

HULL'S TRINITY SQUARE

Trinity Square used to be called Market Square. Why? Because an open market was held here three times a week, and had been since medieval times. But modern shopping in supermarkets put an end to a centuries old tradition.

Facing you is Holy Trinity Church – large and imposing – a magnificent building which I will describe in more detail first. From this building first the name Trinity House was founded and then Trinity Square.



The Church is generally open via the large door in the centre of the West wall (until 3 in the afternoon) and it really is a “must see visit”.

When I say large it is the largest Parish Church in England by area and is the Civic Church for Hull in that most of the City’s Ceremonial Services (such as the legal service, fishermen and Seamen’s Memorials etc) are held here. Plans are afoot to make this a “Minster” Church.

It is made of brick and stone but not brick as you might know it – these are mediaeval handmade bricks from 1320, some of the oldest in the Country, and the bricks were made locally in brickyards to the North of the City.

The building was started in 1320 and it took 200 years to build – presumably there were no clauses in the contract about completion!

There are fine views of this huge building that you may see later on in the tour, particularly as you leave the pier area and walk back towards the old town along a road called Queen Street which runs from the pier back to the A 63 main road.

An unusual aspect is that the tower sits more or less centrally along the building, the length to the West door being about the same as the length to the East wall.

Of course you must go into this building and you will first see the vast nave, the blue painted and carved roof and the fine carved Victorian pews. Look at the strange figure heads carved into the pew ends – they are unique to this church.

Go right half way down the church and continue to the end, which is the East wall. On the chancel side of the wall you will find a wooden plaque containing the names of all the vicars- the first recorded vicar was Robert de Marton in 1326 and there is a list of vicars from then to date

Further round and walking back towards the exit door you will see the remnants of regimental flags, some from regiments long extinct. Also in this area are with tributes to Hulls Maritime and Fishing past.

The Church also contains a very fine 3 manual organ completed in 1622.

The Church was originally built on an oak “raft” but has some substantial foundations, for example under the tower. If you find yourself outside the building listen out on the hour for a computerised clarion of bells playing many a fine tune – in addition of course to traditional bells.

Major works are underway to remove the wall, bringing the Church more into the community and other improvements are being made to the café and toilets.

Out of the Church via the West door and you are back into Trinity Square. To your right across the Square you will see Trinity House.



The site of this building had been occupied by Whitefriar Monks (Carmelites) until the disillusion of the Monasteries by Henry 8th. Henry 8th granted a charter to Hulls Guild of Holy Trinity in 1541 and Trinity House was constructed for a local worthy Thomas Ferries and in 1621 was bequeathed on his death to the Trinity Brethren, who controlled navigation and also owned lands and farms in the local area. The building was re-built in 1758 and the fine frontage added in 1758 to a design of one Jeremiah Hargrave. Trinity House derived its name of course from Holy Trinity Church and was established as a Guild “so that they might regulate the pilotage of ships in the Kings Streams” – a grant from Henry the Eighth in 1541. These duties were continued until the Pilotage Act 1987 which replaced these duties with self-employed estuary and river pilots.

Opposite this house is a fine Victorian Pub, the Kingston, mentioned in the pub guide. If you don't go in at least look to the fine behind bar frieze and unit.



On the North Side you will have passed the St Pauls Boxing Club, former home to Luke Campbell, Hulls Olympic Gold Medal Boxing Champion, now a professional boxer. The club is next to the spectacular Bell Tower of the indoor market.



On the South side of the Church is a printers which used to be a Woollen Warehouse and next to that the Old Grammar School built in 1583 originally as the Hull Merchant Adventurers Hall and later converted into a school and in 1987 as a Museum called Hands on History. It is now, appropriately, an Education Centre and it was the place that William Wilberforce, MP and Slavery Abolitionist spent part of his educative years and also a revolutionary poet called Andrew Marvel, whose statue can be found opposite the building but in the square. Andrew Marvel was born in 1621 and was a remarkable man, a poet, a metaphysical scientist and MP for Hull where he was born. He was a friend and colleague of John Milton, a rather better known fellow poet. Andrew Marvel died in 1678.



On the corner of the Grammar School is the London and Manchester warehouse, formerly used for just that, a warehouse, but now flats.

Just beyond this is the archway leading to Prince Street, which you will go down on the guided walk. It is here they you will leave the Square

