



The Rambler's Church

How you can help

The Walesby Group of Parishes

Brookenby, Claxby, Croxby, Kirmond le Mire, Normanby le Wold, North Willingham, Stainton le Vale, Tealby, Thoresway, Walesby.

www.walesbychurches.org

All Saints (Ramblers) Church, Walesby

Walesby is mentioned in the Domesday Book, 1086, as Walesbi and means "farmstead or village of a man called Valr. All Saints, also known as The Ramblers Church, stands in solitary dignity at Walesby escarpment overlooking the village of Walesby. Although St Mary's is the parish church now, All Saints is still used and cared for by Walesby PCC and The Friends of the Old Church, formed in 1980.

The ever popular and always well attended annual Candlelight carol service is held on the second Saturday in December. Before dawn on Easter Sunday hardy souls walk up the ancient track to attend the traditional 'First Fire' Dawn Service The Ramblers also have a special service on or around Trinity Sunday.

Location

All Saints is about 3.25 miles NE of Market Rasen and stands on the Viking Way at one of the highest spots in Lincolnshire. (Normanby le Wold is a few feet higher) The Viking Way runs from the South Bank at South Ferriby (having run through Yorkshire as the Wolds Way) into Lincolnshire and continues down to Rutland. The Old Church has become a place of pilgrimage and popular for ramblers. Hence the adopted name of The Ramblers Church.

The church is accessed from Walesby village by an ancient, if somewhat muddy track, of about 500 yards, also from across the fields and over stiles from Walesby Hill and from the SE from Tealby. Situated in the picturesque Wolds, the view from the church is spectacular across the plains and on days of good visibility Lincoln Cathedral, 20 miles away, can be seen with the naked eye

History

There is evidence that the ancient site of which the Old Church stands has Saxon and Norman foundations. The church represents every period from 12C to 15C architecture.

In 1861 the remains of a Roman villa was excavated to the east of the church and coins found date the settlement to c.320, there is also strong evidence that an earlier Saxon church stood on the site. Saxon graves have been excavated to the immediate east of the church, c.600.

The church has eight bells, two surviving from the medieval period. The clock was given to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V and its 'Guilford Chimes' strike on all eight bells, unlike the more usual five bell chime.

There is written evidence that the church was repaired and re-roofed in the 1820's for the expense of nearly £1000. However the church did fall into disrepair and an 'iron church' was erected in 1881 in the village.

All Saints was renovated in the 1930's and became known as the Ramblers Church. The stained glass window depicting walkers and cyclists was donated by the local ramblers in 1951. Renovation work was also carried out in the 1980s. Recently substantial work was carried out on the Tower to make it safe to ring the bells. In 2019 a French drain was constructed around the church to reduce rising damp.

The Future:

The Walesby Parochial Church Council and The Friends of the Old Church, are currently exploring options for the future management of this building.

People from far and wide hold this building, for many different reasons, in high regard. Whether it be as an Ancient Monument, A place of Spirituality, A place of Sanctuary and Quiet, or more simply a place of Shelter from storms for those walking the Viking Way.

On Tuesday 21st June we held an initial exploratory meeting to start wider discussions on the future of this building. This is expected to be the first of many. The next opportunity will be the AGM of the 'Friends of the Old Church' on **Tuesday 19th July at 7.30pm in Walesby Village Hall**. Please join us.

As we move forward it would help us to focus our discussions, if we could gather a few of your thoughts.

Below are a few questions which we would appreciate your response to:

Why is this church important to you? (select all those that apply)

- As an Ancient Monument
- As a place of Worship
- As a place of Spirituality
- As a place of Shelter
- As a place of Sanctuary and Quiet

Or another reason

Would you be prepared to support the 'Friends of the Old Church' ?

- I would support Financially
- I would support them with my Time
- I would support them with my Expertise
- I would support them as a Committee Member / Officer
- I would not be able to offer any support

Or another way you could support them.....

Would you pay a subscription to be a 'Friend of the Old Church'?

- No
- Yes

If yes what would you suggest is reasonable £..... Annually or Monthly

Would you be prepared to share your details with us, to enable us to keep you informed about the progress of our discussions, fund raising, future meetings and events at the Ramblers church.?

Name:

Email:

Your postcode:
(To allow us to explore the geographic area of interest in the Ramblers Church)

We will only contact you with information regarding the Ramblers Church.

Signature:

Date:

Thankyou.

