



Proceeding back along the main street there is a familiar sight of the village church moulding itself into the rural scene. Fourteenth-century St. Denys Church has a very sturdy appearance which reflects the solid spirit of the community.

Walking past the gravestone-lined path to the church door, a roughly written note pinned to the door catches the eye: "Please keep this door shut and the birds and bats out."

Despite the vigilance of the villagers, strange squeaking and flutterings can be heard from the eaves. There is little warmth in this austere church. The record of rectors, dating back to the 1300s, lists a number of notable people. Among them is Dr. Edmund Cartwright, inventor of the power loom.

He was minister for six years from 1779 before moving to Doncaster where he changed his profession from wearing the cloth to actually making it.

Evidence of the historical background of the village, which appeared as Goutis By in the Domesday Book, can be seen on the church walls. Inscriptions such as "Near this tomb are deposited the remains of several members of the families of Maureward Beaumont and Villiers, who owned the Lordship of this parish in lineal descent from AD 1300 till 1680," gives an indication of the powerful families who inhabited and owned Goadby in the past.