

Want to see a bit of graffiti in the church?

Look no further than the Font, that odd looking stone object by the door with a wooden hat on it! This is for Baptising, mostly young children so that they become part of the family of the Church, You too, may have been baptised as a baby? Have a look around the back of the font to see the graffiti. It is very old and must have taken a very long time to do it! This is something we do not encourage these days!

Church furniture

Back in the 19th Century many churches up and down the land were having major restorations and we too at St. Peter's also had a lot of work done. The obvious sign of this is the furniture, what we call the pews. The pews are of very high quality and the carvings on pew ends are superb.



Can you find this particular pew end depicting dragons?

Can you find the very large and life like eagle? What do you think it is used for? It is called a Lectern.

The Chancel screen of Jesus on the cross with his mother, Mary and disciple John on either side are exceptional fine carvings. Erected in 1895 by a generous benefactor from West Langton Hall,

What's a Pelican doing here?

The Pelican became the symbol of the Passion of Jesus and the receiving of the bread and wine which we call the Eucharist. This was because the Pelican was very attentive to her chicks and if there was no food, she would provide her own blood by wounding her breast. See if you can find the Pelican in the church, a clue, its is carved in Alabaster.



Outside the Church

There are some really interesting stone carvings but you have to look up to see them. Some act as hoppers for rain water, these are called gargoyles, others are for decoration, most are weather beaten because they are very old. A group of little head carvings can be found on the north aisle which are mediaeval placed there approximately early 14th century. The really interesting one to look for is the Green man, he has leaf foliage coming out of both sides of his mouth. This is a Pagan symbol (pre Christian) it means rebirth. Bit odd to have a pagan symbol on a church building, but this was done to make pagans inclusive to Christianity rather than reject them.



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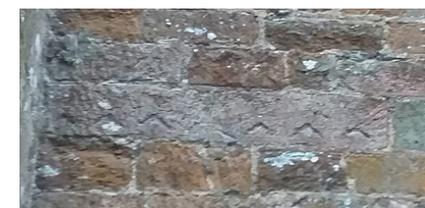


YOUNG PERSONS' GUIDE TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH LANGTON



**Wow!
What an old building?
How old is it?**

What you see outside was built by the 1450's This was around the same time as the start of the Wars of the Roses, the civil war between the houses of York and Lancaster (Richard III and all that!) However, the building is much older than that. Look at some of the crumbling orangey/brown stones, called ironstone. They are much older than the big grey stones called ashlar (cut) limestone, used for the massive tower and those around the high windows. Some of these parts of the building go back to the time of the Magna Carta in the early 13th Century. There are traces of 11th Century stone work outside, on the north side of the church (see below) probably taken from an earlier building.



The Church Langton chappie

He is well hidden away but you are allowed to see him. How old is he? He's 10th Century Anglo Saxon, from before the Battle of Hastings in 1066. You will find him in the passage just beyond the organ. Switch the light on, and, then off, when you have finished looking at him.



Wonderful works of art

Now look at the lovely carving below the east window. It is made of alabaster (a soft rock, ideal for carving) and shows Jesus with his disciples at the Last Supper before his death at the hands of the Romans. The design of this scene is taken from a painting in Milan by the famous Italian artist, Leonardo Da Vinci. He also painted the Mona Lisa.

Look above and see the wonderful stained glass window of Jesus being lowered from the cross. These windows were designed by Victorian artists and very much in the style of the Pre-raphaelites, a group of very famous English artists. This window is a fine example of its kind. Can you see the Roman soldier and his banner SPQR?

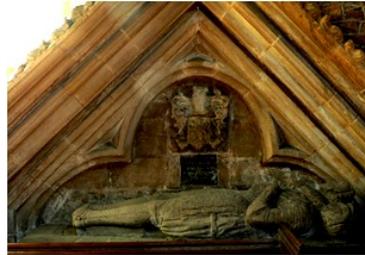
Look closely, can you see to whom the window is dedicated? Can you see a marble head carving of this man nearby? Which century did he live?



Have you heard of this man before, in the school perhaps? He had grand plans for education. He organised a big music concert to help fund his ideas. St. Peter's church held the very first performance of Handel's, 'Messiah', in a parish church. This is our big claim to fame because this is a very famous work of music. Look up Georg Frideric Handel on Google!

Sir Richard Roberts

Sir Richard Roberts was a knight of the realm. He looks like he might have fought as a royalist in the English Civil War between the Roundheads and the Cavaliers, but he actually died in 1644 aged 80. The war did not start until 1642 so he was a bit old to be swinging a sword about! He was Lord of the Manor at Thorpe Langton. Look at his tomb to see the style of dress for the 17th century.



Memorial chapel

This is for the men who died in the First World War. There is a powerful picture called 'For the Fallen' by local fine artist and church member, Maxine Dodd. Can you find evidence of the men from our villages who died in the First World War in other parts of the church? What are their names? Who won the Distinguished Conduct Medal? What was his role in the church?



The Vicar Board

There are some interesting men on the Vicar board, which is near the main door. One man stands out, he was martyred (killed for his faith) in Coventry. Who was he and why was he killed? At that time, after the death of Henry VIII, there was a great divide between the Roman Catholics and the new emerging Protestant church, The daughter of Henry, Queen Mary, was on the throne. She tried to crush the new religion and our vicar was having none of it! He was made an example of and burned at the stake in 1555 because he would not back down.

Look for the big hole!

If you stand in the middle of the church looking towards the east window, you will see a big hole up to the left hand side of the massive chancel arch. What can this be? It is from a time when this church was Roman Catholic as all churches of that age were. This was an entry for a preaching gallery known as a Rood Loft over a Rood screen between the nave and the chancel. Nearly all of these holes in other churches have been blocked off, but ours never was.

