

356 BOOKCASE

VESTRY

A small freestanding oak bookcase with shaped ends and two panels within set at angles to receive the books. 20th C, h 16 x w 46 x d 22 cm.

357a BENCHES

Phs

NAVE, N. & S. AISLES

1 General:- See plan for numbering.

Benches nos 1-14 & 15-28 are arranged to accommodate nave columns; the side aisles all are half length on N and S walls. All stand on pine plank floors. Benches have close boarded backs with top rails being moulded and chamfered. Seats have rounded front edges and are 30.75 cm deep. Each bench (except those which have front desks only) has a book rest fixed to the back of the seat in front, which is supported by brackets formed by the extension of main floor-level bench supports. Also at floor level are fixed narrow prayer kneeler planks with support brackets at intervals. The restorers reused the old bench ends wherever possible, incorporating them with considerable skill with the new pews, and some new ends. The warped nature of the old ends make them obvious.

Bench fronts – see plan for numbering.

The E facing fronts of benches 26, 15, 1, and 46 at the E end, and 35, 5 & 52 at the E end of the crossing have similar panelling in two sections, one above the other with arched tops, blind tracery, and plain spandrels. The W facing back of 34, at the N door has stylised flowers with large petals using all the space in the bottom section.

The W facing back of bench 18, and the E facing front of bench 19 are similar, being divided into 8 panels, each having blind trefoil headed arcading mixed with an arched top containing a large central floral motif and two plain sections with daggers at each side. Spandrels have different stylised foliage and fruit motifs. Stiles are similar and have vertical tree of life motifs above a plain trefoil headed arch with a leaf each side of flared base. The E facing front of bench 35 has 4 such panels.

The W facing back of bench 4 and the E facing front of 5 have plain panelling evenly divided by stiles and rails. Each of 6 sections has a thick bevelled and chamfered rail with 3 panels above and one below. The W facing back of 34 has book shelves, close fitted.

The W facing back of 51, and the E facing front of 52 have 4 similar but more plain, and smaller panels with spandrels having stylised fruit and foliage. This is the only decoration to an otherwise simple Gothic blind tracery. Stiles have small vertical motif above arch.

Bench ends – see plan for numbering

The majority of the bench ends are pre-Reformation with only a few post-Reformation. All are richly carved with blind tracery and colonnades of trefoil-headed arches, spandrels having stylised foliage or flowers.