

St Marys Church Hemingbrough

Several sources indicated that the name Hemingbrough was a compound of two elements: a Norse name Hemming and a Saxon word for city or fort. Hemingbrough British History On-line posted that the final element may have been "birig" or "burg."

Bosworth-Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary listed both words as forms of the root burh, which indicated a "fortified place" or "walled town." "Rude grit-stones" in the western wall of the parish church may be remnants of fortifications that stood Hembrough at or near the building, which otherwise was constructed of "fine limestone" from Huddlestone and Tadcaster. <http://www.one-name.org/>

The first church that occupied the site was built in Saxon times, and is mentioned in Domesday Book.

But every trace of that edifice has disappeared, and of the Norman church that succeeded it there now remain only the two eastern most bays on each side of the nave.

The church appears to have been remodelled and enlarged in the 13th century, and traces of the Transitional style, which then prevailed, are visible in almost every part of the edifice.

The transepts, originally built when the remodelling took place, were very considerably altered in the Perpendicular period, a clerestory being added, and the large five-light windows inserted in the north and south gables.

Further enlargements were made in the 15th and 16th centuries by the addition of aisles to the chancel, and the widening of the north aisle of the nave.

The beautiful tapering spire, rising to a height of 191 feet, was added in the 15th century.

This 12th century church has served as a Minster to this area until the dissolution of the monasteries.

Hemingbrough was first described in the Domesday Book as belonging to the king, but it was given by William I to the bishop of Durham in 1086-7 and the Domesday Summary showed it as the bishop's property.

Lord Tostig held the Parish before the Conquest 1055-1065 (brother to King Harold Godwinson)

A church was first recorded at Hemingbrough in 1086. It was given with the manor house to the bishop of Durham and assigned by him to Durham priory.

The living from the Church 1290-1 was said to be worth £166 13s. 4d. (Source- the archbishop Durham (British History on-line) the church was valued at £110 in the Taxation of that year.

The church was made a collegiate in 1427, with a staff comprising a provost, having cure of souls in the parish, three prebendaries, (honorary canon) six vicars, and six clerks.

'On the 26th October, A.D. 1426, 5th Henry VI., the King granted his royal licence to the Prior and Convent of Durham to erect, or cause the parochial Church of Hemingbrough to be erected, into a college, consisting of one Provost or Warden, three Prebendaries, six Vicars, and six Clerks, with mother ministers, to celebrate divine service, for the good estate of himself while living, and for the anniversary, &c. afore-mentioned.' <http://www.genuki.org.uk>

A parsonage house may have existed in 1324 and the rector may for a time have lived in a house called the Stackgarth, which he rented from Durham priory in 1402-3.

The Stackgarth had in 1339 been assigned by the priory to the priests of the Cliffe chantry, and it lay opposite the church next to the Brackenholme road.

The chantry-priests apparently did not use it, however, and after the provost of the college assumed the duties of the former rectors in 1427 the priory frequently had no tenants for the Stackgarth.

It is suggested that the 'Stackgarth' was used as the bedern of the vicars of the college, this however cannot be substantiated. (The name bedern is first mentioned around the year 1270 in documents relating to the college, although the word is Anglo Saxon meaning 'house of prayer')

The college was suppressed in 1545 and the church eventually became a vicarage.

(Dissolution 1536-1541)

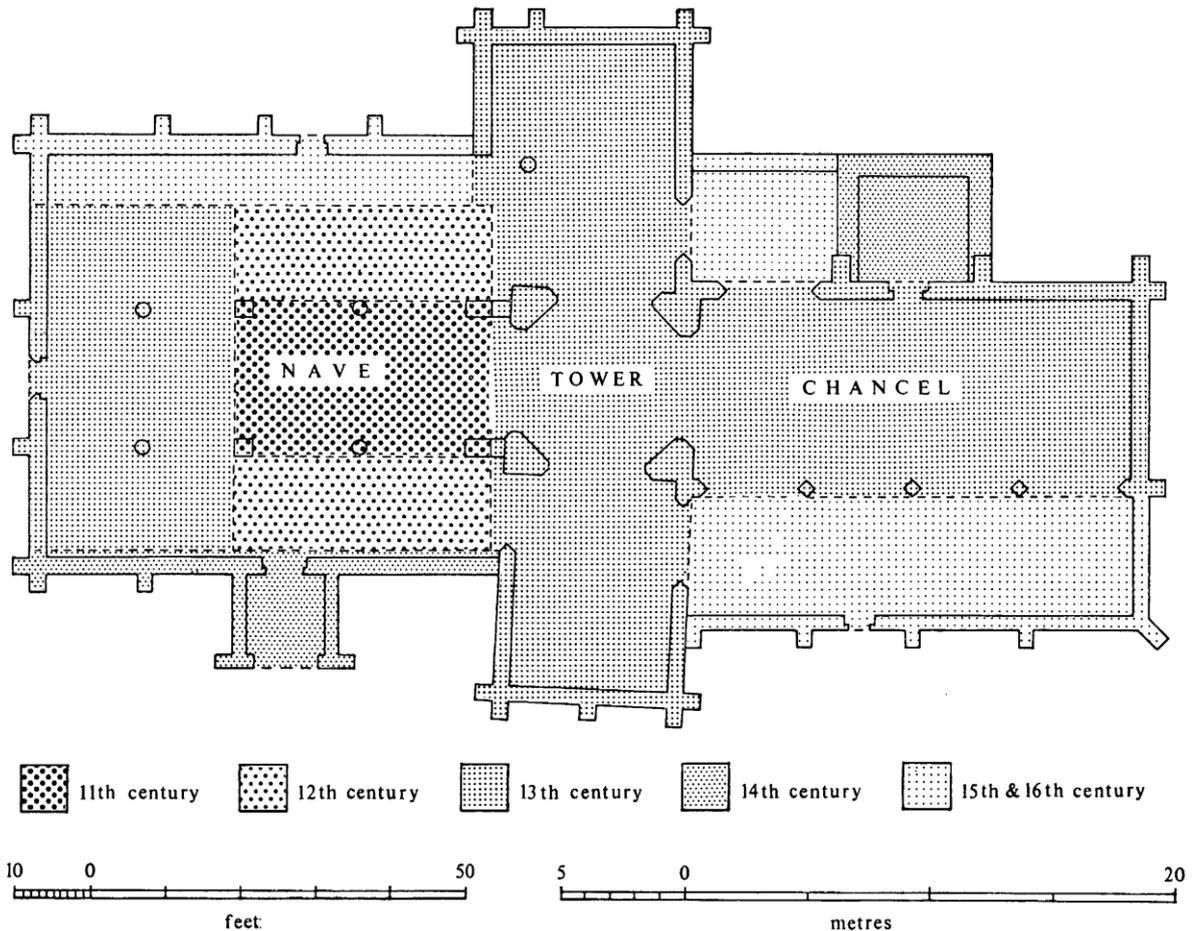
After the Dissolution nothing is known of the parish priests' place of residence until 1707, when the former Stackgarth was conveyed to trustees for the incumbent's benefit.

It was enlarged at the vicar's expense in the mid-18th century but in 1786, when the vicar was non-resident, the house was let to the petty school master.

It was partly rebuilt by the vicar in 1794 and repaired by his successor, John Ion, in 1826.

In 1842, however, Ion built Hemingbrough Villa for his own residence, in 1862 a large Vicarage was erected on the Howden road east of the village.

A new Vicarage was built on the Selby road in 1973, when the 1862 house was known as the Hermitage.



There were four chantries in the church. The Waise chantry was founded by Robert de Marisco, rector 1217-18 to 1258

The Cliffe chantry was founded by the executors of Henry of Cliffe (d. 1332), who devised the residue of his estate to support a chantry in Drax priory.

The Babthorpe chantry, at the Trinity altar, is named after Thomas Babthorpe, who by will dated 1478 bequeathed a vestment to a chaplain who should celebrate there.

The West chantry was founded in 1529 by the executors of John West, incumbent of the Cliffe chantry, at St. Mary's altar.

Miracles were said to be wrought in the church in 1393, when penance for those attending at the Assumption was relaxed.

Statues in the church included:

St. Cuthbert (mentioned in 1348),

St. Mary of Pity (1410),

St. Chad (1453).

Also a chapel of some kind apparently stood to the east of the village on the Howden road, 'Chapel field' which took its name from this chapel, was mentioned in 1529.

It seems the chapel was perhaps suppressed in the 16th century and was later used as a dwelling

Famous Rectors of St Mary's Church

1217-18 to 1258	Robert de Marisco , later became dean of Lincoln in 1258.
1270 -72	Richard of Middleton (he was the king's chancellor Henry 111)
12-72-87	Hugh of Evesham (he was a prebendary of York, member of the Sacred College)
1287-94	Bogo of Clare (he was a treasurer and prebendary at York, and Dean of Stafford)
1294-1309	John of Droxford (he became bishop of Bath and Wells and was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1307-16)
1309-17	Stephen de Mauley (he was a prebendary of York also Dean of Wimborne and Auckland.)
1317-48	Joscelin d'Ossat (he became cardinal bishop of Alba)
13-75-1409	Thomas of Walworth (he was a prebendary of York and master of St. Nicholas's hospital.
1439-26	John Rickinghall (he held offices at York minster, was Chancellor of the university of Cambridge, and then became Bishop of Chichester in 1426)

After the suppression of the college in Hemingbrough, at least two curates apparently served the cure together in the 16th and early 17th centuries.

There seems to have been no regular incumbent during the Interregnum, but the ministers at that time may have included:

Anthony Fido, who is said to have been ejected in 1662.

Thomas Revell, incumbent 1670-7

In the 18th century several vicars held other livings:

William Potter the younger, vicar 1769-79, for example, was also vicar of Brayton (Yorks. W.R.),

John Mallinson, vicar 1779-93, lived at Howden and held several curacies round about.

John Ion, vicar 1825-60, held Halsham vicarage.

According to

http://www.academia.edu/17847158/Ragnar%C3%B6k_and_the_stones_of_York

At Hemingbrough, in the north east angle of the original nave behind the present pulpit, a gritstone block has a Latin inscription, probably third century (Hassall and Tomlin 1992), cut through and re-used upside down as a masonry block.

Whilst other rock types have been traced, the most useful and easily recognised starting point is the use of Millstone Grit.

Archaeologists tend to lapse into the vernacular and talk about stone robbing, but whilst this undoubtedly did occur, the norm would be that everything is owned and that the quantities required to make even a simple two-celled church would not be acquired by subterfuge from the ruins of Roman York.

Eburacum disappears into its Anglo-Scandinavian hinterland by the process of gift of building materials and often that process of gift may leave the recipient with more expense than local acquisition of stone