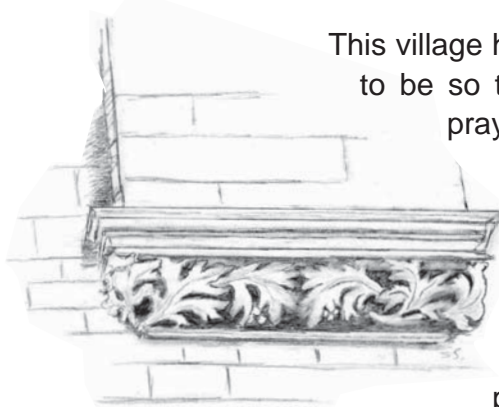


A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE CHURCH

Welcome to the Church of St Andrew, The Blessed Virgin Mary and St Nicholas, the Parish Church of Burton Pedwardine.

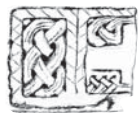


A fine example of pierced stonework surviving from the Decorated Gothic period

This village has been a centre of worship for over 1000 years and continues to be so today. Please take the time to sit quietly and appreciate the prayerful atmosphere, and say a prayer about whatever is most on your mind at the moment.

The Church you are in is the fourth, and possibly fifth, to have been built on or near this site, and is largely the result of the last re-building in 1870/71. As you look around you will find relics of earlier churches built in the Saxon era and in the Gothic period (12th–early 16th Century). The Domesday Book records the existence of a church here in the 11th Century.

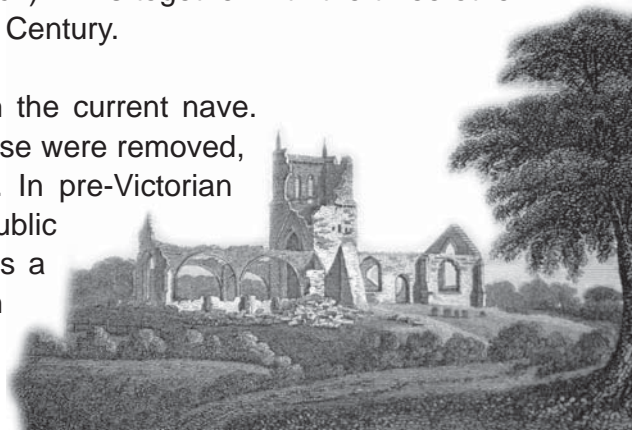
There is a long history of Christianity in Lincolnshire, with outposts such as Lincoln remaining Christian from the time of the Romans, throughout the pagan years of the early Saxons and the Danish invaders (who settled throughout this area) to the present day.



THE NAVE

You have entered the Nave of the 1870 church, which was built (see the panel to the left of the door) to replace what has been described as a "mean structure" built when the 14th Century Gothic church collapsed in 1802 (as shown in the engraving below). Of this maligned early 19th Century building nothing seems to have survived, but as you entered you may have noticed to your left remains of the Saxon Church. Built into the west wall are six beautifully carved stones, with interlaced motifs, variously described as grave covers or fragments of cross shafts probably dating from the 10th Century. Note the one in the shape of an ox, or possibly a dragon. There is also what Pevsner describes as an "excellent large capital with schematic volutes and upright leaves" (which would have been placed at the top of a column, supporting an arch). This together with the three other smaller pieces of stonework is probably from the 11th Century.

The adjacent font appears to be contemporary with the current nave. There were originally oak pews, but at some time these were removed, to the great advantage of the current parishioners. In pre-Victorian times the naves of churches were often used for public purposes other than the regular services, and this is a tradition we keep here. As the only "public" building in the village, the Church is used for meetings, and packed with tables and chairs we can seat most of the residents of the village for the Harvest Supper.



As you walk up the nave (built in the Geometrical Decorated style by the distinguished Sleaford based Church Architect Charles Kirk Jn.) you will see the organ, a fine instrument dating to about 1820, which was probably built as a chamber organ, and brought here much later. On the other side of the Chancel Arch you can see the chimney to the coke heater which was used to heat the church before the coming of electricity. Outside you will see that the chimney pot remains.

THE CHANCEL

In the Chancel the Victorian choir stalls remain. In the Sanctuary (matching those in the Nave) are Victorian Minton tiles. Relics from the earlier building are found here as well, including a Perpendicular Gothic semi octagonal base for a shafted pier, built into the wall by the entrance to the transept.

THE NORTH TRANSEPT



The glory of the church is to be found through the doorway to your left. You go down steps into the north transept of the church built in the Decorated Gothic style by Roger Pedwardine in about 1340 (who gives his name to the village to distinguish it from the several other Burtons in Lincolnshire). This church was cruciform in shape, with a tower in the centre, nave and chancel of almost equal lengths, north and south aisles, and north and south transepts. In front of you is the fine North Window, with its design of trefoiled circles and ogee arches. Beneath this window is the tomb of Alice de Pedwardine who died in 1330, in black marble with Lombardic script.

On the west wall, against the blocked up arch to the former north aisle (and so presumably moved there after the 14th Century church collapsed in 1802 having fallen into disrepair) is a magnificent alabaster memorial to Sir Thomas Horsman (d1610) who held the Manor in Elizabethan times. The brass set into the floor marks the burial of other members of the same family. To the left of the memorial is what is believed to be the stone core of a bell mould. It is not clear how old it is, nor what it is doing here.



OUTSIDE



The ground in the church yard is very uneven, with many holes created by rabbits and moles ready to trip you up. You will find that most of the gravestones are from the 19th Century or later, but there are some much older ones with indistinct markings, several of which are slowly disappearing under the ground.

On the west end of the present church is a pretty bellcote, which appears to have been made from some of the remaining stone of the 14th Century church.

If you walk around the outside of the north chapel you can see evidence of the changes which have been made to the church. Incisions around the north-east corner suggest evidence that a stair turret once stood here, and the existence of the north aisle is clearly seen, as the arch appears to have been very hastily blocked up, using any pieces of stone laying around (look carefully and you will see a medieval carving of an angel amongst them), with no attempt to match the remaining stone work.

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to our church. Please come again; you will find details of forthcoming services on the notice board at the end of the path.

