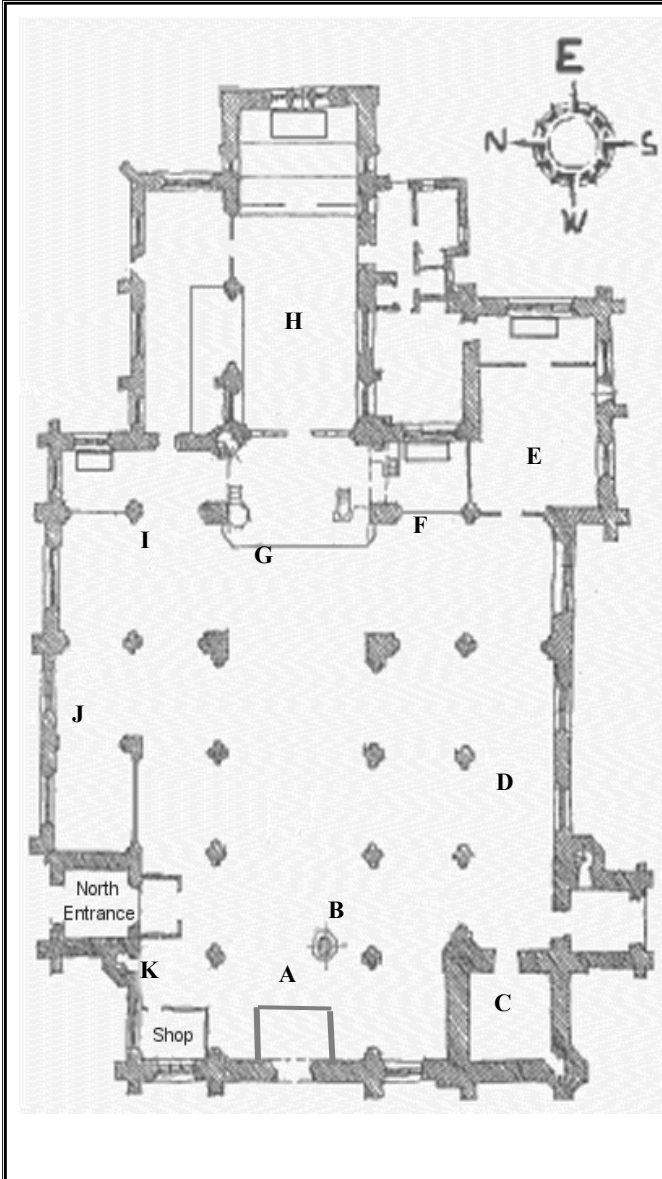


There has been a church on this site since 1051. The present building dates from 1284 and it has been extended and altered ever since. It was extensively restored in the 1860's when the architect, George Gilbert Scott oversaw the work at the request of the Vicar, Canon Edward Moore.



## *Around the Parish Church of St Mary & St Nicolas*

### **A:NAVE**

This is the main body of the church. The 1284 church was only as high as the arches. In 1450 the pillars were raised by two metres, the arches rebuilt, the top storey added with the upper windows. The oak hammer-beamed roof was constructed. There are 28 carved angels in the roof

The west window, originally plain glass, was completely destroyed by a gale in 1662. The present one, showing the 12 apostles, was put in place in 1865.

The porch was built, and became the main entrance, in 2013.

### **B:FONT**

At the 1868 font, water is blessed and poured over those being baptised to mark the beginning of their journey of faith within the family of the church.

### **C:TOWER**

Built around 1360, with the spire added about 100 years later. Its north-east lean has required much structural reinforcement to ensure its stability. The tower contains a peal of eight bells rung by an enthusiastic team of ringers, to call people to worship.

### **D: SOUTH AISLE**

The two windows nearest the door were installed in 1966. One includes tulip picking and potato packing. The other includes Spalding Grammar School, which is the building behind Jesus as he listens to the teachers in the Jerusalem Temple.

The third window, 1951, uses imagery from Revelation chapter 21.

There are several memorials to the Johnson family who lived in the neighbouring Ayscoughfee Hall. The painted hatchments above the arches in the nave were carried at their funerals.

There is evidence in the last pillars and niche in the wall that this used to be one of many side chapels.

### **E: ST THOMAS' CHAPEL**

Built in 1315, and now dedicated to Thomas Becket of Canterbury, this chapel is used for weekday services and for prayer.

Consecrated bread and wine is reserved here and taken to those who are ill or housebound and so unable to share in worship at church.

From 1568 until 1881 the Grammar School occupied an upper room in this chapel. The current restoration dates from 1885.

The main window shows stories of the birth and childhood of Jesus. The other windows show Jesus as a man and God, and as the Light of the World and the Good Shepherd.

### **F: ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL**

Refurbished by the Friends of St Mary & St Nicolas in 1991. This chapel is a memorial to those who died in the First World War

Remnants of red paint can be seen on the large arch near the chapel, evidence that the inside of the church was brightly painted in the Middle Ages.

### **G: THE CROSSING**

The brass chandelier is dated 1760. It has 36 candles which are lit for major festivals.

The carved oak pulpit replaced a massive 3-decker pulpit which dominated the nave prior to restoration in 1866.

The Bible is read from the brass lectern. The eagle and the ball on which it stands represent the word of God being carried to every part of the world.

The rood (Old English word for 'cross') screen divides the nave from the chancel. It was reconstructed in 1870 incorporating parts of the original fifteenth century screen. A door at the base of the pillar gives access to the top of the screen. Above it hangs the great rood cross which was repainted in 1959.

The organ loft, along with a new case for some of the pipes, was built in 1972.

## H: CHANCEL

Before 1284 there was a cemetery chapel, dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr, where the chancel now stands.

The ceiling was painted in 1959. The east window tells the story of Jesus death and resurrection. The altar is a slab of limestone resting on timbers from the old roof.

The Millennium screen shows St Nicolas and the Virgin Mary. The words are from Psalm 90.

The church has a large choir of men and boys who sing at the Parish Eucharist and Evensong on Sunday.

## I: NORTH TRANSEPT

High up you can see the circular openings which used to be windows before the outer aisles were built.

The Corpus Christi chapel has recently been refurbished. The window behind the altar shows the Ascension of Jesus (when he returned to Heaven forty days after the Resurrection).

## J: NORTH AISLE

The first window shows the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The second shows the parable of the talents (Matthew 24: 14-30).

The third window is dedicated to two brothers-in-law who were killed in the First World War. They are shown in the costume of medieval soldiers, taking their place in heaven. 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' (Revelation 2: 10)

## K: THE PARVIS ROOM

The door up steps near the shop leads to a small room above the porch. This room has been an armoury, a library, a chapel and a store room during its long history.

## DONATIONS

Put any contribution towards the church in the safe by the shop. Please use one of the envelopes so that we can reclaim gift-aid. Thank you

## SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Family Communion <i>followed by coffee in St Nicolas Hall</i>
	<i>or</i>
	Worship for All (first Sunday of the month) <i>followed by refreshments in church</i>
11.00am	Parish Eucharist
11.15am	Connect <i>Contemporary worship in St Nicolas Hall</i>
6.30pm	Evensong

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesday	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday	
1.15	Pram Service <i>For carers and small children, in term time.</i>
Monday -Friday	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
Monday-Thursday	
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Friday	
7.00pm	Evening Prayer

## CLERGY

Vicar	The Revd John Bennett	01775 719668
Associate Vicar	The Revd Mike Chesher	01775 712502
Assistant Curate	The Revd Frankie Lee	01775 711400

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT

If you would like more detailed information, the shop has a guide book, booklets on the windows, the hatchments and the memorials and leaflets about the Perry Memorial and the chancel ceiling.

Please sign the Visitors Book and give us your comments. We hope you will come again.

# Welcome to



### Parish Office

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Monday to Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

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