

**Ancient and Modern Churches and Chapels Around Market
Harborough:
By G. K. Brandwood**

**Leicestershire Museums Art Galleries and Records Service:
1987.**

**Horninghold St Peter A4
Ch.Nv.Na.Sa.NP.T/Sp.**

The paradox is that this church remains un-restored yet the village was prettified enormously and its buildings remodelled by the lords of the manor, the Hardcastles, from the 1880s.

The aisles are from the 13th Century, the South one earlier than the North and still has rounded arches. In its South wall was reset the Norman doorway one of the best in the area, with three tiers of star ornament round the head and under a hood with billet ornament. On the impostes are the figures of three animals, including the Agnus Dei. The North aisle followed, but in two phases. Note the straight joint at the chancel / aisle angle showing the addition of an aisleless nave. The East bay was built as a transept and the two West bays followed [hence the short stretch of wall in the arcade indicating the two campaigns]. The tower and broach spire are also of the 13th Century – Y-tracery belfry windows and a triple-chamfered arch to the nave [it has no capitals]. Then comes the Prep clerestory [main roof timbers original] and work of the 16th Century [mullioned windows in the South aisle [SE] and chancel East / South]. Perhaps at this time the chancel was heightened – see changes in masonry. The pre-clerestory roof-line is visible on the East face of the tower. The porch was partly rebuilt in 1905.

The interior is untroubled by Victorian influence. 18th Century alter rails. Bricked up tower arch. Ceiling in the chancel. Rough surfaces to the walls, and the curiously naïve furnishings put in, apparently in 1844. Some medieval bench ends survive. Basic, octagonal font [?13th Century] on a drum, four legs and original step. Piscina and aumbry in the South aisle. Image-bracket in the North aisle. Good 13th Century grave slab [West end]. Slight traces of medieval painting on the tower arch. Dial beside the South doorway outside [east side].