

Living Church, Loving God



Sleaford Parish Church *A Pilgrims Guide*

Welcome to this House of Prayer. We invite you to explore the ancient Parish Church of Sleaford, as pilgrims have throughout the ages, entering into God's presence and offering him our prayers. This prayer guide may help you.

The Pilgrimage starts at the font near the main door and proceeds clockwise around the church.

We invite you follow the Stations around the church in the footprints of the many pilgrims who have walked this way before.

Station 1 : The Font

The font stands near the door to remind us as we enter the church that our baptism marked the beginning of our Christian life and journey.

The 14th Century font stands in the Baptistry. We also have an even older font from an earlier church which you will see at Station 8.



I answer the call of God my creator

I trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour

I seek new life from the Holy Spirit

Station 2 : St Hugh's Chapel (Blessèd Sacrament)



St Hugh's Chapel was created in 1905. St Hugh of Lincoln is depicted on the left panel of the reredos and on the right panel is a depiction of St Denys. The sanctuary light on the left of the altar signifies that the Blessèd Sacrament is reserved in this chapel (that is consecrated bread and wine used to take communion to the sick or housebound).

In this chapel we meet to say morning prayer daily. We bring to God our concerns for the world, our community, as well as our prayers for those whom we love.

You may like to pray for those whom you love or about things that concern you. You may light a candle and if you leave a prayer on the prayer board by the entrance we will include your prayers with ours.

*O Lord, open my eyes
that I may see the need of others,
open my ears that I may hear their cries,
open my heart so that they need not be without succour.*

*Let me not be afraid to defend the weak
Because of the anger of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor
Because of the anger of the rich.*

*Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to these places.
Open my eyes and ears that I may, this coming day,
Be able to do some work of peace for you.*

Alan Paton (South Africa)
SPCK, Prayers Encircling the World

Station 3 : The Lady Chapel

The North Transept Lady Chapel was added to the church in the 14th Century. At one stage it was used as a school room for Carre's Grammar School. The Mother's Union banner is kept here and on a Sunday morning this is where families with young children sit and there are toys and activities for the babies and toddlers.

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among the disciples; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

St Mark 9:37 (NRSV)

Station 4 : The Choir

In the chancel are the choir stalls, the prebendal stalls and the organ. You will also see the Bishop's throne and the head of St Denys on a pole so that it can be carried in procession. In the stalls are copies of our hymn-book. You might like to look up your favourite hymn, or open the book at random, and pray through the words of the hymn you have found.

He who sings, prays twice .

(Qui cantat, bis orat.)

*You only are my portion, O Lord:
I have promised to keep your words.
I entreat you with all my heart,
Be merciful to me according to your promise.*

*I have considered my ways
And turned my feet towards your decrees.
At midnight will rise and give you thanks,
Because of your righteous judgements.*

*I am a companion of all who fear you
And of those who keep your commandments.
The earth, O Lord, is full of your love;
Instruct me in your statutes.*

From Psalm 119

Station 5 : High Altar



The altar rail was designed by Christopher Wren and was originally in Lincoln Cathedral

The reredos shows Christ with the twelve apostles. Each apostle carries a traditional symbol associated with him but they are set within a Lincolnshire landscape.

*Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
Our hearts were unprepared;
We were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under
your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
And share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
And that we, with the whole company of Christ,
May sit and eat in your Kingdom.
Amen.*

Station 6 : Nave Monuments

To the left of the chancel arch is a monument to Robert Carre and to the right a larger monument to his son Edward. The Carre family were great supporters and benefactors of this church throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. Edward's monument, along with much of the church interior, was damaged during the civil war.



The rood screen that stands between the monuments and straddles the chancel arch consists of the lower part which is from the mid 14th century. The upper part was added by Sir Ninian Comper in 1919 in memory of three members of the Peake family killed during the first World War.

*Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,
But unto thy name give the praise:
For thy loving mercy, and for thy truth's sake.*

*We will praise the Lord:
From this time forth and for evermore.
Praise the Lord.*

Psalms 115 (excerpt)

Station 7 : Trinity Chapel

This area behind the pulpit may not look much like a chapel at present. It was formerly a guild chapel dedicated to the Holy Trinity and has also been used as a children's corner. Plans are being drawn up to re-create the chapel as a contemplative prayer space.

The unusual 'Angels & Oranges' window on the south wall is thought by some to have been made in the William Morris studios around 1900, although this has been disputed.

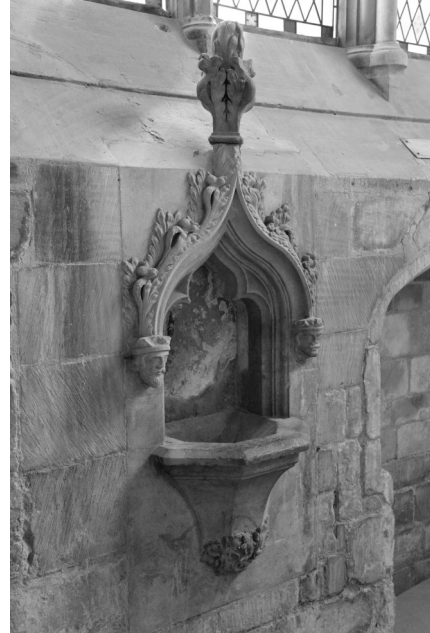


Holy, Holy, Holy!
Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name,
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
Blessèd Trinity!

Station 8 : St Christopher Chapel

This area in the south west corner may also not look much like a chapel at present. It was formerly a pilgrims chapel dedicated to St Christopher. Here you will see a beautiful carved piscina in the wall which would have been close to the original altar.

After the altar was removed it is likely that this piscina was used to hold holy water so that pilgrims could dip their finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on their forehead to remember their baptism.



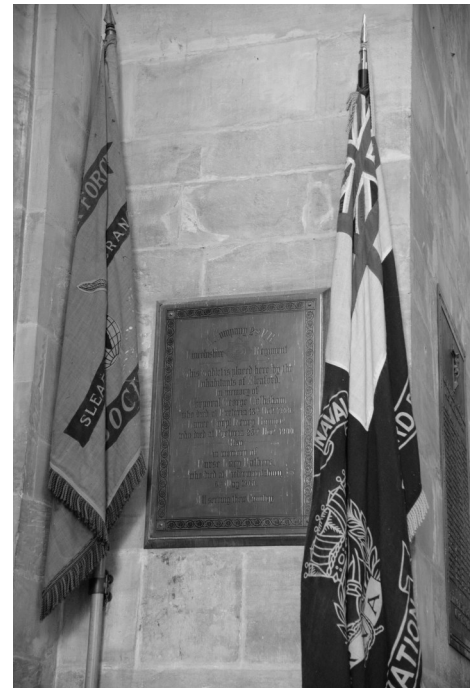
The ancient font that stands just outside the chapel space came from St Giles Church—the original Saxon church of Old Sleaford. It stands here as testament to the long history of Christian worship in Sleaford.

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
Fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

Richard Gillard

Station 9 : Service Memorials

The principal War Memorial for the town of Sleaford, and the neighbouring villages of Quarrington and Holdingham stands in the centre of the Market Square. However, inside the church, just in front to the tower, there is a First World War memorial. Close to this is the much rarer Lincolnshire Regiment memorial from the Second Boer War. We also have a number of Service Standards laid up in the church.



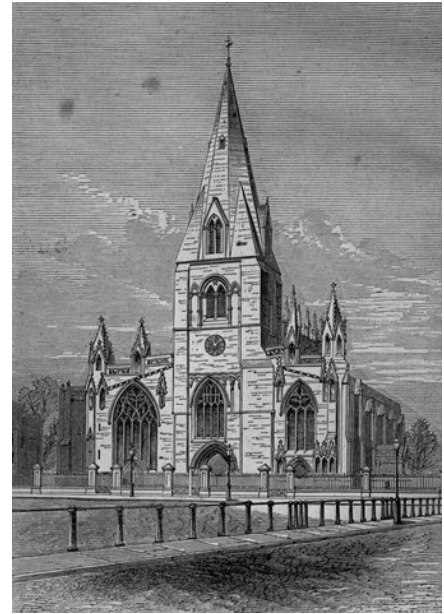
We have strong links with the Royal Air Force. The RAF College at Cranwell has the freedom of the town. These memorials serve to remind us that the church stands at the heart of the community we are called to serve.

*Ever-living God, we remember those
whom you have gathered from the
storm of war into the peace of your
presence; may that same peace calm our
fears, bring justice to all peoples and
establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Station 10 : The Nave & Tower

The tower originally built in 1180 is one of the oldest broach spires in England. It was struck by lightning in 1884 and has been substantially rebuilt. The tower has a ring of eight bells and the new ringing chamber was opened in 2003.



You might like to sit awhile in one of the nave pews and look around the church from that place. The light from the clerestory windows illuminates the nave. The stained glass tells of the story of salvation. The memorials tell our history—of those who have walked this way before us. The Rood screen surmounted by the cross tells of God's love for humanity and beyond is the high altar where we are reminded that God invites us to be part of his family and to sit and eat with Him.

You might like to pray with us for this community and for those places and people who are on your heart.

*We join our prayers with the whole company of
angels and saints in heaven, giving thanks for
the faithful witness of those who have walked
this earth before us.*

Thank you for taking the time to visit us. We hope this brief guide has been helpful. Please pray for us as we pray for you, and may God bless you always.

**If you are in town why not join us for worship on
Sunday**

Parish Communion is at 10.00 am.

**We also have a midweek communion service on
Wednesday at 10.00 am**

Please look at the notice boards for details of all our other activities

Vicar: The Rev'd Philip Johnson

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Monday - Friday 9.00am - 12 noon

Jean Smith (Parish Administrator)

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