

A Walk around St. Peter's Church, Dixton Historical Interest Features

Welcome to our church. The objective of this little guide is to inform you about the various more historical items of interest within the church. So, facing towards the altar.



On the left, on the north wall, can be seen the Achievement (Hatchment from the French achiever=to achieve) which bears the Arms of Queen Anne. This was painted locally and is dated 1711. It was restored in the latter part of the 20th century. Achievements were put on the front of your house, when you did, when you had achieved something, e.g. returned from a crusade or war.

The iron brackets and chandeliers were made by John Bryan of Grosmont, circa 1950. The brass chandelier in the chancel was a gift from H. Lloyd Johnes, a parishioner, again circa 1950.

There are a number of stained glass windows commemorating various parishioners and also St. Michael's Hospice. The actual location of the latter is unknown but it may be Chapel Farm. Notable among the parishioners were Mr. and Mrs. Woodhouse who lived close by. He sang in the choir and they were both regular worshippers in the Church for very many years.



On the right hand side of the chancel arch, above the old font will be seen the 'lepers seat' or 'squint'. This was approached by a gallery (now demolished) as lepers were not allowed to mix with the rest of the congregation and looking through the squint was the only way in which they could witness the elevation of the Host, the most sacred moment of the church service.

Local legend associates Chapel Farm with a leper colony, for which there is no substantive evidence. Hence, the Squint may never have been used. St. Michael's Hospice was certainly present in the 13th century as it was founded by John of Monmouth and leprosy was prevalent until the 15th Century.

<p style="text-align: center;">The Ten Commandments</p> <p>God spoke these words and said:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me. 2. You shall not make for yourself any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them 3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain. 4. <i>Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.</i> 5. Honour your father and your mother. 6. You shall not kill 7. You shall not commit adultery. 8. You shall not steal. 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 10. You shall not covet any thing that belongs to your neighbour. 	<p>On the west wall, near the organ, there are two tablets on which are written the Ten Commandments, omitting the 4th (the Sabbath Day) as it was felt that to include it might offend some of the prominent members of the parish! These are painted on tin and done at the same time as the Achievement (Hatchment – 1711).</p>
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Most of the pews have most beautifully embroidered pew runners and kneelers. These are quite recent and sewn by a parishioner, Mrs Joyce Waller. Some of the more elaborate ones were commissioned, often in memory of someone, and reflect their interests.