

Saint Laurence's Church, Kirby Misperton



“Kirby” derives from a Viking word meaning “village with a church” and since the Vikings began visiting these shores early in the 9th century AD and subsequently settling down here after winning a major Battle with the inhabitant Anglo-Saxons at York in 867 AD, it seems certain that a church was standing on this site during before then as the current chancel walls incorporate a number of “wheeled” crosses from the late Anglian period which must have been from a church on this site prior to the Viking settlement itself.



These remains suggest that this early Church was one of the very few stone constructed buildings of the Saxon era as most their churches in Yorkshire. were built of wood.

The Church was entirely rebuilt in the 15th century and no part of the present building has survived since that reconstruction, although the Norman Chancel arch was not removed until the late 19th century. The Lady Chapel, recently reroofed and redecorated following the theft of its lead, has been described as “the best part of the building”, but the present electric lighting does not do justice to the rest of the church and particularly so, the chancel wooden ceiling.

Currently, major plans are afoot to install, toilet and kitchen facilities as well as a meeting and social area enriched with historical information and, to re-hang the 3 bells whose stocks have suffered from severe woodworm, replace the electrical system to be carbon free and power the church heating and its’ lighting. This will be a lengthy implementation of a complex plan, but will provide for church and community needs well it this century.

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