



Sketch of the east view of Messingham church taken in May 1911 EJV

This leaflet outlines key features of the lives of Rev Dr Henry Vincent Bayley and Edward James Willson and their work at Holy Trinity Messingham in 1818-1820. Further information is included in the heritage pages of our website:

www.holytrinitymessingham.co.uk

It would seem that they met through their involvement in the life of Lincoln Cathedral. By 1817 Willson had established himself as an architect and was employed by Bayley to oversee an extensive programme of structural restoration and internal enhancement at Messingham.

A key feature of the restoration was the installation of an extensive collection of medieval stained glass acquired from local churches and others much further afield.

Various views have been expressed on the way in which this glass was 'acquired'. One of our future intentions is to explore what was happening in the 'donor' churches at this time to hopefully increase understanding of the stories behind the transfer of the glass.

The following timeline of key stages in the architectural history of Holy Trinity puts their work into context.

Early 13th C ~ First listed vicar of Messingham. Earliest evidence of church building.

Late 18th C ~ Rebuilding of tower.

Early 19th C ~ Major restoration by Bayley / Willson.

Late 19th C ~ Significant internal re-ordering. Much of the Bayley / Willson joinery was removed or adapted to better suit needs, including removal of the central pulpit. Current vestry added.


20th C ~ Addition of further stained glass. Minor internal changes. Repositioning of organ. Roof repairs. Various stonework repairs. Augmentation of bells.

Sources of information:

- Lincoln Cathedral Library – Willson collection
- Lincolnshire County Archives
- RIBA Library
- Diocese of Lincoln Church Buildings Team
- Account of Messingham – John Mackinnon – 1824
- Edward Willson obituary – John Britton – The Builder Vol xiii Jan 1855
- Dictionary of National Biography Vol 1
- Saturday Magazine 23rd Nov 1833
- Lincolnshire Chronicle 23rd Aug 1844
- Burke's Family Records
- Cambridge University Alumni 1261-1900
- North Lincolnshire Museum Service Archive

Contact details, service times, church opening times and special events are published on facebook, our website, and on the notice board:

www.holytrinitymessingham.co.uk

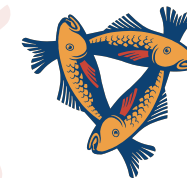
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Contact – Rev David Swannack - 01724 647789

Production of this leaflet was funded through a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund for the first phase of 'Revealing, Sharing and Caring for our Heritage', an ambitious programme of restoration, enhancement and re-ordering. The construction work included in the first phase was also supported by Lincolnshire Churches Trust and Allchurches Trust.



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Holy Trinity Church Messingham

Rev Dr Henry Vincent Bayley
(1777-1844)

Edward James Willson
(1787-1854)

One of Lincolnshire's most interesting early nineteenth-century clergyman/architect collaborations

An early expression of Gothic Revival and Antiquarian principles