

See within the chancel the plaque to George Littlebury, Knight who died without issue in 1621 and who was the landowner at the time.

Near the pulpit there is a plaque to members of the Burton and Langhorne Burton family, who after the Littlebury's were landowners for several centuries.

There are many Burton graves on the left of the path as you enter the churchyard from the road.

You can't miss the copy of a bust of Tennyson, sculpted by his good friend, Pre-Raphaelite Thomas Woolner.

And in the display cabinet there are various artifacts lent to us by the Tennyson Research Centre in Lincoln and others including an image of the young Tennyson. All Tennyson siblings born in Somersby were christened in the font.

We are very proud of the Perpendicular Cross found outside, missed by the Roundheads who destroyed many others in the area after the battle of Winceby which is just a few miles away to the south.

And notice the sundial above the porch with its inscription 'Time Passeth' and dated 1721.

There was restoration work carried out to the church in 1833 whilst the Tennysons were still living here although George had died in 1831. And it was restored again in 1865 which is when we believe the thatched roof was replaced with slates.

During recent restoration work (2015) we discovered a grafitto in the belfry which simply says 'AT 1837'. Was this Alfred signing off? The family left that year and he never returned.

Which brings us to...

OUR CHURCH APPEAL!



We are very honoured to be the first church to be granted HLF funding (2015) to enable us to carry out essential restoration work both inside and out.

We hope you enjoy your visit and are appealing to visitors to support us in our quest to help us maintain our church for future generations to be able to visit and enjoy. We do have to match-fund so anything you can spare would be welcome. There are envelopes for British tax-payers and the collection chest is on the floor.

As part of the HLF project besides the essential restoration work which has been completed we will be updating the interpretative materials, making use of the latest technologies such as smartphone apps, 360° panorama's and aerial photography on a new website and will place an audio handset with audio recordings of Tennysons poetry in the tower in the spring of 2016.

Please sign our Visitors Book we love to see where our visitors come from. Leave your emailaddress if you'd like to be kept updated on our progress and our Events.

The hamlet of Somersby.

Somersby is mentioned in the Domesday book. In Tennysons day the population fluctuated between 65 and 95 inhabitants with all working in agriculture except for the Tennyson family.

Please feel free to walk around our village and take in the sights which would have inspired the young Alfred. The village is little changed since his day.

The castellated house opposite the church was built in 1722 for the Burtons. It is not as many presume Tennysons birthplace and most probably not designed by Vanburgh as many claim it may have been. Alfred was born in the rambling cream-coloured house next door.

On the site of the Gardener's Cottage to the right of his birthplace stood an earlier cottage which was actually the Rectory before the Tennysons moved in. Deemed unsuitable for a growing family, Alfreds grandfather and landowner Burton paid for building work of what is now known as Somersby House and this became the Rectory. It is now a private home. The middle section was built in 1750, then added to in 1808 before the Tennysons moved in, and George later built on the Gothic looking addition at the rear to house a dining room for his expanding household.



Walk down the lane in a Westwardly direction passing the white Brook Cottage on the way - a farmhouse in Tennysons day - and on to the bridge over the River Lymn otherwise known as 'the brook'. The bridge was built in 1827, the year Alfred entered Trinity College, Cambridge.

Or from the church set off around the corner on the Tetford road and just before the telephone box see the fallen remains of a mud and stud cottage (it is on private property, you are welcome to view it from the road). Or further around on the Tetford Road on the left is Holywell Wood the site of a medieval Holy Well and reputedly the site of a school where the young Alfred was schooled briefly. This was most likely in a cottage which once stood in the first hollow on the left, of which all traces are long gone.



Or set off in an Easterly direction past the White Farmhouse and visit Bag Enderby, only 1/2 mile away by road and even less via the footpath. There stands the 'other' Tennyson church. The Tennyson children spent much time in Bag Enderby which in the day had a population of over 100 inhabitants.

The lanes running through Somersby and Bag Enderby and which reach from Salmonby to Harrington are the same leafy lanes the Tennyson children would have wandered. The only difference being they are tarmacced.



Please look up our Facebook page '**Tennysons Birthplace, Somersby, Lincolnshire**', 'Like' us and stay updated on our progress and on our unique Fundraising activities.



We also have a website:
www.tennysonsbirthplace.co.uk.

We can be contacted via:
info@tennysonsbirthplace.co.uk

Please also visit St. Margaret's Bag Enderby and we are a member of the South Ormsby Group of Parishes, please visit our other churches too.

Welcome to St. Margaret's church, Somersby.



Although we have no exact date for its build, this Grade II listed church is of the Early Perpendicular style and we have found records of a church in Somersby dating to 1235.

It is built of the local Spilsby sandstone, the green colour deriving from glauconite in the stone. The source is a disused quarry 1/2 mile out of the village on the road to Salmonby which was last used during Victorian restoration work.

Our claim to fame is the fact that Alfred Lord Tennyson was born- and spent the first 28 years of his life here in Somersby. His father George Clayton Tennyson was rector of St. Margaret's, Somersby and of its namesake in the neighbouring village of Bag Enderby for 23 years until his death. His tomb is in the graveyard to the west of the porch. Catherina Tennyson mysteriously has a stone here too, next to George. She was the second wife of Horatio, Alfred's youngest sibling.