

St Mary-le-Wigford Church – Its History and Architecture by Mike Garrett

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The Tower

The Tower of St Mary-le-Wigford church is the oldest surviving church tower in the city of Lincoln. The tower is similar in construction style to that of nearby St Peter-at-Gowts church. Both seem to have been built in the 11th century and both are classed as being part of the “Lincolnshire” group of Saxon towers¹. In both cases, the church’s Nave and Chancel seem to have been constructed first, with the Tower added later. This is demonstrated by the fact that the Tower masonry is not “bonded” with the west wall masonry of the Nave but is instead “buted” against it².

The argument that the Nave of St. Mary-le-Wigford is older than the Tower also appears to be corroborated by the presence of a carved tombstone (bearing a late Anglo-Saxon period interlacing pattern) that is incorporated into the south jamb of the interior Tower Arch, just above ground level. This is one of two fragments, of a re-used “mid-Kesteven type” grave cover (late 10th / early 11th century). This large fragment originally formed part of the cover’s side panel. The other smaller fragment of interlacing (thought to be from the same cover) is located above the south door (South Aisle) of the church, immediately below the string course. Also below the string course (above the south door) can be found a re-used fragment from the upper portion of an upright rectangular grave marker (late 10th / early 11th century). This is an example of the “Lindsey group” of markers found within the Lincoln city centre and Lindsey. In the Tower, two other Anglo-Saxon stonework fragments have also been identified; a fragment of a cross-shaft in the north wall of the Belfry and a carved interlace fragment, located above the Tower’s upper west window³.

If these Anglo-Saxon stonework fragments are representing the remains of an earlier stone building on the site, then (as in the case of nearby St. Marks and St Peter-at-Gowts), it could be argued that this indicates a late 10th century – early 11th century phase of archaeology. Firm conclusions however, cannot be made on the basis of these few architectural fragments alone. It would also not be implausible to suggest, that a late-10th century timber-framed church (circa A.D. 980) originally stood on the site, before it was replaced by a stone structure; but due to the lack of archaeological investigation on the St. Mary-le-Wigford site, these theories cannot be either discounted nor proven⁴.

The tower of St. Mary-le-Wigford church was originally constructed from small, cut stones. Many, or all of these stones, appear to be of a reused Romano-British type, known as *saxa quadrata* or *petit apparail*⁵. The north-south extent of the Tower’s base measures 20.25ft (6.17m). The east-west-south extent of the Tower’s base measures 16.25ft (4.95m). The total height of the Tower is 73.75ft (22.48m), measured from its base to the top of the parapet⁶.

A Romano-British memorial stone has also been re-used as the church Dedication Stone and it is incorporated into the lower west face of the Tower. The lower (original) Latin inscription, in the rectangular panel of the stone, reads: “Dis Manibus / nomini Sacri / Brusci fili(i) civis / Senoni et Carsso / unae coniugis / eius et Quinti f(iilii)”. It is translated as follows: “To the departed spirits and to the name of Sacer. Son of Bruscius, a citizen of the Senones and of Carssouna, his wife and of Quintus, his son...”

The later-added Old English inscription, in the upper (triangular) gabled part of the stone, reads: “Eirtig me let wircean / and fios godian / Criste to / lofe and sancta / Marie XP”. It is translated as follows: “Eirtig had me built and endowed to the glory of Christ and St. Mary, XP”⁷.

Eirtig appears to be an Anglo-Scandinavian name, written in Old English, not Latin (as was the later Norman practice) and this is perhaps an indication that the inscription was written in the mid-to-late 11th century. Further evidence of 11th century Anglo-Scandinavian Christian benefactors in Lincoln, can be found in the Domesday Book (1086) which mentions Coleswegen: “outside the city he has 36 houses and 2 churches to which nothing belongs, which he built on the waste land that the king gave him and that never before was built on”⁸. There is however, no mention of Eirtig, in either the Domesday Book, or in any other contemporary written record.

It has been suggested that the church Dedication Stone (naming Eirtig as the benefactor) is only referring to the Tower, not the Nave and Chancel (as these could have been paid for, by one or more different benefactors - wealthy noblemen or merchants⁹). Although such a scenario may have been possible in theory, there is no evidence or tradition of a separate Dedication Stone for the Nave, and no evidence or tradition for a separate Dedication Stone for the (arguably near-contemporary) Nave at St Peter-at-Gowts church.

In each face of the Belfry chamber, there is a pair of Anglo-Saxon semi-circular arch head windows (incorporating a central shaft). The impost (in the outer side of each window opening) have a bold chamfer, which do not continue on the external Tower faces, except exclusively on each impost at the top of each mid-wall shaft. This type of Belfry opening is associated with the architectural period 1066 - 1086 A.D., which is also referred to as either the Saxo-Norman or the Romanesque period (a period in which the Saxon building techniques had not yet been fully phased out, in favour of the incoming Norman methods). The Tower does not appear to incorporate any other major Saxon architectural feature of the pre-Conquest (1066) period, such as "long and short" quoins (cornerstones), pilaster strips or double splayed windows¹⁰.

Similarly, in regards to the doorway, in the western base of the Tower, the door's impost have a very broad chamfer, with an incised chequer-board decoration, which is an early Norman (11th century) decorative form. These appear to be original, though it is possible that a tiny amount of re-cutting may have occurred, in the 19th or 20th century. The church's internal Tower Arch is over 20 feet (6 metres) in height. It has plain jambs and its impost's chequerboard-decoration is of the same style as used on the impost blocks in the western door. Only the western half of the north Tower Arch impost is original; the other stones appear to be restorations, possibly made when the arch was unblocked in 1871¹¹.

Grimm's 1784 drawing also shows that the upper part of the Tower's doorway had an undecorated tympanum at this date and Saunder's 1834 work seems to confirm this, saying that the central section of each impost was modified to receive it. The tower was re-edified in the 1870s, and it is possible that the tympanum was removed around the same time, as after that, it seems to have been replaced with a wooden-framed fan light window. This remained until 1974, when (the present) two glazed panels beneath a metal blocking were installed¹².

The 1784 drawing shows that the main (tower) doorway sat beneath a hood moulding prior to restoration, but it does not show the present dog-tooth moulding and sculpted label stops (both of which, appear to be 19th century renditions, of a 13th century style). The west door's hood moulding on Grimm's drawing, appears similar to the broad single and double-chamfered examples, such as at Rothwell or Cabourne; but Saunders says: "Round the arch is a double billeted moulding" and he is possibly implying that it looks similar to the upper south window at Coleby church.

In the west wall of the tower (immediately above the door), Grimm's drawing shows a late medieval period window, providing light for the tower's ground floor chamber. This window design consists of two cusped lights with ogee heads cut into a monolithic lintel, set beneath a moulded square label. This entire window was replaced in the 19th century but the replacement window does resemble to some extent, the window shown in Grimm's drawing.

Grimm's view also shows a second window, immediately above the two-light ogee window. Possibly medieval, this window was a single broad light under an arched head. It has been conjectured, that this window was removed during the restorations of the 1870s, as this part of the tower's west face can clearly be seen today (21st century) to consist of patched-in stonework. The changing sequences of windows in the lower part of the tower, possibly indicates a series of floor level changes within the tower, since the 11th century.

The tower underwent a period of alteration and embellishment in the late 13th century (possibly around the same time that the North Aisle and Chapel were added), during which the panelled / crenulated parapet, moulded string course and gargoyles (at the corners) were added to the top of tower. During this same period (the year 1263 or later, during Bishop Gravesend's time¹³), additional quoins and extra masonry were added, in order to heighten the bell-chamber by approximately 5 feet (1.5 metres). The small two-light window under a square hood moulding (above the Tower's west door) was probably added during the same period¹⁴.

Buck's sketch of 1723 seems to depict the sills of the east and south bell-chamber openings as being bricked-up, either halfway (east side) or fully (south side) up to the level of the capitals in the mid-wall shafts. The raising of the sills may possibly have coincided with the work that is known to have taken place, to hang the bells within a cage, for change ringing.

Buck's drawing depicts terminal plates for iron tie-rods, located immediately below the Belfry string course, in the east and south tower faces. Their sketched positions approximately coincide with the positions of the

plates securing the strengthening rods today (early 21st century). These earlier plates, sketched by Buck, may each have been held to the tower face by some form of wedge.

The 1723 date (Buck's sketch) may be considered by some, to be too early to find wrought-iron tie rods being used but Sir Christopher Wren had used structural ironwork (in St Paul's and Salisbury cathedrals) in the late 17th century. When Grimm drew his view of St. Mary-le-Wigford church in 1784, he too depicted the same tie-rod plates as Buck (in the north and west faces of the Tower) but also showed a third set, orientated north-south, with their plates visible just beneath the parapet. This third (upper) set of tie-rods is not shown in Buck's drawing, and possibly may have not been added till the mid-18th century (but this has never been confirmed)¹⁵. In 1974, the upper set of tie-rods were removed and replaced by a concrete ring beam.

Browne Willis (writing around the same period as Buck's 1723 sketch) said that: "the steeple wants a new floor and ladder" but by 1845 Archdeacon Bonney had written that: "the Tower floors and roof have been repaired". The detailed drawing of the Tower, by E. Wilson (who in turn had copied it from A.C. Pugin's work, from the 1820s) showed the Tower to be in poor condition with a large crack running down vertically through the lower stage (as does Grimm's drawing of 1784). Wilson's tower drawing also shows the last remnants of rendering above the bell-chamber openings, on the west and south faces¹⁶.

The 1784 drawing depicts a clock on the lower west face of the Tower (north of the single broad light and two-light ogee windows). That clock can be seen to have had a lozenge-shaped face. The present early-19th century Parish clock (above the second-floor window in the Tower's west face) was cleaned and restored in 1860. The weathervane on the Tower's roof was replaced in 1864.

A major restoration of the church was begun in 1868; directed by "Mr Clarke of Nottingham". During this work, the Tower was opened out, "revealing a very interesting chequered impost". At the same time, the high-level doorway in the Tower's east wall was also unblocked. Lesser restoration work continued, until 1878. Further restoration work was carried out on the Tower, in 1908, by Watkins & Son¹⁷.

A major re-ordering of the church took place in 1974 - 1975. During the course of this, the interior Tower Arch was glazed; the west door became a window and the base of the Tower became the church office (with its ceiling being a mezzanine floor that had been inserted above it). The metal (spiral) staircase, seen on the (present) 1975 first / mezzanine floor of the Tower, was donated by the nearby Ruston's engineering firm.

A set of wooden stairs (which are against the interior southern wall of the Tower, concealed by wooden cupboard panelling) ascend from the office, in the base of tower, through the mezzanine floor. While ascending these stairs, two memorials may be observed on the interior southern wall. The first is dedicated to Richard Michael Portter (who died 22nd December 1816, aged 29). The second is dedicated to Richard Gibbeson (Merchant of the City) who died on 12th November 1806, aged 47; and it is also dedicated to his widow Ann who died on 30th May 1845, aged 81. Both of these memorials are set slightly lower than the level of the 1975 mezzanine floor. This seems to indicate that these two memorials are still in their original 19th century position, and thus when the base of the Tower was still the main entranceway, they would be viewed above head height.

On the interior northern Tower wall, just above the level of the mezzanine floor can be seen three re-set memorial stones. The first is dedicated to George Wrigglesworth Hebb (Solicitor, and Mayor of the City) who died who died on 10th June 1818, aged 34. The second is dedicated to John Davies Hodson, who died on 6th October 1929, aged 20. The third is dedicated to Thomas Clark (surgeon), who died on 22nd September 1832, aged 32.

Above the three re-set northern memorial stones, are two wooden boards. The smaller one reads: "The Incorporated Society for Building and Churches granted £60, A.D.1871 towards rebuilding this church, upon condition that all the sittings be free and subject to allotment by the church wardens".

The text below is that upon the much larger painted board, seen hanging on the interior North wall of the Tower, visible through the upper part of the glass screen:

"Part of Mr John Beech's will who was buried October 1608; Item I give and bequeath to ye Minister of St Mary's Parish in ye City of Lincoln, and to his successors forever; one Messuage or Tennerment,

cuthouses, yard, gardens and orchards, situated, Lying in being in Donnington, near Swineshead, in Holland; now in ye Tenure of The: Braseby, and also one acre of Meadow Ground, Lying and being in Donnington aforesaid now in my tenure, upon these special trusts and confederations that ye said Minister of St Mary's Parish and his successors, shall receive out of rents and profits of ye said premises sc given to him as aforesaid, Two Guiness in Gold, Yearly and every Year, for preaching one anniversary sermon forever, the first sermon to begin in ye day of my funeral there, where it is my mind my body shall be buried, in the said Parish Church of St Mary, and so yearly and every year upon that day twelve months, forever, and ye residue of ye rents and profits of ye said premises, (all reasonable charges and deductions being first deducted) Shall be Distributed Yearly, by ye said Minister and his successors, forever, to and amongst ye most needful poor of ye said parish of St Mary's, upon that day Twelve Months, and so yearly and ever, upon the said day forever. 1732"

Another re-set memorial stone (on the mezzanine floor), is dedicated to John Corbett (who died on 24th June 1733, aged 31) and this is located on the interior western face of the tower, in the south-western corner.

The Nave

It is possible that the church of St Mary-le-Wigford originally had a (late 10th century) timber-framed Nave and Chancel, before they were in turn in turn were replaced with a stone structure. It has never been possible to have an archaeological excavation within the church, to confirm this possibility¹⁸.

At the western end of the Nave, the architecture of the (later-added) adjoining church tower seems to indicate an 11th century construction date, with its stone work "butted" against the (apparently) surviving stonework; the only surviving part of the late 10th / early 11th century Nave¹⁹. A late 10th century date for this western stonework is indicated, by the presence of a re-used "Mid-Kesteven type" stone grave cover, incorporated into the southern Tower Arch jamb at near-ground level²⁰.

The northern and southern walls of the pre-13th century Nave no longer survive, due to the addition of a North Aisle in the 13th century and the addition of a South Aisle in the 19th century. The present dimensions of the Nave are by 6.8m north-south by 14.8m east-west (22.3ft north-south by 48.5ft east-west). These may also have been the dimensions of the pre-13th century Nave but this cannot be confirmed.

The Nave and North Aisle are divided by a three-bay North Arcade; the four supporting shafts are each set on a concave sided octagonal pier. The top of each shaft has a distinctive 13th century stiff-leaf-decorated capital. Between each pair of shafts, is a double-chamfered arch with hood moulds and foliage-decorated label stops; with a total of three arches forming the arcade²¹. The Nave and Chancel are divided by a double-chamfered arch with a hood mould and foliage-decorated label stops. This arch is supported by two keeled shafts, with stiff-leaf capitals²².

The Nave and South Aisle are divided by a three-bay South Arcade but the Victorian masons did not choose to emulate the 13th century decorative style of the arcade opposite²³.

In the interior south-west corner of the Nave is a memorial to Henry Swann, surgeon (died 7th July 1824, aged 40) and below that, is a memorial to Henry Kirke Hebb (died 1st June 1902) who was a local Solicitor and Justice of the Peace for the City Of Lincoln. His memorial mentions that the Tower was restored in 1908, by his nephews and nieces (Harold Turner Sills, Henry Hebb Sills, Kathleen Marfleet, George Reginald Sills and Kate Waterland Reddaway).

A carved tombstone (bearing a late Anglo-Saxon period interlacing pattern) is incorporated into the south jamb of the interior Tower Arch, just above ground level. This is one of two fragments, of a re-used "mid-Kesteven type" grave cover (late 10th / early 11th century). This large fragment originally formed part of the cover's side panel. The other smaller fragment of interlacing (thought to be from the same cover) is located above the south door (South Aisle) of the church, immediately below the string course²⁴. Above the tomb cover, there are indications that the upper part of the south jamb has had other fittings or memorials previously attached to it (in the 20th / 21st century).

On the northern jamb of the Tower Arch, two brass memorials are incorporated into the stonework. The upper 15th century brass plate (immediately below a bronze Cross dedicated to St Mary) reads: "Hic jacet Wills Horn quauda maior Citat licoln q'obit xlllo die Mareii No. eeee °LXIX° cui' aie ppiet de". This translates

as: "Here lies William Horn, formerly Mayor of the City of Lincoln, who died 4th day of March, A.D. 1469 on whose soul may God have mercy, Amen". This brass plate may be in a re-set position, as it is alleged that it was found with a stone coffin under the middle aisle of the Nave²⁵. Below the 15th century brass is a 19th century brass plate which reads: "Mrs Mary Esther Waldo Sibthorp by Will, dated October 23rd 1875, left to the Vicar of St Mary le Wigford in trust for the poor of the Parish the sum of one hundred pounds".

The interior north-west corner of the Nave has a memorial to John Swann (who died on 7th June 1800, aged 17 years; the son of Rev Francis Swann and Susanna Maria Swann). In the south-eastern corner of the Nave, the wrought iron ceremonial stand, used to (occasionally) hold the ceremonial sword presented by Richard II to the City Of Lincoln, is on the south-east wall, while near to it on the Nave floor is a 19th century brass eagle-type lectern. Another brass lectern is located in the north-eastern corner of the Nave.

The North Aisle

The North Aisle measures 4.4m north-south by 14.2m east-west (14.4ft north-south by 46.5ft east-west). The North Aisle's exterior buttresses, on Grimm's 1784 drawing, are of a tapering design, which have later (between 1782-1842) been replaced by angled buttress, slightly-similar in appearance to those two (further east) on the north wall of the Chapel – except that the two replacement buttresses are of thicker dimension (105cm north-south by 80cm east-west, while the 14th century Chapel buttresses are 85cm north-south by 65cm east-west).

Padley's Lincoln street map of 1842 clearly shows five buttresses along the north side of the church - the two replacement buttresses of the North Aisle, plus the three 14th century Chapel buttresses (including the 14th century diagonal "French" one, at the Chapel's north-eastern corner).

The replacement buttresses of the North Aisle, appear to be "butted" against the North Aisle, and between the more-easterly of the two replacement buttresses and the present arched Baptistry window (further east) is a discernible vertical area of patched masonry which could be a previous Lancet window or, is far more likely to represent the position of the (removed) earlier buttress, as its position appears to correspond exactly, to the position shown on Grimm's 1784 drawing.

The western replacement buttresses of the North Aisle, had then (1842) also become the north-west corner buttress of the North Aisle (as it is today, early 21st century), due to the western end of the North Aisle (between 1784 and 1842) being moved back, from being flush with the west face of the Tower – to instead extending no further west than the north-east corner of the Tower. The "new" 1842 corner buttress appears to have its stonework bonded with that of the "new" western end of the North Aisle.

It may be possible, that the section of the western North Aisle removed (4.4m north-south by 6.15m east-west), may have been an earlier Vestry, as Grimm's drawing of 1784 appears to depict a 14th century (two or three light) Decorated window in the western end of the North Aisle. His drawing also seems to show a second door on the northern side of the church (within the now-removed North Aisle section). The other, more-easterly entrance (located between the flat-headed 14th century Perpendicular window and the western North Aisle buttress), is the entrance which survives on the northern side of the church to this day (early 21st century), and considering that it has an effigy of St Mary on its eastern side (albeit in extremely poor condition), this seems to have always been the most important door on the northern side of the church, providing access to the North Aisle / Nave area. The second more-westerly door (or window, if it was that, instead) shown on the 1784 drawing, is thus argued to be associated with the supposed earlier Vestry.

If the (present) external western end of the North Aisle is examined, it can be clearly seen that its window has been re-set. This window (the present one, early 21st century) is also different to the one depicted in the 1784 drawing; it is now a re-used three-light 14th century Reticulated Tracery window. To the left (north) of the window, there appears to be possible traces of a "blocked" (earlier) Lancet window. Also, below the window, visible on that same western face, there is at least one discernible vertical break line, with masonry butting against other masonry, which leads one to conjecture that this was once, one side of an interior door, connecting the supposed "lost" North Aisle Vestry, to the rest of the North Aisle. Located outside, immediately west of the present North Aisle (and located simultaneously, immediately north of the Tower's northern face), is an area of "ramped" gravestones, placed in such a position, due to the 1975 re-ordering of the churchyard. This choice of "ramping" may possibly have been adopted, due to the need to not

encroach on the surviving earlier North Aisle foundations, surviving immediately below – as the ramping area coincides precisely with the area of North Aisle removed.

The 13th century North Aisle has two window bays incorporated into its northern wall, the most-westerly presently contains a 14th century three-light flat headed Perpendicular window (with a hood mould), even though, the window bay can be seen to have originally been designed for an arched window. At present (early 21st century), the Baptistry window in the eastern window bay of the North Aisle is an arched three-light type of pre-18th century date. When examined from the interior, the bays of these two windows appear contemporary to each other (if not having precisely the same dimensions), with each bay being flanked by 13th century shafts - with their stiff-leaf decorated capitals.

It was Pope Alexander III who confirmed, in 1163, that the church was then in the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral (and part of the Prebend of Gretton). By 1263, the church of St Mary-le-Wigford had become united with the churches of St Andrew and St Faith (under the palace), and Bishop Gravesend was possibly the inspiration for a period of extensive church re-building and enhancement. Considering that his other churches may possibly have had their new construction work completed first; and that the North Aisle of St. Mary-le-Wigford incorporates both 13th and 14th century building features, it is possible to suggest that the North Aisle was completed around the turn of the 13th/14th century²⁶.

It is thus possible to conjecture, but not confirm, that the arched window in the North Aisle's easterly bay may have replaced a 14th century three-light flat headed Perpendicular window (with a hood mould), similar to the other three presently seen in the northern side of the church, and this was before 1784, as Samuel Grimm's drawing from that year, clearly shows the arched window and three flat-headed windows in the north side of the church. The present Font dates to the 15th century, so there was incentive to improve the lighting around it, from then on. The Baptistry window's present stained glass panels came from the former St Mark's church, and were placed in the lower part of the window in memory of the late Daisy Lord (January 1971) and Reginald John Lord (January 1972).

The exterior 13th century north door of the North Aisle has a hood mould and decorated label stops. The label stops are extremely damaged or eroded, thus making it impossible to discern the original decoration upon them. The north door is presently (early 21st century) the main entrance of the church, having an award-winning arched wooden porch in front of it, which was installed in 1975. Immediately east of the north door (on the exterior wall) can be seen the remains of a robed female statue. In 1807, the writer John Britton described it as: "a statue of an upright female figure, much defaced"²⁷. Considering that this female statue is beside (possibly re-set) next to the door, it may be conjectured that this represents The Virgin Mary. The fact that it was already much defaced in 1807, may suggest that this damage (along with that done to the label stops) may have been caused by those with Puritan beliefs, in the 1642-1660 period. The church windows may have similarly shared the same fate, as Gervase Holles (writing in the 1634-1642 period) mentions Coats-of-Arms in the windows of the church, which no longer exist²⁸. The present glass in the church windows dates from the later Victorian period.

On the present interior western wall of the North Aisle, are two memorials. One is dedicated to Rev. Francis Swann (died 23rd February 1845, aged 90) and his wife Susanna Maria (died 13th December 1854, aged 96), the second is dedicated to the Rev William Francis Pickin (died 28th June 1846, aged 30), his father William John Pickin (died 9th November 1869, aged 81) and his mother Susanna Maria (died 29th July 1859, aged 74).

Below those two memorials – on the North Aisle floor, is the extremely-worn tomb cover of Raneulphe de Kyme, a benefactor of St Mary-le-Wigford church and the nearby friary of the White Friars (where today, early 21st century, Debenhams is located). He is depicted wearing a kirtle (long robe) and also appears to have a sword in a scabbard. The masonry fragments, next to his tomb cover, also came from the De Kyme Chantry on the White Friar's site. In 1540, the De Kyme Chantry was dismantled and used to build the present Conduit (water tank) in the church yard of St Mary-le-Wigford. The two de Kyme tomb covers were placed on the boundary wall, immediately south of the Conduit (and where depicted in that position, in Grimm's Conduit drawing of 1784 and Louse Raynor's painting of 1863)²⁹. At some point, most likely 1872 - 1877, the tomb covers were brought into the church and the wall they had laid upon, was dismantled to provide building-stone for the South Aisle. The tomb cover of "Lady de Kyme" is now in the funerary recess of the Chapel, in St Mary-le-Wigford church and she is depicted with a wimple, dress and prayer book.

On the interior north wall of the North Aisle (western end) is the Lacock Stone. This memorial stone was originally in St Mark's church. Leonard Lacock (who signed his name "Lococke") was the churchwarden of St Mark's church, several times, between 1574 and 1593. He was Sheriff of the City of Lincoln in 1572.

"hic jacet corpus leonardi, lacock generosi qui in, ivveculi aeta te servus erat, illustrissimi nuper regis, henrici octavi proveciore, vero aetatem lincolniae tran, segit vbi margaretam filiam, teomae ienison de marneham, in comitat nott generosi duxit, uxcrem per qvam habvit duo, filios georgium et gregorium, toti denq filias elizabetham, et dorotheum ibiq aeta te sua 81, in manus domini iesu, salvatoris eius emisit, tum die 21 iumii ao ini 1594".

This translates as: "Here lies the body of Leonard Lacock, Gentleman, who in his youth was a servant of the late, most noble king Henry VII. In his later years, he lived in Lincoln where he married the Margaret, daughter of Thomas Jenison, Gentleman, of Marnham, in the county of Nottingham. By her he had two sons, George and Gregory, and also two daughters, Elizabeth and Dorothy. And there he finally rested in the hands of the Lord Jesus his Saviour and died aged 81...on 21st June 1594 A.D".

Although the Lacock Stone is presently held in a vertical position against the wall, it was originally designed to lie horizontally, as there are four carved cat faces on the end of the stone (albeit one is now apparently replaced by a different architectural fragment, two are defaced and the fourth cat face remains intact). A mirror on the floor of the aisle helps the viewer to see the intact cat face.

Above the Lacock stone and the north door, are the standards of the local Services Associations (The Burma Star Association, The British Legion, The Womens' Branch of the British Legion, The Royal Air Forces Association, The Normandy Veterans Association and the Royal Naval Association).

Immediately east of the doorway is the Grantham Tomb. The 1630 alabaster Grantham Tomb, with crests on its side and supine (sleeping) figures on its top, was dedicated to the memory of Sir Thomas and Lady Grantham.

The tomb was originally placed in the first church of St Martin ("St Martin at Dernstall", located on St Martin's Lane), in 1618. During the English Civil War however, St Martin's church was severely damaged in 1644, during an attack upon the city by Cromwell's Parliamentarian forces. The tomb had been hit by part of the falling church but was then moved into the Tower, which remained standing³⁰.

Later, in 1889, Mr Justice Grantham removed it, and took it to Barcombe (Sussex). It was Canon Harding who later recovered the tomb from Barcombe and had it placed in the Lincoln church of St.Benedict's. It was later placed in the safekeeping of a member of the family, who in turn, later offered it to Lincoln Cathedral, where it remained (in their workshop) to be restored. The tomb was finally moved again to the church of "St Mary-le-Wigford with St Mark". (More detailed notes regarding this Tomb and Sir Thomas Grantham may be found in the Appendix Section).

East of the Grantham Tomb is the Burma Star Association plaque. There is then a memorial to former Alderman Henry Swann (died 16th June 1782, aged 67) and his wife Susanna (died April 5th 1790, aged 77), plus a memorial to George Thomson (died 28th August 1778, aged 61), then the Normandy Veterans Association plaque, the St Mark's baptistery windows, a medieval / post medieval memorial which has had its brass taken from the stone mounting, Lincoln and District W.R.A.C. branch plaque, the Baptism Roll board and the church standards. Above the memorials to Henry Swan and George Thomson are a second group of standards belonging to local Services Associations (The Burma Star Association, The Association of Wrens, The Royal Air Forces Association and The Royal Naval Association). Standing in the eastern end of the North Aisle, is the 15th century octagonal-sided Perpendicular font.

The Chapel

The Chapel measures 4.4m north-south by 9.2m east-west (14.4ft north-south by 30.1ft east-west). The earliest known representation of the Chapel is Samuel Grimm's drawing of 1784, looking from the north-west. The Chapel was lower in total height, in 1784, than it is today (early 21st century). Grimm's drawing shows it with castellation adornment on its roof (appearing similar in style, to that also used on the top of the Tower), almost bringing its total height to the equivalent height of the North Aisle wall. The three 14th century buttresses and two 14th century Perpendicular windows, on Grimm's drawing, appear to be the same buttresses and windows that survive to the present day (21st century).

Judging by the contrasts in the stonework, the Chapel seems to have been added, after the Chancel and North Aisle had already been completed (not necessarily a long time after, but rather, it possibly represented the final stage of a long-running sequence of construction in the late 13th century, with the Chancel and then the North Aisle taking priority). Grimm's drawing shows the Chapel's western buttress against the north-eastern corner of the North Aisle, and to this day (early 21st century), the block-type masonry on the western side of that buttress, can be seen to contrast with the more rubble-type masonry used to the east of that same buttress, in the central part of the Chapel's north wall, around the two Perpendicular windows. These two 14th century Perpendicular windows are of different sizes, and as a consequence, it can be seen that the builders decided to set them in the wall with just their bases level with each other.

The Chapel was heightened (to the same height as the North Aisle) during R. C. Clarke of Nottingham's restorations of 1872, by the addition of six courses of stonework to its north and east wall, in order to ensure that a continuous roof could then cover both the North Aisle and the Chapel. As part of this rebuilding work, a new stone supporting arch was added at the same time, between the Chapel and the North Aisle. A chimney and stack were also added, in the eastern part of the Chapel's north wall (the stack's flue being entirely within the wall), serviced by a brick-vaulted chamber beneath the eastern half of the Chapel. The addition of this stack and chamber appears to have caused a large proportion of the Chapel's eastern wall to have been dismantled and then rebuilt. The re-used 14th century Reticulated Tracery window presently in the east wall of the Chapel is re-set, with the tip of its arch within the heightened-stonework level of 1872 (and the window itself also contains stained glass depicting the Crucifixion installed by Usher and Kelly - London, 1873).

In addition, it can be seen that the external string course around the bottom of the window, and the moulded plinth at the east wall's base, have been continued / re-set (in 1872) northward from the north-east corner of the Chancel but the string course at least, does not extend fully to the Chapel's corner buttress, but this inadvertently serves to demonstrate that the corner buttress and the (outer) north wall of the Chapel were not disturbed during re-ordering of 1872.

The interior east wall of the Chapel (in the north-east corner) has an ogee-headed aumbry set within it - while within the interior northern wall, there is an early 14th century keel-moulded tomb recess which contains the tomb cover of "Lady de Kyme". Further along the northern wall (in the north-east corner) is a bronze War Memorial plaque, and below that, is a wooden plaque memorial to Donald Jones. In the south-western corner of the Chapel, the organ console projects southwards, just into the northern side of the Chancel.

The Chancel

The Chancel measures 6.8m north-south by 9.2m east-west (22.3ft north-south by 30.1ft east-west). This may have replaced an earlier, smaller Chancel - but there has never been any archaeological investigation to confirm this. The exterior eastern wall of the present (13th century) Chancel wall has three buttresses. Two single Lancet windows (with hood moulds and stops) are also set in the eastern wall. Above these two lancet windows, in the gable, is a pointed quatrefoil with a moulded surround³¹. Around the Nave's eastern and southern exterior base can be seen a moulded plinth and a sill band. This plinth and sill band, on the Chancel's southern side (and the most southerly of the three buttresses mentioned above), are also depicted in Samuel Buck's 1723 drawing of the church; and it can clearly be seen that they continued along the base of the southern Nave wall, prior to the building activity of 1872-1877.

The eastern (interior) wall of the Chancel has a three-bay arcade set into it. This arcade has three double-chamfered arches with hood moulds and foliage-decorated stops, supported by a total of four (ringed) shafts, with stiff-leaf capitals. The north and south bays' lancet windows have stained glass by Clayton and Bell (1877). The central bay has an effigy of Christ. The eastern interior wall also has a gabled aumbry set within it (north-east corner).

The interior south wall of the Chancel has a gabled aumbry, a tomb recess - with a seat within it, and an organ opening. The north side of the Chancel (immediately south of the arcade) has a 19th century wrought-iron screen and gate. Wrought iron railings and gates are also fitted before the altar, and on the western side of the Chancel (on top of a low decorative stone screen), within the Chancel's arch. These wrought iron railings and the wrought iron Chancel screen, were bequeathed by Mrs Harvey, in memory of

her late husband, the Rev. George Tyson Harvey (and Canon Wharton then continued the restoration work during his incumbency).

Before the altar (immediately west of it), the Choir area is presently occupied by five 19th century wooden pews, plus two associated wooden chairs and two wooden lecterns. These are said to have originated from nearby St Mark's church (Lincoln High Street) but are presently (early 21st century) "un-used" for the purpose of church Services.

The Chancel and the Chapel are divided by a two-bay arcade, which has two double-chamfered arches (with hood moulds and foliage-decorated stops). The central shaft also has four smaller detached (ringed) shafts, and is set on a cruciform pier. East and west of this central shaft, is a supporting keeled respond shaft. These three supporting shafts have stiff-leaf capitals.

During the mid 17th century, the Puritans removed many traces of Anglicanism from the churches of Lincoln. The church of St Mary-le-Wigford was one of the very few that managed to at least partly-avoid the same fate. After the Restoration of the Monarchy (1660), the churches of St Peter-at-Arches and St Mary-le-Wigford, were the only "below hill" churches to hold a service every Sunday. In recognition of this fact, The City of Lincoln Corporation (in 1720) presented a magnificent George I (sixteen-light) brass chandelier to the church, which now hangs from the ceiling of the Choir³².

In 1893, a report of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society described the Chancel in the following terms: "The east and south walls are painted a dull olive green, powdered with the sacred monogram. The hood mouldings and capitals of the eastern triplet [arcade] are gilt, the shafts being painted in a scroll pattern, a deep chocolate [brown] line round the windows is much value in bringing out the stained glass; a good work of Messrs Clayton & Bell. On the central bracket; also gilt, is an alabaster statuette of our Lord, as the good Shepherd. The space below the windows is covered with hangings. The spandrels of the north arcade are coloured a dull green, diapered with foliage and the sacred monogram. A horizontal band at the springing of the roof bears the inscription, "Holy, Holy, Holy & e," and a scroll pattern at present of rather too bright a red. The rafters of the roof are stained a warm brown, diversified with roses, the space between being of a rich red. The choir seats have been stained with what is known as "Bodley's Mixture", a compound of Prussian blue and Burnt Umber, producing a deep greenish brown which is very effective. The alter rails and chancel screen are of light iron work partly gilt, designed by the Rev F. H. Sutton and executed by Mr Coldron, of Brant Broughton. The brass chandelier (given to the Corporation in 1720, when this was a city church) with its graceful branching arms is a conspicuous ornament of the chapel. One is thankful for the change in taste which has preserved this really beautiful metalwork, instead of bartering it for some modern gew-gaw, all stiff lean curves and sharp pointed leaves. The old panelled pulpit, stained with Bodley's mixture relieved with gold, is a nice bit of colour. The reddish glass which fills the south window warms up the chancel, and the organ pipes dispersed in sober hues, with upright daisies at the base, complete the general harmonious effect. The Vicar, and all concerned in it, may be congratulated on the beauty and effectiveness of the whole work"³³.

The South Aisle

The South Aisle's construction was completed in 1877, incorporating two re-used window bays within its southern wall, a single window bay within its east end wall, and a single window bay within its west end wall. All four of these windows are of the 13th – 14th century three-light Intersecting Tracery type, as depicted on Buck's drawing of the southern side of the church, in 1723. The South Aisle measures 5.4m north-south by 14.8m east-west (17.7ft north-south by 48.5ft east-west).

The southern wall (western end) incorporates a re-set 13th century door (with a roll-moulded arch, dog-tooth decoration, shafts and stiff-leaf capitals)³⁴. Buck's 1723 drawing shows a large porch on the south side of the church, in approximately the same position. Although (in the drawing) the door in the southern wall of the Nave cannot be seen (because of the porch), the assumption is, that the door presently re-set in the South Aisle wall is the same door that was served by the porch. Further conjecture might lead one to ask (considering that the shafts and capitals of the opposite northern door are on the interior side of the church) if the re-set-door in the South Aisle wall has also been turned around (180 degrees) so that its shafts and capitals are now instead on the exterior side of the "new" southern wall?

The South Aisle's walls also incorporate decorated stone fragments, which appear to date from the earlier historical phases of the site. On the exterior western face of the South Aisle, two stone medieval tomb

covers (13th – 15th century) have been incorporated into the upper stonework; one on either side of the Tracery window. Above the South Aisle's southern doorway, can be seen several re-used fragments. The western-most fragment is from an upright rectangular grave marker (late 10th / early 11th century). This is an example of the "Lindsey group" of markers found within the Lincoln City centre and Lindsey. The next (interlace-patterned) fragment is a re-used "mid-Kesteven type" grave cover (late 10th / early 11th century) that is associated with the much larger piece inside the charge (in the bottom of the southern Tower Arch jamb)³⁵. The third (circular-faced) fragment bears a simple incised cross design and probably dates from around the 12th - 13th century. A small stone with a carved (16th century) rose upon it can be found just passed the South Aisle's most-eastern buttress but the view of it is partly obscured by the roof gutter's downpipe.

On the east-facing (most western) respond shaft of the Victorian South Arcade, a 19th century brass plate has been incorporated into the stone work which reads: "To the Glory of God and in memory of Frances Mary Hodgkinson who died on the Feast of the Annunciation 1887, this Aisle was built in 1888 by George Tyson Harvey and Edith Mary his wife" (Note: The structure of the Aisle was completed in 1887 but it is possible that the final fitting-out of the Aisle, and its awaiting a Dedication, continued into 1888).

Below that is a second bass memorial which reads: "Hic jacet Johea Jobson ffychmonger olim viciomes civitat lincoline qui obit 1111^o die Joli No. dui M^occcc^o °XXV^o cui aie ppelet de Amen". This translates as: "Here lies John Jobson, Fishmonger, at one time an Alderman of the City of Lincoln who died 4th day of July 1525, on whose soul may God have mercy, Amen". (A depiction of an axe and cleaver, the tools of his trade, are also included on the inscription). This 16th century brass memorial has thus been relocated. Its original position may have literally only have been a few feet away, most probably in the southern Nave wall that was removed in 1887.

There are presently (early 21st century) no memorials on the interior southern (South Aisle) wall of the church. As part of the 1975 re-ordering of the church (by Peter Bridges and Martin Purdy³⁶), two single-storey flat-roofed utility rooms, referred to as "pods" (presently, a store room and a meeting room) were constructed within the South Aisle, thus occupying the aisle's central area and eastern end. Their construction and consequent need for extra day light also necessitated the addition of smaller windows (immediately under each Tracery window) in the southern wall. From within the Nave, it can be observed that one of these rooms (the meeting room) has a re-used tomb cover fragment (a 13th / 14th century "patonce" cross design) on its exterior.

The Vestry

In 1870, Revd Tyson Harvey and Mrs Harvey had raised sufficient funds from donations to commence extensive restorations; beginning with the construction of the (present) Vestry in 1872, and then continuing with the construction work in order to complete a South Aisle by 1877. The present Vestry (and its upper Organ Loft) was constructed in 1872, under the direction of R.C. Clarke of Nottingham. The Vestry was built (butted) against the south wall of the Chancel. It had an approximately square plan, 5.4m by 5.4m (17.7ft by 17.7ft). The Vestry's western door connected it to the Nave, while its southern (external) door opened onto the southern churchyard.

The southern wall of the Vestry incorporated re-used medieval arched doorway and to its east (in the southern wall) was a re-used 14th century flat-headed Reticulated Tracery window with a few small decorated Anglo-Saxon grave cover fragments in turn re-set above it³⁷. In the east wall of the Vestry was a second re-used window; a gabled 14th century flat-headed Reticulated Tracery window. Another re-used 13th century Early English round-headed doorway connected the Vestry to the (then) under-construction South Aisle. The two re-used Reticulated Tracery windows in the 1872 Vestry, and the 13th century Early English round-headed doorway seem to be those that are depicted in Buck's 1723 drawing of the church (southern side).

A 19th century drawing in the Ross Collection (Lincolnshire County Library), also shows these same windows but depicts the Early English doorway as a blocked half-doorway, although the Ross drawing may (or may not) have been to some extent, a re-working of Buck's 1723 original. However, it can be seen that Buck's surviving 1723 drawing is badly faded in some parts and an enlargement of the Early English doorway area (on that drawing) does reveal the faint surviving drawing lines of the western door jamb. The full round-headed Early English doorway presently (early 21st century) connects the western Vestry wall to the South Aisle.

The re-used arched doorway in the southern Vestry wall may possibly have come from the nearby site of either St Mark's or St Benedict's (and the small decorative stone fragments above it, above the string course, may also have come from either of those sites, or found on the St Mary-le-Wigford site; but confirmation other than speculative "hearsay" evidence, is lacking).

Set high into the Vestry's southern wall (above the present southern Vestry door) is what appears to be a re-set fragment of a 12th century Norman scalloped "volute" capital. Assuming that this fragment has always been on this site, and knowing that the church was not extended on its northern side, till the 13th century, this leads one to conjecture that the only location that this fragment can have originally come from, would be an earlier Chancel Arch with Norman / Saxo-Norman features.

The southern Vestry wall (above the string course, at the eastern end) also incorporates a (lower half a) stone slab fragment, on which is incised a depiction of two monk figures (which may be of 16th to 17th century date). On the eastern side of the Vestry, a Maltese cross is carved into the east-facing corner buttress and another medieval tomb cover is incorporated into the wall masonry above the string course (and these both appear to be of 13th century date).

There are no memorial stones or plaques, on the interior wall of the present South Aisle. The southern interior 13th century Nave wall seems to have had its memorials taken down, and placed on the interior eastern and southern Vestry walls, prior to the entire southern Nave wall being dismantled, in order to be re-used again as the new South Aisle's southern wall, in 1877. The western and southern interior Vestry walls also have Latin-inscribed grave fragments, re-set upon them, which possibly represent former graves in the floor of the Nave or those immediately outside the southern Nave wall, prior to the 1877 extension.

The present Vestry's northern wall has wooden panelling and also has three wooden stairs and a door giving access to the Chancel. In the north-eastern corner (north wall) of the Vestry, is a re-set memorial stone commemorating the late Rev William Durance (who died 5th May 1809, aged 80) and his widow Sarah who died 4th March 1814 (aged 79).

The interior eastern and southern Vestry walls similarly have mid 19th century (pre-1877) memorial stones re-set within them. On the lower southern interior Vestry wall, John Mounsey (died September 23rd 1847, aged 27) and his son John William Mounsey (died August 14th 1853, aged 11) are commemorated. The other memorial stone on the southern Vestry wall is unreadable. On the lower interior eastern Vestry wall, are commemoration stones (in very poor condition) for Martha Thimble, William Edwards (died 1818), Mary Fisher (wife of James Fisher) and Lucy Hammond (wife of Rev Hammond) but these stones are in an extremely poor state of preservation. There is one more (unreadable) memorial stone on lower interior eastern Vestry wall.

In the upper south-eastern corner (interior eastern Vestry wall), is the 1866 memorial stone dedicated to Lincoln wine merchant Richard Whitton who bequeathed money in trust, for the benefit of two old men and two old women (who were regular attendees of the church). In the upper north-eastern corner (interior eastern Vestry wall), is a memorial stone dedicated to the late Rev John Bradford (who died 9th July 1857, aged 55). Immediately above that is a (extremely poor condition) stiff-leaf capital, being re-used as a timber floor beam support, which may have been one of those capitals in the north-east corner of the Nave, which have clearly been replaced by "restored" versions, in the 19th century (possibly during the erection of the new arch between the North Aisle and the Lady Chapel, in 1877).

Next to (south of) the Bradford memorial stone (on the wall) appears to be a unique large fragment of a very worn, re-set floor slab, which has been decorated with a incised line drawing. This seems to possibly depict the Virgin Mary, as the female figure is wearing a headdress (wimple) and a long dress with long deep sleeves. Her head appears to rest on a pillow which has its lower corner adorned with a tassel. In front of her body (apparently emerging from her sleeve) is her left hand, the palm facing the viewer, possibly as a gesture of Blessing. Below the (slightly over-sized) hand, there is an area of incised artwork that possibly represents a female's belt and the folds of her dress.

All of the incised detail described in the paragraph above, is concentrated on the right-hand side of the slab (from the viewer's perspective). On the left-hand side, the slab is extremely worn (walked upon?) and the only discernible detail, a female face, is much shallower in terms of its incision, as is the line running horizontally near the bottom of the female figure's dress (but a deeper-incised vertical line below that, does not cross over the shallower-incised line). The overall immediate impression of this incised artwork is that it

was first incised in a very shallow (scratched) manner, and these lines were then re-incised with a deeper and wider cut, thus making the figure's details clearer (Alternatively, some lines may be shallower, due to wear). The fact that this incised slab is not necessarily complete, makes an interpretation of it, very difficult. If the figure is the Virgin Mary, then it can be seen that she is not depicted, holding Christ.

If the artistic style of the near-contemporary 1620 memorial brass of Alderman John Becke (in nearby St Benedict's church) is examined, it can be seen that there are perhaps some similarities in artistic style; although the Becke memorial is finished to a much higher quality³⁸. A conjectured 16th to 17th century date for the Vestry's supposed Virgin Mary depiction (and the Monk depiction on the exterior slab, on the southern Vestry wall) is thus plausible, but without further sources of confirmation, one is left only with the date 1872, the construction year of the Vestry wall (even though both the incised-decoration slabs definitely appear pre-19th century).

In his (1634-1642) notes concerning the tower of St Mary-le-Wigford church, the antiquarian Gervase Holles mentions that: "On a flat stone ye portraitures traced of John Hodgson & Jane his wife, he holding her by ye hand & (having been buryed some space before her) upon her being layd with him was engraven a Scroll from his mouth – Welcome"³⁹. Today (early 21st century), there is no known surviving fragment from that memorial. Some may conjecture, that the incised slab fragments in the Vestry have some connection to the Hodgson memorial, but it should be noted that these slabs are depicting religious figures, not members of the local gentry.

On the upper southern and western Vestry walls (inside) may be seen the Medieval Latin-inscribed fragments from three or four separate grave memorials (dating from the 13th century or a little later). It is perhaps likely (though not confirmable) that these represent the edges of memorial slabs that were inadvertently struck, when the foundation trenches for the 1872 Vestry walls were initially excavated.

The grave cover in the south-west Vestry corner has amongst its inscriptions: "HIC JACET WILLMS GOTT ET BEATTERIS..." (HERE LIES WILLIAM GOTT AND BEATRIX...). The original Latin form of WILLIAM is WILLIELMUS (hence the possible abbreviation to WILLMS). The female name BEATRIX is pre-Victorian, as from then on, the spelling BEATRICE also began to be used. The cover also incorporates a late 13th century "Patonce" style of Maltese cross. The first recording of the surname Gott, appears in 1095, in the register of Bury St Edmunds abbey (Suffolk). The Assize Court register, for the city of Lincoln, records a Haldane Gotte in 1202, and the surname generally (with slight variations in its spelling) became established in both Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, in the medieval period.

The Churchyard and the 1975 Church Hall Annexe

The church of St Mary-le-Wigford is sited on the southern edge of Lincoln's city centre, immediately south-east of the junction of St Mary Street and the High Street (a location that also denotes the northern extent of Wigford parish). The church's distinctive 11th century tower provides an immediate architecturally contrast to the other 19th and 20th century buildings close by. There are 20th century buildings to the north and west of the churchyard and immediately outside the churchyard's southern boundary wall, is the main city railway line and crossing point, which is orientated east-west and runs through Lincoln Central railway station - a complex of buildings and car parks, located immediately east of the church.

The earliest known depiction of the churchyard was drawn by cartographer John Speed on 19th July 1607. From that original drawing, his Dutch friend, the engraver Jodocus Hondius, then engraved it upon the more-well-known county of Lincolnshire map plate (1610) but Hondius had to rotate it ninety degrees (thus putting north on the left-hand side), in order to fit it into the plate space available.

It was in 1723, that Samuel Buck drew the southern side of the church (including a porch that was certainly not in existence, when Padley's 1842 street plan was published). Samuel Grimm's drawing of 1784 has been suggested by some, to show the churchyard being wider, on the southern side of the church. However, partly due to Grimm's drawing perspective, and partly due to the fact that the church's South Aisle had not yet been constructed at that time (1784), it could be argued that the church's southern boundary has perhaps remained constant over the centuries, with the churchyard space on the southern side of the church becoming far less, once the 19th century (1877) South Aisle was added.

James Padley's street map of 1842 also seems to depict the same rectangular churchyard area (but not a door porch on the southern side of the Nave). The distance from the Conduit, to the southern churchyard boundary (southwest churchyard corner) appears constant (20 metres) in both the 1784 and 1842 representations, and the outbuilding shown in Grimm's drawing (although argued by some, to be a vicarage "within" a more-extensive churchyard) can clearly be seen to be "behind" the southern churchyard boundary, perhaps being the building (or forerunner building) of the one shown on the 1842 street map. Thus the churchyard's maximum dimensions have remained approximately 200ft (60.96m) northwest-southeast and 100ft (30.48m) northeast-southwest.

It should also be noted that Wigford Place ran along (immediately outside) the northern and eastern churchyard boundaries, in the 1842 period, with a row of back-to-back properties separating the northern arm of Wigford Place from St. Mary's Street, immediately to the north. There were other properties immediately east of the churchyard (and Wigford Place), which like Wigford Place and the back-to-back properties to the north, were cleared-away, once the railway station arrived in 1848.

By the time of the publication of the 1887 street plan, the northwest corner of the churchyard had also become "rounded" to aesthetically tie-in with the new street-paving immediately outside. By comparing the 1887 map with images of the church in 1908 and 1932 (left), it can be seen that a 0.60m (2ft) high boundary wall delimited the churchyard boundary (on its north and west side), with iron railings extending at least a further 0.9m (3ft) above that. On its southern and eastern side, the boundary was delimited by a brick wall, which had an approximate maximum height of 240cm (7.87ft) and a width of 36cm (1.18ft). Previously (in the 1784 - 1863 period at least), a wall of stone rubble construction delimited the western boundary; the other sides had a simpler wooden fence.

In 1975, a major re-ordering of the churchyard (and church) took place. The iron railings of the church boundary had probably already been removed in the 1940s (during the Second World War) as photographic and drawing evidence from 1974 and a little earlier, shows just the lower boundary walls on the north and west sides. In 1975, in conjunction with a plan to improve the pedestrian walk ways of the city centre, these low boundary walls were removed (except the lengths immediately flanking the Conduit, which do show that their railings have been cut off) and they were replaced by bricks that were laid flush with the surface of the paving slabs.

The 1975 re-ordering also affected the gravestones within the churchyard. Between 1854 and 1855, nine Lincoln parishes (including Saint Mary-le-Wigford) had together formed the Lincoln Burial Board. The board opened the Canwick Road cemetery in 1856 and this in turn resulted in the closure of Saint Mary-le-Wigford churchyard. In 1975 therefore, with the churchyard being long-since-inactive as a burial ground, it was decided to remove the gravestones from their original positions and lay them flat, incorporating them into the new pavement scheme on the northern and western sides of the church

The southwest corner of the churchyard (where the Conduit was located) remained as a grassed area. A few gravestones were also laid flat in this grass area while others were placed vertically against the southern brick boundary wall. The major new structural addition in 1975 was the construction of a single-storey brick Church Hall annexe building, located in the south-eastern corner of the churchyard, which incorporated a function hall, kitchen, storeroom, toilets and a utility room (presently used as a communal computer room). The Church Hall could be entered from either part of the yard or from the church via the 1872 Vestry.

The 1975 reordering also made use (re-use) of stone architectural fragments brought from the former churches of St Mark's and St Benedict's. Some were used to decorate the outer western wall of the Church Hall annexe (the central fragments appear to be from St Benedict's, the arch and outer fragments may be from St Marks), while other fragments (possibly all from St Benedict's, including the cruciform decorative capital on top) were used to construct the Offerings Box on the northern yard boundary. An award-winning arched wooden North Door Porch was also added to the church. This was now the main entrance, as the door in the west face of the tower had become an office window.

Presently (early 21st century), the six trees in the churchyard are of the "London Plain" species. The 1887 Ordnance Survey street plan of Lincoln seems to be depicting these six trees, plus five more that are now gone (one apparently being removed from immediately north of the Chapel, the other four being removed from the western end of the church yard; and in regards to these latter four, these are probably the ones seen on the 1908 postcards, with the two most-westerly being those depicted on Grimm's 1784 drawing). The roots of the three trees presently located just inside the northern church yard boundary line are causing

paving slabs (and horizontal memorial slabs) to rise and there is a concern that they may affect the foundations on the north side of the church but greater investigation and confirmation needs to take place in regards to this matter.

The Conduit (1540)

On the very western edge of the St Mary-le-Wigford churchyard (almost immediately north of Lincoln's High Street level crossing) stands a unique architectural structure known as St Mary's Conduit, from which the people of Lincoln have been able to collect drinking water, from 1540 to 1906.

This very ornately-decorated Conduit was constructed from architectural fragments taken from the Whitefriars (Carmelite) Friary which was located a little further down the High Street, on the western side, on the site now occupied by the former St Mark's Station (Argos superstore), Station Street and St Mark's Square. The Whitefriars Friary was dissolved in 1538 and some of the stone taken from it to construct the Conduit (circa 1540), has been identified as coming from the 15th century De Kyme family chapel (who had earlier connections with St Mary-le-Wigford) which was located on the Whitefriars site.

In the 16th century, the travelling antiquarian John Leland wrote: "There lay in a chapelle at the White Freres a rich merchant called Ranulphus de Kyme, whos image was thens taken and set at the south end of the new castelle of the conducte of water in Wikerford"⁴⁰.

The extremely-worn tomb cover ("image") of Raneulphe de Kyme may be found on the floor, of the present western end, of the North Aisle. He is depicted wearing a kirtle (long robe) and also appears to have a sword in a scabbard. The masonry fragments, next to his tomb cover, also came from the De Kyme Chantry. The two de Kyme tomb covers were placed on the boundary wall, immediately south of the Conduit (and where depicted in that position, in Grimm's Conduit drawing of 1784 and Louse Raynor's painting of 1863)⁴¹. At some point, most likely 1872 - 1877, the tomb covers were brought into the church and the wall they had laid upon, was dismantled to provide building-stone for the South Aisle. The tomb cover of "Lady de Kyme" is now in the funerary recess of the Chapel, and she is depicted with a wimple, dress and prayer book.

The Conduit is not now, in the position it occupied circa 1540. The last known depiction of the Conduit in its first position is perhaps represented by Louise Raynor's painting of 1863. A report by Lincoln Corporation in 1836, stated that the Conduit still had (at that time) its original pipes, made of lead but in a poor condition.

A decision was taken in 1864, to move the Conduit slightly further away (eastwards) from the High Street, to the position where it now stands (20 metres northwest of St Mary-le-Wigford church).

The Conduit then continued in its role as an active Conduit, between 1864 and 1906. This and other Lincoln conduits (no longer extant) were more trusted as a water supply by the local populace, rather than the mains water, during the typhoid outbreak of 1904-1905.

English Heritage classifies the Conduit as a Grade II listed structure (Scheduled Ancient Monument, County Number 22). The Conduit has a 4.4m (14.44ft) frontage (not including the angled buttresses), a 2.2m (7.21ft) width and an approximate maximum height of 6.096m (20ft).

Although no form of roof has ever been depicted on early drawings of the Conduit, from the 20th century onwards, it has been seen with a gabled asphalt roof covering (presumably supported by a wooden frame). The Conduit has angled corner buttresses, with a chamfered plinth incorporated into the lower part of its four walls; it has a coped parapet and gables with a quatrefoil frieze, and a ball-finial above each gable. The north, south and west sides each have a decorative 4-bay blind arcade. The east side has three corbels and a close-boarded door.

The Bells of St Mary-le-Wigford (1616 – 1636)

St. Mary-le-Wigford church is one of the five churches within the city of Lincoln which have bells hung for full circle ringing. The other four churches are: St. Giles (8 bells), St. Peter-at-Gowts (6 bells), St. Botolph-by-Bargate (6 bells) and Lincoln Cathedral (12 bells).

The four bells of St. Mary-le-Wigford church each have the following inscriptions and specifications:

I sweetly tolling men do call to taste on meats that feede the soule 1636 (Founder: George Oldfield I). Diameter 28.5", Weight 4cwt 26 lbs, Note D

GOD SAVE THE CHURCH 1636 (Founder: George Oldfield I). Diameter 30", Weight 4cwt 2 qrs 14 lbs, Note C.

JESUS BE OUR SPEEDE 1616 (Founder: George Oldfield II). Diameter 32", Weight 5 cwt 2 qrs 26lbs, Note B flat.

GOD SAVE THIS CHURCH 1616 (Founder: George Oldfield II). Diameter 34", Weight 6 cwt 1 qr 17lbs, Note A.

These four bells were tuned as a 1-4 of ring of six; quarter turned and re-hung in a new cast-iron frame in 1932, by Taylor's of Loughborough.

The old frame, possibly dating from 1636, has been retained in the tower. According to Ross (quoting Browne Willis who as writing in 1718) there were formerly five bells in this tower; unfortunately Ross does not give any details.

Ross commented on the four bells that existed here in the 19th century "these bells emit when rung together a noisy accordance, intolerable to the ear of the campanologist... To improve the harmony and make them sufferable, without recasting them, a fifth and sixth should added..."

He then gives the notes of the four bells and of the two to be added as follows: 1. D; 2. C; 3. B; 4. A, 5. G, 6. F flat.

Information regarding the church bells taken from:

Ketteringham, J., R. (Ed.), *Lincolnshire Bells and Bellfounders*, (Ketteringham, 2009), p. 151

The Grantham Tomb (1630)

Located in the North Aisle of St Mary-le-Wigford Church, the early 17th century alabaster Grantham Tomb, with crests on its side and supine (sleeping) figures on its top, is dedicated to the memory of Sir Thomas and Lady Grantham. Generations of the Grantham family have given service to both the Church and the City; Brauncegate (located nearby in Lincoln's City Centre) was renamed Grantham Street in their honour.

Sir Thomas Grantham was the son of Vincent Grantham (of Goltho and St Katherine's, Lincolnshire). He matriculated at Christ Church (Oxford) on the 9th May 1589, aged 16, and was then a law student at Lincoln's Inn (London) in 1592. He was a former ward of the second Lord Burghley and became a Freeman of the City (by purchase) in 1597. He was High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1600 and was knighted at Belvoir Castle on the 23rd April 1603. He was elected as a Member of Parliament for Lincoln in 1604 and 1614 (and for Lincolnshire in 1621). He was again elected as Member of Parliament for Lincoln in 1625, 1626 and 1628 (sitting until 1629, when King Charles I then decided to rule without Parliament, for the next 11 years)⁴². He was also known to take action against Catholic Recusants (those who refused to attend Anglican services)⁴³.

He first married Frances, the daughter of (Lord Keeper) John Puckering. They had four sons and three daughters. He later married Lucy, daughter of William Boughton, with whom he had one more daughter. His contemporaries described him as: "a gentleman of great repute in his country, and kept up all his life the old hospitality of England, having a great retinue and a noble table, and a resort for all the nobility and gentry in those parts". He was also described as: "a worthy gentleman of Lincolnshire who was never wanting to the service of his country"⁴⁴. Sir Thomas died at Goltho (Lincolnshire) in 1630. One of his sons, also called Thomas Grantham, became the Member of Parliament for Lincoln during the period of the English Civil War.

The Grantham townhouse at St Katherine's is no longer in existence but Buck made a sketch of it. In regards to the house at Goltho, only the moat now remains⁴⁵. The North Aisle of the Chancel, at the old St Martin's church (St Martin-at-Dernstall, Lincoln), was the Grantham family's traditional burial place⁴⁶. Gervase Holles (writing in the 1634-1642 period) said that the effigies of Sir Thomas and his Lady, in terms of proportion, visage and complexion, were "a perfect representation of them as they were being alive, their hands elevated"⁴⁷.

In 1644 however, during a Parliamentarian attack on the City of Lincoln, both the church and the tomb inside it, were severely damaged. In 1807, Wilson's visit to the church revealed that the canopy of Sir Thomas and Lady Grantham had fallen and broken the faces of the statues. The tomb had been hit by part of the falling church but was then moved into the Tower, which remained standing⁴⁸.

Later, in 1889, Mr Justice Grantham removed it, on the basis of an unfounded claim of relationship - and without a church Faculty document (giving him permission). Around the same time, he removed the 1657 armorial glass panel of Thomas Grantham (the son of Sir Thomas), from Goltho church; and took both the glass panel and the tomb to Barcombe (Sussex). When challenged, the judge said the tomb was doubtless once in the church; he had found it under a heap of rubbish where the church once stood (but did not mention that it had been in the church tower). When his claim of relationship was challenged, he replied with the vague response that he "knew something more than your correspondent of the migration of my family more than two centuries ago"⁴⁹.

It was Canon Harding who later recovered the tomb (but not the glass⁵⁰) from Barcombe and had it placed in the Lincoln church of St. Benedict's. It was later placed in the safekeeping of a member of the family, who in turn, later offered it to Lincoln Cathedral, where it remained (in their workshop) to be restored. The tomb was finally moved again to the church of "St Mary-le-Wigford with St Mark".

The Church Notes of Gervase Holles (1634-1642)

Notes on the Coats-of-Arms and memorial inscriptions of St Mary-le-Wigford church (circa 1634-1642).

ECCLESIA SCAE MARIAE IN WIKFORD

(Church of St Mary-le-Wigford)

In Fenestra Cancelli:-

(In Chancel Window)

Quarterly, Arg & Sa. On a Bend G. 3 flours de lize, Or.

In Fenestra Australi Ecclesiae:-

(In Southern window of the church)

Thomas de Wellington.....

.....uxor Gilerdi de Harple | me dedit

John Williamson, a benefactor to the next window there.

In Fenestra Boreali Navis:-

(In Northern window of the church)

Argent. 2 bars nebuly Sa. on cherife a Lyon passant gardant d'Or.....[Merc. Stap].

Gules, a fret of 6 pieces Arg.....Hodleston

Orate p. Ala Radi Hodelston | dudum Maioris Civitatis Linc | ac Mercatoris Stapulae Calesinae | et Agnetis, Isabelle, et Catherinae | consortium suarum, qui hanc | Fenestratum fiery fecerunt.

In Campanili:-

(In Bell Tower)

On a flat stone ye portraitures traced of John Hodgson & Jane his wife, he holding her by ye hand & (having been buryed some space before her) upon her being layd with him was engraven a Scroll from his mouth – Welcome.

On a gravestone, | Hic jacet Gregorius Ion Armigr | quondam unus Justiciariorum | ad pacem et quorum in Civitate | Lincoln. Qui obit 7th die...

Depicta in Cancelli:-

(Pictured in the Entranceway)

Sa. A Chevron engrailed between 3 Falcons Arg.....Ion

Argent (on) a Cross engrailed between 4 Doves Sa. 5 Bezants.....Welcome.

Information taken from:

Cole, R.E.G. (Ed.), Lincolnshire Church Notes made by Gervase Holles – A.D. 1634 to A.D. 1642, (Lincolnshire Record Society – Volume 1, 1911), p. 55

The 18th and 19th century Memorial stones of St Mary-le-Wigford churchyard

Compiled by Shelley Clack, 28th May, 2008; last edited 13th June, 2008 (Total records = 93).

The northern side of this churchyard is now part of the street. The gravestones have been laid flat and made part of the walkway. To the west and south there is a path, which contains gravestones. There is also a very small grass area (in the south-west corner of the yard) that has more gravestones. Some have been laid flat. The few standing stones are set along the southern brick boundary wall.

During 1854 and 1855 the Lincoln Burial Board was formed for nine Lincoln parishes, including Saint Mary le Wigford. In 1856 the board opened Canwick Road cemetery. This resulted in the closure of Saint Mary le Wigford churchyard.

This list contains all visible gravestones, which Shelley recorded on 28th May 2008.

Ashton, Sarah, d. 22 Dec 1814, W/o John Ashton
Asman, Elizabeth, d. 12 Apr 1849, age 18 yrs
Asman, Francis, d. 13 Apr 1853, age 47 yrs
Berridge, Joyce, d. 4 Apr 1759, age 31 yrs, W/o Robert Berridge
Bescoby, Frances, d. 25 May 1822, age 70 yrs, W/o and s/w Henry Bescoby, Grandmother of and s/w Henry Bescoby, Mother-in-law of and s/w Mary Bescoby
Bescoby, Henry, d. 24 Dec 1822, age 9 wks, Grandson of and s/w Frances and Henry Bescoby, S/w Mary Bescoby
Bescoby, Mary, d. 1 Feb 1823, age 26 yrs, W/o William Bescoby, Daughter-in-law of and s/w William and Frances Bescoby, S/w Henry Bescoby
Bescoby, William, d. 11 Apr 1812, age 55 yrs, H/o and s/w Frances Bescoby, Grandfather of and s/w Henry Bescoby, Father-in-law of and s/w Mary Bescoby
Brumby Hannah, d. 18 Jun 1847, age 83 yrs, W/o and s/w William Brumby
Brumby, William, d. 27 Jul 1836, age 69 yrs, H/o and s/w Hannah Brumby
Capp, Elizabeth Porter, d. 3 Dec 1825, age 4 yrs, D/o John and Elizabeth Capp, S/w John Capp
Capp, John, d. 19 Apr 1891, age 59 yrs, 'of Robert Capp Gent of this city', S/w Elizabeth Porter Capp
Capp, William, d. 21 Mar 1856, age Infant, S/o Hannah Porter and Robert Capp, S/w Alice Hall
Chalner, Ann, d. 1855(?), S/w Mary An, Renne(?) and Richard Chalner
Chalner, Mary Ann, d. 21 Oct 1825, age 23 yrs, D/o ? and Ann Chalner, S/w Renne(?), Richard and Ann Chalner
Chalner, Renne(?), d. 25 Apr 1830, age 22 yrs, S/o ? and Ann Chalner, S/w Mary Ann, Richard and Ann Chalner
Chalner, Richard, d. 8 Jun 1850, age 76 yrs, S/w Mary Ann, Renne(?) and Ann Chalner
Coll?on, Sarah, W/o ? Norton Coll?on
Cotterill, James, S/w ? ?
Cottrill, Elizabeth, d. 22 Apr 1818, age 80 yrs, 'or upwards of fifty years landlady of the Packhorse Inn in this city'
Cullin, Ann, d. 21 ??? 1805, age ?0 yrs, W/o William Cullin, S/w 'children who died in infancy'
Cullin, William, d. 12 Nov 1800, age 55(?) yrs
Durance, Sarah, d. 25 Apr 1856, age 92(?) yrs, Eldest d/o Reverend William Durance formerly vicar of this parish
Fisher, ?, d. 28 Feb 184?, age ?9 yrs, W/o and s/w John Fisher, M/o and s/w Elizabeth Fisher
Fisher, Ann, d. 12 Mar 1813, age 73 yrs, W/o Henry Fisher of Whitehaven, M/o and s/w John Fisher, S/w William Fisher
Fisher, Elizabeth, d. 10 Aug 1839, age 16 yrs, D/o and s/w John and ? Fisher
Fisher, John, d. 1 Jun 1801, H/o and s/w ? Fisher, F/o and s/w Elizabeth Fisher
Fisher, John, d. 30 Nov 183?, S/o Henry and Ann Fisher, S/w Ann and William Fisher
Fisher, William, d. 22 ??? 18?3, S/o John and Fanny Fisher, S/w Ann and John Fisher
Foster, ?, d. 6 May 1798, age 7 yrs, S/w C., J. and ? Foster
Foster, ?, d. Mar 1????, age 5 yrs, S/w C., J. and ? Foster
Foster, Alice, d. 24 Aug 1836, age 77 yrs, Eldest D/o of Alderman Foster, Sister of and s/w Ann Foster
Foster, Ann, d. 26 Jan 1887, age 58 yrs, Sister of and s/w Alice Foster
Foster, C., age Infant, S/w J., ? and ? Foster
Foster, Elizabeth, (not readable)
Foster, Elizabeth, d. 5 Jul 17?3, age. Infant, D/o Charles Foster, Sister of and s/w John and Thomas
Foster, J., age Infant, S/w C., ? and ? Foster
Foster, John, d. 22 Dec 179?, age. Infant, S/o Charles Foster, B/o and s/w Elizabeth and Thomas Foster
Foster, Mary, d. 30 Jul 1816, age ?0 yrs, W/o and s/w Thomas Foster
Foster, Thomas, d. 27 Jan 1819, age 90 yrs, H/o and s/w Mary Foster
Foster, Thomas, d. 6 May 17???, age 17 yrs, S/o Charles Foster, B/o and s/w Elizabeth and John Foster
Graves, Hannah, d. 22 Dec 1826, age 46 yrs, W/o Joshua Graves
Hackett, Mary, d. 11 Dec 1853, age 68 yrs
Hall, Alice (nee Porter), d. 25 Jan 1826 age 18 yrs, S/w William Capp
Hall, Caroline, d. 1 May 1817, age 27 yrs, W/o and s/w William Hall
Hall, Henry, d. 16 Jan 1825, age 17 yrs, S/o nn and Thomas Hall, B/o Robert Marshall and Thomas Hall

Hall, John Johnson, d. 23 Jul 1799, age 2 yrs, S/o and s/w John Hall
Hall, John, d. 22 Apr 1797, age 48 yrs, 'Of this city. Merchant', F/o and s/w John Johnson Hall
Hall, Robert Marshall, d. 9 Aug 1810, age 2 yrs, S/o Thomas and Ann Hall, B/o and s/w Henry and Thomas Hall
Hall, Thomas, d. 11 Jan 1838, age 31 yrs, S/o Thomas and Ann Hall, B/o and s/w Robert Marshall and Henry Hall
Hall, William, d. 7 Nov 1824, age 41 yrs, 'Late one Alderman of this city', H/o and s/w Caroline Hall
Hebb, George W?iglesworth, d. 10 Jun 1813, age 31 yrs, S/w Mary Ann Hebb and George W?iglesworth Hebb
Hebb, George W?iglesworth, d. 9 ??? 1812, age 5 yrs, S/w Mary Ann Hebb and George W?iglesworth Hebb
Hebb, Mary Ann, d. 5 or 3 Jul 1858, S/w George W?iglesworth and George W?iglesworth Hebb
Jones, Ann, d. 27 Jan 1854, age 49 yrs, W/o Bartholomew Jones
Kirk, Joseph, age. Infant, S/o and s/w Mary Ann Kirk
Kirk, Mary Ann, d. 27 Apr 1851, age 23 yrs, W/o Joseph Kirk, M/o and s/w Joseph Kirk
Long, Elizabeth, d. 23 Feb 183?, age 77 yrs, Sister of and s/w Susannah Long
Long, Susannah, d. 27 Mar 1811, age 75 yrs, Sister of and s/w Elizabeth Long
Lowth, Catherine, d. 4 Jun 1825, age 44 yrs, 'Late of Ryall in the county of Rutland'
May, William, d. 2 May 1???, age 92 yrs
Mimmack, Gervase, d. 1 May 1810, age 65 yrs
Neave, Benjamin, d. 11 Aug 1849, age 53 yrs
Norton, John, d. 30 May 1???, age 11 yrs, S/o John and ? Norton
Pacy, George, d. 9 Sep 1854, age 51 yrs
Parkinson, William Rantham, d. 17 Dec 1838, age 7 yrs
Pickin, Susanna Maria, b. 12 Sep 1784, d. 29 Jul 1859, age 74 yrs, S/w William Francis and William John Pickin
Pickin, William Francis, d. 28 Jun 1816, age 30 yrs, 'M. A. of Whitemoor in the county of Nottingham and late fellow of Magdelene College in the University of Oxford', S/w Susanna Maria and William John Pickin
Pickin, William John, d. 9 Nov 1869, age 81 yrs, S/w William Francis and Susanna Maria Pickin
Picksly, Mary, d. 9 Mar 18??, age 72 yrs
Picksly, Penelope, d. 17 Nov 1802, age 64 yrs, W/o and s/w Richard Picksly
Picksly, Richard, d. 21 Feb 1821, age 82 yrs, Ho and s/w Penelope Picksly
Porter, Ann, d. 7 Sep 1832, age 27 yrs, D/o William and Sarah Porter
Porter, Eliezer, d. 22 May 1822, age 27 yrs, S/o William and Sarah Porter
Porter, Sarah, d. 18 Dec 1???, age 79 yrs, W/o William Porter
Porter, Thomas, d. 3 Nov 1823, age 18 yrs, S/o William and Sarah Porter
Read, ?ob?, d. 1825, age 2? Yrs, S/o William and Sarah Read, B/o and s/w John Read
Read, John, d. 1? Jul 1815 or 1818, age 21 yrs, So William and Sarah Read B/o and s/w ?ob? Read
Savage, George, d. 15 Nov 1834, age 61 yrs, H/o and s/w Martha Savage
Savage, Martha, d. 14 Jan or Jun 1846, age ?3 yrs, W/o and s/w George Savage
Sawdon, Elizabeth, d. 31 Mar 136, age 41 yrs, D/o Thomas and Elizabeth Sawdon, S/w Thomas Sawdon
Sawdon, Thomas, d. 6 Jul 1846, age 77 yrs, S/w Elizabeth Sawdon
Seely, ?, d. 6 Oct 1833, W/o and s/w William Seely, M/o and s/w William Seely
Seely, William, d. 10 Apr 1840, age 21 yrs, S/o and s/w William and ? Seely
Seely, William, d. 13 May 1837, age 43 yrs, H/o and s/w ? Seely, F/o and s/w William Seely
Swan, Francis (Reverend), d. 23 Feb 1845, age 91 yrs, 'of Lincoln and late prebendary of this Cathedral', M.A. after name, H/o and s/w Susanna Maria Swan
Swan, Susanna Maria, d. 13 Dec 1854, age 96 yrs, W/o and s/w Reverend Francis Swan
Tate, Hannah, d. Oct 1???, age 3 yrs, D/o William and Martha Tate
Welbourn, Catherine Ann, d. 23 Oct 1847, age 70 yrs, W/o John Welbourn merchant of this city
Whiton, ?ard, d. 22 May 18??, age 63 yrs
Whitton, Susanna, W/o Richard Whitton of this city, M/o and s/w Susanna ?
Wood, Nathanael, d. 14 Dec 1814, age 62 yrs
Wyche, Richard, d. 10 May 1839, age 68 yrs, 'Only son of the late John Wyche Esqr who and his pedecessers held the office of town clerk of Stamford in this county for a century and a half'

Miscellaneous:

??, 12 Unreadable
 ??, ?, Roman tombstone in the wall of the church
 ??, ?, d. 15 Oct 18??, S/w James Cotterill
S?t?, Elizabeth, d. 14 ??? 1???, age 79 yrs, S/w ?abella ?
 ??, ?abella, S/w Elizabeth S?t?
 ??, ?ar?th, D/o ?
 ??, **Elizabeth**, W/o Sol????n ?, S/w one child who died in infancy
 ??, **Henry**, (not readable)
 ??, **Michael**, d. 1 Nov 1???, age 49 yrs, 'of Lincoln'
 ??, **Richard**, (not readable)
 ??, **Susanna (nee Whitton)**, d. Sep 1836 or 1856, age 35 yrs, W/o ??rrk ?, D/o and s/w Susanna Whitton

In November 2011, Mike Garrett (Parish Archivist) listed the visible memorial stones in alphabetical surname order but with each group of stones listed separately, according to which specific churchyard location they were in.

There are 20 memorial stones to the north of the North Aisle.

1	Ashton, Sarah , died 22 nd December 1814, wife of John Ashton
2	Asman, Elizabeth , died 12 th April 1849, age 18 years
3	Asman, Francis , died 13 th April 1853, age 47 years
4	Brumby, Hannah , died 18 th June 1847, age 83 years, wife of William Brumby Brumby, William , died 27 th July 1836, age 69 years, husband of Hannah Brumby
5	Capp, Elizabeth Porter , died 3 rd Dec 1825, age 4 years, daughter of John and Elizabeth Capp. Capp, John , died 19 Apr 1891, age 59 years. Capp, Robert , "Gent of this city"
6	Cottrill, Elizabeth , died 22 nd Apr 1818, age 80 years, "upwards of fifty years landlady of the Packhorse Inn in this city"
7	Cotterill, James , son of John Cotterill, Cotterill, John , father of James Cotterill.
8	Fisher, Ann , died 12 th Mar 1813, age 73 years, wife of Henry Fisher, mother of John Fisher, Fisher, John , died 30 th Nov 183?, son of Henry and Ann Fisher, Fisher, William , died 22 nd ? 18?3, son of John and Fanny Fisher.
9	Hall, John Johnson , died 23 rd July 1799, age 2 years, son of John Hall, Hall, John , died 22 nd April 1797, age 48 years, City Merchant and father of John Johnson Hall
10	Jones, Ann , died 27 th January 1854, age 49 years, wife of Bartholomew Jones.
11	Lowth, Catherine , died 4 th Jun 1825, age 44 years, "Late of Ryall in the county of Rutland".
12	Picksly, Mary , died 9 th Mar 18??., age 72 years.
13	Picksly, Penelope , died 17 th November 1802, age 64 years, wife of Richard Picksly Picksly, Richard , died 21 February 1821, age 82 years, husband of Penelope Picksly
14	Porter, Eliezer , died 22 nd May 1822, age 27 years, son of William and Sarah Porter.
15	Read, Job , died 1825, age 2? years, son of William and Sarah Read, brother of John Read. Read, John , died 1? July 1815 (or 1818?), age 21 years, son of William and Sarah Read, brother of ?ob? Read.
16	Savage, George , died 15 th November 1834, age 61 years, husband of Martha Savage Savage, Martha , died 14 th January (or June) 1846, age ?3 years, wife of George Savage
17	Tate, Hannah , died 1 st October (????), age 3 years. Daughter of William & Marsha Tate.
18	Unreadable
19	Unreadable
20	Unreadable

There are 13 memorial stones to the north of the Tower.

21	Capp, William , died 21 st Mar 1856, age Infant, son of Hannah Porter and Robert Capp, Hall, Alice (nee Porter) , died 25 th January 1826, age 18 years.
22	Hall, Caroline , died 1 st May 1817, age 27 years, wife of William Hall, Hall, William , died 7 th November 1824, age 41 years, City Alderman, husband of Caroline Hall.
23	Hall, Henry , died 16 th Jan 1825, age 17 years, son of Thomas Hall, brother of Robert Marshall and Thomas Hall, Hall, Robert Marshall , died 9 th August 1810, age 2 years, son of Thomas and Ann Hall, brother of Henry and Thomas Hall, Hall, Thomas , d. 11 Jan 1838, age 31 years, son of Thomas and Ann Hall, brother of Robert Marshall and Henry Hall.
24	Long, Elizabeth , died 23 rd February 183?, age 77 years, sister of Susannah Long, Long, Susannah , died 27 th Mar 1811, age 75 years, sister of and Elizabeth Long.
25	Parkinson, William Rantham , died 17 th Dec 1838, age 7 years.

26	Pickin, Susanna Maria , born 12 th Sep 1784, died 29 th July 1859, age 74 years, Pickin, William Francis , died 28 th June 1816, age 30 years, "M. A. of Whitemoor in the county of Nottingham and late fellow of Magdelene College in the University of Oxford", Pickin, William John , died 9 th Nov 1869, age 81 years.
27	Porter, Ann , died 7 th September 1832, age 27 years, daughter of William and Sarah Porter.
28	Porter, Sarah , died 18 th December 1???, age 79 years, wife of William Porter.
29	Porter, Thomas , died 3 rd November 1823, age 18 years, son of William and Sarah Porter.
30	Sawdon, Elizabeth , died 31 st March 1836, age 41 years, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Sawdon, Sawdon, Thomas , died 6 th July 1846, age 77 years.
31	Swan, Francis (Reverend) M.A. , died 23 rd February 1845, age 91 years, "of Lincoln and late prebendary of this Cathedral", husband of Susanna Maria Swan, Swan, Susanna Maria , died 13 th Dec 1854, age 96 years, wife of Reverend Francis Swan.
32	Almost unreadable but appears to mention John and Sarah Norton, the parents of John Norton who is buried by the churchyard's southern brick boundary wall.
33	Unreadable

There are 9 memorial stones to the west of the Tower.

34	Durance, Sarah , died 25 th Apr 1856, age 92 (?) years, Eldest daughter of Reverend William Durance, formerly vicar of this parish.
35	Foster, Alice , died 24 th August 1836, age 77 years, Eldest daughter of Alderman Foster, Sister of Ann Foster. Foster, Ann , died 26 th January 1887, age 58 years, Sister of Alice Foster.
36	Foster, Mary , died 30 th July 1816, age ?0 years, wife of Thomas Foster. Foster, Thomas , died 27 th January 1819, age 90 years, husband of Mary Foster.
37	Graves, Hannah , died 22 nd December 1826, age 46 years, wife of Joshua Graves.
38	Hackett, Mary , died 11 December 1853, age 68 years.
39	Pacy, George , died 9 th September 1854, age 51 years.
40	Welbourn, Catherine Ann , died 23 rd Oct 1847, age 70 years, wife of John Welbourn (merchant).
41	Unreadable
42	Unreadable

There are 4 memorial stones to the immediate south of the Tower.

43	Keyworth, Elizabeth , grand daughter of John Keyworth, Keyworth, John , Merchant of the City, Keyworth, Joseph , son of John and Susanna Keyworth, Keyworth, Susanna , wife of John Keyworth.
44	Palmer, Wilkinson , died 9 th January 1842, age 81 years, wife of William Palmer and sister of William Seely.
45	Seely, Ann , died 6 th Oct 1833, wife of William Seely, mother of William Seely Seely, William , died 10 th Apr 1840, age 21 yrs, son of William and ? Seely Seely, William , died 13 th May 1837, age 43 yrs, husband of ? Seely, father of William Seely
46	Seely, Mary , died 24 th September 1831, age 71 years, wife of William Seely. Seely, William , died 22 nd May 1856, age 92 years, husband of Mary Seely.

There are at least 13 identifiable stones, in the path, south of the Tower and South Aisle.

47	Chalner, Ann , died ?0th ? 1835, wife of Richard Chalner, Chalner, Mary Ann , died 21 st October 1825, age 23 years, daughter of Richard & Ann Chalner, Chalner, Renne , died 28 th April 1830, age 22 years, son of Richard & Ann Chalner, Chalner, Richard , died 5 th June 1830, age 76 years, father of Mary Ann & Renne.
48	Fisher, Elizabeth , died 28 th February 1840, age 79 years, Fisher, John , died 1 st 1801, age 70 years, Fisher, Mary Ann , died 10 th August 1839, age 16 years, daughter of John and Elizabeth Fisher.
49	Foster, Charles , (the rest being unreadable), Foster, Elizabeth , died ?1 st October 1823, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Foster. Foster, Mary Ann , died ? April 1881, wife of Thomas Foster
50	Foster (?), John , (the rest being unreadable).
51	Graves, Hannah , died 22 nd December 1826, age 46 years, wife of Joshua Graves.
52	Hackett, Mary , died 11 th December 1853, age 68 years.
53	Seely, Mary Ann (1) , died 10 th April 1842, age 10 years, daughter of Robert & Mary Ann Seely. Seely, Mary Ann (2) , died 1 st July 1846, age 38 years, wife of Robert Seely. Salmond, Sarah , died 27 th February 1881, age 18 years, daughter of Robert & Mary Ann Seely. Seely, Robert , died 11 th October 1863, age 63 years, father of Mary Ann & Sarah.
54	Whitton, Richard , died 22 nd May 1888, age 63 years, Whitton, Susanna , wife of Richard Whitton of this city, mother of Susanna?
55	Wrigglesworth, George (Snr.) , died 10 th June 1813, father of George Wrigglesworth (Jnr.), Wrigglesworth, George (Jnr.) , died ? September 1812, age 3 years, son of George (Snr.), Hebb, Mary Anne , died 5 th July 1858, wife of George Wrigglesworth Snr.
	Plus at least four unreadable stones, incorporated into the path.

Laid horizontally, there are 13 memorial stones in the grassed area of the southern churchyard.

56	Cullin, Ann , died 4 th January 1805, age 50, wife of William Cullin (the memorial stone is also dedicated to "the children who died in their infancy").
57	Cullin, William , died 12 th November 1806, age 55.
58	Drummond, Patrick , died 28 th December 1818, age 83 years.
Across Stones 59, 60, 61	In Memory of the Children of Charles & Elizabeth Foster, Foster, Charles , infant, Foster, Charles , died 5 th July 1795, infant, Foster, John , infant, Foster, John , died 22 nd December 1793, infant, Foster, Thomas , died 20 th March 1797, age 5 years, Foster, Thomas , died 6 th May 1798, infant, Foster, Thomas , died 6 th May 1799, age 7 years, Foster, Thomas , died ? March ???? , aged 5 years. Wrigglesworth, Ann , widow of John Wrigglesworth, mother of Elizabeth Foster, died 12 th January 1819, aged 72 years.
62	Kirk, Joseph , died 20 th April 1851, age 25 years, (also his son Joseph, who died in infancy)
63	Lamb, Joseph , died 2 nd May 18 (15?), age 11 years.
64	Pilley, Thomas , died 1 st November 1806, age 49 years, son of Michael and Jane Pilley.
65	Robinson, ? (The rest of the stone being unreadable).
66	Snittil, Benjamin , died 30 th June 1853, age (44?), Snittil, Lucinda Mary , died 20 th July 1854, daughter of Benjamin Snittil.
67	Snittil, Thomas , (The rest of the stone being unreadable).
68	Sutton, Elizabeth , died (March?) 180?, Barrett, Elizabeth , daughter of Thomas and Lucy Barrett.

There are 10 upright memorial stones against the southern brick boundary wall.

69	<u>Berridge, Joyce</u> , died 4 th April 1759, age 31 years, wife of Robert Berridge.
70	<u>Bescoby, Frances</u> , died 25 th May 1822, age 70 years, wife of Henry Bescoby (senior), Grandmother of Henry Bescoby, Mother-in-law of Mary Bescoby, <u>Bescoby, Henry</u> , died 24 th December 1822, age 9 weeks, Grandson of Frances and Henry Bescoby. <u>Bescoby, Mary</u> , died 1 st Feb 1823, age 26 years, wife of William Bescoby, Daughter-in-law of William and Frances Bescoby. <u>Bescoby, William</u> , died 11 th April 1812, age 55 years, husband of Frances Bescoby, Grandfather of Henry Bescoby, Father-in-law of Mary Bescoby. <u>Bescoby, William</u> , died January ????, age 51 years, son of William and Mary Bescoby.
71	<u>Derige, Henry</u> , the rest of the stone is unreadable
72	<u>Mimmack, Gervase</u> , died 1 st May 1810, age 65 years
73	<u>Neave, Benjamin</u> , died 11 th August 1849, age 53 years
74	<u>Norton, John</u> , died 30 th May 1???, age 11 years, son of John and Sarah Norton
75	<u>Whitton, Susanna</u> , wife of Richard Whitton of this city
76	<u>Wood, Nathanael</u> , died 14 th December 1814, age 62 years
77	<u>Wyche, Richard</u> , died 10 th May 1839, age 68 years, "Only son of the late John Wyche Esqr who and his predecessors held the office of town clerk of Stamford in this county for a century and a half".
78	<u>Holoran, T. S.</u> , 21 st August 1847, age 9 months

Colswain, Lincoln's 11th century Church Benefactor

In 1086, King William I of England (also known to history as "William the Conqueror") authorised the compilation of the Domesday Book, in order record the land, property, people, livestock and their associated annual income, in his newly won kingdom. In regards to the city of Lincoln, one of the wealthy landowners mentioned in the Domesday Book is called Colswain (Colswegen).

The Domesday Book says: "Colswain has in the city of Lincoln 4 plots of his nephew Cola's land. Outside the city he has 36 houses and 2 churches to which nothing belongs, which he built on the waste land that the King gave him and that never before was built on; now the King has all the customary dues from them"⁵¹.

The name Colswain indicates that he was of Anglo-Scandinavian decent. He was the only native baronial landholder, in the county of Lincolnshire, immediately after the Norman Conquest (and was one of only two native holders of baronial-size estates, in England, south of the river Tees) and seems to have acquired his lands at the expense of many lesser tenants, due almost entirely to the favour of the incoming King William I. As well as his land near the city of Lincoln itself, he also had extensive estates north of Lincoln, and more to the south, in the Kesteven district⁵².

In 1875, at a lecture in Grantham, Professor Freeman put forward the view that the two churches mentioned "outside the city" were the Wigford suburb churches of St. Mary-le-Wigford and St. Peter-at-Gowts (even though, the churches would have then had to be founded between 1066 and 1086 - and their architecture indicates, that was the approximate period, when their later towers were being added!)⁵³ In the 11th century, the wealthy suburb of Wigford could certainly be perceived to be outside of the city, to the south of it, but the Domesday Book does not record the precise location of the two churches. Professor Freeman perhaps was influenced in his view by the fact that, at the time he was writing, the only two surviving intact 11th century church towers he could see on a daily basis, were those of St. Mary-le-Wigford and St. Peter-at-Gowts – but there were other 11th century churches and towers, that had been lost (or substantially rebuilt, as in the case of St Benedict's)⁵⁴.

Was the Domesday Book compiler in error, regarding the foundation date (i.e. they were both pre-Conquest, not post-Conquest) of one or both of Colswain's churches? This is an extremely fanciful idea, especially if one were to simultaneously claim he was further in error by claiming that the land was "never before was built on", if Romano-British building debris and carved stones (which were incorporated into the structures of both the Wigford church towers) were to be discovered, when excavating the tower foundations? Imagining that the Domesday Book compiler was in error, in both instances, serves only to blatantly dismiss the few details actually recorded, thus in turn artificially making the St. Mary-le-Wigford and St. Peter-at-Gowts sites seem more plausible, as Colswain's churches.

Colswain could only be the founder of the St. Mary-le-Wigford and St. Peter-at-Gowts churches, if he was a late-10th – early 11th century benefactor who financed their construction in Nave-and-Chancel form, only; and if Eirtig (another local Anglo-Scandinavian) then, a little after, commissioned the additional church tower at St. Mary-le-Wigford. The Old English text, on the dedication stone at St. Mary-le-Wigford ("*Eirtig had me built and endowed to the glory of Christ and St Mary PX*")⁵⁵, is not sufficient, to confirm whether or not Eirtig was the benefactor of just the tower, or the entire (earlier) church; but if Eirtig was the single founder of the church, would he not instead, have put his name on a Nave dedication stone, at that earlier date? The church tower at St. Peter-at-Gowts is possibly the work of the same (or part-same) construction gang that worked first at St. Mary-le-Wigford but there is no mention of the name Eirtig on the tower at St. Peter-at-Gowts, which leads one to assume that the benefactor (or benefactors) was someone else. The name Eirtig is not mentioned anywhere else, apart from on St. Mary-le-Wigford's tower dedication stone⁵⁶.

The fact that the Domesday Book says that Colswain "built on the waste land that the king gave him and that never before was built on" would seem to infer that both churches were founded after the Conquest of 1066. This in turn creates doubt, that the St. Mary-le-Wigford and St. Peter-at-Gowts sites, having been previously built on, are the only sites worth considering, as being the ones indicated by the Domesday Book?

In answer to Professor Freeman's view, the 19th century Lincoln antiquarian John Ross noted that at St. Mary's Abbey, York, records show that Picot, the son of Colswain, gave to St. Mary's abbey, a church on the east side of Lincoln (in the Butwerk suburb – which now equates to the western Monks Road area), and

they in turn sent clergy to that place, the church of St Peter-ad-fontem, until the fifteenth century, when that parish became depopulated, and the church was in turn abandoned⁵⁷. If Picot's church was founded in the eastern Butwerk suburb of Lincoln, was he thus using land and churches he had inherited from his father at that location? If St Peter-ad-fontem was one of Colswein's churches, was the other, the nearby St Augustine?⁵⁸ This implication cannot be proven either way, due to the Domesday Book compiler not recording the precise location, and thus Colswein's land, houses and churches (though located close to each other) can still presently be argued to be on any side of the city, that was seen as "waste land". In theory, Colswein could have single-handedly founded two churches in the Butwerk suburb, and still donated some funds to other churches in Lincoln, including the Wigford churches.

At present, the issue remains unresolved but one could argue that the weight of probability (if only slightly) is that Eirtig and Colswein were both wealthy local church benefactors within the 11th century Anglo-Scandinavian Christian community of Lincoln, but patrons of churches at different locations.

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