

St. Nicholas

Norton Canon

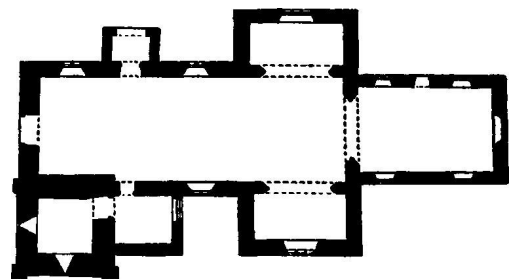
Norton Canon,
Hereford HR4
7BQ

The Parish Church of St Nicholas Norton Canon is a Grade II listed building, considered to be of major historical and ecclesiastical interest.

The village of Norton Canon derives its name from the manor of Norton, which together with the manors of Hope, Preston and Pyon, were granted the canons of Hereford Cathedral by Wulviva and her more famous sister Godiva, wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia in 1086.

Norton Canon is noted in the Domesday Books as belonging to the canons of Hereford Cathedral, and has belonged to that body without interruption until the present day.

Very little remains of the old church, except the 13th century tower which had 5 bells, but following refurbishment and repair, it now boasts a peal of 6 bells. It is widely accepted that the church was built during the 13th Century, although a stone piscina kept in the vestry indicates a 12th Century church.



The church stands alongside a Roman road between Sarnesfield, Eccles Green (Eccles possibly from the Welsh eglwys, meaning church) and Portway. The discovery of a Roman incised stone in the foundations of the church may indicate an even earlier religious site. It is possible that Christians have walked the paths to this church for 900 years, enjoying the same panoramic views we still enjoy today.

The Nave, Chancel and porch were re-built in 1706. Further restoration took place in 1868 – 1869 when Charles John Robinson M.A. author of the “The Manors and Mansions of Herefordshire” was appointed vicar. He was responsible for altering the church and for building the building that is now “The Old Vicarage” which stands next to the church. Further restoration was carried out in 2012 which included repairs to the tower and the addition of the 6th bell.

Pevsner writes “of the other 18th century churches in Herefordshire only one can be compared to Shobdon in interest: Norton Canon of 1716 (Rebuilt) is of brick, but the windows of stone are those of the old church C.13 reused with great care and conscientiousness..... of the three pre-restoration patens in the country, one is at Norton Canon.....silver gilt C.1480 with the face of Christ in a sunk medallion.” This paten is now kept in Hereford Cathedral. The chalice is Elizabethan C.1570 and is used during the Eucharist today.

This is undoubtedly a church worth caring for and preserving for future generations.