

Churchyard

The churchyard is still in use for burials. Once maintained with the assistance of local sheep who were allowed to wander in to graze, this practice was stopped with the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Some areas are now kept in a wild state.

The earliest gravestones in the churchyard dates from the first quarter of the 18th century and bear the name "Flintstones".



Welcome to St Michael's Church Halam

The earliest stonework dates from the late 12th century, namely the chancel arch and later modified north chancel doorway.

Halam, along with several other nearby churches, belonged to the Minster church of Southwell from the earliest recorded times, and held the status of a chapel-of-ease to that church.

In 1582, the people of Halam petitioned the Archbishop of York, Edwin Sandys, that they might be granted licence to bury

their dead in the churchyard as: 'the town of Halam is so distant from their parish or Mother Church of Southwell, that in consequence of this distance and the dangers of the roads, especially in Winter, they cannot without great difficulty take the bodies of their dead thither...'

The burial register records its first entry as 4 November 1582 - a James May, son of Thomas May.

The first priest to have sole charge of Halam was Robert Fredrick Smith (in



1861) though he still resided in Southwell. Seventeen years later, Halam parish was joined with Edingley and the two parishes now share a priest.

In 1884, proposals were made to restore the body of the church, and this was undertaken by the architect Ewan Christian. The restoration was carried out to the tune of £1600 and the layout of the church today is largely the product of this project.



The University of
Nottingham

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 Margaret and Chris Brooke for their extensive research.



The present building consists of a west tower and nave of the 13th century, a chancel of the 12th to 14th century, and a south aisle and north porch of 1883-4. The south nave arcade is of the 13th century indicating the former existence of a medieval aisle.



9 Tower

St Michael's is distinctive with its squat tower - probably a result of the foundations being insufficient to support a tower of more usual proportions. From inside the church, looking west, you can see where one side of the arch has slumped.

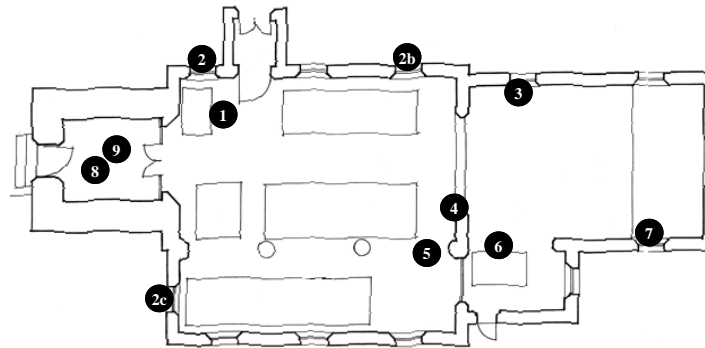
1 Font

The font is a smooth cylinder on four colonnades and a central column, with decoration on the upper part of the bowl. In the late 12th century style but heavily re-tooled probably in 1884.



2 Glass

As you enter the church, to your right is a beautiful stained glass window by the famous Victorian makers Morris and Co. It depicts St Michael and dates from 1919. The stained glass in windows 2b) and 2c) is also by Morris & Co. and dates from the same year. Window 2b) shows The Transfiguration and The Ascension of Christ. The design is actually by another famous maker, Edward Burne-Jones. 2c) Shows the The Visitation and The Annunciation.



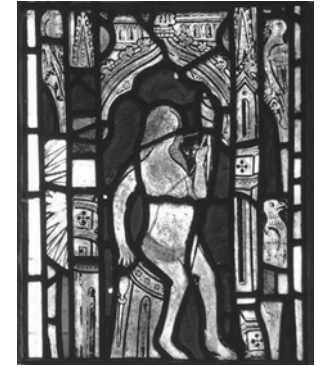
7 Priest's doorway

In the south wall of the chancel is a priest's doorway, obviously heavily modified from its original form. From inside the church it appears to be only a niche but from outside you can see the pointed arch with carved stonework.

3 Medieval Glass

In the north window of the chancel there is 14th century stained glass depicting some interesting characters: Top left we have St Christopher with a two-pronged staff in his right hand spearing a fish in the water. Another flat fish is in the water too. St Christopher bears on his shoulder the Christ Child (in white). Top right, is St Blaise - a bishop, remembered by Catholics as patron of throat

illnesses. At his foot is a pig, in reference to one of his miracles. Bottom left is Eve, naked, spinning with distaff in her left hand and shuttle in right hand. Bottom right is Adam, also naked but for a loincloth, digging with a T-handled spade. The borders include white and gold eagles on red and parts of sunrays. The small top light includes the shield of the Boselingthorp family from



Lincolnshire who held land at Bothamsall, Nottinghamshire.



5 Lectern

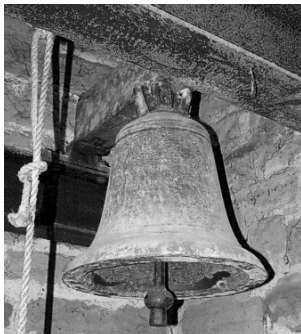
The lectern is of carved oak, representing St Michael and the dragon. It was given to the church by the family of the Revd Robert Smith (d. 1905).

4 Norman Chancel Arch

The chancel arch is 12th century with 19th century restoration - if you look at the top of the south column you can see where one of the capitals has been restored and one hasn't.

6 Organ

Halam's new organ was completed in November 2009 and was built by Henry Groves and Son, a company founded in Nottingham in 1957. The organ consists of two manuals and a 32 note pedalboard, it has 1049 pipes and 28 speaking stops - made possible by clever layout design and use of "extension" stops whereby some ranks of pipes are used at different pitches. It replaces a Bevington organ of one manual and short pedalboard which was built in about 1884. This had come to the end of its life and was damaged by leaking water when lead was stolen from the roof.



8 Bells & Clock

There are two bells, the earliest is the treble, which stylistically dates from the mid-13th century, making it the third oldest bell in this county. The second (tenor) is a smaller bell, originally by William Noone - recast by Taylors in 1965.