

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BARBY

## A Short History of St. Mary's Church, Barby

There is so much to see and enjoy in St. Mary's. We hope that you find this short guide of help and interest. The numbers in the text refer to the plan and key on the reverse.

Barby has had a church since Saxon times and its foundation has been attributed to 891. Fragments of the early building can be seen in the church (5, 12), and it is likely that stone from the building was used in the restoration of the church in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The chancel and the tower date from that period. The north and south side chapels (3, 9) were added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the priest's room (16) over the north porch is contemporary with them. The nave was extended southwards in the 16th century.

In the 17th century the chancel was enlarged eastwards and the tower was restored during the time of the Revd. Richard Thorpe in the 1660s. The building was largely unaltered until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when there was a major restoration by Canon R Stovin Mitchison. During this work medieval wall paintings were uncovered when the walls were treated but little trace remains today. In 1996 - 97 the stonework of the tower, together with lead and other stonework, were again restored and the clock was refurbished. The most recent major project has been the installation of a new central heating system in 2000 and the refurbishment of the south aisle chapel which is now set aside for private prayer.

One fragment of medieval glass (W2) remains but most of the windows were made by Charles Kempe (W1, W3 - W15) in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The organ (10) dates from 1807 and there is a story that the carol "Once in Royal David's city, was composed on it when it was in private hands. A silver Elizabethan chalice from 1570 A.D. marked T.E.O. (Thos. HEARD LONDON) is now on display at Peterborough Cathedral. There is a peal of five bells, the fifth (the Treble) was added in 2002 for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The list of Rectors (1) is complete from 1230.

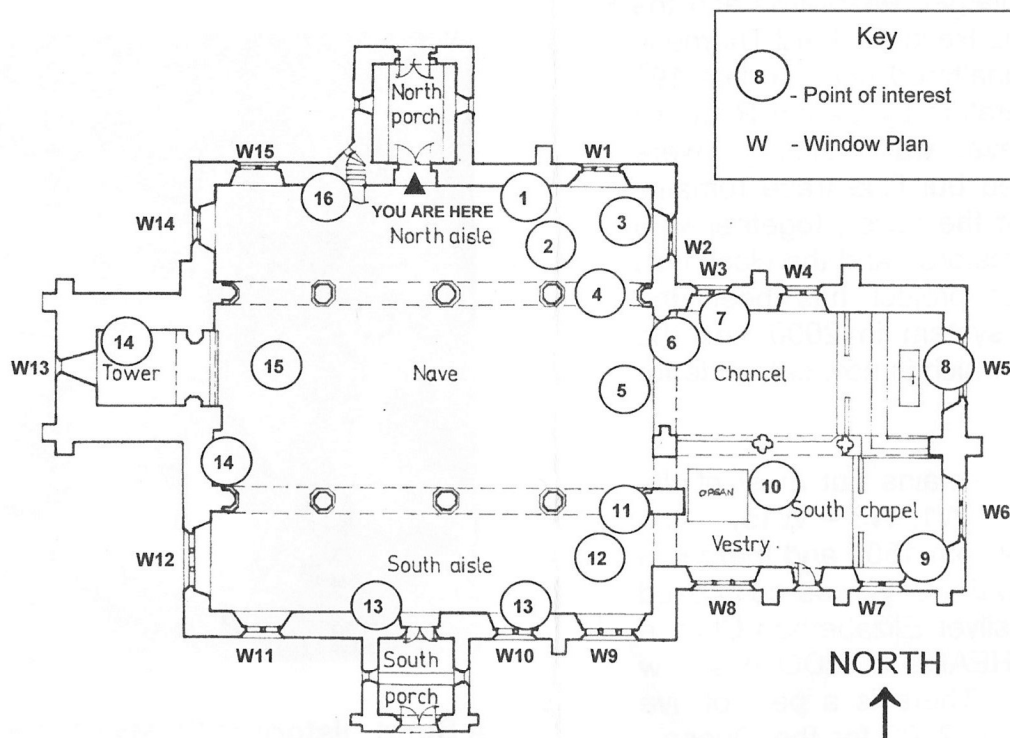
Maintaining and improving the fabric of an ancient church such as this is a heavy responsibility for a small community. The Barby Church Trust would value your interest and support. Contact in the first instance the Rector, tel. 01788 890252.

Before you leave, do sit and enjoy the tranquillity of this place. Please keep the day-to-day life and worship of St. Mary's in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for coming, please come again.

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH – POINTS OF INTEREST

1. List of Rectors – from William Orgitt (1230) to present day
2. Examples of “grotesques” and other medieval carvings in stone
3. Medieval Piscina: a drain for the disposal of holy water
4. Unusual 19<sup>th</sup> century eagle lectern, in bronze
5. Fragments of Celtic crosses above chancel arch
6. Jacobean oak altar rails – moved forward to the chancel step in the 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration
7. Finely carved Victorian clergy stalls
8. Reredos (Victorian). Like many of the windows, this was a gift from Canon Mitchison's family
9. Medieval Piscina (see 3 above) to serve the South Chapel
10. Organ: made by Flight and Robson in 1807. Originally a chamber organ the pedals and extra pipes were added later. It came to St. Mary's in 1957
11. Pulpit (Victorian)
12. Ancient tombstone possibly Saxon (reputedly of a noble family) situated under wooden hatch
13. Ancient fragments of stone – including a small Saxon window – set into south wall
14. Memorials of various Rectors and other benefactors
15. Font (Victorian)
16. Stairway to room over north porch – used in medieval times by the “Chantry” priest

## A WALK AROUND ST. MARY'S CHURCH BARBY



CHURCH OF ST MARY BARBY – Window plan and points of interest

### A note on the Stained-glass windows

The windows in St. Mary's Barby are nearly all made by the renowned firm of Kempe. Look for the company logo (in the bottom left corner of most of the windows) of a WHEATSHEAF. After Charles Kempe's death the company was bought by a Mr Tower. A TOWER was then placed within the Wheatsheaf logo.

Other “hallmarks” of the best Kempe and Tower windows are the peacock-feather angel wings and the meticulously painted countryside scenes.

## WINDOW PLAN

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|-----|---|
| W1  | Jesus at the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee   |
| W2  | Crucifixion scene, with Roman Centurion looking on<br>The St. Mary's Memorial window<br>Noted: also (above it) the Nativity Scene – the only remaining medieval glass in St. Mary's                                   |
| W3  | The Annunciation of Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary  |
| W4  | The Shepherds receive the good news of the birth of Jesus   |
| W5  | Large east window crucifixion scene, with Mary and St. John looking on  |
| W6  | Mary with Jesus as a child, flanked by St. Peter and St. Paul   |
| W7  | A “Musical” window, featuring four angels playing various instruments   |
| W8  | The wise men come to see Jesus<br>Note: Windows 3,4 and 8 belong together, they offer a wonderful “trilogy” on the Incarnation of Christ  |
| W9  | Jesus and his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane   |
| W10 | The risen Christ and two men on the road to Emmaus. Note: the dedication to the Bosworth family, farmers who “for 400 years worshipped in this church.”   |
| W11 | “He is Risen!” Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, and to the women who came to the tomb   |
| W12 | Following Pentecost (and the gift of the Holy Spirit,) the church begins to grow. Here we see the preaching of the “good news” to people of every race and nation. The central figure is therefore, probably St. Paul |
| W13 | St. George slaying the dragon. This scene stands out powerfully in the darkness of the Tower  |
| W14 | St. John prepares to write his Gospel. Note the Eagle – the traditional “symbol” of St. John the Evangelist   |
| W15 | Children come with their mothers to see Jesus   |