

Artist's reconstruction of features revealed by remote sensing imagery on the west wall of the nave. Depicted are a former high-level gallery and doorway, and 13th century wall paintings, all now hidden by later plaster and limewash.

Thanks to Mr Tom Errington for the artist's reconstruction and to Dr Chris Brooke for the remote sensing imagery.



Welcome to St Michael & All Angels' Church, Averham



St Michael and All Angels, Averham (*pronounced 'Airham'*) has Anglo-Saxon origins, but is mainly 14th and 15th century.

Accessed by a narrow path from Church Lane, the churchyard is bounded on the south and east by the River Trent, on the north by the fields and on the west by the house and grounds of the former Rectory.

The first documentary reference to this church occurs in Domesday, where Averham is listed under "The land of Gilbert Tison". Domesday also indicates this was a large and affluent settlement. The style of herringbone and rubble work in the masonry of the tower

indicates a pre-Conquest date for this church, and the side walls of the nave appear to be Norman.

As with most churches, St Michael and All Angels' has had alterations and additions. Sometime around 1400 the chancel was lengthened with new windows inserted. The tower arch appears to be 14th century, probably replacing a narrower opening. The screen dividing the chancel from the nave is of late 14th or early 15th century but heavily restored in 1907. The upper part of the tower is from the late 15th / early 16th century. The Perpendicular nave windows and the eastern window in the south wall of

the chancel date from the late 15th century.

In 1755 the parishes of Averham and Kelham were amalgamated.

The church was renovated towards the end of the 19th century and again in 1907, and remarkably had a father and son – Reverends Joseph Walker and Joseph Cyril Walker – who held the rectory between them for nearly ninety years!



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The information in this leaflet is taken from comprehensive historical research, which may be found in full at <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>

Many thanks to Patricia Gregory & Sheila Stevens for their research and to Dr Chris Brooke and Tom Errington for sharing their expertise.





5 Tower

It is conjectured that this tower was originally a two storey west porch with entry from the upper storey to a gallery at the west end of the nave. Evidence of this doorway can be seen inside the tower and the support for the gallery is evident on the wall where the tower abuts against the nave inside the church. There is evidence of some upwards extension to the tower probably in the eleventh or twelfth century. This work however is the only clear indication of the Saxon origin of this church.

3 Tomb Slab

Also tucked away in this corner is a tomb slab depicting a knight. Although badly worn, you can still make out his sword and shield.

6 Victorian Wall Paintings

Directly opposite the main door to the church you might be able to make out the remains of some Victorian stencil work. It appears to be text but no-one has yet been able to read it. There are more remains of Victorian stencil work about the main door.

4 Hatchments

The two hatchments by the tower arch show the arms of the Revd Robert Chaplin (d. 1837) and his wife Anne Georgiana Chaplin, daughter of Sir Richard Sutton.

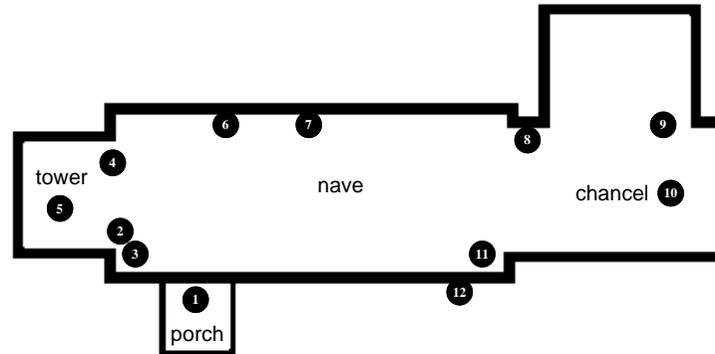


2 Green Man and other Corbels

The church has some rather fine carved corbels supporting the nave roof. One not to miss, tucked away in the south-west corner, is a "Green Man" - a popular mythical creature spouting foliage all over his face.

7 Re-located Corbels

Along with those supporting the nave roof, there are seven corbels inserted in the walls, six of plain design and one angel, clearly moved from elsewhere, most probably from the chancel.



1 Porch

The elaborate stone porch was built by Lord of the Manor Sir Thomas Sutton sometime before the early 1520s. The porch is decorated with three shields, Sir Thomas Sutton's is on the left with two wolves' heads.



8 Medieval Glass

In the north window of the chancel the upper part of the glazing is native to Averham and mostly 14th century; the lower part of this window contains glass discovered in the cellar of nearby Kelham Hall, and is mostly of the latter part of the fifteenth, or early part of the sixteenth century. It includes some wonderful figures, including a small head of Christ, St John the Evangelist (with curling yellow hair), a king, a priest and a donor. In the south window of the chancel there is more medieval glass, including a figure of an angel playing the lute.



10 Chancel Roof

The beautiful 'barrel' roof, painted in red, green, black, white and gold, was installed in 1858.



11 Effigy

In a recess in the south wall there is a 14th century effigy. The male figure is bearded and holds his heart in his hands. The signature Sutton wolf is at his feet. A similar recess in the north wall contains another tomb slab.

12 Herring-bone Masonry

The walls of the tower, north and south walls of the nave and south wall of the chancel all contain herringbone masonry - stones laid in a zig zag pattern - a style of building used from Anglo-Saxon to 13th century periods.

9 Monument to Sir William Sutton

The painted alabaster tomb is of Sir William, who died in 1611, aged 52, and his wife Susanna, to whom he was married for twenty-seven years. Sir William wears plate armour and the shield shows Sutton arms plus those of Pierrepont, Lexington, Bingham and Musters. The Sutton family vault lies beneath the vestry. Other Sutton and the descendant Lexingtons' monuments also adorn the church.

