

## SHORTER WALKS GROUP

AUGUST 2025

### Hutton Magna to Wycliffe

Starting on the village green in Hutton Magna we visited the first of three churches on this walk. You enter the churchyard of St Mary's Hutton Magna through a lychgate built by the famous 'Mouseman' Robert Thompson, who's work we also encounter further on in our walk. There are beautiful views towards Stainmore and we were fortunate with to have a good day for walking, not too hot, which it had been the previous week. Eleven members joined this walk as we left the church and walked down the village to pick up the footpath through Hutton Hall Farm. Taking the footpath which follows alongside Hutton Beck around the field margins of fields already harvested. Some fields had been harvested since I had done the recce the week before and I learnt from one of our walkers who had been a farmer that the crop I had thought to be rapeseed was a bean probably grown as animal feed.

On reaching the road that leads to Whorlton and Thorpe Farm we crossed over to take a footpath that leads down through the woods to our second church of St Mary's in Wycliffe. This is such an interesting church with Saxon origins. It is closely associated with John Wycliffe, the fourteenth century theologian who produced the first English translation of the bible and whose parents are buried here. This church is where we came across more of 'Mouseman' Robert Thompson's work as he produced all the wooden furniture in the church, there are several mice to be found. I can recommend a visit to this church as there is so much history to be explored here.

Our walk then headed up the very narrow lane out of Wycliffe, fortunately timing it so that we were away before three very large tractors with massive trailers came through. We returned to Hutton Magna along the very quiet Green Lane, observing the passing of the summer. Blackberries already ripening and the leaves starting to turn. This lane takes you passed the third St Marys Catholic church between Wycliffe and Hutton Magna, built in 1849. Then it leads you back into the village.

Liz Colley  
August 2025



