

## **Section 1 brief history and description of the church building(s). contents , churchyard and setting.**

### **Church Building(s)**

Claypole St Peters is a grade 1 listed church, first established in C13, further developed in C14 and C15 to increase the church physical size and subject to some limited internal refurbishment in the early 20th century. It is surrounded by a church yard and cemetery, which was supplemented by a Parish Council funded additional cemetery in late C20. The entry to this additional cemetery is via the Parish Church.

There are many C13 building elements of interest , for example the South wall of south transept has 3 C13 sedilia and 2 aumbrys.

### **Contents**

Claypole is mentioned in the Domesday Book as having 1 priest, a church and the Lord in 1086 was Bishop Odo of Bayeux. and also is one of the 54 Lincolnshire churches identified in Simon Jenkins England's Thousand Best Churches. Of particular significance are the Early Gothic style C13 leaf carvings which adorn the piers in the nave arcade. Each richly varied and deeply cut motif is different. There are two Green Men on one pier. The chancel has a fine sedilia and a beautiful aumbry. There are many C13 building elements of interest , for example the South wall of south transept has 3 C13 sedilia and 2 aumbrys.

There are 5 bells in the tower, an organ , a C14 wooden pulpit, a C14 stone font and C19 pews. A C14 wooden and highly carved screen was refurbished in C19. There is an C18 communion rail.

The various stained windows in the church were sponsored by local benefactors, the most recent by Mr Harry Coulby, in early C20. Mr Coulby also provided the local primary school, village hall and in Newark the Nurses Home

A 2012 faculty enabled the installation of a gas fired central heating boiler.

An early church school was established using space adjacent to the tower and artefacts relating to the school are still present.

### **Churchyard**

The Church Heritage record [list reference 1011798] identifies the churchyard cross at Claypole as a good example of a standing cross with a stepped base and being of national significance. Situated to the south of the chancel, it is believed to stand in or near its original position, and archaeological deposits relating to the monument's construction in this location are likely to survive intact. While the steps, socket-stone and part of the shaft have survived from medieval times, the subsequent restoration of the cross as a war memorial has resulted in its continued function as a public monument and amenity.

### **Setting**

The surrounding Lincolnshire and Claypole countryside is flat and predominantly arable farmed. St Peters church and particularly its spire has a significant local visual presence, especially when entering the village from the north. It is the oldest building in Claypole and has been in continual use by the community since the C13.

The boundary of the churchyard is defined by a stonewall and entrance is via a single wooden gate leading to a C13 porch.

Historic England record Listing NGR: SK8455548997 provides full architectural details of the church.

## **Section 2 : The significance of the church (including its contents and churchyard) in terms of**

- 1. its special architectural and historical interest.**
- 2. any significant features of artistic or archeological interest.**

St Peters is Grade 1 listed and is the largest capacity church in Claypole Benefice. It is typical of Lincolnshire churches style.

The church has been surveyed as part of the Lincolnshire Medieval Graffiti Project and over 400 marks have been identified and recorded. An example of the game 9 Mens Morris is carved onto a stone bench in the chancel.

Newark has recently opened the National Civil War Museum and Claypole played a significant part in the events during the Civil War. St Peters church was a significant local landmark and rallying point in the siege of Newark. An adjacent dwelling, still in being - Cromwell House- is believed to have been the home of a close relative of Oliver Cromwell and some believe the house and the church are connected by an underground tunnel although that has never been subjected to investigation.