

Welcome to St James's Church

St James's Church in the village of Moulton Chapel is an unusual octagonal structure. Playwright and author, the late David Kaye, writing in the *Lincolnshire Life* magazine in 1980, described it as a 'Georgian gem'.

The present building was erected in 1722, possibly on the site of an earlier chapel. It stands on a small hillock or mound at the intersection of four roads. The church is built of brick with stone dressings in the Grecian style of architecture with a high-pitched roof of grey slate. The chancel, vestry and organ chamber were later additions to the original octagonal building. The church can seat 70 people in the nave and a further 30 in the fine wooden gallery – giving it a larger capacity than first appears from the outside.

The church was originally repaired, refurbished and enlarged in 1886. More recently, an extensive restoration was carried out during 2016-17 with repairs to the roof and structure via a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. St James's is a delightful Grade II* listed building with a fascinating and unique history. It is the only octagonal church in Lincolnshire. We trust you will enjoy your visit and find this booklet a useful guide.

COVER MAIN IMAGE: *An early nineteenth-century watercolour of St James's Church, Moulton Chapel, by Hilkiah Burgess from the Spalding Gentlemen's Society's collection.* 🍷

COVER INSET IMAGE: *The stone village sign in the churchyard was erected in 1994. A competition was organised among the local schoolchildren to submit ideas for the sign, and the winning design depicts the church and symbols of local rural life – an owl, ears of wheat and a bunch of tulips.*

REAR COVER: *The interior of St James's Church looking towards the altar from the west door.*

OPPOSITE: *Georgian gem – St James's Church photographed in 2017 after undergoing an extensive restoration.*

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ST JAMES CHURCH
WOLLETON CHAPEL

Moulton Chapel

A Fenland Village

Historically, the area of flat fenland containing Moulton Chapel lay on the edges of salt marsh and the sea. Sediments laid down by the sea eventually formed a low ridge of silt that ran from the Nene to the Welland estuaries, forming the line of villages from Sutton Bridge, through Long Sutton, Gedney, Fleet, Holbeach, Whaplode, Moulton and Weston to Spalding. The area to the south of the ridge was separated from the saltwater marshes and became freshwater swamps or wetlands, punctuated by islands of high ground. The site of Moulton Chapel village would have been surrounded by wetlands.

Before the Roman occupation, there is no indication of any settlements in the locality. Roman Road runs east to west through the village, following the line of an ancient sea bank. The bank is probably Saxon, but there is some evidence of Roman occupation in the area.

The Reverend Canon Moore, Vicar of Spalding, delivering a sermon in Moulton Chapel after the restoration and reopening of the church in 1886, claimed that the village had Roman connections.

He explained that religious services in Roman times were conducted in the open air



St James's Church in the early years of the twentieth century with J T George's shop to the left, the Plough Inn to the right and Plowman's mill in the background.



An aerial photograph taken in the 1980s showing St James's Church in the centre of the village.

around a cap hoisted on top of a spear, and hence called a 'capella'. Moore, an amateur historian, believed that the name of the village was derived from *Moulton Capella*. However, there is little evidence to support his theory.

The nearby village of Moulton or 'Multune' was established post fifth-century in an area ruled by the Saxon warlord, Alfgar. The name is believed to have been derived from Mula's Tun meaning 'Mula's settlement' ('tun' is from the Saxon or Old English meaning an enclosure, farmstead, estate or settlement).

The area later suffered under incursions from the Danes in around 870 AD. The two other roads that bisect Moulton Chapel (Woodgate to the south and Fengate to the north) both have names that indicate Danish influence: 'gate' is from the Old Norse for a way, path or road. After the area was drained, the village became an important farming community.

A four-sail brick-tower mill was built in the centre of the village in 1865. The village school in Eaugate Road opened in 1880. The current Methodist Church in Fengate was built as the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in 1902, adjacent to an earlier chapel dating from 1812.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, Moulton Chapel had two shops, several public houses and supported a number of local trades including a blacksmith, carpenters, builders and threshing contractors. An army camp to man searchlights was established in the village during the Second World War.

Until more recently, Moulton Chapel has been closely associated with the local bulb industry with several tulip and daffodil growers in the village.

In recognition of this, a village Tuliptime Parade was established in 1981 and is held every year on the Sunday of the Early May Bank Holiday weekend.

St James's Church

A Short History

EARLY CHAPEL

A chapel probably existed on the site of the present church as early as 1259 when certain articles were preferred against the local baron, Thomas de Multune, by the Priory of Spalding and the Church of Moulton for 'having unlawfully erected a certain chapel within his manor, and for carrying on services there without authority.' We can only speculate as to whether this chapel was the original 'Moulton Chapel'. However, there is plenty of documentary evidence to prove the existence of an earlier chapel-of-ease on the site of the present church.

The chapel, probably of timber thatched with reed, would have been established during the early thirteenth century as the

hamlet, eventually known as Moulton Chapel, came into being following enclosures of the fen in Spalding, Weston and Moulton. In 1410 and again in 1495, sums were bequeathed by the local Welby family for the repair of the fabric of the 'Chapel of St James at Moulton'.

The reason for the dedication to St James is thought to be because the village traditionally held a fair or feast on 25 July, which was the day the Festival of St James the Greater was observed. The date is still recognised as St James's Day.

The chapel is also referred to as 'Moulton All Saints cum Moulton Chapel' in the *Liber Regis* of 1518. Various curates are recorded: John Dobson (1564), Nicholas Scarlett (1602), Simon Ogden (1604), Olimpas Damme (1607) and William Miller, whose twin children were baptised at the chapel in 1622. Another entry in the Moulton parish register records the solemnisation of a marriage at Moulton Chapel in 1630. In some early records, the village is also referred to as Moulton St James.

The chapel is also mentioned in a 1602 report on the State of Churches, which reads: 'This ys a chappell of ease; the inhabitants of wch hamlett do maynteyne the same in repayre & decence.' [sic]

All records of the 'Chapel of St James' cease with the English Civil War. Preserved in the records of Spalding Gentlemen's Society is a surviving draft of a Latin inscription that was to have appeared on a stone table above the west door on the present church, which explains the fate of the original chapel. Translated from the Latin, it reads:



One of the earliest depictions of the church in Moulton Chapel from John Grundy's 1727 map, which was part of a plan for improving the drainage of the Moulton parish lands.

'Under the protection of Christ, the Beginning and the End, this chapel, dedicated to God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, damaged by the sacrilegious fury of fanatics in the Civil War, was willingly restored according to a promise and endowed in the year of mankind's salvation, 1722, by Maurice Johnson...on the ancient site of the chapel at the crossroads called Chapel Gate in Moulton.'

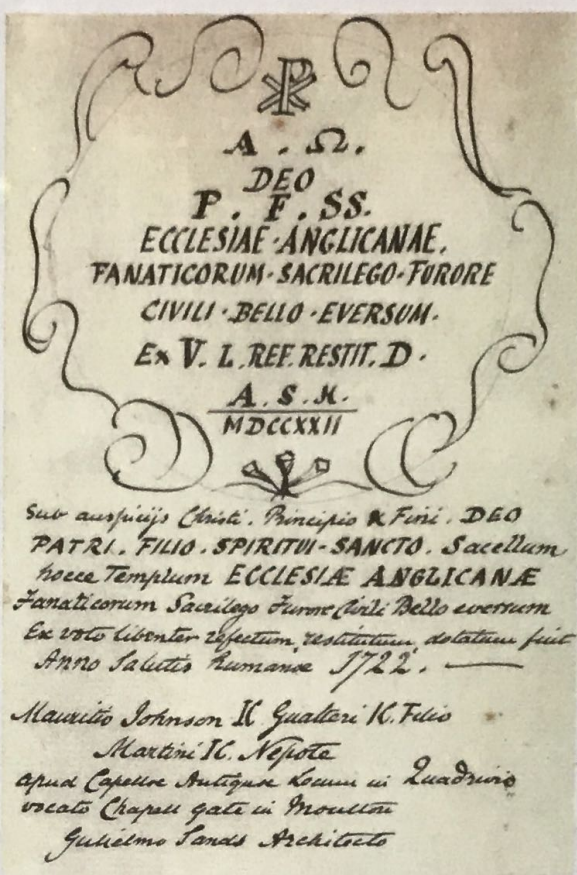
The belief is that the timber chapel was used to herd prisoners and was destroyed during the fighting. This is explained by historian, Alfred Kingston, in his 1902 work, *East Anglia and the Great Civil War*:

'It is interesting...to note that Moulton St James was in the thick of the fighting in South Lincolnshire; and in the crowding of prisoners into churches and the fortification of such buildings, which probably suffered enough to account for the tradition and the inscription.'

1722 CHAPEL

For 70 years after the Civil War, the village was without a place of worship until Maurice Johnson agreed to build a new chapel. A local barrister and benefactor, Johnson, also known as 'The Antiquary', lived at Ayscoughfee Hall and was the founder of Spalding Gentlemen's Society. The story goes that he was riding through the village on a Sunday and, asking why men were not at worship, was told that the nearest church was four miles distant. He then resolved to build them a chapel, which was completed in 1722. The actual inscription (now almost unreadable) on the stone tablet above the west door simply recorded Johnson's gift and the date. Translated from the Latin it read:

'Christ, the beginning and the end for all eternity: To the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; of his own free gift, Johnson, the donor rebuilt and restored, in the year of salvation of men 1722.'



Preserved by Spalding Gentlemen's Society, this surviving draft of a Latin inscription that was proposed for the stone table above the west door of the present church explains the fate of the original chapel.

No mention was now made of the Civil War, so presumably the original dedication was dropped for reasons of brevity, or possibly because it was still thought to be a contentious issue.

The new chapel, designed by Spalding architect and stonemason, William Sands, was an octagonal brick building, described as in the Churchwardens' or Grecian style of architecture with stone dressings and a high pitched roof of grey slated topped by an open bell turret with a leaded spirette and cross. Although it is the only octagonal church in Lincolnshire, eight-sided buildings were not uncommon within Christianity.

Today, mathematicians associate the number eight with infinity, but to early Christians the number eight symbolised



Looking towards the west door, the interior of the church in 1885 with the original box pews. Note the heating stove with its crude fluepipe rising through the centre of the building.



The east aspect of St James's Church in 1885. Prior to the chancel being added, the building was a perfect octagon.



The west aspect of St James's Church, then still a chapel, photographed in 1885 prior to its restoration. The fabric of the building appears to be in need of some repair.



The church photographed after the completion of the 1886 restoration and enlargement. A chancel was added to the east side of the building.

Christ's resurrection. According to the Bible, Jesus arose from the dead one day after the Sabbath, or seventh day, which early Christians counted as the eighth day.

Early folklore also suggests that some churches were rounded in shape so that the Devil had no corners in which to lie in wait for unsuspecting congregants, and these circular buildings were therefore 'Devil-proof'. However, it was claimed that the 'Chapel of St James' was designed as an octagon at the request of Maurice Johnson, who was evidently fascinated with Freemasons and the Knights Templar, and wanted the building to resemble an octagonal Masonic temple.

There is a reference to the church in *The Buildings of England Volume 27 Lincolnshire* by Nikolaus Pevsner & John Harris (1964). This records it as meriting 'individual attention' because of its 'unusual ground plan', which it suggests was 'influenced no doubt by Dutch churches'. There was Dutch influence in the area via the various drainage schemes, but whether this had any bearing on the design of the building remains unclear.

The new chapel was usually referred to as

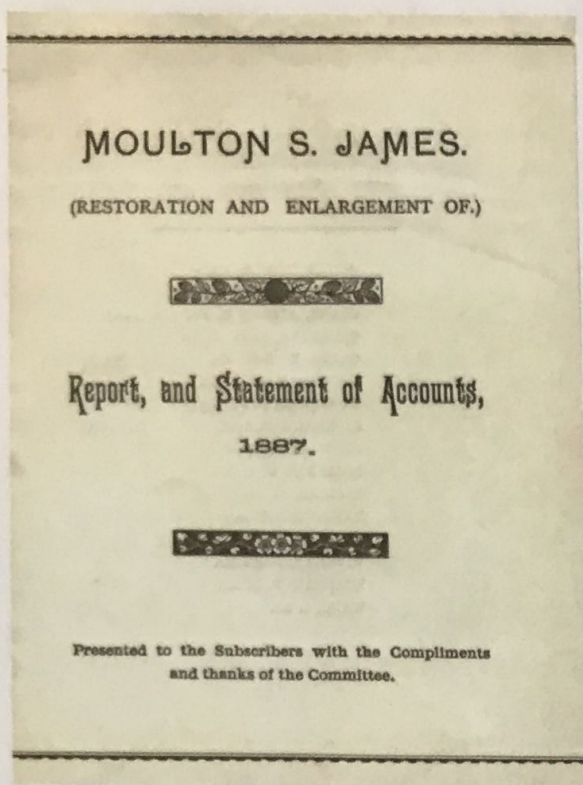
'Moulton St James'. Johnson endowed it with a rent charge of £16 per year upon his estate, and his son, John, became the vicar of Moulton in 1755. A bell was provided in 1814 by William Moore, who was the incumbent at Moulton at the time.

The interior of the church contained four sets of box pews, and surviving early photographs taken in the 1880s suggest there were no concessions to comfort. However, a coal-fired heating stove with a crude fluepipe running up through the centre of the church and out through the bell turret probably provided a modicum of warmth during the winter months.

1886 RESTORATION

By the latter half of the nineteenth century, the chapel was in a poor state of repair. On 18 March 1886, an appeal was initiated by Reverend John Russell Jackson, the Vicar of Moulton, to raise money by subscription for the 'restoration and enlargement of Moulton St James'.

During the restoration, which began on 4 July 1886, a chancel was added to the east side. New pews, floor and pavement were



The report and statement, published in 1887, for the restoration and enlargement of Moulton St James. The total cost was £400.

provided; the walls were re-plastered and the windows re-glazed; the roof was repaired, and the old bell turret was removed and replaced with a simple cross. The architect was William Bassett-Smith of London, who had previously overseen the 1867-68 restoration of Moulton Church, and the builders were Messrs Collingwood & Son of March. The cost of the work was £400.

Worship during the restoration was celebrated at the village school. The work was completed on 23 October 1886. Two days later, on 25 October, the chapel was consecrated by Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, as the Church of St James. It was later assigned its own legal district to become a separate parish to Moulton, which was granted by Queen Victoria on 7 May 1890. The area of the parish was 3,840 acres.

The first vicar was the Reverend Charles Partridge, who was the incumbent from 1890 to 1907. The population of the parish was 700 and the incumbency was worth 85 shillings



The restored and enlarged Church of St James in 1888. The bell was now above the chancel and the main domed roof was topped by a simple cross.



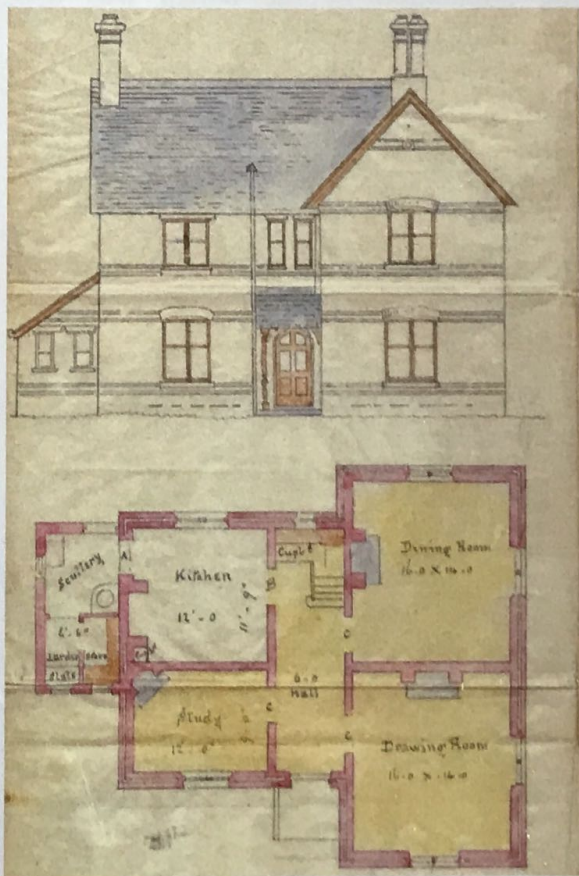
An interior view of the new chancel in 1888. New pews, floor and pavement had been provided as part of the restoration.

per annum. Holy Communion was held at 8.30am and 10.30am on alternate Sundays, Mattins at 10.30am and Evensong at 6.30pm. Sunday School was at 2.30pm and choir practice was held every Wednesday at 7pm. The churchwardens were local mill owner, George William Plowman, and local farmer and horse-breeder, Alderman Alfred Henry Clark.

NEW VICARAGE

Although Reverend Partridge was resident in the village, the lodgings provided for him, his wife and family were described at the time as 'very inconvenient quarters'. In September 1889, an appeal was launched to provide a new vicarage by subscription. The monies raised included £509 from Queen Anne's Bounty, £100 from the Diocesan Fund and donations of £25 from Reverend Partridge and £20 from Reverend Jackson.

A half-acre of ground to the west of the village was donated by the Crown, and



The north elevation and ground floor plan for the new vicarage. The plans were drawn in 1891 by the London architect, William Bassett-Smith.



The Vicarage, Roman Road, Moulton Chapel, completed in 1892 at a cost of £668.

William Bassett-Smith was again engaged as architect. The foundation stone was laid on 28 September 1891 by Alderman Clark's wife. A bottle was placed beneath the stone, containing a sheet of paper that recorded that the population of the parish was 670, consisting of 344 males and 326 females.

The vicarage was completed the following year at a cost of £668. The builders were Money Bros of Whaplode Drove. Reverend Partridge remained the incumbent until his

death in 1907 when he was succeeded by Reverend Harold E Curtis.

Reverend Curtis oversaw a fresh fundraising appeal to raise money for a church organ, which was purchased for £87 in early 1909. The organ was located in the gallery, and an opening ceremony was held on 3 February with a music recital by the organist of St Boltoph's Church, Boston. Money left over from the organ fund was used to purchase a new stove, chairs and a hymn book.

The church's first organist was the headmaster of the village school, Mr A G Veall. The organ blower, who pumped the handle to provide wind for the pipes, was Walter Palmer. Mr Veall evidently crept down the stairs during the sermon, and went across to the Plough Inn for a pint, timing it to perfection so that he was back at the organ with all the stops out ready for the final hymn.

1912 RESTORATION

On Sunday 15 September 1912, the church reopened after being closed for five weeks for an extensive and elaborate redecoration. During the redecoration, services were relocated to the Club Room at the Plough Inn.

The architect in charge of the redecoration was Wilfrid Bond FRIBA of the well-known Lincolnshire firm of church architects,



St James's Church, Moulton Chapel, photographed in 1906.

Wilfrid & Lawrence H Bond of Elmer Street, Grantham. The decoration was carried out by Mr G B Perry, also of Grantham. The church was reopened at a special service led by the Rural Dean, Canon Bullock. The following description of the decoration work is taken from the diocese magazine:

'The Nave walls have been diapered in two shades of green with an all over pattern above the level of the windows. The walls are toned white and the spandrels are adorned with wreaths containing emblems. The dome is treated with a soft shade of grey, and the cornice decorated with conventional leaves and flowers. The side walls of the Chancel are diapered in shades of red, and the east wall in peacock blue and white. The covered Chancel ceiling has been painted white, and a wreath with an emblem painted over the East end. New candle sconces of wrought iron and copper, decorated in red and gold, have been placed on the Altar standards, and the standards decorated in red and gold, and black and white chequer work. All the ironwork has been cleaned and painted, and the seats and gallery front darkened and re-



St James's Church decorated for a flower festival in about 1910.

varnished. The whole of the work has been done by Mr. W. B. Perry, of Grantham, to the designs and under the personal supervision of the Architect, Mr. Wilfrid Bond, of Grantham.'

The painting and decoration of a new domed font cover were also carried out at the same time. The cost of this, as well as the decoration of the lamp standards, was covered by a generous donation from the village shop owner, Mr J T George.

Wilfrid Bond and his son, Lawrence, were well known for their church designs and



St James's Church in about 1910. The photograph was taken from outside Achurchs' village stores (now demolished) with the Plough Inn on the left and the vicarage in the background.

restorations throughout Lincolnshire. Pevsner & Harris said of Wilfrid: 'His restorations were in the main so sensitive that their success lies in the very fact that they tend to go unnoticed.'

LATER HISTORY

A church hall, usually referred to as the Parish Room, was erected opposite the churchyard in 1912-13. The 35ft by 17ft building, an army-surplus hut clad in corrugated-iron sheeting, was donated by Alderman Clark, and erected at his expense.

A concert to celebrate the opening of the Parish Room was held on Thursday 23 January 1913 with 100 people attending for piano recitals and violin duets. Over the years, the building was used by several local societies including the Mothers' Union, Women's Institute, Friendship Club, the local football club and even a Rifle Club. It was demolished in 2008.

During 1913, a sum of £20 15s 4d was raised to provide the church with a new pulpit. The pulpit was dedicated by the

Bishop of Lincoln at a service held on Friday 10 October followed by tea in the new Parish Room.

The stained glass window in the east end of the chancel was installed in memory of villagers who gave their life during the First World War. Further improvements to the church during the 1920s included a chamber added to the south of the chancel to house the organ, which had previously moved from the gallery to the rear of the pulpit. The new organ chamber, which had been built at a cost of £68, was dedicated on 7 November 1923. Another addition was the vestry on the north side of the chancel, which was dedicated on 16 April 1926.

The Blessed Sacrament (in the tabernacle on the altar) has, with the bishop's permission, been perpetually reserved since 1930. From 1927 until the retirement of the last fulltime incumbent in 1975, there was a Sung Mass at 10.30am with Low Mass at 8am and Evensong at 6.30pm. Worship was firmly in the 'Catholic tradition' and Benediction was a regular part of Evensong.



The oak rood screen, dedicated in 1946, was the gift of local farmer, Captain A H Clark, in memory of his son, Howard, who was killed in action during the Second World War.



One of several tulip mosaics that were created in the grounds of the church during the 1960s and '70s. This award-winning mosaic depicted England's mascot for the 1970 World Cup.



St James's Church, Moulton Chapel, photographed from the Wheatsheaf car park in the mid-1950s.

The statue of Our Lady was blessed and unveiled in 1936.

The oak rood screen was the gift of local farmer, Captain A H Clark, in memory of his son, Howard, who was killed in action on 7 April 1943 at the age of 21. Flying Officer Howard Clark, grandson of Alderman Clark, was a pilot with No. 9 Squadron RAF. His Hawker Hurricane aircraft was shot down over Cekhira, a town in Tunisia, while carrying out an air attack on German tanks.

The oak screen was designed on the lines of the Dutch School and was emblazoned with the arms of Uppingham School and the Royal Air Force. It was dedicated on Sunday 7 April 1946 at a service conducted by the incumbent, Reverend Sowerbutts. Following tributes by Mr P B King of Uppingham School, and Wing Commander D Weston-Burt, the dedication was performed by the Rural Dean, Canon Lancelot Smith, Vicar of St John's Church, Spalding.

On 28 April 1946, the old pulpit and lectern were donated to a church in Chelsea that had

been badly damaged during the Blitz. The council estate off Roman Road in Moulton Chapel, built from 1947-48, was also named Cekhira Avenue in Howard Clark's memory.

During the twentieth century, the church's association with the local flower industry was regularly celebrated and it was decorated at Easter and for the Harvest Festival. In later years, the church was decorated as part of the local tulip festival, and for several years, a tulip mosaic was created in the grounds.

St James's Church had a fulltime incumbent until 1975 when Reverend Reginald Thompson retired. In July 1978, the benefices of Cowbit, Moulton St James, Weston and Weston St Johns were united to form the benefice of Cowbit. In 1996, the parish voted to leave that benefice and become part of the benefice of Moulton.

The church building is listed as Grade II* under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. It was first listed on 7 February 1967.

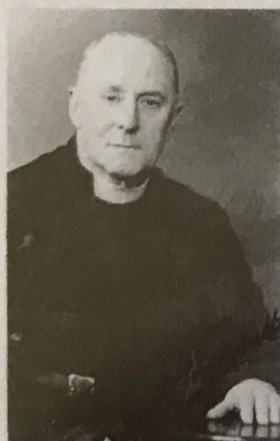
Vicars of St James's Church

CHARLES PARTRIDGE 1890-1907

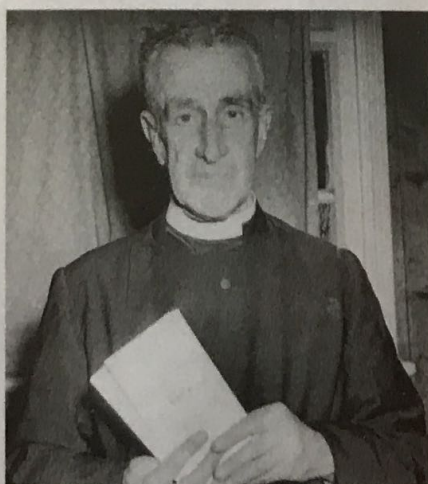
The first incumbent after the Church of St James was assigned its own parish in 1890 was the Reverend Charles Partridge, who served as vicar until he passed away at the age of 71 on 2 September 1907. The little church was filled to capacity for his funeral service, which was conducted by the Reverend Canon Bullock, Vicar of Spalding, and afterwards the coffin was borne to Moulton for burial in the churchyard.

HAROLD E CURTIS 1907-1909

Reverend Partridge's successor was Reverend Harold E Curtis, who moved to the village with his mother. He was the incumbent at Moulton Chapel for a mere 22 months before taking up a post as vicar of Holbeach St John's on 17 September 1909.



Reverend John W H Sowerbutts, who was vicar of Moulton St James from 1942-1948.



The Reverend Cyril Moffat Barker, who was tragically killed in a road accident one week after his induction in 1951.

S C CALVER 1909-1913

Reverend Curtis's replacement at St James's was Reverend S C Calver, who was instituted to the benefice by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln on 17 November 1909.

RICHARD J B GELDART 1913-1916

Reverend Geldart is remembered for being one of the instigators of the village's Rifle Club, which was formed in January 1914 under the chairmanship of Alderman Clark. By June it had 70 members. Meetings were held in the Parish Room with demonstrations given by the Vicar of Holbeach.

H M HOLDERNESS 1916-1921

THOMAS BAYDEN SINGLETON 1922-1925

Inducted into St James's Church in 1922, the Reverend Singleton was previously a scholar of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.



The Reverend Reginald C Thompson (right) with churchwarden, David Fountain. Reverend Thompson was Moulton Chapel's last full-time incumbent.

A J ARCH 1925-1930

Reverend Arch was a local man, who left Moulton Chapel to take up a post at Caistor.

H D SPEAKMAN 1930-1942

The Reverend Speakman is remembered for holding a 12-hour vigil on 14 July 1930 to collect donations towards the £50 needed for repairs to the church roof.

JOHN W H SOWERBUTTS 1942-1948

The induction of Reverend Sowerbutts was held on 10 August 1942 and was conducted by the Archdeacon of Lincoln, Kenneth Warner, assisted by the Rural Dean of West Elloe, Canon B G Nicholas, who was Vicar of Spalding. Reverend Sowerbutts was evidently a rather stern individual, particularly during Sunday School lessons, and the village children referred to him, somewhat irreverently, as 'Reverend Sourguts'.

HAROLD BACON 1949-1951

Reverend Bacon was a young vicar who moved to the village with his wife. Their daughter was born in Moulton Chapel. He left in 1951 to take up a ministry overseas, possibly South Africa.

CYRIL MOFFAT BARKER 1951

The Reverend Barker was tragically killed in a road accident on 27 April 1951, one week after his induction, while travelling to Spalding on his moped.

J H LAWSON 1951-1953

Reverend Lawson came to Moulton Chapel from Sleaford.

REGINALD C THOMPSON 1953-1975

The Reverend Reginald Thompson stands out as a colourful and eccentric character who conducted services in Wellington boots and kept his horse stabled in the front room of the vicarage. The horse was also a regular visitor to the Wheatsheaf public house, and was not averse to supping the odd pint of beer.

Reverend Thompson also refereed wrestling matches, including a women's match in 1965, and was featured on television. He was the last full-time incumbent of Moulton Chapel. After he retired in 1975, the vicarage was sold.

ERIC JOHN WINGFIELD 1977-1981

In 1978, the benefices of Cowbit, Moulton Chapel, Weston and Weston St Johns were united to form the benefice of Cowbit. The Reverend Wingfield, who lived in the vicarage at Cowbit, was the first incumbent of the new benefice.

STUART J HADLEY 1982-1986

Reverend Hadley was the first incumbent of the united benefice to live in the new vicarage at Weston.

TERRY STEELE 1990-1995

Father Terry Steele, previously a curate at Sleaford, came to the benefice in May 1990, and it was his first post as a vicar. A model railway enthusiast, and always accompanied by his Beagle hound, he was an extremely popular figure. Many of his special services in Moulton St James usually resulted in a packed church. Father Terry Steele left the benefice in May 2005 to take up a post at Burgh-le-Marsh, and is currently Rural Dean of the Calcewaithe & Candlesohe Deanery and a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral.

1996 ONWARDS

In 1996, the parish of Moulton St James voted to leave the benefice of Cowbit, Weston and Weston St Johns and become part of the benefice of Moulton, with which it was felt it had more in common. Recent incumbents of the benefice include the Reverend John Adams, Reverend Rosamund Seal and Reverend Judy Timings. In 2014, St James joined the churches of All Saints Moulton, St Mary Whaplode and St John Holbeach Fen to form the benefice of Elloe Stone. At the time of writing, the benefice is in vacancy.



The church was completely encased in scaffolding during the restoration work.

Restoration

2016-17

For several years, the church has suffered from a leaking roof, which was continually being patched. The Quinquennial Inspection carried out in 2013 threw up many issues with the building and set out a number of recommendations that were required to keep the structure watertight and in good condition. The current condition of the church was putting it at risk of long-term decay, which would lead to the loss of historic fabric and the use of the building if nothing was done.

The main areas of concern were the state of the slate coverings to the roofs of the nave and chancel, as well as the roofing felt above

the vestry and organ chamber. The brickwork was deteriorating and required re-pointing with a more suitable material. Inside, re-plastering and redecoration was needed to address problems with water ingress, damp and decay. The flashings, rainwater goods and drainage system also required attention, as did the main door to the church.

The Moulton St James PCC was lucky, at the third attempt, to receive a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The church closed on 14 August 2016, and was completely encased in scaffolding for the work to begin. Further unseen problems that arose meant that the renovations were much slower than expected.

The roof was in a much worse state than originally thought, and three 7m oak hip-beams had to be specially made and lifted into position. The re-pointing of the brickwork revealed that 200 bricks were crumbling and in need of replacement. Again, the bricks had to be specially made by hand.

Inside the building, large cracks to the plasterwork had to be re-plastered before decorating could be done. The paint was Farrow & Ball with the ceilings finished in 'Pointing', the chancel, vestry and organ chamber in 'Lime White', and the nave in 'Parma Gray'. During the restoration, parts of the historic interior paint scheme of 1912 were revealed and the decorative stencilling behind the altar was restored.

The underground drainage system was repaired with funding from Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund. With the support of three local councillors, a replacement oak front door was provided with funding from South Holland District



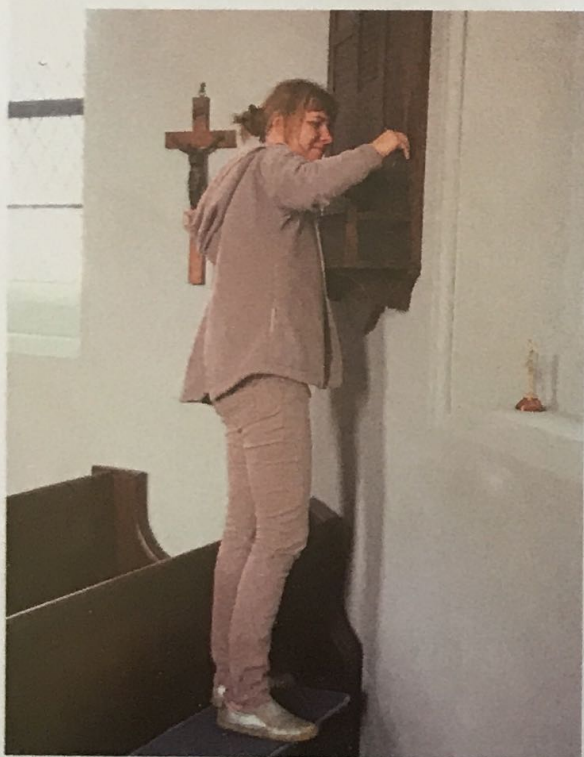
Substantial repairs were made to the roof and brickwork during the restoration.

BELOW: *One of the 7m oak hip-beams being lifted into position in February 2017.*





The domed roof of the nave being prepared for the new cupola.



Conservator, Marta Sledz, working on the interior of the church.

Council. The All Churches Trust also provided funding. Additional funding was raised by a 'sponsor a slate' scheme.

During the restoration, a new heating system was installed to replace the previous old and inefficient system. Probably the most visible change to the exterior of the building was the provision of a rooftop cupola. This is similar in design to the original turret that topped the church when it was built in 1722, but removed during the 1886 restoration.

Much of the project, including the repairs



Much of the funding for the project was provided by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

to the roof and timbers, was carried out by the specialist CEL Group. The architect was Carl Andrews of Soul Architects of Worksop. The conservator was Marta Sledz of Chroma Conservation, who handled the uncovering, retouching and partial restoration of the 1912 stencilling. The £250,000 restoration was due to have been completed by the end of February 2017, but delays meant the work was not finished until July.

Sadly, the church was still closed when Monica Simpson, its organist for more than 50 years, passed away, aged 80 years, in June 2017. It had been her wish her have her funeral in Moulton Chapel, but because of the unfinished work, it had to be held at All Saints' Church in Moulton.

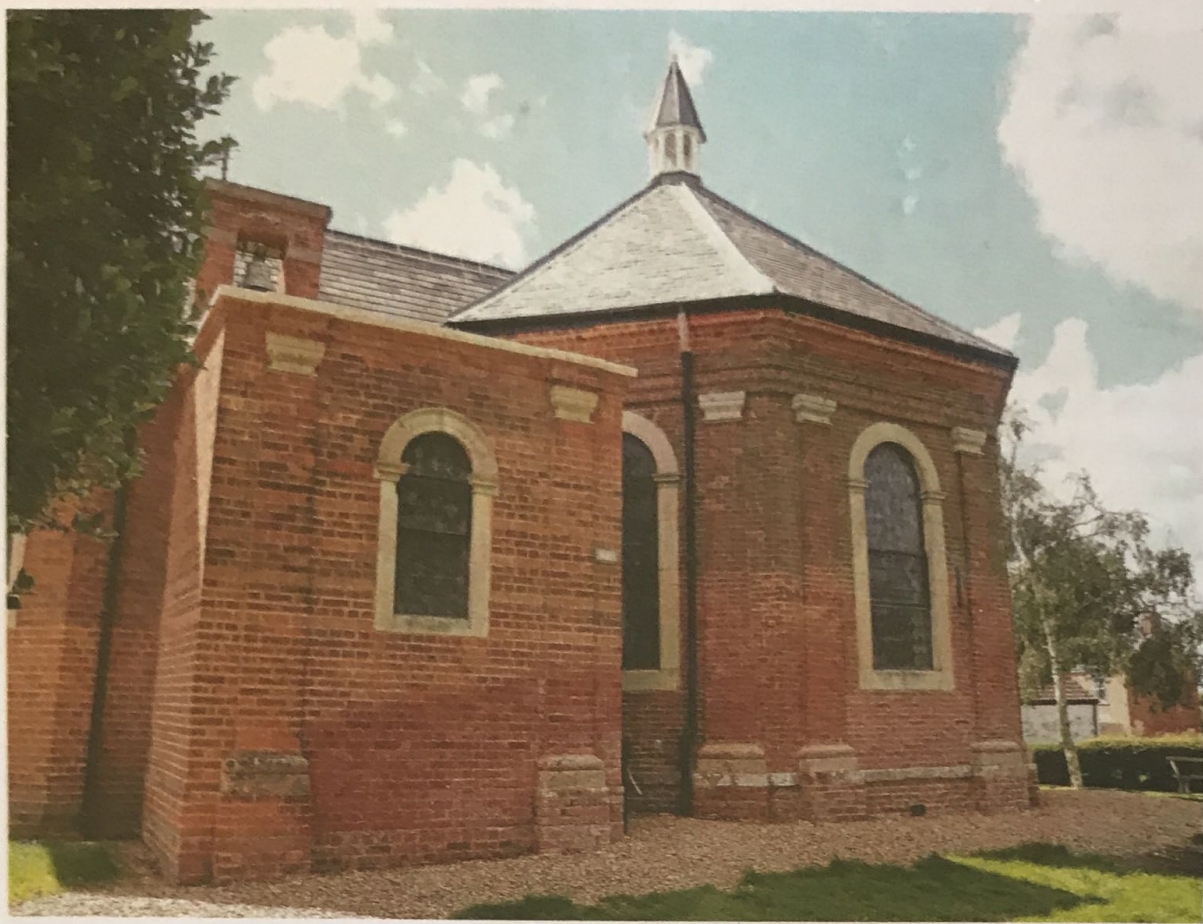
Moulton St James PCC is immensely grateful to all those who have provided funding or have helped in some way with the restoration, ensuring that the fabric of our historic church is preserved for future generations to worship and enjoy. A service of dedication, led by the Right Reverend Dr Nicholas Chamberlain, Bishop of Grantham, was held on Sunday 30 July 2017 with 75 people in attendance.



A replacement oak front door was provided with funding from South Holland District Council.

BELOW: Members of Moulton St James PCC with Bishop Nicholas of Grantham at the opening service on 30 July 2017.





Vestry, topped by the bell tower, was added to the north side in 1926.

Guide to the Church

Approaching the church from the west aspect you can appreciate the size and shape of the original octagonal building built in 1722. Following the path to the left of the north side of the building, you pass the vestry, which was a 1926 addition. The east aspect of the church is dominated by the chancel, which was added in 1886 as part of the major restoration. Continuing around to the south side, you will see the organ chamber, which was built in 1923.

Before entering the church via the main west door, pause to look at the stone tablet above the door. Weathered by time and the elements, this is now almost unreadable, but parts of the Latin inscription are still visible.

This records that the building was gifted by Maurice Johnson in the year 1722.

First impressions on entering the church are that the interior is actually larger than first appears from the outside. A small timber staircase to the right leads up into the fine wooden gallery, which can seat 30 people. Care must be taken when ascending the stairs, which are fairly steep and narrow with reduced headroom.

The gallery is also stepped and falls away from the rear to the front, so again care must be exercised. However, the effort expended in a visit to this upper level is more than rewarded by the delightful view it affords of the charming interior, especially in the

morning when, on a good day, the sun is streaming in through the stained glass windows in the east end of the chancel.

Note the hooks set into the gallery wall for parishioners' coats and hats. In the early days, there was no seating in the upper gallery and it was standing room only, which must have been tiring during a long – and they *were* long – sermon!

Descend the stairs to return to the nave, where there is much to see. On the north wall is a framed roll of honour recording the names of the parishioners who served king and country during the First World War. More poignantly, further along is a wooden memorial plaque that commemorates all those who fell during both world wars.

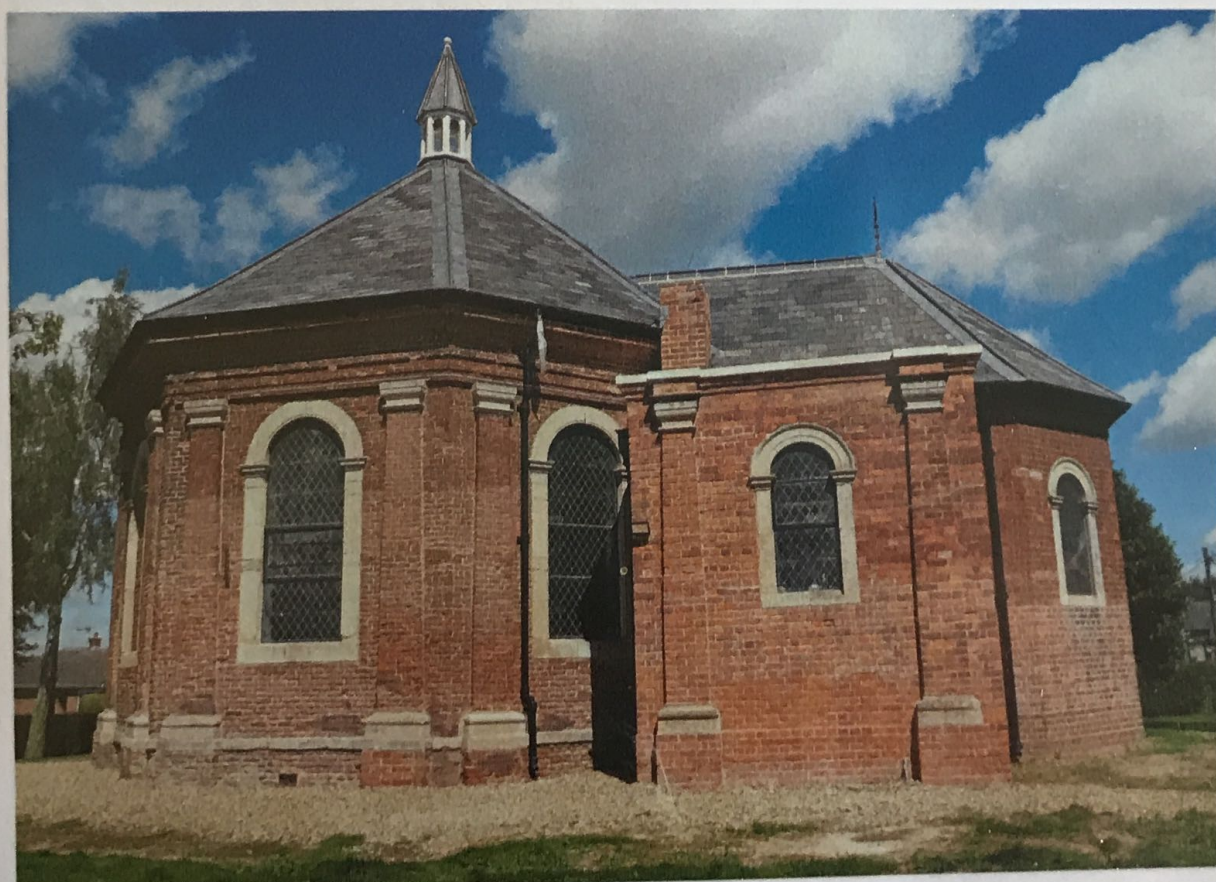
In front of the rood screen, to the left is the marble font with its decorated domed cover, which dates from 1912. To the right, across the aisle, is the statue of Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was the gift of



Stone tablet above west door records Maurice Johnson's gift in the year 1722.

local farmer, Captain A H Clark, to mark the birth of his only daughter, Shirley, in 1936.

The impressive oak rood screen was also the gift of Captain A H Clark, erected in memory of his son, Flying Officer Howard Clark, who was killed in action in 1943. It incorporates, on the left, the arms of



The south aspect: organ chamber dates from 1923.



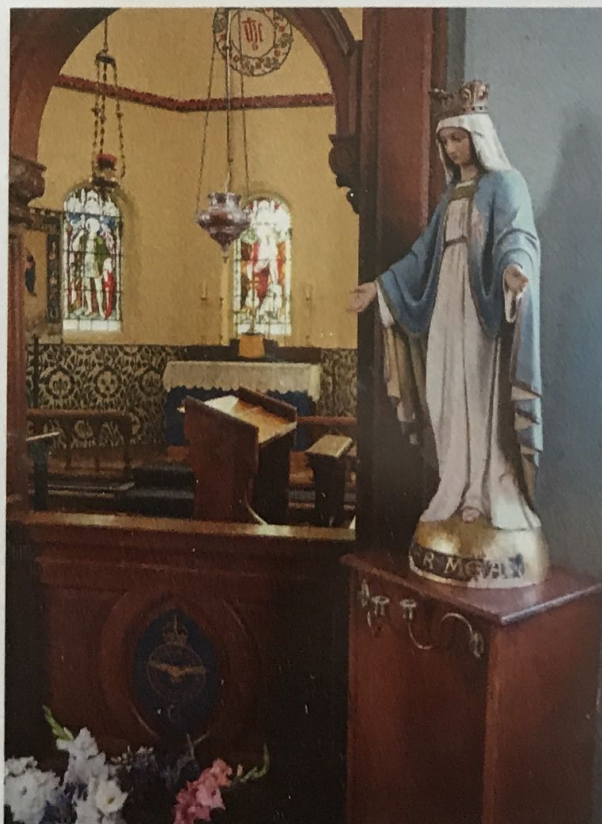
The fine wooden gallery, which can seat 30 people.



Upper gallery affords a fine view on the interior and rood screen.



The marble font with its decorated domed cover.



Statue of Our Lady was gifted to the church in 1936.

Uppingham School, which Howard attended. On the right are the arms of the Royal Air Force.

The chancel, as previously mentioned, was added in 1886, reflecting the nineteenth century influences affecting church design. St James's Church had originally been built and furnished to meet the needs of the time. The reformed church in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries had placed more emphasis on the Word. The focus was on the sermon, so buildings were arranged so that there was a view of the pulpit from most of the pews.

New churches were built with no or minimal chancels because Communion was only celebrated three times a year. The nineteenth century changed all that with the influence of the Oxford Movement, which saw the Eucharist become more central to worship. The emphasis shifted to the



Arms of Uppingham School incorporated into the rood screen (left) and arms of the Royal Air Force (right).

sacrament with the focus on the Communion table, hence the need for the chancel.

St James's Church has two later additions to the chancel: to the left, as you stand facing the altar, is the vestry; to the right is the organ chamber. The organ was purchased in 1909 and was supplied by the Positive Organ Company of London. This firm, established



The east end of the chancel showing the altar table, the 1912 stencilling and the magnificent stained glass windows.



Organ dates from 1909 and was supplied by the Positive Organ Company of London.

in 1888 by Thomas Casson, a banker from Denbigh in Wales, specialised in small organs 'For Country and Mission Churches'.

The Positive Organs pioneered several advanced features, and have been described as small, but effective; cheap, but sturdily built from quality, durable materials. The example in Moulton Chapel, now more than 100 years old, has certainly stood the test of time, although it has been converted from a hand pump to electric.



Detail of the 1912 stencilling with escallops and fleur-de-lis motifs.

The altar table contains a tabernacle, the locked cabinet behind the small curtain, for the reserved sacrament. After celebrating Communion, a portion of the consecrated elements (usually a wafer) could be set aside in the tabernacle to be later administered to housebound worshippers. When the Blessed Sacrament was reserved, the red altar lamp hanging from the chancel ceiling would be lit. The sacrament was reserved here from 1930, suggesting an adherence to High Church tradition.

Note the three gold heraldic escallops on the blue altar table cloth. The escallop, or scallop shell, is the symbol of St James. The three escallops appear to be repeated in the stencilling on the chancel walls.

The decorative stencilling, uncovered and restored during the 2016-17 renovations, was part of the 1912 redecoration designed by Wilfrid Bond. The lower part of the east wall behind the altar is stencilled in peacock blue and white, while the side walls of the chancel are in shades of red. The style of the decoration, including the cornice and the motif above the east end, also uncovered and restored during the renovation, is Arts & Crafts, which would fit in with the designs favoured in 1912.

The three escallops in the stencilling are poorly represented, and another suggestion is that they could be three inverted money bags – the symbol of St Matthew. However, the church has no associations with St Matthew, so the escallops of St James are the most likely depiction.

The other symbol in the stencilling appears to be a stylised fleur-de-lis, which is ancient Trinitarian symbolisation for the Holy Trinity. However, in later times, the fleur-de-lis was also a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary because it resembled both the lily and the iris. The lily symbolised virginity and purity, while the iris was an emblem of Our Lady's Seven Sorrows.

The letters in the wreath motif above the

east end are a Christogram or sacred monogram for Jesus Christ. The three letters, IHC, are an abbreviation of the Greek name for Jesus, and were traditionally used as a religious symbol within the Christian Church.

IHC was one of the most common Christograms, denoting the first three letters of ΙΗΣΟΥΣ, the name for Jesus in Greek capitals. The Greek letter *iota* is represented by I, *eta* by H, and *sigma*, in its lunate form, by C. The H takes the form of an empty cross, symbolising the resurrected Christ.

It is unlikely that there is any particular symbolism to the leaves and flowers encircling the letters. However, the wreath has significant meaning within the Christian Church, also symbolising the unending circle of life. The wreath and palm leaves (if indeed they are palm leaves) also signify victory over death, while poppies symbolise eternal sleep.

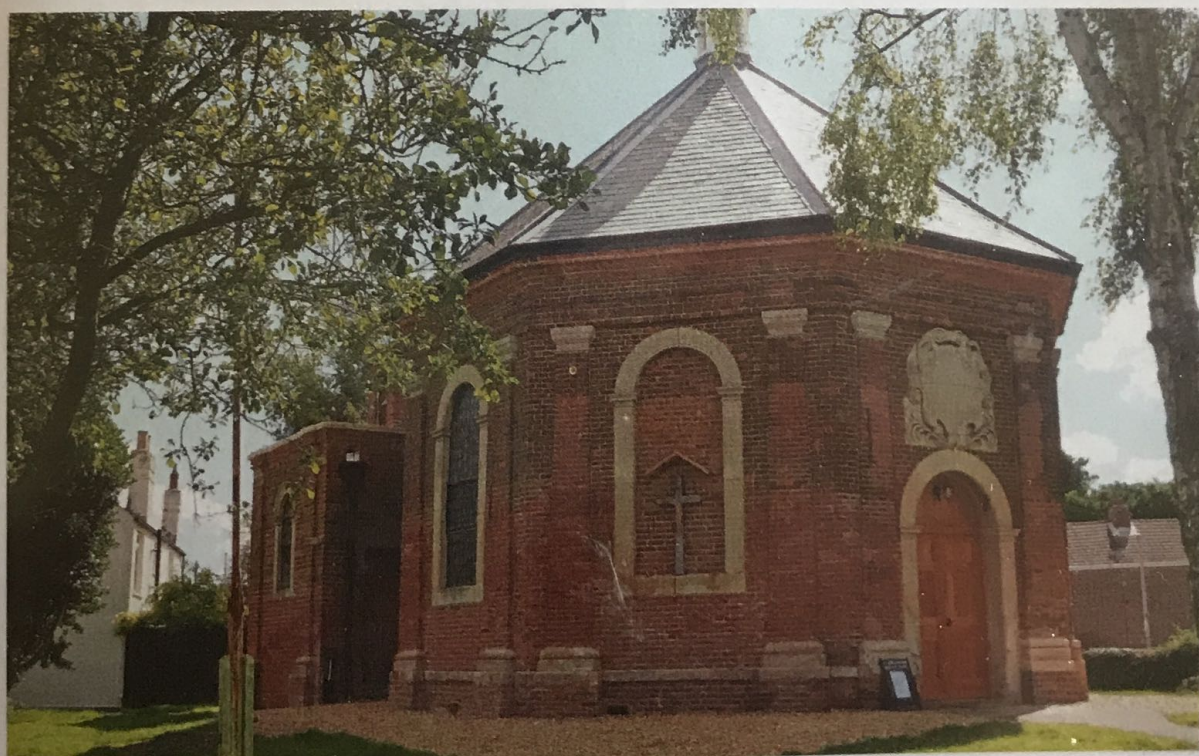
The beautiful stained glass windows in the east end of the church have more obvious significance and were installed after the Great War in memory of parishioners who gave their life during the conflict. The windows form a triptych with the inscription: 'These



Wreath emblem above the east end is a sacred monogram for Jesus Christ.

windows are erected to the glory of God and in memory of the boys of this village who made the Great Sacrifice in the European War 1914-1918'.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to our small but historic church. If you would like to show your appreciation by contributing to its upkeep, there is a wooden donation box attached to the rear pew.





Moulton Chapel is situated on the B1357 road off the A16 roundabout at Cowbit and is 6 miles south-east of Spalding. It is also 4 miles south of Moulton and 7 miles south-west of Holbeach.

£3.00

St James's Church
Roman Road, Moulton Chapel,
Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE12 0XO