

# THE CHURCH OF ST EDWARD, KING AND MARTYR, CASTLE DONINGTON, IN THE DIOCESE OF LEICESTER

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH BUILDING, CONTENTS, CHURCHYARD AND SETTING.

The Church of St Edward King & Martyr is a Grade II\* Listed building, situated high above the Trent valley and its spire is a well-known landmark. The Church dates from circa 1200 but its dedication to St Edward suggests that there might have been a pre-Norman church on the site. In 1133 the Church was given to the Priory of Norton in Chester by Baron Haulton, Constable of Chester.

The Church was constructed over a period of 200 years, as follows:-

c.1200. The Chancel, Nave and Tower were built.

c.1276. The South Aisle was built with the construction of the North Aisle following c.1320 and the elegant Spire c.1350.

c.1400. The Clerestory was built and the South Porch.

The pitched roof over the Nave was replaced by a flat lead covered roof in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century or early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The interior of the Church was comprehensively restored between 1875 and 1877 when the 18<sup>th</sup> century box pews and the triple decker pulpit were replaced by the existing pews.

1902 The restoration of the Chancel took place

The Lady Chapel was restored in 1958.

In 1976 the 1876 Nicholson organ, salvaged from Birmingham, was rebuilt in the North Aisle.

1977 The oak screen at the base of the Tower was installed.

### *Contents of historical and architectural note*

In the South Aisle, there is a tomb chest with a very fine brass to Robert and Agnes Staunton. Agnes died in 1458. In the Nave, the pulpit is made out of alabaster ledger slabs in memory of William Oldburie, his wife, six sons and four daughters. The slabs date from c.1480. The Font dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

In the North Aisle there is an alabaster tomb chest with the recumbent figures of Robert and Eleanor Hasylyryg. Eleanor died in 1520 and Robert in 1536.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Selina, Countess of Hastings presented to the Church a very large silver flagon, chalice and patten, all dated 1732. The Lectern was presented to the Church in 1876 in memory of the first Marquis of Hastings and his wife.

Most of the stained glass is late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The east window is by Kempe.

The six bells, three of which dated from 1616, 1661 and 1675, were recast by Taylor's of Loughborough in 1880. The bells were re-hung in a new iron frame in 1977. The clock was made by J. B. Joyce of Whitchurch in 1880.

***Work carried out to repair the roof on the North and South Aisles and improvements made to facilitate access to the Church and Hall.***

In February 2011, the lead roof was repaired on the North and South Aisles. The Church was rewired in November 2012. A new access facility was installed to the Church via the South Door to facilitate access in 2014 and a level access was constructed via the North Door to ensure that the Church met its obligations re disabled access. Level access was constructed between the Church Hall and the Church by removing the steps connecting the two buildings.

### **The Churchyard**

The main entrance to the Churchyard was originally from Clapgun Street but in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a new entrance was constructed from Borough Street and a stone archway was built. The iron gates and railings date from 1914.

The Churchyard was closed by Order-in-Council in 1882 and in 1960 a Faculty was granted to lay all the headstones flat. In the part of the Churchyard set aside for cremated remains the earliest burial is dated 1977.

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