



## About St Martin's Church

The first church was founded by Richard Mauleverer in the 12th century - the name Mauleverer is Norman French for 'poor harrier'.

The last Mauleverer, also named Richard, died in 1692 without male issue, therefore his widow passed on the estate to her son Richard Arundell by her second marriage. Both their coats of arms can be seen in the stained glass of the church.

The church of St Martin's was rebuilt in 1745 by Richard Arundell on the site of the medieval church in the Gothick Neo-Norman style. There was a Gothick revival during the eighteenth century, and positioning sham medieval buildings in the designed landscape surrounding a country house was fashionable. As Surveyor of the King's Works (an important position) it would have been vital for him to create an architectural statement to re-enforce his status.

Besides rebuilding the church, Richard Arundell also built a new house which was subsequently re-designed in the late eighteenth century, and then completely re-built in neo-Jacobean style during the mid 19th century. This became Allerton Castle and is situated to the north west of the church. We can still see Arundell's idealised 'medieval' church which would have been a significant part of this designed landscape for his guests and visitors to enjoy.

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your church tour



Church of  
St Martin

Allerton Mauleverer



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## The historic Church of St Martin

### 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1** The **Font** reflects the blending of classical and idealised medieval architecture at work in this re-built church of the mid 18th century.
- 2** This **dramatic painting of Moses and Aaron** hanging above the chancel arch illustrates the Ten Commandments. It depicts Moses with horns of light flaring from his temples. Moses had throughout the medieval period been depicted with horns due to a mistranslation of the word 'shone' by St. Jerome in his preparation of the Latin Vulgate Bible.
- 3** The nave holds fine examples of mid-Georgian **bench pews**.
- 4** The **double-decker pulpit** is eighteenth century. The position of the pulpit shows how religious worship changed during this period, the 'word' taking precedence with vicar and congregation in close proximity.
- 5** **Wooden Effigies**. These remarkable survivals depict two cross legged knights who were members of the Mauleverer family. Originally they would have been painted to resemble the deceased in life in all their chivalric glory. The style of the armour dates the effigies to the 13th century.
- 6** The figures depicted on the **brass memorial** are of Sir John Mauleverer, who died in 1400 and his wife Eleanor.
- 7** **Armorial Glass**. This is the coat of arms of the Mauleverer family.
- 8** The stained glass in the **East Window** is by William Peckitt.
- 9** **The coat of arms of the Arundell family**. Richard Arundell was responsible for the rebuilding of the church. In his position of Surveyor of the King's Works it would have been important to him to create an architectural statement to re-enforce his status.
- 10** This enormous **tomb** holds the remains of Mrs. Mary Thornton who died in 1800. Her husband Colonel William Thornton purchased the Allerton estate and re-named it Thornville Royal!

