

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 15 households and King William I as Lord of the Manor.

St Benedict's History

This Norman Church dates from the early 12th century, with its light filled simplicity it is steeped in history, here you will find many interesting features that show a country church developing over time. 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 famous explorer and botanist Sir Joseph Banks lived nearby at Revesby Abbey, in 1785 he commissioned an artist called Claude Nattes to draw some of the surrounding local churches. The drawing of Haltham church shows a timber tower on the nave roof near to the west end and the chancel roof is clearly thatched. In 1842 it was described as "an ancient structure, which has suffered much from the hand of time". The church was restored in 1880 and again in 1891, the latter restoration increasing the seating from 67 to 140 and the roofs were raised. It was declared redundant in October 1977 and is now vested in the Redundant Churches fund.

This book is available on line by visiting the Haltham Parish Meeting web site where you will find more interesting historical facts about the people and our hamlet.

haltham.pariah.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Features to see on your visit:

Exterior

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 church contains a re-set early Norman tympanum suggesting that there was an earlier church on the site. The building was extended in the 14th century, when the chancel was added to the east and the porch to the south was built. The north wall of the nave was removed and a north aisle added in the 15th century.

Grade II listed Cross *Source: Historic England*

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. Less than 2,000 medieval standing crosses, with or without cross-heads, are now thought to exist.

The loose fragments of stonework which lie within the area may have originated as part of the cross.



Tympanum

The unusual Norman carving above the south doorway as you enter the church is a unique feature of the church. Pevsner describes this as 'a barbaric jumble of motifs'. The inner arch has chamfered reveals and a re-set early 12th century round arched head, with 3 orders of roll moulding. Although weather worn, it has a Maltese cross within a circle, to the left a fan shaped shell and to the right a knot in circle.

A walk around the outside of the church will allow you to see how St Benedict's has developed over time.

South Wall



Chancel Windows in the south wall consist of a two-light and a three-light window, two ogee-headed windows, and an ogee-headed doorway.

The south wall of the nave contains a two-light 13th-century window with Y-tracery.

The south porch is a simple country church entrance with angled buttresses capped with crocketed pinnacles.

West Wall





At the west end of the church is a three-light window dating from the 15th century. Look up and you will see the carved heads.



North Wall



East Wall



Interior

The arcade between the nave and the north aisle has three bays with octagonal piers. 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 chancel arch is pointed and dates from the 19th century.



Nave

The nave has flooring of mediaeval brick. The pews in the Nave face the pulpit. Below the pulpit is the precenter's stall and a box pew opposite. If you look closely at the box pew, there is seating on three sides and you will see coloured panelling below the seat. There is a piece of carved screen dating from mediaeval times, this was "adapted" to fit when the church was modified for preaching. The screen is in its right position but shorter. It is worth looking closely at this screen as there are some fine carved heads to be seen.



Pulpit

There is a three-tiered Jacobean pulpit, which has a tester above it. The bible is from 1807 and has a label on the front stating "Revd. John Dymoke, Rector Haltham Nov 14th 1810. There is also a second bible of 1851.



Dymoke Screen

A main feature of the interior is the richly carved oak screen that has been reconstructed using wood from a 15th century screen. This encloses a family pew in two parts and belonged to the Dymoke family. The worn ledger slab in the chancel covers Sir Robert Dymoke (d1545).



Pews

There are also old pews that have been adapted over time facing the seventeenth-century pulpit. Many of the oak pews have decoratively carved ends.



Font

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



Arms

Royal Arms of Charles I is painted on boards along with biblical text thought to be the ten commandments. This is on the internal wood structure that forms the belfry.



Memorials

Looking around the church you will find a number of brass memorials plus a Roll of Honour.

Roll of Honour

1914-1918

Leonard Harrison
 John Wray
 R. Brader
 Edwin Warren
 James R. Croft
 Arthur Leggett
 John C. Houldershand
 Walter Howsam
 H. F. Marshall
 K. Chapman
 Sidney Goodyear
 B. W. Chapman
 John Nelsey
 A.C. Chapman
 Walter Motley
 F. R. Hauton



1939-1945

Leslie Knowles
 Albert Platt
 Thomas Spikings
 Arthur Todd
 Thomas Harold
 Whaler



Carved Heads

Around the church you will find a number of carved stone heads, some dating from mediaeval times. See if you can find them all.



Chancel

The Chancel architecture is certainly different to the Nave indicating a different period of development being much lighter as a result of the larger windows and is less cluttered following a nineteenth century re-furnishing. The mediaeval quality is maintained although there were major renovations in 1880 and 1891 including a new roof.



The east window is a very fine flamboyant one, of about 1350 and has four lights and contains decorated tracery. A fragment of stained glass with text appears to read "MORS IVA VITA MEA" = "MY LIFE AND DEATH IVA"



Altar In 1964 Pevsner noted a chalice and flagon dated 1765, by London silversmith Francis Crump. These are no longer held in the church.

There is a 14th century **piscina** with two fronts The piscina is a niche containing a shallow stone basin with a drain hole. It was used for disposing of the holy water used to wash the communion vessels during the service.



In the south wall of the chancel is a series of three stone **sedilia**, these are recessed seats, for priests.



In the north wall is an **ambry**, this is a small, secure chest or cupboard in a wall, usually the north wall near to the altar. It houses the sacred vessels used during the service and communion.



The sanctuary was paved with Minton tiles paid for by the late Lady Dymoke.

There is an incised slab in memory of Sir Robert Dymoke of Scrivelsby, who fought in the Siege of Tournai, as commander in 1513. He became the King's treasurer and held high office during the reign of Henry VIII, after the King's divorce, he was Controller of Katherine of Aragon's household. He died in April 1545 and was buried at Haltham according to Joseph Banks. A fine table monument was later erected at the church of St Benedict, Scrivelsby, the home of the King's Champion. Haltham was one of the villages of the Srivelsby soak which might explain why he was buried in Haltham.

Haltham Bells

Although we rarely hear the bells of Haltham, they are up there and sadly the last time they sounded was on 11th November 2019.

To see the bell tower you turn left when entering the church and here, up some steps and through a small door, you will see the solid oak bell tower structure. The floor is red mediaeval brick. The bell tower has not been dated but is thought to be mediaeval 15th century. The square timber framed belfry is also mediaeval, having curved braces and chamfered principles, of 2 stages. There is also an ancient ladder that leads to the trap-door in the roof of the ringing chamber. The only access to the bells is by ladder, no longer open to the public.

There are actually three bells within St Benedict's. The earliest and largest bell was cast in 1530, yes nearly 500 years ago, by John Woolley of Nottingham. The bell weighs 6½ cwt and has a diameter of 32.75", with a note of A. There are also two other bells dated 1662 cast by Tobias Norris from Stamford, who also cast two bells for Tattersall. These bells are the earliest work of Tobias Norris and therefore quite special, they have a note of D♯ and C♯.



Graffiti & Headstones

As you wander around the church see if you can spot where people have left their mark over time.



Church Records

Parish register entries start in 1561, and contain an entry for the year 1684: "This yeare plague in Haltham." There is a charity, the interest of £5, left by John Dymoke, Esq.

These can be studied at the Lincolnshire Archives

References

Information has been drawn from a number of sources including:

Church Conservation Trust:

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk>

Historic England

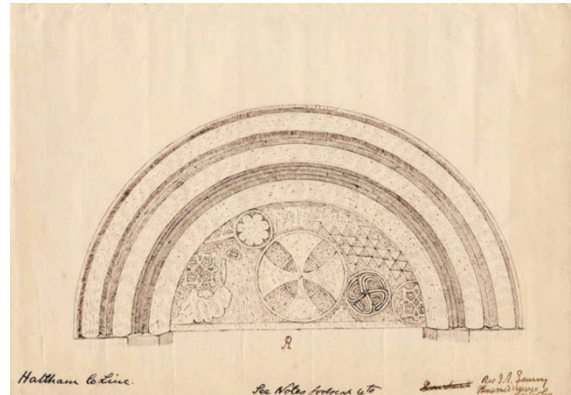
<https://historicengland.org.uk>

Ancient Monuments, Churchyard Cross

<https://ancientmonuments.uk>

History of Horncastle Extract P191

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Page:A_History_of_Horncastle_from_the_Earliest_Period_to_the_Present_Time.djvu/210



Typanum

A detailed drawing c1894 of the Typanum is held by The Sir Henry Dryden Collection at Northamptonshire Central Library DR/21/066.

<https://www.vads.ac.uk/digital/collection/HDC/id/606/>

Church Conservation Trust.

The church was vested with the Churches Conservation Trust in 1979 and £217,563 has been spent on repairs.

The Churches Conservation Trust was originally established in 1969 as the Redundant Churches Fund in reaction to the high level of disrepair of churches in the 1960s. Core funding comes from the DCMS and the Church of England. The Trust cares for 350 grade I and II* churches across England, all unique and preserved for their historical significance. Communities are encouraged to use these buildings for events and enjoy them.



Haltham over time

4th Century Roman Road

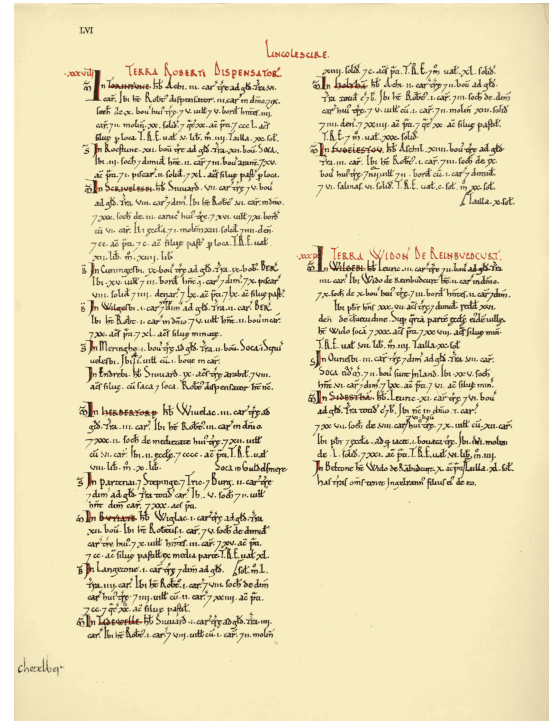
The Roman roads branching from Horncastle included the southward road passing by Dalderby, Haltham, Leagate, Chapel Hill and then crossing the river Witham to Sleaford and Ancaster. There is no architectural evidence in the village from this time.

Holtham in Domesday Book

According to The Domesday Book, 1085, "Holtham" was among the possessions of William the Conqueror, held by his steward Robert Dispensator. It had a recorded population of 15 households in 1086, and is listed under 2 owners King William and Robert Dispensator. There were 10 freemen and 5 villagers. Meadow land 56 acres, Woodland 100 acres and two mills.

Probably like other parishes in the soke of Horncastle, the manor was held by Gerbald d' Escald, his grandson Gerard de Rhodes (1154 - 1189) whose son, Ralph de Rhodes, (1185 - 1252) sold it to Walter Mauclerk, Bishop of Carlisle (Died 1248) and Treasurer of the Exchequer.

Feet of Fines Lincoln: Henry del Ortiary and Sabina, his wife, had an agreement with Ralph de Rhodes, in which the former parties recognise the right of the said Ralph to certain lands in Haltham, Wood Enderby, Moorby, and other parishes in the soke.



1333 Post Mortem held at Holtham

A Post Mortem Inquisition, held at Holtham, on Friday next after the Feast of St. Matthew (Sept. 21), A.D. 1333; where the jurors say that Nicholas de Thymelby held, with certain other lands in the neighbourhood, two messuages and four acres of land in Thymelby, of the Bishop of Carlisle, and that the said Nicholas died on the Feast of the Purification (Feb. 2nd); and that his son Thomas, aged 19, was heir. (Records of Thimbelby).

1561. Parish register entries start in 1561, and contain an entry for the year 1684: "This yeare plague in Haltham."

1853 Methodist (Wesleyan) Chapel,

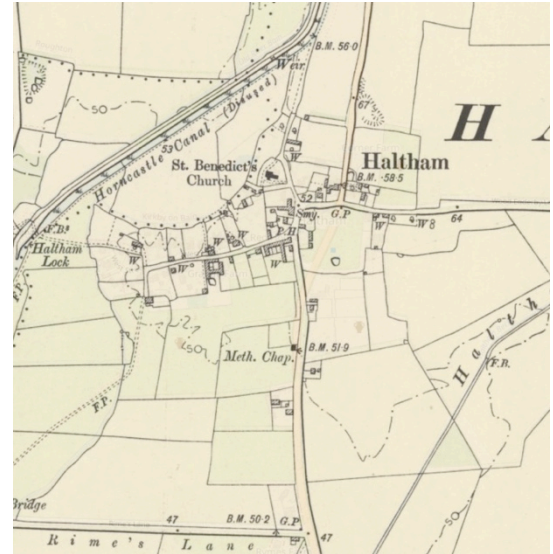
The Chapel on Main Road was founded in 1853. It is now closed and has been demolished, but we do not know the date of closure.

1870-72, John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales described Haltham like this:

HALTHAM-UPON-BAIN, a parish in Horncastle district, Lincoln; on the Horncastle canal and railway, near Woodhall Spa station, 4 miles SSW of Horncastle. Post town, Horncastle. Acres, 2, 610. Pop. 215. Houses, 45. The manor belongs to the Honourable and Rev. John Dymoke. The living is a rectory, annexed to the rectory of Roughton, in the diocese of Lincoln. There is a Wesleyan chapel.

1908 Extracts from: The Project Gutenberg eBook, A History of Horncastle, by James Conway.

This village is distant from Horncastle between four and five miles in a southerly direction, lying on the east side of the river Bain. It is bounded on the north by Dalderby and Scrivelsby, on the south by Kirkby and its hamlet of Fulsby, on the east by Scrivelsby, Wood Enderby and Wilksby, and on the west by Roughton. The area is 2380 acres, rateable value £1198. The soil is loam, with kimeridge clay below, and gravel deposits. Population 121, mainly agricultural.



The main roads lead to Dalderby, Scrivelsby, and Horncastle, to Kirkby, Mareham-le-Fen, Coningsby, and Tattershall, and to Wood Enderby, Wilksby, and Revesby. The nearest railway station is at Horncastle.

The Lord of the Manor was formerly the Champion Dymoke of Scrivelsby Court, but the late Rev. John Dymoke sold his estate in this parish, and the manor is now the property of Sir H. M. Hawley, Bart., of Tumbly Lawn, in the adjoining parish of Kirkby; W. H. Trafford, Esq., owning the remainder, except 150 acres of glebe. The benefice was united to that of Roughton in 1741, the two being now of the yearly value of £450, and held by the Rev. H. Spurrier. The patron is the rector's eldest son, the Rev. H. C. M. Spurrier. There is an award and map of Haltham and Roughton, of date 1775. A village feast is held on St. Benedict's Day (March 21), he being the patron saint of the church.



Nobility: Marmion & Dymoke are key names in the Scrivelsby & Haltham story.

The Marmion family held the role of Champion to the Dukes of Normandy and came to England with William the Conqueror. Shortly after the Conquest, the Lordship of the Manor of Scrivelsby was given to Robert **Marmion**, Lord of Fountenay, (1090-1143) on condition that he accept the office of King's Champion.



The Lindsey Survey, c1115-18, records that he held land including Scrivelsby & Coningsby. The Marmion family's time as King's Champion ended with Philip Marmion, 5th Baron Marmion of Tamworth who died in 1291. The Manor then passes eventually to Sir John **Dymoke** (d.1381) who held the Manor of Scrivelsby in right of his wife Margaret who was related to the **Marmion** family.

Being only 2 miles away in a straight line, this explains the references in the church to both Marmion & Dymoke and documents over time referring to Haltham.

1545 Sir Robert **Dymoke** fought in the Siege of Tournai, as commander in 1513. He became the King's treasurer and held high office during the reign of Henry VIII, after the King's divorce, he was Controller of Katherine of Aragon's household. He died in April 1545 and was buried at Haltham.

PROFILES IN HISTORY

130. • **Henry VIII**. Rare document signed ("Henry R") as King of England, 1-page (7.5 x 5.75 in.; 190 x 146 mm), in English, 12 July 1514, to Sir Robert Dymoke, Treasurer of the town of Tournai (Tournai). Signed "Henry R" at the upper left with paper seal at lower left. Expertly backed with archival paper with infilled chipped edges.

23-year-old Henry VIII orders Sir Robert Dymoke, the "King Champion" at his coronation, to make payment on behalf of England and the occupied French town of Tournai (Tournai). Henry VIII orders Dymoke to pay "Lancastre, son of our heralde" the sum of 7.13.4 pounds "for suche costs and charge as he hath susteyned by our commandment to and from us and our city of Tournay..." Two years after Henry VIII's succession to the throne in 1511, he embarked upon a war with France in which he had the support of his father-in-law, Ferdinand II of Aragon (Henry's first wife was Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand & Isabella of Spain). On 25 September 1513, Henry VIII made his ceremonial entry into Tournai, ten days after his troops invested the city. Sir Robert Dymoke was the "King Champion" at the coronations of Richard III, Henry VII and Henry VIII. Dymoke also distinguished himself at the Siege of Tournai. The functions of the Champion are to ride into Westminster Hall at the coronation banquet and challenge all comers who might impugn the King's title. **\$10,000 - \$15,000**

1566 - 1640 John **Dymoke**, Haltham. Married: **Catherine BROXHOLME**

1592 - 1649 Rev. John **Dymoke**, Haltham. Married: **Martha BUCKBURY**

1596 - 1638 Edward **Dymoke**, Haltham Married **Faith Picker**

1634 -

List of Gentry of Lincolnshire, made at the Herald's Visitation in 1634, and preserved at the Heralds' College, the **Dymoke** of Scrivelsby, **Haltham**, Kyme

1624 John Dymoke Baptised at Haltham 27th June

1632 John Dymoke Baptised at Haltham 8th December

1842 Henry **DYMOKE** was lord of the manor, but a great part of the parish belonged to Sir J. H. **HAWLEY**.

1872 John **DYMOKE** was lord of the manor and principal property owner.