Leven, Holy Trinity

Built 1843-44 by R D Chantrell, Leven is probably a Commissioner's Church. It is large and ashlar faced, and stands in a well tended churchyard. From the road it appears cruciform in shape, but on closer examination the south transept, in actual fact, continues along to become the south-aisle. The door is south facing, leading to a small inner porch near the west tower.

It is a very simple interior, with a wide nave, a south aisle, a chancel arch and a north transept. The windows are lancets-three with stained glass over the altar, three sets of double lancets in plain glass on the north side, one double lancet in stained glass where the south transept would be and two single plain glass lancets along the rest of the south wall.

To the left of the door is the font. This is square, stone and thirteenth century, with blank arcading round the sides. Under the tower is the choir vestry. The organ, with decorated pipes, sits in the north transept. The pulpit is set into the chancel arch and is of stone with marble inserts - in the style of George Street.

On the east wall of the south aisle, held by a stone corbel stands a head of an Anglo Saxon cross with three figures on either side. On one side is the Virgin with Jesus on the Cross, and St. John, and on the other is found St. Faith, the Virgin and Child and St. Catherine. The Cross head was found by a local man, Robert Stead, while he was digging a grave in the old churchyard in 1836. There are no other monuments within.

The whole sits under a hammerbeam roof of dark wood. The Church is very well kept and has a welcoming atmosphere.

Now for the Bells!

There are four bells in the tower. There is no band and it isn't known if they are still ringable or not. One of the Churchwardens stated that an elderly man used to ring them, but after he died some years ago no-one else did.

The Rector's wife, Mrs. Davies, knew only that "Some boys pulled some strings", so presumably there is an Ellacombe chime, although it is not visible from inside the Church.

Luckily, there is a plaque, bearing details of the bells, on the Church clockcase, from which Mr. Richardson - who climbs past the bells to attend to the flagpole - has kindly noted the details:-

Tenor 6-3-21 in B flat

3rd 4-3-22

2nd 4-2-11

Treble 3-3-26 in E flat

Two old bells allowed for (5-0-17)

Founded by Charles Mears, Whitechapel, in 1845

Reverend Prebendary George Wray, Rector.

Margaret Wragg.