

Some key dates and main features



The very fine carved-stone **reredos** (behind the altar) depicts the Last Supper and dates from **the 1875 restoration**



The church stands on the site of an **eleventh-century** motte-and-bailey castle

The fifteenth-century tower has a spiral stairway contained in its north east corner. On the outside west face, a niche contains a Victorian figure of the Good Shepherd. The tower is the oldest substantial part of the current building. Its west wall contains fragments of stones surviving from an earlier building on the site.



The 1875 restoration was undertaken by Lancaster architects Paley and Austin in the Gothic revival style. The nave was completely rebuilt, and the church was extended

eastwards creating a new sanctuary. Most of what you see today dates from the 1875 restoration. *The etching to the left is from before the 1875 restoration, and the photograph to the right is the same view today.*



*For all enquiries including baptisms, weddings, first communions and confirmations contact the vicar Revd Michael Hampson
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Saint Michael the Archangel Whittington

Visitors Guide



Welcome

Saint Michael the Archangel, Whittington is an active parish church in a benefice of four parish churches working together – Whittington, Arkholme, Gressingham and Hornby.

For 800 years this site has been a holy place for worship and prayer, and we encourage you to offer a prayer while you are here – for world peace, for the unity the church, for your own needs and for the needs of others, giving thanks for many blessings and for all who have gone before.

Saint Michael the Archangel is celebrated as protector of God's people and defender of justice. He is most often depicted with sword and shield defeating the devil. He also carries the scales of justice, representing not only the wisdom of justice but also the perfect balance of God's justice and God's mercy. His feast day – 'Michaelmas' – is 29 September.



More key dates and features

Sunday Services

Sunday services are held here and in the neighbouring parishes throughout the year.

Full details can be found on the weekly bulletin.

You will find this on the notice board, and online (updated weekly) at www.these4parishes.co.uk

The United Benefice

Whittington, Arkholme, Gressingham and Hornby are four parishes working together, sharing youthwork and a wide range of other activities throughout the year.

The largest weekly service in the benefice is the Hornby Parish Communion at 10.45am every Sunday – a full sung service with choir and young people's activities, and an average congregation of about sixty people.

Quarter Days

On the last Sundays of June, September and December, the four parishes gather to celebrate the Patronal Festivals of Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme, Saint Michael the Archangel, Whittington and Saint John the Evangelist, Gressingham, respectively – which fall on three of the four traditional Quarter Days.

Supporting Whittington Parish Church

You can support Saint Michael's with offers of assistance in maintaining the churchyard, or by joining the church cleaning or flower arranging programmes, or with a one-off or regular donation by online, mobile or telephone banking to the Whittington PCC account 01-04-81 83241760. For more information, or to boost the value of your donation by Gift Aid, use the contact details overleaf.



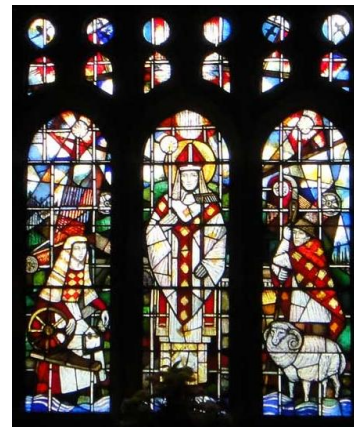
The east and west windows, and the three single-panel windows, are by James Powell and Sons of Whitefriars Studios, London, and date from the **1875** restoration. *The west window in particular has deteriorated due to the composition of the paint and poor firing.*



Two further windows on the south side are by Charles Kempe and Company from **1922**.



This window in the south wall nearest to the main entrance was designed and installed in **1969**, in memory of the Howarth family. It represents Saint Blaise, the patron saint of wool-combers and wool-staplers, and also depicts the various activities of the Whittington estate. *It is by the artist Lawrence Lee, who designed the stained glass for the spectacular twentieth-century Coventry cathedral, built after the war adjacent to the ruins the original cathedral, which was burnt out in the wartime bombing of Coventry. If you are familiar with that building, you will recognise the similarities in style, which give us, here in Whittington, a direct link to Coventry cathedral, and its global work towards international peace and reconciliation. Lawrence Lee died in 2011 aged 101.*



In the tower there is a ring of six bells. The oldest of these – the treble – was cast in **1739** by Edward Seller of York. It is inscribed *Gloria in Altissimis Deo* (Glory to God in the Highest), and with the names of George Hornby (the rector) and four churchwardens. The next was cast in **1754** by Abel Rudhall. The remaining four were cast for the **1875** restoration, the largest (the tenor) being recast from a **1673** original. The bells were refurbished and re-hung in **2009**, and are in regular use. *Experienced ringers and interested beginners are welcome to contact the tower captain via the vicar or churchwarden.*

The large Victorian **font** of polished limestone dates from the **1875** restoration, replacing the seventeenth-century circular stone font which now stands to the north side (the right) of the steps to the tower.



The **pebble mosaic** depicting Saint Michael at the entrance to the churchyard is one of a set of three commissioned to mark the year **2000**. They were designed and produced by local artist Maggy Howarth using cobbles gathered from the river Lune. The others mark the patron saints at the entrances to Arkholme and Gressingham churches.

Finally **the Saint Michael Gates**, depicting the traditional symbols of Saint Michael – as protector of God's people and defender of justice – were created in **2016** in memory of Sue Asher, 1928-2015.

