

Old St Stephen's Church, Fylingdales, North Yorkshire

Old St Stephen's Church, Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, perched on a hill with spectacular views of Robin Hood's Bay, is an enchanting church. Built in 1822 on the site of a previous church which dated back to Norman times, it is well worth a visit. The numbered box pews, three decker pulpit, commandment tables, organ gallery and royal arms of George IV dated 1822 are all untouched by later generations because a new St Stephen's Church was built in the village below. The church is used for occasional worship today but is also under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and a dedicated band of local volunteers.

The original Norman font, a survivor of the 'old' Church, was found buried in a field in 1895 and is now in the 'new' St Stephen's Church. Another stone font, a seventeenth-century survivor of the 'old' Norman church, can be seen in Old St Stephen's today. Its octagonal shape is most unusual, as is the wooden lid surmounted by turned spindles which form a pyramid. The iron handle is also believed to be of seventeenth-century date. Have RFS members seen similar fonts with spindle lids, or turned spindles of a similar design on furniture or fixed woodwork?

Ian Stuart

* Also known as Old St Stephen's, Fylingthorpe



Old St Stephen's, Fylingdales, Yorkshire. The font and cover, set under the west gallery. *Photo Susan Stuart*



Old St Stephen's, Fylingdales, Yorkshire. The unusual font cover made of turned balusters around a central post, with a crude block finial and simple hanging ring. *Photo Linda Hall*