



About St Helen's

This simple red brick church was built in 1859. Designed by R.J Withers, the church is early 14th-century in style. It is small, seating around sixty people and comprises a nave, chancel, vestry and porch.

Aspects of the church, such as the stained glass and the use of different tones of brick, are reminiscent of the Victorian Arts and Crafts movement. St. Helen's was considered a model church for parishes of modest means, having a small bellcote with a miniature spire in place of a tower.

The earliest record of a church on the site is in a charter relating to the nearby Alvingham priory, during Robert de Chesney's tenure as Bishop of Lincoln between 1148 and 1166. The dedication to St. Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, is common throughout Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

The mid-19th century saw the enforcement of what was termed by a local newspaper 'muscular Christianity': the Reverend Edmund Huff, described as an 'inflexible English Catholic Churchman', believed men and women should be seated on opposite sides of the church. When Joseph Wilson, a Legbourne police officer, insisted on sitting with his girlfriend, he and the reverend almost came to blows.

The church was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1997.

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Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

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To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.

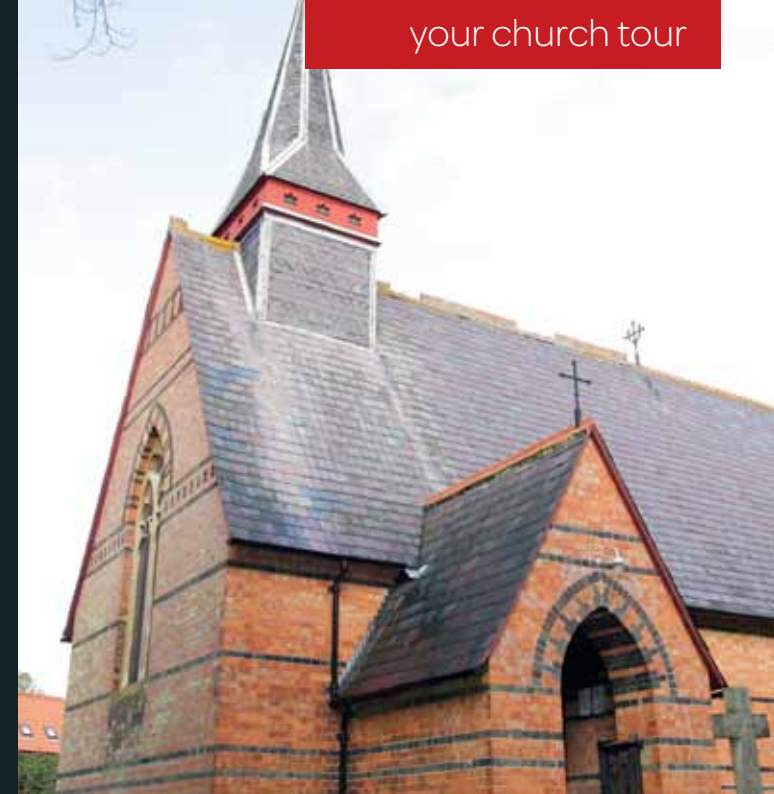


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your church tour



Church of St Helen

Little Cawthorpe



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The historic church of St Helen

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 Situated on the west wall, the **table of kindred and affinity** dictates who you may and may not marry. Incest only became a state crime in 1908 in England and Wales. Prior to that, it was dealt with under Canon Law.
- 2 The octagonal **font** dates to 1860; a pewter bowl from an earlier font rests in the basin.
- 3 Beneath the west window hangs the **memorial** of Lysimachus Parker, who donated the money for the window and was lord of the manor when the church was rebuilt in 1860.
- 4 Most of the **stained glass** was created by Lavers, Barraud and Westlake between 1860 and 1890. The windows depict various scenes from the Old and New Testaments.
- 5 The **pulpit** is a simple design; polygonal in shape, with a string-course around the middle and fitted with a brass reading desk.
- 6 The **capitals** flanking the chancel arch are decorated with floral motifs and human faces.
- 7 Behind the altar, the **reredos** consists of three rectangular, recessed panels. The central panel has a fixed stone cross inlaid with marble, the outer pair consists of tiles set in geometric patterns.
- 8 The **east window** is a relatively simple design, consisting primarily of geometric patterns. In the centre is a depiction of the Crucifixion.
- 9 The **south window** in the chancel, presented by Cornelius Parker of Louth, depicts the healing of the man sick with the palsy and the Raising of Lazarus.
- 10 The wooden **bellcote and spire** look curiously out of place. Despite being contemporary with the church, they have a much earlier feel to them.

