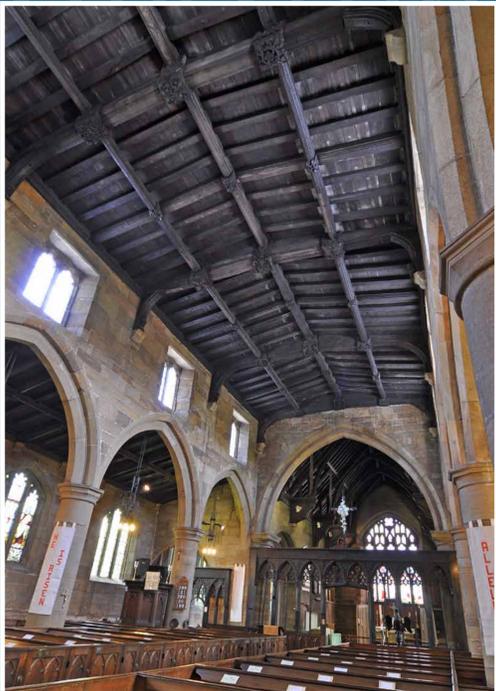


# THE ROOF BOSSSES

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH SILKSTONE

Roof bosses are the carved blocks of wood fitted over the joints between roof timbers. They are often intricately carved with foliage, heraldic devices or other decorations.



In Silkstone church the craftsmen of long ago lovingly carved blocks of wood to create the bosses high above your head.

They are sometimes difficult to see and easily overlooked, but thanks to modern photography we can give them the attention they deserve.



This letter M, with concealed A and R stands for 'Ave Maria Regina'.

It is clearly a pre-reformation message and must date this, and others similar to it, to pre 1536.



There are many bosses with carved foliage and flowers.

Without coloured paint we cannot be sure whether this is the white Rose of York or the red Tudor Rose.



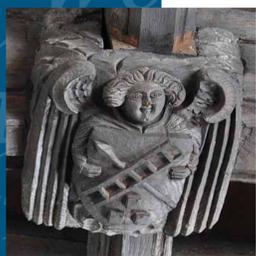
The Green Man is found in many cultures around the world. It is a face surrounded by or made from leaves, sometimes with vines sprouting from the nose or mouth.

The Green Man is often found in churches, but is older than Christianity. It is usually linked with harvest time and fertility. In Silkstone there are five Green Men, four bosses and a stone figure on a pillar.



Some carvings have particular symbolic meaning, others are simply decoration.

It is doubtful that any of the carved faces represent real people.



The letters 'ihc' represent the first three letters of 'Jesus' in Greek: iota, eta, sigma.

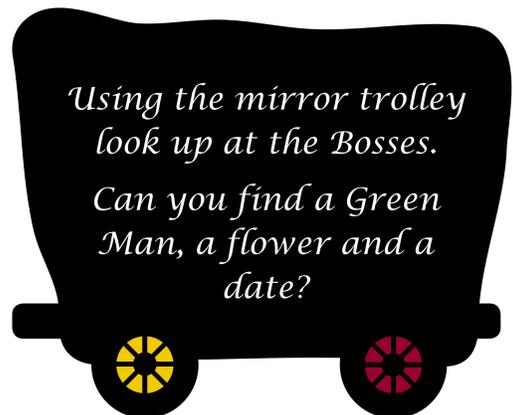


The angels hold shields, bearing symbols of the passion; objects associated with Christ's crucifixion.

They include a ladder, spear and the dice used by the Roman soldiers; cross, crown of thorns, nails, pillar, hammer, whips, pincers and others.

Sometimes a boss has different images on each side, and the bottom. They can come together to tell a story, or have separate meanings.

*A leaflet with details of the bosses, and showing their positions is available at the reception desk.*



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