

An Outline History

The earliest mention of Wymeswold Church dates to the 1170s, when the patronage of the parish and lands to support it, was given to Beauchief Abbey (Sheffield) by Robert FitzRanulph.

Middle Ages: a church of yellow marlstone was built in the 12th or 13th century. Most of the present building dates to the 14th century when the nave and tower were reconstructed. In the 15th century, the chancel and tower were largely rebuilt, and a clerestory was added above the nave. There was a spire, but it was struck by lightning in 1783 and had to be dismantled.

Inside, the 15th century saw the installation of a roodscreen, and a new oak roof with elaborate bosses. There was a painted and gilt alabaster reredos, either 14th or 15th century in date.

After the Reformation: the interior of the church was altered over time. The Ten Commandments were painted on the chancel wall. Box pews and other seats were added. A triple-decker pulpit and reader's desk was installed in the early 17th century and in the 18th century, a west gallery was erected for musicians. All of these were taken out in the 19th century.

There are six bells by Thomas Osborn of Downham Market, 1795.

'Preserving A.W. Pugin's Church: St Mary's, Wymeswold Roof Repairs and Community Heritage Stories' is made possible with the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

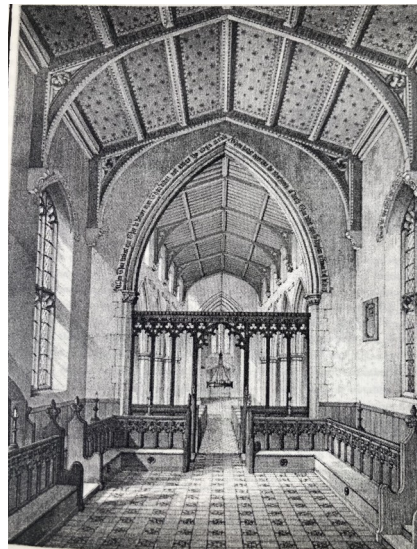
(2025 edition)



The Church of the Reverend Henry Alford and A.W. Pugin (1844-46)

The Reverend Henry Alford became vicar in 1835 and was keen to repair and modernise St Mary's. He engaged Augustus Pugin, who undertook a thorough restoration between 1844 and 1846. The aisles were rebuilt, along with the windows and roof of the church. The north porch was built, with an upper vestry room. The interior of the church was whitewashed, with texts added around the arches, and all fittings were replaced. Pews and a roodscreen were added in oak. A new pulpit and a font were installed. Lights, sconces and a lectern Bible were made for the church by Hardman of Birmingham. New stained glass was installed, by Wailes, Powell and Hardman.

Later restorations were carried out in the 1950s by the Reverend Lawrence Jackson. In the 1990s and 2007-8, a kitchen and toilet were added.



A Walk Around St Mary's Church, Wymeswold.



Welcome to St Mary's Parish Church, Wymeswold.

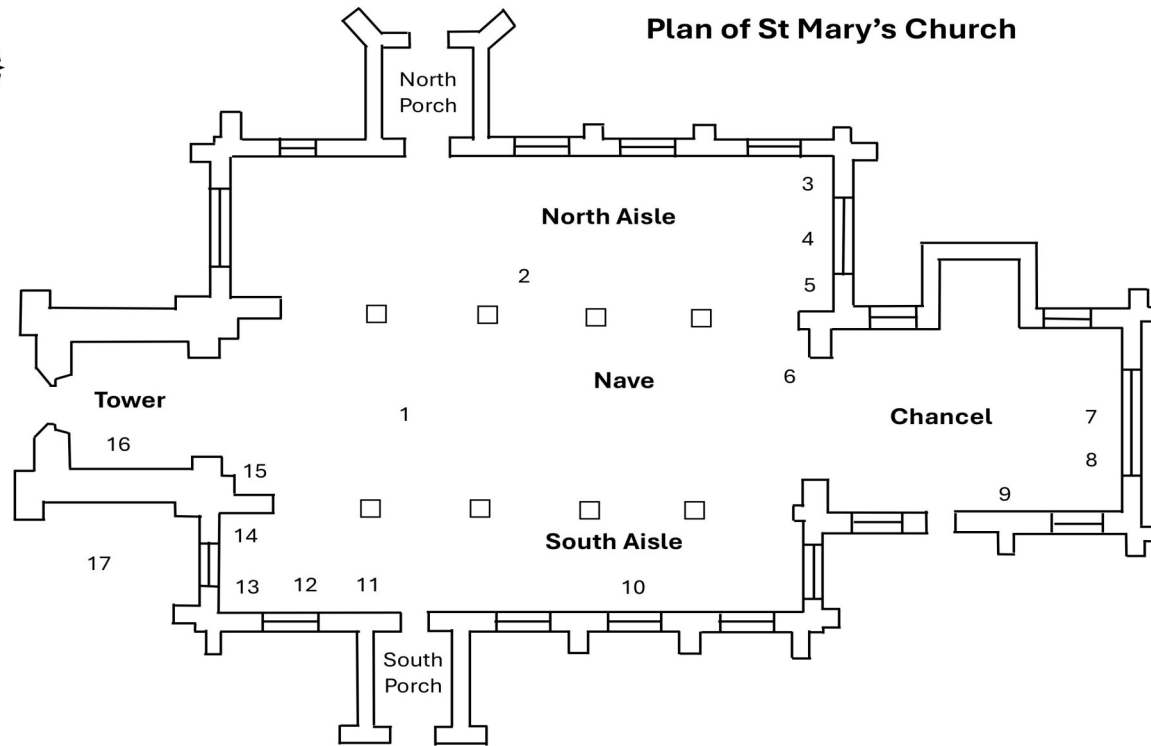
St Mary's is a place of Christian worship which has been used for over 800 years. The building we see today is largely medieval in construction, but it was completely reordered in 1844-46 by the architect A.W. Pugin. It remains a near-complete example of a Pugin-restored Anglican parish church.

The churchyard has a fine collection of Swithland slate headstones, some of which are engraved with 'Belvoir Angels'.





Plan of St Mary's Church

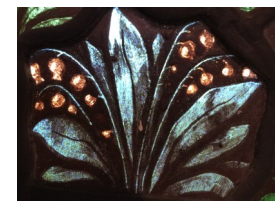


Features of Interest

1. In the centre of the nave hang brass corona lights, with sconces on the pillars (by Hardman of Birmingham, designed by A.W. Pugin; restored 1996).
2. Parish chest, with three locks.
3. List of the vicars of Wymeswold, next to Mothers' Union Banner.
4. Lady Chapel altar and window by Hardman.
5. The colours of RAF 504 Squadron (County of Nottingham). The squadron was based at Wymeswold airfield from 1949 to 1957.

6. Oak rood screen, designed by A.W. Pugin.
7. East window, by W. Wailes of Newcastle 1844
Altar back and curtain, 1957-58, given in memory of William Frederick Charles of Wymeswold, by his daughter Dorothy.
8. Embroidered kneelers at the altar rail, 1960s, by local crafters led by Miss Evans.
9. Wall memorial to the family of Thomas Rossell Potter, schoolmaster, of Wymeswold House, local antiquary and newspaper editor who wrote on local history of the villages around Loughborough.

10. Rolls of Honour, memorial window and memorabilia of the men of Wymeswold who served and fell in World Wars I and II.
11. Charity board for Wymeswold charitable trusts.
12. Font, 1840s, designed by A.W. Pugin, with the emblems of the four evangelists.
13. On the wall, fragments of the late medieval rood screen and roof bosses, in oak.
14. Memorial window to infant son of the Rev. Henry Alford, erected 1844.
15. Parish funeral bier.
16. Monument to William Leeke, sergeant at law, d.1687, aged 57. This was originally on the south wall of the chancel but removed to the base of the tower in the 1844 restoration. William Leeke was lord of Wymeswold manor. The baroque marble memorial was commissioned by his widow, Katherine.
17. Exterior, between the path and the church wall, one of several examples of a Swithland slate headstone with a carving of a Wymeswold-type 'Belvoir angel'.
18. (Not shown on plan) the lychgate entry was designed by A.W. Pugin.



For further information see:
<https://www.wymeswold.com/>
<https://www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com/>