



## About St John's Church

The church of St John the Baptist is situated in an ancient landscape indicated by the remains of Anglo-Saxon carved stones re-used in the walls of this medieval church. However, this is a much more ancient landscape of power, royalty and warfare than the Anglo-Saxon stonework suggests. The church is sited within Stanwick Camp earthwork fortification which was probably the centre of power of Cartimandua, queen of the Brigantes during the 1st century AD. Therefore, though Stanwick may appear a quiet village it was not always so. The earthworks would have remained an important site during the early historic period making this a significant place for the local population and the reason why it continued to be so during the medieval period.

The churchyard is circular suggesting that it is pre-Norman Conquest. The present church dates from the 13th century however the church was renovated in 1868 and the fine Victorian tiles and arts and crafts details on the door hinges all date from this period.

Enjoy your visit to this ancient site.

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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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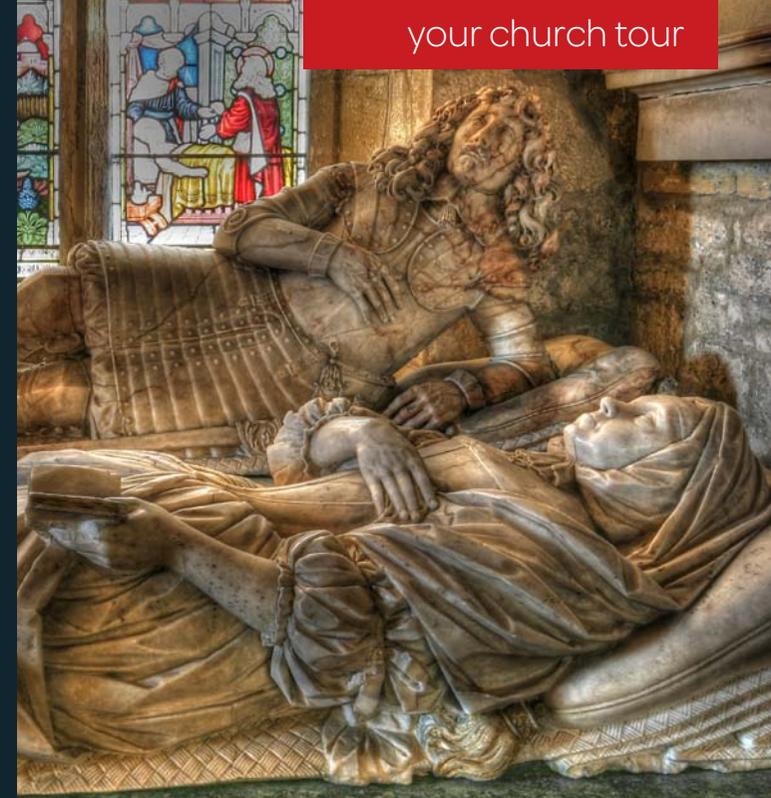
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your church tour

Church of  
St John the  
Baptist  
Stanwick



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## The historic Church of John the Baptist

### 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The beak head voussoirs (wedge shaped stones used to construct an arch) and the early medieval tomb slabs in the **porch** of St John's hint to its long history. It is probable that the church mentioned in the Domesday Book as Aldbrough was in fact that of St John the Baptist and may have formed part of a Saxon Parish. The mixture of carved stones and grave slabs, some Saxon, from the 11th and 12th centuries in the south aisle, re-enforce this supposition.
- 2 The **font** is a simple 19th century stone design but is topped by an elaborate, three tiered, wooden cover. The cover is in a decorative Gothic style, dating from the 17th century but has had more recent restoration.
- 3 The **cross shaft** is sited in the base of the tower, and is part of an Anglo- Saxon cross dating to the 9th century. The interlaced designs of entwined beasts are typical of the period and suggest an early foundation for the church.
- 4 In the church are four recumbent **effigies**. One of these on the ledge of the east window in the south aisle is of a lady with joined hands in prayer.
- 5 **Hatchments** are funerary monuments displaying the crest and arms of the deceased. Typically these are of painted wood, the arms depicted on a black lozenge shaped board. This church displays the royal arms of George III and hatchments for three members of the Pülleine family and the second and fourth Earls of Northumberland.
- 6 The lights in the **east window** are by Clayton & Bell and date from 1868.
- 7 The **triple sedilia** are set into the wall of the chancel. Sedilia are stone seats, intended for the officiating clergy. These sedilia have Gothic style arches, but like the piscina, date from the Victorian era.
- 8 The purple and green **tiled reredos** behind the altar was installed during its 1868 restoration by Anthony Salvin.
- 9 The beautiful **First World War memorial** is by Herbert Wauthier.

- 10 **The Smithson Tomb** – A spectacular 17th century monument, this chest tomb is topped by marble effigies of the first Sir Hugh Smithson and his wife. The figures are beautifully carved; Sir Hugh reclines in armour, beside his more modestly dressed wife, who is holding a book. These particular Smithsons are the ancestors of the founder of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.

