



## About All Saints

Situated between Louth and the North Sea, the church is known locally as the 'Cathedral of the Marsh' because of its ornate features. There are two parish churches in Theddlethorpe, All Saints and St. Helen's. For centuries they functioned separately but nowadays form a single parish.

The settlement of Theddlethorpe is mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Te(d)lagestorp'. No church is mentioned in the brief entry but the manors were held by individuals of great importance. These were Earl Hugh of Chester—one of William the Conqueror's most trusted advisors and allies, Alfred of Lincoln, and Count Alan. Close to the church is archaeological evidence of a moated site, which was probably the original Norman manor house.

The earliest parts of the church date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century but it was almost entirely rebuilt between 1380 and 1400. Repairs and restorations were also carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The parapets of the aisle, tower and clerestory are all battlemented and topped with floriated pinnacles.

Theddlethorpe All Saints was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust after it was declared redundant in 1973.

## 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

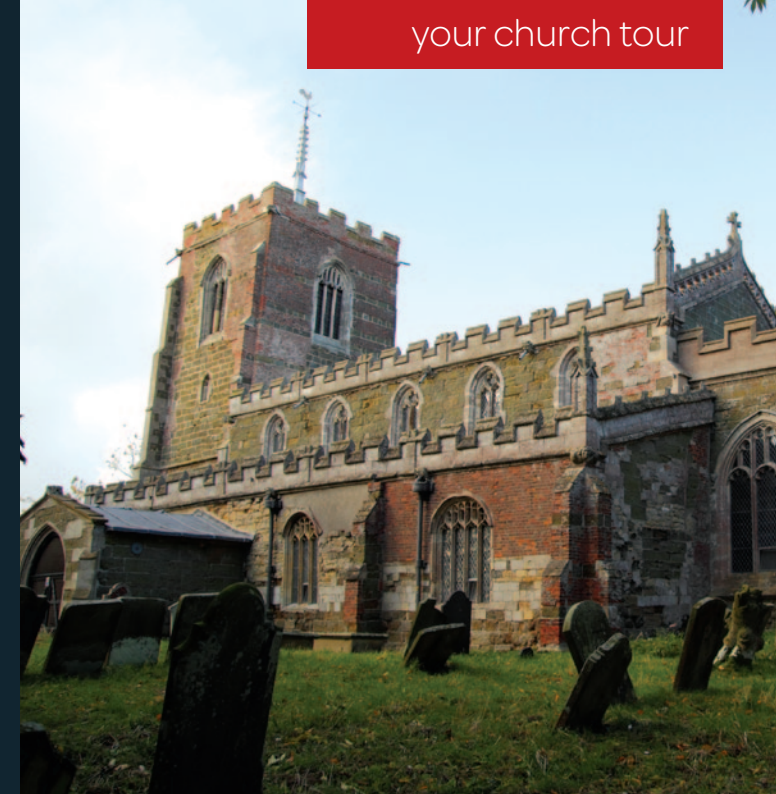
To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



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[visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk)

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Registered Charity No: 258612  
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## Church of All Saints

Theddlethorpe



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## The historic church of All Saints

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

- 1 The upper half of the south doorway is framed by an **ogee arch**. The ogee design originated in the Middle East and was popularised in Europe during the later Middle Ages.
- 2 The 15<sup>th</sup>-century octagonal **font** is decorated with fine tracery and grotesque faces.
- 3 Carved on lead originally taken from the roof, this elaborate piece of **graffiti** depicts two ships and dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4 The magnificent 15<sup>th</sup>-century carved oak **rood screen** is one of the finest in the county. Dating from about 1535, the **parclose screens** are early examples of the use of Renaissance decorative forms.
- 5 In the chapel on the north side of the aisle, there is a small **door** which originally led to the rood loft. The priest would have preached from this point during the Middle Ages.
- 6 The **two busts** represent the Hon. Charles Bertie, who died in 1727, and his first wife Mary.
- 7 On the south wall of the chancel is a triple **sedilia**, the reserved seating for priests. The individual seats are punctuated with Norman capitals, some of the oldest masonry in the church.
- 8 The matrix of the medieval **reredos** is still visible in the south aisle. It is decorated with quatrefoil shapes and tracery.
- 9 An impressive 15<sup>th</sup>-century **tombstone** is set with a brass of Robert Hayton Esq. Intriguingly, it depicts armour that was almost obsolete when he died in 1424.
- 10 Carved in the shape of a tree stump, this **gravestone** commemorates the death of Rebecca French. It was created by Thomas Wallis, the renowned Louth woodcarver.



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2



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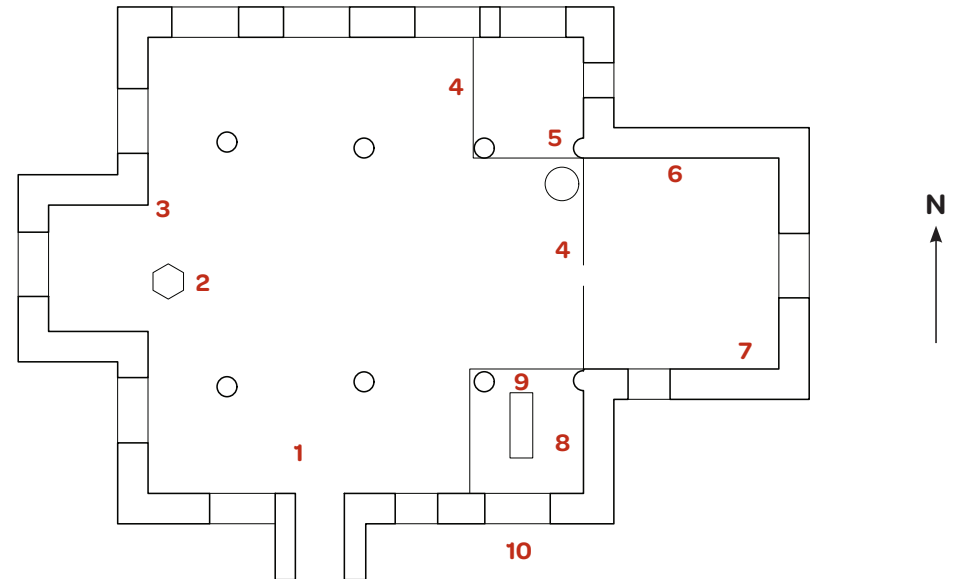
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