

About St Nicholas' Church

Set within an area filled with marvellous medieval churches, St Nicholas, Normanton has a quiet splendour of its own.

This charming medieval church has 11th-century origins, but was altered during the later Middle Ages and again during the 19th century. Set into the exterior south wall of the church is a stone believed to have once been part of an Anglo-Saxon cross shaft, demonstrating the antiquity of the building.

Inside the church, above the eastern-most arch of the south aisle, is a mysterious opening which resembles a blocked window. It is cut by the 12th-century arcade, suggesting that it might be part of the 11th-century building. Its exact purpose is unknown as it is an atypical shape.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1974.

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The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

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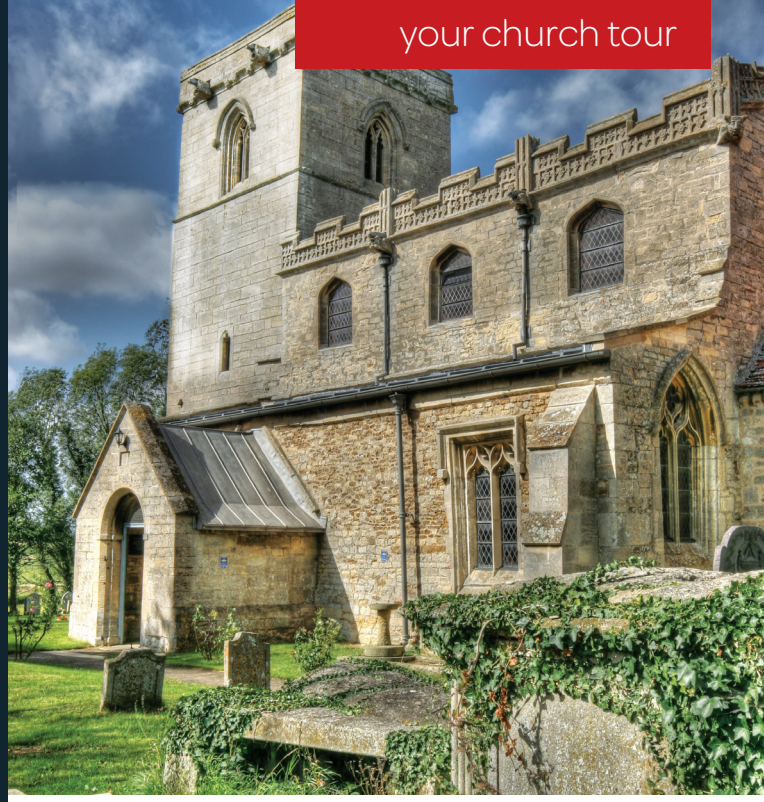
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THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

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your church tour



Church of St Nicholas

Normanton

THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

The historic church of St Nicholas

10 things to see before you leave...

1. The **font**, dating to the 12th century, is a very plainly-decorated example. The font cover was made much later.
2. This **benefaction board** resembles a memorial. In 1758, Captain Lewis Gwin bequeathed £100 to be invested and distributed amongst the poor, in the form of coal. The board also records an annual donation of £2 by an anonymous donor.
3. The **Royal Arms of George IV**, who reigned from 1820 to 1830, is depicted on a board hanging above the tower arch. Royal arms became a familiar feature of parish church interiors following the break from the Roman Church during the time of Henry VIII.
4. A **medieval chest** designed to hold documents relating to the parish, such as the records of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. The keeping of these records became mandatory from 1538. Nowadays, these documents are held securely in local archives centres.
5. A small **war memorial,** depicting Christ crucified, commemorates the lives of seven men from Normanton who lost their lives in World War I.
6. In the Middle Ages, the **piscina** was used to wash the sacred vessels.
7. A 17th-century hexagonal **pulpit** complete with a tester, a canopy used to amplify and direct the voice of the preacher outwards towards the congregation.
8. There are several different **mason's marks** around the church, especially in the south aisle and arcade. Some are in the shape of a W and others a star. Masons would mark the stones they worked to ensure that they were paid for the appropriate number of stones carved.
9. When the church was built, 12 **consecration crosses** would have been painted on the walls as part of the consecration ceremony. Each cross symbolises one of the 12 Apostles.
10. The south aisle was built in the 12th century and its columns are topped with carved **'waterleaf' capitals**. The waterleaf design is typical of the late-12th century.



