

Rewriting History?

The church noticeboard has recently been renovated and is awaiting a signwriter to apply the finishing touches. The date on the noticeboard has read 1245 for years, which was a mistake. Legend has it that the employee who painted it was retiring that day and knocked off at 12.45pm but the intention had been to write 1254, which is when the list of vicars inside the Church starts. It was assumed that therefore, that was when the Church in Welton was founded. It is always a mistake to jump to conclusions too quickly; 1254 was when the Bishop of Lincoln started to keep records of Priests and in fact, the Church was established long before that. (Welton was part of the diocese of Lincoln before the reformation).

So..... the date is changing!

Nobody knows when the first chapel on the site was built, except that there was one there in Anglo-Saxon times. It was originally a chapel of the Church in Daventry. However, on 2nd February 1141, the chapel in Welton became a full Parish Church at the request of the Parishioners and Priest. The charter confirming this still exists in the archives of Christ Church College in Oxford and is printed in the transcription of The Cartulary of Daventry Priory. So in future, we will see 1141 on the noticeboard. The vicar in 1141 was "William the Priest"

In 1141, the Church would have looked very different from today as it has been extended and altered over time. If you pop inside the Church, the oldest things you can see are the font (reputedly Anglo-Saxon) and a candle sconce that looks like a man's head with lion's paws, next to the tower door. The Church is open most days between 9am and 4pm (5pm in Summer). There are historical reflection trail leaflets, prayer cards, newsletters etc. available inside the door which you can help yourself to.

Jackie Hibbert