



About the Church of Christ the Consoler

This remarkable church was designed by William Burges (1827-1881) a leading Gothic Revival architect. It was commissioned by Lady Mary Vyner of Newby Hall as a memorial to her son Frederick Grantham Vyner who was murdered by brigands in Greece in 1870 aged 23. This event and the unusual dedication to Christ the Consoler are echoed throughout the church in inscriptions and decoration. Burges worked here with some of his regular associates – Nicholls (sculpture); Lonsdale, Weekes, Saunders (stained glass); Walden (woodwork); Hart (metalwork); Campbell (painting).

The church was consecrated in 1876 and served as the parish church of Skelton-cum-Newby; it was declared redundant in 1991.

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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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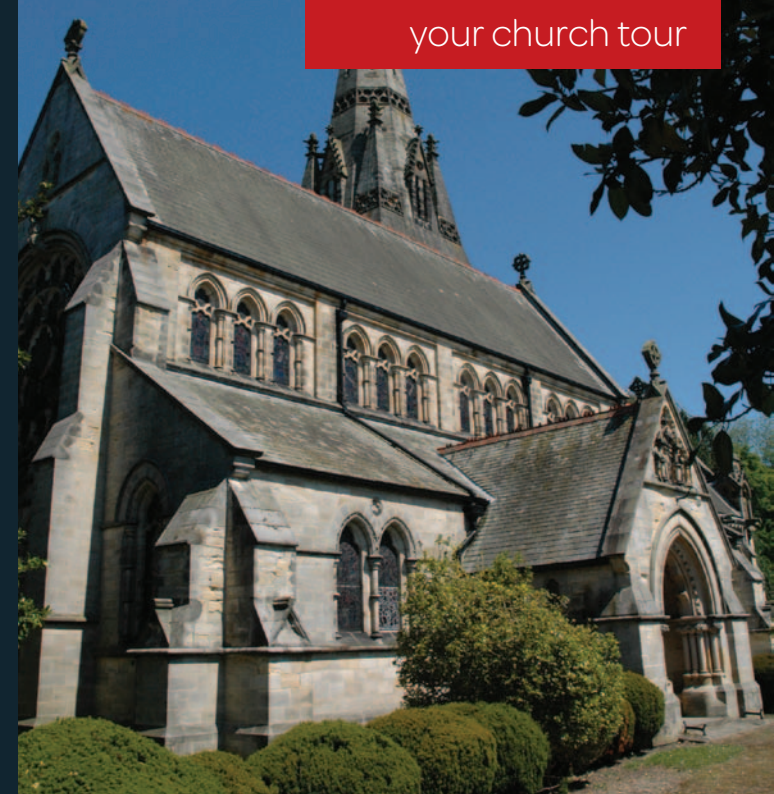
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Church of Christ the Consoler

Skelton-cum-Newby



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The historic Church of Christ the Consoler

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 Christ the Consoler sculpture.** Christ, with a crown of thorns and showing the marks of his crucifixion, leans forward to offer consolation.
- 2 Gargoyle or grotesque.** The roof level animal sculptures have companions, large and small, inside and outside the church.
- 3 Christ the Good Shepherd.** The theme of Christ the Consoler is continued with this beautiful, sensitive sculpture.
- 4 Font and cover.** Given by Lord and Lady Ripon in memory of their baby daughter – Lady Mary Vyner’s grand-daughter. The white marble is said to be from Tennessee.
- 5 Draught of fishes window.** The south windows depict the miracles of Jesus and the north the parables; one near the font has some splendid, colourful fishes.
- 6 Rose window.** The central figure of Christ offers consolation to men and women of all ages (inner circle) and of all classes and conditions (outer circle).
- 7 Organ and organ loft.** Most of the pipes of this T C Lewis organ are out of sight in the tower; the balcony is a fine example of Burgesian exuberance.
- 8 Ascension sculpture.** Jesus ascends to Heaven, watched by the disciples. The sculpture with its message of victory dominates the nave.
- 9 Samson/Resurrection window.** Samson carries away the gates of Gaza which is paralleled by Jesus rising from the tomb. This pairing of Old and New Testament events occurs throughout the chancel glass.
- 10 Altar rebedos.** Four prophets (Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel) foretell the coming of Christ; in the central roundel one of the three Kings presents a gift to the infant Jesus.

