



## About St Peter's

The history of St Peter's church is linked to the adjacent manor. A younger son of the Bakepuiz family, who held the manor until 1381, was rector before 1200. The Blount family, who succeeded to the lordship, added a south aisle in the 14th century and a tower in about 1500.

Evidence of the early building remains – some of the north aisle arches date to around 1160. An inscription records the addition of the south porch in 1594 by Edward Andrewes, during his tenure of the manor. The south aisle, having been demolished during the 16th century, was rebuilt in the Victorian period by William Millican, the Leicester architect responsible for large-scale restoration of the church.

The interior furnishings also date to the 19th century. The panelled choir stalls contain carved reading desks for the clergy, their decoration matching the carving on the oak pulpit. Stained glass survives from the 14th, 15th and 17th centuries. The four bells, inscribed with dates between 1597 and 1714, were re-hung following restoration of the tower in 2006.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 2000.

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We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



### Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

### Help us do more

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## Church of St Peter

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## The historic church of St Peter

### 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 This plain, octagonal **font** probably dates to the 14th century. According to church records, it was slightly recut in 1862.
- 2 The small **organ** by S. Taylor of Leicester dates to around 1890. It has a red curtain around the seat, screening the organist from the congregation.
- 3 The north aisle is a beautiful example of a **Norman arcade**. Although it was remodelled in 1862, it is believed to be close in design to the original. The square-cut, uniformly-fluted capitals terminate in scroll-ends, fanning out from the column. Note the difference in the decoration - there is a chevron motif carved into the western arch but a lozenge design to the eastern side.
- 4 The wall of the 15th-century tower cuts through an arch, now blocked, at the west end of the north aisle. This arch suggests that the Norman church extended further to the west than it does today. It is adorned with a **medieval carved face**, notable for its comically surprised expression.
- 5 **Medieval stained glass** was recovered from the original windows and re-assembled, so disparate sections of glass jostle together in a haphazard fashion. A manticore, a mythical beast, and twin birds can be seen in the vestry and a naked man climbing a ladder in the north aisle was possibly once part of a Doomsday scene.
- 6 This **monument** commemorating Richard Smith (d. 1762) is inscribed with a whimsical doggerel poem paying tribute to his life as rector of St Peter's, a position he held for forty-eight years.
- 7 The boldly-coloured **east window** was installed in the Victorian period. It depicts Christ crucified in its central light, with the dove representing the Holy Spirit descending above his head. The borders contain an attractive alternating blue, red and pink rose design.
- 8 This 14th-century **piscina** with its ogee arch remained untouched by the church's Victorian restorers. A piscina was used by a medieval priest to wash the sacred vessels used to celebrate Mass.

- 9 This impressive **Georgian table-top tomb** with balusters has dominated the churchyard since the 18th century. It is surmounted by a stone urn with a flame. Any inscription regarding Thomas Hotchkin, the sugar plantation owner who died in 1774, has long since worn away.
- 10 Two **medieval stone lions** are placed on either side of the entrance to the church. Now significantly worn, their faces and original features are barely visible, although the basic shape remains.

