



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED  
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 2**



Continuing my Boxing Day trip around the Colchester Town Centre, I was now on my way to the High Street area.

**MONDAY 26th DECEMBER 2016**



### **St Runwalds, West Stockwell Street, Colchester**

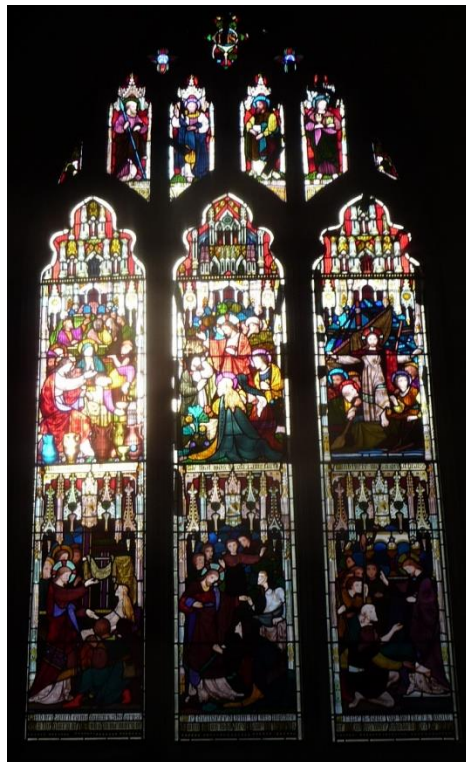
St Runwald's church is one of only three churches which were ever dedicated to a Saint in Britain. The church in Colchester formerly stood as part of "middle row" in the High Street. It was then demolished, along with other buildings in the row, in the 1860s. The church graveyard is in West Stockwell Street, behind Colchester Town Hall.

**Personal view 2013** - St Runwalds from knowledge was reported to have in history been in the middle of the High Street but long since gone. There were still a few gravestones in West Stockwell Street.













### **St Martin's, West Stockwell Street, Colchester**

St Martin's is a 12th-century church that survives in its original Norman form. The church is on West Stockwell Street in the old Dutch Quarter. Its tower was damaged in the English Civil War and was never repaired. Today the church building is in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust and is used as a community venue. The key is available from the Colchester Borough Council museum service.

**Personal view 2013** - St Martin's was another redundant church but it was open and I was able to buy a guide book from it.





### **Congregational Chapel, St Helen's Lane, off East Stockwell Street, Colchester**

This red-brick chapel in East Stockwell Street was built in 1816–17. It was refronted in 1834 with a pediment and Tuscan columns. It was also improved in 1824 and 1826 when a new front was erected. Red brick with central pediment on the front recessed portico. Built for the Reverend Joseph Herrick after his expulsion from the Old Meeting House in St Helen's Lane by the Unitarian part of the congregation.

The origins of Stockwell Congregational Chapel in Colchester can be traced to two Church of England clergymen ejected in 1662, the Revd. Owen Stockton of St. James's parish and town lecturer and the Revd. Edmund Warren from St. Peter's. They initially formed a congregation which met in the Colchester Castle and after Warren's death, a meeting house for Independent Protestant Dissenters was built in c.1691 in St. Helen's Lane. The meeting house was mainly used by Independents and Presbyterians, but there appears to have been an element of 'Socinianism' or Unitarianism among the congregation and some of the ministers. In 1796 the Revd. Isaac Taylor, father of the poets Ann and Jane Taylor, was appointed pastor and served for 14 years, before leaving for Ongar in 1810. He and his successor who served less than a year both found opposition from the Unitarian element in the congregation. In 1813 the Revd. Joseph Herrick was appointed.



Joseph Herrick was to remain at the chapel until his death in 1865. His first year as minister was spent in what he described in his church history as 'war and confusion' with the remaining Socinians among the majority of the Trustees and some of the members. This came to a head when the Trustees pulled down the roof of the chapel, Herrick described 'not a tile, or a bit of lath, or ceiling but what was dismantled and lay in the pews and Galleries of the place'. Herrick bought a site opposite, the foundation was laid in August 1816 and the new chapel opened on 13 November 1816. Subsequently the old site was known as the Old Meeting House. The new chapel was enlarged in 1824 and again in 1836 with a new front on East Stockwell Street, the chapel being known as Stockwell Chapel after this date. Missions were opened in Lexden in 1821 and in Barrack Street in 1824. In 1840 there was dissent between the Revd. Herrick and some of his deacons and trustees. A mortgage had been raised on the chapel, without his consent, to pay for the cost of the 1836 enlargement, and was possibly being used by Herrick's opponents among the trustees and deacons, Herrick believed that there was a plot 'to drive him away'. This culminated with the sheriff's officers seizing the chapel on 19 February 1843 for a debt of £714. The Baptists offered their chapel when not in use, and the chapel hired the Bible Room in Lion Walk. Herrick launched a fundraising campaign to pay off the debt and on 28 March 1844 services resumed in the chapel.

Joseph Herrick died in 1865 and was succeeded by the Revd. Thomas Batty in 1866. During Batty's ministry new schoolrooms were built in 1868 on part of the graveyard. In 1875 the front of the chapel was altered with new windows, and seating inside. Another mission was established at Mile End, where a chapel was built in 1880. In 1880 the old chapel in St. Helen's Lane came into the possession of the trustees and in 1882 a Charity Commissioners' Scheme ordered the sale of the site and the money was endowed with the annual income split between the minister, the Sunday School and the treasurer for the upkeep of the chapel. The Revd. Batty retired after 40 years as minister in 1906. During the 1920s and 1930s the numbers in the congregation fell and it became difficult to find and retain ministers and to raise the necessary funds to pay them. After the Second World War it was decided by the Congregational Church that more churches were needed in some of the newer areas of the town and in 1946 the Revd. David McLean was appointed as joint pastor with the church in Shrub End. The original proposal had envisaged a gradual diminishing of the Stockwell Chapel with a view to building a new Stockwell Memorial Chapel in Shrub End. This plan was not carried out, but after 1951 the chapel had no minister, and by 1960 its membership had fallen to 20. It finally closed in 1966. The chapel was sold in 1979 and converted to offices.





**Greek Orthodox of St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh Street, Colchester**

Dedicated to Saint Helena, the 14th century *Chronicle of Colchester* states that the chapel was founded by the saint herself and refounded by Eudo Dapifer in 1076. Most of the present building dates from the 12th and 13th centuries, incorporating Roman brick. Excavations in 1981 and 1984 in Maidenburgh Street, have shown that the Roman stone and brickwork under the north and east walls were part of a theatre. In the 14th century, chantries were established in the chapel, but it was closed in 1539 after the Dissolution of St John's Abbey and it went into secular use.

It became a house, a school, a library, a Quaker meeting-house and a warehouse. In the 1880s, the Round family who owned the castle, had the chapel restored by William Butterfield. After use as a clergy meeting-room and a parish hall, it was used by the Castle Museum as a store. Since 2000, it has again been used as a place of worship by the Orthodox Parish of St Helen.

**Personal view 2013** - Having missed it as I walked past it on my way down the road, it was then spotted on my way back up again.



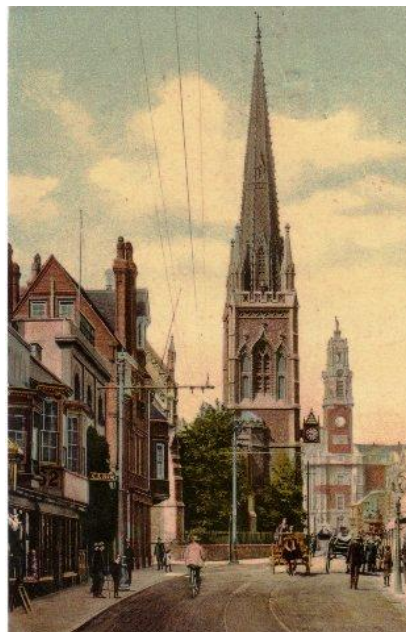




**Castle Methodist, Maidenburgh Street, Colchester**

It is situated in Maidenburgh Street next to the Colchester Castle, this 20th century building was opened in 1970 on the site of the “great round meeting house, where John Wesley preached in the 18th century. A wooden pulpit that he used is preserved in the new church. Castle Methodist is located off the High Street in Colchester, beside the ancient castle and on the edge of the Dutch Quarter of the town. Morning services are always recorded with CDs and tapes are sent to those, not necessarily of the Castle congregation, who are unable to attend worship due to illness or infirmity.

**Personal views 2013** - I believe this church replaced the old church which is roughly where the BHS store was in the town centre (soon to be Primark), as I can recall going there when I was very young, and attending a carol concert, and hearing all about the story of how the carol Silent Night began. I did also attend the new church when I went to the funeral of my former boss, Clifford Robins.







**St Nicholas, High Street, Colchester**

Saint Nicholas' church formerly stood on the High Street. The original church was 12th century and the church was rebuilt in the 14th century, and restored again between the years 1875-76 to designs by Sir George Gilbert Scott. The church had the highest spire seen in Colchester. The Church of England had the church demolished in 1955 and sold off the site for a commercial redevelopment. The Colchester Co-operative Society built a department store ("St Nicholas House") on the site. After a sports shop had a spell there, the building was generally vacant.

**Personal view 2013** - St Nicholas was gone before I was born and was from memory it was the original site of the Co-op Department Store. Later on it was JJB Sports then stands empty most of the year until about November-December when it becomes the Christmas Shop, now as above, a Toy Store.



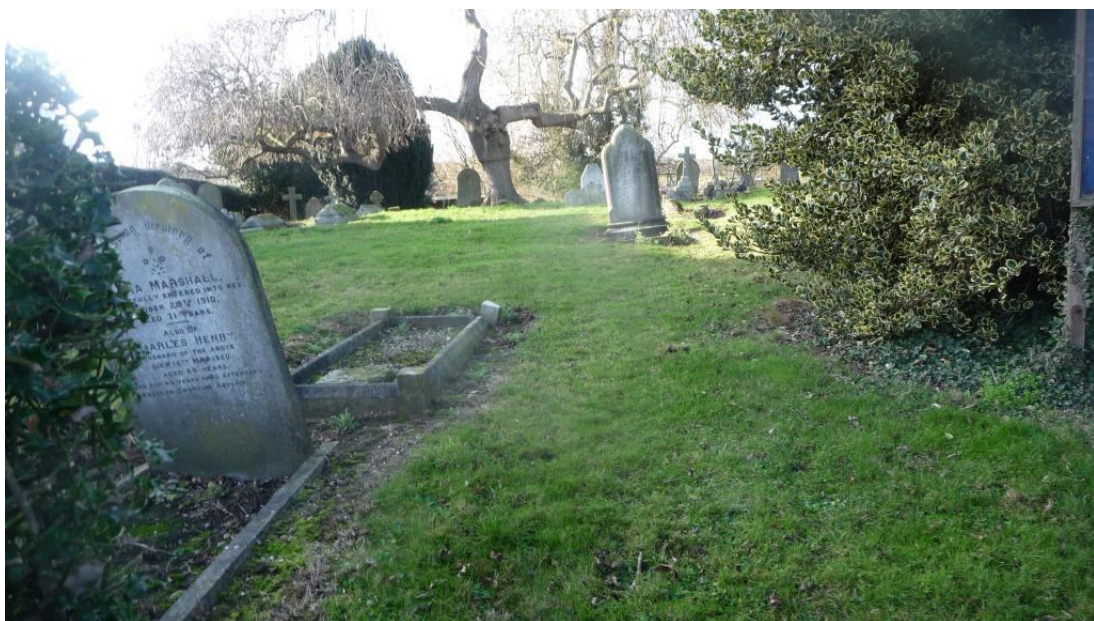
**All Saints Church opposite Castle Park, now Museum, High Street, Colchester**

Declared a redundant church in 1953, this church in High Street is now a Natural History Museum. Nikolaus Pevsner states that there is little of interest beyond the flint-built Decorated Gothic west tower, the rest having undergone much Victorian rebuilding.

**Personal view 2013** - I remember going in there to the museum a long time ago, and several times wanted to return, but always found it closed.



Then over the Christmas period in 2012, I had been to Stratford, East London, and on my return I looked around the town and seeing it open, made a visit to it.







**St Pauls, St Pauls Road, Colchester**



St Paul's church, formerly a chapel of ease to Lexden, became a parish in its own right in 1879 when it was created from part of the north-east of Lexden parish. The bishop became the patron at the request of J. Papillon, Rector of Lexden. By 1937 there was a vicarage house at Braiswick; the diocese sold it in 1956 to the retiring incumbent and bought a house in North Station Road. The construction in 1933 of the Colchester bypass south of the church and in 1980 of Westway to the north isolated the church from many of its parishioners. The first stage of the church in Belle Vue Road, consisting of a chancel and nave, was built in 1869 as a result of the arrival of the railway. The building was completed in 1879 by the addition



### **Seventh Day Adventists, behind HSBC Bank off North Station Road**

This is a community focused, family friendly and multi cultural church. They run a Pathfinders Group for various age groups between 4 to 5, 5 to 9 and 10 to 15.

<b>TUESDAY 27th DECEMBER 2016</b>
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### **Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Exeter Road, Newmarket**

This is a Catholic church built in the 1970's and is full most Sundays. One of the main features is the great east window seen from the clock tower roundabout. The entrance is at the West End through a Narthex porch.





### **St Mary's, Church Lane, Newmarket**

This has been on the site since the thirteenth century. However there were various rebuilds in 1857, 1867 and 1887. This saw the North transept was converted into an aisle, the chancel was completely rebuilt and new vestry added to it. The tower is fifteenth century and although now damaged has an angel with a shield set in the moulding at the top. Below is St Peter's in Thurston, Suffolk.



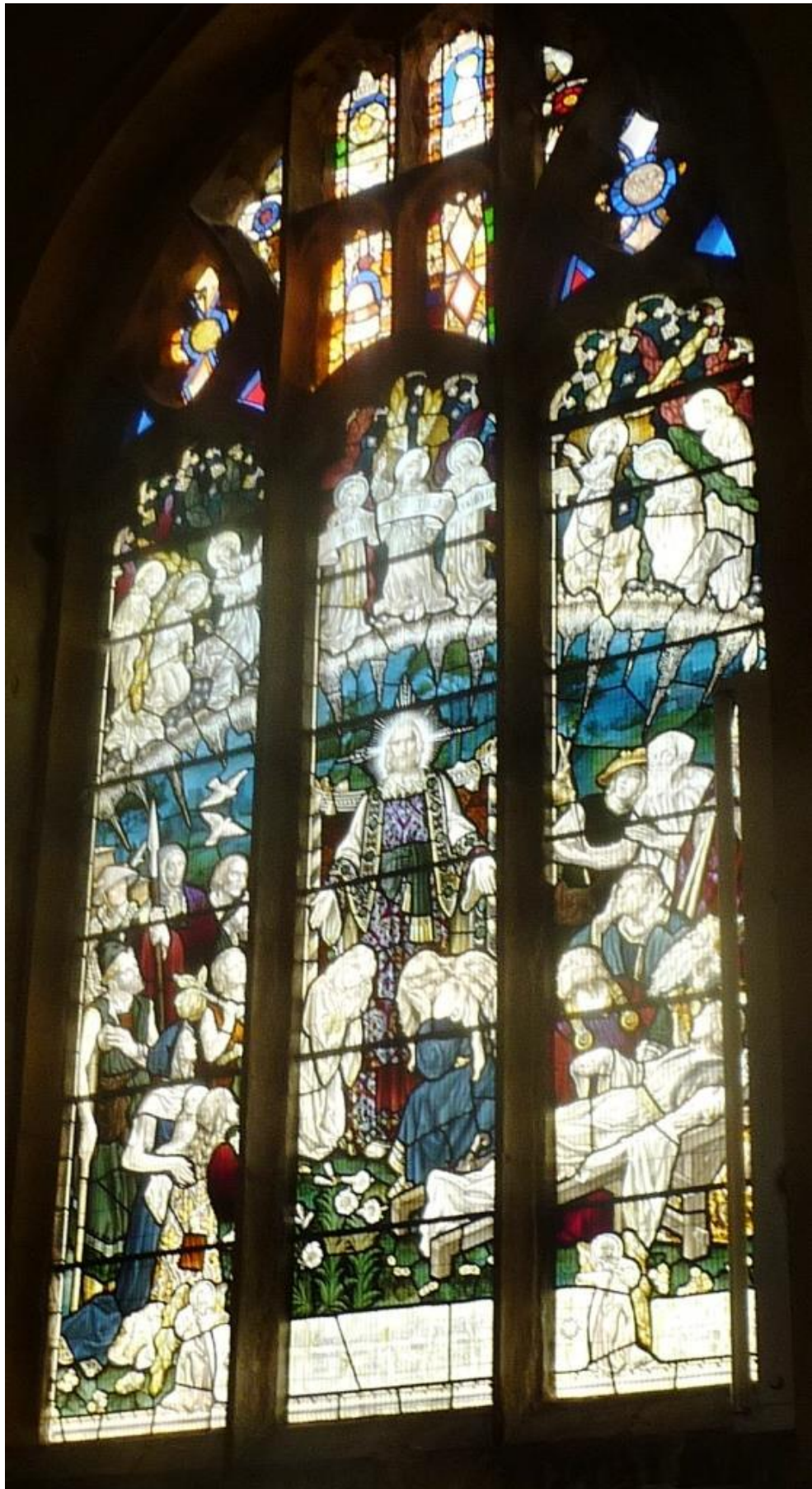








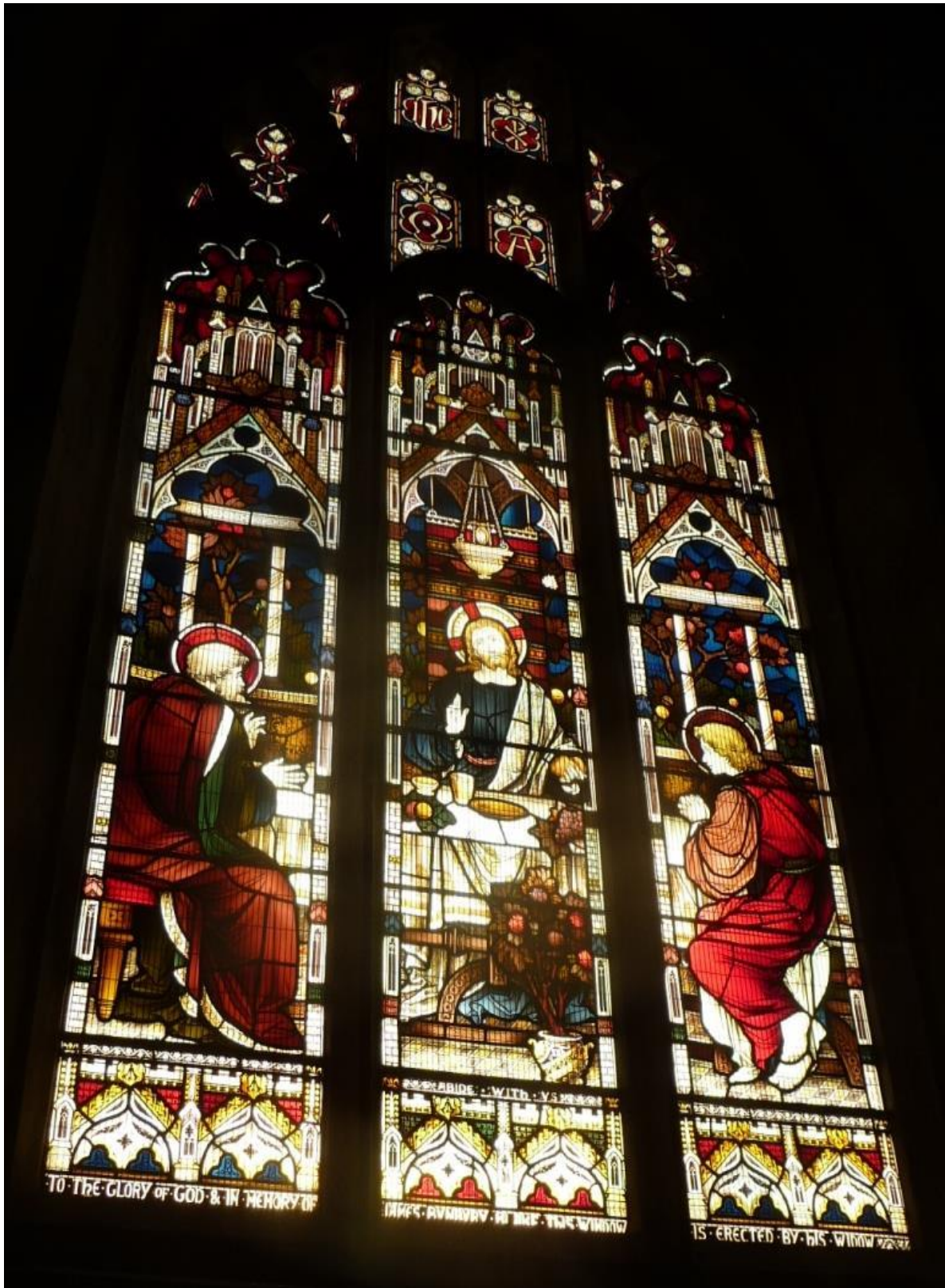












I think reproducing the stained glassed windows as a full page will give them the real justice that they all deserve. Also in the church were a collection of decorated Christmas trees and a Sunday School corner. Various books and leaflets were on display and I took several and made a donation into their appeal bowl.



This shot had a few problems with the light shining in it, so there was a bit of the glow to it at the bottom centre and the far right side was dark and did not really show up too well.

















### St Peter's, St Peter's Way, Thurston, Suffolk

Just before that there was going to be a rebuild in 1860, due to neglect, a tower fell. This affected the nave and the aisle roof. Ten days later and the rest of the nave collapsed. As a result, the whole church was rebuilt from scratch. The church was built on a slight rise and set into farmland on the edge of the village. Thurston is a village a few miles from Bury St Edmunds and has an hourly train service on the Ipswich to Cambridge line. The church is about a ten minute walk from the railway station.

**Travel Advice** – Travelling from Colchester, it is on the hourly service from Ipswich to Cambridge (approx 30 minutes from Ipswich). On leaving the train, go out of the station and turn right and go under the bridge. Head up the road with the Fox and Hounds pub to your right. Continue up this road which looks to be Station Hill. On searching an open grassed area on your right go along here until you next hit the road, cross over and you should be in School Road. Go down here until you see Thurstons the Butchers to your right. Soon after this you will see a school ahead of you. Turn left here, into School Lane and you should see a church ahead of you. It is certainly well worth a visit, and looks to be generally open. There were some very good looking stained glass windows inside, showing above.







**St John the Divine, Church Road, Elmswell, Suffolk**

This is an Evangelical church where the tower was built in the 1470's. Restorations were then made in the 1860's and 1870's.

**Travel Advice** – Travelling from Colchester, it is on the hourly service from Ipswich to Cambridge (approx 25 minutes from Ipswich). On leaving the train, exit out of the railway station and head straight and at the first right turn, go into School Road. Keep on this road will swing left into Church Road and the church can be seen in the distance. It is signposted as being half a mile from the village and it looks as if the church is kept locked.



**Baptist Church, Ashfield Road, Elmswell**

The church is for a group of Christians who are meeting together in order to worship and serve Jesus Christ. They work with the Parish Church and Christians in the village through Christians together.

**Travel Advice** – Travelling from Colchester, it is on the hourly service from Ipswich to Cambridge (approx 25 minutes from Ipswich).

On leaving the train, cross over the railway line and head out of the station. The church is on this road and can be reached in about five minutes and is on the right hand side of the road.

**WEDNESDAY 28th DECEMBER 2016**



**Chapel, Great Horkesley**



**St Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt**

This is situated in New Church Road, West Bergholt, but my visit was such a misty day, I will have to return again on another day for some better photos.





### **St Albrights, Stanway, Colchester**

This is a Church of England building on the outskirts of Colchester. In the early middle ages there were two churches in Stanway. All Saints besides Stanway Hall in Great Stanway and St Albrights or St Ethelberts on the London Road in Little Stanway. St Cross hospital or chapel, in the detached part of the parish in the suburbs of Colchester served an area which was effectively part of the borough. All Saints was recorded, although not by name. St Albright's came into existence later in the 11th century and was a parish church in the early 12th century. Although it was presumably the subsidy in 1254 and 1291. In recent times, its chancel was restored in 1825 and rebuilt in 1878-80.

<b>THURSDAY 29th DECEMBER 2016</b>
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### **St Andrews the Great, Cambridge**

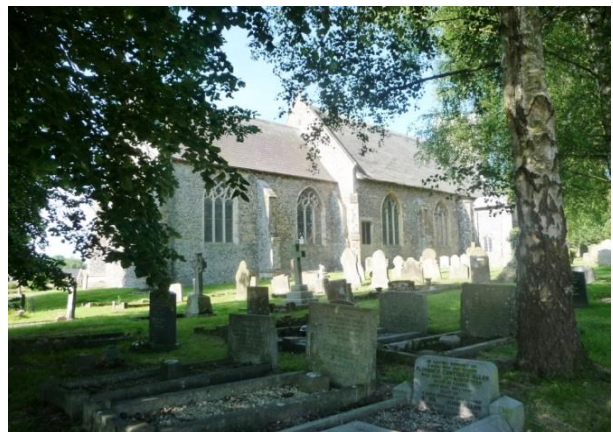
The church is in Central Cambridge and has a conservative evangelical tradition and participates in the Anglican Reform movement. It has members from many nations, many of whom are students at Cambridge University.



**All Saints, Jesus Lane, Cambridge**



FRIDAY 30th DECEMBER 2016





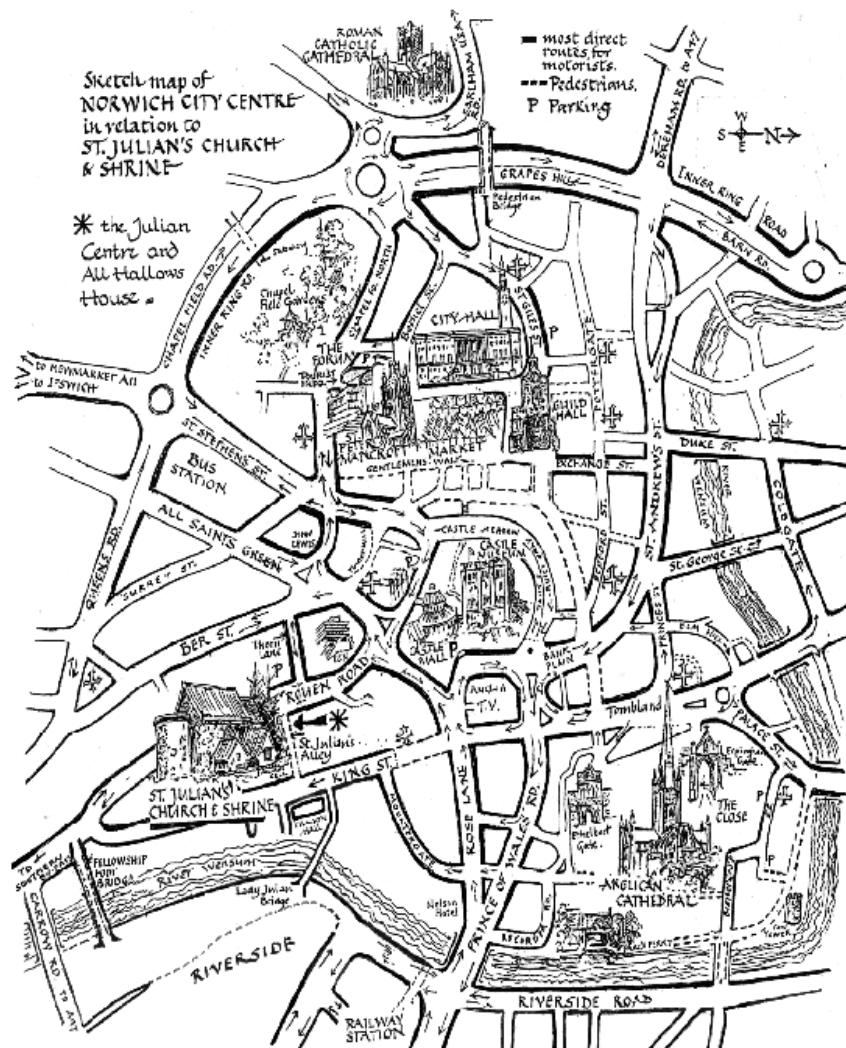




### St Edmunds, Acle, Norfolk

This is a mediaeval church in the Jewry, which stood in St John's Street. Its history dates back to the eleventh century and by the thirteenth century was in the parsonage of St Radegund's Nunnery later re-established as Jesus College. The church was rebuilt several times but by the nineteenth century was deemed too small for the growing congregation. It was finally demolished in 1865 to be replaced by a new building in Jesus Lane at its junction with Manor Road. The churchyard of the original church is an open space now known as All Saints and contains a memorial cross designed by Basil Champney.





  
 The Diocese of Norwich  
 Cathedral of the Holy Trinity  
 Norwich

**+ December 2013 Services +**

Friday 6th 10-12 a.m.	Divine Liturgy + St. Nicholas of Myra	Fr. Loris
Saturday 7th 10-12 a.m.	Divine Liturgy + Martyr Philomena	Fr. Loris
Sunday 8th 10-12 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Fr. Loris
Sunday 14th 10-12 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Fr. Loris
Sunday 22nd 10-12 a.m.	Divine Liturgy + Sunday before Christmas	Fr. Loris
Wednesday 25th 10-12 a.m.	Divine Liturgy + Christmas Day	Fr. Loris

Languages used in services: English, Romanian and Greek

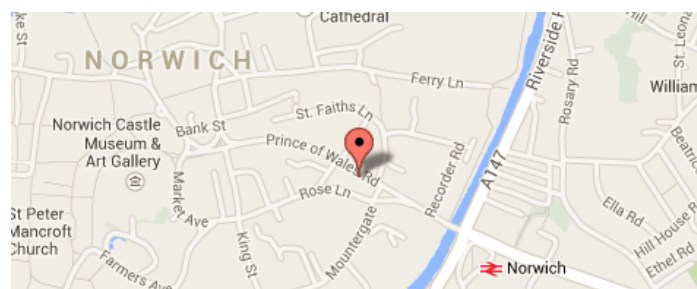




**Greek Orthodox Christ of Mother of God, Recorder Road**

The dedication of the Temple is to Panagia of Tinos, a major pilgrimage in the Greek Orthodox church. The church was established in 1981 and for many years the church has been used once a month for Divine Liturgy but now they are delighted to have regular Sunday Services as they have a resident Orthodox Priest, Father Liviu. Their parish has become a lovely community including their Orthodox Romanian brothers with the blessing of their Archbishop Gregorios. Their services are in Greek, English, & Romanian language. One Sunday a month they do the Matins and the Divine Liturgy in the Greek Language with a Greek priest coming from London. At the end of this Devine Liturgy tea and coffee are offered to their parish in a warm and comfortable atmosphere, which makes it an ideal opportunity for 'newcomers' to get to know each other and friends to get together

**Personal view** - having seen this from the outside only, it was then a cross back over the road to go to Subway as I thought, but to my dismay it was to be closed, which seemed to be the trend of the day for me, with drinking places and churches too, not open. I was now retracing my steps back to the main street through the City down Princes of Wales Road and it was on here, where my next building was to be found. Fortunately my notes were well documented as I even had the number in the road, which was good, as it was situated between shops and I was soon taking a couple of photos of it.



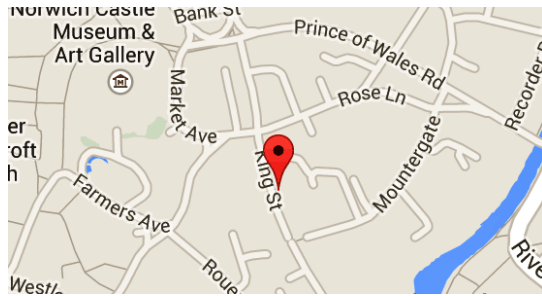
**Evangelical Free Church, 79 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich**



**Personal view 2013** - I then took a left into Rose Lane, whilst I tried to find the next building on my list which was suppose to be in Kings Street. Not too certain exactly where I was, I took a photo of the building on my left, which looked of some interest.



**Kings Community, The Kings Centre, King Street, Norwich**



## Kings Community, The Kings Centre, King Street, Norwich

**Personal view 2013** - now I was definitely in King Street, as the road sign told me that.







### **St Peter Parmentergate, Kings Street, Norwich**

This was a big, urban church, and its setting is deceptive. It sits in an overgrown graveyard towards the northern end of the Ber Street and King Street area of social housing and rundown warehouses, an area now undergoing bright regeneration; it appears marginalised, and may even seem a little suburban. In fact, it is as close to the castle as St Peter Mancroft or St Andrew's, and closer to the Cathedral than either. In past times, this was an important city church.

Now, it rests, quietly redundant, and you might think that here is another victim of the Brooke Report, which in 1969 recommended the closure of most of Norwich's medieval churches. Not so. St Peter remained in use, becoming the main church of the Parmentergate group of parishes in the south of the city centre. However, in the early 1980s the church was faced with declining congregations and a massive repair bill, and it was decided to take St John Timberhill out of mothballs, and restore it to use as the main church of the parish. St Julian, to the south of here, acts as a kind of chapel of ease, and so St Peter was closed. St John Timberhill is a small, warm church in the city centre, at the top of Ber Street, easily accessible by the parish. St Julian is a little devotional jewel; but St Peter Parmentergate is a great hulk of a building, and at this distance it is hard to see why this wasn't the outcome in the first place.

The church sits on a drastically sloping site, so much so that the Priest door in the chancel has a flight of twelve steps leading up to it from the graveyard. There is a two-storey building set immediately against the east end of the chancel which does nothing to obscure the east window. It is a sacristy of the early 16th century, with a gigantic image niche set in its east wall.

You step through the south porch into a wide, bright interior, a sense of openness enhanced by the slightness of the chancel and the fact that it does not climb. The font is particularly pretty, familiar from hundreds of rural East Anglian churches, and you might imagine that it came to the big city on a day trip, and never went home.

It is not the only rustic medieval feature here, because the northern side of the rood screen dado also appears to be medieval, with a particularly good St Michael and the dragon in the spandrels. That St Peter was ultra-Anglo-catholic can be deduced from the rich, camp reredos, and a memorial in the north side of the chancel that asks us, of our charity, to pray for the soul of a churchwarden. You'll be reassured to know that this tradition has been carried on at St John Timberhill.

On the other side of the chancel is an enormous box, which contains the 1623 Berney memorial. This is intended to protect it, but the glass viewing panel makes photography very difficult. People came here on the National Heritage open day, and found themselves in the company of other visitors. The writer of this article was delighted to meet a couple of friends of the site, who introduced themselves. He hoped they have fun spotting themselves in the photographs. As for the future, it would be a great shame if this beautiful open interior was carved up for office space or workshops; it cries out for a use that preserves the internal integrity of the nave.

Norwich St Peter Parmentergate is an Ancient Parish Church and was presented by Roger Bigod to the Cathedral Priory in the late eleventh century. In the fifteenth century it was completely rebuilt, financed by the prosperity of its location on a main route through the city, close to the merchants' quays. St Peter Parmentergate became redundant in 1981. From 1994 the vestry has been leased by the Norwich Historic Churches Trust to the Magdalene Group for their work with prostitutes. In 2005, after being empty for some time, the main church building became the Norwich Centre for Martial Arts.

The windows in St Peter Parmentergate are uniform, on both sides of the church. They are built in the 15th century Perpendicular style. The majority of the stained glass dates from the nineteenth century when the restoration of the glass was part of an Anglo Catholic revival which encompassed all aspects of the interior.

The church is dominated by the Alexander Gibbs' East window which is typical of their work portraying "gentle faced figures in gaudy clothes of somewhat discordant colour" Needless to say it is not to everyone's taste !

## **WEST WINDOW**

This 1870's West window was made by the Norwich firm of J & J King It is rich in detail and is similar in style to Clayton & Bell's work. The High Victorian colours, contrast with the east window.

Both this and the east window are dedicated to the memory of members of the Underwood family .....

(Continued in Book 23).