



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED  
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 7**





WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2017



St Pancras Catholic, 1 Orwell Place, Near Falcon Street



Ancient Ipswich dates back to the Iron Age and has developed into an important industrial, commercial, shopping and tourist centre. It has a long history with twelve Churches mentioned in the Domesday Book. Later it had at least five Pories and became a place of Pilgrimage to the famous Shrine of Our Lady of Grace. This stood in what is still called Lady Lane.

The first Catholic Church in Ipswich was opened in 1827 on the outskirts of the town. It was soon recognised that there was a need for a central place of worship and the Church of St. Pancras was built in 1861. Somewhat plain on the outside, it had an interior that is an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Architecture. The arches of the Nave and Sanctuary have alternate courses of red and white brick, in what is known as the Venetian Style. Behind the Altar and above the Reredos, five large statues depict Our Lord and the four Evangelists.

The statue of the Blessed Virgin, in the small Lady Chapel, is over an ornamental marble Altar. This has floral carving symbolic of the title of the Queen of Heaven: the rose, lily of the valley and the marguerite. The Tabernacle is rotary and available for both the High Altar and the Chapel. The Organ, which was built in 1891 and has two manuals, stands in the recently almost rebuilt Choir Gallery which, with the Organ, was badly damaged in a disastrous fire in 1985. Beneath the Gallery will be found the Caen stone Font, the round bowl of which is a sculptured band of water lilies and four bosses of crystal spar, and the parish War Memorial of marble.

The church also contains the Shrine of Our Lady of Poland, a souvenir of the stay in the town of the Polish Free Army during the second World War, which is cared for by the local Polish community. In the Parish garden is a statue of Our Lady of Grace. To mark the millennium, a new west window was commissioned.





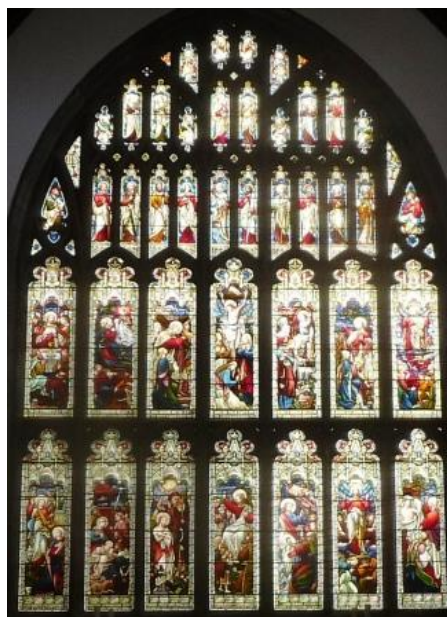








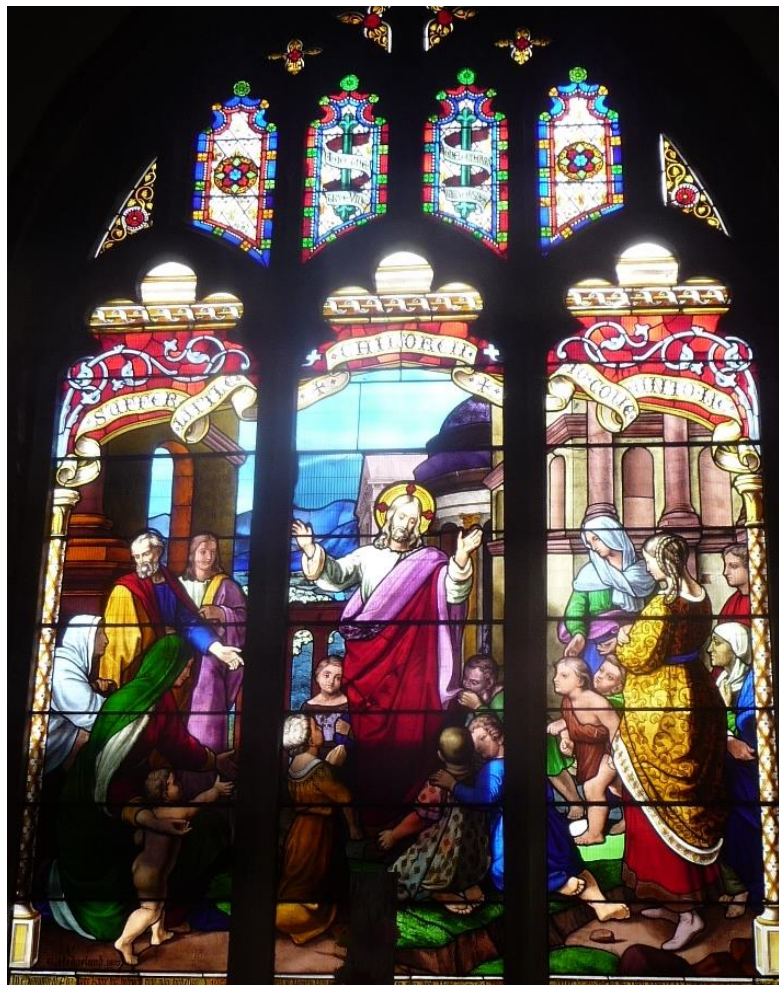




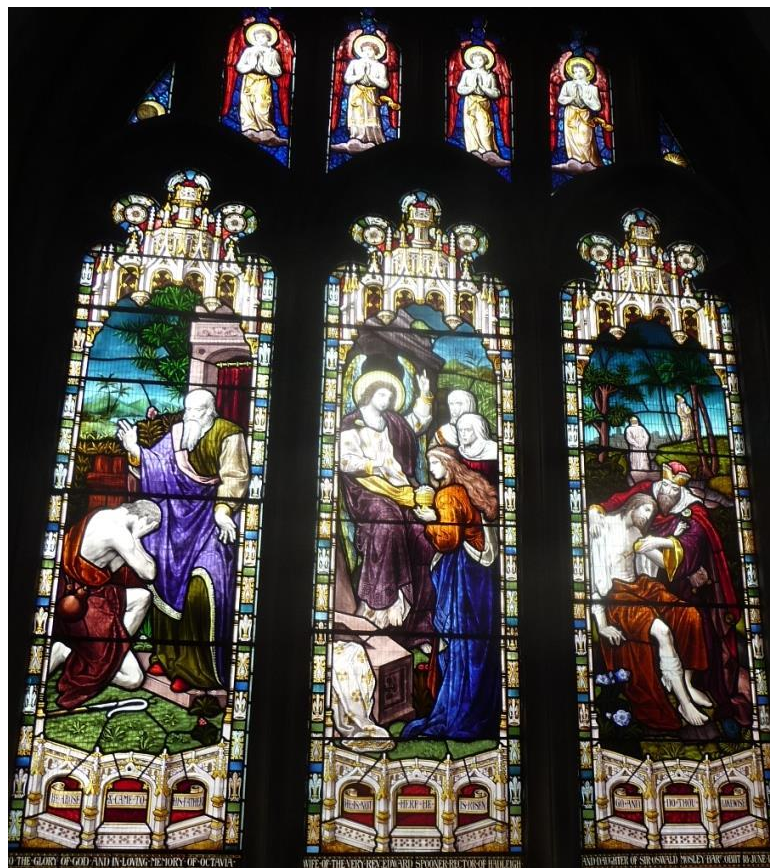
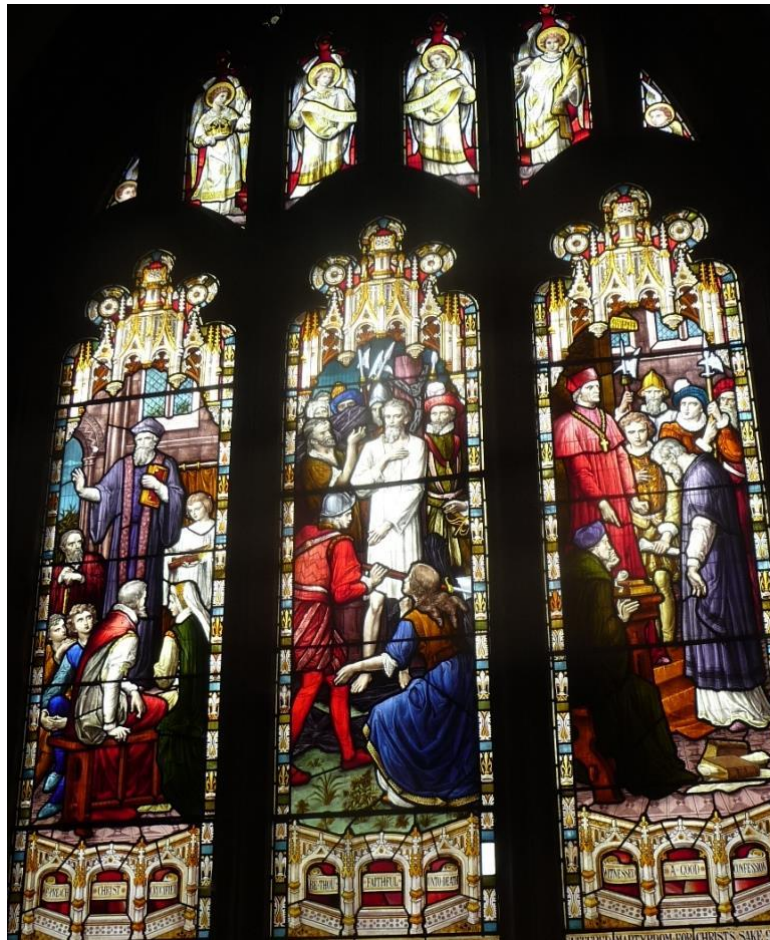




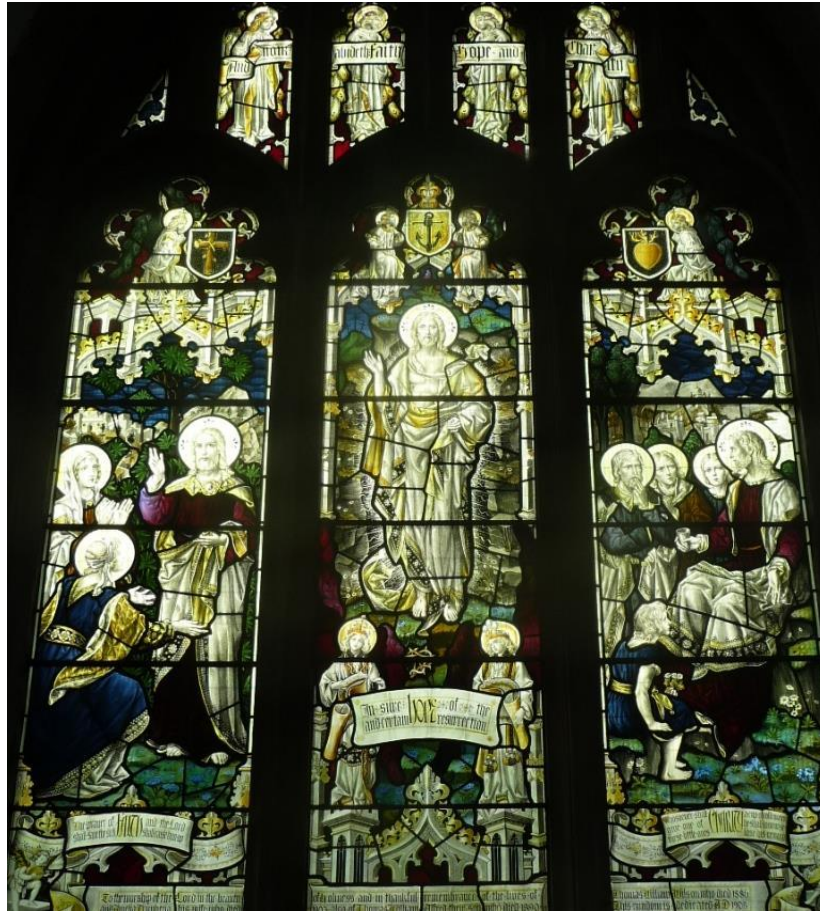














**St Mary's, Church Street, Hadleigh**

The church was built in the 14th century and has an external bell from 1280, which doubles as a Sanctus bell.



**Hadleigh URC**



**Hadleigh Salvation Army**





**Church of England in Suffolk, St Nicholas, Cutler Street**









**St Peter's by the Waterfront, College Street**



A 12th Century Church, St Peter's by the Waterfront is a heritage centre featuring the history of Ipswich's past.

Once the chapel of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey's proposed college the centre houses a number of artefacts, including a rare Tournai marble font and the more recent Ipswich Millennium Charter Hangings.

The heritage centre is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 3.30pm between May and September, and Wednesdays only during the winter months.

St Peter's is also a venue for music and the arts, and regularly features performances from groups from Ipswich and beyond.

The centre is home to the Ipswich Hospital Band, Suffolk School of Samba and Ipswich Youth Steel Band who rehearse weekly.

St Peter's also offers conferencing, meeting and exhibition facilities at very competitive rates so contact us to find out how we can cater for your needs.









**Saint Mary at Stoke, Hawthorn Avenue, Ipswich**

**Saint Mary at Stoke** is a Grade 1 listed Anglican church in the Old Stoke area of Ipswich on the junction of Stoke Street and Belstead Road in Ipswich, Suffolk. The church stands in a prominent position near the foot of a ridge, just south west of Stoke Bridge and the town centre. Its parish was a small farming community which saw a great increase in population with the coming of the railway to this part of Ipswich. It was once governed by Ely, a fact lightly made much of by a politician of Stoke. In 1995 its parish was subsumed into the South West Team Ministry in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The building is made up of a small medieval church and a large Victorian extension designed by William Butterfield in 1872. A church has existed on this site since the 10th Century. It is probably one of the St Mary's mentioned in the Domesday Book. The original nave (now the north aisle) has a medieval single hammer beam roof, with moulded wall plates, angels with shields at the ends of the hammer beams, and figures underneath. The angels are Victorian replacements for those destroyed by iconoclasts. The church was visited by William Dowsing. There is a medieval piscina.



**Holy Trinity, Black Hamlet, Ipswich**

Holy Trinity Church in Ipswich (by the Waterfront/Docks in Ipswich), is a traditional evangelical church which is very welcoming and friendly Ipswich Waterfront Church and has a traditional feel to it. A range of services is offered within a manageable sized congregation where you can get to know people and be known. They aim to be a congregation that practice faith that is relevant today, based on the Bible, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

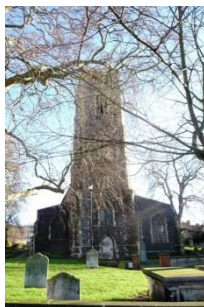
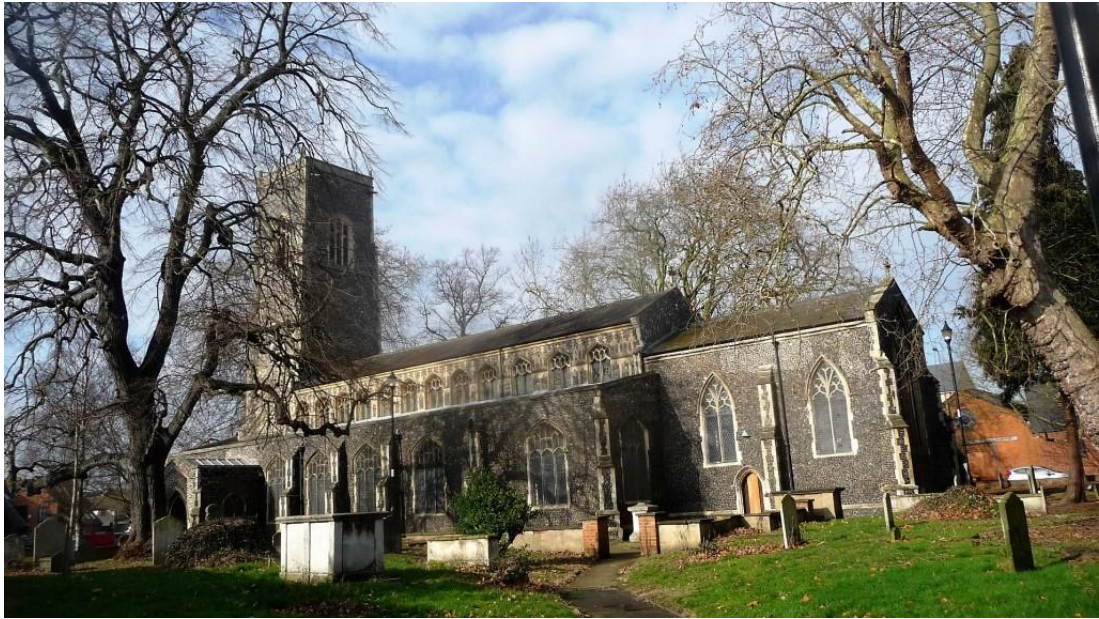
This historic Ipswich Church is located near the Ipswich Waterfront and is open each week day for visitors and quiet prayer between 10am-2pm and many residents, people who work on the Ipswich Quayside / Waterfront/ Docks and visitors to the area come along and visit. The East Window (tribute to the Great War) - really needs to be seen in person!



**St Clements, Congregational, Black Hamlet, Ipswich**











**St Clement, Fore Street, Ipswich**

St Clement has the finest setting of all the dockland churches, despite the inner ring road that passes within ten metres of its north side. It was built over the part of the graveyard that adjoined the ironworks, which still survives across the road. Seen from this road, the handsome church is stately among its great trees. The clutter of small buildings that have surrounded it for hundreds of years have been cleared away, opening up a fine view from the west.

Until the 1960s, the graveyard was almost completely enclosed, accessible only by the footpath that still survives from Grimwade Street beside the former parish hall. Approached along this path, the unfolding pastoral vista curiously belies the urban context. The church itself is a fine example of fairly early perpendicular church-building, with a grand tower and as magnificent a clerestory as any Ipswich church. Even the Victorian chancel fits well, and all in all this is a church worth seeing.

For a long time, the view from the outside was all you were able to see. The church was declared redundant in the early 1970s, and has been closed ever since. In the 1980s, it was the victim of a great deal of vandalism because of its position, relatively isolated from mainstream town life.



The sheltered south side of the churchyard in particular became littered with the kind of things that you wouldn't want your children to pick up. The church itself became a prop-store for the Wolsey Theatre, and it was surreal indeed to walk among the fibre-glass cannons, cardboard grandfather clocks and Scottish warrior outfits that were stacked high in the nave and aisles. The church was left pretty much as it was on the day it closed, as if the churchwardens had put away the hymn books and slipped out after that final Evensong. However, in 1996 a disastrous fire swept through St Clement, completely destroying the 1880s roof. This has been rebuilt since; and, combined with a clear-up for the churchyard came landscaping and a memorial to the famous mariner son of the parish, the explorer Thomas Eldred.

Suffolk College took on the lease on the building, but gave notice in 2001 that they would not be renewing it. John Blatchly, of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust, told me at the time that there was a potential community user interested in taking it on in the future, but I thought it unlikely that this would happen; visiting at the time I found this big church disarmingly bare, with a slight air of dereliction.

In fact, the former congregation here kept a weather eye on it, still opening it up on Historic Churches bike ride day, which was more than can be said for the other redundant Ipswich churches. The redecoration and rebuilding of the roof after the fire had made it sound, and it was obvious that it wouldn't be too difficult to convert the building for an appropriate use - as a concert space, perhaps, or even for one of the new evangelical churches. The author wondered if even the Catholic Church might take a look, since they don't possess a large worship space among their five Ipswich churches, which are often overcrowded.

Coming back here in 2005, he was pleased to discover that the interior has been really spruced up. The royal arms, which fortunately survived the fire, are probably the best example of Ipswich's familiar Charles II sets - these are different to the others in that they are carved and gilded rather than being painted on boards or canvas. The font, reset by the Victorians in the westward extension of the south aisle, is a typical East Anglian rural 15th century font, with angels on the bowl and lions and wild men around the stem, giving a rustic air to this corner.

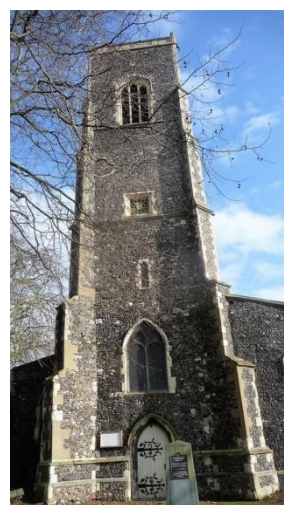
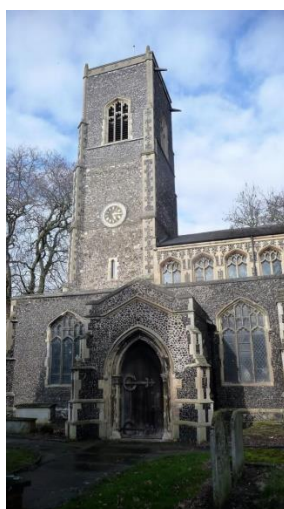
There is some good modern glass; the post-war east window, credited by Roy Tricker to Abbott & Co, shows the risen Christ, while elsewhere there is an exceptionally good Presentation of Christ in the Temple. I wonder who it is by?

All this was threatened while the church was vulnerable, but today it is cared for again. How has this happened?



All too easily, this church could have been lost to dereliction and vandalism. As it was, St Clement stood still while Ipswich changed around it. The 1960s demolition of virtually all of the housing in the parish that had led to its redundancy is now being redressed by the massive Waterfront regeneration, the almost complete rebuilding of Ipswich's wet dock area. St Clement now has many new neighbours, and most of them are residential. Similarly, the Diocese has moved away from its 1970 policy of redundancy, and has gone into the business of creating benefices, groupings of parishes that share ministers and resources. Back in the 1830s, Holy Trinity a few hundred metres to the east had been built as a chapel of ease to St Clement. This, in turn, had seeded St Luke's. Like St Clement, Holy Trinity had lost almost all of its parish population, but instead of being declared redundant it was grouped into a benefice with St Luke. St Helen has recently joined them, and, wonderfully, the benefice appears to have taken St Clement under its wing again.

The church remains redundant, and it is not used for regular worship, but the benefice has used it for events, and the nave is now full of seating, which any Ipswich resident will recognise as the chairs formerly in the Corn Exchange. It is clear that this fine, sound building has a role to play. Perhaps it will not be a religious one, but St Clement is perfectly suited to the kind of performance and arts events that its new neighbours might attract. This would, perhaps, be a community function in keeping with the proclaimed mission of the Diocese. Whatever, it would be a great shame if this church was reused for wholly commercial purposes. Until then, St Clement sits and waits, as patiently as it has done for the last thirty years, but with more hope.



**Quayside Welfare Centre in St Mary's at the Quay, Key Street, Ipswich**



This is a redundant Anglican church which is a Grade 2 listed building and is under the control of the Churches Conservation Trust. It was built between 1450 and 1550 possibly on the site of a previous church in the dockland area of the town, the centre of the merchant community. It was one of the twelve medieval churches in the town and one of the three mariners' churches. At this time, it was probably known as Stella Maris (Our lady of the sea). During the 18th century the focus of the economic activity moved away from the dockland area as the size of the congregation declined. Over the years, flooding of the church has caused structural problems and in attempt to prevent this, the vaults were filled with concrete. In 1940-1942 during the second world war, the church was damaged by bombs and most of the stained glass windows were lost.

After the war, the church was closed for worship. In the 1990's the repairs to it were organised by the Friends of the Friendless Churches and it was then used for the headquarters of the Ipswich Boys Brigade. When they left the church, it was closed again and was vested in the Churches Conservation Trust in 1973. By this time most of the furnishings and contents had been removed. The trust has organised repairs to the church, in particular to deal with the flooding, as the salt water was causing decay of the columns of the arcades. During the 2000's the church was a venue for conceptual art exhibitions and performances. For a time it was a home to an arts organisation known as Key Art. As of 2010 there were plans for the church to be converted into a mental health wellbeing centre, run by Suffolk Mind, assisted by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

<b>THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2017</b>
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**Trinity Methodist, Bank Corner, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe**

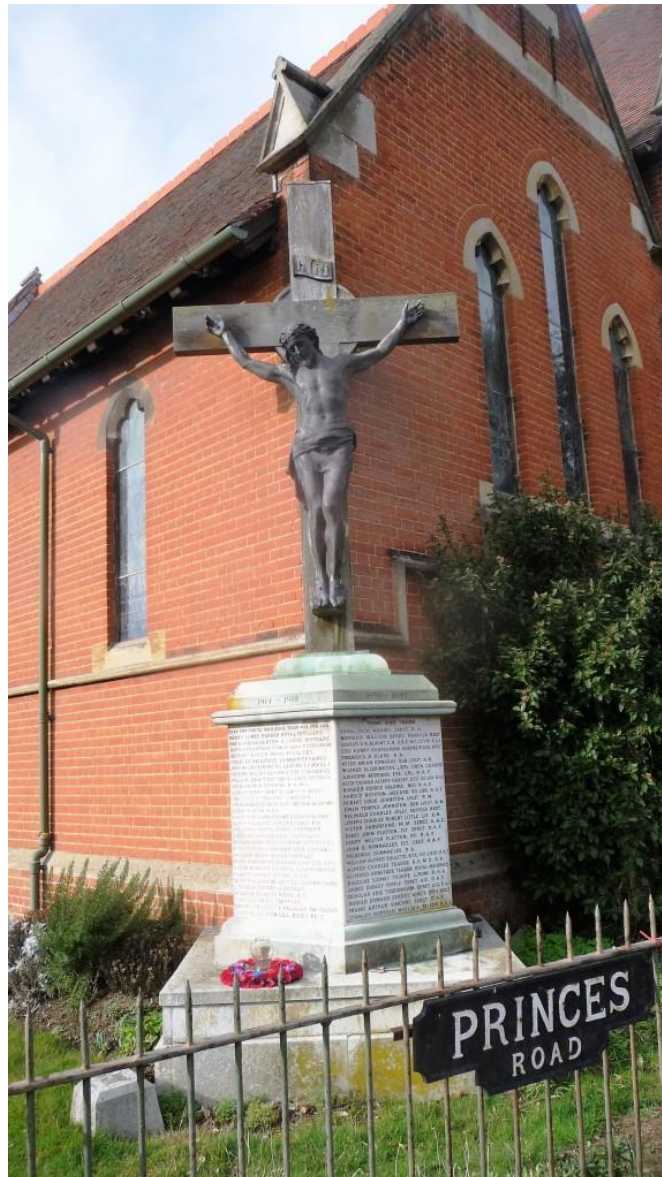
Their congregation is a friendly and caring group of people interested in local, national and international issues. They believe that they can make a worthwhile contribution by working within the church and at the heart of the community and they welcome new partnerships and relationships. They would love to see you in worship or at one of their community events.











**St John the Baptist, Orwell Road, Felixstowe**



The church has unparalleled collection of 20th century stained glass windows, the best of this consists of a range of saints, spanning the century from St Elteldreda in her high Victorian camp to the modern images of Saints Hilda and Bede, both illustrative of the Celtic revival in Anglian spirituality.

**MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2017**

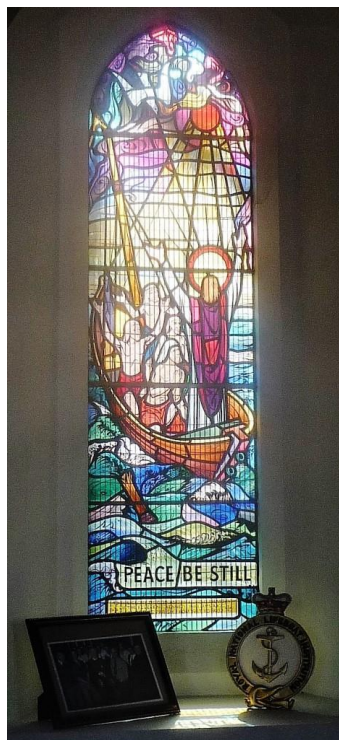


**Dartford**

**THURSDAY 9th MARCH 2017**















### **All Saints, High Street, Walton-on-Naze**

All Saints Church is in the High Street in Walton-on-the Naze, and is open in daylight hours. The church was from the period 1873-1882 with the architect H Stone.



TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2017



**Free Church, Frinton-on-Sea**

Frinton Free Church, or *The Free* as it's commonly known, was founded in 1891. Remarkably for the time, it was created to welcome all denominations – an ethos that we still hold dear. After eight years the church became affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and through a number of visionary leaders it continued to grow – both in numbers and spiritually.





**St Mary the Virgin, Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea**

This is Norman in parts and once the smallest church in England. It is situated near the seafront and dates back to the 11th century.

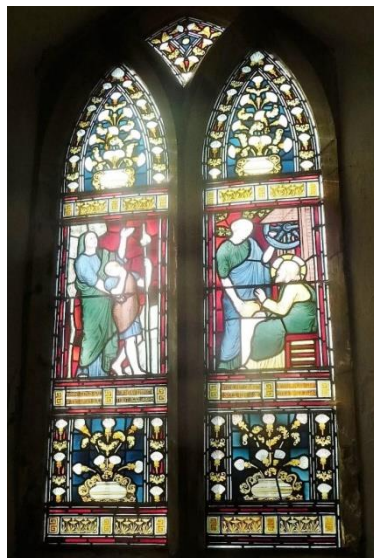
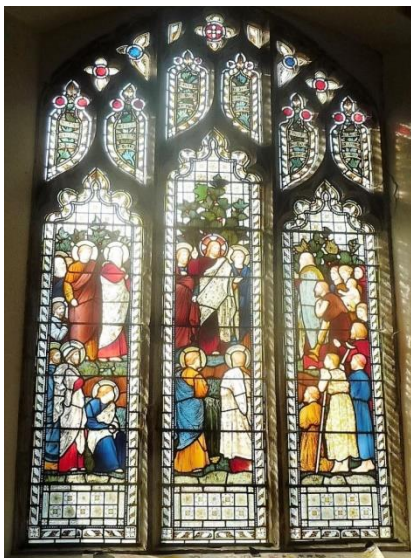
**THURSDAY 16th MARCH 2017**



**URC, Saxmundham**















**St John the Baptist, Church Hill, Saxmundham**

The church gets a mention in the Domesday Book of 1086 although there is very little left of Norman or Saxon design left. It did have a South porch that contained a simple 11th century doorway but disappeared in a major restoration and rebuilding in 1873. Most of the church seen today, stems from the 19th century restoration but some go back to an earlier time. The existing pews and pulpit date back from the work done in the 1870's and were made from New Zealand kaurie pine. They replaced the old boxed pews which were so tall that many folk who used them, could not see or be seen by others.





**URC, Halesworth**

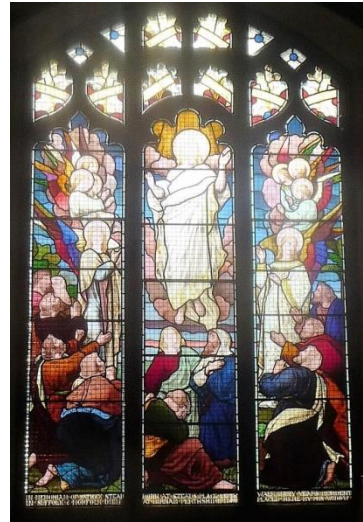
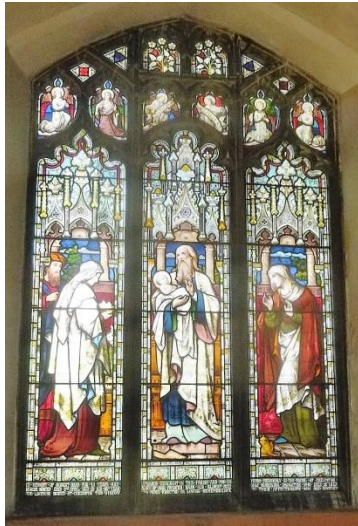


**Methodist, Halesworth**









### **St Mary's, Steeple End, Halesworth**

There has probably been a church on the site of St Mary's, Halesworth since Saxon times. Halesworth is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 recording Ulf the priest to be in charge of the parish.

In modern times, the tradition of the church is liberal, gently Anglican Catholic and inclusive.

The present church is essentially early 15th century - with outer aisles built and restoration taking place in the late 19th century. At the time of the restoration, some evidence was uncovered of a round-tower church on the site. The carved Danestones in the church are now believed to be early Norman in date. They were found in the church during the 19th century and could be part of a cross shaft. They depict hands clutching foliage or tails. Their original location is unknown, but undoubtedly pre-date anything now visible in the present church.

An active parish church, the present building suffered from a failed re-ordering in the 1990s. At 2013, there are well-developed plans to fund major internal works to bring out its rich heritage, provide significant community facilities and make the building warm, light, open and welcoming to all people. Along with the other Blyth Valley Churches, it belongs to the Inclusive Church Movement.

St Mary's is part of the Blyth Valley Team Ministry of eleven parishes. The Reverend Edward Rennard was inducted as Team Rector in 2000.

A major item of interest is the statue of the Madonna and Child in the Lady Chapel, fashioned from driftwood by Peter Eugene Ball.

Tall railings once surrounded the churchyard. This provided protection from sheep and cattle being driven through on market day. This was known as Monkey Walk.

On Palm Sunday each year, there is an ecumenical procession from the library, through the Thoroughfare to St Mary's Church.