



The church is built from ironstone and limestone. It is Grade II* listed and was remodelled in the 1860s by the renowned Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott. The oldest parts of the present building are the arches under the tower which were built around 1186-1200. Many of the historical features in the church date from the 15th Century, including the inner door of the porch, the door above the pulpit and the wooden pews of the centre aisle. Some of the windows are 14th Century. The church is also noted for its medieval graffiti. It is thought that in Cromwell's day his troops stabled their horses in the church and musket balls used by his troops were found in the roof during the 19th Century restoration!

1 PORCH

A bier was used **to carry the coffin into the church at a funeral.**

The little door is called a 'Humility Door'. **The door was small so people had to bow down** as they entered the church. This was a reminder that humility and reverence are needed by all who enter the house of God.

2 LIST OF RECTORS

Roger is the first priest there is a record of. He was priest between 1110 and 1118 so there has been a priest in Croxton Kerrial for over 900 years!

Dr Samuel Herbert became Rector in 1801. The nineteenth century began on 1st January 1801.

3 FONT

The font cover has **8** sides. It is an octagon. People are baptised with **water** and **the Holy Ghost**. The two animals carved into the font cover are a **bird** and a **lamb**.

A font is a large bowl, usually stone with a lead lining, at which people are baptised with water as a sign that they have become a Christian and a member of the worldwide church. Babies, children and adults can all be baptised.

4 PEWS

The pews are roughly **600 years old**. Some oak boards which make up the back rests have been dated as mid-15th century and the pew ends are probably older still. It is believed they originally came from Croxton Abbey which was taken down in 1541. Some of the pew ends feature symbols of great families who gave money to the abbey, for example the two ladies' faces are thought to be of twin sisters who lived at Waltham and were generous benefactors of the abbey.



The Maltese Cross is a symbol most commonly associated with the Knights of Malta (also known as the Knights Hospitallers), who ruled the Maltese islands between 1530 and 1798. The four arms of the cross stand for the four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude.

5 PULPIT

The pulpit is traditionally used **by the priest to give a sermon or talk.**

The two foods or crops carved on the pulpit are **wheat** and **grapes**. These symbolise the Bread and the Wine used during Holy Communion.

6 TOWER PILLARS

The money was given out on **Christmas Eve.**

There are several ancient charities associated with Croxton Kerrial and some of their traditions continue to this day, including the giving of a Bible to each school leaver and the giving of some money to widows at Christmas.

'EH' scratched the date **1711** onto the pillar. There is a wide range of graffiti to be found on medieval buildings, especially churches.

7 CHANCEL

There are **8** heads on the roof beams.

The heads are called grotesques. A grotesque is a carved figure which can be found almost anywhere inside or outside a church. They often represent mythological creatures or strange beasts but can also depict human figures as in this church. Here we believe they represent local people who gave money to the church. More grotesques can be found in the main part of the church.

8 ALTAR

God gave Moses Ten Commandments or laws. The sixth commandment is **Thou shalt do no murder** (in Roman Numerals the number 6 is written as vi).

The snake is wrapped around **a staff** which is the name for a long stick used as a support when walking. The figure holding the staff is Moses. In the Bible, God turns Moses' staff into a snake and then back to a staff.

The altar is a table, the focal point of a church, where the main Christian act of the Eucharist (Holy Communion or Mass) is performed. It is also called "The Lord's Table", "The Holy Table" or "The Communion Table". In this church we normally use the smaller altar in the middle of the church as it is easier for everyone to see.

9 LADY CHAPEL

This part of the church is called the Lady Chapel **because it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary**, who was popularly addressed as Our Lady. Mary was the mother of Jesus. There is a figure of the Virgin Mary on the windowsill.

A piscina is a basin and a drain going straight into the ground and was used for **'holy washing up'**, to rinse the chalice and other communion vessels after use.

10 WAR MEMORIAL

16 men from Croxton Kerrial died in the First World War and **1** man died in the Second World War. The **Rimmington and Streeton** families each lost 2 sons in WW1 (Joseph William and Thomas Rimmington and James Ratcliffe and Thomas Goodwin Streeton). The man who died in WW2 was **Ronald Arthur Winn**.

11 ORGAN

There are **23** blue pipes and **23** gold pipes. "I can see all of the organ pipes" is **FALSE**. The pipes which you can see are never all the pipes of the organ – there will always be 100s more hidden from view.

The **longest pipes make the lowest sounds**.



The organ is played from a console which has keys for the hands and stop knobs which control rows of pipes to make the sound higher or lower, louder or softer. Each row of pipes (called stops as well) has at least one pipe for every note. Below the keys you can see a wooden pedal board which is played by the feet and controls deeper sounds. The blue pipes are actually from an old organ which was located in the Lady Chapel. This organ was built in 1849 by John Nicholson and has a G compass which is quite rare. It was initially installed in Salem Baptist Church in Cheltenham, then moved to Barton Street Methodist Church in Gloucester before being brought to this church in 1987.

12 WHERE IS THIS DOOR?

The door in the photo **is high up, above the pulpit**.

In recent centuries, **the door led onto a MUSICIANS' GALLERY**.

The door dates from the 15th century and originally must have led to a rood loft which was a gallery on top of the rood screen. The rood screen was an ornate partition between the chancel and the nave. The gallery was taken down when the first organ was installed in 1868. If you look up even higher, there is a carved cherub under which is a wooden trefoil. This marks the bottom of the bell tower and the congregation can be spied on from up there!

END OF VISIT

