

## What is the history of the KPC Building?

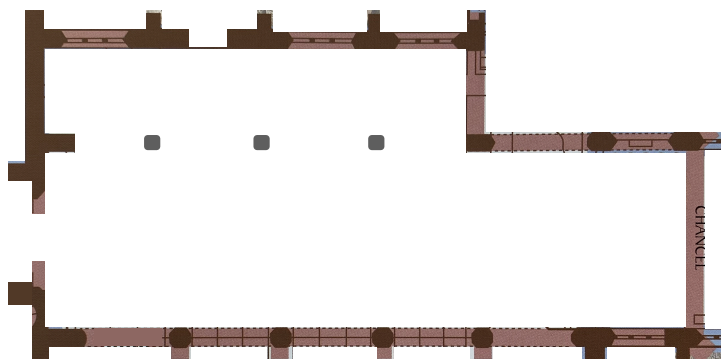
The Rev Anthony Upton wrote an extremely thorough and well researched book about the church in the mid-60s and a lot of the following is based upon his research, supplemented by more recent findings from various members of the congregation past and present. As part of For Future Generations, we are updating the Statement of Significance and will update this page periodically.

### History.

Construction of the building began in approximately 1396, during the reign of Richard II and nearly twenty years before Agincourt! Walter Cook was granted a faculty from the Pope to build a new church on family land (nice to know that even he needed a faculty!) replacing an earlier chapel believed to be in the Golden End area. The faculty included permission to have a font and cemetery; permission was needed because at the time, Knowle was in the Hampton parish and was therefore not a parish church.

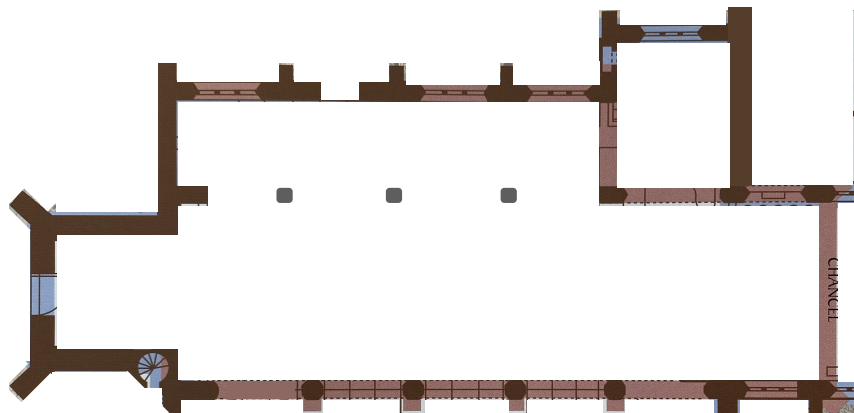
The church as originally built and consecrated in 1403 was modest. There was a single story nave with a central and north aisle, a chancel that was considerably shorter than the present one and a bell-cote. In the years following its consecration, if you visited the church annually **and** contributed to the fabric fund, you would be granted an indulgence by the Pope - don't tell James Thorne! This is also a reminder that, of course, Knowle was originally a Catholic church

Just before the building was consecrated, Walter Cook paid the monastery at Westminster Abbey 300 marks (we are still many years before the introduction of pounds sterling), equivalent to around £200,000 today. In return for this endowment, the monastery paid for a chaplain to celebrate daily services in the new church.

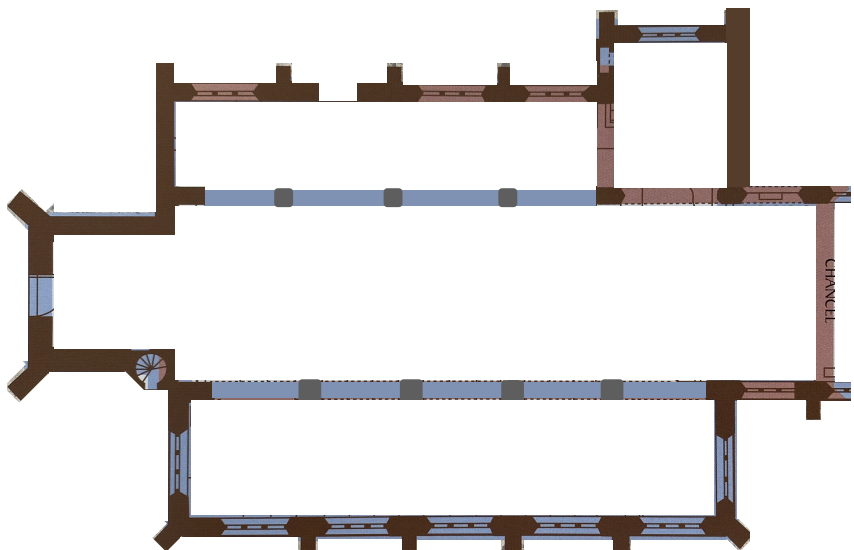


### 15th century developments

Possibly as a result of the arrival of a chaplain, work very rapidly began to extend the church. It is thought that the first additions were the building of the transept (currently housing the soldiers chapel) and the bell tower.

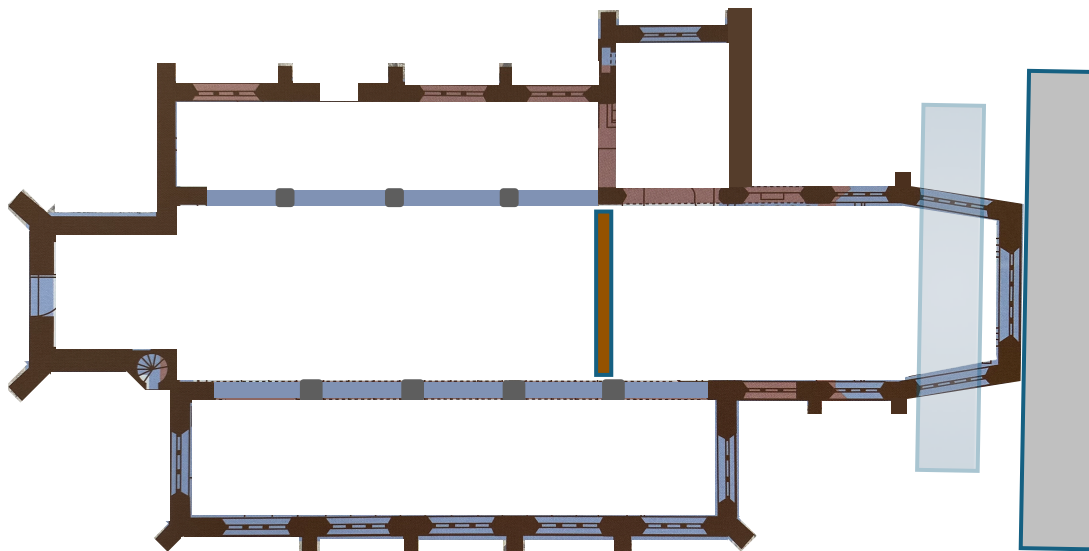


Within 10 years, the status of the church was further enhanced by the founding of the Guild of St Anne in 1413 and the College in 1416. The resulting next stage of building is believed to be the construction of the south aisle and the raising of the roof of the nave, adding the clerestory windows.



Finally, the chancel was extended to the east, right up against a preexisting building, now long gone. A walk to the east of the building will show that the wall is not quite straight with the rest of the building and the stone is not dressed, since the builders could not get to it. This extension created a chancel and sanctuary space suitable for the college requirements. it is likely that the rood screen and misericord stalls were installed at this time.

Part of the rituals of the medieval church life was to process around the perimeter of the building. The presence of the building to the east prevented this and the novel solution chosen was to build an underpass under the east end of the chancel. The legacy of this underpass can still be seen on the outside of the building, in the height of the altar table, and in various features of the chancel walls impractically stranded high on the walls as the floor has been lowered in later centuries



### Later Building Works

The century following the substantial completion of the the building were characterised by tumultuous changes rather than construction. The reformation saw the removal of the rood gallery, the dissolution of the college and the destruction of the medieval glass windows,

- At various times over the subsequent centuries:
- a southern entrance and porch were established, to later be removed probably around 1830.
  - the rood screen was moved one bay to the east.
  - a vestry was built to the east of the north aisle, later to be rebuilt in 1860 and further converted into the organ chamber in 1905.
  - new stained glass windows were fitted during the 19th century
  - new vestries were built on the north east of the building in the early 20th century
  - the floor of the sanctuary was lowered in the early 1900s

