

## CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 10, Little Bytham and Witham on the Hill, Lincs.

I've not been to Little Bytham but in the school holidays some of my friends would spend the day there by the viaduct that carries the East Coast Main Line through the village, watching the trains and noting numbers in their little books. It was a fascination that absolutely passed me by and I was much more inclined to cycle around looking at old churches. No doubt my friends thought I was a bit odd but I least I wasn't a trainspotter! Apologies if any of you CVG members were (or indeed still are) interested in trains.

We'll have been to Clipsham and Castle Bytham in the morning and maybe looked in on the yew trees at Clipsham Hall. We must be getting hungry by now and luckily there are several good pubs in the area which I hope they will still be there when we visit. We might go to the Castle Inn at Castle Bytham or the Willoughby Arms at Little Bytham <http://www.willoughbyarms.co.uk/home/>. But we won't go hungry, If all else fails there is a Garden Centre with Tea Rooms at nearby Careby <http://www.rasells.co.uk/the-tea-house/4586430631>

**Little Bytham** Church has a unique dedication, to two Frankish saints, St Medardus and St Gildardus. It is also a very old church with some evidence of Saxon masonry still seen in the church and Norman arcades within. It also has a rather curiously ornate C12 priest's doorway in the south wall of the chancel. Plenty of information and photos at <https://www.littlebythamchurch.org.uk>, detailed information when you click About and photos at Gallery. More detailed information (maybe too much!) at [http://www.greatenglishchurches.co.uk/html/little\\_bytham.html](http://www.greatenglishchurches.co.uk/html/little_bytham.html)



Little Bytham



Witham on the Hill

Then on to **Witham on the Hill**, dedicated much more conventionally to St Andrew. Described by Pevsner as "a strange, alas over-restored, church." But it is a fine looking church with a curiously placed tower dating from 1737-38, a very early example of gothic revival though its C18 origins are obvious. There is a rather plain description of the architecture at <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101240073-church-of-st-andrew-witham-on-the-hill> and for a more impassioned account we can always rely on Rob's Churches blog site <http://www.robschurches.moonfruit.com/witham-on-the-hill/4522975143>.

Pevsner also quotes an inscription at the old school dating from 1847: “Train up a child the way he should go and when he is old he will not part from it.” I don’t suppose that in 1847 those responsible thought it necessary to educate girls, I mean why bother when they should obviously be having children and looking after the cooking and cleaning....

Depending on whether we have any time left we could also include **Careby** in our visits. There’s not much on the internet about Careby St Stephen but I note from Pevsner that it has two interesting features, namely a late C15 crimson Cope and a decorative door knocker of around 1200, both items rather unusual to find in local churches. Details at

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101360059-church-of-st-stephen-careby-aunby-and-holywell>



Careby



C15 Cope