

## CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 4, Hambleton, Whitwell and Empingham.

Following our visits to Exton and Burley churches we will go to see some more churches located around Rutland Water. I remember the area before the lake was created, a lovely bit of quiet rural landscape and there was of course some opposition when the idea was first proposed. I recall a rather muted campaign and once the battle was lost the campaign turned to persuading the authorities to change the name from the mundane Empingham Reservoir to the much more evocative and commercial Rutland Water. I remember going to an auction at an old house in Nether Hambleton, the site of which is now under the water. It was a rather sad day I recall.

Lunch perhaps at the Noel at Whitwell <https://www.thenoel.co.uk/> or the Harbour Café overlooking Rutland Water <https://www.harbourcafebar.co.uk/>. If only!

First we will go to Hambleton in the village now located on a peninsula jutting out into the lake, a lovely place to visit and view the Water from. It's even got a Michelin starred restaurant as well, but I think we'll not go there for lunch this time!

**Hambleton** has a big church for such a small village, Norman origin and work from all periods throughout the Gothic period. See photos of the church by going to Google and entering *Hambleton Church Rutland images*. There's information about the church on <https://www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk/hambleton-st-andrews/>

Next up is **Whitwell**, a small towerless church with a double bellcote, not a spectacular church but a simple old church serving a very small community. Photos can be seen again by Googling *Whitwell Church Rutland Images*. Note that the church is dedicated to St Michael as some of the photos that come up are of a different Whitwell church. More information from Rob's Churches website: <http://www.robschurches.moonfruit.com/whitwell/4547665534>

Our last church is "a large and ambitious church" (Pevsner), formerly a peculiar of the see of Lincoln. Its glory is its tower and spire which sits grandly at the highest point in the village, viewed prominently from the A606 that goes through the village. Jenkins gives it a star. Photos as usual by Googling *Empingham Church Rutland Images*. More information from <https://www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk/empingham-st-peter/> and a report of Rob's visit at <http://www.robschurches.moonfruit.com/empingham/4527736760>