

## A Walk Around St. George's

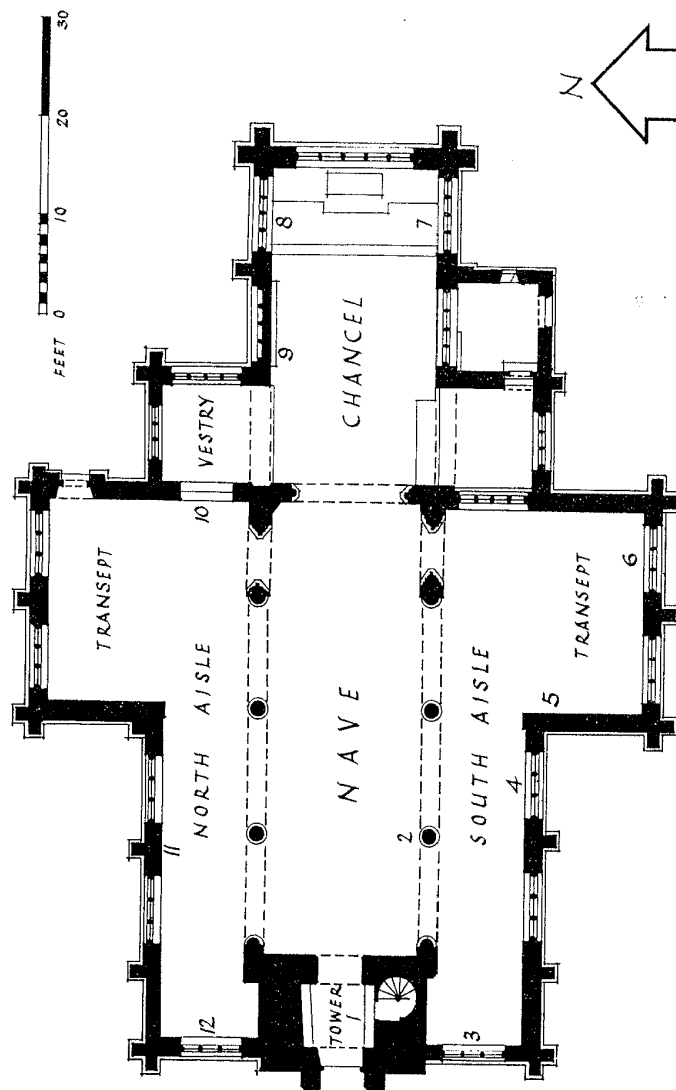
(Numbers in brackets refer to numbers on the plan).

The *Tower* (1) is rather unusual because of its rectangular plan. It was probably originally built in the early thirteenth century, and the earliest complete arch in the building is that from the tower into the nave, with its nail-head decoration to the capitals, Early English style. The large west window was inserted later, in the fourteenth century. It seems likely that the top section of the tower was rebuilt in the seventeenth century.

The *Nave* has a rather complicated architectural history. It would appear that the thirteenth century piers were rebuilt and heightened in the fourteenth century, when octagonal sections were added to the earlier round columns and bases. The capitals are octagonal, though one (2) is slightly different. The arches are fourteenth century, with a double chamfer. In the mid-fifteenth century the nave was extended eastwards at the same time as the new chancel was being built. The small arches at the east end of the arcades probably originally gave access to the chapels at the ends of the aisles. These arches differ slightly in their mouldings and one has capitals. The clerestory of the nave, of four two-light windows, and the tie-beam roof, which sadly lacks its angels, appear to date from the middle of the fifteenth century also, though the clerestory could equally well be later. Most of the bosses to the roof have gone, but one, carved with a bird, may represent a pelican in its piety, a medieval symbol of Christ.

In the *South Aisle* there is a memorial window (3) to J. C. Traylen, a Stamford architect who was responsible for repair work on many churches in the area. His interests, as well as his profession, are represented in the glass. In another window here (4) there are a few fragments of medieval glass. The *South Transept*, added in the late nineteenth century, has a number of photographs (5) illustrating some early drawings relating to the Garter windows (see *Chancel* below). Also in this transept is some modern glass (6).

The *Chancel* is the finest part of the Church. It was built in the middle of the fifteenth century at the expense of Sir William Bruges, the first Garter King of Arms, who also paid for the glazing of the original seven chancel windows with high quality painted glass, showing figures of the original Knights of the Garter and scenes from the life of St. George. Only two figures (7), those of St. Catherine (holding her wheel) and St. Anne, teaching the young virgin Mary to read, survive from the fifteenth century, and these were not part of Bruges' glass. Below these two figures are a number of fragments of medieval glass. The mitred head is of an unknown bishop or possibly St. Thomas; it was probably made about the same time as the figures above. The head of a knight was part of one of Bruges' windows, though again it is not possible to identify who it represents. The two outer panels of this window contain nineteenth century glass. In



## A Walk Around St. Georges (continued)

the opposite, north-eastern windows of the chancel (8) are a number of small "quarries" with the garter motto, *Hony soyt qui mal y pense*. A number of these seem to be nineteenth century copies.

The roof of the chancel, with its fine angels, was also the gift of Bruges. The central angels on each side carry on their shields two of the "Signs of the Passion", the pierced heart and the wounded hands and feet. Their purpose was to remind worshippers of Christ's sufferings. On the north wall, blocking one of the windows (9) is a particularly fine memorial to Sir Richard Cust and other members of his family, placed in the church in 1797. The vestry and organ chamber are both nineteenth century and their openings have destroyed two of the mid-fifteenth century windows of the chancel.

At the east end of the *North Aisle* is a small brass tablet (10) commemorating Tobie Norris (died 1626, the figure '2' has been reversed). He and his family were bellfounders in the town for about 100 years, and many churches in the area have bells from their foundry. Above the tablet is part of one of the medieval screens of the church, the only fragment left. The woodwork was of good quality, another of Bruges gifts to the church. Further to the west in this aisle is a fine medieval memorial tablet (11) to Blanche, Lady Wake who died in 1379. She was buried in Greyfriars in Stamford, now the site of Stamford Hospital. This tablet was found in 1966 in a house on the High Street, where Tesco now is. It was set up here in 1976, with her coat of arms. It reads in old French, translated: 'You who enter this house pray for Blanche, wife to Lord Wake, daughter of Henry Earl of Lancaster, on whom God have true mercy.' At the west end of the aisle (12) are some more fragments of the medieval glass, including another garter quarry, and some faces.

The visitor with more time to spend might find it interesting to see how many memorial tablets commemorate members of the forces who died in various parts of the globe—or to read some of the other tablets, especially those to the Northon family above where the pulpit used to be sited, and the Rev. Lascelles Carr in the north west corner of the chancel.

The *churchyard* has a number of interesting headstones, most of limestone and one or two of slate. On leaving the church it will be noticed how the whole exterior of the church, except the tower, appears to be of the perpendicular style—a good example of the way in which the outside of churches were often "brought up to date" even if the whole of the interior could not receive the same treatment.

## Welcome to St Georges

I hope you enjoy your visit to this wonderful historical building. However, it is of course much more than an historical building. It is a living building. It is a place of worship, fellowship, learning and prayer. At the weekends it is alive with people of all ages; for ultimately the church is not a building but the people. This is a place where the church meets and has met for more than 9 centuries.

That balance of the building's historical roots and its contemporary use are a good picture of what it means to be a Christian. Christian faith is rooted in history. We believe that God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world 2,000 years ago to show us His love and to deal with the problem of our sin, when He died on the cross. We believe that He rose from the dead and has opened up the way to eternal life. Yet the wonder is that these events of history can be a living part of our own individual lives and of the Christian community as we put our trust in Jesus Christ.

St George's, the historical building, stands as a symbol pointing us back 900 years to when it was built and 1100 more years to the coming of Jesus. St George's, the contemporary Christian community stands as a symbol pointing to the present day reality that God is still in the business in Jesus Christ, changing lives and bringing people to know Himself.

If you want the full package, you need to visit both St George's, the building and the people. We aim to be a place where faith can be expressed but also where questions can be asked and discoveries made. We'd love to see you!

*Martyn Taylor*  
Rector

*We run regular Alpha courses throughout the year—if you are interested in finding out more about the Christian faith, please contact the office for more information.*

### Church Services

1st Sunday	8am 9.15 & 11am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion All-Age Service Evening Service
2nd Sunday	9.15 & 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evening Service
3rd Sunday	8am 9.15 & 11am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Morning Service Evening Service
4th Sunday	9.15 & 11am 6.30pm	Morning Service Holy Communion
5th Sunday	9.15 & 11am 6.30pm	Morning Service Evening Service

The following groups are all held in  
St George's Church Place  
28A St Mary's Street, Stamford PE9 2DL.

**Coffee Plus**—an informal weekly meeting open to all women—9.30-11.30am every Thursday in term time.

**Seedlings**—an informal group for mothers and young children, every term-time Tuesday 10-11.30am.

**Inspire**—a weekly Bible study with a crèche. 10-11am on Mondays.

**The Zone**—a youth group for 11-14 year olds held on Friday evenings at 7.00pm during term-time.

**Sunday Knights**—a youth group for 14-18 year olds held during term-time at 8.30pm on Sunday evenings in church.

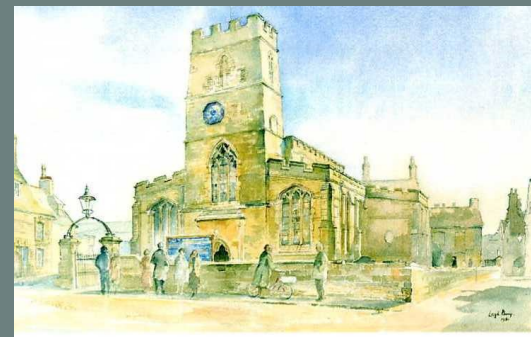
**Small Groups**—There are many small groups meeting for Bible study and fellowship on different days and at various times each week.

There are regular services held in Whitefriars and Priory Court nursing homes, plus a monthly lunch on the third Wednesday.

**The Church Office**  
27-29 St George's Street  
9am-4pm, Monday to Friday  
Tel: 01780 481800  
office@stgeorgeschurch.net

# ST. GEORGE'S STAMFORD

'MAKING DISCIPLES  
ON MISSION WITH JESUS'



## HISTORY AND WELCOME