



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 27**



OMITTED - SATURDAY 2nd JUNE 2018



Christian Centre, Noak Bridge, Basildon

In 1977 a prophesy was given at the church that God was going to send FIRE of a Holy Spirit Revival starting in Basildon at the Central Hall as it was called then. Soon after the church was closed and the fellowship scattered and the church remained empty for more than six months. So it was at the New Year of 1978 that the Basildon Glory Fellowship was founded at the empty Central Hall starting with a three day convention. For four days all the people who came on that New Year's Eve were snowed in. As a result many slept on the floor of a helper until the roads were re-opened. Since then the congregation has now grown and they had to make four extensions to the church. In 1999 the seating was increased to 140 after the floor area was doubled.

OMITTED - SUNDAY 3rd JUNE 2018



Redeemed Christian Church of God, Grange Way, Colchester

The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) was founded in 1952 in Nigeria, following a divine revelation received by a young man whose heart had been set ablaze with an unquenchable desire to personally encounter the Supreme Being, in spite of a prevailing environment of nature worship.

Seeking a fervent relationship with the God he still knew little about at the time, Reverend Josiah Olufemi Akindayomi was fired by the intuition that there was a greater power than those commonly known to his people. This pursuit of God led him to the Church Missionary Society where he was baptised in 1927. Yet, remaining largely spiritually unfulfilled, he later joined the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, an indigenous African Church that emerged from the Anglican (Episcopal) Church in Nigeria. Reverend Akindayomi's call as a servant of God began whilst still a member of the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, a prompting he ignored for several years, until repeated business failures brought him to the point of repentance. This season became the turning-point for him in his relationship with God. Humbled, he made the decision to totally yield to God and his purposes, seeking divine confirmation of a call to ministry. The confirmation he sought eventually came through the Holy Scriptures.

By 1947, he had also become increasingly concerned about some of the doctrinal beliefs of the Cherubim and Seraphim Church to which he belonged and became totally persuaded to leave in 1952. The House Fellowship he later set up in Lagos, Nigeria soon became the hub of spiritual conversions and remarkable miracles, causing the group's membership to grow rapidly. During this period, Rev Akindayomi who couldn't read or write English not having had a formal education, received a vision in which the words "The Redeemed Christian Church of God" were written, being the name of the Church that the Lord would establish through him. By supernatural enablement, Rev Akindayomi was able to write these words spelling out the name of the Church. In the course of that spiritual encounter, God also revealed to him that the Church would spread to the ends of the earth and that when the Lord Jesus Christ will appear in glory at the end of the age, He would meet the RCCG. Without doubt, these were extraordinary prophecies to a man with no formal education or great means. Yet, he did not doubt the promises of the Lord but set out in faith to do his will.

The RCCG was, therefore, set up on the basis of this covenant between God and man: as long as the members of the RCCG remain obedient to God's Word, the Lord has promised to always miraculously meet the needs of the Church. Rev Akindayomi remained faithful to this heavenly vision until he went to be with the Lord in 1980. Prior to this, sometime in the early 1970s, he had received a message from the Lord about his spiritual successor, a young educated man who at the time was not a member of the Church. Hence, when Dr Enoch Adejare Adeboye, a young university lecturer in Mathematics became a member of the Church in 1973, Rev Akindayomi spiritually discerned that this was the person the Lord had spoken about. Dr Adeboye soon became involved in the activities of the Church and began to serve as an interpreter for Rev Akindayomi, translating his live sermons from Yoruba to English. The young man was ordained a pastor of the church in 1975. As revealed by the Lord, Pastor E.A. Adeboye became the General Overseer of the RCCG in 1981. Under his leadership, the RCCG has begun to experience the phenomenal growth promised by the Lord to his predecessor. A man devoted to fervent prayer and known for his unwavering emphasis on holy living as the foundation of a fruitful and enduring relationship with God, Pastor Adeboye is being used by God to bring the message of the gospel to nations around the world. In spite of the miraculous move of God in his ministry, however, Pastor Adeboye's humble disposition is widely acknowledged, thus making him a role model for many.

In December 2008, *Newsweek*, the international news magazine, named him one of the 50 most influential persons on the planet. The RCCG is currently active across continents with thousands of parishes, of which a little over 850 are in the United Kingdom.

OMITTED – WEDNESDAY 4th JULY 2018



Kesed, Southway, Colchester

We get it, you want to experience Church, yet what you know about it really puts you off! Your life right now may be great, in fact apart from wanting to see what Church is really about you might be thinking that being part of a Church community is not going to make a difference. Yet what if you could be living a life that's more alive and fulfilled than you could ever imagine, and you realise that you were just coasting through life. Jesus came to give you the fullest life, it's yours to have.

The leadership team at Kesed have their own experiences of finally discovering to live a fuller life. You can start your own story by **1.** Joining them this Sunday **2.** Experiencing Church for yourself (not by what you've been told) **3.** Discover what your life could look like. They're committed to bringing to Colchester family friendly Sunday and mid-week get togethers with live music and life application bible teaching. So experience Church for yourself and start a relationship with Jesus where you'll live a fulfilled life, no longer disconnected from a relationship with Jesus who will remind you how loved you are so you can go out and love others. This is Church, this is Kesed!

MONDAY 30th JULY 2018





St Martin's, St Martin's Square, Basildon

St. Martin's of Tours Church in Basildon Town Centre was officially opened on 10th November, 1962 in a consecration service conducted by the Bishop of Chelmsford; Rt. Rev. John Gerhard Tiarks. Its design was the work of local architect Trena M. Cotton and the cost of construction was £40,000. The Rector at the time of opening was Reverend William Winfield. A foundation stone had earlier been laid on 15/10/1960 by then Chairman of Basildon Development Corporation, Sir Humfrey Gale.

To compliment the church three separate water features with fountains were built which survived until the late 1960s. The largest was retained and survived in its original length well into the 1970s before being greatly reduced to its present length. It is now behind an enclosure and fitted with five fountains.

Porch

The Church received a royal visitor on October 9th, 1968 when Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent (Katharine Windsor) dedicated the new south porch and Christ sculpture. The 10-foot high Christ figure was designed by the artist T. B. Huxley-Jones and completed in fibreglass at his studio in Broomfield near Chelmsford, Essex. It was to be his last completed work as a short time later he was admitted to St. John's Hospital in Chelmsford where he died on 10th December 1968.

The Rural Dean, Rev. Arthur Dunlop, took the dedication service which also included an address from the Bishop of Chelmsford, John Tiarks.



Also in attendance was the Bishop of Bradwell, Neville Welch, Council Chairman, Terry Chapman, Constituency M.P., Eric Moonman, B.D.Corp. Chairman, William Balch, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brise and High Sherriff of Essex, Major N. N. Norman-Butler. J. Hodgson Ltd. of Prince Avenue, Southend were the main contractors. A Garden of Remembrance adjacent to the church opened on November 3rd, 1973, in a dedication service conducted by Rev. Peter Grimwood. Standing within the garden is a statue depicting St. Martin sharing his cloak with a beggar, which was created by notable sculptor and artist Peter Foster. To the front of the church was a large green which years later became St. Martin's Garden and was officially dedicated by the Bishop of Chelmsford; the Rt. Rev. (Albert) John Trillo on 21st June 1984. Basildon Council, Basildon Development Corporation and Marks and Spencer (in celebration of their centenary year) all contributed to the cost. A refurbishment of the garden was dedicated on 27th June 2006 by the Bishop of Bradwell, the Rt. Rev. Laurence Alexander Green. The public paved area with seating is called St. Michael's Walk.

War Memorial - Another feature to the front of the church is a stone war memorial with the inscription: We Will Remember Them. It stands approximately 3ft high on a plinth in a seated enclosure and was erected during the 1990s. In 1989 the plain exterior glass was replaced with stained glass designed and made by Joseph Nuttgens.

A special service attended by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh was held on 12th March 1999 to mark the official opening of the Belltower and the first 50 years of Basildon new town. The church on opening stood between two roads in the original Pagel Mead. In the early 1970s Pagel Mead was partly built over when the Marks and Spencer building was completed and the left curve at the end of Great Oaks became Pagel Mead which it remained until around 1997 when St. Martin's Square was completed. The remainder became unused before finally disappearing altogether when Church Walk House was constructed around 1977. Through traffic to Fodderwick and Towngate ceased when the Westgate Shopping Park was completed in 1999.

THURSDAY 9th AUGUST 2018



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 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 Christian 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, guttered the structure and totally remodelled both its internal and external appearance. Brick, plaster and cement were the only materials used.



St Francis, Western Road, Silver End

The building, now extended and converted for use in worship, was originally a barn built about 1690. Along with the creation of Silver End garden village in the 1920s the church was a part of the dream of the industrial philanthropist Francis Henry Crittall, in his words: 'to make a pleasant village amid trees and fields with modern dwellings, ample gardens, playing fields and parks' for the workers in his factories. F.H. Crittall also supplied the thatched lychgate, which along with the green and the church itself form one of the most attractive features along the main road running through Silver End village.

F.H. Crittall, an innovative window manufacturer supplied the distinctive metal-framed windows and doors in the Art Deco style, which are a main feature of this barn conversion. Mrs. F.H. Crittall donated the beautiful stained glass window depicting St. Francis of Assisi, in 1929. The thatch is long straw. The aluminium cross, manufactured by Crittalls in 1968, was placed in the original position of the doorway. That in turn was moved to the end of the building and formed the entrance to the porch.

Inside, the natural finish of the light wood panelling is reflected in the materials of the furnishings and complimented with tapestries behind the altar along with hand-worked kneelers. The church was constructed to seat a congregation of one hundred on individual rush chapel chairs.

The original ceiling is recorded as a deep blue. Though this was changed to a pale blue in the early 1980s, the gold and silver stars above the chancel have been faithfully restored. In the days of the midnight blue ceiling the tie beams which are now stripped back to a natural finish, were painted red. The original gold bands at either end have been retained.

The wooden theme is reflected in the design of the rustic font which was a gift made to the church by Mr. Uriah Shelley, of Boucher's Farm, Rivenhall. It is recorded as being fashioned from an oak tree planted near the then small hamlet of Silver End, in the twelfth century. That is the same century in which St. Francis of Assisi was born.

The altar rails, reading desk and pulpit, all in a natural wood finish, were produced by workmen of the Crittall Manufacturing Company and designed by W.F. Crittall in conjunction with the main designer of the church, Mr. G.C. Holmes.

The building was presented as a gift to the Church of England during a service of dedication to St. Francis, by the Crittall family, in 1930.



St Mary's (Catholic), Sheepcotes Lane, Silver End

An interesting design of the 1960s, built on a budget to allow for later extension. It is on the edge of an inter-war model village, built for the workers at Crittall & Co. Silver End was developed in the 1920s and 30s as a model village for the workers at the factory of Francis Henry Crittall. A Mass centre was established in 1932, initially served from Kelvedon and then from Witham. The site of the current church was given by Crittall & Co. in exchange for another site which had been acquired for a church in 1960.

The church was built from designs by Martin Evans ARIBA of London W11 and opened on 9 November 1966. Semi-circular on plan, it was designed to be later extended to form a circular design. The church seated seventy people, and cost £8500. The builders were Messrs Frederick J. French of Chelmsford. The church is served from Witham. The church is semi-circular on plan, with a spiral roof wrapping around a reinforced concrete column surmounted by a concrete cross. The design is likened by The Buildings of England to a snail's shell. It is externally clad in white brick laid in stretcher bond, with Fletton-type bricks on the 'straight' side (which was designed to allow for later extension).

The roof is of natural Welsh slate, with deep gutterless overhanging eaves to the curved walls. The glazing is confined to the straight side, with tall slender lights below and a glazed clerestory above. Inside, the walls are of bare brick, and the Douglas fir rafters of the roof are exposed.

Wall posts form an ambulatory around the perimeter. Seating consists of individual chairs. There is a small sanctuary area with a grey/white brick altar with grey marble mensa.



During the last twenty-five years Silver End has grown from a tiny hamlet to a most compact and modern village; today it has almost six hundred houses, and at the time of writing more are being built. Mr. Francis H. Crittall in his book " 50 Years of Work and Play" has told the story of the development of Silver End. He had a vision of a modern village for his employees, and one day in Autumn 1925 he changed his course in going from Witham to Braintree, and came across what he recognised as Silver End - a few rural cottages clustered near an old inn.



Congregational, Silver Street, Silver End

It had lain there since the eleventh century when its situation was recorded in the Domesday Book. Very little change had taken place, but it was not long before plans were being prepared for its transformation. Farm land was purchased and in 1926 building commenced. People who hailed from various parts of the country came to live in the newly built houses. There is little surprise that the Extension Committee of the Essex Congregational Union turned its attention to the growing village.

On 3rd March 1929 the Secretary of the Extension Committee the Rev. O. L. Whitmee conducted a service in the Village Hall. A fortnight later the service was conducted by the Rev. G. C. Lambert, M.A., B.D. of Wallasey, Cheshire. The Committee had been advised to approach Mr. Lambert as it was known that he was a man suited for the task of starting a new Church.

As a result of his visit Mr. Lambert felt led to accept the appointment of first Minister of Silver End. His ministry commenced on 5th May 1929, so began a work of much toil, but if it was hard, there was also encouragement, for progress was made and gradually the activities increased. Men and women responded to the call for Sunday School Teachers - these were warmly welcomed by the Minister who had been running the school alone. The Silver End Development Company realising the Essex Congregational Union fully intended to build a Church offered as a gift a most suitable site. This was gladly accepted, and a portion of land adjoining was purchased so that in time a Manse could be built near to the Church. Plans were drawn up for the building of a Church to seat 200 and a small hall to accommodate about 70, also vestries and kitchen. The Foundation Stones were laid on 29th April 1930.

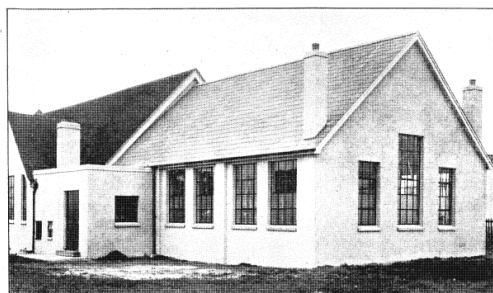
The Moderator of the Eastern Province - Rev. Hugh Ross Williamson presided and stones were laid by Mr. F. H. Crittall, J.P., Alderman Owen Ward, J.P., Mrs. Arthur Burns and Rev. G. C. Lambert, M.A., B.D.

On September 17th the Church was opened for worship. The cost of the buildings was £2,500 and this was met by the Essex Congregational Union. Sir Valentine Crittall, J.P. (now Lord Braintree) presided, and Lady Crittall opened the door of the Church with a golden key. The service of dedication which followed was conducted by Dr. F. W. Norwood of the City Temple. It was fitting that the Minister of the only Free Church in the City of London should be present for such an occasion, as a Lord Mayor of London (Sir Charles Batho) had opened the Village Hall in 1928.

On 21st January 1931 the Church was formally constituted with a membership of 58. After three years of devoted service which involved great labour, and had demanded much love and patience the Rev. G.C.Lambert tendered his resignation and closed his ministry on 27th March 1932. Three months later the Rev. James A. Lawson of Stambourne accepted a call to the pastorate. Mr Lawson was keenly interested in the Boys Brigade, and due to his enthusiasm and leadership there developed a strong Company. Work amongst the girls was not forgotten and the 1st Silver End Company of the Girls Life Brigade was formed. After three years Mr. Lawson suffered a breakdown in health and resigned. It must be recorded that during his ministry the Sisterhood presented to the Church a Silver Bowl for use at Baptisms.

The Rev. C. W. Wall was called to the pastorate, and commenced his ministry in October 1935. In the early days of 1936 a big scheme was placed before the Church - it was for the erection of a large hall to accommodate the Sunday School. Mr P. E. Brand of Clacton was approached, and plans were prepared for building a hall on to the existing buildings. This necessitated the removal of the rear wall, and replacing it with folding doors. Improvements were also made to the interior of the Church, and pews replaced the chairs which were required for use in the new hall.

The cost of this was £1,000 and it was mainly due to the efforts of the Minister who travelled far and wide to raise money that the building was opened by Mr J. W. Moss of Frinton on 28th September 1936 free of debt. Dr. S. M. Berry, M. A., Secretary of the Congregational Union was the special preacher. At about the same time the present organ - (a two Manual) was purchased. The work of the Church prospered, and a strong Christian Endeavour Society was found in its midst. The Mid-Essex C. E. Union honoured the Society and its Minister by calling Mr. Wall to the office of President of the Union in 1938. At the end of January 1939 Mr Wall accepted a call to Southampton much to the regret of many friends in Silver End.



At the time of Mr. Walls departure no one foresaw what big changes would take place in the life of the nation within the next few months. On Easter Sunday the Rev. Edgar Jones commenced his ministry at Silver End, and before he had time to get settled down, the circumstances of war wrought many changes. Black-Out, Night Work - the calling up of young men all contributed to the curtailment of the work of the Church. It was most unfortunate that these things should be, for it was a great set back, and had its effects upon the health of the Minister. At the end of 1942 Mr Jones accepted a call to Woodham Ferrers

For thirteen months the Church was without a minister, and much work fell upon the shoulders of Mr. A. H. Chapman who for most of that time held the office of Secretary as well as Church Treasurer, and Mr. G.W. Richer the senior deacon. Mention must be made of the labours of officers during these twenty-one years. At first, there were several changes due to removals from the village. Mr. G. W. Richer has been in office as Supt. of the School since the early days, and Mr. G. W. Sharpe served as Secretary for 11 years. Of the present officers - Mr. G. N. Butler has been Treasurer since 1946 and Mr. Loads took over the position as Secretary in 1948. February 6th 1944 marked the opening of the present ministry, the Rev. Arthur J. Stubbs who had been at Welling, Kent for three years, having accepted the call to the pastorate.

His Induction Service was held on March 28th, The Moderator, Rev. W. Ellis Pearson, M. A. presided and the Charges were given by the Revs. H. C. Monk and W. Andrew James M. A. The life of the Church was somewhat at a low ebb, and presented no easy task for a young man; but quickly the situation improved, congregations increased and renewed interest soon became evident. On "D. Day" 6th June 1944 our Minister conducted a Special Service of Prayer and Intercession and thereafter until the end of the war a weekly service was held each Wednesday.

In August 1944 a monthly News-Letter known as "The Tidings" was published and copies distributed to every house in Silver End - this has been maintained and is a source of witness for the Church. The Royal Air Force occupied the newly constructed aerodrome at Rivenhall in October 1944.

A Y.M.C.A. Canteen was opened in their Schoolroom and this was well patronised and appreciated. The work of the Girls Life Brigade and the Sisterhood were restarted during the first year's ministry and the Christian Endeavour Society was resumed after the end of hostilities.

Progress has continued and a large sum of money has been raised and expended on essential repairs and the installation of a separate heating system for our large hall. In addition over £60 has been spent on the renovation of the organ and piano.

In September 1948 they combined with St Francis Church in a week of Visitation Evangelism and every house was visited. The results have proved that this was a worthy effort. During the past four years they have lost two of our beloved Foundation Members, Mrs. Richer and Mrs. Tinworth, the brass flower vases and lectern on the Communion Table were their memorial to Mrs. Richer and a brass flower vase on the organ perpetuates the memory of Mrs. Tinworth.

Mention must be made of the offices to which their minister has been called during his time with them - they include the Chairmanship of the Braintree District of the Essex Congregational Union 1947/48 also the Chairmanship of the Braintree London Missionary Society Auxiliary for 1947/48.

He has served on the General Committee of the Essex Congregational Union since 1947 and has been president of the Mid-Essex Christian Endeavour Union for the year 1949/50.

Two items must not be overlooked - the ladies of the Church are providing them with new curtains for the rostrum and around the organ - it's hoped they will be ready for their Anniversary.

History was made on April 22nd in the Witham Sunday School Union Eisteddfod at Maldon. Their Sunday School Choir won the "Docwra Shield" in the afternoon and in the evening the Church Choir won the "Sadd Shield". This is the first time we have won either of these shields, and they were delighted with these successes coming as they do in their year of celebration.



St Mary's Church in Stebbing is Grade One listed. The current building dates entirely from the 14th Century. The Historic England listing suggests a date of 1360 for the building, but much evidence points to an earlier date than this, notably recorded by Nicolas Pevsner in his book "The buildings of England - Essex" 1954, where he points to the decorative forms of tracery of the windows and the early 14th Century style of the sedilia and piscina.



St Mary's, Church Road, Stebbing

The Rev C.E. Livesey (Vicar of Stebbing 1920-1930) settled on a date of 1324 in his history of Stebbing Church published in 1924. Excavations in the vestry in September 1993 uncovered a number of burials, and clear evidence of the foundations of a previous building that stood on the site, which extend under the current north wall of the chancel and the east wall of the north aisle; indicating that a large, significant church pre-dates the current 14th Century building.













All Saints, Cressing

Parish church. Century 12th-15th, extended and restored in 19th. Mainly of coursed flint rubble containing some brick and tile, South wall of Chancel partly of red brick, with dressings of limestone and clunch, roofed with handmade red plain tiles. North vestry of gault brick in Flemish bond. Nave possibly is from 12th but with no architectural detail of that date, on a Saxo-Norman foundation; Chancel early 13th, South wall rebuilt in early 16th; bell-turret about 1400; North vestry 1823; South porch 19th.

The East wall of the Chancel is rendered externally, with a stone plaque in the gable dated 1833; the window is 19th; the diagonal North East buttress is 19th, of red brick. In the North wall are 2 early 13th lancet windows of one light, both wholly restored externally. The South wall and diagonal South East buttress are of unusual fabric, with erratic courses of 'great bricks' in stretcher bond, intermixed with flint rubble; the bricks are approximately 25 x 16.5 x 4.5 cms; one of them is inscribed BL GL. In the South wall is one early CL6 window of 2 cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in a 4-centred head; the external jambs and head are deeply moulded; the mullion and outer sill are restored; the internal sill is dropped to form a seat, with a chamfered step enclosing the piscina. Further West is a doorway, wholly restored externally, with plain internal jambs and chamfered segmental-jointed rear-arch. The roof of the Chancel is of 9 couples framed in 7 cants, boarded between them, with crenellated wall plates moulded to a bowtell in great casement, repeated, 15th. There is no chancel-arch. The East gable of the Nave is timber framed and rendered above the roof of the Chancel. In the North wall are 2 15th windows, each of 2 cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a 2-centred head with a moulded label; the rear-arches are hollow-moulded; the sill of the eastern window is dropped to form a seat and step.

Further West is the 14th North doorway, now enclosed by the North vestry; it has jambs and 2-centred arch chamfered in 2 orders; the moulded label has mutilated head-stops; above the chamfered segmental rear-arch is set a voussoir with chevron ornament, about 1130. An area of disturbed rubble at the East end of this wall indicates the former presence of a stair to the rood-loft. In the South wall are 2 windows; the eastern is of about 1340, of 2 trefoiled ogee lights with quatrefoiled tracery in a 2-centred head, with moulded label; the rear-arch is wave-moulded and the sill is dropped like that of the window opposite; it has crown glass; the western window is similar in date and detail to those in the North wall. East of these windows is an internal recess of uncertain origin, with disturbed rubble outside; it has splayed jambs and a chamfered segmental rear-arch. West of the windows is the late 14th South doorway, the jambs and 2-centred arch wave-moulded in 2 orders, with a moulded label. In the West wall is a window, all 19th except the 15th plain internal jambs and hollow-chamfered 2-centred rear-arch.

On the South West quoins are 2 scratch dials, one faint. In the floor in the North East corner of the Nave is an inspection panel giving access to rubble foundations excavated by the Brain Valley Archaeological Society, 1978, showing that the Nave originally terminated in a narrow chancel-arch, with an apsidal Chancel on the site of the western part of the present Chancel.

The roof of the Nave is in 4 bays, of which the West bay is wholly occupied by the bell-turret, with 4 tie beams on arch-braced wall-pieces, arched to its collars, with side purlins and crown pieces with collar purlin engaging high collars, the cowuton couples framed into 7 cants. The timber arches below the collars are tied to the principal-rafters by 3 short timbers, and there are pierced tracery panels between them and the main timbers' (C.A. Hewett, *Church Carpentry, a Study based on Essex examples*, 1982, 28-9, with illustration).

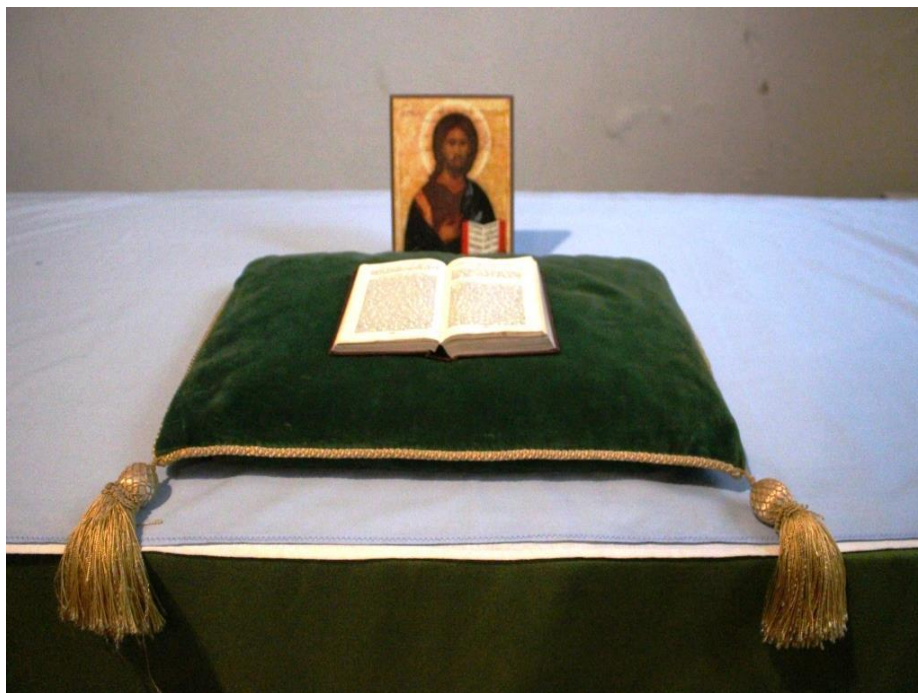
The wall plates are moulded to a bowtell in great casement, and the tie beams, purlins and arched braces are also moulded; this roof is of the early cls. The most westerly common couple is exposed in the West gable. The bell-turret of about 1400 is mounted on 4 posts forming a portal frame, with arched braces of steep 4-centred arcature; the West braces are hollow-chamfered, the other braces and posts plain-chamfered; the braces engage with attached shafts on the posts. In the spandrels are vertical and horizontal struts. There are braces of similar curvature in the North and South sides. Above the tie beams 2 further stages are visible, each with curved saltire bracing on each side, and inside them a similar and later structure supporting the square bell-turret and short octagonal spire, not examined owing to lack of access.

The North vestry has a door with 4-centred head, and in each side a 2-light window of plastered brick in a 2-centred head; in the North wall is a quatrefoil recess; the roof is flat. The piscina in the South wall of the Chancel is early 16th, with chamfered jambs and 4-centred head, retaining an earlier octofoil drain asymmetrically placed, probably 14th. In the Chancel is a brass of Dorcas (Bigg), wife of Thomas Musgrave, of Norton, Yorkshire, 1610, seated figure of lady, left hand pointing to figure of infant, with 2 inscription plates; and a floor-slab of William Smith and Dorcas, his wife, mid-17th, inscription worn.

On the South wall of the Chancel is a monument of Anne (Grene), wife of (a) Thomas Newman, and (b) Henry Smith of Cressing Temple, 1607, alabaster and marble tablet with kneeling figures of man in plate-armour, and lady, with 4 shields of arms; panelled base with small figures of a daughter and a swaddled infant. Fragments of 14th glass reset in the tracery of the N windows of the Nave. Above the North doorway are the arms of Queen Anne before the Union, on canvas in a carved frame. There is one bell, by Thomas Gardiner, 1737.



St Mary's, Kelvedon













St Mary's Parish Church is the oldest and most historic building in the village. Parts of it are over 800 years old.

A special feature is the magnificent roof made of English oak with tie beams and moulded braces with traceried spandrels, dating from about 1400 together with four pairs of half figures you can see looking down on you. These figures represent the Apostles and they are holding articles which relate to the Guilds to which the church was connected.

Other interesting features include the "squint holes" in the chancel arch. These were made before the days of church pews, so that the elderly sitting on benches around the walls could see what was going on at the high altar. This reminds us that a church is first and foremost about people and about meeting their spiritual needs.



All Saints, Feering

Although the porch and south front of All Saints, Feering was rebuilt in brick around 1500 AD the main body of the church dates back to 13th century when it must have replaced a Norman nave since the parish once belonged to Edward the Confessor. The stone altar, which was built in 1961 by two parishioners, contains fragments from the ruins of Coggeshall Abbey, Walsingham Abbey and Colne Priory. In the niche over the porch door is a terra cotta bas-relief of Our Lady and the Holy Child designed by the sculptress Stella Ling in 1985.



The altar piece, a painting by John Constable showing the risen Christ was given to the church in 1965 but this has since been replaced by a copy, the original may now be seen in St Mary the Virgin, Dedham.



The church contains many beautiful carvings in both wood and stone.





All Saints, Inworth

Early 11th century and later, of carved flint-rubble, puddings tone, freestone and Roman brick. Brick and limestone dressings. Nave and chancel roof in red plain tile. Tower in red brick, with diagonal buttresses and staircase tower on north side, built in 1876. Chancel is basically 11th, but was lengthened, with a new east wall in 14th. East window is circa 1876. North wall there is a 11th window of one round headed light with double splays. South wall has matching 11th window, flanked by 2, 14th windows, each of 2 cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a 2 centred head.

Circa 1876 south doorway. 11th chancel arch, semi-circular, of square arches on west side. Flanking the arch are 2 squints, northern of which has 2 centred head probably 13th, southern modern. 11th nave with 15th and 19th alterations. North wall has 2 windows one of 15th, of 2 cinquefoiled lights in a square head with a moulded label. West window of circa 1876. Two windows in south wall, are early 16th in brick, of 3 plain lights in four centred head with a moulded label, the other is circa 1876. Adjacent to the south door are the splays and round head of a sill window. South door is early 16th, with double, chamfered jambs, and segmental pointed arch of brick. Nave roof is 14th, 7 cants with moulded ashlar plates, cambered tie beams and crown posts with moulded bases and capitals. South porch is gabled in red brick, with red plain tile roof, all of circa 1876. Some early 16th timber re-used in roof including moulded wall plates. Some 14th and 15th glass. 12th wall paintings in nave, east wall, part decorative but also with figures including a bishop. Late 15th screen and late 15th carved bench.

WEDNESDAY 15th AUGUST 2018

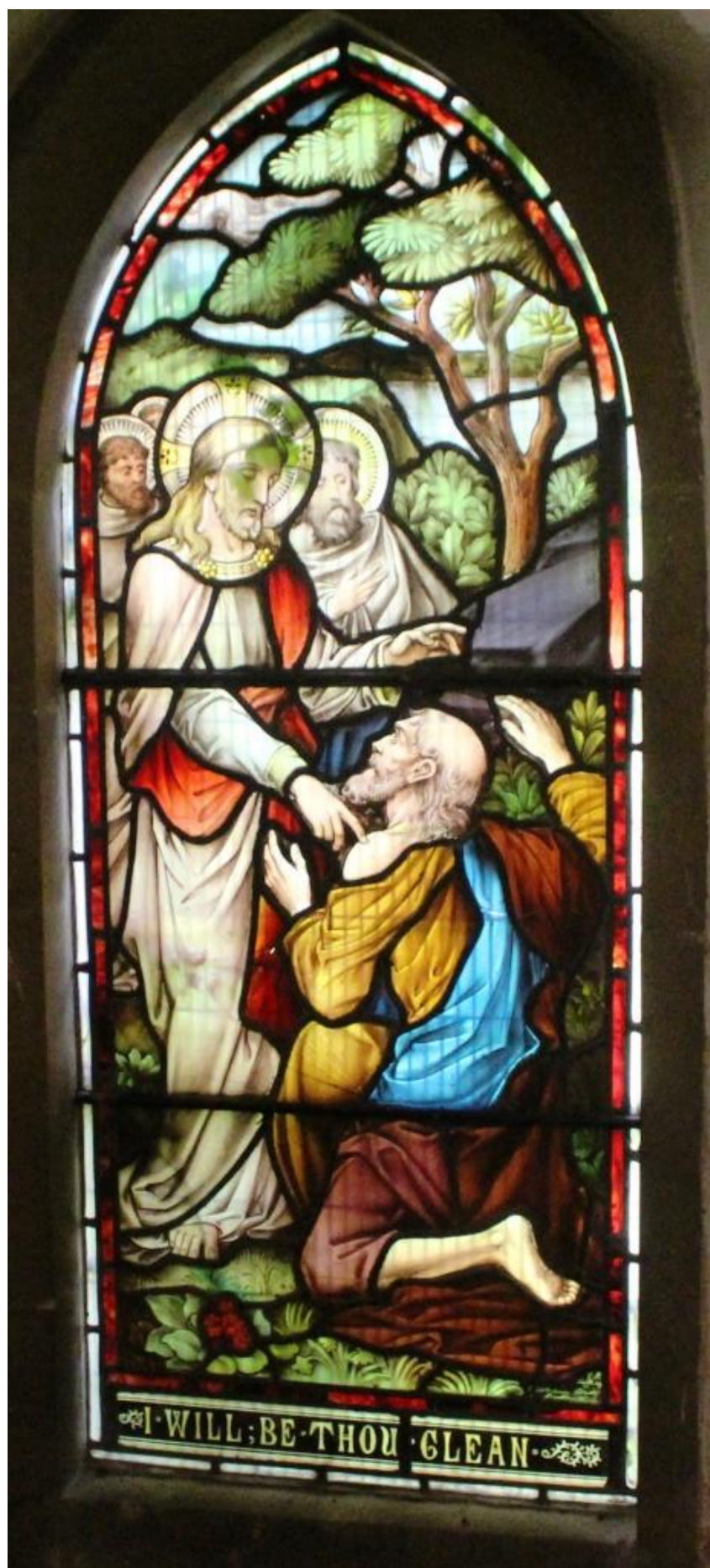


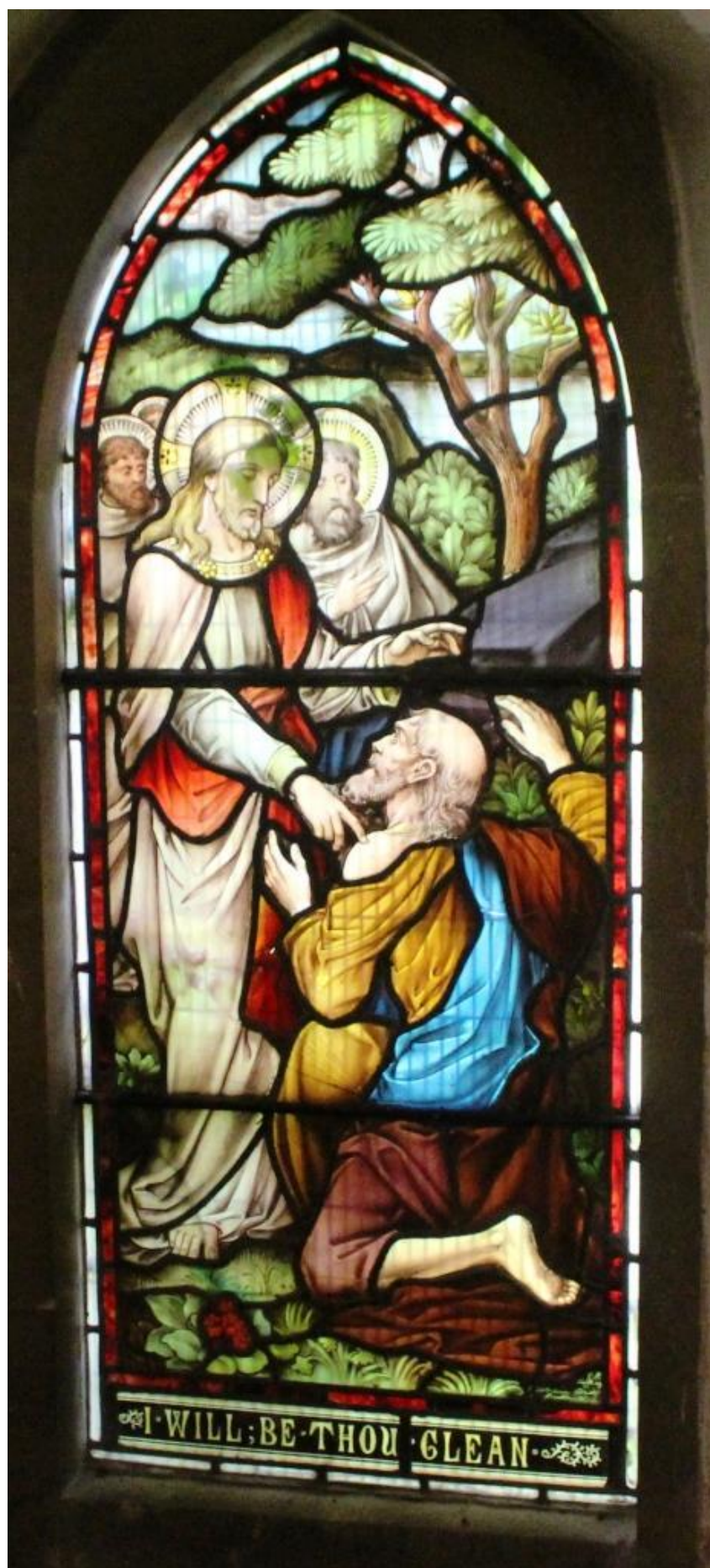
Kings Community, Main Road, Dovercourt



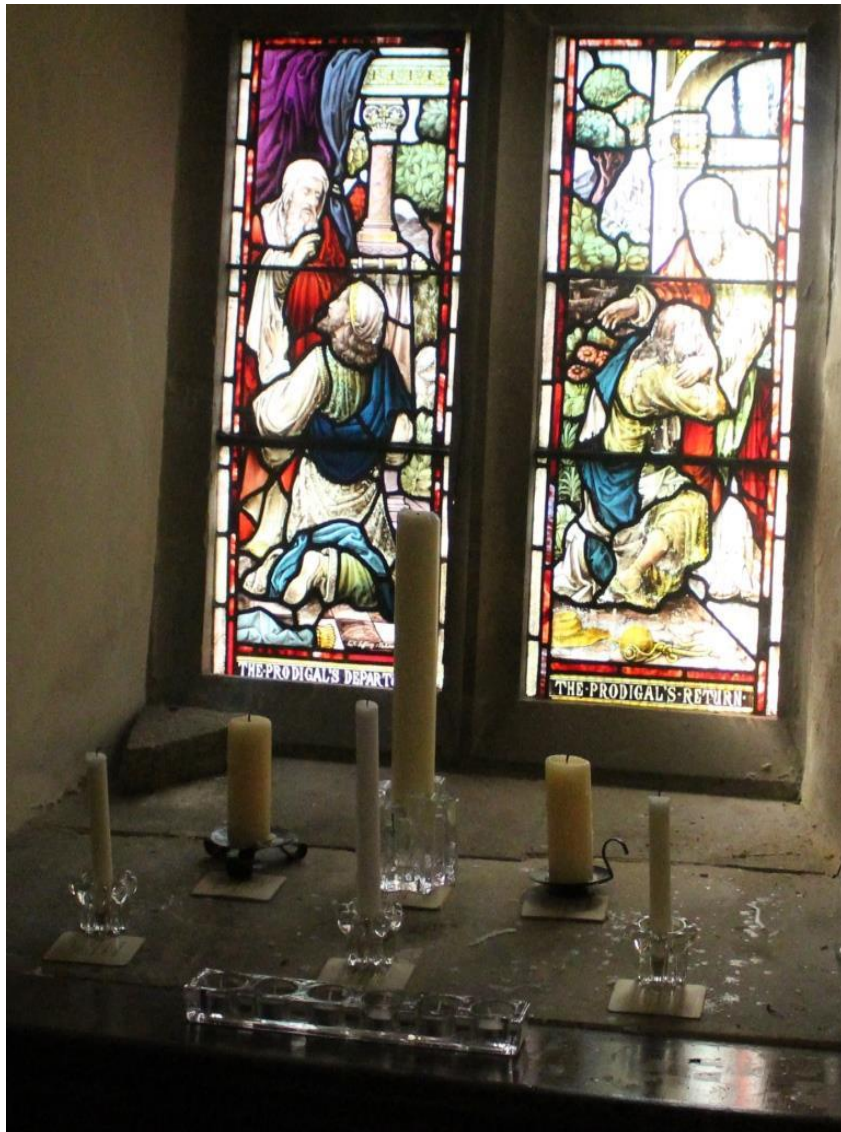










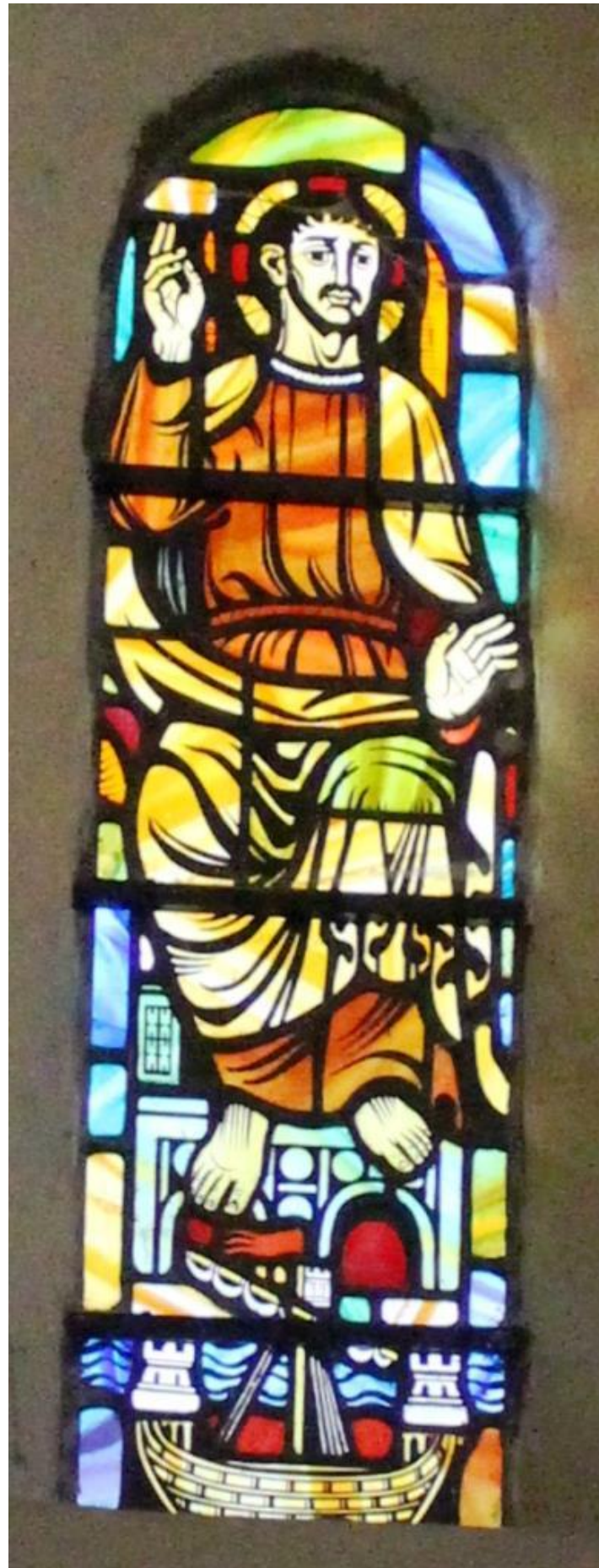














All Saints, Main Road, Dovercourt



Dovercourt was once a small village close to the sea until it began to grow into a large seaside resort during the Victorian era. The church dates back to the Norman period and has 14th century additions.