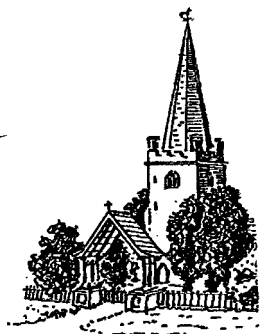


The Parish of St Edmund

HOLME PIERREPONT



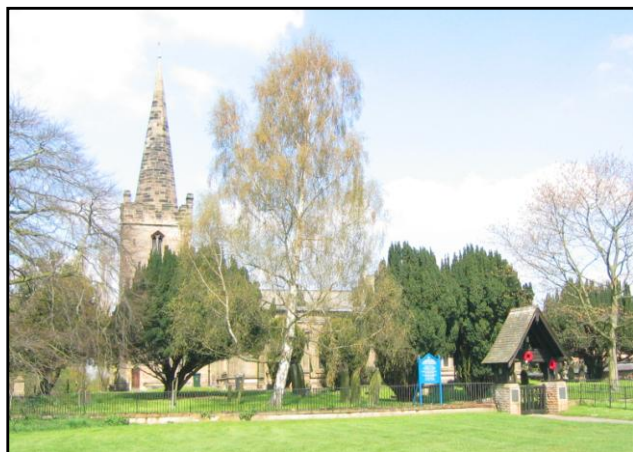
Statement of Significance

St Edmund, Holme Pierrepont with Adbolton (Grade I)

I The church in its rural environment

i Overview

Holme Pierrepont lies in a low-lying rural part of South Nottinghamshire, between West Bridgford and Radcliffe on Trent. The hamlet consists of about twelve houses and farms loosely centred on the church and Holme Pierrepont Hall, set in its impressive Park. A church at Holme Pierrepont, dedicated to St. Edmund is first mentioned in the year 1201. In the reign of Henry I, the Manor of Holme was in the possession of the Manvers family, but in 1279 a daughter, who was the sole heir, married Henry Pierrepont of Hurst Pierpoint in Sussex, where this family originally settled after the Norman Conquest.



View from the South West

The medieval parish church is of the highest quality in terms of the architecture, as is the site and its important furnishings and fittings. It stands adjacent to Holme Pierrepont Hall; within a well-kept grassed churchyard which has some Grade II listed monuments and headstones dating from the late 18th Century. It is enclosed by cast iron railings on the south and west sides, bounded by the courtyard garden wall of Holme Pierrepont Hall on the east side, with a wooden field fence on the north side. The edges of the rear

(north) churchyard are deliberately managed to provide a wildlife habitat, with bird boxes installed on a number of trees by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

ii The Building - Exterior

The church has a very pleasing effect, situated as it is in such a beautiful country churchyard setting. The whole church is a monument to the loving care given to it by the Pierrepont family and congregations through the centuries. The church is small, and consists of a three bay 13th Century nave arcade, and 2-bay chancel, a west tower, south porch and south-east organ chamber. The walls are of dressed stone. The nave roof is slated, with lead over the south aisle (original nave) roof. It is dominated visually by the 14th Century diagonally-buttressed embattled tower, which is surmounted by a 15th Century well-proportioned stone spire with single large corner finials, and the remains of 3 gargoyles

Very few traces of the original church remain, for it was almost completely rebuilt in 1666 by the Marquis of Dorchester, and restored 1878-81.

Further restorations were carried out in 1912 and 1960. The present south aisle was the original nave and the organ chamber was the original chancel, with the family burial vault of the Dukes of Kingston and Earls Manvers beneath.

iii Repairs and Maintenance

Among the additions and improvements carried out in recent years, the spire was restored c.1980, and the organ was reconditioned by Henry Willis and Co. At the same time, the five bells were re-hung and a sixth added, the work being done by Taylor's of Loughborough. In 1960, the main body of the church was given a new floor of Hopton Wood polished reconstructed stone slabs and in the sanctuary, a beautiful floor of Purbeck marble. New oak altar rails provided the finishing touch to the beautifying of the church

In the last ten years, over £50,000 has been raised, and spent on a number of projects. These include completely recovering the roof, with a re-design to ensure that it would in future remain weatherproof. Other work was carried out to improve the roof drainage, and some stone pinnacles were repaired. A stained glass window was restored, as were a number of monuments in the church. In 2000, eleven window mullions were repaired/replaced, and the interior of the church was re-decorated for the first time in 25 years. The lychgate (which is also a War Memorial) has also been restored and the path from it has been resurfaced.



View from the South East

In 2002/4 a pinnacle and a number of failed stones to the tower crenellations were repaired, including the replacement of one large ashlar. At the same time, on the advice of the Diocesan Structural Engineer, a steel band was removed from the base of the spire, which was damaging the stones mentioned above, and doing nothing to support the spire.

This tiny church is kept in good condition, and there are no structural defects. Modern facilities have been installed, so the church now has a disabled toilet and improved servery facilities. In the base of the tower, there was a high void, **into which** we have recently installed a new, lower floor, over the servery, as has been done in a number of other churches in the Diocese. The new floor provides an easily-accessed Ringing Gallery. The access to the new Ringing Room fully complies with Health & safety legislation, unlike the previous access, which was hazardous, to say the least. There is another benefit, in that it brings the bell ringers into the body of the church – making them more a part of the services - and allows the bells to be better heard in church!

iv The Building - Interior

The 19th Century alabaster and ashlar pulpit is decorated with an inset carving of the “Sermon on the Mount”, said to have been brought from Italy.

The 15th Century octagonal font, which has an oak cover, stands on a stone plinth.

The historic Lloyd & Dudgeon two manual pipe organ is a 'fine, well-constructed instrument with good tonal qualities', and is very highly regarded in the East Midlands. The 140-year-old organ, which was originally made for the Midland Trade Exhibition is a historically significant example of the organ-builder's skills. It sits in the chancel (now vestry) of the original church. The organ chamber and two south aisle windows are reputedly by Henry Giles, and are surmounted by roundels bearing the crests of the Marquis of Dorchester, and his brothers.

When the church was restored 1878-81 by T. C. Hine, the chancel was rebuilt with a decorative reredos. There is a low alabaster screen, between the nave and choir. The stained glass window at the east end of the chancel, c.1913, is in memory of the Revd. Seymour, a former Rector of the Parish, and is reputedly by Powell and Sons. There is a small window at the west end depicting St Edmund, King and Martyr.

v **Monuments**

The monuments are a most interesting feature of the church, and include one to Sophia Manvers Pierrepont, 1823, reputedly by Pierre Bazzanti. The south wall of the chancel has a memorial to Evelyn Pierrepont, 1773, and on the north wall there is a memorial to Evelyn Henry Frederick Pierrepont, 1801. A tablet by Flaxman to Reverend William Saltren, 1811, is set into the wall. The south wall of the nave has a large and fine alabaster memorial to Princess Gertrude, Countess of Kingston, 1649.



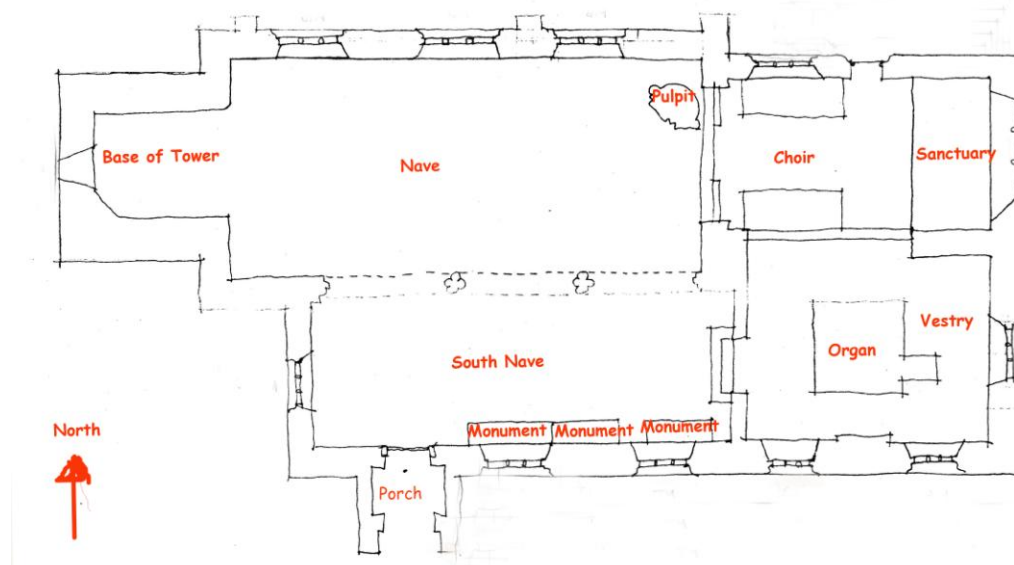
Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire (1797) mentions a brass figure near the vault, which had no inscription. When the floor was re-laid in 1960, this brass was discovered about a foot below the floor level and has been mounted on the west wall. It is in a very good state of preservation and the date is about 1385

The Nave and Chancel

Adjacent to the south wall is a damaged recumbent C13th Century effigy with head supported by angels and feet by a dog. There is a further damaged C14th effigy of a Knight only the head and trunk remaining. However, the most striking one is of beautifully carved Italian alabaster, which commemorates Sir Henry Pierrepont 1615 who fought against the Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses, and is by John Smythson. There is a further fine alabaster tomb to Sir Henry Pierrepont, 1499.

Contained within a spandrel of the arcade is a fine memorial to the poet Oldham, a "poet of merit" buried here in 1683. It is reputed to be the work of Grinling Gibbons, or at least of his school.

vi **Plan**



vi Bells and bellframes

The tower boasts six bells which are rung regularly. The five largest were cast by Taylor's of Loughborough in 1875, and the treble in 1956. In 2009, the bells were re-tuned by Taylor's and re-hung on a new frame, by Hayward Mills Ltd, as the old one was well past its prime!

vii Important churchyard Memorials

- ***Unknown – Grade II***

This is late 18th Century, built of ashlar, with a plinth supporting a panelled square chest. The east side has a tablet with an illegible inscription. There is a moulded top supporting a damaged decorative urn.

- ***Samuel and William Sanday – Grade II***

A memorial dated 1795, to Samuel and William Sanday, built of ashlar, with a plinth surmounted by a tall rectangular chest; either side, and set back are single similar smaller reeded chests.

- ***Francis Dort de le Borde of Mereville and Clessy—Grade II***



A memorial dated 1802, to “Francis Dort de le Borde of Mereville and Clessy (a French refugee). An ashlar plinth supports a large rectangular ashlar chest, the front and rear decorated along the top with scrolls, the sides with turned balustrade type moulding, and a slate tablet to the south side. The top is surmounted by a single large decorative ashlar urn.

These Listed memorials, as well as two others, unlisted, to Bettinson and Wright, were restored in early 2010, and we are awaiting the re-installation of iron railings round the Sanday memorial to replace those originally installed there.

viii St Edmund's and the local community

Unlike so many rural churches, St Edmunds still provides two services every Sunday, with a weekly average of 30/40 worshippers. Several times during the year, we have services for the Royal British Legion, Civic leaders, and the children and their parents from Gamston Pierrepont Church of England aided primary school, and of course, baptisms, funerals and marriages. Worshippers travel many miles each week to attend its traditional services: indeed, the majority live outside the Parish boundaries.

In addition to the services, concerts given by a wide variety of musicians and singers are regular features of our social calendar.

ix The current restoration work

This is being funded principally by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The five churchyard memorials are almost complete; re-furbishing the organ starts in October, and installing storage cupboards, is just starting. They are designed to fit in with the existing woodwork and to house the tables and chairs used for large services and celebratory meals in church.

Bibliography:

Pevsner, N (1959). *The Buildings of England*
Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire (1797)

Listing description - Department of Culture, Media and Sport