

CHRIS BOND TALK

POCKLINGTON CHURCH FROM SAXON TIMES

Around a hundred people came to All Saints church for a joint History Group and Church Friends event and enjoyed a fascinating talk about the history of the building.

As the leader of Pocklington U3A Medieval churches group, Chris Bond has visited every ancient church within 10 miles of Pocklington, so he has a broad knowledge base with which to compare the architecture of his hometown church. His detailed study of All Saints, Pocklington provided focus to answer and explain some major questions of the building's origins and subsequent development. Using historical texts, architectural analysis and 3-D computer generated models he was able to show how the building progressed through the centuries.



Chris explained the ground penetrating radar survey of 2017 which showed features some six feet beneath the current Norman structure, indicating that not only was there a Saxon church on the same footprint, but that the site was significantly raised in later times.

Perhaps the most interesting period that Chris outlined was the 12th century. He was able to indicate the remaining features at the ends of the current nave that date back to the 1120s; then use the Romanesque carving to show how it was substantially extended and glorified circa 1185 when the north aisle was added.

Chris went on to guide his audience through subsequent centuries. The south aisle arcade and south transept were added shortly after the north in the early 13th century, followed by the imposing chancel arch. The tower is a Perpendicular C15th design most probably developed from an earlier Norman structure. All Saints never had a central tower as purported by some Victorian antiquarians.

In addition to what the stonework tells us about the stages of All Saints' development, Chris was able to describe that changes brought about by the Tudor reformation and through to the Victorian improvements.

Finally the GPR survey suggests a mysterious empty space/chamber under the north transept.

All Saints continues to give up more information and secrets about both the building and the people who used it. By linking architecture with the history of important early churchmen associated with Pocklington and royal charters of Henry I, Chris was also able to venture 1122 as a starting date for the construction of All Saints, offering the intriguing possibility of celebrating a 900th anniversary in three years' time.