Roos, All Saints

The Church The Church lies to the extreme South of the Parish and is approached from the West through an avenue of yew trees. The presence of mass clocks on the exterior South walls of the Church suggest that a Saxon building was incorporated into the present building. There was certainly a Church in existence at the time of the Domesday taxation survey (1086).

In the present building the nave pillars and arches are Early English in style, the clerestory is fifteenth century and the chancel was added between 1400 and 1500. A tower was added in 1442. The porch and side aisles were added in 1842. An interesting feature of the Church is a round watch tower on the North side of the building. This contains a spiral staircase up to former priest's living quarters and ultimately the roof.

The most striking features of the interior are the Cross and Figures above the screen. These were sculpted and coloured by Beyaert of Bruges and given by the Revd. E. Milsom (Rector 1891 -1921) in thanksgiving for his rescue from a dangerous situation whilst climbing in the Alps.

The Patronage

The Patronage of the living passed to the Manners family (Rutland) from the Prior and Con. de Kirkham in 1563, and then to the Cecils (Exeter) in the reign of James I after a brief period mostly under Elizabeth I (1571-1609). The Patronage remained with the Cecils until 1726. In 1709, the Manor was sold to Mark Kirbye of Hull and Sledmere and then later, by marriage, the Sledmere and Roos estates came to the Sykes family. Members of the Sykes family were patrons of the living from 1783 - 1921 and their Mausoleum adjoins the Church. Edward, Caroline and Cecil Milsom, the former Rector of the Parish were the Patrons from 1921 to 1946 whereafter the Patrons have been, for long periods, The Society for the Maintenance of the Faith.

The Barony de Ros The Barony de Ros is the Premier Barony in England, established by William shortly after the conquest. The original male line died out in 1508. Notable members of the de Ros family are Peter de Ros (12th Century) who married the daughter of Walter d'Espec, the founder of Rievaulx and Kirkham Abbeys. The de Ros family long held the castle and land at Helmsley which was part of the Baronial title. Robert de Ros (13th Century) married a daughter of William the Lion, King of Scotland, but there has been no successful family claim to the Crown of Scotland. This Robert was one of the signatories of the Magna Carta.

The Bells

The tower houses five bells:

Treble (1911) was added in the memory of Lady Elizabeth Hotham, wife of the Revd, Charles Hotham (Rector 1841 - 1866).

Second (1665) is inscribed Venite Exaltemus Domino (*O Come let us sing unto the Lord*).

Third (1700) is inscribed Gloria in Altissimis Deo (*Glory be to God in the Highest*).

Fourth (1676) is inscribed Pac(i)o Cruentos Andreas Gurney Me Fecit (*I pacify the cruel, Andrew Gurney made me*).

Fifth (1911) was added in memory of Edward VII.

A small Sanctus bell above the chancel arch bears the inscription I.H.S. 1897. This was hung to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

There is reference in the Churchwardens accounts for 1697 to the sum of £17 12s 0d for the bell casting; this is thought to be for bell number 3 (1700).

The Fifth weighs 12-3-11 and strikes the note F#. The bells were hung on a steel frame by Taylors of Loughborough, equipped with Hastings type stays. The ringing chamber is a platform nested between the four arches of the tower in open view from the interi-or of the Church. The bells refuse to be hurried in their ringing motion, .a fact demonstrated in the time (2 hours 53 mins) for the first peal on the bells on 4th May 1935. This peal consisted of 42 sixscores (5040 changes) of Grandsire Doubles by 10 callings conducted from the tenor by Walter M. Goddard. Ringers of bells 1,2,3 and 4 were George Dowling (from the local band), Derek M. Sharp, Joseph Atkinson and Arthur E. West respectively.

Roos has had at least three periods of ringing activity; its most notable in terms of method expertise was in the 1930's, just before World War II. A second period started in the 1960's during which a regular service and practice band flourished for about six years until members started to drift away from the village. A third band started in the 1980's but, sadly, this too broke up. However, ringing has recently resumed at Roos, with members of the previous bands returning and it is hoped that this enthusiasm will be maintained.

Peter Cook

Bibliography

Extracts from "All Saints' Church, Roos" published by Roos Parochial Church Council, 2nd Ed. 1968.

History and Antiquities of the Seignory of Holderness. George Poulson, 1840.

The Church Bells of Holderness. G. R. Park. 1898.

Canon Felstead, Peals Recorded, personal Communication 1982.