



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 10**





Baptist, Church Street, Cromer

The Baptist church was built in 1902 and opened in 1903. It was designed by A F Scott of Norwich and constructed by Girling and Smith of Cromer. The surviving section of the 19th century town house, formerly known as Claremont House, is not of special interest and not included in the listing

Cromer Baptist church, built in 1902 and opened in 1903, designed by AF Scott of Norwich and built by Girling and Smith of Cromer, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons: * Architectural interest: its unaltered Church Street elevation is a well-executed composition in a Free Gothic Revival style;

* Interior: it retains the majority of its original fixtures and fittings, including its pulpit, backboard, bench pews and unique folding seats to the aisle walls; * Group value: it forms a group with Nos. 18 to 28 (even) Church Street; the Albion Hotel, Church Street; and Nos. 1 to 7 (consecutive) The Gangway, all listed at Grade II.

History - After the Great Eastern Railway extended its network to Cromer in 1877, the town came to be seen as an attractive place to live and visit. Among the new residents were a number of evangelical Christians - known as the Cromer Friends - who sought to establish a Baptist church in the town. In order to achieve their objective they turned to the Norfolk Association of Baptist Churches for help and a small sub-committee was subsequently formed. It comprised, along with a small number of Friends, Harry Gould, Treasurer of the Association, and George Green, later Lord Mayor of Norwich, both of whom were Deacons at St Mary's Baptist Church in Norwich, the county mother church. Although the congregation's first public service took place in the upper room of the Town Hall on 19 July 1898, it was not until May 1899 that the Association finally revealed that it had resolved to start a Baptist cause in Cromer. In December 1900, the Rev S J Henman of Yalding, Kent, was appointed as the first resident pastor and at a congregational meeting held on 1 January 1901, his proposal to form a church to be known as 'Cromer Baptist Church' was carried unanimously.

Although the recognition service took place nine days later in the Wesleyan Chapel, early services were then held in the houses of Friends and the dining room of the Imperial Hotel before moving to a classroom at the Board School until a new church could be built. However, despite a growing congregation, no suitable site could be found on which to build a new church. In a bid to resolve this issue, George Green came to Cromer to see if he could find anything suitable and found Claremont House, an empty, 19th century town house, for sale on Church Street. He subsequently bought it for £1,600 and then sold it to the Association for the same price. The Association then invited the Norwich-based architect Augustus Frederic Scott (1854-1936) to design a new church on the site and contracted Girling and Smith of Cromer to undertake the building work. Although most of Claremont House was demolished to make way for the new church, its rear section fronting Surrey Street was retained for use as a vestry and Sunday school. The building work was completed by the end of 1902 and the Church opened for public worship on 1 January 1903.

Details - Baptist church, built in 1902 and opened in 1903. It was designed by A F Scott of Norwich and constructed by Girling and Smith of Cromer.

MATERIALS: of Fletton brick with terracotta dressings and a slate roof.

PLAN: the building is rectangular on plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with the rear section to Surrey Street incorporating part of the 19th century house that originally stood on the site.

EXTERIOR: the Free Gothic Revival style principal elevation to Church Street is of two storeys in three bays. Its central entrance bay projects with octagonal shafts rising to finials with a shaped panelled parapet between. To the ground floor there is an arched entrance screen with continuous hood mould to a recessed porch. It has a central, round-headed archway with wrought iron gates and flanking lancets with wrought iron railings. The porch has an encaustic tiled floor and half-glazed doors with sidelights and fanlights.

Over the doorway is a terracotta frieze with blind cusped tracery and the inscription '**THE MEETING HOUSE / OF THE / BAPTIST CHURCH**' in relief. To the first floor there is a large, five-light window with a four-centered arch. The two flanking bays are identical and have slightly projecting ground floors with three-light windows with four-centred arches, moulded string courses, shaped parapets and octagonal corner shafts. The first floor has lancets, moulded string courses and shaped parapets. All the windows have cusped ogee heads, quatrefoil tracery and hood moulds with foliated stops. The three- and five-light windows also have double-chamfered sills.

The 19th century rear elevation to Surrey Street is of three storeys in three bays with the right-hand bay being wider. To the ground floor there is an off-centre recessed porch with a four-centred arch. It is flanked on its left-hand side by two, small horned sashes with a large, three-over-three horned sash to the right-hand side. The left-hand bay has two-over-two horned sashes to the first and second floors while the central bay has blind window openings. To the right-hand bay there is a two-storey canted oriel with horned sashes which rises through the first and second floors.

INTERIOR: the entrance provides access to a small lobby with a parquet floor and vertically-boarded wainscoting to the walls. It is divided from the chapel by a screen wall with a central, three-light window flanked on each side by two-light windows; all with flat arches, stone surrounds and cusped ogee heads.

Doorways to the chapel at each end have stone surrounds, half-glazed doors and fanlights with cusped ogee heads. A wrought-iron staircase with elaborate scroll work rises from the lobby's right-hand side to the balcony above. The double-height chapel has a raked, parquet floor and vertically-boarded wainscoting to the walls. It is divided into six bays by a blind arcade of Tuscan pilasters and three-centred arches. The rectangular ceiling is deeply coved and panelled with moulded ribs on simple wooden corbels. At its centre is a leaded, glazed dome.

A panelled and canted pulpit with blind cusped tracery, steps and side rails with pierced balusters stands at the north-east end. Behind is a panelled backboard with a shaped pediment, a top row of square panels and a blind arcade of three-centred arches below. It sits beneath a round-headed arch rising from corner pilasters. Laid out in rows in front of the pulpit are bench pews with tongue and groove backs and plain bench seats with shaped bench ends. Attached to the aisle walls are individual, folding seats, all with their own bible stand and brass coat hook. In the late C20 the south-west bay at the entrance end was partitioned and the pews removed to create a meeting room.

Above this meeting room is the balcony which is set beneath a three-centred arch carried on large, plain corbels. It has a balcony front comprised of ornamental iron scroll work with pointed arches with trefoil tracery and flora and foliage motifs set above a row of Greek crosses with fleur-de-lys terminals to the arms. The balcony is raked and has bench pews, vertically-boarded wainscoting and a wooden floor. To the balcony doorway there is a panelled screen with small-paned lights.

A moveable wooden screen has been constructed behind the first row of pews on the balcony, closing it off from the rest of the church to help conserve heat. All internal woodwork, including the pulpit, reredos and pews, is of pitched pine. To the right-hand side of the pulpit is a wooden panelled door which provides access to the surviving section of the 19th century house which originally occupied the site. It comprises two rooms to each floor which are simply fitted out but retain a small number of original fixtures and fittings including built-in cupboards, panelled doors, dado rails and coat hook rails.



Methodist, West Street, Cromer



Nearby Cromer Pier

SUNDAY 11th JUNE 2017





St John the Evangelist, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds

St John's is an inclusive church in the liberal catholic tradition of the Church of England. The church is located in St John's Street, in the town centre of Bury St Edmunds and was built in 1841



Salvation Army, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds

A Christian Church where people meet with Jesus and then learn how to be a Disciple. Not only because you need something, but because you have something to be thankful for.







Cathedral, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds

St Edmundsbury Cathedral (formally entitled the **Cathedral Church of St James**) is the cathedral for the Church of England's Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It is the seat of the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and is in Bury St Edmunds. Originating in the 11th century, it was rebuilt in the 12th and 16th centuries as a parish church and became a cathedral in 1914; it has been considerably enlarged in recent decades. **History** - A church has stood on the site of the cathedral since at least 1065, when St Denis's Church was built within the precincts of Bury St Edmunds Abbey. In the early 12th century the Abbot, Anselm had wanted to make a pilgrimage along the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. He was unsuccessful and instead rebuilt St Denis's and dedicated the new church to Saint James, which served as the parish church for the north side of Bury St Edmunds.

Anselm was also responsible for building the abbey gate tower, known today as the Norman Tower, alongside St James's, which also served as the church's belfry and it continues in this function to the present day.

This church was largely rebuilt, starting in 1503, in the Perpendicular style by John Wastell, a master mason who also worked on King's College, Cambridge. Further alterations to the building were undertaken in the 18th and 19th centuries, notably a new chancel and a hammerbeam roof by George Gilbert Scott. When the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich was created in 1914, St James's Church was made the cathedral. In 1959 Benjamin Britten wrote the *Fanfare for St Edmundsbury* for a "Pageant of Magna Carta" held in the cathedral grounds.

From 1959 onwards there was renewed building work designed to transform the former parish church into a cathedral building. Between 1959 and 1970, the Victorian chancel was demolished and replaced with a new quire, a cloister was added on the west side; also transepts, a Lady chapel and a side chapel dedicated to St Edmund were built. The cathedral architect from 1943 to 1988 was Stephen Dykes Bower and he left £2 million for the completion of the cathedral. In the cathedral grounds a new choir school and visitor's centre were which were opened in 1990, built by Dykes Bower's successor, Alan Rome. Work started on a Gothic revival style tower in 2000; funded by the Millennium Commission, the Stephen Dykes Bower Trust and others, the Millennium Tower was designed by Hugh Matthew, an associate of Dykes Bower. The 150 foot (46 metre) structure was built from 600,000 bricks and faced with Barnack and Clipsham stone. Its completion was officially celebrated on 22 July 2005.^[4] Further additions are the Chapel of the Transfiguration and the East Cloister, both completed in 2009, and the Crypt Treasury in 2012.

Interior - The font was designed in 1870 by George Gilbert Scott, constructed on a medieval shaft, with a cover by Frank Ernest Howard of Oxford. The decoration was added in 1960. A painting, "The Martyrdom of St Edmund" by Brian Whelan hangs in the Lady Chapel. A sculpture by Elizabeth Fink entitled *Crucifixion* stands by the Treasury steps. Stained glass in the cathedral includes the medieval *Susanna Window* which has Flemish glass in the lower section and English glass at the top. The west window depicts the Last Judgement and dates from about 1900.

In addition to guided tours of the cathedral itself, visitors can view changing exhibits of art in the Edmund Gallery, and an exhibit of historic and religious regalia and artefacts in the Cathedral Treasures display.

Dean and chapter - The Dean of St Edmundsbury is the head (*primus inter pares* – first among equals) and chair of the chapter of canons, the ruling body of the cathedral. Before 2000 the post was designated as a provost, which was then the equivalent of a dean at most English cathedrals. The first provost was John Orpen.

- Dean – The Very Revd Dr Frances Ward (since 16 October 2010 installation)
- Sub-Dean & Canon Pastor – The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon (Sub-Dean since 18 November 2012 licensing; Canon Pastor since 8 February 2009)
- Canon Precentor – The Revd Canon Philip Banks (since 19 February 2012 installation) Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich: The Right Reverend Martin Seeley

- Bishop of Dunwich: The Right Reverend Mike Harrison

Bells - A peal of 12 bells are located in the Norman Tower. The original ten bells were cast in 1785 by Thomas Osborn of Downham Market. In 1973 the bells were rehung in an iron frame at a lower level in the tower.

Following a public appeal, a further two bells were added at Easter 2012. A thirteenth bell was added in 2013 which allows beginners to practice with a full octave, without having to use the four heaviest bells. The bells are rung on Sundays before the morning and evening services, and also for weddings and other special occasions.



St Mary's with St Peter's, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds

The first look at St Mary's church brings the sense of devotion and the serenity and calm. This well known church has been the oasis for the faithfuls. The beauty of the exterior and the interior is breath taking. Inside has an awe inspiring stained glass window, the wooden work which is eye catching.

The ceiling and the alter are marvellous ! A sense of peace and the calm envelopes you as you sit there with eyes closed. Not for a hurried traveller. There is a feeling of gratitude and the true prayers come to you from heart as you sit here even for 5 minutes ! A must visit place ?



Quaker House, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds





St Peter's and St Mary's, Station Road West, Stowmarket

The Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Mary is part of the Church of England and has stood in the centre of Stowmarket for over 700 years – although there has probably been a Christian Church here since 637AD. Worship has continued ever since so that the people of the town can get to know God better.

If you value your contact with the Church why not come along to one of our Sunday Services and thank God for all that He has done for you. The 9am Service is more traditional, the 10:45am Service is less formal with extra help for families. Saint Peter and Saint Mary's Church is made up of people who are Christians. We believe that God shows Himself to us in this world and we see that very clearly in the Bible. Christians are people who realize that God loves them and so they want to love God too, Jesus can help us do this and He shows how we can care for other people too. When people put their trust in Jesus and become Christians God gives them a new kind of life which begins now and goes on forever and ever and ever and ever...

SATURDAY 24th JUNE 2017



URC, High Street, Kelvedon



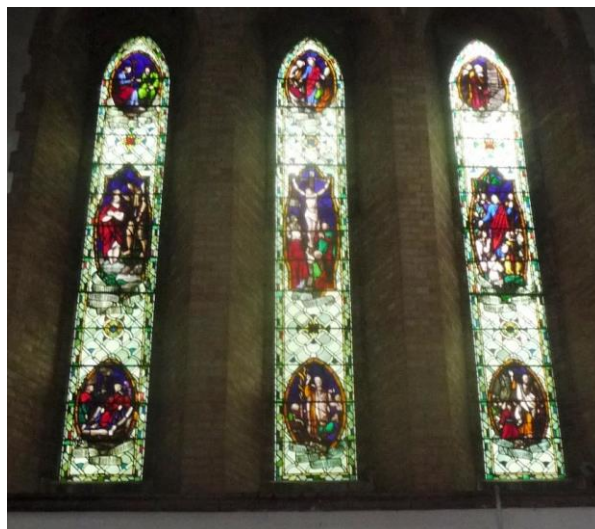
St Mary's, Rivenhall

Until the early part of this century, the church stood in virtual isolation. In 1848 grave digging located the walls and floor of a Roman villa and in 1951-1952 excavations uncovered more of the villa.

In 1971 a small excavation against the south wall of the chancel resulted in evidence of a pre-historic occupation of the site dating from the late Iron Age, and above this the remains of a first century A.D. roman masonry building. Its foundations were shown to be two periods Saxon and 14th century. This extended the known history of the church back beyond the earliest recorded historical date of 1185. There have probably been Christians worshipping at the site since at least 800 AD and probably earlier. By the 19th century Rivenhall church had an early Georgian tower and window at the west end. However, in 1837-39 Lord Western of Felix Hall, Kelvedon, gutted the structure and totally remodelled both its internal and external appearance. Brick, plaster and cement were the only materials used.

Later, the Curate the Rev'd Bradford Hawkins, purchased from Chenu in France some 12th century stained glass now contained in the East window.







Holy Trinity, Beridge Road, Halstead

This is a redundant Anglican church in the town of Halstead, Essex, England. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II* listed building and is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The church stands to the north of the junction between Trinity Street (the A131 road) and Chapel Hill.

A chapel, Holy Trinity Chapel, was built on the site in about 1413, but this had disappeared by the 18th century. The present church was built in 1843–44, and most of it was paid for by Mrs Mary Gee of Colne House, Earls Colne. A grant of £500 came from funds provided by Parliament in the Church Building Act 1824.

The church was designed by George Gilbert Scott. As the building of the spire was nearing completion, it collapsed, fortunately causing only minor injuries to the builders. An organ chamber was added in 1876. The church was declared redundant in April 1987.

Holy Trinity is constructed in brick with flint facing. It has gault brick and limestone dressings. The roofs are slated with tiles on the ridges. Its plan consists of a nave with a clerestory, north and south aisles, a chancel, a northeast vestry, an organ chamber, and a southwest tower with a spire. The tower incorporates a porch. It is a Gothic Revival church in 13th-century Early English style. The tower is tall with four stages. On its south side is a doorway. The second and third stages contain single-lancet windows flanked by arcading.

In the third stage is a quatrefoil opening on each side. The bell openings consist of a pair of narrow lancets, with blind arches on each side. On the tower is a broach spire with two tiers of lucarnes. In the gable at the east end of the church is a wheel window, with spokes radiating from a hub. Below this are three lancet windows of equal height. At all corners of the church are clasping buttresses.

The sides of the aisles are divided into bays by buttresses, and each bay contains a lancet window. Along the clerestory is arcading with alternate blind arches and lancet windows. At the west end is a doorway, above which is a triple lancet window, with a single lancet above that.

The walls are plastered and whitewashed. Between the nave and the aisles on each side is a six-bay arcade supported by alternating circular and octagonal piers. The seating in the nave and aisles, and probably the font, with its square bowl on an octagonal base, date from the time of the building of the church. The lectern dates from 1906, and the choir stalls were added in 1913. The panelling in the chancel, and the pulpit date from the early 20th century. At the east end of the south aisle is a memorial screen added in 1922. The stained glass in the west window dates from 1851 and is by Clutterbuck, the east window of 1887 is by Burlison and Grylls, the east window in the south aisle dated 1922 is by J. C. N. Bewsey, and three windows in the south aisle of 1931–32 are by A. K. Nicholson.^[1] The three-manual organ was made in 1858. In 1878 E. W. Norman of Norwich and Diss either rebuilt it or supplied a new organ. This was subsequently restored in 1909 by Binns of Leeds, again in about 1970 by Cedric Arnold of Thaxted, and at a later date by Bishop and Son.



St Andrews, Parsonage Street, Halstead

It was the Saxons who gave the town its name: 'Hael' meaning healthy or well, and 'stead' meaning place. The name was undoubtedly due in no small part to the fast stream of refreshing water they found here.

Anglo-Saxon tradition was passed on orally rather than in writing so very little is known about the first millennium. Most of the parish was held by the Anglo-Saxon Godwin, Earl of Kent but, with the Norman invasion we see some changes. Halstead increases in size enough to be recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and the land comes under the control of Norman lords and knights.

There is documentary evidence of a church having been on the site of St. Andrew's in the reign of King John (1199 -1216). In 1251 a Royal Charter was granted for a weekly market near to the church and Halstead's growth was confirmed. In 1311 the Bouchier family became the most influential local lords and began a dynasty that was to have influence locally and nationally into the 16th Century. The Bouchier chapel in St. Andrew's can be seen during the 'virtual walk' around the church.

The greater part of the church - the nave, north and south aisles and the chancel, dates from the early years of the 14th Century. In the 15th Century there were the minor additions of the north vestry, and north and south porches. The physical look of the church then remained largely unaltered until 1850 when the west end was extended and the dominant tower was added.

The early history of the life of the church community and of the town are best recorded in Holman's Halstead, Being Historical Notes Arranged by William Holman, "Pastor of the Church of Protestant Dissenters" in Halstead, Essex, 1700-1730 A.D. For more recent details please contact Halstead Town Council.

The building is a Grade 1 listed building and the cost of maintaining it in its splendid condition is a major financial consideration. 'The Friends of St. Andrew's' exists to help raise funds and co-ordinate work on the church building, not to support its ministry, any revenue generated by this site goes directly to the Friends. If you would like to help us in this work, for us and for future generations, please contact the Friends.



Baptist, High Street, Earls Colne

At Earls Colne Baptist Church we aim to be the most welcoming group of people you will ever meet. Now we might not always manage it, but we do want everyone to feel that they can come along and get involved regardless of where they are at.

Whoever you are and whatever your story is we are confident you will find a warm welcome at any of our Earls Colne church services. Our weekly Sunday service starts at 10.30 and we also run a number of groups and events throughout the week. At ECBC we are passionate about knowing Jesus, worshipping God and serving our local community, and have been since we started in 1786. The church is really easy to find. It's just off the main road through Earls Colne, Halstead Road CO6 2LR

If you are looking for a church in Earls Colne, interested in faith, or just want to meet some new people, then do come and join us. You should find everything you need on this site, if you have any questions then just contact us. At Earls Colne Baptist Church we aim to be the most welcoming group of people you will ever meet. Now we might not always manage it, but we do want everyone to feel that they can come along and get involved regardless of where they are at. Whoever you are and whatever your story is we are confident you will find a warm welcome at any of our Earls Colne church services. Our weekly Sunday service starts at 10.30 and we also run a number of groups and events throughout the week.

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St Andrew's, High Street, Earls Colne

St Andrew's Church, Earls Colne, stands at the bottom of High Street. On one hand, it's part of the community, opposite Earls Colne Primary School, the churchyard on the regular dog-walking track and a shortcut to the shops. On the other hand, the church is set apart just enough to be a haven of rest and quietness, somewhere to pray, and to think about God.

Services take place here most Sundays, normally at 10am supported by choir and organ in the Anglican tradition. Children are always welcome, either in church itself or in Sunday School. However, Earls Colne occasionally joins other parishes in the Halstead Team for services at Colne Engaine, White Colne or Halstead, or at the Earls Colne Baptist Church. See our service schedule on the Services and Other Events page.

The site of current Grade 2* Listed building has been a church since medieval times. The earliest section (the south aisle) dates from 1360 with the tower, with the nave being completed in 1538. The north aisle, Lady Chapel and vestry were added in 1860. Inside we have stained glass windows, many interesting memorial plaques, wooden pews and choir stalls carved by a local craftsman, alongside a kitchen and facilities added in 2011.

SUNDAY 25th JUNE 2017





St Leonard's, Lexden Road, Colchester

Welcome to St Leonard's! They'd love you to come and visit their church; you'd be very welcome – the website shows you what goes on - and here are some of the things you might want to know.

They try to follow the example that Jesus set of accepting everyone who came to him. So we try to be an inclusive church where anyone can feel welcome. We believe our church is not a private club – it's open to, and for, everybody. It's for those who have faith and those who don't know if they have any, those who have made mistakes, those who are trying to make sense of life and those on whom everyone else has given up. We know we're not perfect and we don't expect you to be.

We're a thriving church in the liberal catholic tradition of the Church of England. What does that mean? Well - put as simply as possible (which isn't easy) we place the sacrament (Holy Communion) at the centre of a lot of our worship because we believe that that can enable us to encounter God. We believe in the ministry of both men and women as bishops, priests and deacons and affirm the ministry of lay people. We also believe that we are called to serve the community in which we live. Our main Sunday service at 9.45 is a traditional sung Eucharist with a robed choir. In addition we have a variety of different sorts of services from 1662 Prayer Book to Holy Commotion (Messy Church for 0 to 90 year olds!)

They're not all the same and not all on Sundays (see Weekday services) because we know that people come in all shapes and sizes, personalities and backgrounds. We also have a popular Junior Church for children on Sundays during our main service, so parents can join in with the worship while their children are enjoying their own sort of church.



Christ Embassy, Lexden Road, Colchester

Christ Embassy is the place where God's divine presence is taken to the people and nations of the world with undeniable evidence of the power and glory of the resurrected Christ. We teach the infallible Word of God and show men how to fulfil their divine purpose in Christ. The building in June 2017 now looked to be closed.



Kingsland, London Road, Stanway

They meet every Sunday at 86 London Road, Lexden on the corner of Straight Road and London Road. This is on the first floor of the Lexden Centre above the Aldi Supermarket.



Methodist, Straight Road, Colchester

Lexden Methodist Church Colchester is a Christian congregation serving the Colchester community and seeking, engaging, and encouraging others through a life-changing Christian journey. **Lexden Methodist Church** at Colchester, Essex seeks to be a loving, friendly community that worships God, and serves others. We place a high priority on teaching from the Bible and following the example of Jesus. Our vision is to impact and renew Colchester, Essex and beyond with the transforming message of Jesus Christ through words and actions. Everyone is welcome. Come as you are - we'd love to get to know you.



Praiseway, Straight Road, Colchester

Lexden Primitive Methodist chapel near Colchester was opened in 1859. It closed in the 1980s and at the time of Keith Guyler's photograph in 1994 had been adopted by the Assemblies of God. This is still in use on Google street View in October 2014.

Maybe it is my unwillingness to believe everything I am told, but the current Lexden Methodist Church is about 100 metres away down the same road. Is there some confusion about which was the Prim chapel?

Friends set up meeting in Church Street in 1974 and have been here ever since.



Colchester Buddhist Centre, Manor Road, Colchester

The Colchester Buddhist Centre was opened during 1998 to offer meditation and Buddhism to the people of Colchester and the surrounding area. Classes are led by members of the Triratna Buddhist Order who are experienced in providing meditation instruction to people of all ages and of all backgrounds.

Introductory Classes (Wednesday evening and Friday lunchtimes) are welcoming and informal and no experience is necessary - simply turn up!

Whether you are looking for a little more peace of mind and inner calm or, perhaps, you want to pursue an interest in Buddhism further, there are meditation classes, study groups, day and weekend retreats run by the Colchester Buddhist Centre which will support you. In June 2017, the building looked to be closed with a state agent's board in the window

FRIDAY 30th JUNE 2017



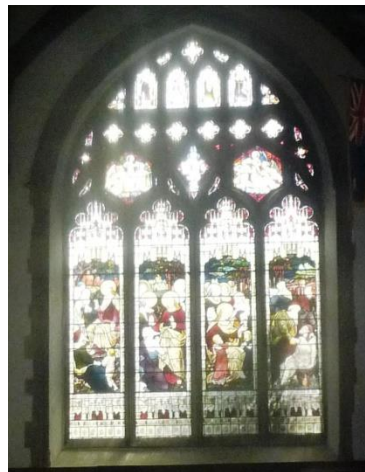


Baptist, Station Road, Beccles

On behalf of the church family of Beccles Baptist Church, we offer you a very warm welcome. On this website you will find a flavour of our church life – how we meet in community during the week (in homes and in prayer), how we gather on Sundays, and how we seek to serve God in Beccles and beyond.

We are a church that worships Jesus as saviour and our desire is to be a people who know and share the love of Jesus which brings freedom, hope and peace. It's a great calling from God, it's a great challenge... and it's a great honour!

We meet each Sunday to worship Jesus and gather around his word. Services are 10:30am and 6:30pm. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark in the mornings and a variety of texts in the evenings.





St Michael's, New Market, Beccles

There are two Anglican churches within the parish, St Michael's in the town centre and St Luke's serving the Rigbourne Hill area. We are a friendly and welcoming church community and offer a wide range of services and activities for all-ages. We have multiple congregations that meet on Sundays when we gather to worship in various ways, using both traditional and contemporary styles. Our Sunday services are 9am and 10.30am at St Michael's and 10.30am at St Luke's. Check out our monthly service card for more details. There is plenty going on for children and young people and a network of small groups and other activities for adults.



BECCLES PARISH

ST MICHAEL'S & ST LUKE'S

Beccles Parish is made up of people from all walks of life who come together to worship and meet with God, to spend time with others and to learn more about living our lives as followers of Jesus. We want to share God's love with the people who live around us and serve in our community in ways that make a difference.

We hope you enjoy exploring the website and finding out more about the mission and ministries we are involved in. You are warmly invited to our Sunday Services and we hope you can find ways of connecting - we look forward to welcoming you in person



St Mark's, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad

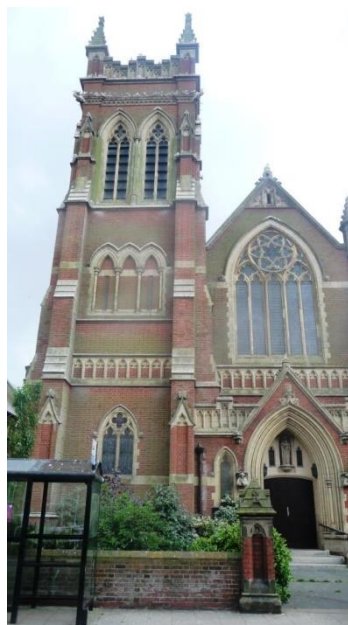
St Luke's is a Community Church set in the heart of the Whitton Estate in Oulton Broad.

We worship every **Sunday morning at 9.30am**, and we love to welcome visitors from our local community or those who are on holiday.

Also every month during term time we have **Messy Church** on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm – 5.30pm to which all with children and grandchildren are invited. For more information and dates click on the Messy Church link on the left.

On the fourth Wednesday of each month we have our community lunch called **The Lunchbox** and everyone who lives alone or is elderly is warmly welcomed for a hot lunch and a time of friendship. Transport can be arranged if needed.

St. Luke's is also a church building which offers a venue for many other activities, especially for children. We are the home for the Little Buddies Pre-School, Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides. We also have many groups for adults including the Lowestoft Horticultural Society, Ladies Guild, Patchwork Singers and OBLEC.



Our Lady Star of the Sea, Catholic, Gordon Road, Lowestoft

Before the Reformation, Lowestoft's Catholic priests ministered the sacraments at the church of St Margaret, on a hill to the west of the modern town. That, of course, is now in the care of the Church of England, and the Anglicans also have a number of other 19th and 20th century churches around the town. But there is only one parish church directly in Lowestoft town centre, and that is the Catholic church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, giving this building a special place in the urban landscape. It is also the most easterly Catholic parish church in the entire British Isles.

The dedication, *Stella Maris* in Latin, would have been more common before the Reformation; it was probably the original dedication of Ipswich St Mary at Quay. Our lady is a magnificent late 19th century essay in Early English cathedral architecture, and quite the grandest Catholic church in Suffolk, Beccles and Bungay not excepted. Its setting puts me in mind more of France than England, with the bus station beside it and its apsed east end sticking out into the open market of the Benjamin Britten shopping centre.

The red brick and white stone build together, a sanctus bell turret rises from the spine, to articulate something rather more sophisticated than any of the other 19th century churches in Lowestoft. The church was the work of Baines and Richards, and the foundation stone was laid in August 1900. The parish had been served by missionary Priests from the Jesuit community at Yarmouth, just over the Norfolk border, from about 1850 onwards, and the community met in an upstairs chapel in the now demolished Denes area. The first Mass here was on June 5th 1902. The western entrance to the nave sits to the right of the tower.

You step into a porch area, and modern glass doors lead into the body of the church. The interior is decorated beautifully in a restrained Arts and Crafts manner; although, having seen an early postcard of the interior, I think that the ceiling and wall murals are probably a little later than the building itself. On entering, all eyes are drawn to the sanctuary. With an apse behind, the altar sits in a central position, with the high altar and reredos beyond it. Above, a clerestory is filled with Kempe glass, and above that the apse roof is painted with Christ in majesty surrounded by the disciples.

Around the church are large carved stations in the Arts and Crafts manner, and there are other devotional objects, including a 19th Century seven sacrament font, a pieta, an image of Our Lady of Boulogne, and a large wooden cross which may have come from a rood, although I understand that this church never had one.

The mural paintings of More and Fisher are fine, as is the painting of Mary at the foot of the cross in the Lady Chapel, where there is also an icon of Our Lady of Pity. Perhaps most beautiful of all is the screenwork between chapels and sanctuary.

All around, on roofs, walls and floor, are examples of the care and love lavished on this building over the last century. In so doing, the people here have imbued it with a sense of continuity as well. This beautiful church has a chapel of ease at Pakefield St Nicholas, on the other side of the river, a sign of the busy life of this parish. Our Lady is a credit to its parish, and a blessing to the people of Lowestoft.



High Street, Lowestoft



Christchurch, Whopload Road, Lowestoft

This charming, grubby little 1860s white brick church is undistinguished in all respects except one. It is the most easterly church in the British Isles. It was built as Christ Church, but also given the fuller title of 'The Cunningham Memorial Beachmen's Church for the Beachmen and Fishermen of Lowestoft'. Francis Cunningham had been Vicar of Lowestoft for 45 years, and raised the money for the construction of this church. He died shortly before its completion. It was intended to serve the Lowestoft Beach fishing community on the Denes, that area below the cliff of Lowestoft's High Street. Their tiny rows of mainly 17th and 18th century fishermen's cottages, smokehouses and net yards were joined to the High Street above by a series of steep, narrow lanes called the Scores, some of which survive today. But everything else has gone.

Although the area is usually called 'the Beach' or 'the Denes' in guidebooks, it was known as 'the Grit' by those who lived there, and had a population of 2,500 in 1900. It was probably East Anglia's poorest urban neighbourhood. For a moment, stand outside of Christ Church, and imagine how complete this destruction has been. If H. Oldham Chambers, the grandly named architect of the church, could come back and see it, he would be utterly gobsmacked, if it is possible for a 19th century architect with such a grand name to be gobsmacked.

