

## Churchyard

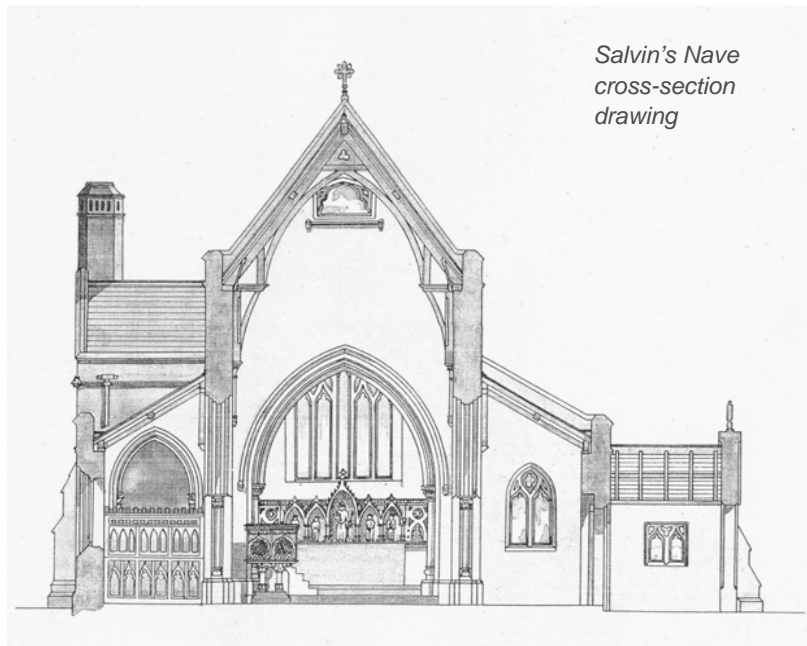
St John's is normally entered through the Lych-gate on the south side which itself is the Thoresby settlement and Perlethorpe village War Memorial.

At the eastern end of the church building the Pierrepoint family graves are situated. At the far end of the churchyard a Napoleonic War ashlar sarcophagus commemorating Charles

Alphonso Pierrepoint has been re-erected from the previous church building. Many other notable marker stones are provided including three 13th century incised grave slabs which were recovered from an adjacent field. Another stone incorporates Alfred Middleton's working tools; he was for many years a joiner on the estate. Many of the etchings are recorded in the register handbook previously noted.



**The Ducal Arms**  
The Pierrepoint ducal family



*Salvin's Nave cross-section drawing*



The University of  
**Nottingham**

The information in this leaflet is taken from comprehensive historical research, which may be found in full at <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>  
Many thanks to Bryan Frettsome for his extensive research.

# Welcome to St John's Church, Perlethorpe

The Parish Church of St John Perlethorpe is a beautiful place of worship in the heart of the ancient ducal estate of Thoresby on the northern reaches of Sherwood Forest whence the Sherriff of Nottingham lost one of his many fights with the men of Sherwood.

The present church building designed by Salvin was erected in 1875 to replace a previous substantial structure which was itself built to replace a medieval chapel in 1744.

These earlier churches were chapelries of the pre-Conquest church of St Mary's Edwinstowe.

The 3rd Earl Manvers provided this third church, which was built just after the third Thorseby Hall. The building is a Victorian Gothic structure, with a four-pinnacle tower and a tall spire of 128ft. In 1877 it was constituted as the parish church.

In 1904 it was found that the walls had not been built correctly, and most of the north nave wall, porch and the clerestory windows had to be repaired; large



elements of the south wall in both the nave and chancel had to be taken down to repair them. This work was carried out that same year under the direction of the Thoresby Estate, who also organised at the same time the manufacture of additional pews, bringing the seating capacity of the church to 168.

## Registers

St John's church has, along with two other parishes the oldest Parish Register in England, 1528. Whilst the original cannot be viewed at the church a complete abstract of all the entries to-date is available to be seen for all those budding genealogists.



*Typical altar carving*



#### 4 Seating

The pews within the Nave are heavily carved with various fauna and flora to be found in Rumwood, Sherwood Forest.

The seating to the West of the cross aisle was fitted in 1904/5. talls are adorned with sixteen heraldic beasts and Aramaic busts at low level.



#### 3 Carved Heads between the Arches

Positioned above the carved foliate pillar capitals, but below the vaulting shafts the heads of the Apostles are carved. Some are soot stained from the gasoliers once fixed below. The exception is the clean shaven St. John above the pulpit.

#### 2 Bells

The bell chamber now has only one of the peal of six bells retained. Five had to be removed owing to the instability of the spire. Details of the bells can be found on the original chart positioned on the southwest nave pillar.



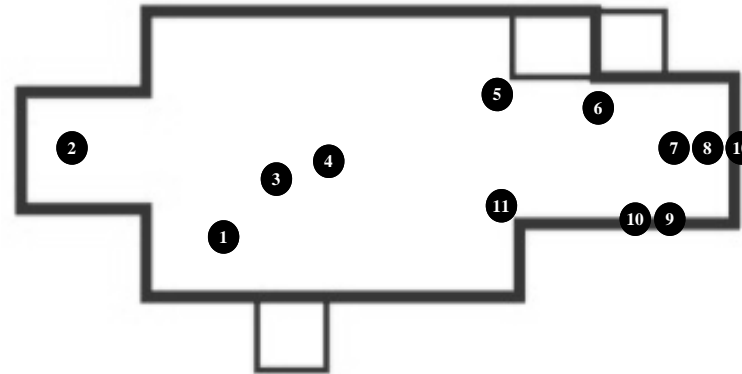
#### 5 Pulpit

The heavily carved ornate work on this item depicts the architect's general theme for the church.



#### 6 Sanctuary & Bishop's Chairs

Whilst of the Glastonbury style the raked back panels bear the scrip letters IHS and differing carving work to the arms.



#### 1 Font

This is positioned on the south aisle and whilst having a Caen stone octagonal exterior supported on eight marble pillars the inner lining is circular. A handsome oak cover with iron studs, wrought eye and straps is provided.

#### 11 Organ

The Viscount Jubilate electronic organ was purchased in 2001 to replace the original two-manual electrically operated bellows operated instrument manufactured by Messrs C Lloyd of Nottingham. Whilst the organ pipes were in reasonable order the remainder had become increasingly dilapidated and had to be replaced.

#### 7 Altar

The timber colour to the face is quite light which enhances the delicate carving work of cereal crops and flowers over tracery work of the supporting frame. The carving work to the sides is a little cruder in nature although depicting wheat and fish. The turned supporting columns are substantial and the liturgical colours used to be hung from a rail within the upper framework.

#### 8 Reredos

This is work of Forsythe of London and is of Steetley stone and depicts The Good Shepherd with His flock. Some of the detail has eroded over the years, however the four niches within the freeze hold statues of four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John each with their symbolic creature assigned to them, viz. an Angel, a lion, an ox, and the eagle. The figures are carved from the more resilient Caen stone.



#### 9 Sedilia

A double unit is provided within the Sanctuary with plain seats and two arches with heavy pinnacles above.

#### 10a Stained Glass

The original east window was replaced in 1911 and now illuminates the Ascension of Christ to Glory. The story behind the selection of the four Saints; St Martin of Tours, St John the Evangelist, St James and St Margaret is of great interest.

#### 10b 'Good Samaritan' Stained Glass Window

Whilst this Parable is well known the picture slides within the tracery are in a very confused order. This window is etched Lavers Barraud & Westlake – London 1881 which may be false accreditation.