



About All Saints'

This secluded church is set in attractive parkland at the foot of the Cleveland Hills. It was built in 1785 at the expense of John Hall Stevenson of nearby Skelton Castle, replacing a medieval predecessor of which only one wall – the north wall of the chancel – remains. It has a strong local feel with its narrow tower and the herringbone tooling of the external sandstone. The interior typifies a church built mainly for the convenience of the local squires, who used the north transept with its fireplace as the family pew. It is said that one of them would stoke the grate noisily if the sermon was too long or dull.

Although All Saints' dates mainly from the 18th century, there are several 17th-century monuments in the chancel, fixed to the surviving medieval wall. The triple-decker pulpit, box pews and other furnishings are late Georgian, whilst the churchyard contains many interesting headstones including some with skull-and-crossbones motifs.

Skelton's growth in the 1880s led to the building of a new church of All Saints, in a very different style, at the opposite end of the village. All Saints' ceased to have regular services in the early 20th century.

Following a fire in 1983 which damaged the tower, the church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1986.

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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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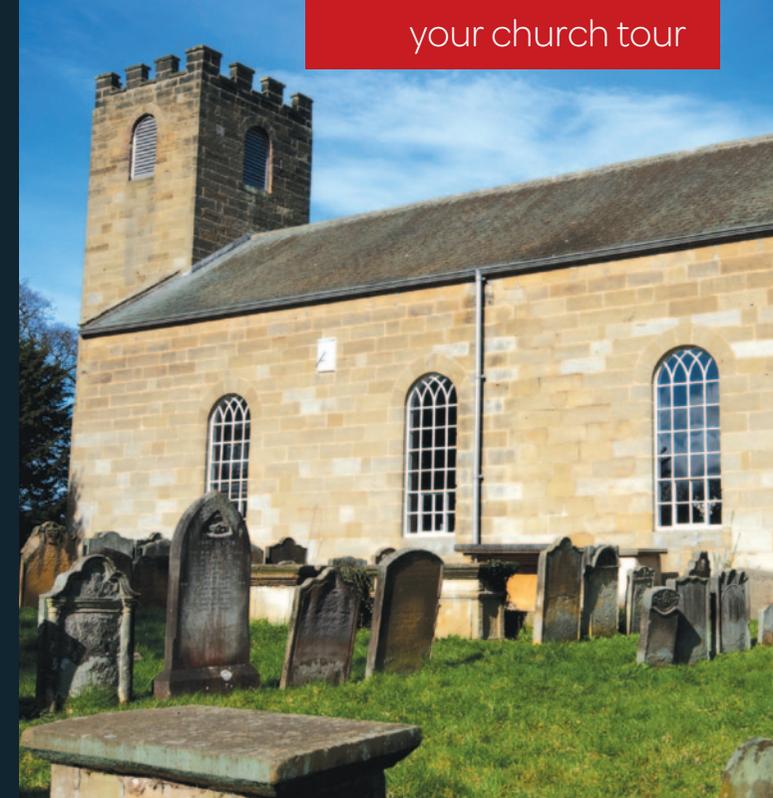
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Church of All Saints

Skelton-in-Cleveland



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The historic church of All Saints

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The Georgian **box pews**, were rented to individual families. Some family names survive on the panelling inside the pews.
- 2 Square 13th-century **font** with unusual geometric and floral designs.
- 3 The **west gallery** provided extra seating for the parishioners. Such galleries were a common feature in Georgian churches.
- 4 Georgian **triple-decker pulpit** with a canopy, known as a tester, which helped amplify the voice of the preacher.
- 5 The north transept functioned as a private **family pew** and contains its own fireplace.
- 6 Medieval **stone sarcophagi** of unknown date, one for an adult and one, with a carved lid, for a child.
- 7 18th-century wooden **altar rails**.
- 8 Two grand **memorials** to the Trotter family flank the chancel. That on the north wall is dedicated to John Trotter who died of gout in 1701 and highlights the charitable donations of his widow, Elizabeth.
- 9 Medieval **memorial slab**. The indents in the stone, which formerly held brasses, show two figures with a church above them. It was probably made for a member of the Fauconberg family, who were the lords of Skelton castle.
- 10 Rustic painted **royal arms** dating to 1785. As with many post-medieval churches, the royal arms hangs over the chancel arch, where a Crucifix would have been mounted.

