



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 28**



FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018



Blessed Sacrament, Melbourne Avenue, Melbourne, Chelmsford



St Andrew's, Melbourne Avenue, Melbourne, Chelmsford



North Avenue URC, Melbourne, Chelmsford



Redeemed Church of God, Baddow Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER 2018



St Edmunds, Tendring

This is a grade 2 listed building, with a 13th century nave and chancel, 14th North porch, 19th West tower and east wall rebuilt. 19th South chapel and aisle, 19th and 20th restorations. Plastered stone and flint rubble walls, stone and flint flushwork facing to west tower, south chapel and aisle. Red plain tiled roofs. Chancel, east wall 3 graduated lancets, continuous label over with head stops, plinth, parapet verges, angle buttresses. North wall, 2 C13 chamfered lancets, partly restored, 2 buttresses. South Chapel and aisle, east and west walls have each a window of 2 cinquefoiled ogees, label with headstops, angle buttresses. South wall, the 4 western bays have each a window of 2 cinquefoiled ogees, segmental heads and labels. 2 eastern windows of 2 chamfered trefoiled lights, 2 centred heads and labels, buttresses between each window.

Nave, north wall, 2 windows, the circa 1300 eastern of 2 trefoiled lights with a trefoil in a 2 centred head, the western mainly restored of 3 trefoiled lights, trefoil over, 2 centred head. Angle buttresses and 3 other buttresses. 14th gabled north porch, timber framed, 2 centre arched doorway flanked by open lights with trefoiled ogee heads and tracery, side walls each have 6 trefoiled ogee lights with cusped spandrels, restored mullions. Foiled bargeboards to gables, moulded wall plates, collars to each rafter pair, cambered tie beam, side seats. North doorway, 19th chamfered 4 centred head, double vertically boarded doors, ornate hinges, 14th rear splays. West tower of 3 stages, stone bands between, angle buttresses, panelled flint flushwork cornice, crenellated with pinnacles, crocketed spire of 5 stages, weathervane. Stair turret to north west angle. Gargoyles to cornice.

North, west and south bell chamber windows of 2 trefoiled lights with quatrefoil, 2 centred heads, second stage north, south and west faces have single trefoiled lights, west face, first stage window of 2 trefoiled lights, roundels over, 2 centred head.

The stair turret upper stage with quatrefoils in flint flushwork panels, lower cross light and quatrefoil. Interior. Chancel. Boarded barrel vaulted roof. Piscina, restored C13, chamfered jambs, 2 centred head, no drain. south wall monument of Edmund Saunder, 1615, alabaster figure of a kneeling man in civil dress within a round headed recess with flanking pilasters, cornice and shield, brass under. 19th painted prayer and commandments to reredos, 19th wooden altar rail, C19 and 20th stained glass windows. 19th south archway, 2 centred of 2 chamfered orders, moulded capitals and bases to columns. 19th 2 centred Chancel arch, moulded capitals and bases to shafts. Nave. 16th roof of 6 bays, moulded wall plates, arched braces to raised tie beams which support queen posts and arched braces to collars, struts to apex, arched braces to side purlins. C14 moulded timber north and south door surrounds with tracery to gables, moulded wall posts, arched braces spring from these gables and support a heavy tie beam which appears to have had the centre removed to form hammerbeams. Illustration of door surrounds C.A. Hewitt Church Carpentry 1974.

The removal of the centre of the tie beam gives a view from the Chancel to the 19th Tower arch and it is now tied with a metal bar, this truss supported the former bell turret. South arcade of 3 bays, chamfered 2 centred arches, octagonal columns with moulded capitals and bases. C16 octagonal font, panelled sides with shield, foliage and pomegranate decoration, carved soffit, cinquefoiled panels to stem, moulded base. 19th moulded 2 centred Tower arch. Coloured tile and brick floors. 19th south aisle lean-to roof with moulded principles, arched braces and trefoiled spandrels.

TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2018



St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Dedham

The present parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham was built in the 15th century. Building work started in 1492, the year that Columbus discovered America, and St Mary's was completed 30 years later, before King Henry VIII made himself head of the Church in England. The tower, completed in 1519, is actually an independent structure and is particularly imposing for a church of this size. It is said that Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, paid for the tower to be built. The tower is 131 feet high and is the most striking feature in this part of the Stour Valley.



Craft Centre, High Street, Dedham

This is a craft centre which is a converted church which is a shop and eatery now.



St Lawrence, The Street, Bradfield





All Saints, Wrabness

The oldest building in the village is All Saints' Church, which dates from around 1100. The church's bell tower collapsed in the seventeenth century, and the bell moved temporarily to a wooden bell cage in the church yard. The bell cage remains to this day.

THURSDAY 11st OCTOBER 2018



St Andrew's, Alresford

St Andrew's was opened on Palm Sunday 1976 and is close to the Village Hall and the playing field with ample parking. Whilst inside it is very much a modern flexible building, from the outside its shape reminds one of an Essex barn with its steeply pitched roof and high level windows at the gable ends. Inside, the worship space with its polished wooden floor and high ceiling can seat up to 200 people in individual chairs.

FRIDAY 12th OCTOBER 2018





St Andrew's, Heybridge Street, Heybridge

In Heybridge Street stands on an ancient site of worship. The church building was completed in the 12th century. Somewhere around 1450 flooding caused the tower to collapse and the 'ruins' were restored to more or less the present form later in the 15th century. Within the building there is seating for 200 people, including the choir. The organ is at the back of the church in the gallery and the musical style is largely traditional, supplemented by modern hymns and choruses where appropriate. The services are mainstream Church of England. We are glad to see families in church - there are books and toys available, and toilets in the Waring room. There is level access for wheel chairs and a loop system for hearing aid users.



Evangelical, Fullbridge, Maldon

Fullbridge Church has its origins in the Brethren movement which started around 1830. The movement exploded during the second half of the 19th century, and independent churches sprang up all over Britain. One of the characteristics of the movement was its passion for mission abroad and evangelism at home. Although the individual congregations were independent, by the beginning of the 20th century they recognized the need to co-operate to promote outreach, and one organisation which supported evangelistic efforts in England was "Counties Evangelistic Work". This was very fruitful in reaching more towns and villages with the gospel, and in 1922 a 'Counties' evangelist, Samuel Glen, brought a tent mission to Heybridge, pitching it next to the canal. As a result of his preaching (and singing!) twenty-six people were converted and baptised and started to meet together as Christians. At first they met in rented rooms, but in due course they felt the need to have a building of their own, to meet the needs of the congregation and to serve as a venue for gospel activities. A plot of land was obtained in a central location and in 1937 the new building was completed and given the name Fullbridge Gospel Hall. In 1991 the name was changed from Fullbridge Gospel Hall to Fullbridge Evangelical Church. During

the first fifty years the building received several alterations to modernize its facilities, but by the beginning of the 21st century it was clear that the Fullbridge building needed serious improvement and enlargement. Major building work was commenced in summer 2002 and completed by the following spring, adding a second storey with two rooms and a minor hall at the rear along with new kitchen and toilets; the main hall and the roof were also renovated at the same time. In 2012 Fullbridge Church celebrated its 75th anniversary, with a special weekend of meetings. We meet every Sunday at 10.30am for worship, communion and Bible teaching, with separate activities for children and teenagers during the second part of the service, except on the first Sunday of each month when we have a Family Service followed by a fellowship lunch.



URC, Maldon Hill, Maldon

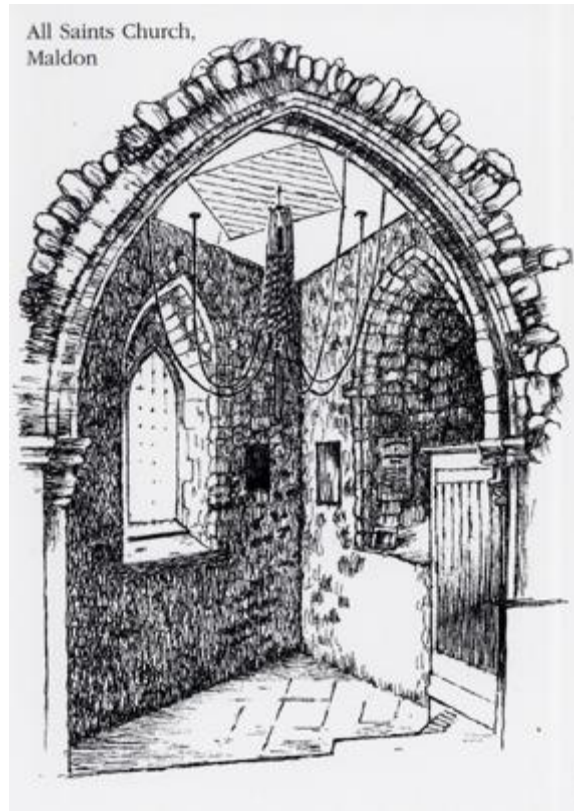
The first record of a building on this site was in 1696 when a piece of land at the top of Market Hill was acquired by the Revd Joseph Billio, the first minister, and a "Meeting House" accommodating 400 was built for the Protestant Dissenters of the town. Such was the enthusiasm and fervour of Billio's preaching that the phrase "like Billio" passed into the English language. A portrait of him hangs in the church vestry. By 1800 the original building was found to be unsafe and was demolished, to be replaced by the present church. This building was enlarged throughout the century as the church continued to flourish, acquiring its present appearance in 1878 with the addition of the pillared portico. By this time it was known as the Congregational Church. The building on the left, forward of the church, is the old British School building erected in 1843. The deep grooves in the brickwork either side of the entrance door were caused by the pupils sharpening their slate pencils.

The Lecture Hall, also part of the British Schools until their closure in 1911, occupied the adjacent car park and was used by the church and local organisations until its demolition in 1987. The monuments in the graveyard to the north and east of the church indicate the close links between business and non-conformity in Maldon during the 18th and 19th centuries. The congregation which meets for worship in the church today is known as the United Reformed Church, a result of the uniting in 1972 of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in England and Wales. In 1999 the decision was taken by church members to refurbish the interior of the building by removing the Victorian pulpit and downstairs pews, and adding a kitchen, toilet and enlarged entrance area. The work was completed in 2000 and includes new heating, a carpeted floor and sophisticated sound and video systems. These now provide a comfortable and welcoming building, much in demand for concerts as well as regular worship.



All Saints, High Street, Maldon

For many people the church in any town is an important place even if they never actually use it for its intended purpose, for it speaks of community and continuity. Historically it is a special place, but it will also have personal associations as generations have marked the significant events in their family lives here. There is seldom a time in any week, winter or summer, when someone is not seen wandering around. This church very much belongs to Maldon - her citizens in home-spun leather doublet, crinolines and tweeds, top hats and feather boas, double breasted suits and donkey jackets have knelt before its altars, slept through sermons, moaned at the choice of hymns and hymn tunes as well as beautified its fabric. Happiness, thanksgiving, sadness and tragedy have been shared here and you may wish to think about that as you wander around and consider some of the events behind the memorials. You will see here some fine art and architecture, but above all we welcome you to a place of worship and the gathering place of God's people. It is a place of witness to the Christian Faith and all that it stands for. You will find this presented in many different ways as many generations have added to, taken away from, repositioned or redeployed parts of its structure as the needs or tastes of the day demanded. It was their place in their time and the church has always been more about people than buildings; it is a place of refurbishment, where spiritual batteries may be recharged.



It is a place of peace in the midst of many conflicts. It is the home of the people of God - as well as God's house. So welcome to this place, let it speak to you and the particular needs you have at this time. Come again - for it may be that your needs then will be different from what they are now.

THE EARLY YEARS

In **1215** the Lateran Council decreed that Monastic Foundations which had "appropriated" benefices, should provide resident, perpetual Vicars and assign adequate provision for their maintenance. It was soon evident that the endowments of the two parishes (All Saints and St. Peter's) were insufficient to make this provision and in 1244 the parishes were united and have remained so ever since despite all the dramatic changes in ecclesiastical structure that the following centuries were to bring. And we think that the uniting of parishes under one Vicar is a modern thing! Under the terms of the union, All Saints was decreed to be the "mother church".

Until the 17th century services were held in both churches, when the nave and chancel of St. Peter's fell down and All Saints then provided for the needs of both parishes. St. Peter's Tower survived and remained the responsibility of All Saints Church Council until quite recently; what seems to be the church attached to it is in fact a building commissioned by **Archdeacon Plume of Rochester in 1704** to provide accommodation for his library, which he had bequeathed to the town of his birth, on the upper floor and Maldon Grammar School below. **The collection of books is one of the finest of its period** and the Vicar of All Saints along with the Rector St. Mary's and the Head Teacher of the Grammar School (now the Plume School) continue to serve on the Library's Board of Trustees. The Registers of both

Parishes, St. Peter's dating from 1556 and All Saints from 1558 are in the custody of the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford.

The Parishes were part of the Diocese of London until 1846, then Rochester until 1877, then St. Albans until 1914 and currently in the Diocese of Chelmsford. Having been in the gift of the Bishop of London, the Abbot of Beeleigh and a host of private individuals, the living has been in the gift of the Diocesan Bishop since 1903.



My next challenge was to find the five new churches on my list and the first two were in Wantz Road which I realised was to the right as you were on the High Street as you headed towards the Promenade Park.



Here I was to find the Salvation Army and Elim Pentecostal. These were almost opposite one another.



Again using the map on my phone, the two religious buildings in Butt Lane, were just to the left of Wantz Road and the other side of the High Street. These were the Baptist and the Quaker House (seen on page 11).



Luckily my next, the Catholic of the Assumption of Our Lady, in Victoria Road, was in the adjoining road. This was seen below with its hall and on page 13.





All the new churches on my list were seen, I now headed for the waterfront and maybe a sit down to rest my legs.



Next was St Mary's but as I approached the open door, something was going on in there so I did not go in.













Having done a lot of walking and with the time nearly 12 noon, I decided to get back to the High Street to get the bus back, but as it turned out, I did not need to rush as the 1209 bus had not even gone down to the park as I saw it go that way late and it was slow to come back. Seeing the Methodist church in the High Street as we left, then it was a learner driver under tuition on the bus, so he was very slow too and by the time we got back, we were 30 minutes late.

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018

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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).

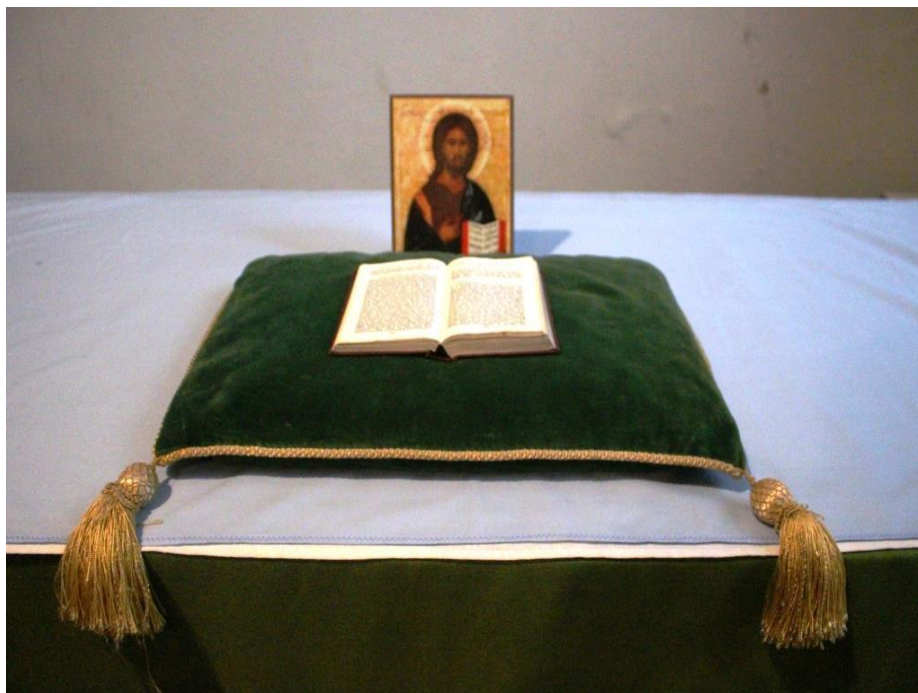
The wall plates are moulded to a bowtell in great casement, and the tie beams, purlins and arched braces are also moulded; this roof is of the early cls. The most westerly common couple is exposed in the West gable. The bell-turret of about 1400 is mounted on 4 posts forming a portal frame, with arched 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

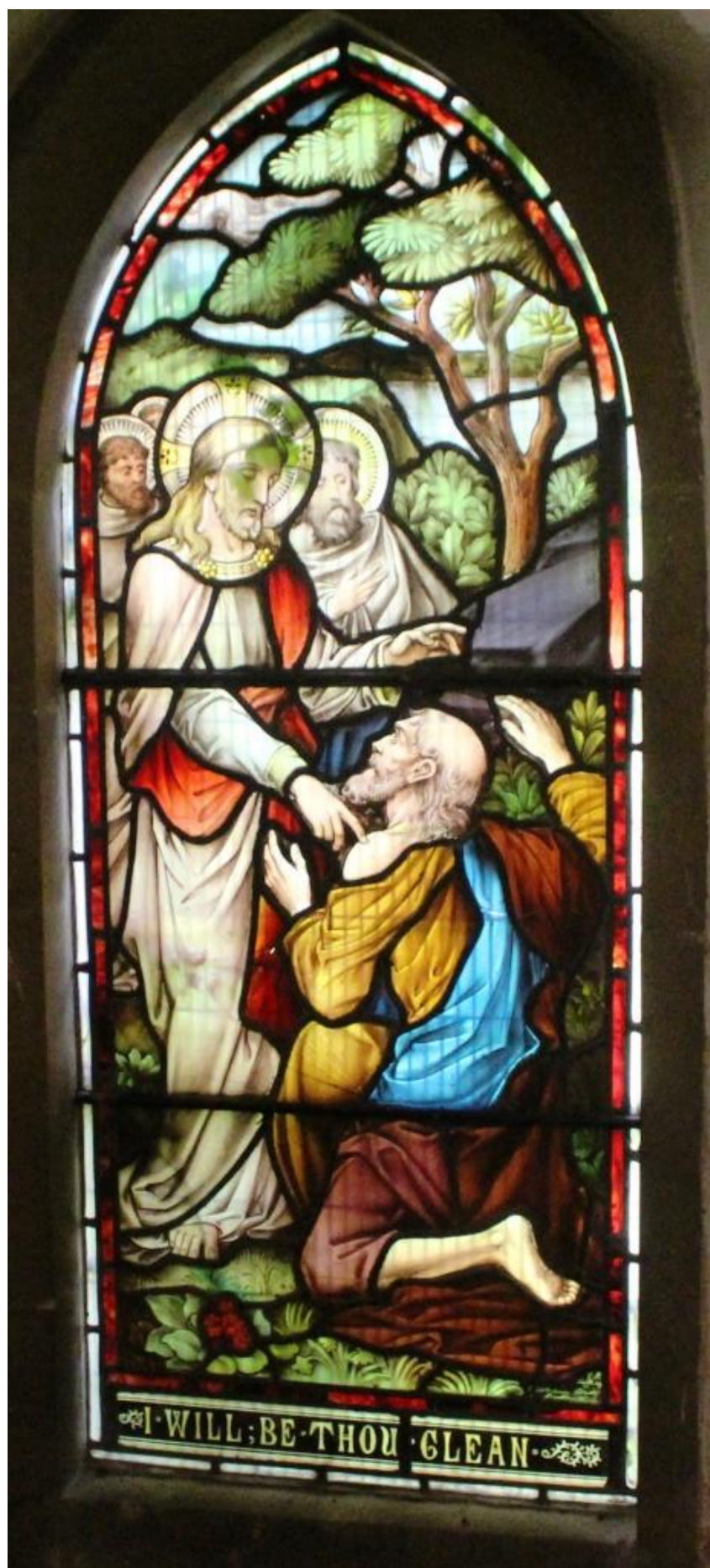


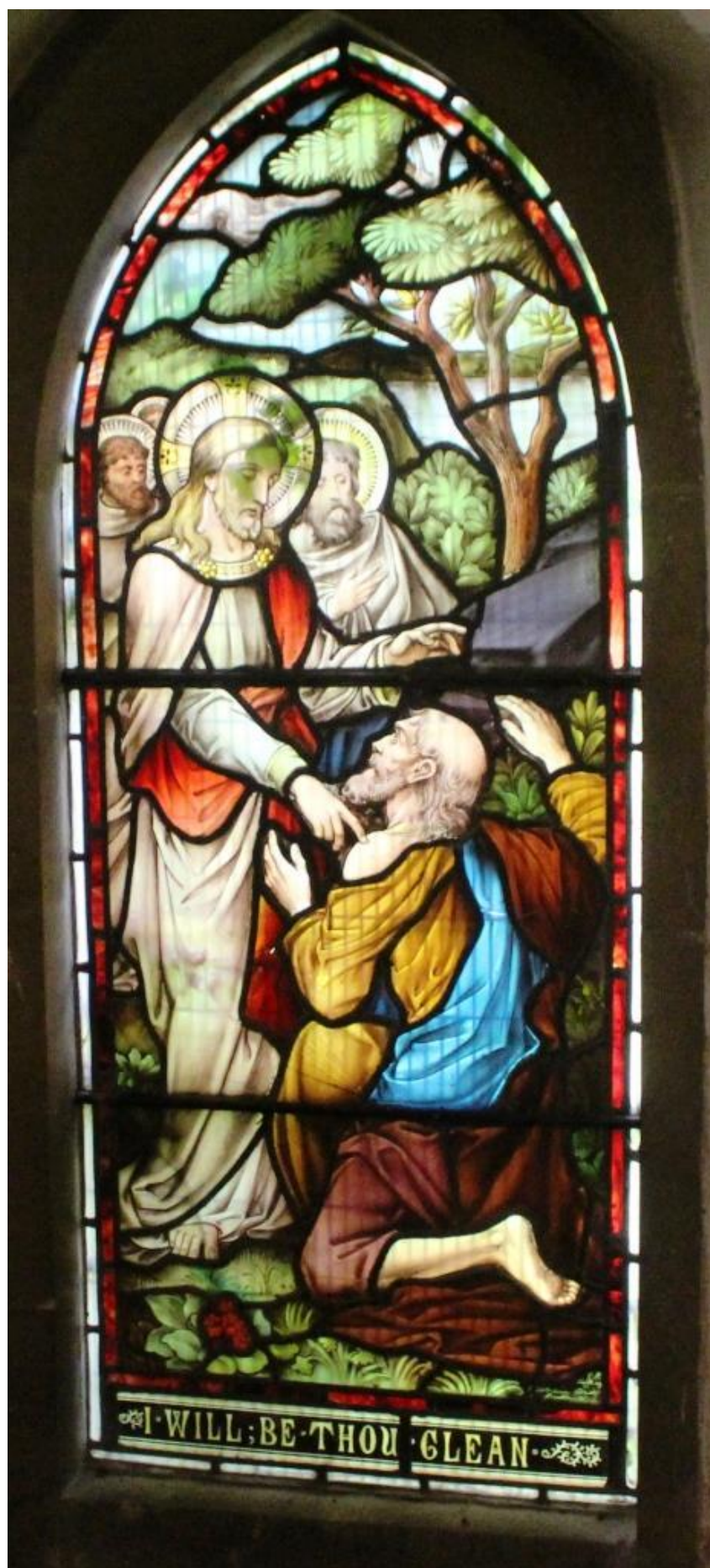
Kings Community, Main Road, Dovercourt



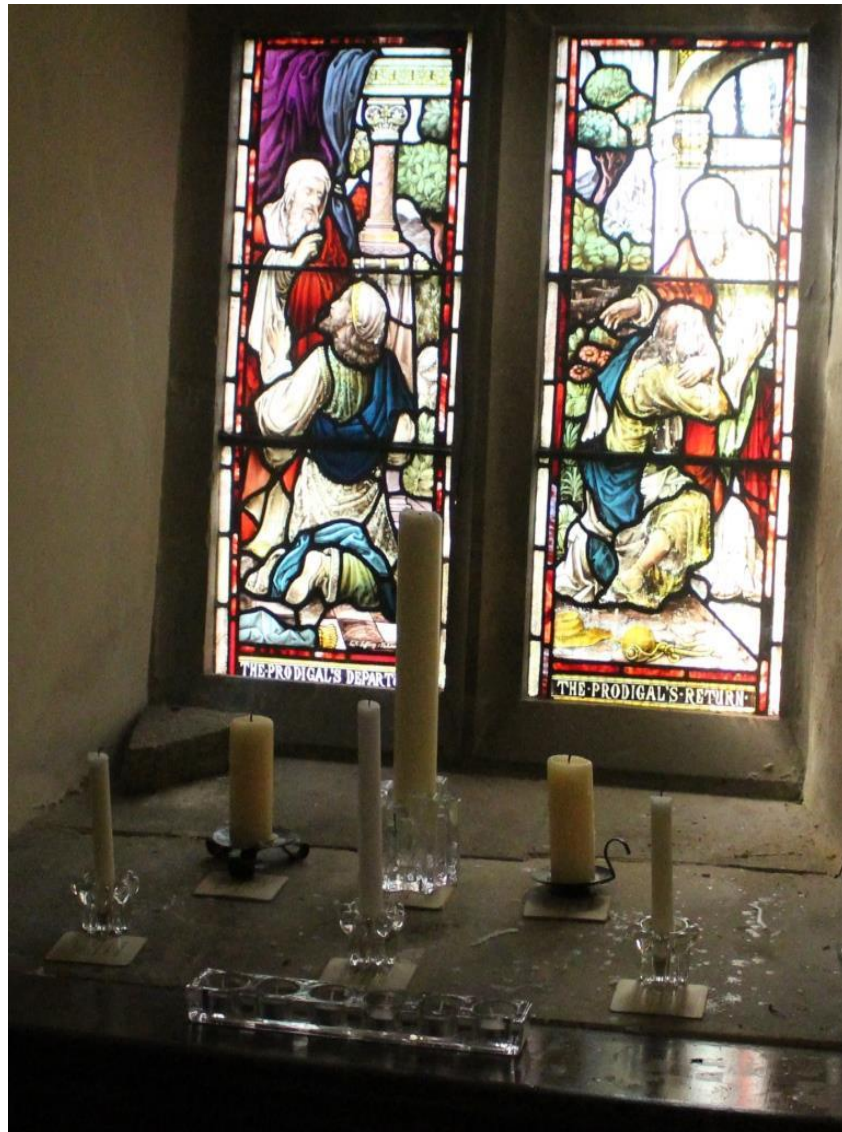














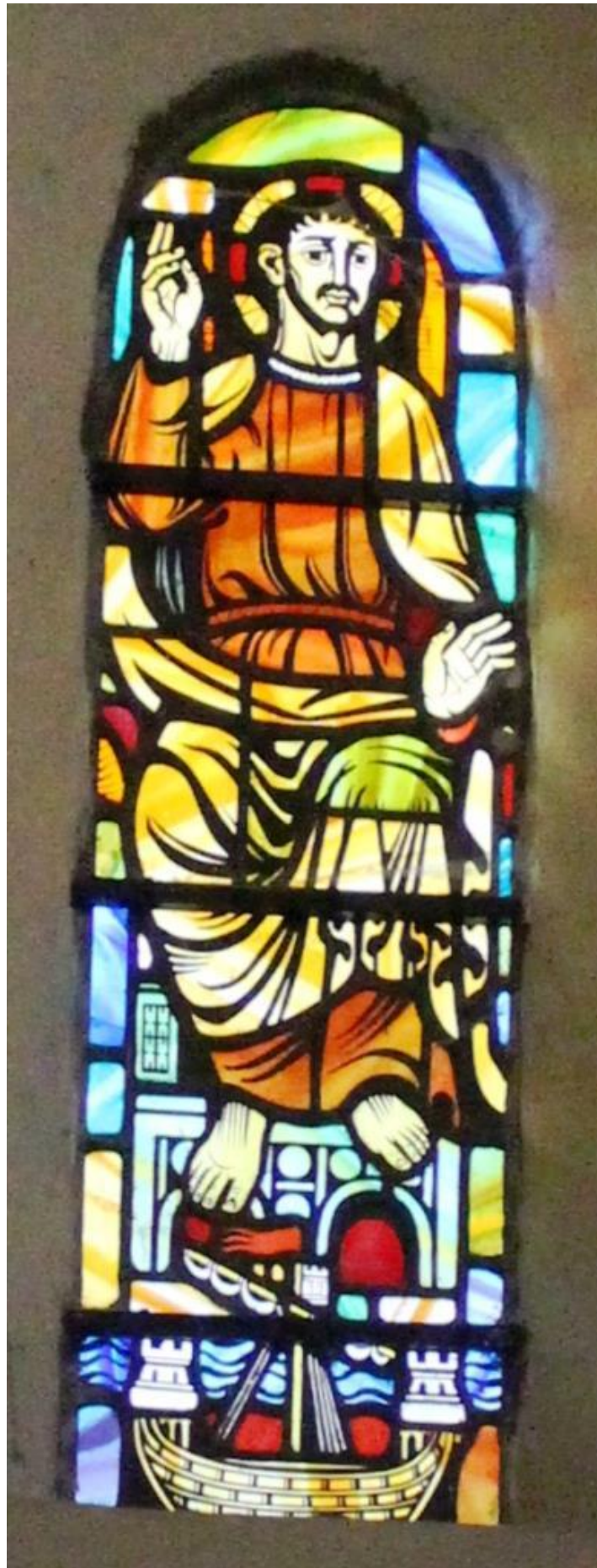


IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BORN 7th OCTOBER 1879 DIED

CLAUDINE LOUISE NICOLL
19th NOVEMBER 1894









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.

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER 2018

St Edmunds, Tendring

TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2018

Dedham

Bradfield

Wrabness

THURSDAY 11th OCTOBER 2018

Alresford

FRIDAY 12th OCTOBER 2018

Heybridge

All the churches were found on the list in Maldon, but as several had been covered before, only the new ones were listed this time.

Various in Maldon

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2018

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2018

SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER 2018



Church of Christ (Iglesia Ni Cristo)

In the village hall, this group meets, the Church of God - **Iglesia ni Cristo (Church of Christ)** (Tagalog pronunciation: [ɪˈɡlɛʃə ni ˈkristo], abbreviated as **INC**) is an independent nontrinitarian Christian religious organization that originated in the Philippines. It was registered in 1914 by Felix Y. Manalo, who became its first Executive Minister. The Iglesia ni Cristo affirms to be the one true church and the restoration of the original church founded by Jesus, and that all other Christian churches are apostates.

INC doctrine cites that the official registration of the Church with the Government of the Philippine Islands on July 27, 1914, by Felix Y. Manalo—upheld by its members to be the last messenger of God—was an act of divine providence and the fulfillment of biblical prophecy concerning the re-establishment of the Church in the Far East concurrent with the coming of the seventh seal marking the end of days. By the time of Manalo's death in 1963, the Iglesia ni Cristo had become a nationwide church with 1,250 local chapels and 35 large concrete cathedrals.

His son, Eraño G. Manalo, became the next church leader and led a campaign to grow and internationalize the church until his death on August 31, 2009 whereupon his son, Eduardo V. Manalo, succeeded him as Executive Minister. In 2010, the Philippine census by the National Statistics Office found that 2.45% percent of the population in the Philippines are affiliated with the Iglesia ni Cristo, making it the religion with the third largest number of adherents, with Islam at 5.57% and Roman Catholicism at 80.58%.

<p>TUESDAY 25th DECEMBER 2018</p>
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Power End Lane, Witham

Witham Road, Witham ?

....., White Notley

????DAY ???th DECEMBER 2018

Earls Colne Baptist

Chappel URC ???

TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2018

URC, Billericay

Quakers, Billericay

CHESS, New London Road, Chelmsford

SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2018

Bures Baptist

MONDAY 7th JANUARY 2019

Salvation Army, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich

Colchester Road Baptist, Ipswich