

St Michael's Church, Aynho and its Churchyard

This unusual Norman/Georgian church dedicated to St Michael is within the Astwick Vale Benefice in the Peterborough Diocese. Young and old gather regularly to worship the same God that generation after generation have worshipped here.

We hope one day you may worship with us.

While you are visiting please take a few moments to pause here in God's house and to bring to God, in prayer, the joys and sorrows of life. Please do use the votive candles to support you if you like – the stand is in the centre of the knave.

Background Information

(There is all the detail in the [Guide](#) - hard copies are in the porch)



The TOWER is all that remains of the original church which was built in the reign of Edward III. As a result of severe damage caused during the Civil War the main body of the church was demolished in the winter of 1723 and rebuilt in the Classical style during the following year and completed early in 1725.



On entering the church through a vestibule at the base of the tower you will see that the interior is not typical of an English village church, it is rather more in the style of a city place of worship. There is no chancel and the nave seating consists of box pews set in four distinctive blocks and a gallery at the west end above the main entrance door.

The altar is set in the chancel with a vestry to its left and a memorial chapel to the right dedicated to the Cartwright family of Aynhoe Park. Around the walls are significant memorials to the family.



The organ with its visible decorated pipes is in regular use. The clock on the tower chimes on the hour and its associated carillon is set to play 4 times a day (except during the 40 days of Lent).

For your convenience there is a WC, wash basin and changing facilities in the rear left corner of the knave.

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Churchyard

The churchyard contains graves and headstones from previous centuries as well many recent graves. The churchyard extends round the church in all directions. Nearest the church are the oldest graves and headstones, including those along the wall on the south side – many are beautifully carved and can be seen to be late 17th century.



Following the main gravel path down the north side takes the visitor first to the Preaching Cross and then more recent graves of the last 100 years or so extend down to the far end of the churchyard; the ashes tablets are along the north wall, and recent additions are the entrance side of the Preaching Cross.



New burials since 2020 are found on the south side nearest the pathway from the south door.