

ST. NICOLAS CHURCH

How many of us realise what a unique and ancient little Church we have in Hail Weston and how much effort has been expended by many local people to maintain it over the years?

The Church is nearly eight hundred years old
with records showing that services were taking place in 1209.

St. Nicolas Church is a listed building; GRADE 2*

It was first listed on 14th May 1959.

A few features of the building indicate that it dates back at least to the 13th Century; the shape and size i.e. a Nave and Chancel under one roof, has altered little since its foundation apart from the addition of the wooden Tower. Late in the 15th Century the upper part of the East Wall was rebuilt. In the next Century the South Wall of the Nave was partly rebuilt and the timber West Tower was added.

On the wall opposite the main door is a list dating back to 1286 AD of Rectors and Vicars which were shared with Southoe and in more recent years with Lt. Paxton and Diddington until December 1983. Hail Weston then joined with Gt. Staughton, later the parish was looked after by Buckden and in 2002 became part of a group of parishes with Southoe and Gt. Staughton.

For those interested, the following are some of the main features of historical and architectural interest.

WINDOWS

In the North Wall is an original plain Early English (13th Century) small lancet window.

In the South Wall is a partly restored late 15th Century Window of three trefoiled lights with vertical tracery. In the same wall are two windows, the eastern one consisting of three centred lights in a square head is of the early 16th Century. There are also carved heads on the exterior stonework of a south wall window. The western window is mainly modern.

The large East Window is late 15th Century (perpendicular). It has three cinquefoiled lights. The glass is, of course, early 20th Century. Details of this are in the section on restoration work.

ROOF OF NAVE AND CHANCEL

Some of the timbers in the roof are of late 15th Century or early 16th Century, extensively restored. The roof has four bays with beams, queen posts, collars, struts and braces, some of the beams being enriched with trefoils enclosing roses on the west face. Also note the carved beam.