

## The Easter Sepulchre

An Easter Sepulchre was used to hold the host (the bread from Holy Communion) from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, the three days between Jesus' death and resurrection. The recess at the back would have been lockable. The whole carving tells the story of Christ's death and resurrection. At the bottom are the sleeping soldiers, guarding the tomb in their contemporary armour and carved shields. In the centre we see Jesus risen from the dead with a wound in his side, and joined by a weeping Mary, two other Marys with their boxes of ointments and spices, and two angels.



Looking up you can see the 11 disciples and Mary (the only one wearing

shoes) looking up to heaven, the footprint where Jesus last stood and at the top the cloak of Jesus as he ascends to heaven with the angels.

For further information on the church visit [www.friendsofhawtonchurch.org](http://www.friendsofhawtonchurch.org)

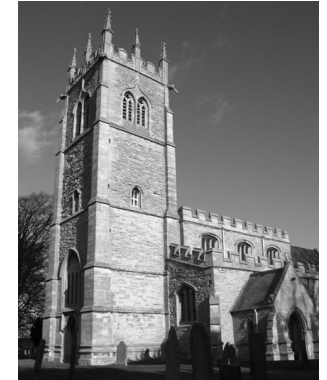


# Welcome to All Saints' Church, Hawton

Though the Domesday book notes there was a mill, five manors, one priest and two churches in Holtone (as Hawton was then known), there is no evidence of these churches surviving. The earliest parts of the existing building are the north wall of the nave and the arcades, which date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The chancel was built in around 1320 by Sir Robert de Compton. There is a record from 1330 of a hermit living in the chapel of St Wilfrid, which is likely to have been in the area outside the north wall of the existing building. Sir Thomas Molyneux bought the manor house in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and added the tower and the clerestory windows. Sir Thomas' coat

of arms can be found above the west door and on a shield held by an angel supporting a small plinth near the organ. Folk memory holds that during the War of the Roses Henry VII watched the battle of East Stoke (1487) from the newly built tower. In the late 15<sup>th</sup> century the roof was raised and in the nave you can still see the outline of the original roof.

In the restoration of 1843-44 the carvings in the chancel were rediscovered under many layers of plaster and whitewash. A plaster copy of the Easter Sepulchre (including the tomb and doorway) was shown at Crystal Palace in the Great Exhibition of 1851. The existence of such high quality carvings



in a relatively large church in a small village is a mystery, but it is thought that the masons who worked at Hawton may also have worked on Southwell Minster and that there may have been plans for Hawton to become a collegiate foundation.

Outside the church look at the gargoyles on the tower and the other carvings, including the woman with toothache and the mason with his mason's cap, and find the hole from a Civil war musket pellet in the West door.



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 Anita Maunsell for her extensive research and to Bill and Jane Paulson and Geoff Buxton for the photographs.

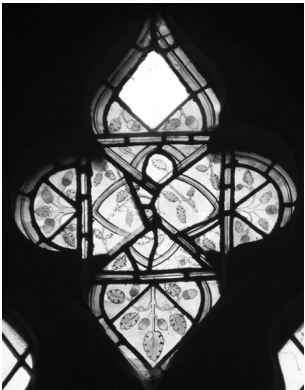


### 3 East Window

The church is dominated by the large, clear East Window which was built around 1330. From the outside you can see how the tracery in the window has absorbed the movement in the east wall.

### 1 Stained glass

The only stained glass in the church is a small piece of medieval glass behind the organ.



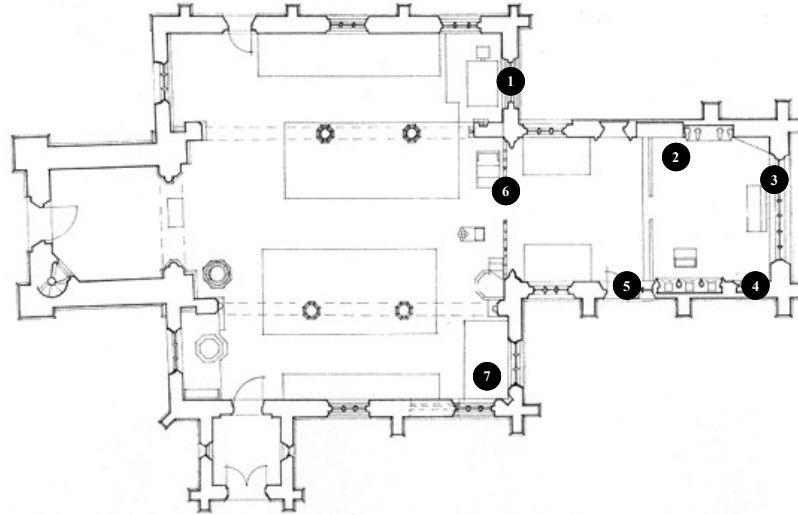
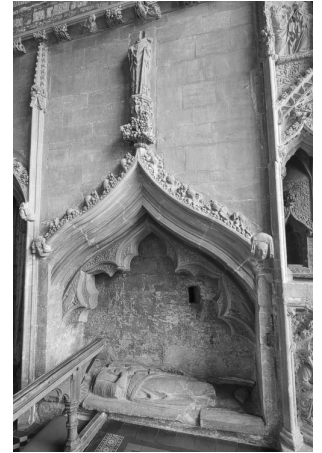
### 6 The wooden screen

The oak screen was probably built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. Notice how the doorway in the screen is not in line with the central aisle reflecting the asymmetrical nature of the church. On the north side above the screen are the remains of the rood loft.



### 2 Tomb and doorway

This is probably the tomb of Sir Robert de Compton (d 1330). This is unlikely to be its original position as the carving on the shield is partially obscured. At the back of the tomb is a hagioscope (or squint hole) which would have enabled a priest in the chapel that stood the other side of this wall to see the high altar.



### 7 South Aisle

There was once an altar at the east end of the south aisle, the piscina and a couple of ornate canopied statue niches remain. The blocked up empty recess can also be seen from outside.

### 4 Piscina

This was used for washing the communion vessels.

Look for the two musicians in the carving. On either side of the windows in the chancel are heads thought to represent King Edward II and Edward III and their queens Philippa and Isabella.

Notice also how the door was built into the window as a later addition.



### 5 Sedilia

These seats were used by the priest and deacons during a service. Look carefully for the pelican (though it looks more like a bird of prey to our informed eyes; it is a reminder of Christ shedding blood), two boys cutting grapes (and one combing his hair at the same time), and saints being crowned by angels and identified by the objects they are holding;

St Edmund – an arrow, St Catherine – a wheel, St Peter – a key, St Clement – an anchor, St Ann – a lily, St Margaret of Antioch – a dragon on a lead and St Mary Magdalene – a vase of ointment.