

LARGE S.W. PILLAR

11.



The large S.W. pillar and its matching pilaster on the west wall are the result of a contract that was drawn up in 1343 to enlarge the church with a South aisle to be the same width as the nave. From the evidence still standing, there was also going to be a new SW tower, instead of the squat one that was built at the SE corner of the church a hundred years before.

The arrival of the Black Death in 1348 halted the work – probably for about 10 years – with its dramatic loss of manpower and a much depleted cash flow. When work was restarted, the plans were drastically reduced and two narrow half-aisles were built instead. These were placed under the one roof, which is why the new windows in the north and south walls are so small, making the church rather dark.

The height of the squat tower was increased during this period and a slender spire was added. The 14th century framework for this is still in situ, though much repaired with both wood and iron supports. It has been reshingled numerous times over the centuries, most recently in 1968.