

WOLD NEWTON PARISH CHURCH OF ALL HALLOWS

O.S. TF 242 968.

Printed sources

Mee (1949) p.427.
Osborne (1981) p.182.
Pevsner & Harris (1989) p.809.

Photographic references

N.M.R. Job 91/584 (1991)

The present church of Wold Newton was built in 1862. It is small, comprising only a nave, apsidal chancel, bell turret, vestry and south porch.¹

The building itself is of far less interest than the extraordinary collection of objects it houses, which include architectural fragments from Bardney Abbey and elsewhere, framed pages of illuminated manuscripts, terracotta tiles from Sempringham Priory, Netherlandish bricks carved with scenes in relief, statues of various saints, watercolours, candlesticks and general bric-à-brac. These pieces were acquired and placed in the church by William Maurice Wright (1873–1956), the main landowner in Wold Newton. A devotee of High Church Anglicanism, he purchased vestments and ornaments for his local church with more enthusiasm than discernment.²

His collection includes some stained glass in the west and a south window. Four Netherlandish ovals dating from the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are set in the midst of panels of fragments, mostly dating from the early nineteenth century, but including several heads and other pieces of fifteenth-century date. Two of these panels are suspended precariously in a south and the west window and a third lies loose on the sill of the latter. Part of another such panel, which in 1986 lay on the sill of the west window, appears to have been thrown away during a subsequent redecoration. All this glass is in poor condition and needs releading. By contrast, two panels depicting bishop saints in the south window are in a good condition. The figures themselves are excellent nineteenth-century imitations of fifteenth-century pieces. Both panels incorporate medieval fragments and that depicting St Hugh uses a genuine if partly restored fifteenth-century canopy on a ruby rinceau ground. According to Mee, this panel is said to have been brought from the nearby church of Swinhope, where no medieval glass remains; nor was any ever recorded there.

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1a. **Oval: bishop saint** with crozier and monstrance, trampling on devil, white with yellow stain and touches of enamel, Netherlandish, late 16th-c/early 17th-c. Breaks, one leaded, slight pitting. Set on fragments, mostly 19th-c; also foot, crown, drapery, white with yellow stain, 15th-c. Pitting, leading decayed.

Panel h 0.43m, w 0.24m.

Oval h 0.22m, w 0.17m.

1b. **St Hugh**, 19th-c, beneath canopy, white with yellow stain, 15th-c. Set on fragments, 15th-c and 19th-c.

h 0.51m, w 0.32m.

2b. **Oval: St Peter** garbed as pope, with key and crozier, kneeling male donor, white with yellow stain. Netherlandish, late 16th-c. Extensive breaks, with parts falling from decayed leads. Much paint loss. Set on fragments, mostly 19th-c, but including two bearded male heads, angels' wings, white with yellow stain, 15th-c. Pitting, leading decayed, panel badly buckled.

Panel h 0.67m, w 0.23m.

Oval h 0.21m, w 0.17m.

A1. **Bishop saint**, 19th-c, set amidst fragments, 15th-c and 19th-c.

h 0.32m, w 0.37m.

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1b. **Oval: Virgin and Child** on crescent moon, white with yellow stain, Netherlandish, 16th-c/17th-c. Breaks, one leaded, paint loss. Set on fragments, mainly 19th-c, but including angel, angel's head, part of sun in splendour, white with yellow stain, 15th-c. Pitting, paint loss.

Panel h 0.23m, w 0.49m.

Oval h 0.22m, w 0.17m.

Loose panel. **Oval: bishop saint** bearing book and crozier, with soldier with halberd and antique armour seated at his feet, white with yellow stain, Netherlandish, late 16th-c/early 17th-c. Breaks, some leaded. Set on fragments, mostly early 19th-c, also white canopy fragment and blue rinceau, 14th-c, and a few 15th-c scraps. Leading decayed.

Panel h 0.43m, w 0.23m.

Oval h 0.22m, w 0.17m.

¹ Pevsner & Harris (1989) p.809; A.A.S.R.P. VI (1862) pp.xcix-c.

² For his career see Lincolnshire Archives Committee,

Archivists' Report 21 (1970) pp.23–7. The author is grateful to Dr David Smith of York University for this reference.