



## Welcome to St Anne's, Beeley

Beeley Church “reflects in its architecture and carvings the evolution of a country parish over many centuries”.  
(NADFAS 2005).

In other words, we're special just because we are ordinary – but we have been ordinary for over a thousand years. If you look hard, you can see parts of the church that people living in Beeley in the 12<sup>th</sup> century would recognise.

We believe that Beeley takes its name from a Saxon Chief called Baega, whose neighbour, Ceatt held the adjoining land that is now Chatsworth. At that time the church would have been a timber and plaster structure, long gone. After 1066, the Normans set about a massive building programme and as well as castles, they built churches. St Anne's, Beeley is one of them, and there is a record of Beeley in the Domesday Book. The church we see now looks and is Victorian and most of it dates back to its 'restoration' in 1883. But churches are timeless. Just as you will see many things which are the gifts of villagers who still worship here today, if you look, you will see the traces of villagers of other ages.

## The Twelfth Century Church

### From the outside:

- ◆ The main (South) Doorway is Norman, with replacement Victorian marble pillars and an added Victorian porch. You can still see the Norman carved head at the centre and vestiges of carvings on the terminal stones, and the marble pillars have Norman capitals. The keystone is obviously recent.
- ◆ Three badly eroded Norman heads can still be seen set into the outside wall of the South Window of the Chancel. This window was reconstructed in 1882-84 and the heads are thought to mark the position of the original 12<sup>th</sup> Century window.
- ◆ The lower part of the tower, as far as the string course beneath the belfry windows and the walls of the Chancel were built around 1192. One of the original shallow buttresses on the West wall of the tower remains; the other was removed in 1882-82 when the larger buttresses were built.
- ◆ The little priest's door into the Chancel was probably built at the same time but is dated as 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Inside the Church, there is

- ◆ A bracket stone in the shape of a shield on the wall near the Psalm Board which certainly did not start out in that place – there is no space to put a statue on it – and thus came from an earlier building. Some say Norman, others medieval.
- ◆ A corbel in the North West Corner of the North Aisle, which has a carving of a head. Apparently, the Norman church had a North Aisle just as we do today. It had a large pillar supporting some arches which divided it from the main South Aisle. In each corner it is said that there were capitals with heads and we believe that this remaining head may be one of them, preserved when the nave was rebuilt in 1819.
- ◆ The font. Some say that this font, – much altered in 19<sup>th</sup> century restorations and sitting on a plinth made in 1975 – is Norman and it is said that it was found in the churchyard where it was used to store rainwater.

## Memorials

### **In the Chancel:**

A large slate, marble and alabaster memorial to John and George Savile who died within a year of each other, in 1733 and 1734. They were the only sons of William (d 1676, aged 37) and Dorothy Savile of Hill Top. The memorial was provided by their nephew who inherited the manor.

### **On the South wall of the nave**

A brass plaque in memory of John Grindey d. 1893  
This is one of the many contributions made to St Anne's by the family of Henry Sculthorpe who was Rector from 1864 to 1904. John lived in the village with his widowed sister and his father and is described in the census as a 'laborer'.

### **On the North Wall of the North Aisle**

A brass plaque in memory of Sarah Ellen Holmes. Ellen lived in the village with her 5 brothers and sisters. Their father was a stone mason.

A wall tablet in alabaster in memory of Samuel Grafton d 1887. Samuel Grafton and the Graftons in general feature a great deal in the history of the village. Samuel was one of the churchwardens who oversaw the restoration. He is listed in the census as a Stone Merchant and Farmer of 65 acres employing 4 men and a boy and the family lived at the Old Hall.

### **On the North Wall of the Sanctuary**

A wall plaque in memory of John Calvert d 1710  
We do not seem to know anything about him but the memorial is significant because the rather gruesome engraving indicates that at the time coffins were not in use in Beeley. There existed one 'parish coffin' in which the deceased was brought to church, but the body was then removed from it for burial.

### **In the North Aisle**

Under the red carpet is a black slate slab in memory of Ann Greaves, (d.1700)

Ann was the widow of John Greaves (d 1694) whose memorial is in the tower. The house now called 'Hill Top' was once called 'The Greaves' and was the Manor House. John's grandfather, also John Greaves, yeoman, bought the Manor of Beeley in 1559. This John Greaves died in 1621. His son, confusingly also called John, supported Charles I in the Civil War and was thus required to pay a tenth of his estates to support the Commonwealth. He died in 1673, having had to sell the Manor to pay this debt. Our John, his son, and his wife Ann thus never inherited the manor even though they are the only members of the family to be remembered in this church.

## Stained Glass Windows

### **East Window**

This is the window above the altar. It was erected by parishioners and friends to commemorate the death in 1891 of Lord Edward Cavendish MP

### **Window in the South Wall of the Chancel**

Erected by parishioners in memory of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire, who led the restoration.

### **War Memorial Window, above the font.**

The Parish Committee influenced the design of this window, which includes a picture of the tower of the church. It was dedicated in 1921. The village Remembrance Service is held here each year. Next to it is the 1914-18 Roll of Honour, made by Miss Theodora Chadwick, the vicar's daughter, but lost for a while and rediscovered in 1945 when it was reframed and rehung. Next to that is a list of names of those who served in the Second World War.

### **Window in the North Aisle**

A memorial to Alfred Clement Sculthorpe, whose father was Rector of Beeley from 1864 to 1904. Alfred served in South Africa and died of enteric fever in Zululand in 1900, aged 25. Major C Clive, RA, donated the brass cross displayed on the altar in memory of his friend.

### **Window on the North Side of the Sanctuary**

Christ blessing the children. This window is in memory of Alfred's three sisters who died as babies, Harriette Mary and Annie Louise in 1883 and Eveline Dorothy aged 8 months, who was added to the tablet below.