



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 33**



OMITTED - THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2019







Methodist, Chapel Street, St Osyth

FRIDAY 17th MAY 2019





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



Cathedral, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds



St Mary's, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds





Our Lady Immaculate (Catholic), Exeter Road



All Saints, Cardigan Street, Newmarket



St Mary's, Church Lane, Newmarket



Christchurch, St Mary's Square, Newmarket



St Peter and St Mary, Station Road West, Stowmarket



Our Lady's (Catholic), Stricklands Street, Stowmarket

SATURDAY 18th MAY 2019



Life Church, High Street, Sheringham



St Joseph's (Catholic), Cromer Road, Sheringham

The Roman Catholic church in Sheringham is St Joseph's and is to be found on the corner of Cromer Road and Cremers Drift. The Church is the only listed building in Sheringham. Built to the design of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, building began in 1902. The first section, what is now St Joseph's Chapel was first used in 1908. In 1910 the second section opened, which comprised of the Sanctuary, the Nave and the Porch. Later the church was completed by extending the Nave and building a new Porch, the earlier porch was fitted out to be the Walsingham Chapel. The completed building was consecrated on 25th March 1935. The beautiful font housed here is copied from the Seven Sacrament font of St Mary's, Little Walsingham and was the work of a local sculptor, Herbert H Palmer.



Methodist, Cromer Road, Sheringham

Until 1966 Sheringham had two Methodist Chapels, these were situated in Station Road, (at the junction with New Road) and on Beeston Road. They were known locally, because of their sites within the town as `top` and `bottom` chapel.

In 1962 a decision was taken by the two societies to amalgamate and build a new Church. This happened for a variety of reasons. A number of things had been done jointly during the war and in the years after, and members began to think progressively, that with the Methodist Union in 1932 it was time the two Sheringham chapels got together. Also, the maintenance of the two properties was very expensive and it was found that the roof at Station Road, was in a dangerous state. Selling the two chapels and starting again together was the only way likely to give a joint Church a new impetus.

So fund raising started for the new Church. This was done in lots of ways, and with many special events. The Sunday School children took part by helping to sell `Building Bricks`, these were books of paper bricks which were sold at 5/- (25p) each, to friends, family and anyone they could think of ! Another fund raising idea was the tablecloth of signatures (this can be seen on the About the Church page). Grants were also obtained from various sources.

A plot of land was bought along Cromer Road for £2,250 and in 1967 building started. The dedication of the site and work materials took place on

28th. May 1967 and was participated in by different Churches within the town, as well as representatives of groups within the Church.

The foundation stone, which can be seen on the right of the main doors, was laid on 16th. September 1967 by Alderman W. H. Hunter-Rowe JP, of Wisbech.

Station Road chapel was closed in 1966 and the congregation and Sunday School joined with Beeston Road until the new Church opened. The final cost of building the Church was £38,000.

On Saturday 22nd. June 1968 St. Andrew`s was opened, and the building dedicated by Rev. E. Gordon Rupp M.A., D.D., D.Theol., The President of the Methodist Conference and Principal of Wesley House, Cambridge.

During 1991, the Church was fitted with a loop system for the hard of hearing. Many other memorial gifts have been given to the Church, and these include the wedding kneeler, choir/organ bookcase, aisle stewards cupboards, vestry furniture, Bibles, Hymnbooks and the 1999 Methodist Worship Books.

The ancillary building includes a hall which can seat 200, and has a stage, a smaller hall which can be divided into two by a partition, kitchen and toilets.

In 1980 an extension was built to provide a Coffee Lounge, which is used for various small gatherings. A store room was also added at that time. Alterations were made to this area in 1995 to provide a toilet for the disabled. Major work was carried out on the Church in 1996 replacing the large area of flat roof over the halls, with a pitched and tiled roof. Fund raising for this commenced in February 1995 and was completed 16 months later. The final expenditure was in the region of £35,000

In 1998 the Kitchen underwent a transformation with a complete refurbishment being carried out, at a cost of around £11,200. This has given a vastly improved working environment for all aspects of catering. A total Refurbishment of the Worship Area was undertaken in 2002, when a new suspended ceiling was installed, the whole area rewired and new lighting put in.

All the symbolic features of the Church (described in About the Church page) were maintained. The cost of this work was just under £16,000. This was raised through many fund-raising events, and a section of the lighting/electrical work from donations in memory of a Church member.

At this time, two sections of the original pews were removed to make better accommodation for wheelchair users at services and events. In 2009 a new audio system was installed by DM Music for churches, and this comprised of microphones and speakers in the choir stalls, as well as in the main church sanctuary.

A projector and screen were also installed, as were speakers in the Side Chapel and vestibule for the sound system. We are always anxious to maintain the high standard already achieved in the facilities, decoration and condition of the whole building.



The Lighthouse, Cromer Road, Sheringham



St Peter's, Church Street, Sheringham



St Peter's, Upper Sheringham

By 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. On St. Peter's Day 1895 the foundation stone was laid by Mrs Upcher and the building was consecrated exactly two years later on St. Peter's Day, 29th June 1897. Whilst it was being built, new houses were also going up on nearby plots sold by the Upchers in response to the new demand for housing. St. Peter's was built as the daughter church of All Saints, Upper Sheringham, and it wasn't until 1953 that it became the Parish Church of Sheringham following a boundary change when All Saints became part of the Weybourne Benefice.



The church is of red brick, faced with knapped flints, and roofed with slates. There are crosses on east and west gables, and a figure of St. Peter in the niche over the outer doorway of the south porch worked by a local stonemason. The building cost £8,000 and could supposedly seat more than 700.

Additions and improvements were made over the years. In 1910, the choir and clergy vestries on the north side were built.

In 1928, the reredos (the decorated wooden screen behind the altar) was added. In 1930, the north and south sides of the chancel were panelled in oak. In 1931-2, the low screens at the top of the chancel steps were added. In 1933, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit was dedicated.



The overall impression on entering St. Peter's is one of enormous spaciousness and light. with the wide nave extending into the side aisles. It has never had pews. In 2013 St. Peter's replaced its original chairs, see photo, with modern upholstered ones thanks to a legacy from Mr Mervyn Harrison.

The interior is bold in design, an impression generated by the ridge of the roof, which is carried in one continual line throughout from east to west. The roof of the chancel is the same height as that of the nave.

There is a plain stone font, and the pulpit and lectern are made from oak, a theme continued in the chancel with its richly carved woodwork. The floor of the nave is made of wooden blocks and the chancel and porches have splendid mosaic floors.



Above the altar the story of the Ascension is depicted in stained glass, whilst in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit the windows show the Transfiguration, the Baptism of Christ and the Garden of Gethsemane. Along the south aisle are the windows depicting St. Peter, St. George, St. Andrew, St. David and St. Patrick, together with a very fine carving of St.



All Saints, Beeston Regis, West Runton

The Church stands in isolation near the cliff tops, a landmark for all to see. From the outside it has no outstanding features, except a tower of an unusual construction for its period. This dates from the late 11th or early 12th centuries. The large majority of Norfolk towers of this period were round, simply because it was easier to build a tower of this shape with local pebbles.

Inside the Church is a little gem, beautifully proportioned and full of interesting features. Many visitors also remark on the peaceful atmosphere, reflecting the more than 900 years of worship and devotion.

The Church tries to be both modern and traditional and a variety of services are offered. In addition to the services listed above we have a traditional Evensong or Songs of Praise on the third Sunday during the summer months. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is used at all services and our hymn book is the Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New. The Church is under the patronage of the Duchy of Lancaster. The Living was first linked to the Duchy in 1319, but was not formally part of the Lancaster inheritance until the crowning of Henry IV in 1399.

The parish of Beeston Regis was incorporated in the Benefice of Aylmerton, Runton, Beeston Regis and Gresham in 1999. The Rector and all members of the congregation at this Church hope that you will enjoy your visit to the Church.

The tower, built in the late 11th or early 12th Century is the earliest part of the Church. The tower arch opening into the nave, and much of the nave and chancel walls come from the 13th Century.

In the next Century, however, the Church was reconstructed. The existing arcades were inserted into the nave walls, opening into the aisles, which were built at this time. The nave was heightened to include the clerestory. Both the north and the south porches were added. The south porch, through which access to the Church is gained, is paved, quite unusually, with flints. The north porch is now used as a vestry.

In the 15th Century the simple arch brace roof, embellished with shields bearing the instruments of the Passion, was inserted. It was subject to major reconstruction work in 1870. The wall posts are also supported by corbels in the form of stone shields; only half are original. Once quite plain these now bear the emblems of St. Alban, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Cuthbert, The Venerable Bede, St Margaret of Antioch and St Edmund (East Anglian Patron and Martyr).

In Victorian times the Church received much needed restoration, with both the nave and chancel being reseated and the chancel roof raised. Further restoration work was carried out in the mid 20th Century. In 1947 the north aisle was furnished as St George's Chapel as a memorial to the Fallen of the two World Wars.

In 1949 the south aisle, originally the Lady Chapel, was furnished, the panelling being copied from the design of the Queen Elizabeth pew in Leeds Church, Kent.

In 1951 the tower was carefully restored, with some of the badly weathered coping stones being replaced with modern copies. The old coping stones were used to form the boundary for the Garden of Remembrance.

This is perhaps the greatest treasure of the Church. Though much restored it originates from the 15th Century, having been completed in around 1480, and the painted panels date from that period. Like many screens this one suffered from neglect and maybe also deliberate damage in the Reformation, the Puritan era and the anti Gothic art movement in the 18th Century. It is known that the remains of the screen were removed to behind the main altar in 1870. (This can be seen in the photo of the Church circa 1900). It is from that date that the decision was made to restore the rood and screen. Parts that were too badly decayed were cut away, and the panels placed in the heavy Cill. The uprights and arches together with the new oak groin and canopy were reconstructed. All this work carefully copied similar work in other screens. In 1914 it was returned to its proper position across the Chancel arch.

Norfolk screen work is reputed to be the finest in England and the paintings of equally high standard. The paintings represent the 12 Apostles. These are from left to right:

St Simon Zelotes (with saw and book), St Matthew (with sword pointing downward), St James the Less (with club) St Jude (with boat), St James the Greater (with book and scallop shell) St Andrew (with saltire cross), St Peter (with keys) St John (with chalice), St Bartholomew (with knife), St Matthias (with axe) St Philip (with loaves) St Thomas (with spear)

The Altars: The High Altar in the Chancel dates from 1946. It is of carved oak and was given in memory of Richard Wyndham Ketton-Cremer, who is listed in the **Fallen for the 1939-45 war.**

The altar that had stood in the Chancel from 1870 was moved in 1947 to the St George's Chapel, in the north aisle. In the south aisle is a very fine Elizabethan Communion Table.

Pulpit and Lectern: The pulpit and lectern are both of carved oak and date from 1870.

Bell - There is only one bell in the tower now, dating from 1610. There were at one time three other bells but these were sold to pay for repairs in 1765.

Organ - The present organ was installed in 1990, coming from St Swithuns Church in Bath. The gallery for the pipes was constructed at this time.

Stained Glass Windows - The east window depicting the crucifixion was given in memory of Thomas Wyndham Cremer and dates from 1896. The small window on the south side of the chancel, representing the child Jesus, is in memory of a former Rector, William Bosworth, and that on the north side is in memory of Priscilla Blake. The large window on the south side of the chancel, depicting St James and St John, is in memory of another Rector, Henry Fitch. The Cremer Crest is set in the windows at the east ends of the north and south aisles.

Brasses - Some of the brasses are now hidden under the choir stalls. However in the centre of the Chancel is the 16th Century brass figure effigy of John Deynes, showing him with a mariner's whistle on a cord around his neck, and his wife Katherine. This was once the top of a table tomb.

Stoup - Just inside the main entrance, to the right as you come in, is a stoup. Many of these were badly damaged in the Reformation, or in Puritan times, but this one is remarkable in that it is intact. Chancel: The Communion Rails date from the 17th Century.

The piscina and sedilia on the south side of the Sanctuary are from 15th Century and may have come from Beeston Priory. Originally the window behind was blocked up, but in the 20th Century it was opened and restored. It is a 15th Century perpendicular style window similar to those at the east and west end of the aisles.

Pews - The nave pews date from Victorian times, but those in the aisles are possibly as old as the 15th Century. The pew ends were decorated with carved heads, known as poppyhead, thought to be derived from the French word 'poupée', puppet or figurehead. These are much worn now!

In 2003 the Choir Vestry at the west end of the north aisle was constructed from Douglas Fir. By the vestry door is an illuminated vellum list of Rectors.

There is also a display of 19th Century communion lace.

At the entrance to the stair turret leading to the loft which extends over the Rood Screen, set within the angle of the chancel and north aisle, is a grille commemorating the Coronation of the Queen.

Throughout the pews there are embroidered kneelers completed over the last few years.

In 2002 the teak furniture for the Children's Corner was donated, with the matching two adult chairs near the font donated in 2005, all in memory of Andrew Wright.



Holy Trinity, Quintet Benefice, West Runton

The Tradition of this church is mainly Anglo Catholic and the Mass is celebrated every day of the week, except Thursday and Saturday. Each Sunday **Sung Mass at 11.00 am** is celebrated which lasts just over an hour. Holy Trinity is a Resolution B Parish. Incense is used on the third and fifth Sunday of the month and Evensong and Benediction is observed on the third Sunday (3.00 p.m. November to March, 6.00 p.m. April to October). The Great Feasts are celebrated in Holy Trinity occasionally with High Mass. Holy Trinity benefits from having its own Church Hall a few hundred yards away in the village allowing for a full social life in the Church. During the summer months, July to September, our Organist arranges a series of Organ Recitals by well known local musicians which occur weekly at lunchtime on Wednesdays. The Parish has a successful Evening Mothers' Union which meets monthly. An active Walsingham Cell has a programme of monthly meetings in church and there is a long established Men's Society

EXTERIOR - The church sits on a rise above the coast road and is a typical long flint and stone building of the 12th Century. The south aisle has stepped two-light 15th Century windows, the chancel two very big Perpendicular windows. The two-light west window is also 14th Century. The north aisle with its Y-shaped tracery windows may be earlier. The tower was begun in the 13th Century and finished in the 14th and although not as tall as some in the county it rises prominently in view on the road from Cromer. The parapet has four small pinnacles and bell openings with Y tracery on a circular shaft. There is one bell of 1715 with the name Thomas Newman on it.

WAR MEMORIAL - The War Memorial is unusually situated by the road in an angle of the wall of the churchyard embankment. It is a handsome flint and stone construction with the appropriate and rather moving inscription:

"THEY WERE A WALL UNTO US BOTH BY NIGHT AND DAY"

LYCHGATE - The attractive Victorian lychgate has been moved back from the busy main road and has the carved inscription *"O enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise be thankful unto Him"*.

THE CALVARY - The calvary in the churchyard is a memorial to Felix Hackett Matthews, for 45 years Rector of the Parish, who died in 1964. The figure is a fibreglass replacement for the original which was vandalised in the 1970s.

EXTERIOR CARVINGS - On the south aisle window-corbels are some carved heads, now quite eroded. They depict, from west to east, a lady, a knight, animals, a queen and a king. Also, under the gable of the south aisle, are two grotesques, a man's head and a man pulling his mouth wide open.

PORCH -The old porch has a blocked niche above the entrance. On the east buttress are the remains of a "mass-clock" with the metal base of the gnomon still embedded in the stone. The Victorian door has some fine floriated ironwork, and on each side a carved head, one a bishop, one a queen.

INTERIOR - The interior, which was extensively restored in 1854 and 1886, is wide and light with a mixture of old and new pavement flooring in terracotta and ochre. The restorations replaced most of the window traceries and the roofs. There are two aisles with four-bay arcades separated by octagonal piers with double-chamfered arches. Just by the door is an old stone of the 17th Century set sideways with very worn lettering, found there in 1963. There is another outside the porch.

FONT - The octagonal font is 14th Century with small ogee-headed panels. The cover, a memorial to Kay Connell who died in 1964, was designed by Cecil Upcher.

CHANCEL - In the chancel there are carved sedilia and a decorated six-petal piscine retaining its recess for the sacred vessels. The church plate contains a medieval paten.

CARVINGS - In the choir, some old poppyhead carvings have been grafted onto the Victorian pews of 1886. Though rather battered, one can make out a medieval lady, a merchant, various seedheads, and a monstrous face with its tongue out. *Poppyhead* is not a reference to flowers, but supposed to be from a nautical term *puppis* or *popeys* = *poop*, the raised deck on the stern of a ship. The Victorian carved pews and chancel rail are quite restrained. There are attractive iron hinges on the altar rail.

STAINED GLASS - There are fragments of old glass in the south choir tracery. The five-light east window was designed by Edward Frampton, and was inserted in 1896. It shows the Ascension of our Lord, with vigorous drawing and strong composition.

His also are the south chancel windows of St. George and St. Cecilia, after 1896, and the south aisle window of the Resurrection, 1904, which is rather dark. Some Art & Crafts influence is seen in his window at the east end of the south aisle, 1911, where St. Francis preaches to the birds.

In the north aisle are St. Hilary and St. Stephen, 1938, St. Elizabeth with the child John the Baptist, and our Lady, 1954, by G. Maile of London. The easternmost window of this aisle is by Harry Stammers, 1959, in a simple "modern" style typical of its date. It depicts people in various historical costumes, and is signed with his symbol of a ship's wheel and an "S".

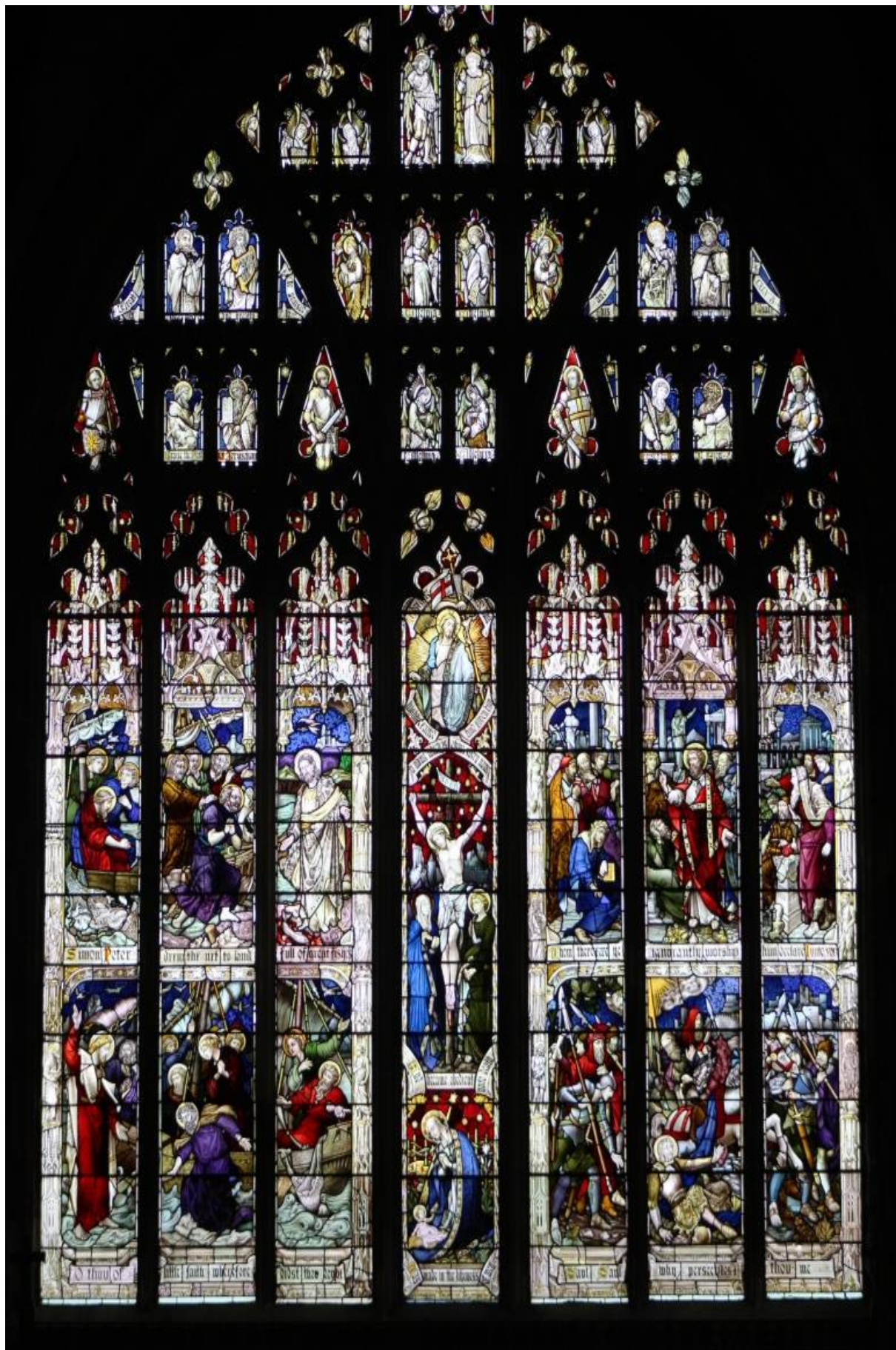
The west windows of the aisles were reglazed in more modern times. The figures of two apostles, St. Peter and St. John, 1850s, were taken from the tower window in 1963 and inserted here in 1989. They are by J. Grant of Costessey. The roundels show a pelican and the Agnus Dei. Two other roundels, the Trinity and the Star of David, were lost during the reglazing.

ORGAN - The first organ was installed here in 1865. Built by Mark Noble, it was transferred to Aylmerton in 1907. The second organ, by Norman & Beard, was larger (and therefore better!). It went to Thorrington in Essex in 1923.

A third organ was then built by William Middleton of Norwich. The present organ was built in 1959 by Williamson and Hyatt of Trunch. At that time it cost £2,300. There is a total of 441 pipes. In 2000 a new electronic console was installed but the sound still comes from the original pipes, set high on the west wall.

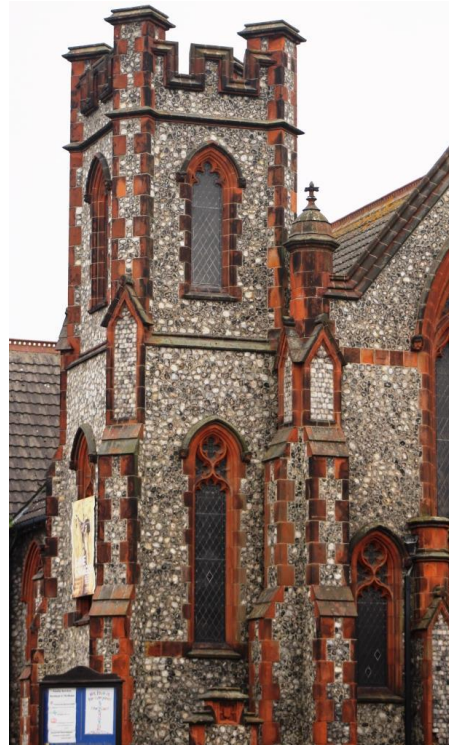








St Peter's and St Paul's, Church Street, Cromer



Methodist, West Street, Cromer



St Peter and St Paul's and Baptist, Church Street, Cromer



Baptist, Church Street, Cromer



The Tabernacle, New Road, Aylsham

On Gashouse Hill - a Wesleyan chapel built in 1868. Established over 150 years ago as 'Aylsham Tabernacle' the ACC (Aylsham Community Church) was part of the circuit of Wesleyan Reform Union churches; in the 1980s the church joined with Newfrontiers. The building has since been converted into a private dwelling house.



St Michael's and All Angels, Aylsham

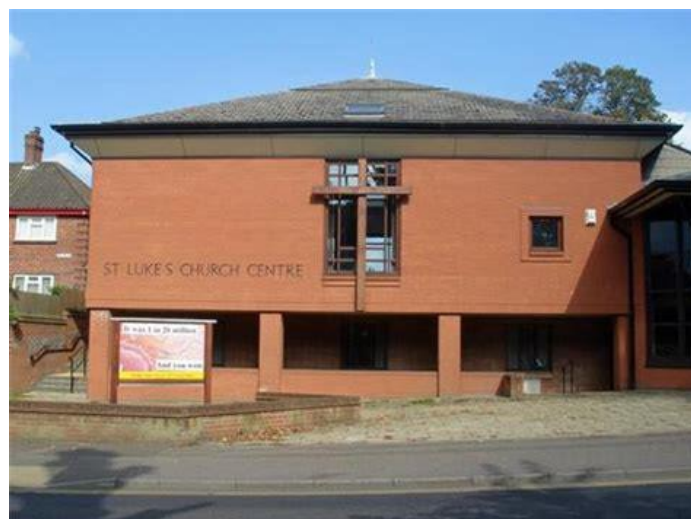
This is a large and complicated cruciform building and was built in the early 14th century and was completed late in the century, perhaps under the orders of John of Gaunt.



St Faith's Centre, Horsham and Newton



Methodist, Mile Cross, Aylsham Road, Norwich



St Luke's Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich

MONDAY 20th MAY 2019



St John the Baptist, Reedham

Surrounded by marshland rich in bird and animal life, the church stands to the north east of the village. Reedham is one of the oldest recorded religious establishments in Norfolk – records show that a church, founded by Bishop Felix of Dunwich, has stood on this site since the 7th century. The north wall of the present building is thought to be the earliest existing part of the church, possibly built in around the 11th Century. Part of the wall is exposed showing a herring bone pattern of reused Roman tiles; the exterior of the church reuses grey stone blocks, almost certainly also Roman. Further archaeology is exploring where all this material came from; the stone matches that used at Brancaster Roman fort and it seems extremely likely there was once a large Roman structure here also.



Christchurch, Whopload Road, Lowestoft



Trinity Methodist, High Street and Christchurch, Whopload Road, Lowestoft





St Mark's, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad South









St Michael's, New Market, Beccles

THURSDAY 23rd MAY 2019



URC, Quay Street, Halesworth





St Mary's, Steeple End, Halesworth





St John's, Church Hill, Saxmundham



URC, Reedham Road, Saxmundham



St Mary the Virgin, Market Hill, Woodbridge



Quay Baptist, Quayside, Woodbridge

FRIDAY 31st MAY 2019



St Nicholas, Church Street, Harwich