

**Malcolm Warburton**, Diocesan Tourism Officer, visits St Martin, Womersley

# Fine cruciform with touch of mystery

**T**HE boundary between West and North Yorkshire runs along the A1 as it passes Darrington, but our Diocese carries on eastwards towards the A19, taking in parishes that since 1974 have found themselves in Selby District.

They are part of the Deanery of Pontefract which, along with Hemsworth Deanery, was transferred from York Diocese to Wakefield in 1927, bringing the population of our Diocese to over a million.

It was at this point that Bishop Seaton decided that the Diocese need a suffragan, so the first Bishop of Pontefract was appointed.

These parishes east of the A1 are predominantly rural. One of these is Womersley, with its fine cruciform Early English and mainly Decorated church with a splendid broach spire surmounting its central tower.

Unusually, there is no East Window in the chancel, adding a certain mystery to this part of the church.

A main feature of this delightful building is the large collection of furnishings that have been collected over the years, many from abroad, to enrich the church.

First, there is the work of G F Bodley, the great 19th Century architect, who con-

## Sights of the Diocese



**Why no East Window? But a treasure house of beautiful furnishings, many from abroad, blend perfectly in this Early English and Decorated country church which is always open during the day.**

tributed the lovely rood screen and wooden roofs. There is a 17th Century tiled mural of the Last Supper from Spain, a 13th Century knight effigy, a good Kempe window in the east window of the South

Chapel and much more besides.

Despite all these objects, the church does not look cluttered, and the various items round the building all seem to blend perfectly.

This is one of those churches that is always open during daylight hours. Do go and pay it a visit. The neighbouring medieval church at Kirk Smeaton is also well worth discovering.