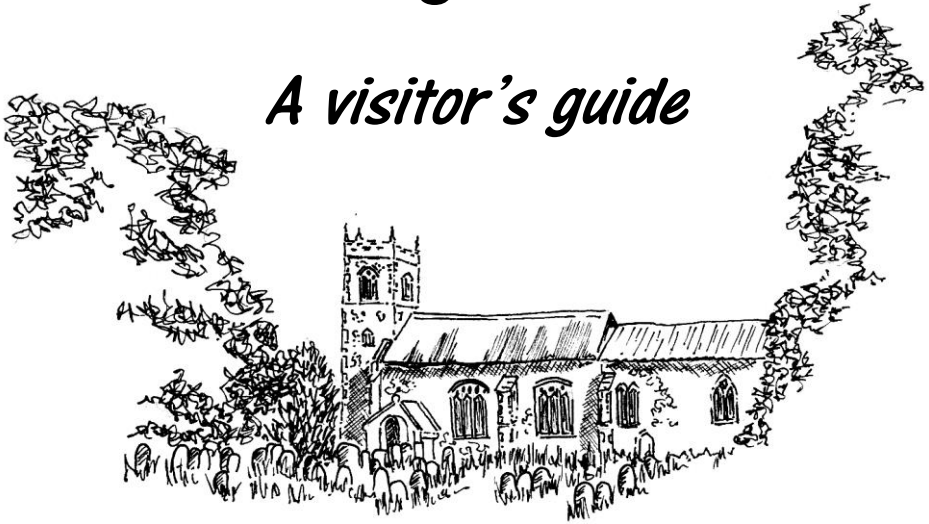


# Welcome to St. Peter's Church Lingwood

## *A visitor's guide*



Living God:

in this building, used to the sound of singing;

this building which has seen baptisms and funerals;

this building where people have come to be married,

or to celebrate the birth of a child;

this building where people have wept, and been filled with joy;

this building where people have wrestled with the deep things of life,

have prayed urgently, been stirred and changed;

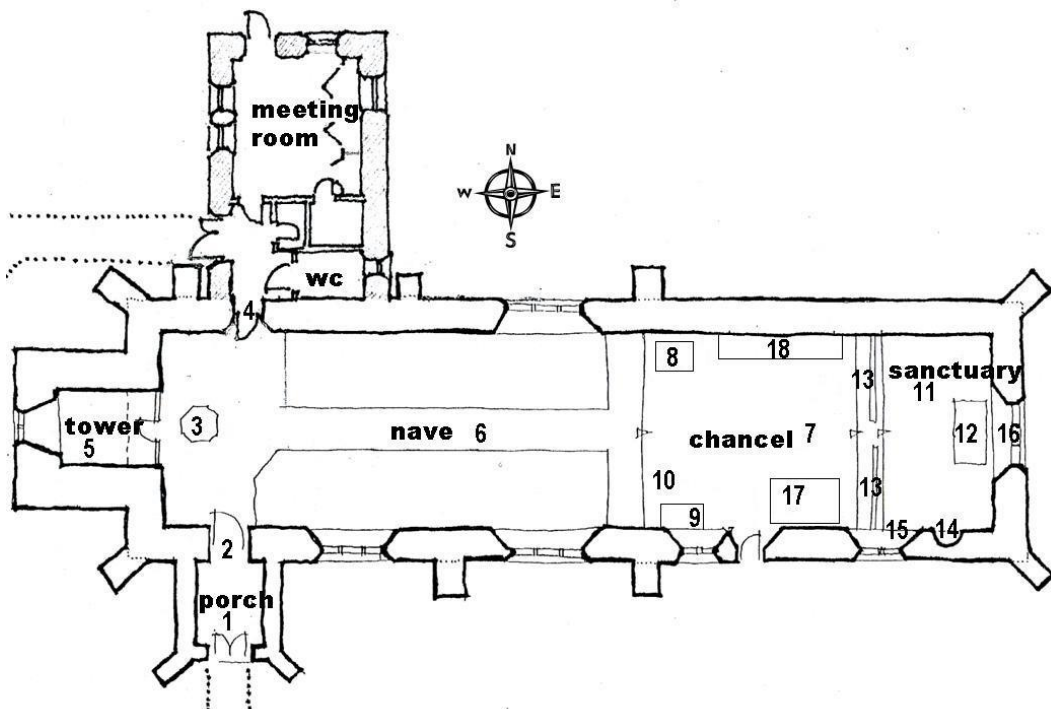
in this building where you have so often been with your people,

be with us now.

*The Book of a Thousand Prayers © 2002 A. Ashwin*

*This guide is free though you may wish to leave a donation!*

In the name of Jesus Christ  
 We bid you welcome to this church  
 Here in the quiet you may worship at his throne  
 Here you may speak to the Father who loves you  
 Here give Him thanks  
 Here you may cast your cares upon him  
 Seek forgiveness for the past, strength for the future  
 Then go on your way rejoicing  
 And may God bless you and grant you his peace



St. Peter's Church represents more than 700 years Christian worship in Lingwood. The ancient building dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and has been changed in many ways over those years but the church is also a living community of people.

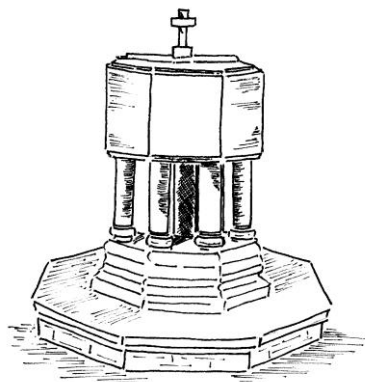
We hope this guide will tell you a little, not only about the history of this building, but also how we use it as a church today as we worship God and seek his will for us.

Your tour begins at **The South Porch** (1) where you entered the church. The main part of the church dates back to about 1280 but this porch was added in the late 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is early Perpendicular in style. There is a good entrance doorway, hood mould over the arch with figures for stops. These figures have become weathered, but the one on the right can still be seen to be holding an axe. The south wall is faced with knapped flints.

On the wall to the right of the door is the iron frame, which would have held an oil lamp. Below this, you will see an outline of an old sundial.

**The South Doorway** (2) is of the 14<sup>th</sup> century of the Decorated period. It has a hood mould above it, again with good head stops. In more recent times the doorway has been photographed many times as brides enter the church and as they leave on their husbands arm. The happy couples are recorded in the church register. Our registers (including also baptisms and burials) date back to 1537 but apart from those currently in use they are now deposited in the Norwich Archives.

As you enter the church immediately in front of you is the **Font** (3). This has a plain octagonal bowl dating from the thirteenth century. It has been used to baptise babies, children and adults into the Christian faith. (Whilst the church is now Anglican, before the Reformation of course it would have been Roman Catholic). The water of baptism symbolises washing away of sin and the beginning of a new life in Christ. The parents and godparents on behalf of a child (or in the case of adult baptism the person themselves) say that they turn to Christ as their Saviour and Lord. The large centre base stem of the Font is probably original, but the outer circular legs are modern replacements.



Beyond the font the **North Doorway** (4) now leads to the church centre built in 2006 with £160,000 raised over 10 years from church and village members, charities and local companies. A time capsule was buried below it for future generations to find. It comprises a meeting room with kitchen and toilet facilities.

Our children's and youth groups meet here. Children are important to Jesus. When the disciples tried to stop children trying to get to Jesus he said "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

The room is also used after services for refreshments so that we can chat with friends. The PCC meet here. They are the group of people who together with the priest have responsibility for many of the decisions relating to the church.

Our Harvest Suppers take place here and the provision of toilets (first discussed back in 1939) allows us to use the church for concerts and other events.

The Church Centre is available for hire.

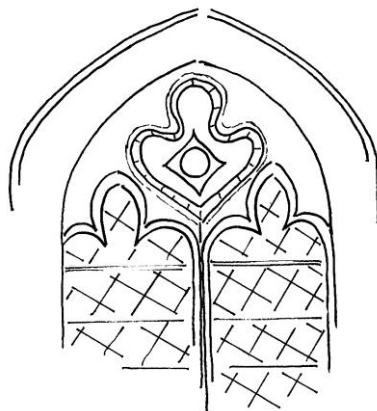
Turning to your left there is a wooden screen and door that make the West Tower (5) into a vestry. The Tower was built in the late 13th century in the Early English style and is unbuttressed.

The west window inside the vestry has plate tracery of this period and a hood mould above it with head stops.

The belfry has only one bell, which is regularly used to welcome people to church and to tell the village that we are at prayer. When the bell needs repair it is accessible only by ladder.

The belfry window has undergone restoration work. Major repairs were carried out to windows, stonework and the roof in 1993.

Outside, the battlemented parapet is later than the tower, built in the 15th century in Perpendicular style with crocketed spirelets at the angles. Inside, the Tower Arch dates from the 13th century, and is plain with no mouldings.



On the wall above the vestry are the Royal Arms of George IV (c. 1820).

The Vestry is the place in which the churchwardens and the priest prepare for services. There are two churchwardens who have responsibility for maintaining the buildings and churchyard. They also ensure that everything is in the right place for our services to run smoothly. We have a variety of regular and special services, the details of which are published each quarter in "Parish News" the latest copy of which can usually be found near the south doorway.

The Nave (6) has two windows on the south side and one on the north. All of these are three lights wide, which is quite large. The two on the south have similar tracery, whereas the north window is more decorative, with the unusual feature of stone flowers in the spandrels between the top of the light and the tracery. There are hood moulds over them with head stops which appear to be monks. The tracery was restored in 1994.

On the North Wall of the nave there is a painting of St. Christopher which was uncovered during renovations in 1965. This could possibly date from the 13th century and is certainly not later than the 14th century.

Below St. Christopher are the War Memorials recording the names of the nine men from the village who gave their lives in the First World War and the ten in the Second World War. Two of these men are buried in the churchyard near the road. Each Remembrance Sunday the Royal British Legion, The Parish Council and the church place poppy wreaths on the shelf below the memorials.

Also on the north wall there is displayed the community quilt made in 1997 to celebrate the visit of the Bishop of Thetford. The panels were decorated by Lingwood organizations (sadly some of these no longer exist) and the churches of the other parishes which are part of the same Benefice; South Burlingham, Strumpshaw, Hassingham and Buckenham. Four times a year the churches in the Benefice get together for joint services.

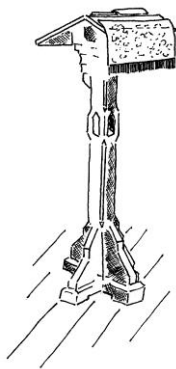
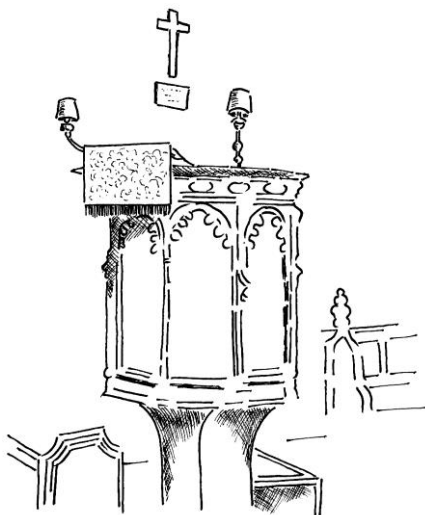
The pews in the nave are a fairly modern installation. The hanging lights were once oil lamps and are now (except for one in the Sanctuary) converted to electricity.

The nave roof is of the 15th century Perpendicular period. It is arch braced and the principal timbers are original with decorative bosses at the intersections.

There is no chancel arch, the break being formed by the lower ceiling and roof to the chancel. It is at this point, where the nave meets the chancel (7) that a rood screen would once have stood.

**The Pulpit** (8) to the left as you face the altar is where the priest usually stands to preach a sermon in services. The cross above it was given in memory of Ivor Welch, Rector

**The Priest's Chair** (9) to the right is where the priest sits to lead us in prayer. This along with the benches (18) near the organ have splendid re-used ends with much carving and fine poppy heads. There are two good figures on the arm rests, one of which is a priest holding a rosary and the other a seated friar. These were re-designed and created by a local craftsman, John Burton, in 2014



The modern **Lectern** (10) in front of the Priest's Chair is used by members of the congregation when they are reading a Bible passage to us. Bible readings are included in all our services. We usually use a modern translation; the New International Version (2011)

In the **Sanctuary** (11), the Ten Commandments from the Old Testament book of Exodus and the Lord's Prayer from the Gospels in the New Testament appear on either side of the east window (16). They are made of stone and also include the words of the Creed. The Creed sets out the basics of what Christians believe and (in different forms) is used in most of our services. In years gone by the congregation would have been expected to know The Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments by heart.

In front of the east window the **Altar** (12) is a reminder of the table of our Lord's Last Supper. On the night before Good Friday when he was crucified, Jesus shared a meal with his disciples. He asked them always to remember Him when sharing bread and wine. In our services of Holy Communion, we come to the communion rail and take bread and wine to remember Jesus' love and sacrifice. The Altar is constructed from a door originally in St. Peter's Church, North Burlingham. It is very finely made from Austrian Oak and bears the text "TILL HE COME" (1 Cor 11:26)

This is carved on the front edge of the altar and is gilded.

The altar is covered by a frontal, the colour of which changes according to the season of the church year: purple for Advent (preparing for Christmas) and Lent (preparing for Good Friday and Easter); white for Christmas and Easter; red for Pentecost (celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit) and green at most other times.

Lingwood's altar frontals were given to the church in the mid 1980s by Mrs Burrell.



The Laudian **Communion Rail** (13) has big balusters which are of the 17th Century. The rail was renovated in 1994 in memory of Selina Barber.

During our services of Holy Communion we use some precious items of **Church Plate**. These are

1. An Elizabethan chalice bearing the engraving "LYNGWOD, 1567".
2. An Elizabethan paten.
3. A brass alms dish engraved

"In memory of Frederick Courtenay Burrough, Vicar 1922-30"

4. A silver wine decanter engraved

"Lingwood, Anno Dom: 1729: In Usam Sacramenti Altaris.

Ex Dono. Gul: Heath Clcrici : Hujus Parochiee Incolee."

5. An Italian silver Communion Bread Box, engraved

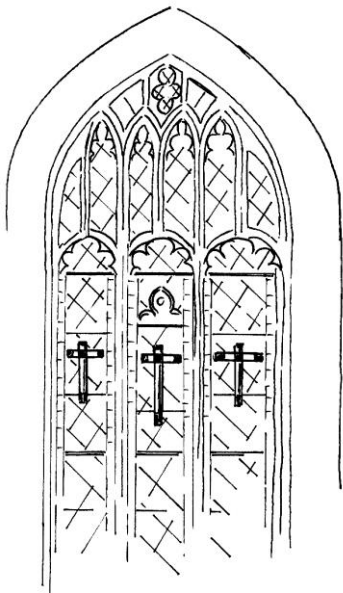
"St. Peter's, Lingwood. Presented in memory of Harry C. Tubbs 1896-1974"

Sadly, we cannot put these items on display but if you are able to come to a service of Holy Communion you will see them in use.



**The Piscina** (14) to the right of the altar as you face the east window was a basin where in former years the communion vessels were washed. It is from the 14th century with a trefoil arch with a foliage terminal over it.

Nearby is the **Sedilia** (15) under the south east window which was a seat for the priest to use.



**The East Window** (16) was probably inserted in the 19th century. From the outside you can see that this east end of the church has been heavily restored in brickwork. The original window was much wider and not so tall. The remains of the original sill can still be seen on either side of the present window.

The east window contains one of the two areas of stained glass in the church. (The other is in the west window in the vestry). Above the centre cross there is a small canopy of 14<sup>th</sup> century glass. The larger centre cross represents the cross on which Jesus died. The Gospels tell us that two thieves were crucified on either side of him and the two smaller crosses represent this.

**The Organ** (17) is very important as music is a part of nearly all our worship with both traditional hymns and contemporary songs. It was built in 1911 at a cost of £200 by 'Paddy' Benson of Norman & Beard.

It is 2-manual with seven stops and three couplers. It was restored in 1984 but on the left side, you can still see the handle which operated the bellows supplying the air before being replaced by an electric blower.

In the **Chancel** (7) the roof is modern with hardboard in between the timbers. There are two windows on the south side which are probably original, with late 13th Century plain "Y" tracery (1280 -1300).

In addition to the ones on the walls there are interesting memorials in the floor, behind the communion rail, under the organ, under the east end of the choir stalls on the north side, and along the aisle.

**The Churchyard** outside contains graves going back hundreds of years. All new burials are in the adjoining Parish Council Cemetery unless the burial is to be in an existing family plot. The Council cemetery lychgate was erected and dedicated in 1996.

The churchyard contains two yew trees planted by the then priest Vivien Elphick in 2000 to mark the new millennium. Vivien was the main driving force behind the building of the church centre.

We are able to remain open in daylight hours thanks to the work of volunteer keyholders. We hope you have enjoyed your visit and found this guide useful. Before you leave this ancient church please pray for yourself, those who worship here and the local community. You may like to use these words.

*The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always. Amen. (Based on Phillippians 4:7)*

If you would like us to pray for you or someone you know please do use the prayer request board by the south doorway. If you would like to join us for Sunday worship you would be most welcome.

### Priests

We are unable to show a full list of priests of this Parish; for many years it was cared for by Vicars of Halvergate as can be seen by the title 'Perpetual Curate' :-

1768-1812 Thomas Goddard Perpetual Curate  
1816-1844 Thomas Erasmus Goddard Perpetual Curate  
1844-1846 Thomas Lyon Fellowes Perpetual Curate  
1847-1880 Joseph Potter Perpetual Curate and first Vicar  
1890-1909 Frederick Taylor Vicar  
1909-1921 William Henry Hinder Vicar  
1922-1930 Frederick Courtenay Burrough Vicar  
1931-1936 Verner M. White Vicar  
1938-1940 E.H. Turtle Vicar and Chaplain to the Forces  
1946-1950 Stanley Duthie Vicar  
1950-1957 David Beavis Vicar  
1957-1973 Henry Hunter Vicar  
1973-1983 George W. Glew Vicar  
1984-1993 Ivor Thomas Ronald Welch Priest-in-Charge and later Rector  
1994-2006 Vivien Elphick Priest-in-Charge  
2007- present David Wakefield Priest-in-Charge and later Rector

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine upon your face,  
the rains fall soft upon fields...  
and may God hold you in the palm of His hand. (Ancient Irish Blessing)*

As you leave do notice the words from the Old Testament prophet Micah on the back of the Notice board.