

Hello Heritage...

St Wilfrid's Church, Barrow upon Trent



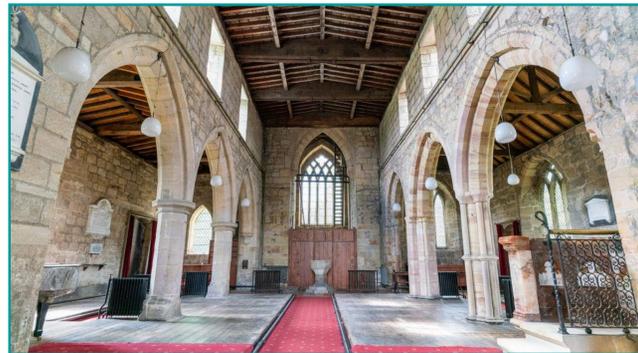
St Wilfrid's Church, Barrow on Trent

St Wilfrid's Church was built during Anglo Saxon times, in around 800 AD. In 1165 it was gifted to the "Hospitallers Order of St John of Jerusalem" (Knights Hospitallers) by Robert de Bakepuiz, liegeman of Henry de Ferrers. The Knights developed the Church into the building we know today and it remains mostly structurally unchanged from when they left it in 1540 at the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. There is only one other English "Knights Hospitaller" church that remains as it was in 1540, in Carbrooke, Norfolk.

The Knights Hospitallers primary mission was the care and protection of the poor and sick in the Holy Land. During the crusades, this was extended to the protection of Crusaders. Many of the European landed gentry gave property to them so that they could raise money for the cause. Offered the site at Barrow in 1165 by Robert de Bakepuiz, the Knight's Hospitallers must have found the gift most attractive. An existing Anglo Saxon Church; valuable farm land; a position on the river highway that was then navigable, and access to the old drovers route running North to South.



The Knights Hospitallers



St Wilfrid's Church, a centre for worship, now will be available to the community as it was in medieval times. Here, empty and ready for its "Transformation"



Unceremoniously our effigy lies ready for conservation. We have been told that our alabaster effigy of John de Belton, may be the oldest alabaster effigy of a priest in the country.



Was there an anchorhold sometime in the Church's history? Home for an anchorite entombed for life? See markings on the Nave's North wall and low level squint by the chancel.



The Knights Hospitallers were the largest landowners in England in the 14th/15th Century. Here are the properties they owned in Derbyshire. Yeaueley and Barrow were their main, administrative properties.