Flamborouqh, St. Oswald's

The first documentary evidence of a church at Flamborough dates from around 1150, when William FitzNigel made a grant of the church to Bridlington Priory. At this early date, it is probable that only a nave and chancel existed.

Around 1200, a south aisle was added, to be followed fifty years later by one on the northern side. Early English arches set on octagonal piers then replaced the original walls. The four chancel piers and their arches are of the same period but the rest of the chancel dates from the restoration work carried out in 1869.

The ordination of a vicar was made in 1310, although the control-ling body remained the Priors and Canons of Bridlington Priory. This influence stopped with the Dissolution of the Priory in 1537.

In 1608 Andrew Marvell, father of the poet, held the living for four years.

By 1825 the need for renovation became paramount and a series of alterations and repairs were undertaken. Box pews were installed and a new gallery created on the west side. Between 1846 and 1869 a wall was built on the north side of the church yard, most of the exterior was rebuilt, and the piers of the chancel arch were straightened, the arch itself being rebuilt. The gallery at the west end of the nave was removed and the rood loft front erected in its place.

The porch with gates of open iron work was added, and in 1895 the loft front replaced over the chancel screen.

The church seems in its long life to have had at least four belfries. An Archdeacons visitation in 1663 reported the steeple being down for fifty years, and it remained fallen for 200 years. However, a single bell is mentioned in a 1779 inventory, but the boll was replaced by a new one ten years later. There was a wooden bell turret prior to 1869, but it was replaced that year by a mill stone belfry christened the "pepper pot". It housed three bells; two, dated 1841, were from Christ Church, Bridlington, whilst the largest was the 1789 bell.

The "pepper pot" only had a short life, for the present fine tower (designed by C. Hodgson) was built in 1897/8. Mears and Stainbanks beautifully written day book gives details of the four bells, ordered through clock-makers Potts of Leeds, which were cast and hung in 1898 in a wooden frame in the south-east corner of the Lower. Two were rehung on roller bearings in 1989, the other two some ten years previously.

Augmentation to six took place in November 1990, with two new trebles from John Taylor & Co being fitted in an oak extension to the original frame. One bell is the gift of Wilfred Moreton; the other, the gift of the Beverley & District Society. A rededication service of the bells took place in August 1991, and the first quarter peal was scored in September.

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| Bell | Note | Weight | Inscription |
| Treble | F# | 3.3.4 | To the glory of God and in loving memory of Harold Moreton Vicar 1922-1932 and of Anne his wife 1990 |
| 2 | E | 4.1.18 | This bell is the gift of The Beverley and District Ringing Society 1990 |
| 3 | D# | 4.3.17 | This is the Lord's day Mears and Stainbank 1898 |
| 4 | C# | 5.0.5 | It is marvellous in our eyes Mears and Stainbank 1898 |
| 5 | B | 6.0.21 | This is the day the Lord hath made Mears and Stainbank 1898 |
| Tenor | A | 7.2.12 | We will rejoice and be glad Mears and Stainbank 1898 |

The Treble and 2nd also bear Taylors foundry mark. The quotations on the four older bells are taken from Psalm 118.

Other interesting features of the church include the Norman chancel arch, Norman barrel font incised with a double lined diamond, and the mediaeval rood loft and screen - reputed to have once belonged to Bridlington Priory.

A last word from the Churchwardens' accounts:

*1774 John Taylor for a bell roope 2/6d*

C. William Walton