

THE CHURCH OF ST KYNEBURGHA OF CASTOR – THE ANGEL ROOF

The roof of the Nave, Side Aisles, South Porch and Priest's Room at the Church of St Kyneburgha of Castor all have carved figures, carved into the roof beams, and into the wooden upright posts supporting the beams. The current almost flat leaded roof replaced an earlier pitched roof in the 15th century. The roof illustrates the words from the Prayer of Consecration in the Mass, when the Priest says "therefore with Angels and Archangels and the whole company of Heaven we laud and magnify thy glorious name..." The total number of Carved Figures is 66.

Central Nave Roof:

12 Winged Angels carved into the horizontal roof beams. 8 Upright Figures carved in the vertical upright support posts

Description of the 12 winged Angels from East to West:

North Side Central Nave Roof:

- 1 Red Robed winged full length Angel, carrying cross keys on a shield
- 2 Green Robed winged full length Angel, carrying pan - pipes.
- 3 Gold feathered body winged full length Angel, carrying a mandolin.
- 4 Gold feathered body winged full length Angel, carrying a flute.
- 5 Green Robed winged full length Angel, carrying a scroll.
- 6 Gold feathered body winged full length Angel, carrying a flute.

South Side Central Nave Roof:

- 7 Green Robed winged full length Angel carrying a ? flute
- 8 Gold Feathered body winged full length Angel carrying a Tambourine
- 9 Gold Feathered body winged full length Angel carrying a Mandolin

- 10 Red Robed winged full length Angel carrying a Shield
- 11 Gold Feathered body winged full length Angel with "Hands down"
- 12 Gold Feathered body winged full length Angel with "Hands up"

The North and South Aisle Roof:

There are 12 Carved Figures carved into the horizontal roof beams, and 8 Upright Figures carved in the vertical upright support posts in each of the North and South Aisle. The horizontal figures in the North or South Aisle may well all be angels, carrying a variety of instruments, shields etc. In the North Aisle 3 are feathered, painted gold. In the South Aisle 4 are feathered, painted gold. They are about one third to one half the size of the Winged Angels in the Central Nave.

Porch

2 Carved Figures carved into the horizontal roof beams. East side figure feathered with mandolin. West side figure feathered with flute.

2 Upright Figures (which may be Bishops) carved in the vertical upright support posts closest to the inner porch door.

Priest's Room

2 Carved Figures carved into the horizontal roof beams, which are clearly Angels. Although their wings are missing, the slots in their sides where their wings were inserted are visible. East side figure robed with pan-pipes. West side figure feathered with tambourine. Both unpainted and about 40 inches long.

Upright Figures

The upright figures may well be Saints (in some cases they are carrying churches etc) They are cloaked, as well as robed in most cases.

*The Angels on this guide were drawn by
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"THE WHOLE COMPANY OF HEAVEN"



*A Guide to
the Angels and Saints
on the Roof of the
Church of
St Kyneburgha of Castor*