

= St Botolph 's Church , Quarrington =

St Botolph 's Church is an Anglican place of worship in the village of Quarrington , part of the civil parish of Sleaford in Lincolnshire , England . The area has been settled since at least the Anglo @-@ Saxon period and a church existed there by the time Domesday was compiled in 1086 , when it formed part of Ramsey Abbey 's fee . It was granted to Haverholme Priory in c . 1165 , but the Bishop of Lincoln presented the rector during the early 16th century , before it passed to Robert Carre and his descendants . With capacity for 124 people , the church serves the ecclesiastic parish of Quarrington with Old Sleaford and , as of 2009 , has an average congregation of 50 .

Recognised for its age and tracery , the church has been designated a grade II * listed building . It consists of a tower and spire with a nave and north aisle spanning eastwards and ending at a chancel . The oldest parts of the building date to the 13th century , although substantial rebuilding took place over the following century . Renovations followed and the local architect Charles Kirk the younger carried out restoration work in 1862 ? 63 , when he added the chancel in his parents ' memory . The high interior spans three bays of arcading which complement the windows along either side of the nave 's south wall and north aisle ; those on the south wall are particularly unusual for their incorporation of hexagons and trefoils into the reticulated designs .

= = Description = =

St Botolph 's Church is the parish church of the benefice of Quarrington with Old Sleaford , which encompasses most of the village of Quarrington in the English non @-@ metropolitan county of Lincolnshire . The benefice is a rectory and falls within the deanery of Lafford and the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln ; the present priest @-@ in @-@ charge is Rev. Mark Stephen Thomson , who took over from Rev. Sandra Rhys Benham in 2016 . Dedicated to St Botolph , the church is on Town Road . The rectory was constructed in c . 2000 and has a study area used as the parish office . As of 2015 , services are scheduled for Sundays and Wednesdays : Holy Communion from 11 : 00 am on every second , third and fourth Sunday and every Wednesday at 10 : 00 am ; a family service on every first Sunday of the month at 11 : 00 am .

Along with 20 spaces in the choir stalls , the nave and aisle pews can comfortably seat 124 adults and " 149 at a pinch " ; as of 2009 , the average congregation size for the main Sunday service was 50 , about half of whom were retired and 1 ? 3 were under 16 . In 2004 a log cabin @-@ style building was constructed by Pinelog Ltd using funds from the Parochial Church Council . It serves as a robing space for choristers and can be used as a meeting room for up to 30 people . Equipped with disabled toilet facilities , the building also serves as a Sunday School .

= = History = =

= = = Background , origins and advowson = = =

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and , despite the presence of Late Iron Age and Roman communities in Sleaford , only scattered Roman coins and pottery sherds have been uncovered around Quarrington . The first written record of the village occurs in the Domesday Book of 1086 , but the remains of an early and middle Anglo @-@ Saxon rural community have been discovered beneath fields around the village , along with evidence for pig and sheep @-@ rearing and metalworking . Ramsey Abbey possessed a manor at Quarrington from c . 1051 and , by the time Domesday was compiled , this included two churches . The antiquarian James Creasey suggested that the missing church was All Saints ' in Old Sleaford , where the Abbey held a manor as sokeland of Quarrington , while the antiquarian Edward Trollope thought it had been lost , buried " probably in a farm yard now occupied by Mrs. Cubley " . In 1909 , two amateur local historians , H. Greenval and F. Cenlices , reckoned that both churches were lost and had stood on land marked by stone crosses near Tellgate on the Sleaford ? Folkingham road and on Stump Cross Hill . But in

1979 , the local historians Christine Mahany and David Roffe reassessed the Domesday evidence and , after analysing the manorial structure , documentary evidence and the history of the advowson of All Saints ' , concluded that it was the second church in the Abbey 's manor of Quarrington .

Henry Selvein , a knight , held Quarrington of the Abbey and in c . 1165 granted it to Haverholme Priory , who presented Alexander de Brauncewell as rector in 1218 . The priory are known to have presented rectors in 1248 and 1269 as well . The Bishop of Lincoln , who had held a manor at Quarrington since Domesday , claimed the right to present its rector in the early 16th century . Bishop Holbeach alienated the manor to the Crown in 1547 and it was eventually purchased by the Sleaford merchant Robert Carre , but the Bishop still tried to present the rector ; Carre protested and the dispute was settled when Lord Chief Justice Coke ruled that Carre would present in future .

= = = Construction and later history = = =

A " very narrow " chancel arch existed until the mid @-@ 19th century and might have been pre @-@ Conquest , but the earliest visible part of the church is the 13th century north arcade , which may have been added to an earlier , now @-@ lost nave . The spire and tower date to the middle of the next century , roughly when the nave was rebuilt . Many of the windows are reticulated in a fashion popular during the early 14th century . Several medieval bequests are known : Olivia , wife of John Rossen of Quarrington left 12 pence to the rector and church each in 1412 ; a donation of wool was made by another parishioner , Joan , wife of William Ward , around the same time . Later , 8 pence was left to the churchwardens by an unknown resident .

In the latter half of the 16th century , the living of Old Sleaford became " extremely poor " and the church probably fell out of use . Some time afterwards , the rector of Quarrington obtained a presentation to Old Sleaford , but , discovering the lack of tithes , he left . Robert Carre convinced him to take in the parishioners of Old Sleaford at Quarrington in return for a yearly payment ; as of 2015 , the parishes are still combined . Amendments to the fabric of the church were made in the early modern period , beginning when the chancel was rebuilt on a smaller scale some time after the restoration and inset with 12th and 13th century stonework , the whole thing described as " very miserable " by Edward Trollope . This was replaced in 1812 by a Georgian @-@ style building , constructed under the guidance of the rector , Charles Blomfield . The North Aisle was rebuilt in 1848 and a new pulpit , screen and pews were added the following year .

The Victorian period witnessed extensive restoration work at Quarrington , where most of the nave 's windows were altered , and the chancel and part of the vestry were rebuilt by Charles Kirk in 1862 ? 63 ; parts of the tower and spire were remodelled 24 years later . The Census of Religious Worship (1851) reveals that the Church had 120 sittings , attendances of 20 and 40 in the morning and afternoon respectively and 20 Sunday scholars . As Sleaford expanded , houses were built along London and Station Roads , pushing the town inside the Quarrington parish boundaries in what became New Quarrington . To deal with the growing population , a second church was designed in the early 1900s on donated land in the parish , to be built closer to Sleaford . Disruption during World War I , parish boundary changes in 1928 , and rising costs delayed the plans . Instead a church hall was built in 1932 on Grantham Road and is now used as a community centre . An extension to the Church was added in 2001 , providing a kitchen , disabled toilet and other facilities ; built in matching stone , it incorporated a stained glass window from the north aisle .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

St Botolph 's Church consists of a west tower adjoining a nave with a north aisle ; at the end of the nave is a chancel with a chapel on the north side . Owing to its age , the " excellent " tracery and a " very good " 14th century door , the church has been listed at grade II * on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest in the United Kingdom since 1949 , recognising it as " particularly important ... of more than special interest " .

Incorporating a window and two @-@ light openings for the bell , the tower and its spire have been dated to the mid @-@ 14th century , although its pinnacles were replaced in 1887 . Trollope did not

like the spire 's design , saying that it " looks as if it had slipped down " . Built in a Decorated Gothic style , the tower joins to the nave with a triple @-@ chamfered arch . The nave has been heavily restored and contains elements from a range of periods . The architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner refers to the south wall as " puzzling " because of the tracery ? it is unclear what is " Victorian fancy " and what is " correct restoration " . The wall itself is 14th century (Pevsner suggests c . 1300) and incorporates a priest 's doorway with mouldings , capitals and a bust of a man ; the windows to its east have been restored , but follow a 14th @-@ century reticulated style , although unusually they feature hexagons with pointed trefoils : " the oddest patterns " , as Pevsner puts it . The north aisle is from the 13th century , although a 12th @-@ century doorway sits between its late @-@ 14th @-@ century windows . At the eastern end of the nave is the chancel , which has a polygonal (quingualgular) apse and was constructed between 1862 and 1863 by Charles Kirk the younger in memory of his parents , the elder Charles Kirk and his wife Elizabeth . Its windows were made by Ward and Hughes .

Both Pevsner and Historic England regard the interior as high relative to the Church 's small size . The nave has arcading across three bays with chamfered arches and capitals ; the arcades on the north side are Early English and , dating to the 13th century , are the earliest visible parts of the church . Historic England suggest that this nave was likely added to an earlier , now @-@ lost nave . The westernmost arch is wider and shorter than the rest , giving what Trollope called " a very awkward appearance " . The chancel arch follows a 13th @-@ century style , although it was built with the 1862 ? 63 work . Inside the chancel , shafts with floral capitals adorn the walls , while the tiled flooring and painted roof give it a " rich " appearance . The nave includes 19th and 20th century windows by H. Hughes (1877) and Burlison and Grylls , while another (dated 1917) commemorates the Barrett family . Morris and Co. worked on a window in the north aisle in 1935 .

The church 's fixtures include a 19th @-@ century pulpit and choir stalls , and chancel screen in a Decorated style ; a font from the 14th century has foliage designs on the bowl , but lacks a base . The earliest record of an organ at St Botolph 's is from 1867 , when one was opened for the chancel by Bevington ; it has since been moved to Pointon . In 1915 , the church paid for organ bought from N. E. Snow to be fixed by Cousans at the cost of £ 130 . The present organ , however , was built in 1929 by J. J. Binns and has two manuals and a pedalboard . Some of the memorials in St Botolph 's date to the 18th and 19th century , although a plaque commemorating one Thomas Appleby dates to 1683 and several other 17th century tablets were noted by Gervase Holles . A tablet to Romaine Hervey (d . 1837) by J. J. Saunders is inside the church ; elsewhere in the grounds are tombstones belonging to the Sharpe and Kirk families and markers to the Shannons , including the artist Charles Haslewood Shannon (d . 1937) , whose father , Rev. Frederick William Shannon , was rector of Quarrington and Old Sleaford from 1861 to 1910 .