



About St Peter's

St Peter's church is surrounded by earthworks of abandoned structures: a deserted village and the embankments of two closed railways. The village is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) and appears to have flourished in the 12th and 13th centuries, after which decline set in, probably caused by changes to the climate and enclosure of the fields by the landowner. The church thus became isolated save for a few scattered farms and houses.

In 1086 Wolfhamcote had a priest and a population of about 100. In the 13th century the north aisle was built, with the nave and south aisle being completed in the following century. Succeeding centuries have seen further alterations and additions: the tower appears to have been added in the 17th century. Some time in the late 18th or early 19th century the Tibbits Hood mausoleum was built onto the east end of the chancel. Further work was undertaken in 1848 and again in 1903 (by J B Williams) – the date of the east window of the chancel and the renewal of the exterior stonework of the chancel.

By the 1960s the church had been abandoned and was being vandalised. Decay rapidly set in. But a group of local Friends, working initially with the Friends of Friendless Churches and later with The Churches Conservation Trust, in whose care the church was placed in 1972, began a programme of repairs, thus ensuring that St Peter's was preserved and made available for the events and occasional services that take place in it each year. Further information is available at the website shown below.

The Churches Conservation Trust would like to acknowledge the financial support of the people of Wolfhamcote towards the production of this guide <http://www.wolfhamcote-church.org.uk>.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

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

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than 1.5 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.

Help us do more

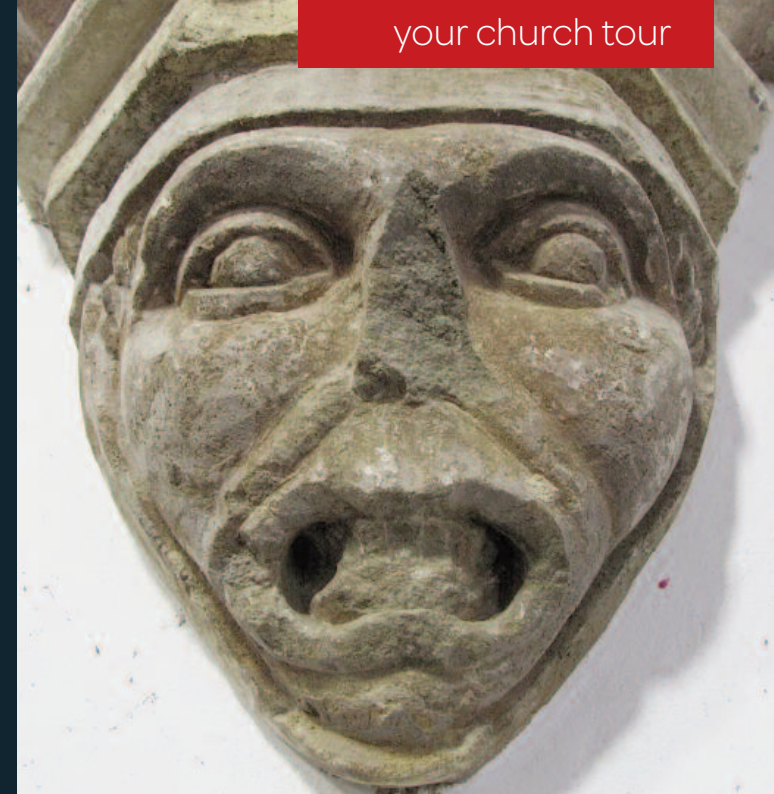
To protect and conserve these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously, and if you would like to become a CCT Supporter please pick up a leaflet or go to our website.



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

visitchurches.org.uk

The Churches Conservation Trust
1 West Smithfield London EC1A 9EE
Telephone 020 7213 0660
Registered Charity No. 258612
© CCT 2011



Church of
St Peter

Wolfhamcote, Warwickshire



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

50p

1 The church is normally entered through the small chancel **doorway**, reconstructed in the 19th century.

2 The tall 13th-century **chancel arch**, with a carved head on either side: the noses have been broken off, probably at the Reformation or during the 17th-century Civil War. Above the arch is a **royal arms** of Queen Anne, 1711.



2



2

12 **Ledger stones** in the floors of the nave and aisles; some to members of the Clerke and Tibbits families (1741, 1829), others now illegible.

13 Part of what was probably once a **wall monument**, now set into the floor: 17th century?

18 **Aumbry**, and **piscina** with trefoil head, 14th century with remains of terracotta paint probably added in 1903.

19 Stone **altar**, mid-20th century.

20 The graceful **communion rails** with their twisted balusters are 17th century, as is the wooden **communion table**.

21 In the chancel are five 19th-century **wall monuments** to members of the Tibbits family and, on the floor, four **ledger stones** to members of the Tibbits and Raynsford families, 18th to early 19th centuries. Also a small brass tablet to Frances (d.1687), wife of the vicar Revd Thomas Benyon.

3 An **aumbry**, or cupboard, where the vessels used for Holy Communion were kept.

4 A **bracket** on the wall may have been for a statue of the Virgin Mary.

5 A **piscina** or basin for washing the communion vessels. Probably 13th century.

6 Doorway into the 14th-century **porch**.

7 The aisles are separated from the nave by **arcades**, the arches resting on octagonal pillars. The north arcade dates from the late 13th century, the south one a little later. Most of the western arch of the north arcade is encased in the south wall of the tower.

8 **Font**; badly damaged, it has been cemented over to hold it together. Possibly 13th century.



9

9 The Victorian pews were vandalised in the 20th century but 10 of the 14th/15th-century **benches** remain – a rare survival. One has carved rosettes and diamonds on its end.

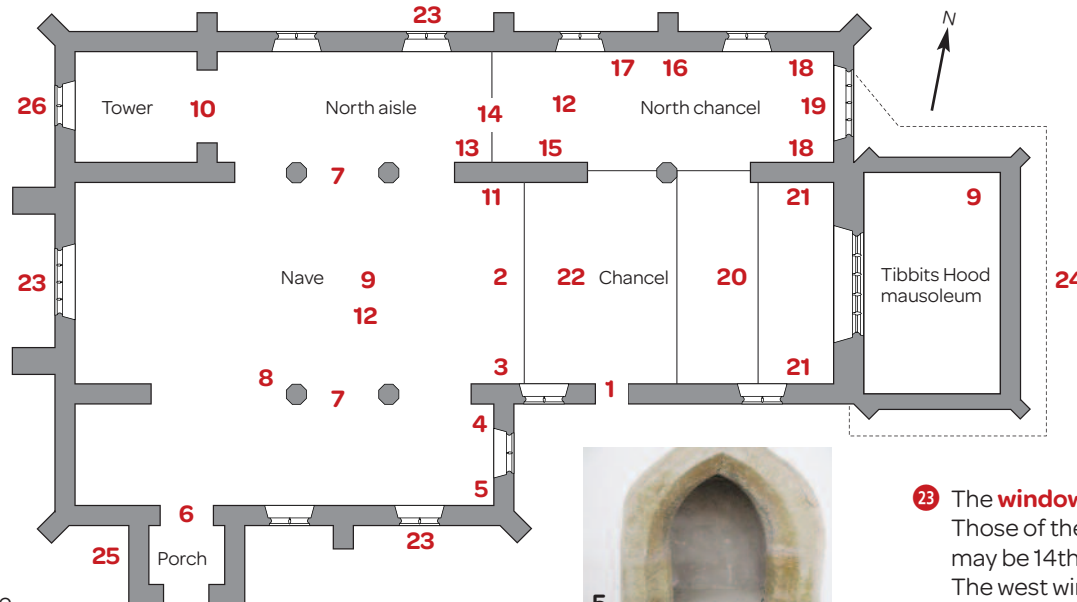
10 The tall **tower arch** leads to the base of the 17th-century tower. On the tower wall is

the old wheel of the large 15th-century bell which hangs in the tower together with a smaller bell of 1780.

11 Hexagonal **pulpit** with inlaid design. Apparently made in 1790 for another church and brought here by Lady Hood. Much vandalised, it was carefully reconstructed in the 1970s.



10



22

22 The fine crown-post **roof** of the chancel with its wavy struts and braces is 14th century.

23 The **windows** are of a wide range of styles and dates. Those of the south aisle with their attractive tracery may be 14th century, though altered subsequently. The west window with its two much worn heads is also 14th century. The clerestory windows above the nave are late 15th century; the plain windows of the north aisle with no tracery were remodelled in the 19th century – they were formerly square-headed.

24 Railings enclose the **Tibbits Hood mausoleum**, erected in the late 18th or early 19th century. Richard Tibbits of Flecknoe acquired the right to appoint the incumbent in 1794; in 1826 Charles Tibbits bought the estate of Wolfhamcote. A later heir, Mary, married the 3rd Viscount Hood.

25 A small stone **slab** has been set into the west wall of the porch, below the small pointed window (now blocked). It may have been part of a child's coffin.

26 The **tower** was built in the 17th century – the date 1690 is said to be visible on the battlements on the west side.

14 A 14th-century wooden **screen** with slender pillars, round arches and tracery.

15 Large **tomb slab** to Thomas (d.1810) and Ann (d.1839) Holmes.

16 Five wooden **memorials** commemorating members of the Clerke family who died 1575–1801. The Clerkes owned the manor of Wolfhamcote from 1614–1826.

17 Wooden **bier** for carrying coffins, 19th century.



5



14