

# **ST MARY'S CHURCH, SAND HUTTON**



## **HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**

## SAND HUTTON PARISH

### History

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Hottune* in the *Bulford hundred*. Before the Norman invasion the manor (an estate in land) was shared between *Sprot* and *Gospatric, son of Arnketil*. Afterwards it was split between the Crown and *Hugh, son Baldric* who installed *Wulfbert of Hutton* as lord of the manor. The latter part of the manor passed eventually to the Mowbray family until 1604 when the title became unused. The other part of the manor was in the possession of the Percy family of Kildale in the early 13th century. Other families that had possession included the Grays of York and the Thwaite family.

Sand Hutton is derived from the Old English words *hoh* and *-tun* meaning a hill or spur of projecting land and settlement. The prefix *Sand* was added later to denote the type of soil in the area and distinguish it from other Huttons in the area.

Sand Hutton was part of the parish of Bossall until 1861 and is situated in the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire. Sand Hutton Parish was constituted on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1861, consisting of the villages of Sand Hutton and Claxton, some eight miles east of York, totalling an area of 3081 acres with a population of 455. Sand Hutton Estate was the seat and property of William Read Esq in 1776 (twice Lord Mayor of York). In about 1800 it subsequently descended to the Rev T.C. Rudston of Hayton who, in compliance with the will of his relative, assumed the additional surname of Read. It was acquired by James Walker in 1838 who was created a baronet in 1868 and whose estates extended to 7000 acres in four counties. Sand Hutton Hall was originally built in 1786, remodelled and extended in 1885 and demolished in 1971.

The advowson (the right to recommend a member of the Anglican clergy for a vacant benefice) was held by the Dean and Chapter of Durham until the late nineteenth century, when an Order in Council transferred patronage from them to Sir James Walker on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1891. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 1937 Sir James Walker transferred advowson to the Archbishop of York. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1939 an Order in Council united the benefice to the parishes of Gate Helmsley and Upper Helmsley.

The Rector of a large parish would have a ‘tithe barn’ from which he would get the financial ‘benefit’ – hence the word ‘benefice’ – from which he could employ Priests to act in a vicarious manner (Vicars) and be a ‘person’ (Parson) of the parish.

Today the parish, which still includes Claxton, is part of the Benefice of Harton, which also includes Bossall, Buttercrambe, Crambe, Flaxton, Foston, Gate Helmsley, Howsham, Upper Helmsley and Whitwell on the Hill.

The present day communities of Sand Hutton and Claxton are served by St Mary’s Church, Sand Hutton School and Sand Hutton Village Hall.



## ST MARY'S CHURCH

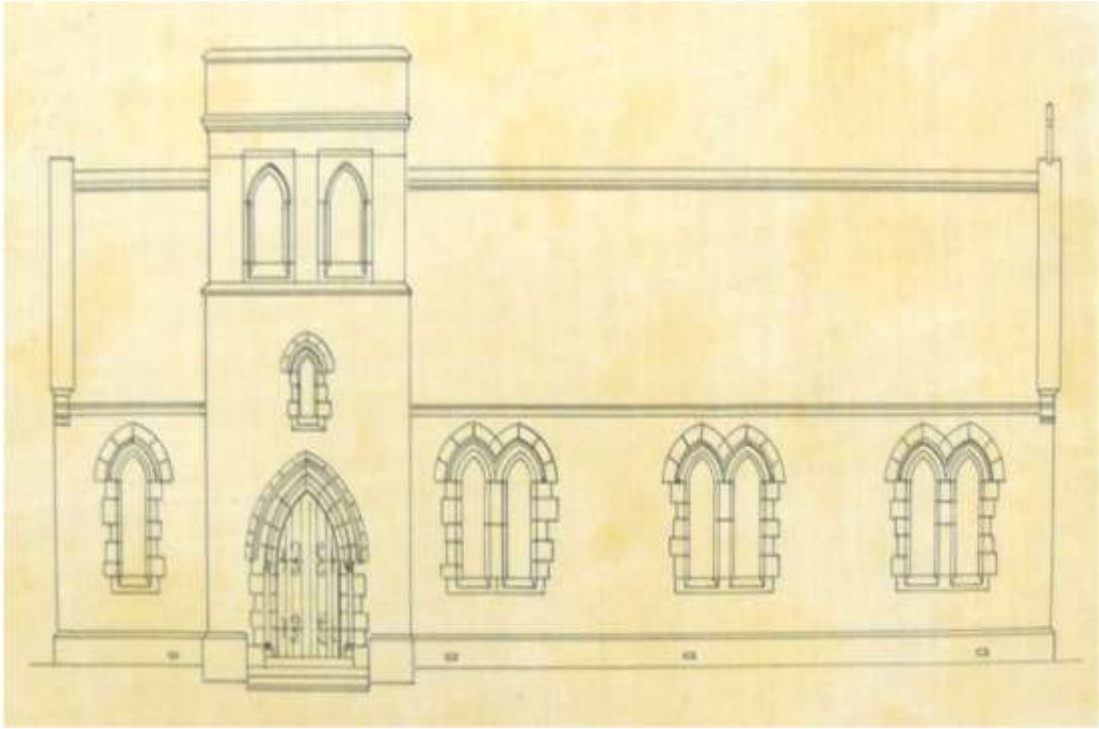
St Mary's is situated at the west end of Sand Hutton village, set back from the main street, accessed through wrought iron gates and along a chestnut tree lined avenue. It is a Grade II listed building built in 1840 by Salvin at the sole expense of James Walker. The church was consecrated on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1847 as the Chapel-of-Ease of Sand Hutton, replacing the earlier 12<sup>th</sup> century St Leonard's Church, the ruins of which remain behind the church.

St Mary's is in Gothic style of sandstone construction with a roof of Westmoreland slate. The porch, at the south west corner of the nave, forms the base of a tower with a broach spire in the early English style. The tower contains three bells, 2 tenor and 1 treble, cast by Thos. Mears of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London. The church was remodelled by Hodgson Fowler in 1885, the chancel and organ being added and the nave reseated. In 1890 the insurance premium was £3:8s:0d to cover the church for £3000.

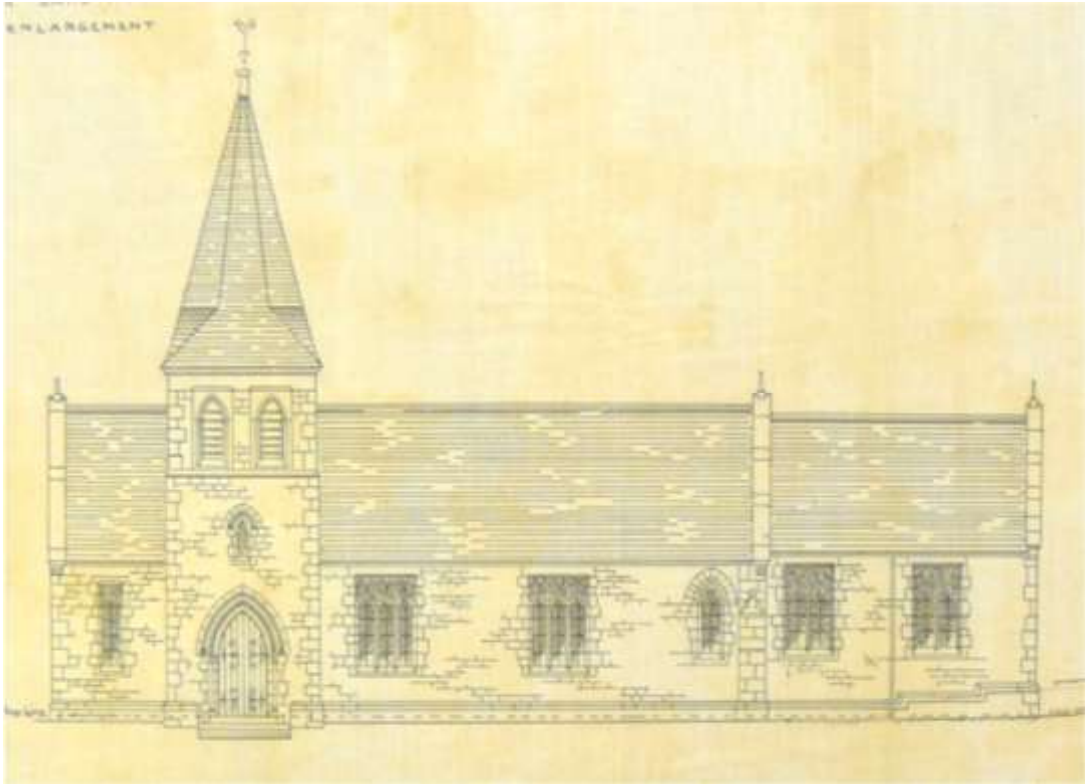
In 1932 electric light was installed and in 1933 a new boiler at a cost of £20 8s 3d. In 1937 Stanley Ashton was voted in as Organ Blower and in 1939 John Allen became Organ Blower with an annual salary of £2:12:0. In 1948 an electric blower was installed.

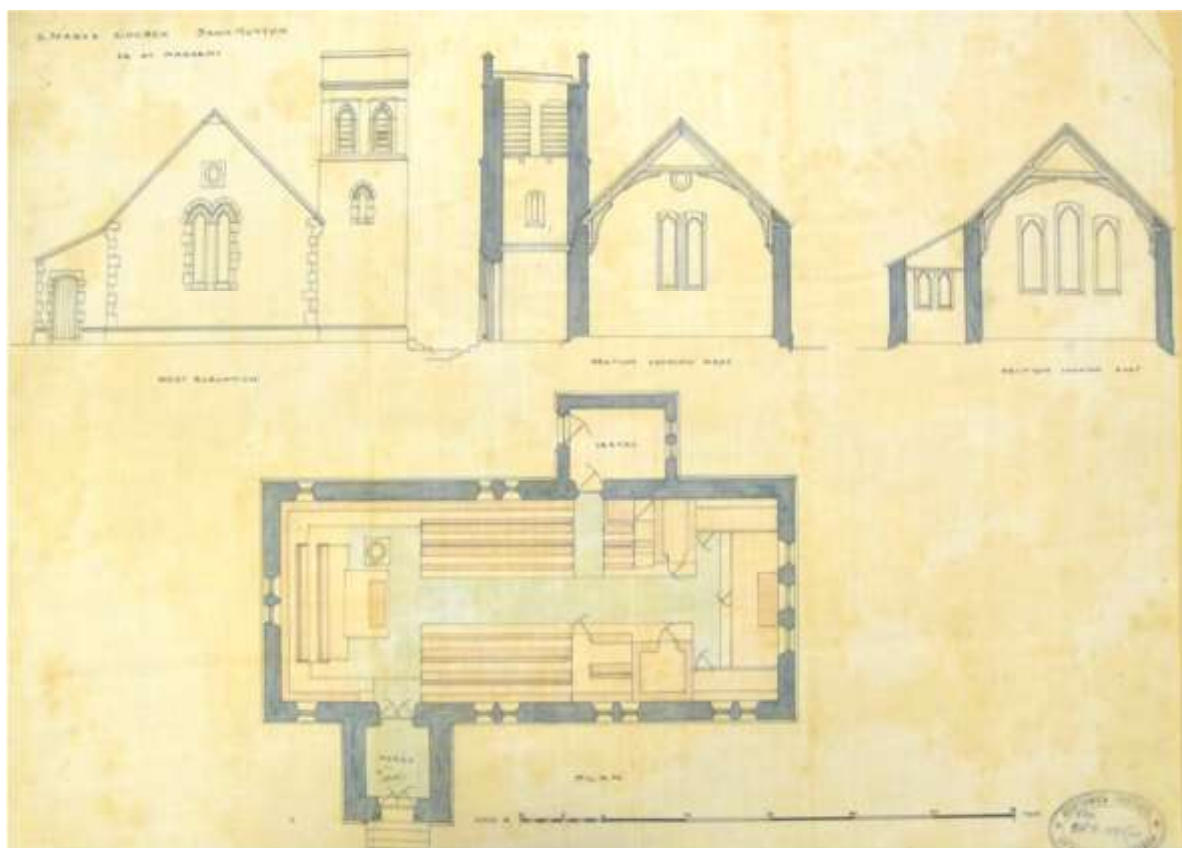
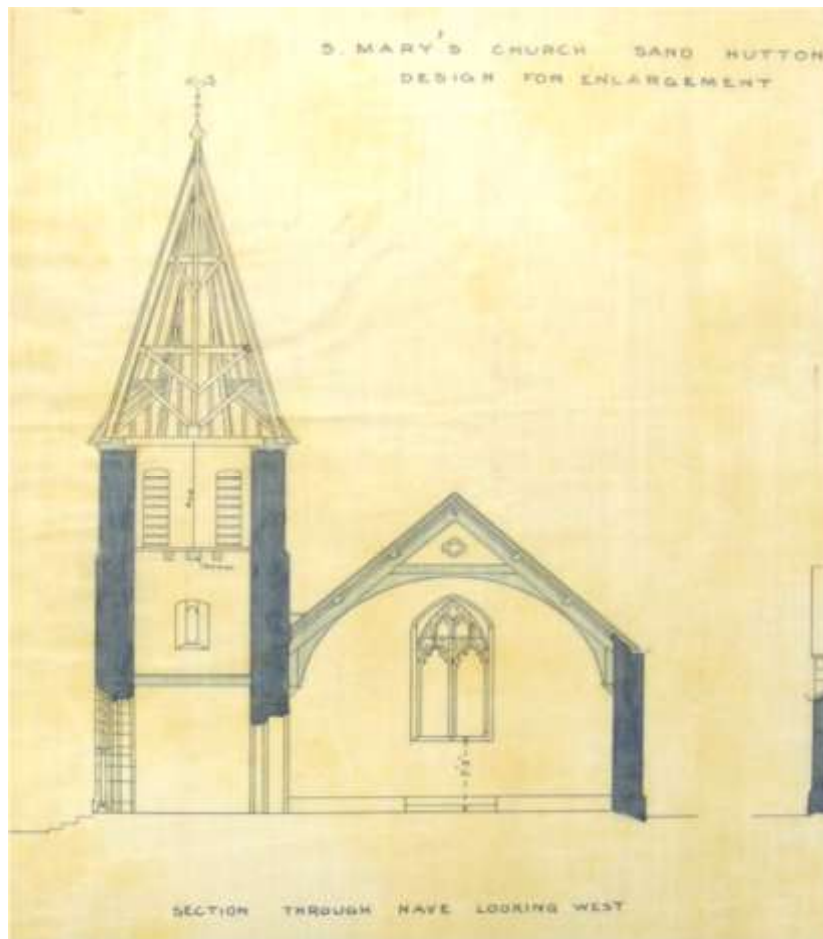
The altar reredos is gilded oak and the chancel floor is laid with encaustic tiles. Altar frontals of fine Spanish needlework include one in memory of John Hope Foster (RAF) killed on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1941. The oak screen was given in 1900 in memory of James Robert Walker (2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet) by his five sons. The plate, given in 1841, consists of a cup of 1665 (London), a paten of 1718 (London) and a flagon of 1758 (London); there is also a pewter paten.

# Original church



# Hodgson Fowler Alterations 1885





## Post 1885



## Stained Glass Windows

St Mary's has beautiful stained glass windows by Kempe. The east window, showing a representation of the Virgin Mary with St Leonard on one side and St Paulinus on the other, was given by the nine children of Sir James and Lady Walker to commemorate the silver wedding of their parents on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1888 (see below). Another window representing St John the Baptist was put in the north wall of the chancel on the same occasion by tenants on the estate. In the south wall of the nave is a window dated 1892 in memory of Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, who was a frequent visitor to Sand Hutton Hall. This window is similar to one at Buckingham Palace. Other windows dating from 1888 are in the north chancel and south chancel featuring Stephen and James and Peter and Paul respectively. The west window showing the Annunciation dates from 1899.







## The Churchyard and St Leonard's Church

In a vault in the churchyard is buried Col. Michael Childers, 11<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, who died at Sand Hutton in 1854. He fought in the Peninsular War and in the Battle of Waterloo. Close by this vault is the grave of John Acomb who died in 1849, a corporal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Guards and who also fought at Waterloo. The "Waterloo Medal" he received can be seen in the Regimental Museum of the Household Cavalry at Windsor.

To the north east of the present Church of St. Mary's, stand the ruins of St Leonard's which is a grade II listed building and scheduled monument grade II ruin. The Norman doorway of the ruin has been dated by experts as circa 1150-60 with mass dials cut into the stonework. One jamb of the east window remains and, in the south wall a square headed traceried two light perpendicular window and an aumbry. The old font – a circular bowl, a built-up stem and a square base stands in its original place. Outside to the south is the base of a medieval cross. A major project, supported by English Heritage, Ryedale District Council and the local community was undertaken between 2008-2013 to stabilise and restore the standing remains and crypt access. A separate booklet is available.



## INCUMBENTS OF ST MARY'S

Samuel Gamlen	1836 – 1850
David Akenhead	1861 – 1888
Ernest Chater Shepherd	1889
C. Hutton Crates	1891 – 1898
Thomas Read Davies	1898 – 1900
Edwin Storrs Fox	1900 – 1903
Lucian Granville Hewett	1904 – 1907
Francis Arthur Binch	1908 – 1921
Clement Eustace Macro Wilson	1921 – 1925
Charles Hall	1925 – 1930
Robert James Hewitt	1930 – 1938
Reginald Trevor Hughes	1939 – 1950
Richard Rae Beckitt	1950 – 1959
William Ronald George	1960 – 1974
David Baker	1975 – 1979
Bernard Brownbridge	1980 – 1986
Jeremy Wilfred Valentine	1987 – 2007
Ivan Richard Howitt	2009 – 2012
Chris Wingfield	2014 –