

The earliest record of a Church sited at Snarestone is in 1220 in the *Martriculous* of Hugh de Welles, Bishop of Lincoln, where the church of Snarkeston is described, under the Deanery of Sparkenhoe, as a Chapel of Swepstone. It then paid 2 shillings at Michaelmas to Simon rector of Cadeby and rural Dean of Sparkenhoe. It had its own resident chaplain supplied by the mother Church. There is no other known medieval reference to the church.

In Tudor times the church is referred to in the *Subsidy of 1526*.

In a visitation in 1743 the churchwardens of the time stated that the roof was in urgent need of repair. However, it would appear that no action was taken, as Nichols describes the church in 1747 as being 'in a ruinous state'.

The precise date and style of the 'Old Church' is not known, although it was definitely at least medieval, if not Norman.

Soon after 1747 the old church was demolished and by 1752 the new one had been completed on the same site. The new church was a neat symmetrical brick building with stone coins and window linings and a west-facing tower. To the north of the church Snarestone Hall can be seen (see Fig.1). The Hall, which was demolished some time between 1831-1841, was the seat of the Charnell family who were Lords of the Manor of Snarestone (and Swepstone) for five hundred years, and associated with the village several hundred years before that.

The new church was smaller than the original one, and as a result several monuments to the Charnells, dating back as far as 1425, which had been in the old church, had to be left out of the new one.

Fig. 1
Snarestone church
1792

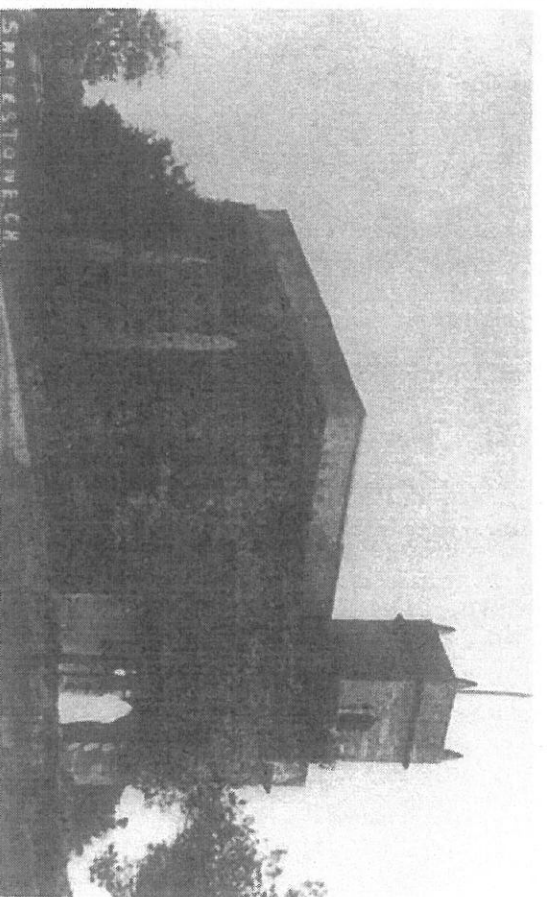
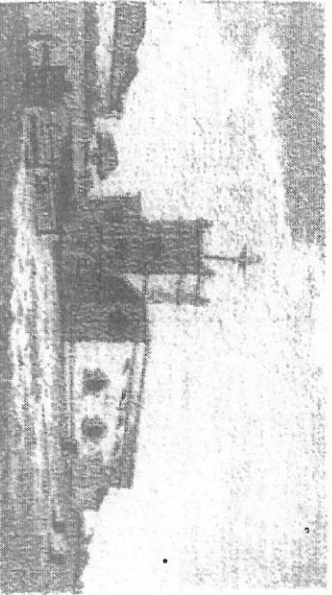


Fig. 2
Snarestone church after 1834.

By 1818, with the steady expansion of the village, came the need for more pews in the church and estimates of £276.10s and £380 were submitted by Richard Wilhn of Atherstone for various major alterations to the church. Needless to say change came at a very slow pace and it wasn't until November 1834 that an application was forwarded to the Archbishop of Lincoln, by the then rector of Swepstone-cum-Snarestone John William Robert Boyer, to extend the church by taking down the north wall and building a new aisle. This application was granted and a new aisle was built on the north elevation. This can be clearly seen on the exterior of the church, by the straight joint in the brickwork.

In 1874 Rev. Walter Cotton Hodgson applied, on behalf of the villagers, for Snarestone to become a separate parish in its own right, having previously been partly in Swepstone parish and partly in Shackerstone parish.

In 1933/4, after a long history of 'leaking-roof syndrome', Rev. Carver had the church roof replaced. The existing flat roof was replaced by the present-day pitch roof.