



About Elston Chapel

This small and unassuming chapel has a more interesting history than might first appear. The earliest mention of Elston is in Domesday Book as Elvestune, or Eilaf's settlement. The settlement was divided into three holdings, each with its own church.

The ancient origin of Elston and this chapel is evident in the Norman doorway on the south side of the church. However, most of the building dates from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

The manor at Elston changed hands many times during the Middle Ages and came into the possession of the Darwin family in the 1680s. Elston chapel was regularly used as a parish church until 1870, when its parish was united with that of nearby Stoke.

By 1960, the building had become completely derelict and was often the victim of vandalism. It was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1977, who have carried out extensive repairs.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



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.

Help us do more

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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Church of
Elston Chapel

Nottinghamshire



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The historic church of Elston Chapel

10 things to see before you leave...

1 Dating to the late 18th or early 19th century, the **gallery** underwent extensive repairs when the church was vested in the care of the CCT. The original gallery contained an inscription recording the benefactions to the poor made by John Sumner, a local parishioner. Galleries were a common feature in Georgian churches but were often removed by the Victorians.

2 This **lion**, now faded, originally flanked a large coat of arms and probably dates to the Jacobean period. This part of the wall was plastered over during the Georgian period and repainted with biblical texts.

3 Along with the gallery, the **pews** were extensively restored during the 20th century. Due to vandalism much of the panelling had to be replaced. The pews date to the late Georgian period and, like galleries, box pews were a feature often removed during Victorian restorations.

4 Only male parishioners would use the **hat pegs** during services. It was considered disrespectful for men to wear hats in church but for ladies it was a requirement. In recent years, most of the hooks were broken by vandals but have been sensitively repaired by The Churches Conservation Trust.

5 This brick, **marked 1577**, probably records the year in which repairs and alterations were made to the church.

6 It is unclear for whom these **memorials** were painted due to the degradation of the paint and plaster. The style of the memorials indicates that they were painted during the Georgian period and their designs are similar to three-dimensional grave slabs and wall monuments of the period.

7 The sturdy **double-decker oak pulpit and reading desk** incorporates 17th and 18th-century panelling and was restored in recent decades. It is decorated with modest semi-circular designs known as palmettes.

8 Carved with **'RI aitatis 39'**, this brick could be a memorial (aetatis means 'aged'), or may commemorate another event. Although the script is similar to that on the 1577 brick (number 5), it is not identical. This suggests that it was made around the same time but not inscribed by the same mason.

9 Probably the most recent of the **wall paintings** in Elston. They were repainted several times, perhaps with different texts.

10 The oldest part of the church and dating to the 12th century, the **doorway** is made from local yellow limestone. Over the centuries it has been subjected to much graffiti.

