



Friends of All Saints Church Jesus Lane, Cambridge

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Visit to St Nicholas Church, Kings Lynn

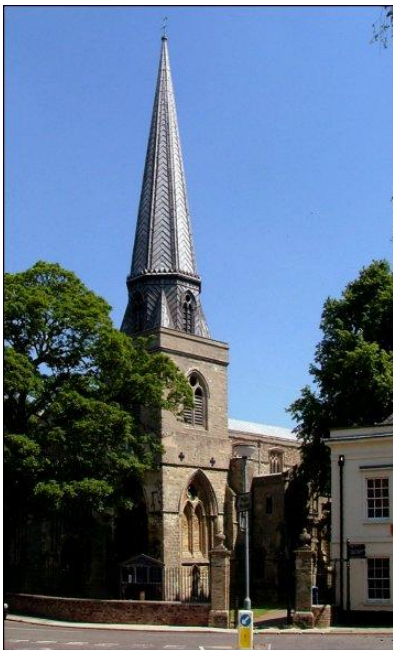
St Ann's Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1QS

Saturday 26th September

Travel there by your own transport and meet outside the entrance at 11am

<http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/content.php?nID=11&churchID=153>

<http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/lynnnicholas/lynnnicholas.htm>



Kings Lynn is so far away from anywhere else of any size that it has a fierce independence. It is as though it is in Norfolk, but not really of it. St Nicholas, like All Saints, Cambridge is a redundant church looked after by The Churches Conservation Trust and it too has a Friends group who have very kindly invited us there. The largest chapel in England, it is worth visiting not only for its wonderful architecture and fittings, but also for the human stories it tells. St Nicholas dates almost entirely from the 15th century, though the tower is earlier, and the spire was added by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1869. Before you go into the chapel itself, take time to admire the carvings decorating the outside of the majestic porch, as well as the vaulted ceiling inside. The huge west window fills the chapel with light, illuminating its many treasures. Perhaps the most spectacular is the wooden roof, each tie-beam decorated with angels with wings outspread, playing different musical instruments. There are other lovely carvings in the church, including some mediaeval pew ends, though the finest have been removed and can now be seen in the V & A Museum in London. There is a large and fascinating collection of monuments and memorials, all of which repay a close look. Among them is a marble urn designed by Robert Adam for Sir Benjamin Keene, a local man who became

Britain's ambassador to Spain in the 18th century. It has fine carving of a harbour scene, and bears a strong resemblance to another of Adam's designs - for a wine cooler. Other memorials to seamen, merchants, mayors, and shopkeepers illustrate Lynn's long history as a busy commercial centre and port. At your feet are a fantastic collection of ledger stones including one to Robinson Crusoe. The consistory court in the north-west corner of the chapel is a very rare survival. This dates from 1617 and was where the Archdeacon would judge cases involving church law including divorce and other matrimonial cases.

The chapel is to the north of the centre of King's Lynn, close to the Saturday Market Place on St Anne's Street. There are several car parks very nearby. Nearest station King's Lynn (10 minutes walk)

Please contact Andrew - if you would like to come

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