

The East Window



Given by the Rev. Feilding Palmer in 1885 it depicts Our Saviour in majesty flanked by pictures of His Baptism, His Ascension, The Crucifixion and the Last Supper. Beneath are figures representing the Venerable Bede, St Augustine, the Virgin Mary, Robert Grosseteste and John Wycliffe. Above are four archangels, Raphael, Gabriel, Michael and Uriel.

In the Chancel South Wall from east to west we have:

The Watts Window



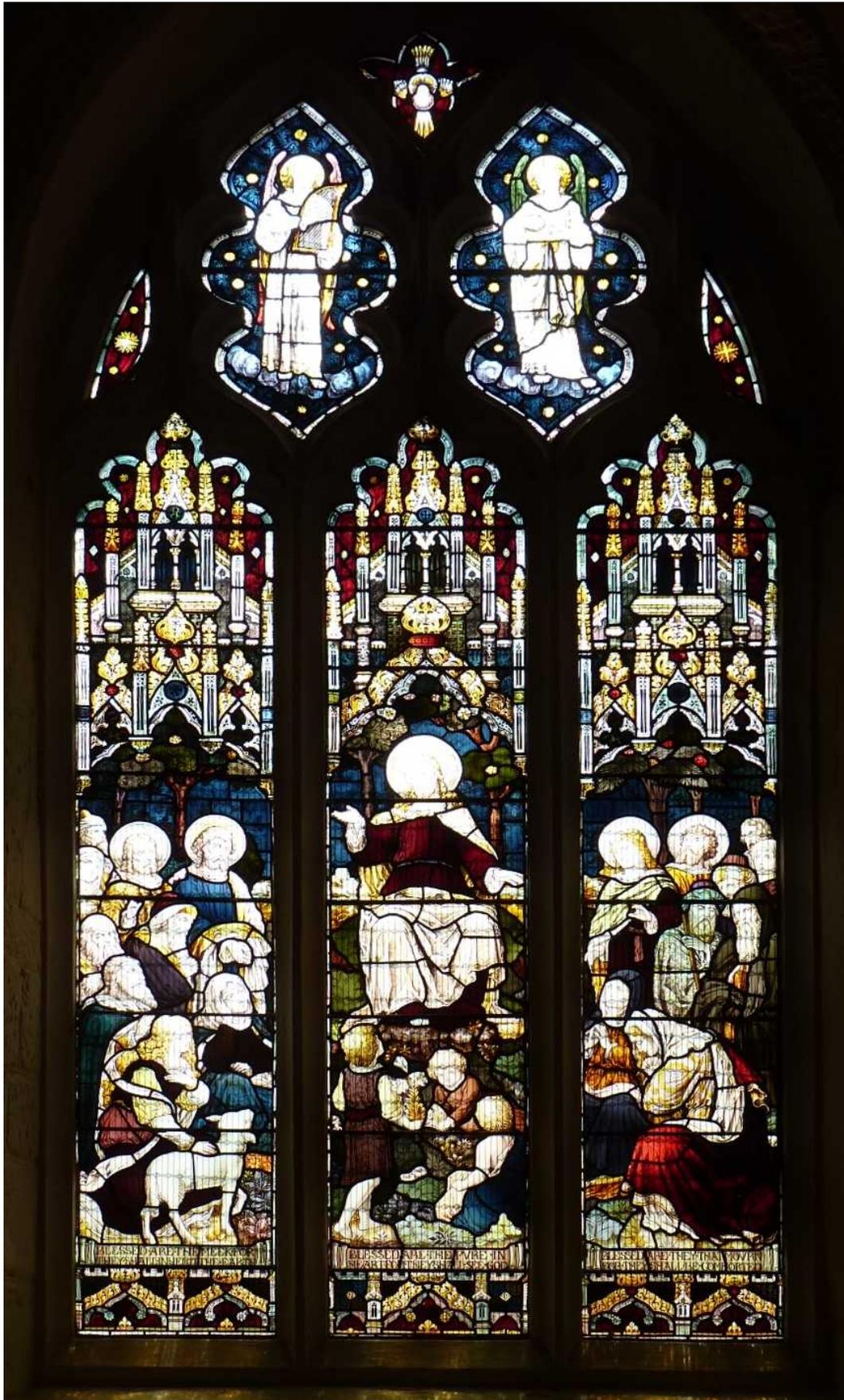
From the estate of Mr Charles Watts who died in 1867, showing the three Marys.

The Lancet window



St John the Evangelist in memory of the Rev. Richard Wilson, for many years headmaster of the Sherrier School.

The Sermon on the Mount



In memory of the Rev. T. H. Tarlton, Rector from 1879 to 1888.
At the east end of the South Aisle

The Good Samaritan window



Depicting also the good deeds mentioned in Matthew 25 - feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, while above are represented the six virtues - Faith, Hope, Charity, Temperance, Fortitude and Justice (Patience?).

The Canon Alderson Window.



At the Eastern end of the south aisle south wall, the Canon Alderson window shows St. Anne, mother of Mary (shown as a child beside her), St. Peter and St. Paul. Underneath are depicted the Annunciation, Nativity and Presentation of Christ in the Temple, while above are portrayed St. Guthlax (referring to Canon Alderson being rural Dean of Guthlaxton II), Saints Anselm, Bede, Aidan and Hilda and the four Latin Fathers.

The Topham window



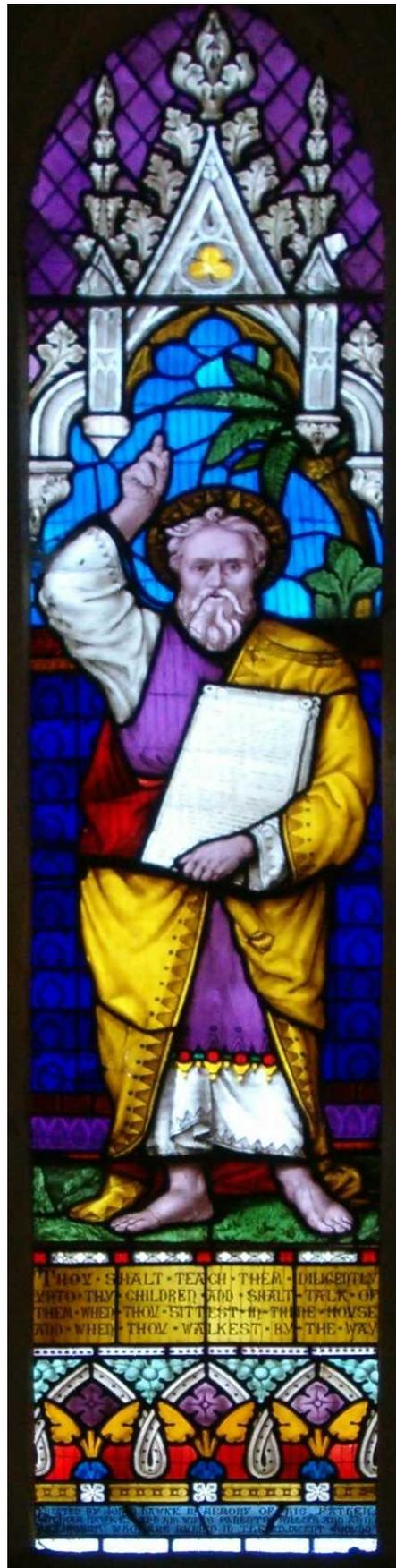
To the right of the Canon Alderson window, the most recent addition (in 1928?) is in the pleasing modern style which does not require the whole window to be filled with coloured glass, so allowing more light to enter (the main purpose of a window) and also throwing into prominence the subject, which in this case is St. Timothy.

The Law window



To the right of the Topham window (next to the south door) is the Law window placed in 1880 in memory of George Law and his wife Frances. It depicts Faith (left) and Charity (right), the one centred on Jesus and the other deriving from the love of Christ.

The west lancet window



In the west wall of the tower is a Lancet window featuring a representation of Moses with the stone tablet bearing the commandments. Given by Mr. J. Hawke.

The list of Rectors

An interesting summary from many old documents provides a list of the known Rectors of Lutterworth from 1223 (when the Rector was not named, but was responsible for supplying part of the remuneration for the Chaplain of St. John's Hospital, or hostel as we would call it).

This list was compiled by Mr. Hamilton Thompson in about 1912 from a variety of sources, as the final column indicates; information has been assembled to provide the fullest possible list of the Rectors and of the Patrons who presented them.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the Church patronage system, it should be noted that every parish has a "patron" who has the privilege and responsibility of presenting a suitable person to be instituted by the Bishop when the previous incumbent dies, moves or retires. The patron was originally the person or body who established the church - the Lord of the Manor, the Abbey foundation, etc. At one time the patronage of a living could be bought or sold (by tradition a titled landowner would buy a living for the third son, the eldest inheriting the title, and the second going into the forces!) but the sale of patronage is now illegal, though it can be bequeathed. At present the patron of a parish may be the Crown, the Bishop (or the Bishop of another Diocese), a College, a Board of Trustees, a Patronage Society, the Vicar of a nearby parish, a private individual, etc.

In the case of Lutterworth we find that the patronage passed from the Verdun family via the second daughter, Elizabeth, of Sir Theobald de Verdun. Elizabeth married first Bartholomas de Burgh and then Gilbert de Clare, both dying after a short time and leaving her with a single daughter, Isabel, who married William de Ferrers, Lord of Groby.

Their son, Sir Henry de Ferrers was only a child in 1374, so the Crown (Edward III) exercised his right of Patronage and presented John de Wycliffe to the living in 1374. Sir Henry's great grand-daughter, Elizabeth, Lady Ferrers of Groby inherited the right of patronage; she married Sir Edward Grey (who became Baron Grey of Groby) and the patronage remained in the Grey family until Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, forfeited his life and his manorial rights to the crown, through his attempt to place his daughter, the Lady Jane Grey, on the throne of England. The right of patronage seems first to have been exercised by Elizabeth I in 1561, since then it has remained with the crown.

1231 Philip Lovell, sub deacon	1561 Master Thomas Godwyne
1255 Master John de Wethamsted	1569 John Walsall
1288 Master Henry de Bray	1571 Robert Sutton
1305 Bertram de Verdon	1576 John Costerdin
1318 William de Oberhampton	1588 Thomas Banckes
1325 Thomas de Cheddeworth	1591 Edward Clement
1326 Master William de Melbourn	1630 Nicholas Tovie
1338 Nicholas de Lichfeld	1660 Thomas Pestill
1344 William Wykyngeston	1667 Samual Bold
13?? Robert de Stalyngton	1677 Thomas Pittis
1356 John de Lenne	1678 Francis Meres
1359 Simon de Thorpe	1682 Henry Meriton
1361 Giles de Cloune	1710 George Anderson
13?? John Jordan	1745 Thomas Billio
1370 Nicholas Bisshebury	1782 David Meyrick
1374 John de Wyclif	1801 The Hon. Henry Ryder
1384 John de Moorhous	1816 Robert Henry Johnson
1411 Master John Forster	1870 William Francis Wilkinson
1415 Robert Assshehurst	1879 Thomas Henry Tarlton
1420 Master Gilbert Kymer	1889 Thomas Henry Stokoe
1422 William Rooke	1894 Frederick Cecil Alderson
1425 William Giffard	1908 Montague Frederick Alderson
14?? William Lawe	1918 Walter Paton Hindley
1459 Master John Wymark	1926 Henry Stanley Stevenson
1476 Master John Vernam	1938 Arther William Watson Wallace
1486 Master John Lane	1940 Thomas Robert James Avery
1498 Thomas Sutton	1955 Hector David Anderson
1503 Sampson Meverell	1961 James Goode
1505 John Parsons	1978 Peter Joyce Casswell
1523 Anthony Skevington	1991 Mervyn H. W. Coussens
1553 Baldwin Norton	

The Tower



The most prominent feature and in some ways the most distinctive, from which the church is recognised from miles around, is the tower and pinnacles, which however have undergone extensive alterations over the centuries. It now stands 90 feet high to the parapet with the pinnacles adding a further 28 feet making a total of 118 feet 6 inches, and considerable structural problems which has involved extensive repair and re-building work since the war.

A close look at the exterior shows the original tower up to the height of the clock face, from which sprang the original spire, probably short and massive, in accordance with the style of the late 13th century. "Early in the 15th century" (Dyson 1916) Lord Ferrers erected a spire "47 feet higher than the present turret" according to Sir Thomas Cave who could no longer see it from Stanford Hall when it was blown down in a serious gale in January 1703.

A 'brief' was issued by George II in January 1758, authorising the seeking of money from other parishes throughout the country towards the "one thousand one hundred and sixty two pounds and upwards" required for repairs to the church and steeple. However, as we now see, the steeple was never replaced. The Rector of the time was reprimanded for 'misapplying' the money in so far as he spent too much re-pewing and decorating the

church. He was responsible for the four pinnacles that were presumably designed to substitute for the spire but which have been described as "quite out of proportion to its height and size" (Highways and Byways in Leicestershire by J. B. Firth 1926 -courtesy of Lutterworth museum).

Instead of replacing the steeple, however, a second level was built to the tower, this being of brick faced with stone, together with the brick and stone faced pinnacles, one of which bears the date 1761 with the mason's initials.

In 1994, one of the pinnacles was found to be unsafe and was removed while the funds were sought for a major restoration project - see Millennium fund. This has now been rebuilt.

The Bells

The two oldest bells are dated 1640. A third bears the date 1705, which suggests that it was cast to replace one damaged by the fall of the steeple in 1703. Three more were added in 1812, 1814 and 1828 at which time they were still hung in the lower original chamber in the old part of the tower. In 1894 the final two were added and the bells were all re-hung in the upper part. The walls here being only 3 feet thick, compared with the 4 foot walls of the old tower, provided more room for the increased number of bells, but the move has involved extra leverage and therefore greater vibration, in addition to the weight of the extra bells, which has contributed to, if not caused, rocking of the pinnacles. Taylor and Co, of Loughborough re-hung the bells in 1894, overhauled them in 1926 and again in 1963, when new bearings were fitted and all bells given a 1/8 turn.



In 2002 as part of the millennium project, the bells were re-located in their original lower chamber and the tower interior underwent much restoration.

The bells, with their inscriptions and weights are listed below:

Inscription	Weight (cwt) (kg)	Note
GLORIA DEO SOLI. F. C. ANDERSON: RECTOR: W. FOOTMAN AND J. H. WATSON: CHURCHWARDENS: J. F. BLACKWELL: GAVE ME: J. TAYLOR: MADE ME: 1894	6.33 322	E
LAUS TIBI DOMINE: F. C. ALDERSON: RECTOR: W. FOOTMAN AND J. H. WATSON: CHURCHWARDENS: J. F. BLACKWELL: GAVE ME: J. TAYLOR: MADE ME: 1894	6.30 320	D
J. BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT (made me) 1814	6.89 350	C
HENRY MERTON: RECTOR: ALEXANDER RIGBY: MADE ME: 1705 THOMAS ILIFFE AND JOHN WRIGHT: CHURCHWARDENS	7.24 368	B
MLKIHG FEDCBA XWVT SRQPON MLKIHG 1640	7.42 377	A
FEDCBA MLKIHG SRQPON XWVT FEDCBA 1640	7.93 403	G
T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1828	8.64 439	F
THE HON ^{ble} AND REV nd HENRY RYDER RECTOR: W. MASH AND J. TILLY C: W JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT (made me) 1812	14.75 749	E

The bells are rung from a chamber immediately above the ceiling over the font. There are signs on the Arch between the tower and the Nave that they were at one time rung from the floor of the church.

The clock



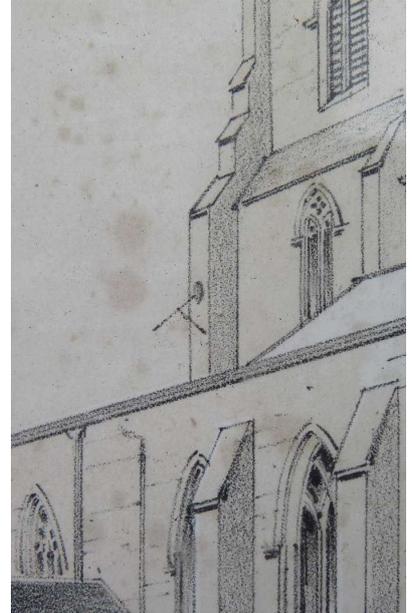
The clock face, which is placed half way up the tower, facing Church Street, was originally driven by a system of rods and gears from a mechanism housed in the lower chamber of the tower. It was made in 1862 by Vale Harris of Lutterworth and restored in 1949 by Bell and Son of Leicester. Driven by three weights which had to be hand-wound, the clock strikes the "Westminster" chime and the hour.

Now the bells have been re-hung in this lower chamber, the clock mechanism has been resited in the ringing chamber below. During the 2002 tower restoration the mechanism was overhauled by Mr Ovens and an electric motor now automatically winds the clock.



The church exterior and the graveyard

There are several interesting indications of former features on the outside of the South walls: on the central buttress of the South Aisle the remains of a "Mass Clock" which would have announced the time of the next mass can just be discerned. A Victorian engraving shows a similar clock on the south face of the tower but there is no trace of it today.



The South wall of the Chancel shows signs of the lintels of earlier door and windows.

Over the East Window are the arms of the Ferrers Family.



Between 2009 and 2011, the church received a Churchyard Improvement Grant from the 'Community Spaces Lottery Fund'. This money, together with local fund raising paid for new lighting, resurfaced paths, rebuilt fences and gates, signage, bins, planting and many other improvements.



Gravestones

Around the church are many attractive slate gravestones. The oldest is a small rather orange coloured stone 7 yards south of the South entrance commemorating deaths in 1628 and 1617, though the stone may not, of course really date from that time.



One of the most notable is of the person who was "mugged" - William Banbury, killed by robbers on Over Heath 25th November 1676. This stone is one of three 10 yards east of the East wall and about 5 yards south of the centre line of the church.

