Filey, St Oswald

The Church is situated in old Filey on the cliff top. Archaeologists say that the earliest work on the Church was about 1180, completed about 1230. The work in the nave with its pillars, the clerestory windows and the main door on the South side leading into the Church is late Norman work. The window at the West end of the nave is Early English, and so are the windows in the chancel and transepts together with the sedilia . These and other indications fix the date of the building.

There are five Early English windows in the chancel. The window to the West of the Priests Door is one of the so-called "Leper windows", it originally reached down to the ground and perhaps was constructed in such a way to enable lepers and others not allowed within the Church to watch the services at the altar. The lower part of the window has been built up, but the newer stone work can easily be detected on the exterior of the building.

St Oswald's is rather unusual because it has two main doors and a sunken chancel. The Weather-vane mounted on the top of the Church is in the form of a fish. The fish is an ancient Christian symbol, but this one is more likely a symbol of the trade carried on by the old seaside village of Filey.

The inside of the Church was partly restored in 1839 but it was in a poor state when Canon A. Cooper became Vicar in 1880, and mainly through his efforts it was thoroughly restored in 1885.

Inside the Central Tower is the original stone spiral, mediaeval staircase going the whole height of the tower. The Ringing Chamber and the bell chamber are quite large, being 20 feet square. In the Ringing Chamber is the Church Clock dated 1842.

The Bells There were four bells before 1981, the earliest was dated 1675. Treble 7 cwt. A; 2nd 9 1/2 cwt. G; Tenor 14 3/4 cwt. E; Odd bell 10 1/2 cwt. A. In 1929 the bell chiming apparatus was put in to chime the three bells that went in sequence. There was no ringing on these bells after 1939.

The Six Bells of 1981 It was decided in 1977 that there should be a ring of six bells hung for change ringing. After much fund raising organised by Mrs. Gill Tewkesbury the wife of the Curate at that time, and many generous donations the sum of £6,483 was raised.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry of London in 1981 cast a new ring of six bells as follows:-

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| Treble | 1¾ cwt. | F | Beverley and District Ringing Society |
| 2 | 2 cwt. | G | James Parker |
| 3 | 2¼ cwt. | A | Filey Town Council |
| 4 | 3½ cwt. | B | Barron Bell trust |
| 5 | 3½ cwt. | C | R. H. Bowness |
| Tenor | 4½ cwt. | D | T Corlett |

After much hard work put in by many ringers and friends from other Churches the bells were hung in the three large pits of the frame along with the two ancient bells of 1675-1682. One can be used as a service bell and the other (the old Tenor) is the bell on which the clock chimes as in the past. The two unwanted bells from the tower were sold to Whitechapel to offset costs. The bells were dedicated on the 21st June, 1981 by the Rt. Rev. Donald G. Snelgrove, Bishop of Hull.

There have been many visitors and visiting teams to the ring on these bells. Nearly 900 signatures in the visitors book. 3 peals and 17 quarter peals have been rung. We have at present six dedicated ringers, two of whom have rung regularly since the first practice night.

Betty M Wilson