



About St Peter's Church

This attractive little church dates to the 12th century with later medieval additions. The original Norman masonry can still be seen inside, whilst the exterior maintains its early-medieval style with few modifications. Note the blocked doorways and windows on the exterior walls.

The church has a number of interesting features, including a blocked hagioscope (also known as a squint) and some medieval timbers in the north aisle. The interior was renovated and restored during the 19th century and most of the church's furnishings date from that period.

Archaeological discoveries, including several Roman villas, indicate very early settlement at Normanby; the village is situated along Ermine Street, a main Roman route from London to the north. The name Normanby, meaning 'village of the Norwegians', suggests uninterrupted settlement through the Anglo-Saxon period. The *-by-Spital* suffix relates to the village's proximity to a nearby medieval hospital.

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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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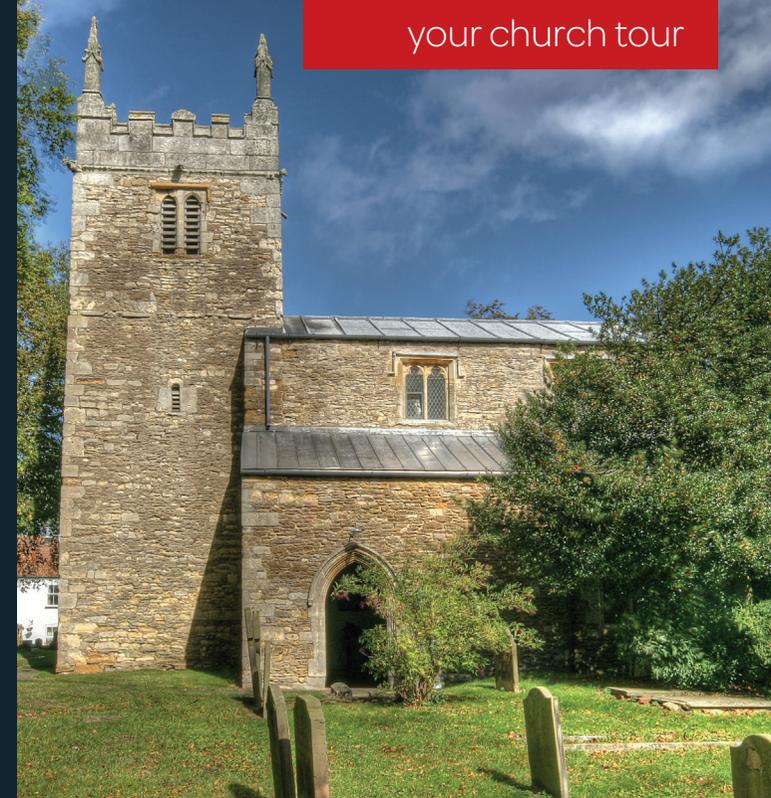
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Church of St Peter

Normanby-by-Spital



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The historic church of St Peter

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 This **benefaction board** records that in 1767 Mary Dunn of Lincoln donated £250 to the parish, for the hiring of a school teacher to teach the poor children how to read and write.
- 2 Dating to the 19th century, **tortoise stoves** such as this one were so called owing to the slow speed at which they burned fuel. The factory was established in Halstead, Essex, in 1830 by Charles Portway. Their reputation quickly spread and many such stoves were purchased for use in churches.
- 3 The bowl of the **font** is Norman and dates to the late 12th century. Unlike many Norman fonts, it is quite simple in design. The base of the font is much more recent, dating to the 19th century.
- 4 Some of the original **medieval timbers** survive in the north aisle roof. Their exact felling date has not been established.
- 5 Many of the columns in the church have well-preserved **Norman capitals**. These date from the 12th century and are a decorative reminder of the church's ancient origins.
- 6 The **pulpit** dates to the Victorian restoration. It is quite simple in design, and there are a few decorative embellishments.
- 7 This **hagioscope** (or squint) is a small blocked-up window at the east end of the south aisle. In the Middle Ages, a priest celebrating Mass in the side chapel could synchronise his service with the priest at the high altar by looking through the hagioscope.
- 8 The chancel contains several 19th-century **memorials** for the Brown family, including George and Elizabeth Brown, Anne Brown and George Pereira Brown.
- 9 The small but highly-decorative **east window** depicts the Crucifixion and the Lamentation of Christ. No medieval glass survives in the church: this window dates to the 19th century.

- 10 Many blocked doors and windows are visible on the **exterior of the north wall**, suggesting that the church may have had a different layout in the Middle Ages. Note also the remains of the east-end foundations extending from beneath the current east wall, indicating that the 13th-century chancel was originally much larger.

