

Welcome to Haltham

A hamlet at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The name derives from the Old English holt+ham, meaning "homestead in a wood". It appeared in the 1086 Domesday Book as Holtha, with fifteen households and King William I as Lord of the Manor.



St Benedict's in 1785 with a thatched roof

The church consists of only a nave, chancel, and south porch, with a peculiar little wooden bell turret set off center of the west gable. The church has walling material principally of the local Spilsby green sandstone with limestone dressings and later red brick patching. The roofs are of English and Welsh slate. The present nave is late Norman and seems likely to have been a small two cell church originally. The unusual Norman carving above the south doorway is a unique feature of the church. The inner arch has chamfered reveals and a re-set early 12th century round arch.



In the churchyard is a good example of a 14th-century cross consisting of an octagonal shaft on a square base. It is designated as a Grade II listed building.

You will also see an example of a 13th century window with Y tracery on the south wall. Looking up on the west wall there is a 15th century three light window and two carved heads.



A main feature of the interior is the richly carved Dymoke family screen, that has been reconstructed using wood from a 15th century screen.



The layout of the church is different from most having evolved over time. The three-tiered Jacobean pulpit, has a tester above it and a bible from 1807. Below the pulpit is the precenter's stall and a box pew opposite. If you look closely you will see coloured decoration below the seat. Screening between Nave and Chancel dates from mediaeval times, this was "adapted" to fit when the church was modified for preaching. It is worth looking closely as there are some fine carved heads to be seen.



The two bays to the east have late-12th century rounded arches, and the west bay has a pointed arch, probably dating from the 13th century

The octagonal font dates from the 14th century, its bowl being carved with fleurons.

