

HISTORY OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH. KIRK LANGLEY

St Michael's church, Kirk Langley dates mostly from about the year 1320, and is in the Decorated style: but some rough walling at the West end of the north aisle is of earlier date, perhaps Saxon, (this is best observed from outside the Church). There was certainly a Church in Langley by 1218 because the name Kirk Langley existed by then. In the fifteenth century the walls of the nave and side aisles were raised and the roofs flattened, as was the practice at that time St Michael's church, Kirk Langley dates mostly from about the year 1320, and is in the Decorated style: but some rough walling at the West end of the north aisle is of earlier date, perhaps Saxon, (this is best observed from outside the Church). There was certainly a Church in Langley by 1218 because the name Kirk Langley existed by then. In the fifteenth century the walls of the nave and side aisles were raised and the roofs flattened, as was the practice at that time. The Church was considerably restored and a number of alterations made in both 1839 and 1885. Traces of a much older building than the present one were found during the 1839 restoration.

In the North aisle the Font which after 1839 stood for many years unused in a farmyard, and was later used as an alms box, stands on eight marble pillars, and has some interesting lead-work round the octagonal bowl. Its conical wooden cover, of considerable age, was recovered from the tithe-barn, now demolished, in 1885.

The windows by the font contain some fragments of 17th century Flemish glass.

The roof is supported on corbels which bear wooden shields with the instruments of the Passion. The war memorial window depicts the church's patron saint, St. Michael, and the soldier-saint, St. George. In the chancel the Reredos is in alabaster, depicting the patron saint, St. Michael in the centre, and on one side the archangel St. Gabriel (with lily), and on the other the angel St. Raphael (with staff, only mentioned in the Book of Tobit in the Apocrypha). The Communion Rails with their unusual double spiral balusters date from the late 17th century. There is also some good modern carving, especially the panelling, screen, and choir stalls.

Interior of Kirk Langley, St Michael

Image credit: <http://derbyshirechurches.org/church/kirk-langley-st-michael>