

CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 14, Boston Area, Lincs.

There were five churches to visit in Boston and surrounding area on our original programme for September. However on reflection it is unlikely that we would have enough time, or indeed energy, to see more than the famous Stump in the morning and perhaps no more than one more later. The obvious choice for the afternoon would be **Freiston** which is a former Priory church and is included as a two star rating in the Jenkins Guide. It's a mainly Perpendicular church based on a Norman nave, and much of the original building has been removed, including a second tower, two transepts, cloisters and domestic buildings. It must have been quite a substantial affair despite the number of monks being probably no more than 8-12 for much of the Priory's existence. We have to wonder with such small communities of brothers why these churches had to be so big. Anyway, there is obviously a large archaeological project in waiting here. Come back Time Team! Where's Phil and his shovel when you need him!

A brief history of the church with some photos is at:

<http://www.stjamesfreiston.com/a-short-history.html>.

More detail at: https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101308415-church-of-st-james-freiston#.X387_tBKjIU

About the other churches in the Boston area that I originally listed for the Boston trip there is very little on the internet.

Skirbeck: Claims to be the oldest church in the Boston Area and it is a parish of the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda. Currently, like so many churches today, the parish is looking for a new priest. It's a big church but much restored. It lost its chancel to flooding in the C16, was restored by Sir G G Scott in 1869-75 and the chancel wasn't replaced until the 1930s.

Wyberton: Another Perpendicular church, this time with a Georgian chancel. "Very impressive" Early English interior says Pevsner so why there's so little about it on the internet I'm not sure. Rebuilt after the tower collapsed in 1419.

Fishtoft: Another large church with building work from all periods from Norman onwards. Splendid east window of c.1290. More detail at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1147452>

For those who did not come on previous trips to the area there are several other superb churches in the vicinity. These include **Kirton, Algarkirk, Sutterton, Gosberton, Donington, Bicker** and **Swineshead**. Several of these seem to be open during daylight hours in summer but that was in normal times. We'll have to see what happens when we get the All Clear to visit again.

Photos of all these churches can be seen by Googling the name of the church and clicking Images.

I haven't mentioned a lunch venue but I assume we'll find some sustenance in Boston itself. I recall that we did have difficulties finding somewhere to eat previously in this area. Many village pubs have closed in the last few years and the current crisis is hardly going to reverse

that trend. We may well have to bring our own lunch in future. I hope not as it is part of our CVG experience to also visit village pubs. Unfortunately times change and the economic realities of post-Covid and Post-Brexit Britain may not be what we would hope for.