



About St Margaret's

The lovely Grade 1 listed church of Haceby St Margaret sits in a quiet corner of the Lincolnshire countryside within an almost deserted hamlet. The church is also known as St Barbara's, possibly due to an inscription on one of the bells in the tower.

There was once a Roman villa nearby and the many place names ending in 'by', denoting a village or homestead in Old Scandinavian, suggest a more thriving population in Danish times. The first element of the place name is thought to derive from the personal name Hadd.

The massive west tower is without supporting buttresses and mostly Norman. It has a short clerestoried nave, shorter, lower chancel, south aisle and porch. The top stage of the tower is Decorated in style, but the little Norman windows below betray its early origins. It is built largely of rubble although the upper stage is of smooth-faced ashlar stone.

The remaining wall paintings above the chancel arch suggest a larger scheme of images existing in the pre-Reformation church. This 'look and learn' approach to the internal décor of medieval parish churches was necessary to assist a mostly illiterate congregation.

Enjoy the peace and quiet.

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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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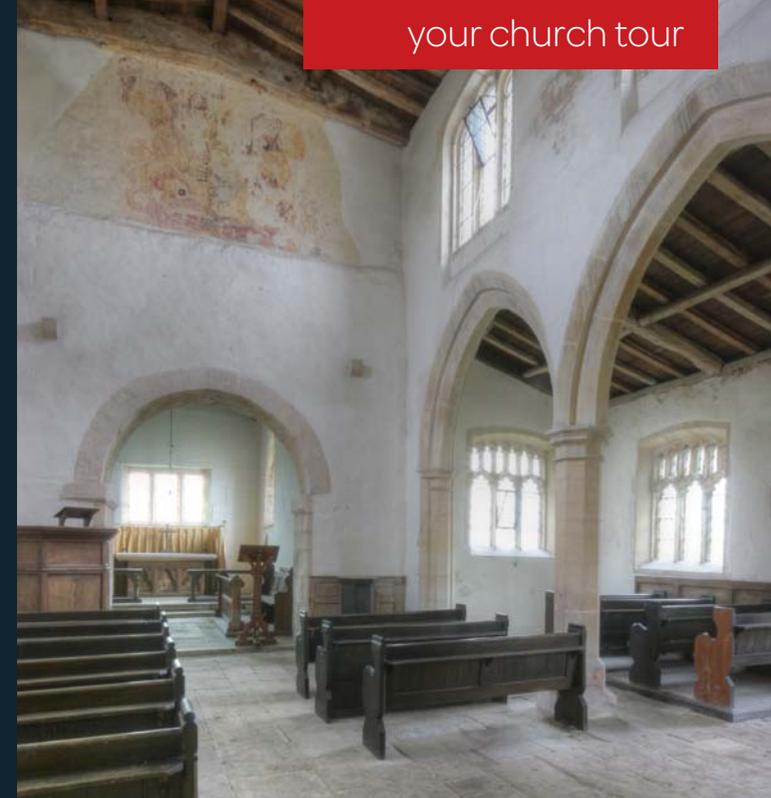
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Church of
St Margaret

Haceby



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The historic Church of St Margaret

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 17th and 18th century **graffiti** can be seen on the lintel above the west window in the porch.
- 2 The plain octagonal **font** is possibly 15th century. Notice the locking device on the edge of the font, enabling the cover to be secured and the holy water protected from theft.
- 3 The splayed **window** in the west wall of the tower is typically Norman, allowing a disproportionate amount of light through a relatively small opening. The later 15th century perpendicular tower arch is supported by Norman columns.
- 4 Above the tower arch can be seen the former **roof line** of the church.
- 5 The arcade on the south side of the church has the 15th century **clerestory** above which includes two perpendicular windows. The windows are an obvious but deliberate method of significantly increasing the light levels in the main body of the church.
- 6 Possibly the most notable architectural feature of the church is the early Norman **chancel arch** dating from the 12th century. The simple semi-circular arch is supported on plain impost.
- 7 Above the chancel arch is a rare early 18th century Queen Anne royal arms painted on the plaster. It has been superimposed on a medieval Doom which would have featured Christ presiding in majesty over the Last Judgement. A group of naked souls being pitch-forked into Hell can just be made out to the right. **Wall paintings** were very common in the Middle Ages and quite at odds with what we expect to see in a parish church today. They were intended for the illiterate congregation and were used to illustrate events in the bible and, in this specific case, what may happen on the Day of Judgement to those who had lived a life of sin.
- 8 18th century **Georgian panelling** has been reused in the chancel behind the 19th century choir stalls.

- 9 The pre-Reformation **altar stone** can be seen at the very east end of the chancel along with at least one of the five original carved crosses on its surface. Behind the altar is a simple riddel screen.
- 10 The 13th century **piscina** in a niche on the south wall of the chancel next to the altar was originally used to wash the Communion or Mass vessels.

