

has at last got to bed, that it has
been found necessary to put a
new one on. Also to have up the
walls. And we have determined
at the request of many Architects
to clear out the interior of the Church
which for the last 300 years has been
filled in with rubbish to the depth
of our left and to open out
the magnificent bases of the pillars
that for so many years have been
concealed. To do this work
a sum of £3400 is required of
which I have collected £1800. Each
of the Duke of Devonshire & the Marquess
of Salisbury again gives £750 &

The Vicarage
St. Martin
July 27th 1887

L340
Dear General
I see that you deliver your
address to the Royal Archaeological
Institute on August 2nd. And I am
writing to ask if you could kindly
bring before the meeting a book of
the greatest interest to all Architects
& Ecclesiologists - I mean the
preservation of the only Selborne
Priory left in the County. Refer
to the beautiful Priory of St
Martin. As you will see from
an exact I enclose from the

Yorkshire Port the late Sir Gilbert
Scott said "it is a most valuable
National Monument the loss of
which would be irreparable, but
besides its architectural beauty
it has claims on all Englishmen,
as being the only Church left of the
only Monastic order ever founded
in England.

As you are probably aware of all
the Monastic orders located in
England, the Gilbertine was the
only one of English origin being founded
in 1163 by Gilbert and English Priest
of Sempringham in Lincolnshire.
At one time there were 26 Gilbertine

Houses in England but all have
disappeared except this one &
St Mary which was founded in
1150 by Eustace Fitz-John for the
Gilbertine Canons. It is a strange
fact that St. Gilbert died not long
before the order was founded & then received the
Habit from Roger Prior of Malton
& when St. Gilbert died he bequeathed
the care of all the Gilbertine Houses
to the Prior of Malton -
The Prior has been for years in
a most ruinous state, and in
1877 I persuaded Earl Fitzwilliam
to preserve the only one remaining
of the two Western Successors at a
cost of £ 3,000 to him self. The Rev.

of the Royal Archeological
Institute & could you ask for
their help -

I trust you will give me the use
of your name as President
& if possible also a subscription.
I know how heavy are the claims
as you are in their own relief but
but I think this is a charitable question.
Apologizing for the length of this letter

I am
Yours very truly
Edward A. B. Peckham

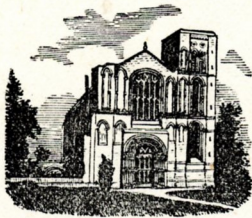
I may say no conjectural restoration
is contemplated & the plans have
met with the full approval of the Society
for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.
Please excuse this letter as I am writing
in a hurry met with an accident.

of Devon have handsomely subscribed
though they have nothing to do with
this part of the County. The Deans
of Canterbury York Lincoln
Lichfield Rochest Norwich
Durham & Bangor have also
sent contributions & have expressed
them selves most strongly in favour
of the Preservation. The members
of the Yorkshire Archeological
Association who last year visited
the Priory & before whom I read
a Paper on the Priory & the Abbots
Hall (which is being printed) have
all handsomely come forward.
I could not however in London an
april call on a district as this
hope to raise the remaining

£1400 required to complete the
work - but I feel that this Old
Priory has a peculiar claim
on all Englishmen and especially
Archaeologists. The fact that it is
the only Church of the only English
Order ever founded, should appeal
most deeply to the sentiments of all
Ecclesiologists - Besides the
curious textures of that most
remarkable Order the Ropes & Stones
are so peculiar, & the arrange-
ment of their Churches, as it
was a mixed Order, so
extraordinary, that it is a matter

of the utmost importance that
the only Church of the Order should
be preserved - As it was absolutely
imprescriptible I commenced the work
of preservation on June 27th & have
already made some valuable
discoveries particularly in the bases
of the Pillars. A good deal of the
Old Building has been found &
some little glass. I this morning
received a letter from Mr. John
Hope asking me the same & to
be very careful & see if I could find
any traces of Pevens -

May I ask therefore for your
essential support in the work
which is going on. Could you
read my letter to the Members



THE PRIORY CHURCH AT OLD MALTON.

PROPOSED RESTORATION.

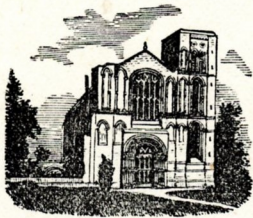
Yorkshire is unusually rich in the remains of conventual buildings, and Fountains, Rievaulx, Jorevaux, Kirkstall, Bolton, Byland, Whitby, and St. Mary's, York, are amongst the most conspicuous. At Selby, Bolton, Howden, and Old Malton the churches are still used; but the Priory Church at Old Malton has associations which are quite unique, for so far as we are aware, it is the only church of a purely English Order in which public worship is still offered. It is but a mutilated fragment, but the remains of the nave are full of beauty and character. The Priory Church of Our Lady of Malton was founded in 1150 by Eustace FitzJohn for Gilbertine canons only two years after the establishment of the order by a Lincolnshire priest, Gilbert of Sempringham. His rule provided for the erection of convents both for men and women, though of course, with separate apartments for each, and it seems probable that there were no nuns at Malton.

We have said enough to show that the building is historically interesting, but its architectural value is almost as great. The late Sir Gilbert Scott said:—'Should anything happen to the church it would be a calamity, as the loss of a magnificent remain of one of the noblest periods of mediæval art. No period is, in my opinion, so replete with beauty and vigour and original art, and few examples of this are finer than the work at Old Malton, which I presume dates about 1190, or in the later years of the great transition from Romanesque to Pointed Architecture, and is a most valuable national monument, the loss of which would be irreparable.'

This high authority could hardly have spoken more strongly. At the present time the nave of the church is meanly fitted, wretchedly roofed, and altogether in a shabby and disgraceful state. The Rev. E. A. B. Pitman is doing his best to remove the reproach. Lord Fitzwilliam has already spent £3,000 on the tower, and has given a further sum of £750 toward the repair of the nave.

The Marquess of Ripon and the Duke of Devonshire have subscribed handsomely, and the parishioners are doing all in their power to give proof of their regard for the treasure in their keeping. If for no other reason, the fact that the foundation is English should make Yorkshiremen ready to secure the building from further harm, and to furnish it with due regard to the dignity of its proportions. No conjectural restoration is contemplated, and the work is in trustworthy hands.

—*Yorkshire Post*, January 11th.



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