Holme-Upon-Spaldinq Moor, All Saints

The Church of Holme on Spalding Moor is a distinctive landmark in the Vale of York, standing magnificently on a hill, observable for miles from every direction. In fact, it is this hill from which the parish takes its name; the word "Holme" is of Danish origin and means "island". The parish is the largest in the East Riding, but formerly a very large proportion of its area was marshland; indeed a Hermitage was founded in the mid-twelfth century, by one Adam Tison, for two monks, *'one of whom was employed in guiding travellers over the dreary wastes of Spalding Moor, and the other in imploring the protection of Heaven for those who were exposed to the dangers of the road'*.

All Saints Church dates from the thirteenth century, although there was a church in existence on the site at the time of the Domesday survey (1086). The three nave aisles are the earliest part of the building, and the North side chapel is the Chantry chapel of the Constable family (of Flamborough) who were Lords of Holme from the twelfth century until 1633, when it was sold to the Langdale family. The South aisle and the tower were additions built in the fifteenth century. In a niche above the West window in the tower there is a figure which represents Christ in Heaven gathering up souls in a sheet, it is probably fifteenth century, and is similar to a carving in Beverley Minster. There is also a crude carving of a figure with a lamb in the belfry which is thought to be of Saxon origin.

There are six bells at Holme hung in 1961, these replaced an earlier three which were recast to make the 4th, 5th and tenor of the present peal. The original three bore the inscriptions +Soli Deo Gloria 1640 FB EB NA RM CHURCHWARDENS, 1825 and NISI CRISTUS NEMO ANNO DNI 1602 (the 2 was reversed on the inscription). However, there must have been bells in the tower before the earliest of these (1602), because in 1569 Christopher Stopforth left 3 shillings and 4d to "*Church worke or raparying of the belles*". The three bells probably fell into disuse during the nineteenth century, the Church as a whole was in a poor state of repair, and urging the parishioners to undertake the necessary restoration Canon Robinson wrote in 1903 "....*the tower of the old church was never intended to be used as a coal\_shed, ash heap, timber yard, and general receptacle for rubbish*." The present bells are in the key of A, the tenor weighs 6.3.10, and they are rung from the ground floor. They have been popular bells for peals, meetings and striking competitions over the years, however, it is well known locally that peals are best arranged during the summer months as the Church , positioned as it is at the top of the hill, is a very cold place in winter.

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