

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF St BARTHOLOMEW'S

Membership starts at just £10 per year and you will be updated with our annual newsletter and events diary. To subscribe, please fill in the enclosed form:

Membership Secretary

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DONATIONS TO THE TREASURER

You can send donations directly to the treasurer at the address below:

Treasurer

Peter Holdridge

25 Linden Avenue

Countesthorpe

Leics LE8 5PG

peterholdridge@outlook.com



Please make cheques to:

Friends of St Bartholomews

If you are a tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your donations, please ask the treasurer for a form.

BANK TRANSFERS

Sort code: **09-01-50**

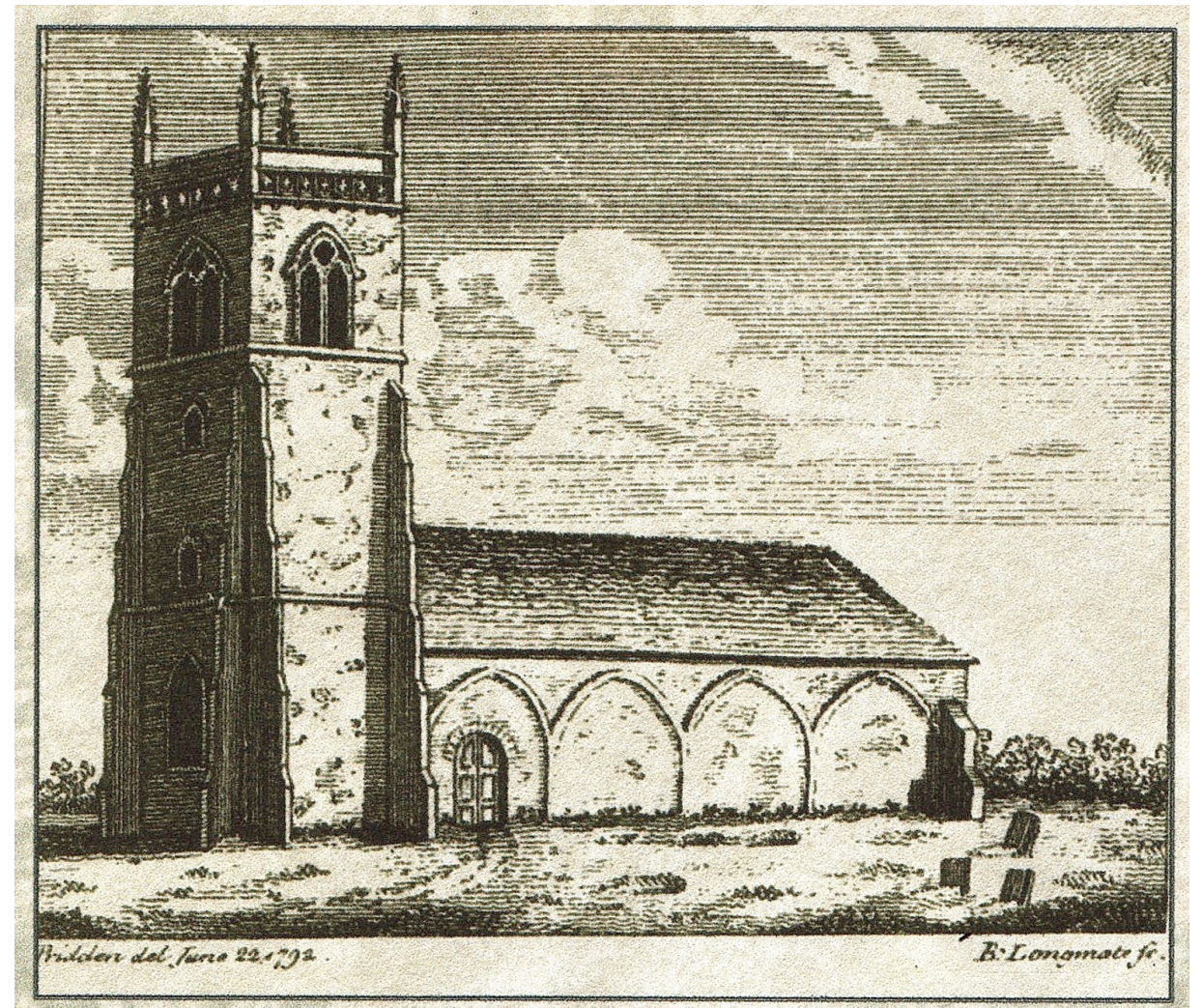
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foston-church.org.uk



FRIENDS OF St BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, FOSTON



Please become a Friend.



St BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FOSTON

Foston is a classic deserted village. Its once open fields were enclosed for sheep farming in the late 16th and early 17th century. The enclosure led to depopulation and a once thriving village community with a population of in excess of 200 persons was reduced over the succeeding centuries to just 36 when the village was absorbed into the neighbouring parish of Kilby in 1935. These changing fortunes are reflected in the St Bartholomew's thousand and so years of history.

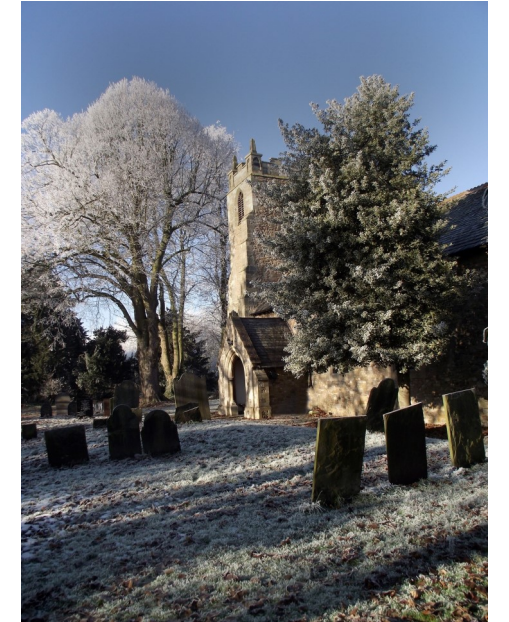
The original church was just a nave and chancel and it grew with the rise in population between the eleventh and fourteenth century to a much larger building with a nave and two aisles. The subsequent decline in population levels brought about the ruination of the church building through neglect. This decay was to such an extent that in 1766 a Faculty was taken out and a Church Brief raised which appealed for contributions from the whole country. This stated that *"the Church is in a ruinous condition where the congregation cannot assemble for divine service and sermons without manifold danger to their lives"*. Subsequent work prescribed was, amongst other things, *'...wholly to take down and take away ye said south aisle...and entirely to take away ye said chancel and not to rebuild ye same and also to take off the roof...'*. This work and the money raised resulted in the building much as you see it today.

The changes that have taken place over the centuries are visible both inside and outside the building making it an atmospheric place which lends itself, not only to worship, but also to events we hold for the community.

Foston Church is loved by many. The flower and Christmas tree festivals attract people from a wide area. It is a beautiful, peaceful place. The churchyard is a place of peace and tranquillity open to all who want to spend time here. Every day people use the lovely churchyard, it is a popular destination for walkers and cyclists.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



A Friend of St Bartholomew's Church Foston is someone who cares about the fabric of the church, is not necessarily a church goer, but wants to help preserve an historic building for present and future generations.

We are a registered charity No 1062965. Our church dates back more than a thousand years and we must preserve it for our future generations.

The church needs regular maintenance. The Friends have recently financed major repairs to make the building safe and able to be used again.

Parts of this historic church were built in the 10th century. It has had many additions and renovations during the last thousand years.

Any donation, however small, would be gratefully received. Please find details on how to donate on the back of this leaflet.

