



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 29**



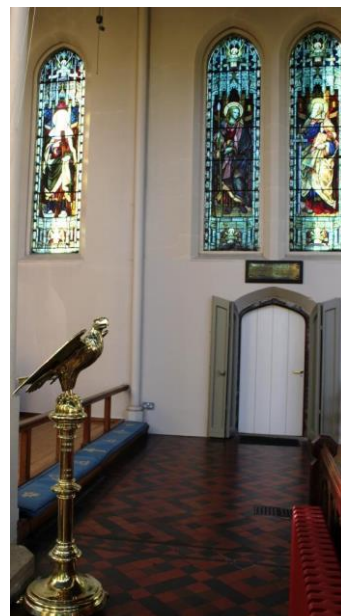
THURSDAY 25th OCTOBER 2018



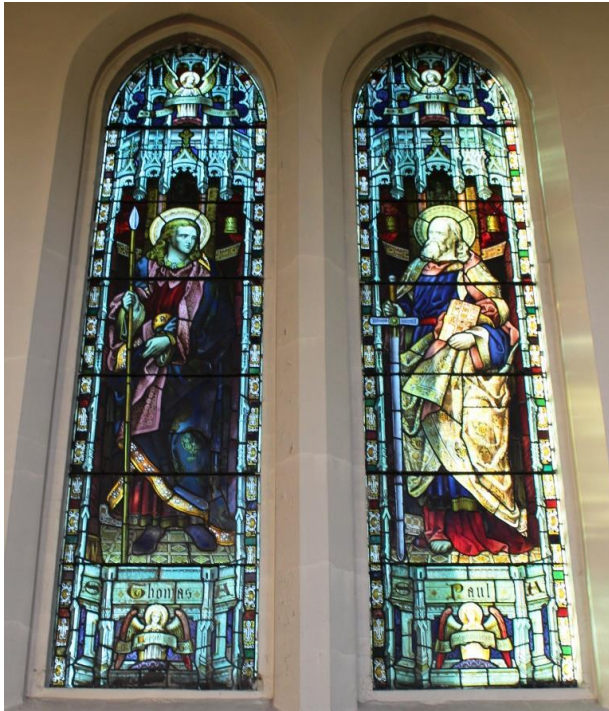
Salvation Army, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds



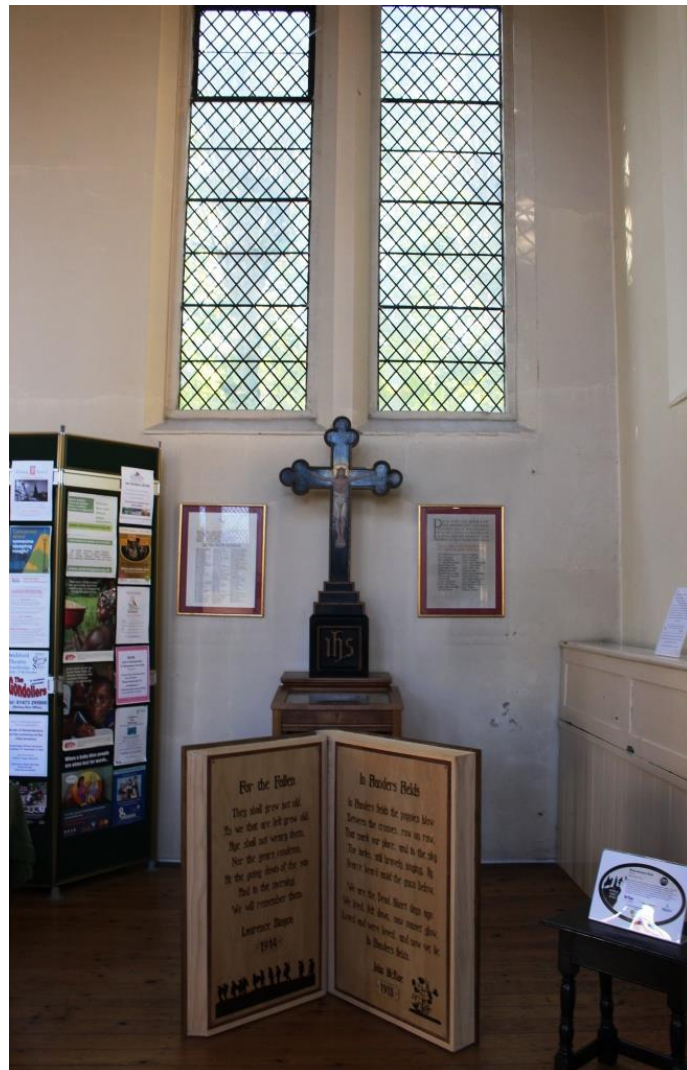
St John the Evangelist, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds







I was told later that this was a high church





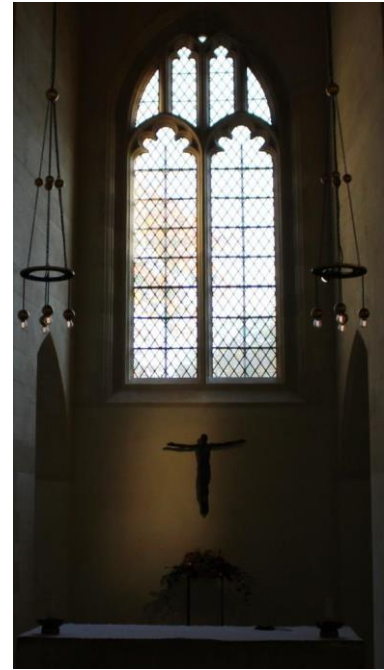
St John's is an inclusive church in the liberal catholic tradition of the Church of England. The church is located in St John's Street, in the town centre of Bury St Edmunds and was built in 1841

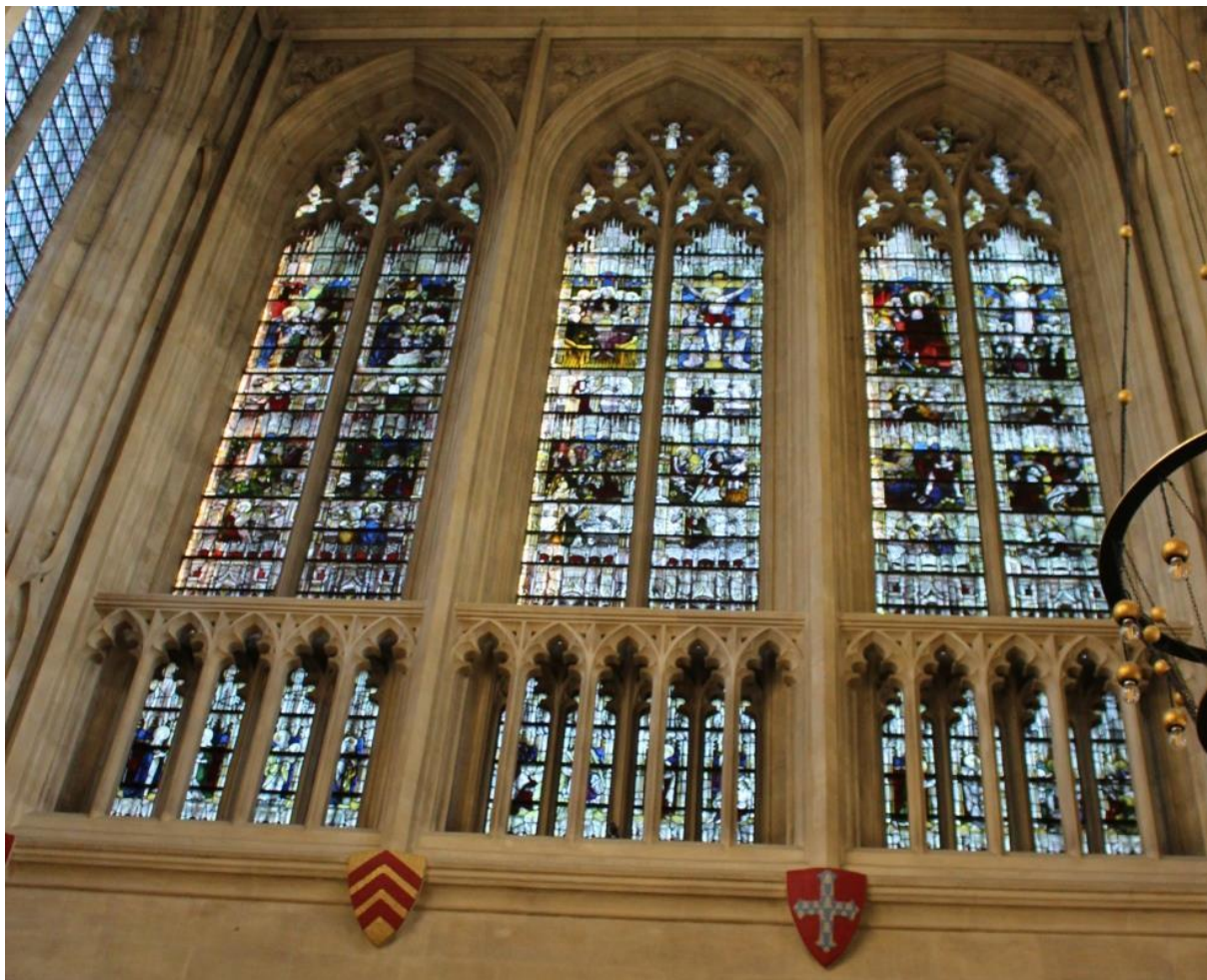


Quaker House, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds



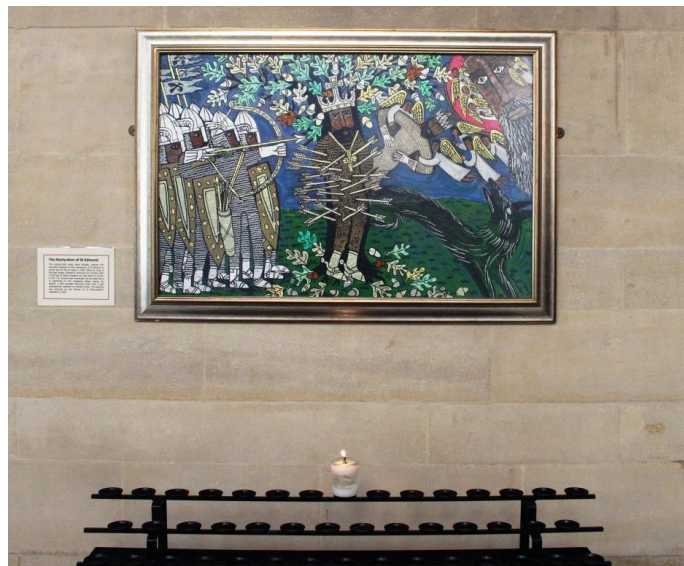
Cathedral, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds















St Edmundsbury Cathedral (formally entitled the **Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund**) 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.

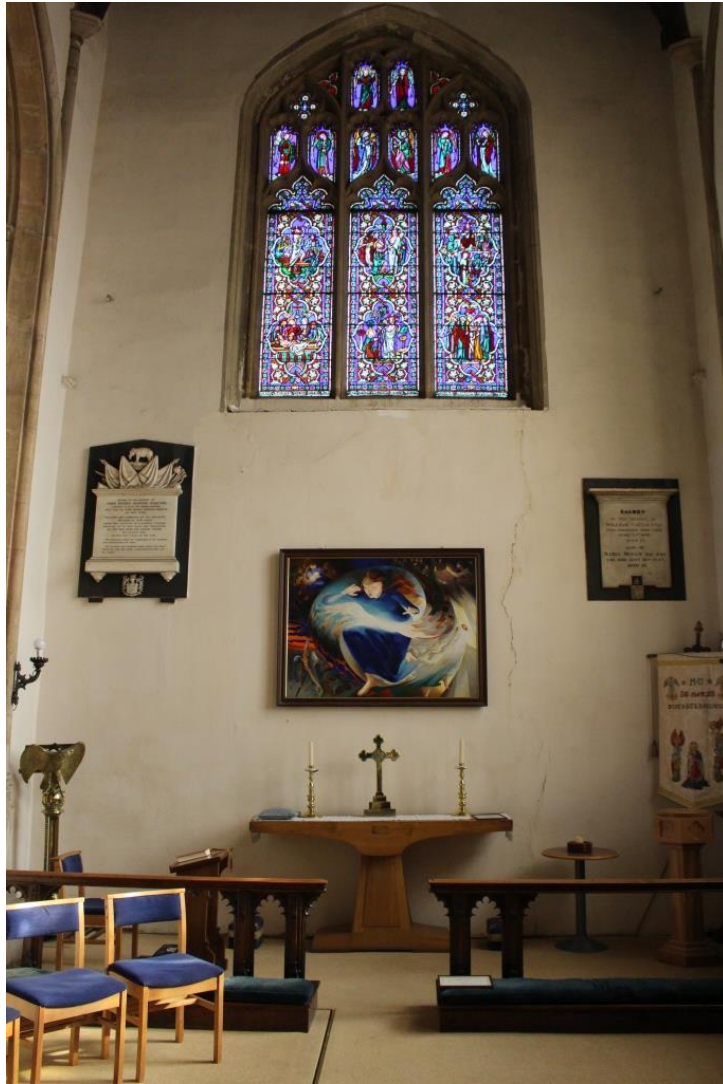
Originating in the 11th century, it was rebuilt in the 12th and 16th centuries as a parish church and became a cathedral in 1914; it has been considerably enlarged in recent decades.

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.

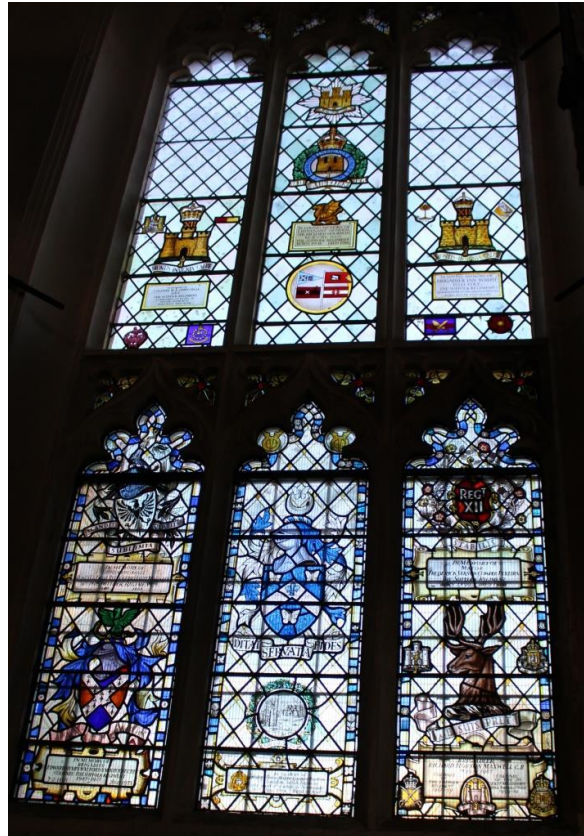
From 1959 onwards there was renewed building work designed to transform the former parish church into a cathedral building. Between 1959 and 1970, the Victorian chancel was demolished and replaced with a new quire, a cloister was added on the west side; also transepts, a Lady chapel and a side chapel 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 Mathew, 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.^[5] Further additions are the Chapel of the Transfiguration and the East Cloister, both completed in 2009, and the Crypt Treasury in 2012.



St Mary's, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds







St Mary's Church is the civic church of Bury St Edmunds and is one of the largest parish churches in England. It claims to have the second longest aisle, and the largest West Window of any parish church in the country. It was part of the abbey complex and originally was one of three large churches in the town (the others being St James, now St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and St Margaret's, now gone). The present church is the second building to stand on the site, the first being built in the 12th century by Mr Hervey. However, nothing survives of the Norman church and the oldest part of the existing building is the decorated chancel (c. 1290).



There was a major renovation between the 14th and 16th centuries and it is at this point that the nave, its aisles and the tower were built. It is also at this time that Mary Tudor, favourite sister of Henry VIII, died and was buried in the church. Her tomb is in the sanctuary directly to the north of the Lord's table. The church, however, is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and not, as some mistakenly believe, to Mary Tudor.

During the 16th century, John Notyngham and Jankyn Smyth, two wealthy local benefactors, died and left large amounts of money to the church. These funds contributed to building the north and south quire aisles, now the Lady Chapel and Suffolk Regimental chapel, two chantry chapels and a north and south porch. The south porch was removed during a restoration in 1830s, and St Wolstan's chapel was added on the north-west side. The interior has been updated with modern utilities since then as well.

The church is awarded three stars by Simon Jenkins in his 1999 book *England's Thousand Best Churches*. Jenkins writes:

The interior has one of the largest and most exhilarating naves in the country. Arcades of ten majestic bays march towards the chancel, each rising on continuous mouldings with only the tiniest of capitals. The unusually wide hammerbeam roof is a marvellous survival. Eleven pairs of angels guard the space below, attended by lesser angels on the wallplates and by saints, martyrs, prophets and kings, 42 figures in all. On the frieze a medieval menagerie takes over, with dragons, unicorns, birds and fish. The south chapel is littered with pleasant brasses.

The north aisle by the tower has its memorials spectacularly displayed. They climb up the wall to the ceiling, a valhalla of Bury worthies.

FRIDAY 26th OCTOBER 2018



Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Gilray Road, Diss



Methodist, Victoria Road, Diss

'Much of the violent opposition to the Methodists was promoted or fostered by alehouse-keepers who rightly saw a loss of trade if Methodism was established locally.

An anti-Methodist song of the period was lustily sung by the Diss rioters (defenders of the established church) - "The Wesleyans have come to town to try to pull the churches down" - For further details of the violence see the above book, pages 49-53. 'Methodism grew in strength and when Wesley came on October 20th 1790 there was a lot of Wesleyan sympathy in the town, so that the Rector the Rev. William Manning was agreeable to lend Wesley his church but feared the Bishop might object. However, when the liberal-minded evangelical Bishop George Horne was asked, he said: "Mr. Wesley is a brother. Let him have the church." Wesley had indeed outlived persecution against himself and was now accorded respect on all sides: Churches shut to him for fifty years were opened, even Bishops honoured him, and clergy flocked to hear him. He was a national figure. He came to Diss by chaise travelling from Lynn via Stoke Ferry and Thetford. By an accident he was two hours late arriving, but the crowd that packed the church waited patiently. Wesley surmised "I suppose it had not be so filled these hundred years". He preached from Isaiah - 'Seek ye the Lord while he may be found'. He was now five months from his death. On this last visit to Norfolk, the 'Bury Post' of October 27th 1790 reports:

'Wednesday morning; last the celebrated Mr. John Wesley preached a sermon in the Parish church of Diss to a crowded congregation and the same evening and succeeding morning and evening he also preached at the Methodist meeting in the town to very crowded assemblies. The indefatigable labours of this venerable old gentleman, now in his 89th year of his age, are truly astonishing.' 'Diss had been in the wide Norwich circuit, but in 1790 separated to form its own circuit. It had 310 members in 1791. In 1793 there were the following seventeen societies with 343 members. Diss, Mellis, Gissing, Redgrave, Wortham, Winfarthing, Buckenham, Long Stratton, Hardwick, Tasburgh, Hethersett, Spooner Row, Attleborough, Snetterton, Old Buckenham, Lopham and Hoxne. All these societies, except Diss, worshipped in houses.'

Our recent past The Governor of the workhouse on Diss common, Mr. Hey, and his wife, sought a chapel site, and in March 1781, a plot of land near the Pound, Diss was bought, and the first church was later built on it. It is thought that the first building was erected in June 1789. A certificate was granted on the 4th June. Charles Farmough was Pastor. A schoolroom was added to this chapel in 1819 and the chapel itself re-built in 1833, being called the Victoria Road chapel.' From 'The spreading flame' by Cyril Jolly. Deterioration over the years led to the closing of the chapel in 1961 and until July 1962 the services were held in the schoolroom.

The Methodists then moved out and shared services with the Congregationalists. The church was pulled down and taken over by a development company who erected shops and flats known as 'Mavery House'. Members were glad to obtain a new site almost adjoining it. The new church cost around £15,955 and was opened on October 17th 1964. The new church contained a sanctuary, hall, kitchen, and toilet block.

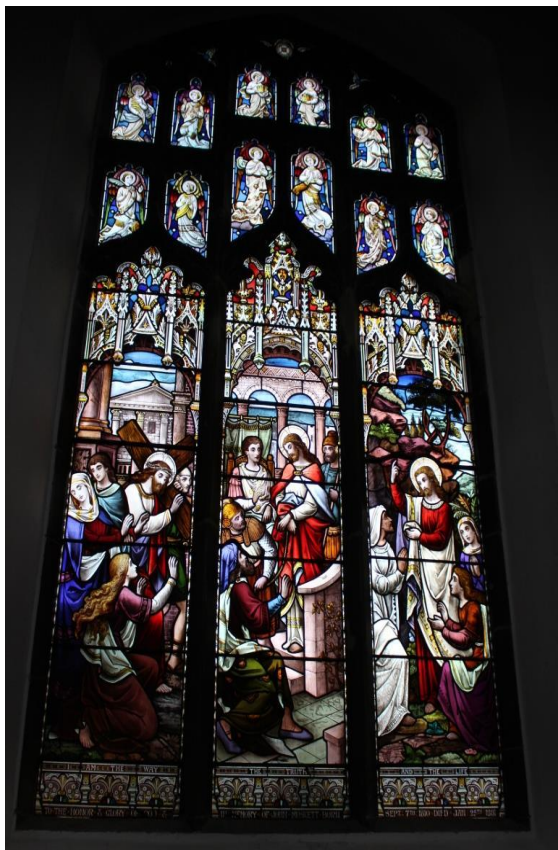
Over the last few years further extensions have been added. A classroom that could be divided into two by a screen was opened in 1975 at a cost of £4,930 and then in April 1981 a second room was added which is known as 'The youth lounge' costing around £6,000. Later, a new vestibule and vestry were built.



URC, Mere Street, Diss



St Mary the Virgin, Mount Street, Diss





Diss is a delightful market town on the Norfolk-Suffolk border with the Mere at its centre, a natural six acre lake.

The main shopping centre is served by a range of traditional shops and larger stores, including three supermarkets. There is a choice of banks, building societies, estate agents, pubs, restaurants, a post office, a public library, a museum and charity shops.

The weekly Friday market is one of the town's many attractions. Also on a Friday is the weekly auction at the Diss sale ground offering antiques, second-hand furniture and other objects of interest to collectors.

To the north of the town lies St Mary's church, whose tower dates from 13th Century. It was built on a site used for worship for more than 1000 years. The church underwent major refurbishment in the Victorian era and much of what is now visible internally is original to this period. Poet Laureate John Skelton was Rector here 500 years ago.

The choir and clergy stalls were built in 1877 when the organ was installed, and have recently been improved. New lighting providing great atmosphere in the Chancel has also been installed in 2012 as a result of some generous legacies.

Arguably the most striking feature is the beautiful East Window.



The stained glass, dating from around 1857 depicts the Resurrection which dominates the centre, with the Entombment below, and the Nativity and Crucifixion on either side. This window along with three others have been recently re-leded to preserve them following hugely successful fundraising efforts. The church is open every day during daylight hours and welcomes visitors. There are a range of services on Sundays, a mid-week Eucharist and daily prayer.





Baptist, Denmark Street, Diss

MONDAY 29th OCTOBER 2018



St Peter's, Church Street, Sheringham

In Norfolk standards St. Peter's is a very recent creation. In a region graced by so many medieval churches, it is rare to find one from the Victorian era, but just as with many of those churches, St. Peter's came about through the generosity of a local family, the Upchers.

They took their responsibilities for the local community seriously, providing a school, helping the local fishermen, labourers and their families, providing and supporting a lifeboat and encouraging the development of (Lower) Sheringham.

It was as a result of their efforts that in 1842 a Chapel of Ease was built. A few years later it was enlarged to allow the seating of about 500 people. Services finished in 1897 with the opening of St. Peter's, the former chapel continuing to be used as a church hall until the Parish Hall in Waterbank Road was opened in 1956. The old chapel was eventually demolished in March 1969 making way for a modern block of flats, Temple Court.

The Upchers donated the land on which the church is built and also contributed generously to the cost of the building itself, which was designed by St Aubyn and Wadling of London and built by Bardell Brothers of Kings Lynn.

FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2018



Brethen Assembly, East Road, West Mersea



St Peter and St Paul's, High Street, West Mersea

The Parish Church, comprising: west tower, nave and lower chancel south aisle and north porch. Tower of the Saxo/Norman overlap of 3 stages, 17th century embattled parapet built of septaria, laid diagonally, in alternating directions. Red brick quoins, some bricks Roman. 11th windows in north and south walls of ground storey, western arch plain, 3 corbelled stones at each impost. West window 16th, with 2 round headed lights beneath 4 which formerly cinquefoiled, but cut back to round heads. Second storey has a circular opening in west wall, bell-stage has in each wall a 14th window of 2 cinquefoiled lights, one transom, 2 centred head.









It was at a spot only three miles across the Backwater Estuary at Bradwell-on-Sea that St. Cedd founded his little monastery circa 654, built the historic St. Peter's Chapel out of the remains of the Roman fort of Othona, and from there he evangelised Essex, the kingdom of the East Saxons. It is probable that Cedd and his monks came across to establish the first church at West Mersea.

In the 10th century, the Saxon Ealdorman Aelfgar and his daughters, Aethelflaed (widow of King Edmund of England) and Aelffaed (widow of Ealdorman Brythnoth) by their wills, left properties in Mersea, Peldon and Fingringhoe to St. Peter's Church at Mersea, described as a 'Minster', i.e. a church serving the wider area.

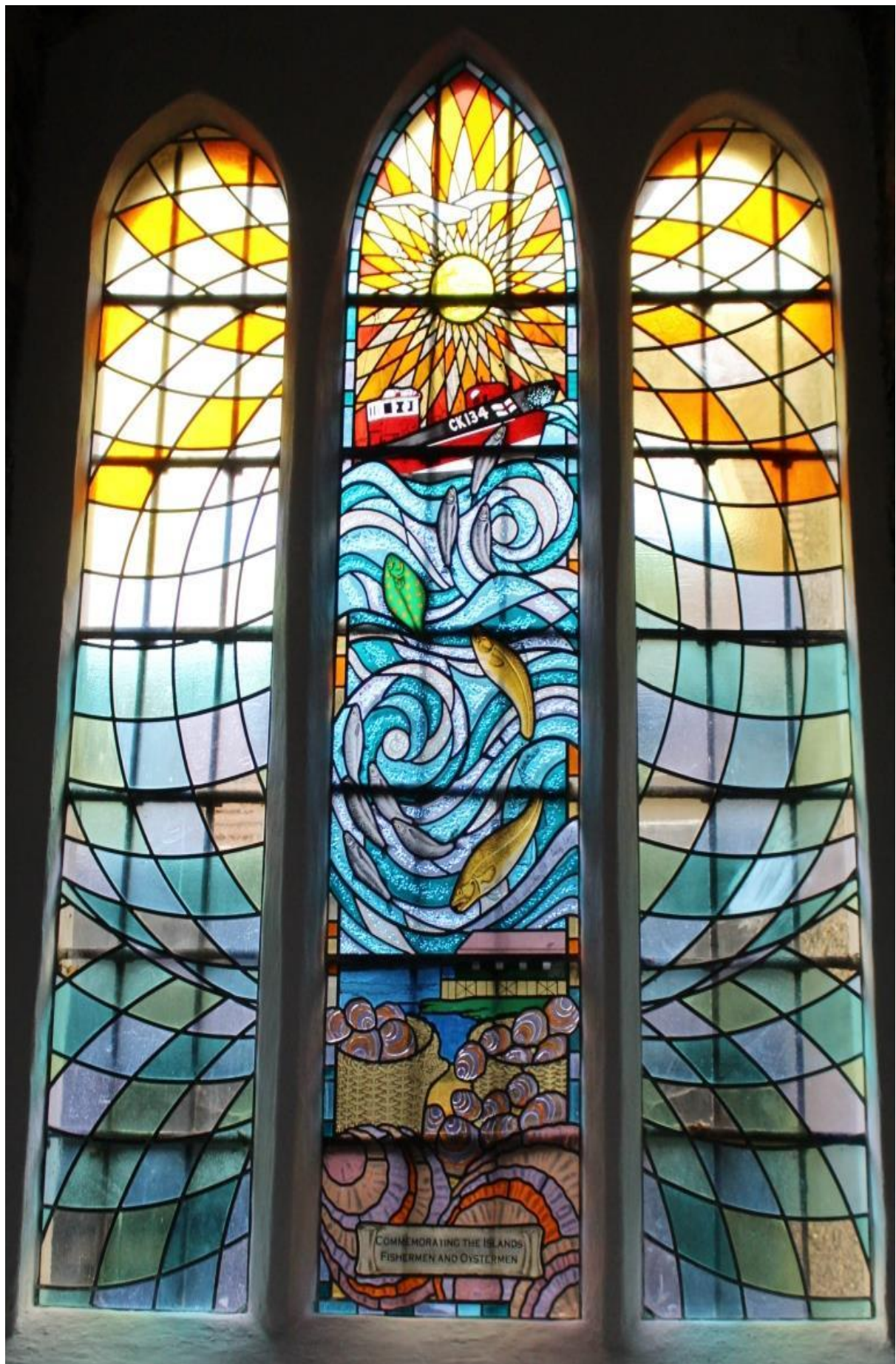
By 1042 the Mersea estates had reverted to the Crown, and by charter of 1046 King Edward the Confessor granted them to the Abbey of St. Ouen at Rouen in Normandy. The Abbey founded a small Benedictine Priory here. The monks, no doubt using the Church and the Abbey, became Lords of the Manor.



The historic 11th century tower may well date from that time, and if so, it is Saxo-Norman. There is considerable use of Roman tiles and brick in it, from the Roman villa which stood near the site (of which pavements were found in the 18th century). Two small round-headed windows and the tower arch of that time remain. The belfry louvres and west window are later.

The heavily beamed floors inside the tower have been dated as early as the tower itself with very early examples of joinery.

The nave and chancel were probably built in the 14th century and a south aisle added, later extended east in the 15th century to form a south chapel. Note the 15th century brickwork. In 1415, King Henry V suppressed alien religious houses, including the Priory, and granted its properties of West Mersea, the Peet and Fingringhoe to Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury who endowed them on the College of Higham Ferrers, which he was founding at his birthplace.



About this time the north porch was built or rebuilt, and the 14th century niche reset. The timber roof of the chancel with arched and moulded trusses is early 16th century (Tudor). In 1833, the south porch was rebuilt as a porch and vestry, the north wall of the nave heightened in brick, buttressed and embattled, and the flat Georgian ceiling formed. Also the south arcade was rebuilt in brick and plaster. A west gallery had been erected in 1812, but removed in 1882 with other changes. A photo of the church circa 1898 shows two north chancel windows of three lights in pointed style, but early in the 20th century all the windows in the chancel were replaced with perpendicular style stone frames, including a new east window at a new level.

In 1925 the south aisle roof was rebuilt, the wall plaster all removed, and the niche for a piscina uncovered. In 1971 a Church Hall was built adjoining the south vestry. In the late 1970s and early 1980s the choir stalls, pulpit and old painted pews were replaced, as thank offerings, in, attractive light wood. Colourful kneelers were worked by members of the congregation, with individual and local designs. The pipe organ was updated in 2002 and 27 new digital stops added. The new memorial window was installed in the south aisle in August 2005. This is to commemorate the Fishermen and Oystermen of Mersea Island.

FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER 2018



St Andrew's, Parsonage Street, Halstead

It was the Saxons who gave the town its name. It was undoubtedly due in no small part to the fast stream of refreshing water they found there. 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 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 St 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 and nationality into the 16th century.

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 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 fitted.

The building is Grade 1 listed building and the cost of maintaining it in its splendid condition is a major financial consideration.



Baptist, Halstead Road, Earls Colne



St Andrew's, Church Street, Earls Colne



URC, Colchester Road, Chappel

TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2018



URC, Chapel Street, Billericay



Quakers, Southend Road, Billericay



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



St Mary Magdelene, High Street, Billericay



CHES, New London Road, Chelmsford

THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER 2018



Methodist, Elmdale Drive, Manningtree

Methodist Church. Circa 1807. White brick, stone dressings, plastered returns, grey slate roof. 2 storeys. Of 5 bays, the upper storeys set back. Ground floor, pilastered, parapeted and corniced end bays, each with a central window with glazing bars and margins, brick surrounds. In line stone cornice to open portico, 2 fluted columns with capitals and bases resting on dwarf walls which become plinths to end bays.

Step approach between the columns, 4 panelled doors to end bays. Round headed windows with glazing bars to right and left of central panelled doors, round headed fanlight with glazing bars over, right and left brick pilasters. First floor, the outer bays of 2 stepped blocks, outer with stone cornices and parapets and angle pilasters, taller inner blocks with brick cornices and parapets. Central arcade of 3 round headed windows with glazing bars, pilasters between and to right and left, cornice over frieze with centre panel reading Methodist Church, moulded pediment over surmounted by a painted cupola. Square base, sunk chamfered angles continued through moulded cornice and tall dome. Elaborate weathervane, louvres to main faces. The full height second bay to returns are plastered, upper windows with glazing bars and margins, ground floor vertically boarded door to left, blocked to right. The plastered returns of 2 storeys and 4 bays, eaves band, pilasters between windows and band below lower windows, panels between upper and lower windows. Lower windows rectangular, upper with round heads, all with glazing bars and margins.

SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2018



Baptist, High Street, Bures

Bures Baptist Church are a small, friendly congregation with a range of outreach ministries serving the community in Bures, Suffolk and neighbouring villages. Our Sunday morning service (10.30am) feature in-depth bible teaching, a mix of traditional and modern worship songs, kids talks and prayer.



St Peter's, Market Hill, Sudbury