

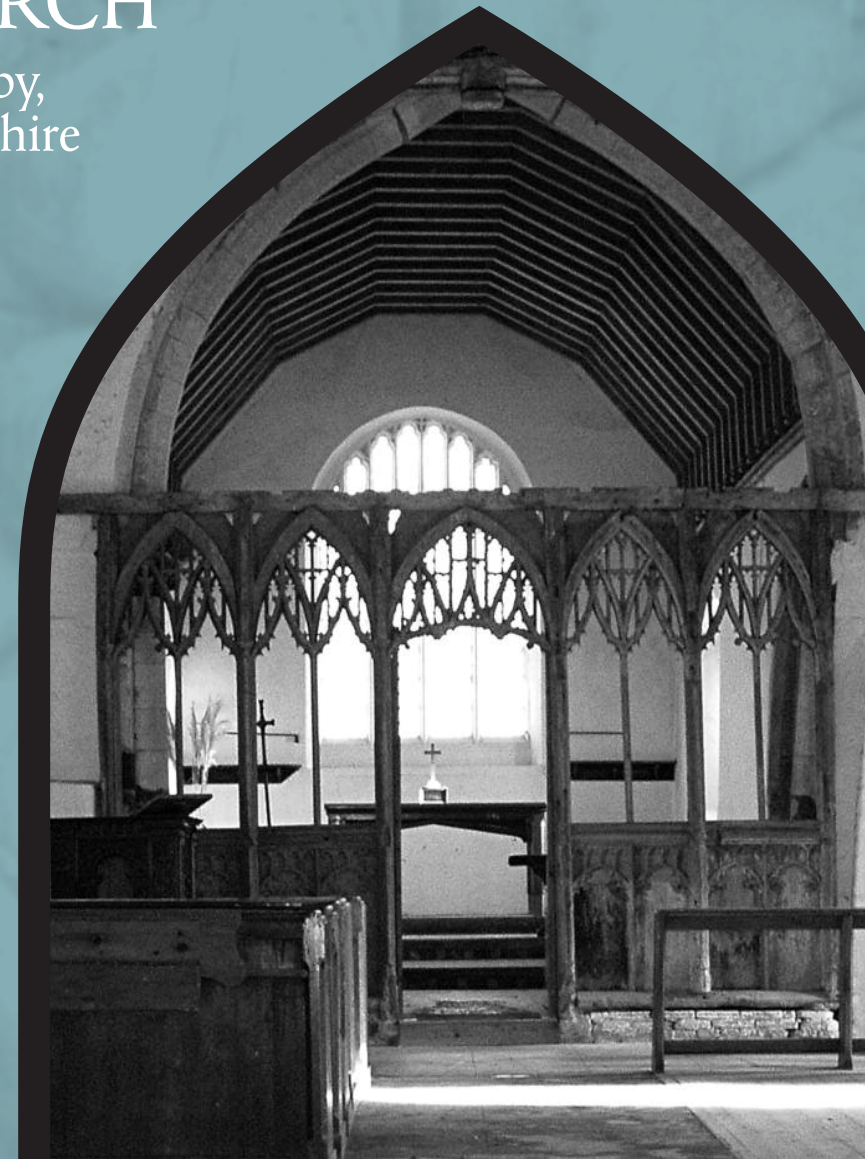


THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Saltfleetby,
Lincolnshire



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

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Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

by Henry Thorold

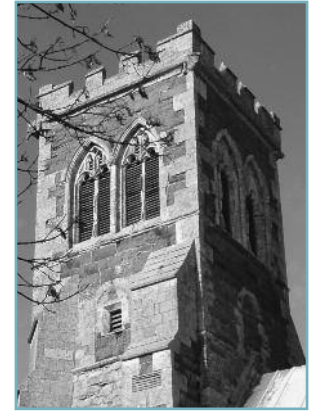
INTRODUCTION

Across the flat marshland Saltfleetby All Saints (sometimes pronounced 'Sollerby') is a prominent landmark: it stands there with its markedly leaning tower, with a few trees to accompany it, and a mere handful of houses close by. Why this imposing church in so slightly inhabited a neighbourhood? The answer is that at Saltfleet nearby there was once a thriving port, at the mouth of the Withern Eau, and a prosperous little township. In the reign of Edward III Saltfleet sent two ships for the invasion of Brittany, and this was then a well-populated district. The port later silted up, and the population dwindled.

*Front cover: The chancel screen
(Peter Gregory)*

*Left: The south aisle and font
(John Smith)*





EXTERIOR INTERIOR

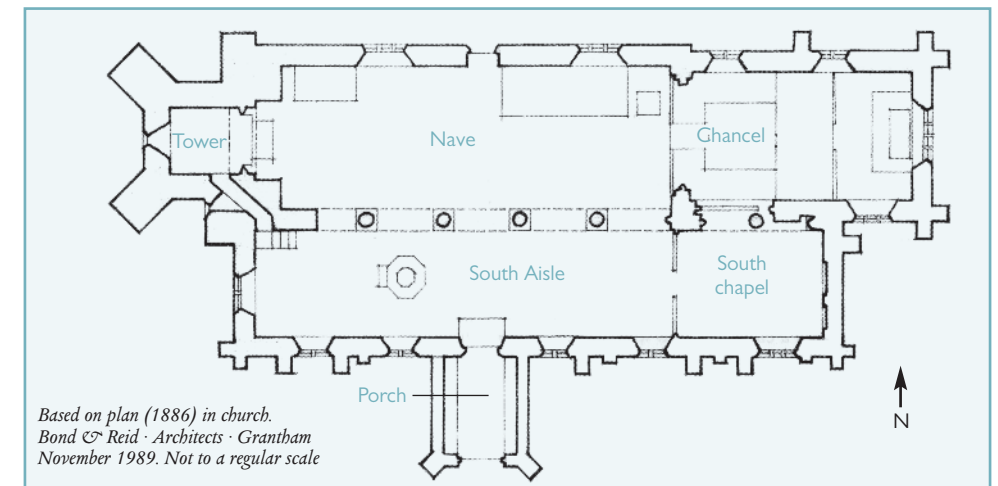
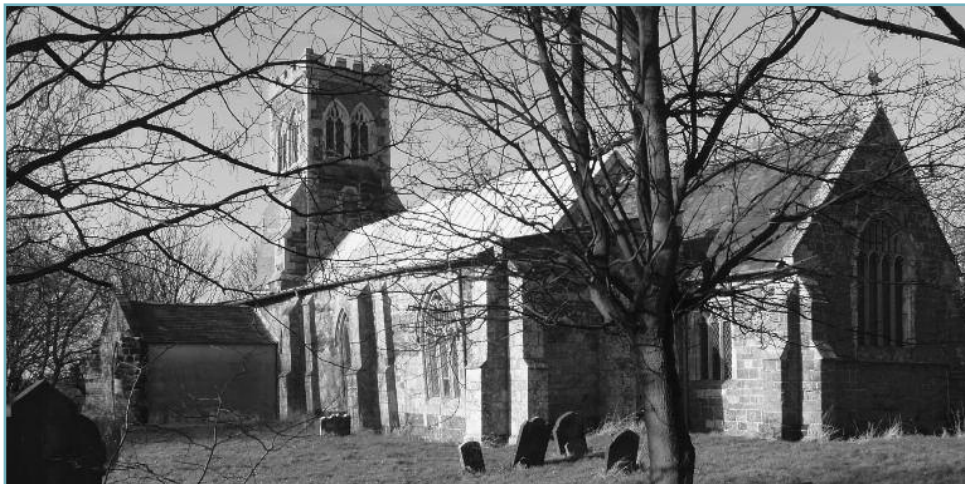
Outside, the church appears particularly endearing. Its tower, 13th century in its lower stages with two delicate lancet windows, 15th century above, leans to the west and is propped by massive buttresses, renewed by the architect R J Withers at his 1886 restoration. The long low nave is covered by a weighty, humpy, lead roof, which seems to be almost slipping off its crown. There are a prominent 15th century porch, built of stone and brick, 13th-century windows in the south aisle, with a Perpendicular window in its eastern chapel, and a chancel roofed with Victorian slates. On approaching, the porch appears distinguished, with armorial shields of the Grantham family, and another bearing emblems of the Passion.

Inside, the church is wide, light and spacious. There is a 13th-century arcade of five bays, separating nave from south aisle; there is no north aisle but in the north wall are a 15th-century doorway and a pair of flat-headed 15th-century windows with delightful tracery. The 15th-century heavy timbered roof was repaired in 1611. It crowns both nave and aisle – the nave roof being especially notable for its queen posts and tie beams. There are a few pews towards the east end, a box pew at the west end, and a 15th-century screen divides nave and chancel. The chancel arch has Norman scalloped capitals – a relic of the Norman church.

The chancel was tactfully rebuilt in 1873 and here there are Victorian pitch-pine furnishings. The 'double' arcade between chancel and south chapel is peculiar: it seems that at first there was a two-bay arcade here – the pillar has a Norman scalloped capital. When the chapel was rebuilt in the 14th century, a new single arch was built, perhaps with a view to removing the earlier arcade – an intention which was never carried out. In the chapel is a most interesting, rare, 14th-century stone reredos (reminiscent of the one at Theddlethorpe All Saints – now also in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust), and a 14th-century screen divides the chapel from the aisle.

There are two pulpits – one low, simple, rustic, probably Elizabethan, near the chancel screen; the other at the west end – a magnificent, highly sophisticated, lofty fellow of the 17th century, ornate with pedimented panels and arches in perspective. This comes from Oriel college, Oxford, and was part of the splendid woodwork of the chapel, but thrown out in the 19th century and presented to Saltfleetby, an Oriel living, in 1935. Here it stands, unused, beautiful and somewhat incongruous, as though awaiting a grand academic occasion which never occurs.

The font is a curiosity – a made-up affair with 13th century bowl standing on a 14th century triple shaft, all set on another, later, upturned



Right: The Oriel College pulpit (Peter Gregory)

Below: The nave from the west (John Smith)



bowl. The chest is 16th century. The stalls in the south chapel are from the demolished church at Miningsby, and All Saints' has provided a home for altar tables from Skidbrooke St Botolph (now also in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust) and Theddlethorpe. Also from Skidbrooke are three bells. Saltfleetby's own five bells hang in the tower and are a complete ring by James Harrison of Barton on Humber, 1799, in a contemporary oak frame.

All Saints' was declared pastorally redundant in 1973 and vested in the Redundant Churches Fund (now The Churches Conservation Trust) in 1976. The Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust and Historic Churches Preservation Trust had carried out urgent repairs in the 1950s. A fuller programme of work has been put in hand since 1976, under the supervision of Mr Lawrence Bond and, latterly, Mr Peter McFarlane of Messrs Bond and Read of Grantham.



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

The Churches Conservation Trust is the leading charity that cares for and preserves English churches of historic, architectural or archaeological importance that are no longer needed for regular worship. It promotes public enjoyment of them and their use as an educational and community resource.

Whatever the condition of the church when the Trust takes it over its aims are, first and foremost, to put the building and its contents into a sound and secure condition as speedily as possible. Then the church is repaired so that it is welcoming to visitors and those who attend the public events or occasional services that may be held there (Trust churches are still consecrated). Our objective is to keep it intact for the benefit of present and future generations, for local people and visitors alike to behold and enjoy.

There are over 335 Trust churches scattered widely through the length and breadth of England, in town and country, ranging from charmingly simple buildings in lovely settings to others of great richness and splendour; some are hard to find, all are worth the effort.

Many of the churches are open all year round, others have keyholders nearby; all are free. A notice regarding opening arrangements or keyholders will normally be found near the door. Otherwise, such information can be obtained direct from the Trust during office hours or from the website www.visitchurches.org.uk.

Visitors are most welcome and we hope this guidebook will encourage you to explore these wonderful buildings.

NEARBY ARE THE TRUST CHURCHES OF

St Botolph, Skidbrooke
7 miles E of Louth off B1200

St Peter, South Somercotes
8 miles NE of Louth off B1200

All Saints, Theddlethorpe
7 miles E of Louth off A1031

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