

CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 5, Threekingham, Swaton and Horbling

Less spectacular scenery than around Rutland Water this time but pleasantly rural, 10 or so miles south of Sleaford. We start at Threekingham, famed for its broach spire though to me the church looks a bit ungainly as it is a long church but lacks a clerestory. It has an unusual dedication, St Peter ad Vincula and has unfortunately been the target of lead thieves in recent times. I understand that the culprits have been apprehended but that doesn't repair the church. One other church on this trip, Billingborough, which I'll cover in the next virtual trip, has also been victim to lead theft, a constant problem across Lincolnshire with its many rural settlements and numerous old churches. For details on Threekingham as usual you can Google Threekingham Church Images for photos but there are more photos and some information on the following sites:

<https://www.parishofsouthlafford.org/threekingham-st-peter-ad-vincula> and http://www.threekingham.org.uk/st_peter.html.

After Threekingham we move on to Swaton, included as a two star church in the Jenkins Guide. It is a cruciform church described by Pevsner as stately and Jenkins calls it "this aristocrat of a parish church" of "magnificent proportions" which has "some of the most impressive windows in Lincolnshire". Also nice old benchends with lots of good carving but I must admit that I wasn't knocked out by the church when I visited last time but then the weather was rather grey and we didn't stay long. Photos are available via Google by entering Swaton Church Images. More information at

<http://www.astoft.co.uk/swaton.htm> and <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101061820-church-of-st-michael-swaton>.

We then move on to nearby Horbling, a village with a name straight out of Agatha Christie! This is another cruciform church but no Jenkins stars this time. However I don't think there is so much difference between Swaton and Horbling in terms of quality and interest. One point to look out for, in fact you can't miss it, and that is that the tower has bands of iron wrapped around it for stabilisation. And you'll see the main arch inside has a distinctly horseshoe shape as it has deformed over the centuries. Photos by Googling Images again and more information at

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1165999>.

Well it must be lunchtime so there's a fine old pub in Horbling, the Plough Inn. Let's see what's on the Menu and let's hope it'll still be open when we actually visit.

<https://ploughinnhorbling.co.uk/>.

In the afternoon we'll go to Billingborough and Sempringham which I'll cover in the next Virtual Trip.