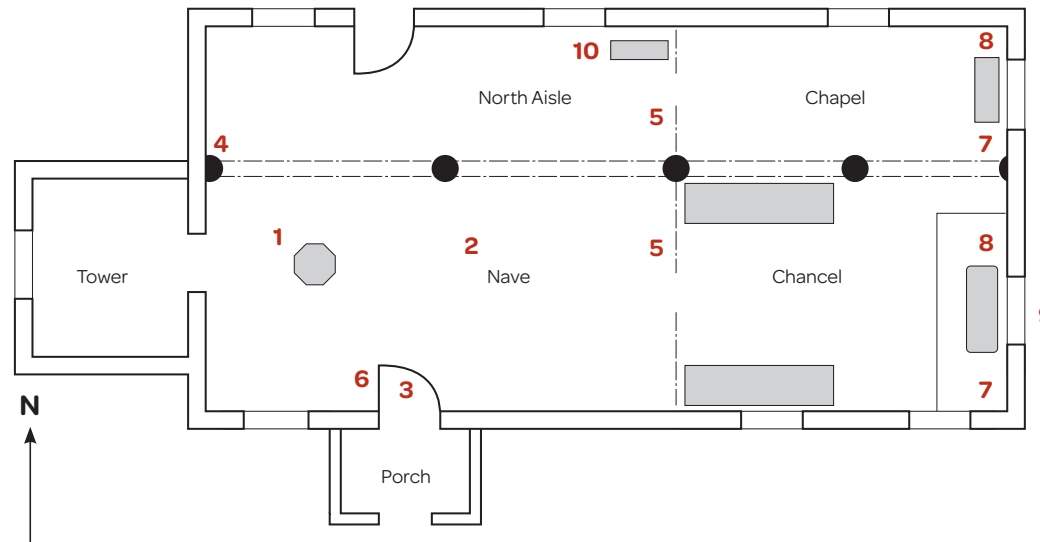
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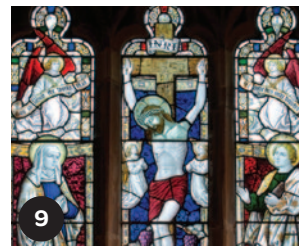
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