

TEACHERS' NOTES FOR CLAXBY CHURCH TRAIL

There is a children's guide to the church. If the children find new answers or if they have questions for which you would like answers please let me know. The children may want to do rubbings of graves with paper and wax crayon or they may wish to draw their favourite grave.

The answers to each question on the trail are listed below together with explanatory notes. A plan of the church and a sketch map of the churchyard are included in the pack.

Churchyard

- 1 The grave is in the churchyard to the east of the church, close to the boundary with the adjacent garden. He was called William Keal. He came from Binbrook and was only 26 when he died. He worked at the Ironworks (mine) that operated in Claxby between 1860 and 1870. This was the first mine in Lincolnshire in modern times and sparked great hopes of an industrial answer to the poverty that was prevalent at the time. There were many accidents and deaths. Although the mine closed after about 10 years, another mine in Nettleton remained open until the 1960s.
- 2 There are gravestones for 11 members of the Marshall family.
- 3 Thomas Brooks 1765. There must have been earlier burials but before this date many were marked only with wooden crosses or with nothing.

When we dug a recent grave in the oldest part of the churchyard we found evidence of 5 previous burials.

- 4 There are 5 children with marked graves. Until about the 1920s it was much more common for children to die than is the case now.
- 5 May Doncaster died aged 100 years. The wife of the first headteacher at Claxby School, Muriel Canty, was 99.
- 6 Eleven Rectors are buried in the churchyard, including a father and son Nicholas and Austin Lee.
- 7 Both trees are beech and are thought to be 120-150 years old. You can roughly estimate the age of a tree by measuring around the trunk at about 5 feet (1.5m.) from the ground and divide the circumference by 1 inch (2.5cm). There are exceptions particularly some conifers such as yew.

Inside the Church

- 8 The Chancel (the section that contains the altar) is the oldest part together with the aisle and pillars on the north side (opposite the door). The stone work is more worn in this area and is particularly noticeable if you compare the columns and arches on each side of nave (main part of the church). There is a 13th century tomb to Sir Thomas Brayboeuf to the left of the altar. This is very worn. There is an elaborate but battered 16th century tomb on the right of the chancel.

- 9 These are immediately behind the wooden rood screen, which separates the nave and chancel. It is believed that they were to frighten away evil spirits.
- 10 Three young men died in the Second World War. It also tells us who returned safely including four girls. Three people from the same family are recorded. It is also unusual not to have a record of casualties from the First World War as the 'fashion' to establish memorials started after the First World War.
- 11 This is a relatively recent window inserted in memory of George Ogg. An envelope represents his job as a postman. A car, a horse and gardening tools and lily of the valley flowers show what he liked. He was also a bellringer.
- 12 The paintings are the only remains of heavily decorated walls that were done when the church was restored in the 1870s. It was very fashionable then when things medieval and gothic were much admired. The paintings represent Saints Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. The centre panel says IHS and the exhortation is 'enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his halls with praise'.
- 13 If you stand in front of the font and look towards the altar the chancel is offset to the right. This is called a nodding chancel and there is no definitive explanation. They occur too frequently for the experts to think it was a mistake by the original builders. One suggestion is that it represents Christ's head falling to one side on the cross.

- 14 The peephole lets the bell ringers see what is happening in the church so they can see when to start or stop ringing.
- 15 There are five bells in the tower. More information is in a folder on the shelf just inside the church.
- 16 There is a display panel giving information about the restoration. The organ was built originally in the 1877 and restored in 2006.
- 17 This represents the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary so the central figures are Mary and the Angel Gabriel (telling her she is to bear a child). To the right stands St Laurence the Deacon (with the gridiron on which he is said to have been grilled to death). To the right stands St Agnes identified with her symbol of the lamb (Latin agnus).
- 18 This shows all our Rectors from 1249. The two parishes of Claxby and Normanby were joined in 1740 but retained their own churches. The longest serving rector was Rev Chris Hildyard who stayed for 41 years. Canon Andrews who served for 36 years was responsible for the restoration in 1870.
- 19 This is the font which is used to baptise anyone who wants to join the church. Usually done when we are babies but adults can and are baptised. When children are baptised they have godparents who make their promises for them, when it is an adult he or she makes their own promises.