

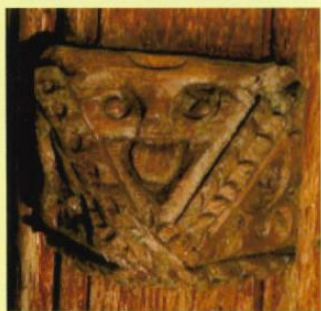
Right:

This shield is all wrong as heraldry, but may have been intended to commemorate people who helped pay for the roof. The bottom half of the shield has the arms of the Vavasour family (which can be seen in several other places in the church, for they were lords of the manor). The top half of the shield may be intended to refer to the Clifford family of Skipton Castle. However, it also includes a half-moon or crescent symbol such as was used as a "rebus" (or pun on his name) by Richard Moone, the prior (head) of Bolton Priory at the time of its dissolution in 1539, and who died in 1541. Part of his contribution to the new roof was no doubt to arrange for carpenters previously employed by the Priory to do the work.



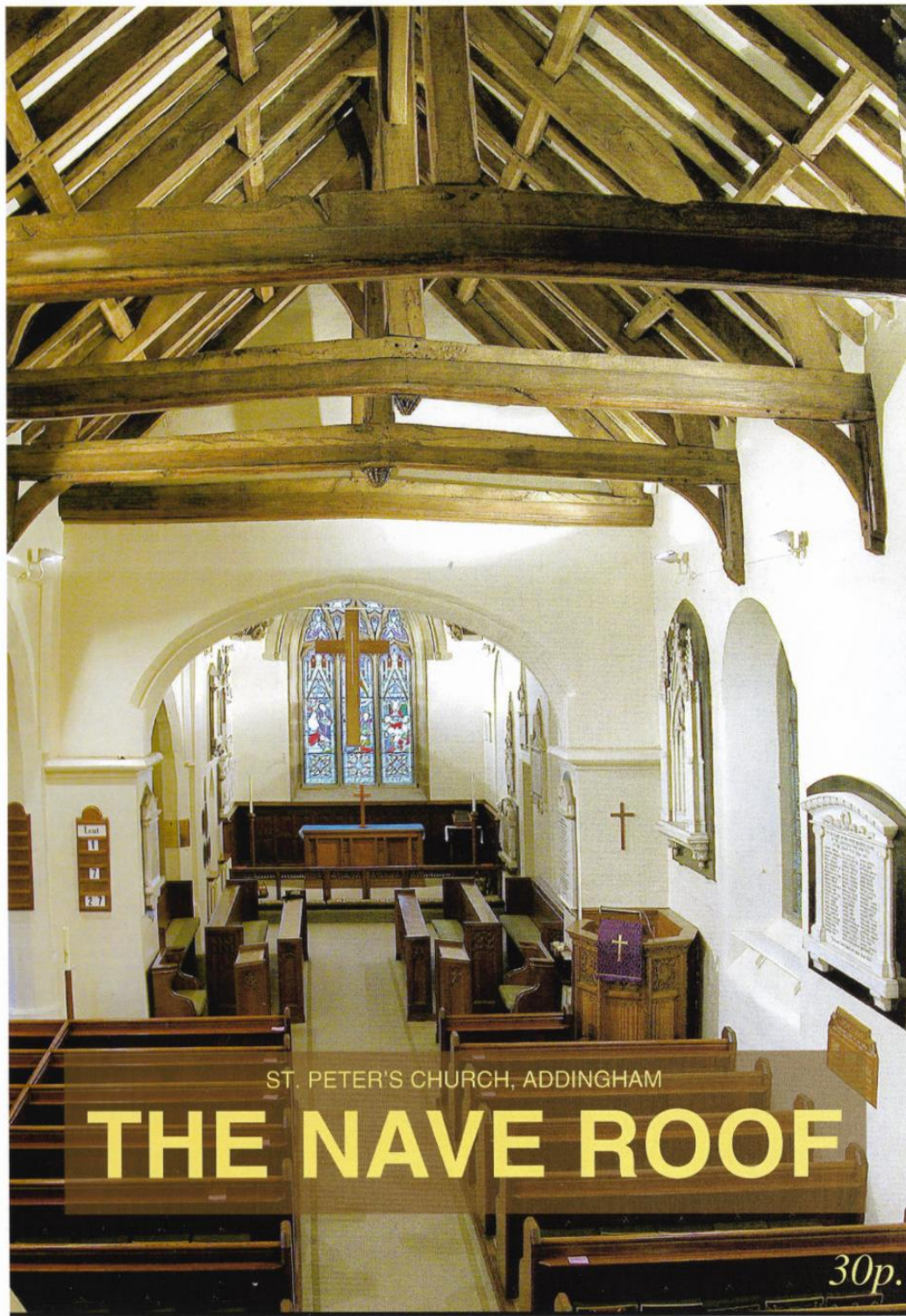
Below:

In the centre of the third tie-beam from the chancel arch is this boss carved with a different face on each of its four sides. One face may be intended as a "green man", and the one shown has his tongue out, like several other cheeky caricatures among the roof timbers.



Alterations

In 1759, joists were fitted to the tie-beams of the roof by the carpenter Thomas England to support a flat plaster ceiling. When the ceiling was removed in 1953, the mortices in which the joists had been fitted were left as gaping holes in the timber. To cover them, thin boards were attached to the sides of the beams. Above the boards seen here, just to the left of centre, are three small crescent-shaped marks. These are Thomas England's way of numbering joist no.3. Many other small alterations and repairs were made to the roof in erecting the ceiling, then when taking it down.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ADDINGHAM

THE NAVE ROOF



History

Some time after 1525, the decision was taken to enlarge the church by building the north aisle (shown here) including the arches that separate the aisle from the nave. The nave was re-roofed at the same time. It seems that the roof timbers came from what is now Bolton Abbey and that the carpenters who made the roof may previously have been employed by what was then Bolton Priory. There is a very similar king-post roof in the Priory's Great Barn (built 1518), and this may have served as a model for the nave roof. The timbers were cut to shape and assembled on the ground. They were then numbered before being taken apart and brought to the site for re-assembly here.

The numbers on the church roof seem to be "written" in the same hand as those in the barn. Each roof-truss is separately numbered with Roman numerals, from 'I' above the chancel arch to 'VI' above the gallery at the back.

Right:

To distinguish timbers on the left-hand side of a roof truss from those on the right, numbers used on the right had an additional tag. Here, the tag on numeral 'I' makes it look like 'Y' (upside-down). This is the only numeral that is easy to see: look up above the pulpit.



Below:

On the roof-truss numbered five, the foot of the principal rafter on the right, below the curve or "knee", is marked with a large 'V' (on its side) which is tagged so that one arm of the 'V' looks like 'Y'. (There are also saw-marks in the picture.) On the tie-beam below is a small 'V' that is not tagged, between two pegs. The pegs secure a tenon from the foot of the principal in a mortice in the tie-beam.



Right:

In the centre of one of the tie-beams is this strange animal. If the carving were complete, the animal's head would occupy the hollow cut in the beam towards top right. The creature may have been intended to represent the serpent in the Garden of Eden, which was often depicted as having a coiled body and a scaly hide.



THE NAVE ROOF

New information. April 2007

Since the colour leaflet on the nave roof was printed, there has been new research on the roof and two paragraphs need to be revised. These are headed "History" (second page) and "Alterations" (back page).

History

Tree-ring dating of roof timbers has confirmed that the north aisle was built in the 1520s or '30s. The range of likely dates within which trees were felled to produce the principal rafters for the aisle roof is 1523 to 1531. The nave roof contains some older timber but was reconstructed at the same time as the aisle was built.

New research on carpenters' assembly marks confirms that the carpenters who made the roof had previously worked on the Great Barn belonging to Bolton Priory, but the tree-ring study has largely disproved the theory that timbers were brought here from Bolton Abbey.

Alterations

New research on carpenters' numbers has shown that before Thomas England installed the plaster ceiling in 1759 there was a wood-panelled ceiling dating from the 1520s. In other words, Thomas England replaced an older ceiling. The crescent-shaped marks, ringed in the photograph, are associated with the earlier ceiling, and are now understood not to be England's work.

The panelled ceiling of the 1520s was painted with red lines along the mouldings of the beams and joists and some blue colouring.