

To what extent can an archaeological study of St. Luke's and All Saints Church, Darrington contribute to our understanding of the development of the site?

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Word count = 4534

Rationale

St. Luke's and All Saints church (grid reference SE4850820179) is situated in the village of Darrington, West Yorkshire near the historical town of Pontefract and is a top 100 Grade 1 listed building (Listing NGR: SE4850320181).

Living in Darrington, I have developed an interest in the Parish church of St. Luke's and All Saints. The church has a long history and I wanted to find out more about it; how it progressed and developed from its origins in the Saxon period through to modern day.

According to Warwick Rodwell, archaeologists study churches to give that community more information about their church, satisfy their thirst to know more about their surroundings and give them a new awareness about their heritage. It is only through archaeological investigation that architecture can be recreated¹.

Studying churches that have developed over time can help archaeologists to determine how the original church was built and how past people then extended it; what type of stone they used and how they made it. Archaeologists may want to study the relationship between the churches and population increase to see if this had an impact in the development of the church.

Archaeologists can further study churches by comparing all of the churches that were built in the same era to see if they are similar in architecture, for example if they all have a hood mould, buttresses, a porch, corbel table, a clerestory etc, to see if these features were added to the structure around the same time, therefore following the same pattern of development inside and out i.e. to help establish a typology.

An ethical problem with this type of study is that some people may find exploring the church, a sacred place of sanctuary, disrespectful and so consideration needs to be made in my actions and methods.

A potential problem is the practical side of the investigation as some features that can give me an insight into its development, are not easily accessible. Furthermore, access to parts of the church such as the gallery and bell tower which have been deemed unsafe. Therefore some of my evidence will have to be based on oral accounts and documentary evidence alone. Furthermore, some of the interior walls remain covered in plaster concealing some potential evidence. This will hamper the interpretation of the internal development so I will be more reliant on exterior features to give me clues to its development.

I will make these observations and judgements as I endeavour to record and interpret visible features. I will compare them to the documentation and written descriptions to understand the development of the church and its grounds, not just in terms of architecture

¹ Library Rodwell, Warwick, 1981, Church Archaeology, English Heritage, London,

but also the archaeology of the site for example size, shape, materials, typology and the context within which the church developed.

Context

St. Luke's and All Saints Church, Darrington is rare as the church and its surrounding associated grounds: the church, churchyard, tithe barn, vicars dovecote, orchard, garden, farmstead, its fold, labourers cottages and the vicarage are encompassed within three lanes: Estcourt Road, Philips Lane and Church Lane, which provides direct access to the Church and Churchyard. To the North was a meadow, now the Darrington Church of England, Junior and Infant school built during the 1980s. A possible reason for this layout is that during the 1500s the vicars were given the plot where the early medieval manor stood, with its buildings and outhouses. The church is aligned West to East which is typical of most churches with the Tower in the West and the Chapel in the East. The vicarage was instituted in 1281.

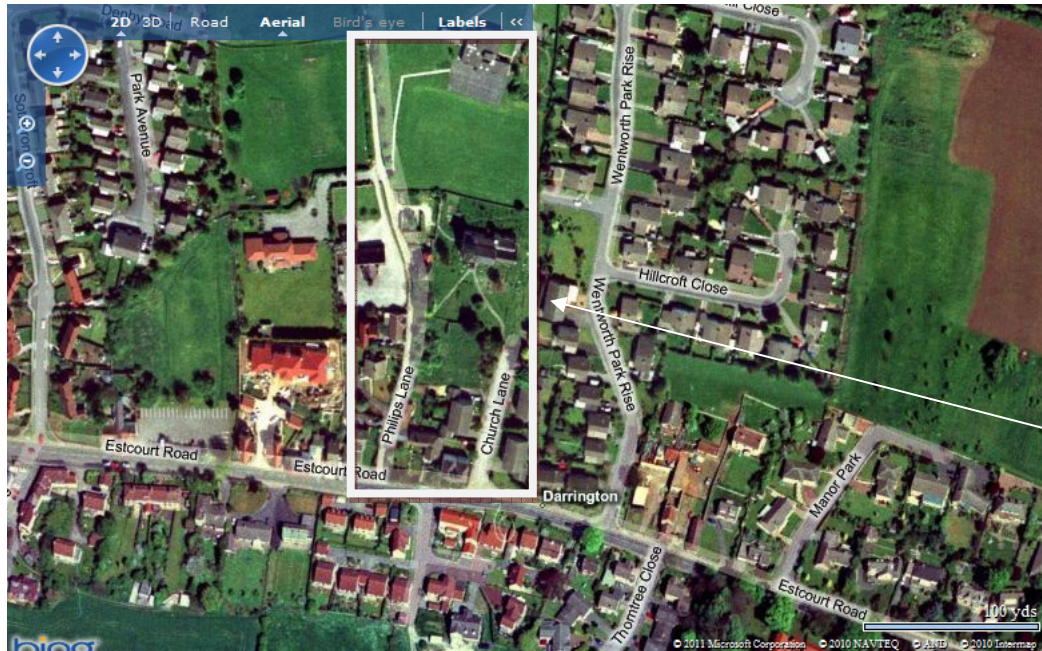


Fig 1, taken from bing maps showing the church's position in the village²

² www.bing.com/maps

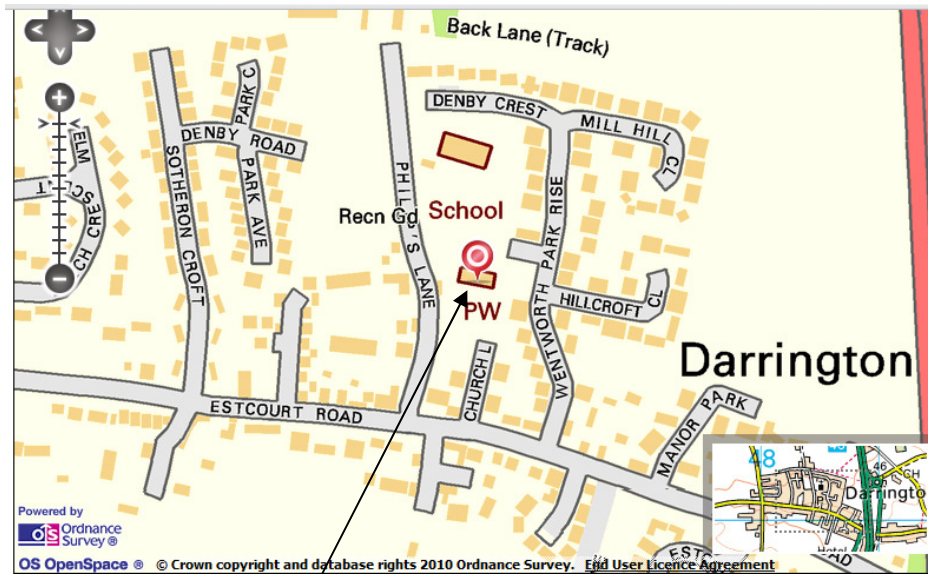


Fig 2 an OS map of Darrington



Fig 3, taken from www.old-maps.co.uk showing Darrington 1852-53³

Inside the church are other interesting features such as the four Misericords (special chairs made for resting on during long sermons, highly decorated, each one unique⁴).

³ www.old-maps.co.uk

⁴ Library, Taylor, Richard, 2003, How to Read churches, The Random House Group



Fig 4 taken by me 23/11/10 showing the bottom of

one if the Misericords

Worship in the church grounds dates back to Saxon times (627AD); the remains of a preaching cross marks the place where the Gospel was preached. The original Saxon church was developed during the Norman period by the De Lacy family. During this period of rule the North and South aisles were implemented in the 13th century.

There have been some descriptions of Darrington church, but no published sources have looked at the archaeology of the church and its development. There is, however, a building report regarding the church, *Notes made on visit 3.3.94 when the repairs for damage occasioned by mining, Peter Ryder*. These will be very useful as I can match up their descriptions with the physical evidence and explore this in more detail.

Sir Stephen Glynne's, *Notes on Yorkshire churches*, (1825-1874) page 156 vol.99 pp.52-55 gives a full and intricate description of Darrington Church which he visited on the 19th February 1862 which was prior to the restoration in 1875.

J.S Fletcher's book, *Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish*, 1916, gives a full account of the development of the parish. Pages 40-47 describes the pre-reformation life of the church up to 1530 whereas pages 176-184 gives a detailed description of the church during its time of repair during the 1875-80 implemented by Mr. Wrangham who was the parish vicar at the time.

Nikolaus Pevsner's book, *The buildings of England; Yorkshire The West Riding* gives a full description of every church in the Yorkshire region including Darrington and compares some its features to other churches in the area such as Wakefield Cathedral and Bridge Chapel.

The Extract from a Survey of Medieval churches in West Yorkshire gives a full description of the church both the interior and exterior and gives an interpretation of the evidence.

Darrington Church, Unknown Author, excerpt gives a detailed description of the features inside the church such as the windows, vestries, chapels etc. Another document entitled Darrington Church, Unknown Author, provides a detailed history of the church and its contents, both written circa 20th century.

By using these sources I can cross reference them with my own findings but also with each other thereby allowing me to explore in considerable detail any changes that were made over different periods.

My study will relate to previous work to enhance the understanding of the development of the church by adding more archaeological evidence.

During my research I will draw upon the techniques and methods that I learnt about during my AS and A2 level that are applicable to my study such as: My knowledge and understanding of survey techniques; will help me to use desktop sources effectively and help me to acquire and interpret the different types of evidence I find i.e. antiquarian, oral sources etc. These will be useful because I can then use these types of sources effectively when doing my research. [Arch 2]

In my A2 level material I can apply topics such as: functions of particular structures, reconstruction and understanding of structures and buildings. The topic on social differentiation could help me during this project as the evidence could show if people of different status sat in different places in the church and if that had an impact of the layout of the church and how the population growth had an impact on the church.

Methodology

The methods I am proposing include a detailed desktop survey to find out what information already exists and to establish the archaeological records such as documents and graphical records from the HER, library and other sources. I can then compare them against the physical evidence to see if there have been any changes or modifications. I will research using the internet to obtain any articles about the church from newspapers but also from archaeological sources such as the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

Graphical evidence such as maps and ariel photographs show the extension of the village which may have an impact on the development of the church. Old maps can very informative as it can show changing parish boundaries. However basic or old maps may be inaccurate due to rudimentary cartography. Ariel photographs can be useful depicting an accurate view of the development the village over the twentieth century.

I will photograph details of the church, digitally in colour. I will compare the current structure to older descriptions and photographs from libraries and the HER to identify any alterations. However, current photographs can only provide me with visual evidence from the present day; therefore the photographs may be conflicting with oral and documentary evidence.

By devising my own building survey, I can make judgements and observations about the church. However, a problem is that modern development may have destroyed some of the evidence that is mentioned in earlier descriptions. Some of the walls are plastered so I am unable to see what is underneath it internally but I can see blocked up features externally.

I will contact local people with knowledge about village history, to obtain oral information regarding the church that is not in official documents. These sources could include: the vicar, members of the parish council and other members of the parish. This will give me a fuller picture of the church during its more recent stages of development. However, oral reports may be inaccurate as passed down knowledge can be manipulated over time, information gets distorted, forgotten or exaggerated.

All of these sources can be cross referenced with each other to create an accurate and detailed survey of the church.

Evidence

Saxon Era

The church dates back to Saxon times however, there is evidence that people were worshipping on the grounds from 627 AD as the remains of a preaching cross marks the place when the gospel was preached⁵.

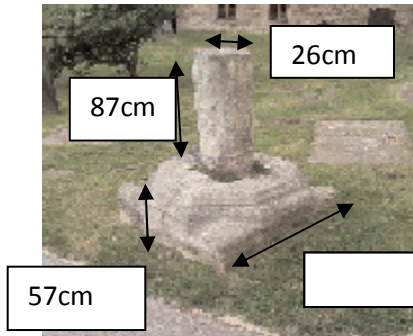


Fig 5- The old preaching cross⁶. The base measures 57cm in height and the perimeter of the base equals 3m 56 cm. The diameter of the cylinder measures 26cm and the height is 87cm. The full height of the remaining preaching cross equals 1m 45cm but it would have stood a lot taller in the past.

Although the tower is said to be Norman there are features which suggest that the lower areas are Anglo Saxon such as the technique of using through stones. However, the stone is situated underneath the path, making it difficult to see and measure its dimensions.

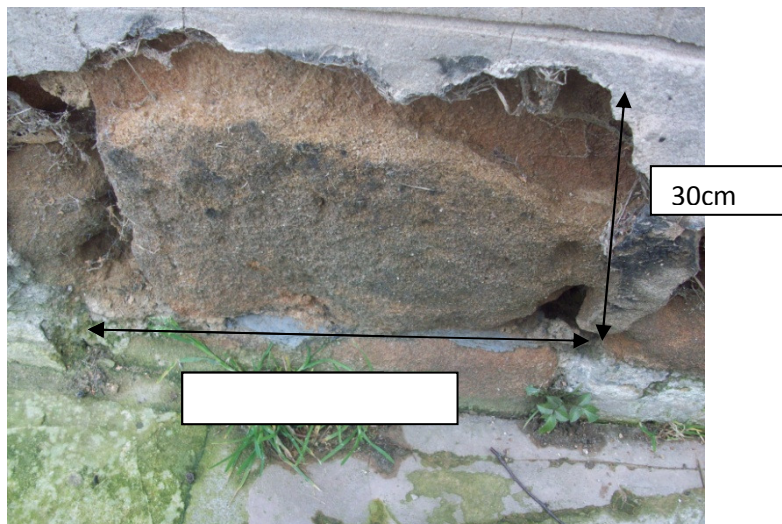


Fig 6 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the through stones on the bottom of the tower suggesting Anglo Saxon origin which measure 46 X 30 cm

⁵ www.darringtonchurch.com

⁶ www.darringtonchurch.com

1066-1200 (Norman)

Originally the Domesday Book of 1086 accounts for 16 villeins and 6 borders who were inferior tenants totalling 22 people living in Darrington⁷.

The Tower

The tower itself shows how the church developed through the Norman period which can be seen in the different types of stone that were used as building materials, mostly consisting of red sandstone and limestone blocks, which were popular during different periods⁸ (fig 6).

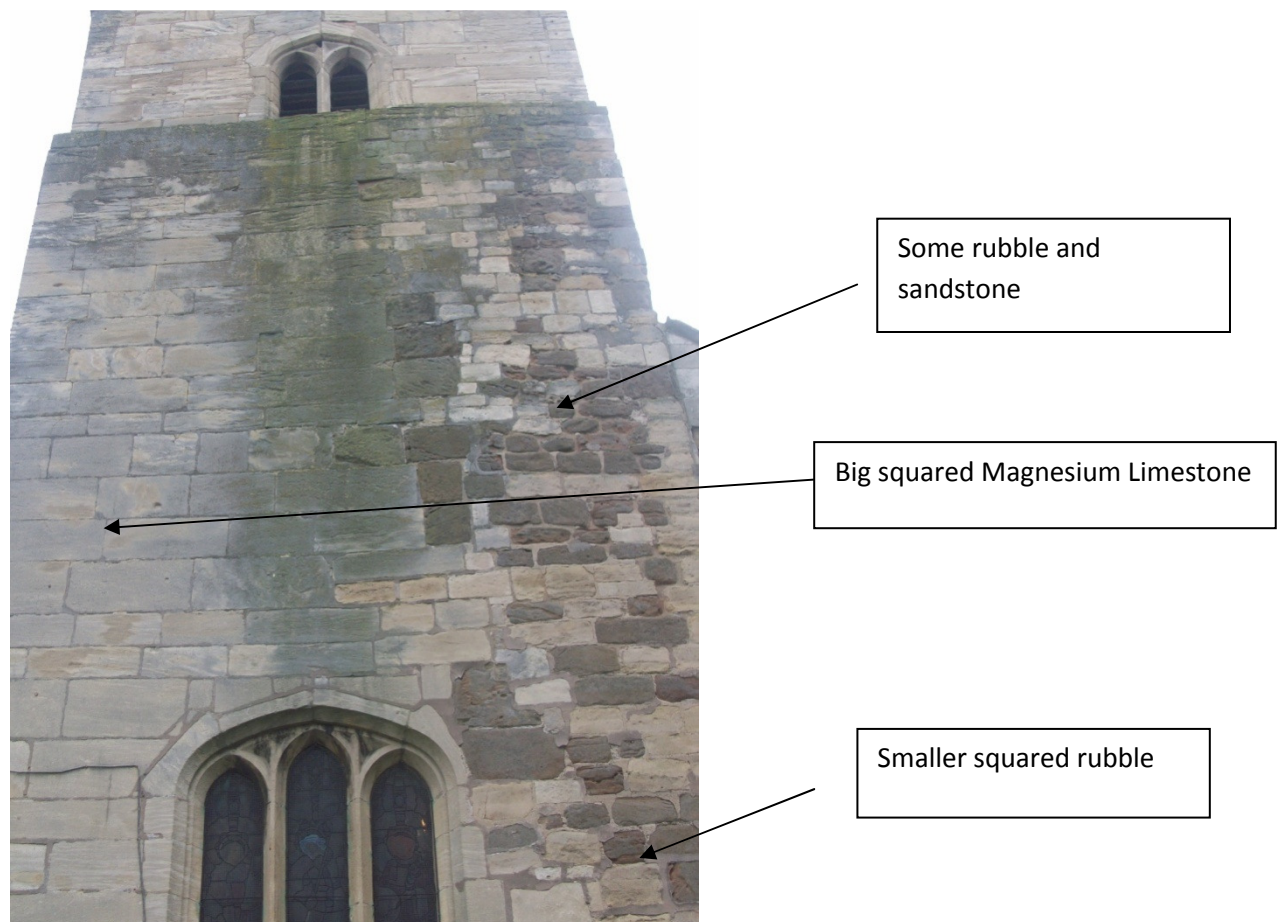


Fig 7 taken by me 22/2/11 which shows the different types of material used to build the tower

The tower opens to the nave; originally, by a very narrow arch part of which you can still see on shafts with scalloped capitals and abaci, but a larger arch has, been opened above it⁹.

⁷ Fletcher, J.S, 1916, Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish, Lightening Source, UK LTD, Oct 29

⁸ HER records, Ryder, Peter.F, Notes made on visit 3.3.94 during repairs for damage occasioned by mining subsidence

⁹ HER records, Author Unknown, Darrington Church, Unknown publication and Date



Arch

Scalloped capitals

Fig 8 taken by me 29/12/10 showing the entrance to the nave with the scalloped capitals and abaci

We know the Tower is later than its foundations because if the Tower was Anglo Saxon it would look more like the Saxon tower at Jarrow Church which is positioned and looks different from Darrington Church Tower (fig 9 and 9A).



Fig 9



Fig 9A- taken from Google images showing the Saxon tower of Jarrow compared with the different tower layout of Darrington Norman tower taken by me 23/11/10

13th and 14th century developments

North and South Aisles

The church was then further developed during the 1200-1300s when the North and South aisles were constructed along with the west entrance.

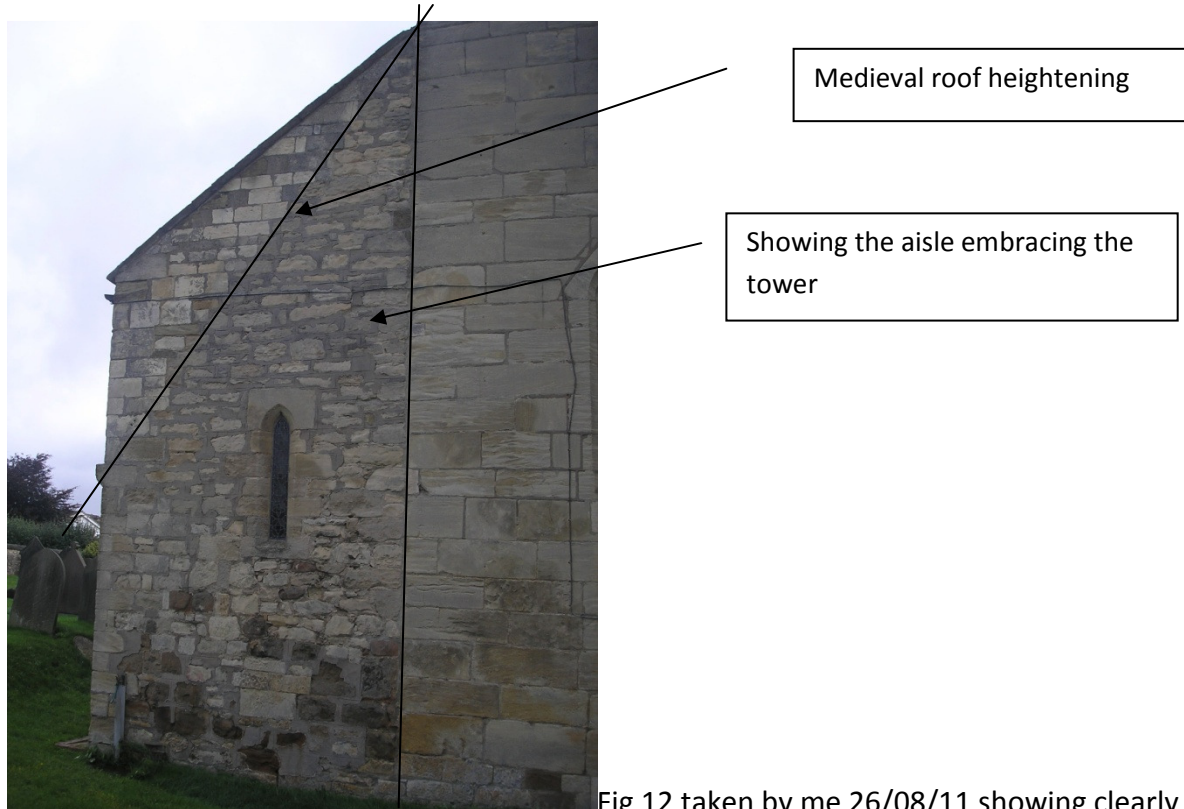


Fig 12 taken by me 26/08/11 showing clearly the extension outwards from the tower and upwards from the modern day vestry but originally in the 13th century part of the North aisle and shows the embracing of the Tower. This also shows a section where the roof has seen some Medieval roof heightening.

The arcades are from the Perpendicular period, with tall circular piers and double-chamfered arches ¹⁰(Fig 13). We know this not only from the documentary evidence but also from typology as the same type of architecture is seen in Womersley Church, North Yorkshire where the arches are from the same period.(Fig 14) Each aisle measures 97 m X 84m.

The aisles were added in 13th century but later developed in 14th century, this can be clearly seen by the windows which are from the Decorated period which consist of two lights with a smaller light above and centred, that also suggests an extension going up perhaps to match the extensions going on around that period notably the Chancel and the Porch¹¹.

¹⁰ HER records, Ryder, Peter.F, Notes made on visit 3.3.94 during repairs for damage occasioned by mining subsidence

¹¹ Given to me by Reverend Hazel Crabtree, Author Unknown, Darrington Church, Unknown publication or Date



Chamfered points

Circular piers

Fig 13 taken by me 11/11/10 showing the arches of the North aisle showing the columns and chamfered points



Chamfered points

Circular piers

Fig 14- arches in Womersley church; St Martin's which are very similar in type to the ones at Darrington¹²

¹² <http://english-church-architecture.net/north%20yorkshire/womersley/womersley.htm>



Fig 15-taken by me 22/2/11, close up of tall circular columns, with my sister, who is about 1.53m tall.

At the northern end of the north aisle there is some evidence of lowering of the floor as four courses of brick were found at the foot of the wall¹³. There is another blocked window that has been filled in with rubble near the east end of the north aisle.

Fig 16 taken by me 11/11/10 shows the blocked window from the outside, the different window types within the North aisle and the medieval roof heightening

- Decorated windows
- Blocked window
- Perpendicular window



¹³ Oral Source, Reverend Hazel Crabtree

Pevsner concludes that the aisles embrace the tower and that they were first built during 13th Century, and you can tell this through the West lancet, the North doorway (now bricked up) and the arcades¹⁴. The fact that Pevsner suggests that the blocked up doorway is in fact just a 13th Century feature suggests that the rumours of it being used for the lepers during this period is incorrect however, that doesn't mean that it couldn't have been used for that purpose later on fig 17.



Fig 17 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the blocked door

Later during the repairs needed for damages occasioned by mining in 1994 Peter Ryder found that: The west wall of the south aisle showed medieval heightening and floor lowering (Fig 18), however there is new stone over of much this evidence which makes it difficult to see. Four sockets were found at a lower level and two sockets were found just below the ceiling, suggesting a former wooden staircase which leads to the gallery or tower¹⁵.



Fig 18 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the floor where there is evidence of floor lowering

¹⁴ Library, Pevsner, Nikolaus, 1959, The buildings of England; Yorkshire The West Riding, Penguin Books

¹⁵ HER, Ryder, Peter.F, Notes made on visit 3.3.94 during repairs for damage occasioned by mining subsidence

The south wall of the south aisle is mostly made of red coursed sandstone. The holes where the original leaning posts were before the pews were put in can be found along this wall, fig 19. These leaning posts were predominately used mostly by the children and women suggesting that they had some priority over the men¹⁶.

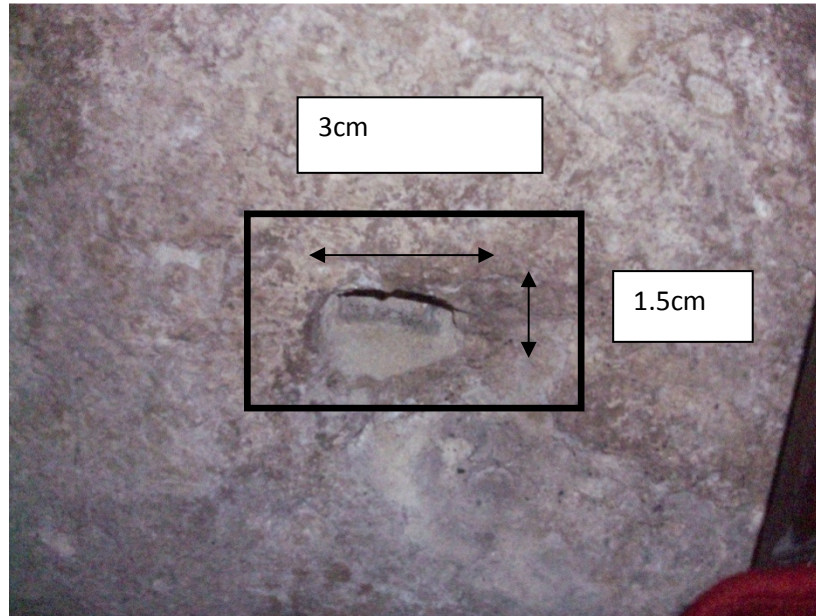


Fig 19 taken by me 22/2/11

showing one of the post holes in the wall in the South aisle

Stephen Glynne states that the South aisle used to have in the East end a “single lancet with a pretty piscine underneath surmounted by a horizontal battlement...and set on a moulded projecting ledge”¹⁷.



Alter tomb stone of William Farrar, died 1684, and was used as the communal table until 1880

Fig 20- taken by me 22/2/11 showing

the South aisle altar

¹⁶ Oral Sources, Reverend Hazel Crabtree

¹⁷ Glynne, Stephen Sir, Notes on Yorkshire churches, (1825-1874) page 156 vol.99 pp.52-55



Fig 21 taken by me 23/10/10 showing the South aisle piscine which was used during mass for washing before being put before Christ



Fig 22 taken by me 23/10/10 the South aisle

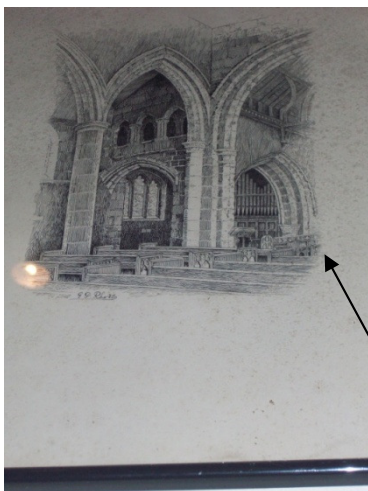


Fig 23 taken by me 23/10/10 sketch which is inside the church of the North and South aisle with organ in original place

West Entrance

Around the same time the North and South aisles were being developed the West entrance was developed to allow access into the church, part of this became the choir vestry¹⁸.

The font is central to the West entrance and has been for circa 700years.



Fig 26 taken by me 29/12/10 showing the ancient font

The North/Stapleton/Lady Chapel

The North chapel, or more commonly known as the Lady Chapel (fig 29), holds one of the two effigies in the church. It is suggested to be the effigy of Lady Clara de Stapleton, 1326, (Fig 27) separated at death from her husband on the other side of the wall (fig 28). Effigies are found in most churches demonstrating that they are highly important individuals as they are inside the church.

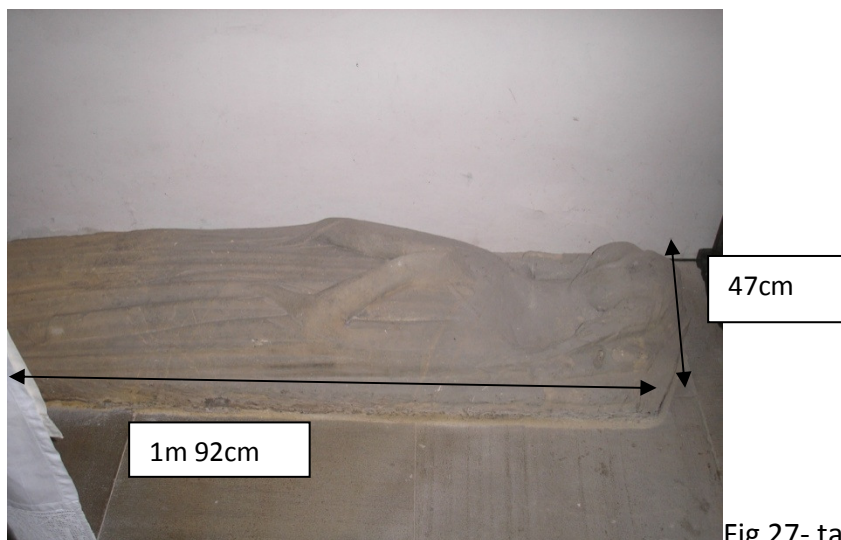


Fig 27- taken by me 11/11/10 Lady

Clara de Stapleton, 1326, the Lady measures 1m 92cm X 47cm.

¹⁸ Oral source, Reverend Crabtree



Fig 28 taken by me 11/11/10 Sir Warren de Scargill circa 1330 her husband measures 2m 2cm X 61cm.



Fig 28A taken from Google¹⁹ showing the effigies at West Tanfield, North Yorkshire, interestingly are not separated in death like the ones at Darrington

Externally, the North Chapel is built of large well-squared limestone blocks, and has a two-part moulded plinth. There is a pair of stepped buttresses at the North East corner and another midway along the North wall. The East wall of the chapel contains a three-light window with reticulated tracery, with a double-chamfered frame and a hood with head stops²⁰. (Fig 29)

However when Pevsner describes the church he implies that the chapel had a wooden roof before the age of the Decorated period when the windows were fitted to the North and East but also implies that the chapel existed in some form before the 13th century when it was added. However, I cannot find any other evidence to support this claim.

¹⁹ <http://www.docbrown.info/docspics/dales/dspage41e.htm>

²⁰ HER records, Ryder, Peter.F, Notes made on visit 3.3.94 during repairs for damage occasioned by mining subsidence

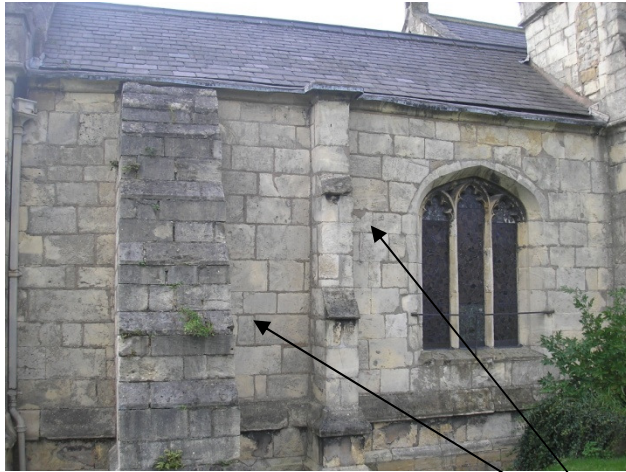


Fig 29 taken by me 23/10/10 external view of the chapel which shows the stepped buttresses clearly



Fig 30 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the chapel from the gallery



Showing the abutment
to the church

Fig 31 taken by me 23/10/10 shows the abutment of the buttress to the wall showing it was added later for strength

This chapel was used the Vicars vestry however, in 1971 when the organ was moved it was reinstated as a chapel and the vestry was moved to its modern day location, behind the organ where the choir vestry used to be.



Northern window

Plaques, honouring the people, who died during War, who belonged to the parish

Fig 32- taken by me 23/10/10 the Lady

Chapel where the organ used to be (where the box is). The northern windows are Perpendicular (1350-1535), of the three lights²¹. The plaques are for the people who fought during times of conflict elevating them to high status as they are remembered inside the church, the most holy place.



Fig 33 (Darrington church) and 33A (St. Martins) taken by me 23/10/10. The East window is Decorated (1300-1350), of three lights. We know it is from this period as other churches from this era have the same style windows such as Womersley church, St Martin's North Yorkshire

The roof is high pitched, and in its apex on the west side a lancet is seen over the roof of the aisle (fig 34).

²¹ Library, Fletcher, J.S, 1916, Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish, Lightning Source UK LTD, Oct 29



Fig 34 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the stairs to the rood loft/gallery inside the lancet

Over entrance to the North chapel is one unique gallery positioned between the North chapel and the aisle, with three arches opening from it on either side. The reason for it may have been that it had a connection with the rood-loft²². (Fig 35)



Fig 35 taken by me 11/11/10 showing the gallery

²² Library, Ryder, Peter F, 1993, Medieval Churches of Yorkshire, York oral History Society,

The Chancel late 13th century

The Chancel is dated to the late 13th/ early 14th century, however the exact date is uncertain as it includes mostly perpendicular features²³. The interior of the chancel is mostly made of coursed squared limestone²⁴ and at the East end of the chancel there is no dressed stone. The chancel arch is pointed on octagonal columns with capitals; the East five light windows are Perpendicular.



Fig 38 taken by me 23/10/10 showing chancel arch and five light window

The East window, fig 39, was made with the original glass during the restoration period of 1875-80. One Saint is very interesting who is distinguishable by the colour of his gloves as he appears to be wearing a pair of pink marigolds.

²³ HER, Pevsner, Nikolaus, 1959, The Buildings of England; Yorkshire The West Riding, Penguin Books

²⁴ HER, Author Unknown, Extract from survey of Medieval Churches in West Yorkshire, Unknown Publication and date

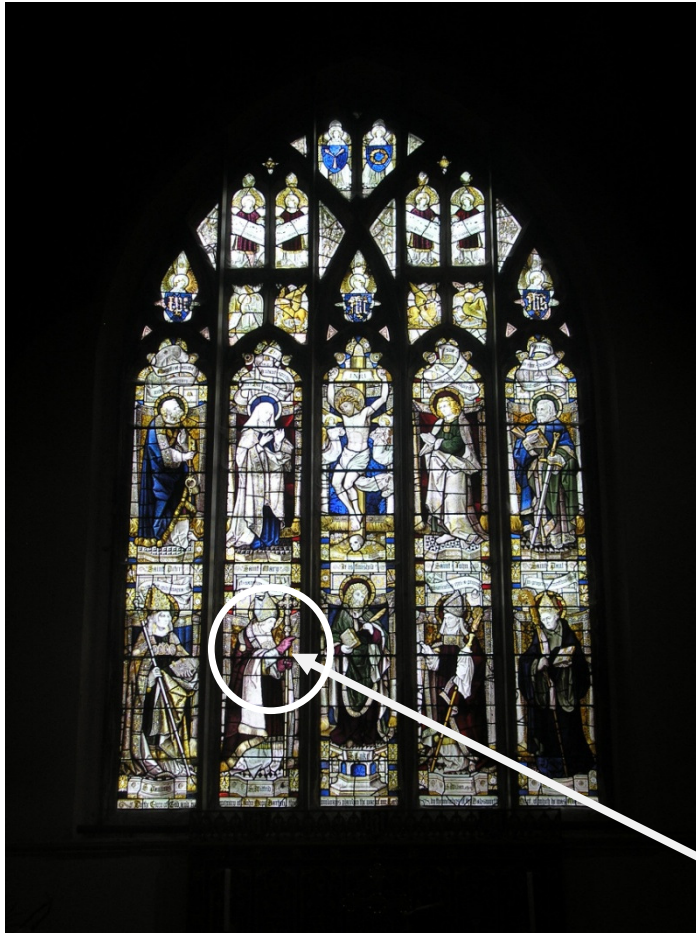


Fig 40 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the close up of the five light window and the saint wearing pink marigolds

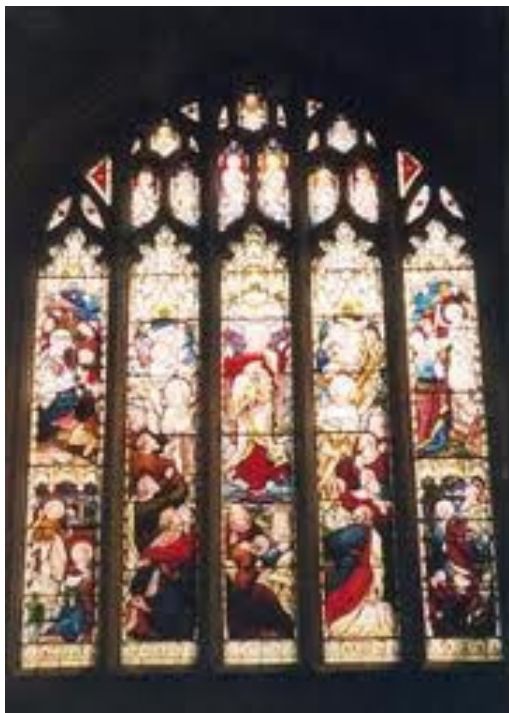


Fig 40A – taken from Google images of another five light window which shows how it is a typical feature of a church, Church of St Nicholas, Bromham



Fig 41 taken by me 22/9/10 showing the Perpendicular windows in the southern wall of the chancel, where it is suggested that they were formerly Decorated windows²⁵.

J.S Fletcher tells the story of how this piece of exquisite artwork, circa 1200, came to be part of our church. Canon Atkinson found the artwork in a garden wall in Cridling Park. The relic is made of sandstone and was eroding and so he took it and placed it in the East wall of the South aisle, but is now situated in the north wall of the Chapel. It was examined by Mr. Richard Holmes of the Journal of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 1891, who states “the writer considers it [the crucifix] to be unique...the whole would form a double cross similar to that of the Order of the Holy Sculpture...” J.S Fletcher goes on to say that “Darrington Church, therefore, may safely claim to possess at any rate one English antiquity that is unique-no particulars of any ancient sculpture and archaeologists”²⁶ see fig 42.



Fig 42 taken by me 11/11/10 shows part of the uncovered artwork in the chancel

The high altar is situated at the top of the Chancel. It is positioned underneath the East window.

²⁵ Library, Ryder, Peter F, 1993, Medieval churches of Yorkshire, York Oral History Society

²⁶ Library, Fletcher, J.S, 1916, Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish, Lightning Source UK LTD, Oct 29



Fig 43 taken by me 29/12/10

showing the high altar

Externally, the chancel, like on the inside is built of well squared limestone blocks and a stepped buttress midway along the south wall²⁷.



Fig 44 taken by me 26/08/10 shows the

stepped buttress and decorative frieze which is atypical of a church and could have been done by village specialist craftsman



Fig 45 taken by me 26/08/10 the decorative frieze

²⁷ HER, Author Unknown, Extract from Survey of Medieval Churches in West Yorkshire, Unknown publication and Date

Tithe Barn

The tithe barn, built in Early Medieval period, was owned by the vicar and was relied upon in a predominately agricultural community for supplies during tough seasons.



Fig 48- showing a sketch of the

Tithe Barn by G.P. Rhodes featured in J.S Fletcher book. The Darrington Website gives a good description of what the tithe barn may have looked like: The Early Medieval building may have had five bays, the roof was built of stone tiles (we know this because if the roof was thatched the roof would have had a steeper pitch) and stone walls (which is evident from the structure that is left)²⁸.

Porch 14th century

The porch acted as the non-religious part of the church and was mainly used for business, trade and identifying the dead. The porch is a tall entrance arch decorated with continuous chamfer and a stone roof resting on transverse arches²⁹. The length of the porch is 4m 53cm X 3m 56cm.

Externally the porch is mostly made of large well squared sandstone blocks which range in size from 61cm X 34cm to 27cm X 16cm and has a two part plinth and a stepped buttress. (Fig 49 and 50) The tallest outer arch has a continuous pointed chamfer and a moulded hood which are similar to the three light windows in the south aisle. The corners of the porch consist of octagonal pinnacles with square bases³⁰.

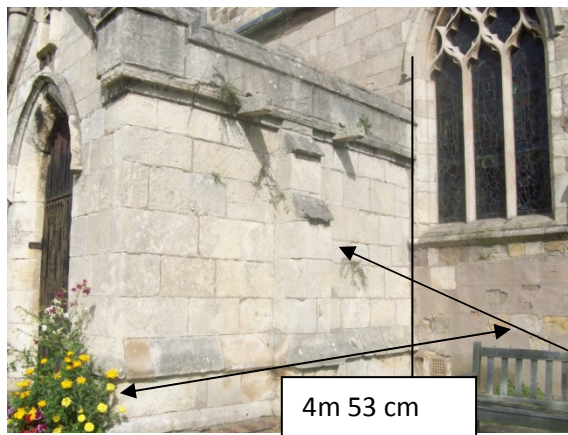
²⁸ <http://users.tinyonline.co.uk/gmbray/page47.html>

²⁹ Library, Taylor, Richard, 2003, How to Read churches, The Random House Group

³⁰ HER, Ryder, Peter.F, Notes made on visit 3.3.94 during repairs for damage occasioned by mining subsidence



3m 56cm Fig 49 taken by me 26/08/10 shows the octagonal pinnacle with square bases, hooded mould and chamfer.



4m 53 cm Fig 50-taken by me 26/08/10 showing the stepped buttress and the clear abutment where it's been extended from the church.

Internally the south door is encompassed in a pointed arch that has chamfered jambs with three richly moulded imposts.



Fig 51 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the pointed arch above the porch door which is not typical of a church



Fig 52- taken by me 31/10/10 showing the stone benches suggesting medieval corpse slabs³¹ measure 3m 23cm X 54cm.

³¹ HER, Author Unknown, Darrington church, Unknown publication and date

Tower developments

After the Black Death in 1350 a new bell tower was added to the top made of squared blocks of limestone. This was built by Warren de Scargill and his lady wife Clara de Stapleton. J.S Fletcher describes how they furnished this new part of the tower with three bells, one dedicated to St Michael³².

Although there are no written documents or histories which detail the bell chamber in the tower as no one is allowed up, my neighbour, Paul Stainer, was allowed the opportunity to go up and take some pictures.



Fig 55 taken by Paul Stainer, 2010, showing the one of the bells in the tower

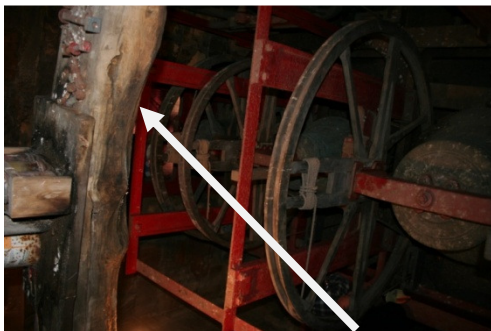


Fig 56 taken by Paul Stainer, 2010, showing the original timbers and three of the bells



Fig 57 taken by Paul Stainer, 2010, showing one of the four pinnacles in detail if somewhat precariously perched

³² Library, Fletcher, J.S, 1916, Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish, Lightening Source UK LTD, Oct 29

15th-16th century

Pre-reformation the church was at its peak and the church was a part of the villages' everyday life. J.S Fletcher gives a description of what the church was like "Here at the West entrance there is a font...of great antiquity. Beyond it the nave and North and South aisles...filled with open benches, made by the village carpenters...on the walls are paintings, frescoes, depicting well known scenes from the new and old Testament...At the end of the south aisle there is a side-altar...From the angle of the chancel arch...stretches a rood screen...In its centre, over the door or gate which gives access to the Chancel, is a great crucifix...The high altar, itself, stands a little away from the East wall of the Chancel...covered in a veil of the richest silk...Below...there is the entrance to the Lady Chapel ...is another altar".

However much of this doesn't survive today as it was destroyed by Edward VI's pillages on the parish churches. This led to a decline in interest in the church and it was left to ruin until the 19th century.



Fig 58 taken by me 23/10/10 showing the decoration on the side of the pew which looks similar to the decorated windows

There was an Early Medieval manor house with its buildings and outhouses built on the same plot of land as the church³³. The village then extended out predominately to the West.

17th-19th century

There was a major gap in terms of development; in fact the church fell into disrepair, as the village lost interest in the church due to the new puritan religion which was imposed upon the villagers by Henry VIII and Edward VI, who is the reason for the white plaster around the walls. This meant that the Church didn't develop until the 1875 when the new vicar Wrangham decided it was time to restore the church³⁴.

³³ Library, Fletcher, J.S, 1916, Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish, Lightning Source UK LTD, Oct 29

³⁴ Kelvin Wilkins, Oral source

19th century

J.S Fletcher gives a good description of the restoration, courtesy of Reverend Wrangham, that took place during the 1875-80 at the cost of £2500, which seems a small cost; however most of the work to the church was given as gifts in memory of a loved one keeping the costs low, other features were found littered around the village such as some of the stained glass was found during the restoration on the floor behind the church by Mrs Hope Barton. This was then used to make the North window we see now; however some was missing so was filled in by unwanted glass from other churches. A passer by casually walked off with some valuable old brass which he kept for ten years before giving it back and, the chancel door was found in a pig sty after it had been stolen before its restoration in 1875³⁵.



Fig 59 taken by me 11/11/10 showing the bishop's door that was found in a pig sty

Over time Darrington became less agricultural and adapted to a modern lifestyle and an increase in population³⁶. The table below shows how the population remained relatively static until 1961 when the population increased dramatically. It is difficult to know whether this increase had an impact on the church as it was fully built and restored by Wrangham by this point.

³⁵ Library, Fletcher, J.S, 1916, Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish, Lightning Source UK LTD, Oct 29

³⁶ <http://www.visitoruk.com/historydetail.php?id=6942&cid=592&f=Castleford>

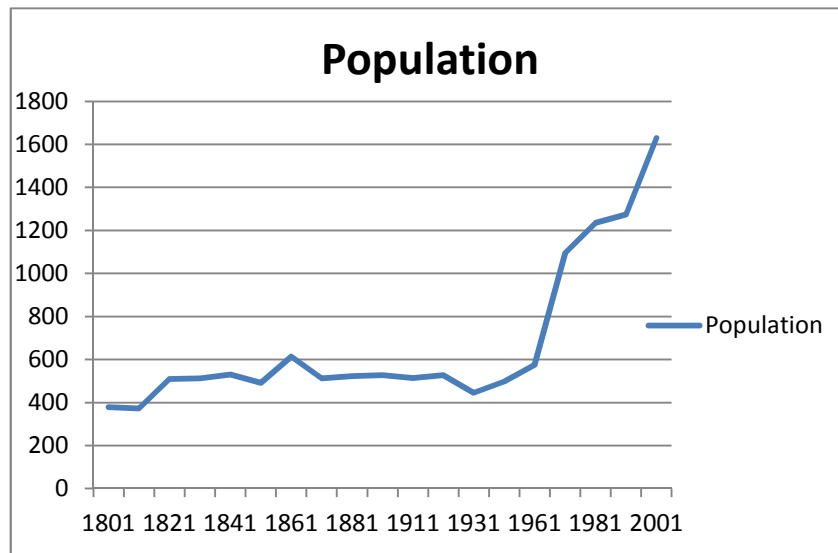


Fig 60 showing the

population increase from 1801³⁷

Vestries and the organ

The organ was originally installed in the North/Lady Chapel in 1875 forming a small vicar's vestry at the East End. J.S Fletcher mentions how Mrs Lee gave £500 for the organ, in memory of her father Mr Richard Thomas Lee, as well as an extra £180 to the church.



Fig 61 taken by me 11/11/10 shows the organ

where it was originally positioned.

³⁷ The official government census from 1801-2001 (missing 1941 due to world war 2), office of National statistics 1801-2001

Tower during 19th century

Outside the tower there are the traces of an incised pattern belonging to later 19th century date on the door however, only on one corner as the matching pattern on the other side has been eroded, fig 62



Fig 62 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the incised pattern on the right hand side of the outer door

The tower also suffered some damage during 19th century, in a history of the church, Author Unknown, Date approximately 1980s it describes how, during Canon Atkinson's era (1892-1928); on 22nd December 1894 the south east pinnacle of the tower fell onto the roof of the nave. It was repaired and a new bell was fitted in 1895 and in 1896 two other bells were fitted making a peal of six³⁸. This could explain the new roof tiles and the different brick at the top of the church.

³⁸ Given to me by Michael Britton BA (Hons), MA, titled Reverend Atkinson, Vicar of Darrington 1892-1928, Unknown author

20th century

Vestry and organ

In 1971 the organ was moved to the West end of the north aisle.³⁹ The vicar's vestry was formed behind the organ and a choir vestry was positioned at the west end of the south aisle with new oak screens, fig 63⁴⁰, which cost, in total, £5000⁴¹. This move coincided with the movement of the organ allowing the Chapel to be reinstated.



Fig 63 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the 1971 oak screen



Fig 64 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the Vicar's vestry which was, in the 13th century, part of the North aisle

³⁹ Library, Ryder, Peter F, 1993, Medieval churches of Yorkshire, York Oral History Society

⁴⁰ HER, Author unknown, Darrington church, Unknown publication and date

⁴¹ Pontefract and Castle Express, June 3rd, 1971

Population and its effects on the village in 20th century

During 20th century the village grew at a rapid rate which had a big impact on the church as seen from the ariel photographs from 1947, 80 and 94 (figs 67, 68, 69,). The village now appears to grow predominately from the Manor house (Darrington Hall), Estcourt Drive, first towards the church, then in 1980 when the Church School (Darrington C of E, J and I School) was built the village expanded to the East. This could explain improvements such as: central heating being placed underneath the seats, fig 66; relocation of the organ; porch gates being added in memory of Mary Spencer and George Lund 1978; Induction loop for the hard of hearing; new service books 1980; handrails between the church and the tithe barn and steel reinforcement for the East Window 1994⁴².



Fig 66 taken by me 22/11/2 showing the heating inside the church

⁴² Given to me by Reverend Hazel Crabtree, Reverend Adrian, Some changes to the church since 1970

Tithe Barn developments

Unfortunately, the tithe barn was demolished in the 1970s. It had been derelict for five years before its demise but there was a major push for it to be saved. However the Church Council decided that it would cost them too much money⁴³. This may have been because the tithe barn is not a listed building due to being exempt from the provisions of Listed Building control⁴⁴ [ARCH 3] and so even though some of the protesting groups were leading organisations such as the Yorkshire Archaeological Society it was still allowed to be demolished.

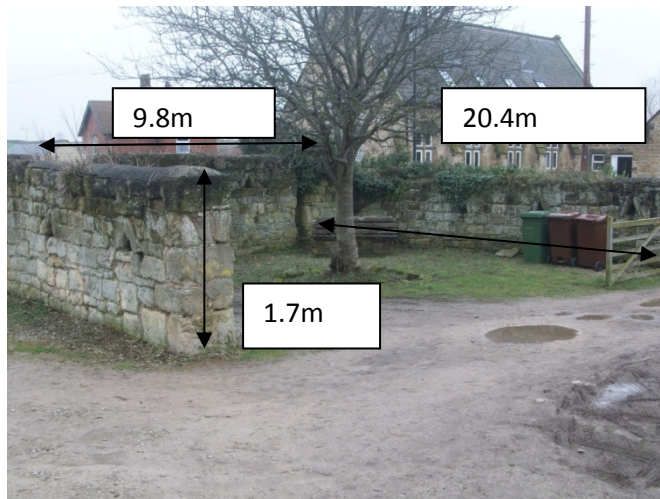


Fig 70 taken by me 22/2/11 showing the remaining walls of the tithe barn and overall area was 20.4mX9.8mX1.70m and the walls are 70cm thick



Fig 71 taken from the Darrington website showing a photo of the tithe barn when it was demolished in the 1970's

21st Century

Most recently the church, to comply with regulations, added a toilet and small kitchen area to the south aisle allowing the choir vestry to be moved up a level which can be accessed by a plastic spiral staircase.

Unfortunately parts of the church especially on the outside, due to harsh weather, are now in need of repair such as the drains and many of the graves.

⁴³ <http://users.tinyonline.co.uk/gmbray/page47.html>

⁴⁴ Library, Rodwell, Warwick, 1981, Church Archaeology, English Heritage, London

Evaluation

An archaeological study of St Luke's and All Saints church, Darrington can significantly contribute to our understanding of the development of the site. The architecture of the church played an important part in enabling me to identify when the church had been extended or modified. For example, the use of different building materials (elaborate which they are) and the abutment of the later features, such as the Porch made this very clear. The change of window styles from Decorated to Perpendicular also added by ability to date the church, especially when linked to other churches using typology.

The churches development clearly followed a typical pattern starting with the Norman tower and developing rapidly in 13th and 14th century, with the North and South aisles, Chapel and Chancel, and small additions in 14th century such as the Porch and Bell tower. This can be explained by the rise in population at this time and the importance of religious observance. The plastering of the church in 17th century provides evidence of the influence of puritanical beliefs during the period of the Commonwealth. After the Tithe Commutation Act 1836 when the ancient system of payment of this in kind were replaced with monetary payments, the tithe barn gradually fell into disuse and was finally demolished in 1970s. The church was revived 1875-80 by Wrangham and was repaired in the 20th century.

The desktop survey techniques that I used were the most useful. I found building reports that told me about parts of the structure that I would not have noticed otherwise. This report combined with the descriptions by other authors proved to be very valuable to my understanding of the church. The written accounts of the church were very useful as they gave me detailed descriptions of the church that gave me a further understanding into the events of the churches past which helped it to develop. Oral sources contributed to my knowledge by giving me information that I couldn't access through the HER, Library or internet. However some of this could not be validated by the written or physical evidence. The least useful evidence was the graphical evidence as there was very little in the way of maps. This meant that I could not establish any parish boundary changes, therefore, had to rely on graphical and written records to learn about population changes.

Certain features within the church clearly show that status was important within the community. The memorials on the walls in the Chapel and Chancel reveal those of status, along with the effigies as they were placed inside the church, their ascribed status in life earning them the place nearest to their deity in death, paid for by handsome contributions to the church. Women and children were also considered important as they had priority over the leaning posts before the pews were put into place⁴⁵.

The population during the church's lifetime again had an impact on the church's development during 19th century when a major restoration took place with donations of

⁴⁵ Oral source, Reverend Hazel Crabtree

materials, money and finds, which originally belonged to the church. With the exception of a few modernisations e.g. heating etc, the fabric of the church has remained essentially unchanged since 19th century.

It was very difficult to find indicators of how the church had developed internally, as even though some walls have been uncovered many are still suffocated by the plaster hiding a lot of evidence that could be valuable.

Furthermore another problem that I faced is that some of the areas of the church were off limits due to being structurally unsound such as the gallery and the clock tower. However I managed to overcome this as due to special circumstances I was allowed to go into the gallery and my neighbour, Paul Stainer, who is part of the Parish Council was allowed to see inside the bell tower.

If I was to do this project again, I would do the desktop survey first and collect all the physical evidence first before adding the written, graphical and oral evidence to create a full picture of the church and its development.

In conclusion an archaeological survey can contribute to our understanding into the development of St Luke's and All Saints Church, Darrington as we can combine the physical evidence with the documentary and graphical evidence to create a full understanding of its development.