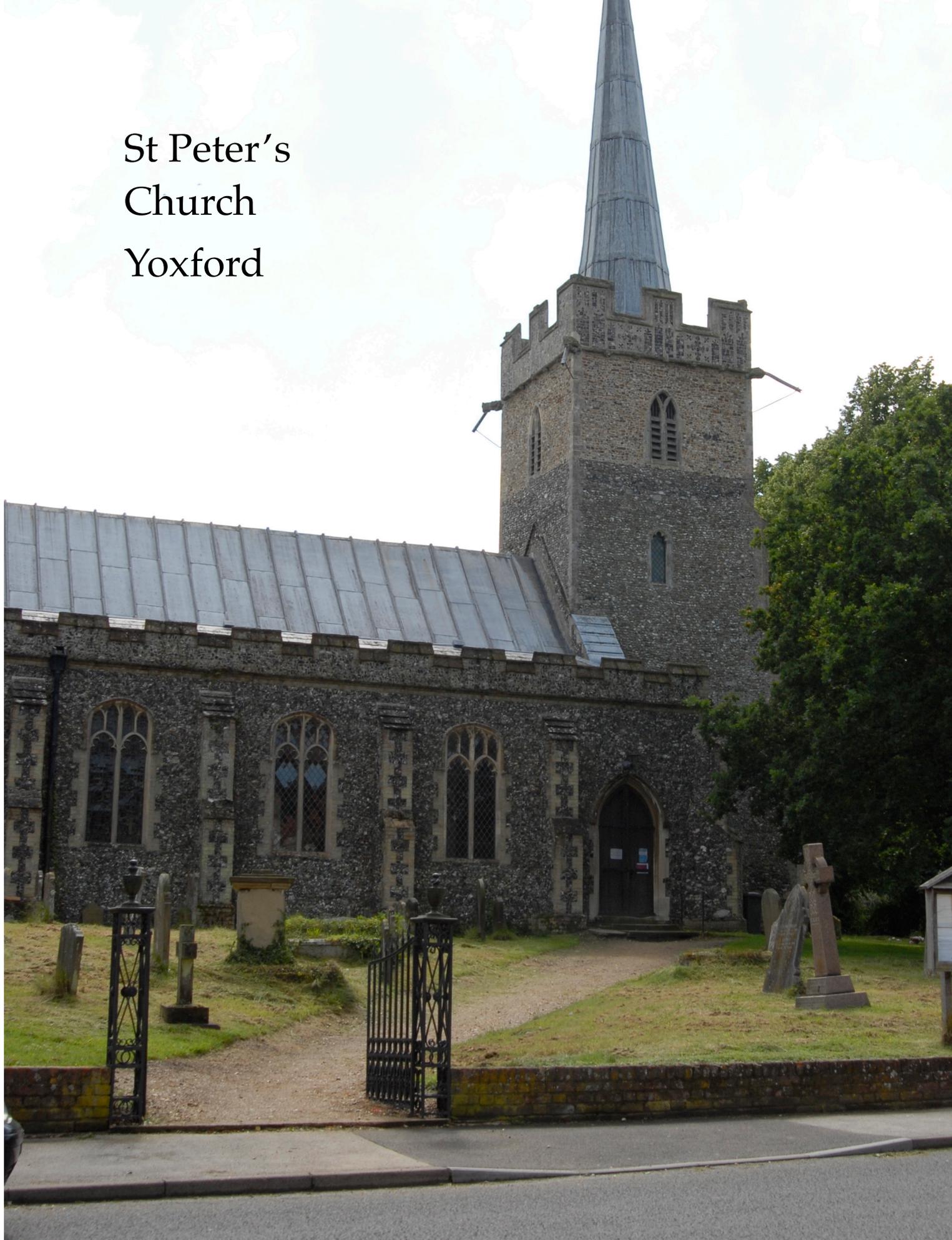


St Peter's
Church
Yoxford



Welcome to our Parish Church!

Yoxford has been at a busy crossroad for centuries; a place of traffic and commerce, and since the year 1400, this building has been here to allow people to seek the quietness that the human spirit needs, and to offer their prayers and thanksgiving to God.

It has a rich history therefore, that reflects the contribution of local families, the changing prosperity of the village, and great national events, such as the Reformation and two World Wars. People have come to this church at every stage of the human journey, to offer their tears as well as joy, to look for wisdom as well as compassion, to affirm the value of all that is good in human life, and above all to spend time in the presence of God.

There are many reminders of the continuity of life in this building. The font has stood here for more than half a millennium, for people to be baptized into the Christian life. The pulpit has stood here since 1620 for the teaching of Jesus Christ. The bells have rung out since 1665 to call people to worship and to proclaim God's Kingdom on earth.

I hope you enjoy discovering all that this church has to offer; just by standing within its walls you have shared in its history. May all these marks of witness during the centuries encourage us in our faith today, as we seek God's will for our futures. We thank you for visiting our church and pray that you know the companionship of God on your path through life.

The Reverend Canon Richard Ginn
a former Vicar of the Yoxmere Benefice





A Brief History

St Peter's church and tower were built in the fifteenth century. There was a church here, maybe in timber, at least as early as the reign of Edward the Confessor, but there is no record of its appearance. This building began around the year 1400 and was completed after the death of its founder John Norwich in 1428. He and his wife, being childless, left the money from the sale of their house Cockfield Hall to complete the building of the church.

Yoxford is unusual in having three large mansions within its boundaries: Cockfield Hall, Grove Park, and Rookery Park, and the histories of the families who lived here are commemorated in the memorials and hatchments in the church. The hatchments are considered to be the finest in Suffolk

By 1837, Yoxford, already a coaching stop on the London to Yarmouth road, had grown into a prosperous trading town. The North Aisle was extended, enlarging the church, to accommodate a growing congregation.

Major restoration took place in the 1880's including the new pews, made of New Zealand pine.

This guide aims to give you an insight into the main points of historic interest: hatchments, family memorials, medieval brasses, war memorials, significant architectural details, and the graveyard. A floor layout is in the centre of this brochure to help you find your way around.

The Hatchments



Hatchments came into use in the 17th century to show the heraldic and marital status of the deceased. They possibly replaced the older custom of carrying an heraldic shield before the coffin. When a person of rank died, their coat of arms, and that of any surviving spouse, was painted on a wooden board, following a strict heraldic code. The hatchment was displayed outside their house for 6-9 months, and then removed to the parish church.

We are especially fortunate to have 10 hatchments in St Peter's.

The five hatchments (shown above) up high on the west wall are for, from left to right: Sir Ralph Blois (d.1762), Sir Charles Blois (d. 1850), Dame Clara Blois (d.1847), Sir John Blois (d.1820 and Sir Charles Blois (d. 1760) .

The oldest, over the North Door, is for Thomas Mann (d. 1669) of The Inner Temple and Yoxford



Did you know....?

The half white ground on Dame Clara's hatchment signified that her husband survived her. The skull, or death's head, at the bottom of Sir Charles' hatchment signified that he died without issue.



On the South Wall, between the windows, for Thomas Betts (d.1739)

Also on the South Wall, over the kitchen area, for Elizabeth (d. 1780), who married the Rev. Sir Ralph Blois, 4th Baronet.



On the north wall of the Bell Tower, for Elizabeth Eyre Clayton (d.1802).

On the south wall of the Bell Tower, for Lucretia Otley Blois (d. 1808).

Did you know...?

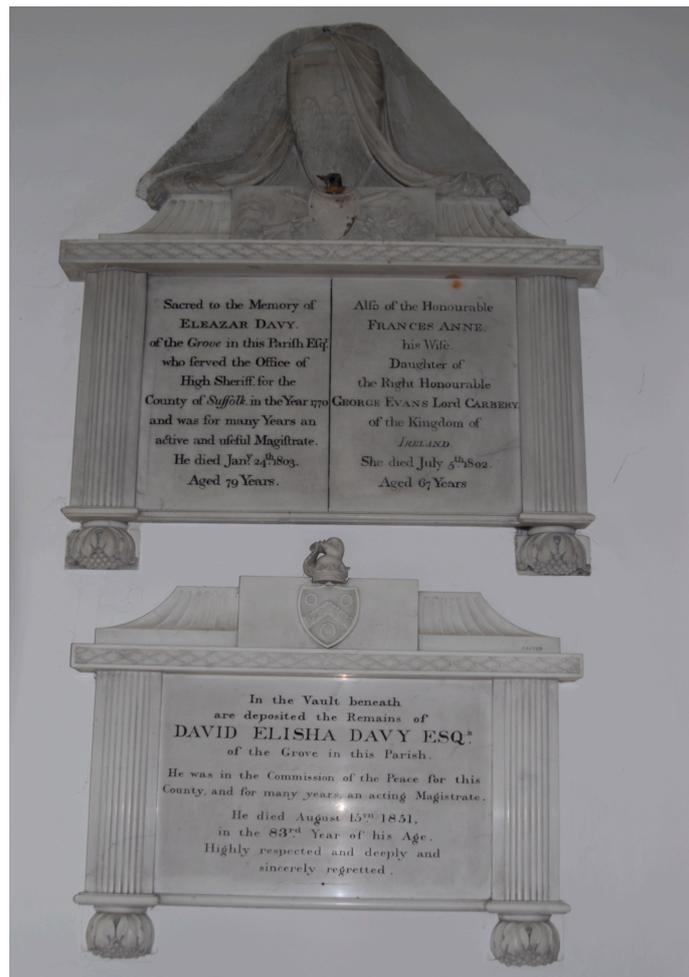
'Resurgamus' means 'we shall rise again'



Family Memorials

As you enter from the North Door, turn left, and progress along the north wall. First, you come to the Betts monument. William Betts was a prominent lawyer during the reign of Queen Anne, and lived for a while in a house in Grove Park.

Next, is the Davy monument, consisting of two tablets. On the upper tablet, left side is a memorial to Eleazer Davy, who in 1772, bought and rebuilt the mansion in Grove Park; and on the right to his wife Frances Anne, daughter of Lord Carberry. Beneath is a memorial to David Elisha Davy, a renowned antiquarian, who spent his life visiting and making notes on every church in Suffolk: his manuscripts fill 160 volumes and are preserved in the British Library. He lived during most of his life in Ufford, but was buried here in 1851.



Moving along, the third window is a stained glass image of the Adoration of the Three Kings commemorates Beatrice Alice Lomax, of Grove Park (there is another stained glass window on the South Wall for Thomas Lomax and his wife Anne). Further on the north wall is a large marble tablet in memory of the Clayton family of Sibton Hall. Beyond the organ is a memorial to Daniel Copland, a former vicar who lived at Hope House (in the High Street), and there is a memorial to his father, John, on the left hand wall of the Sanctuary. Below, three memorials to Sir Herbert Miles and his family, of Satis House (on the corner of the A12).

Did you know....?

David Elisha Davy made most of his journeys around Suffolk on foot!

Moving to the right of the Sanctuary, we come to what was once a private chapel belonging to the various owners of Cockfield Hall. The Hall was built between 1520 and 1560 by the Hoptons, and the escutcheons on the crossbeam of the ceiling bear the coat of arms of the Hopton family.



They sold Cockfield Hall to Robert Brooke, and on the right of the window is a marble tablet, erected by his daughter Mary, in memory of him and his family. The helmet on the ceiling was not designed for warfare, but was a funeral helmet, denoting Sir Robert's rank as knight. His other daughter Martha, married Sir William Blois, and thus the estate passed to his son, Charles. There are, in the chapel and on the south wall, many monuments to members of the Blois family from 1760 onwards.

One story that carries no memorial is that of Lady Katherine Grey. She was the sister of Lady Jane Grey, who for 9 days, was Queen of England. Queen Elizabeth kept a careful watch over Lady Catherine, who was eventually moved to Cockfield Hall (Sir Owen Hopton being a distant relative of the Queen), and died there in January 1568. Her embalmed body was buried in this chapel in the February. Her coffin was, much later, removed to Salisbury Cathedral, where she is buried with her husband, the Earl of Hertford, but those parts removed during the embalming and buried in a separate casket, remain here still.

Did you know....?

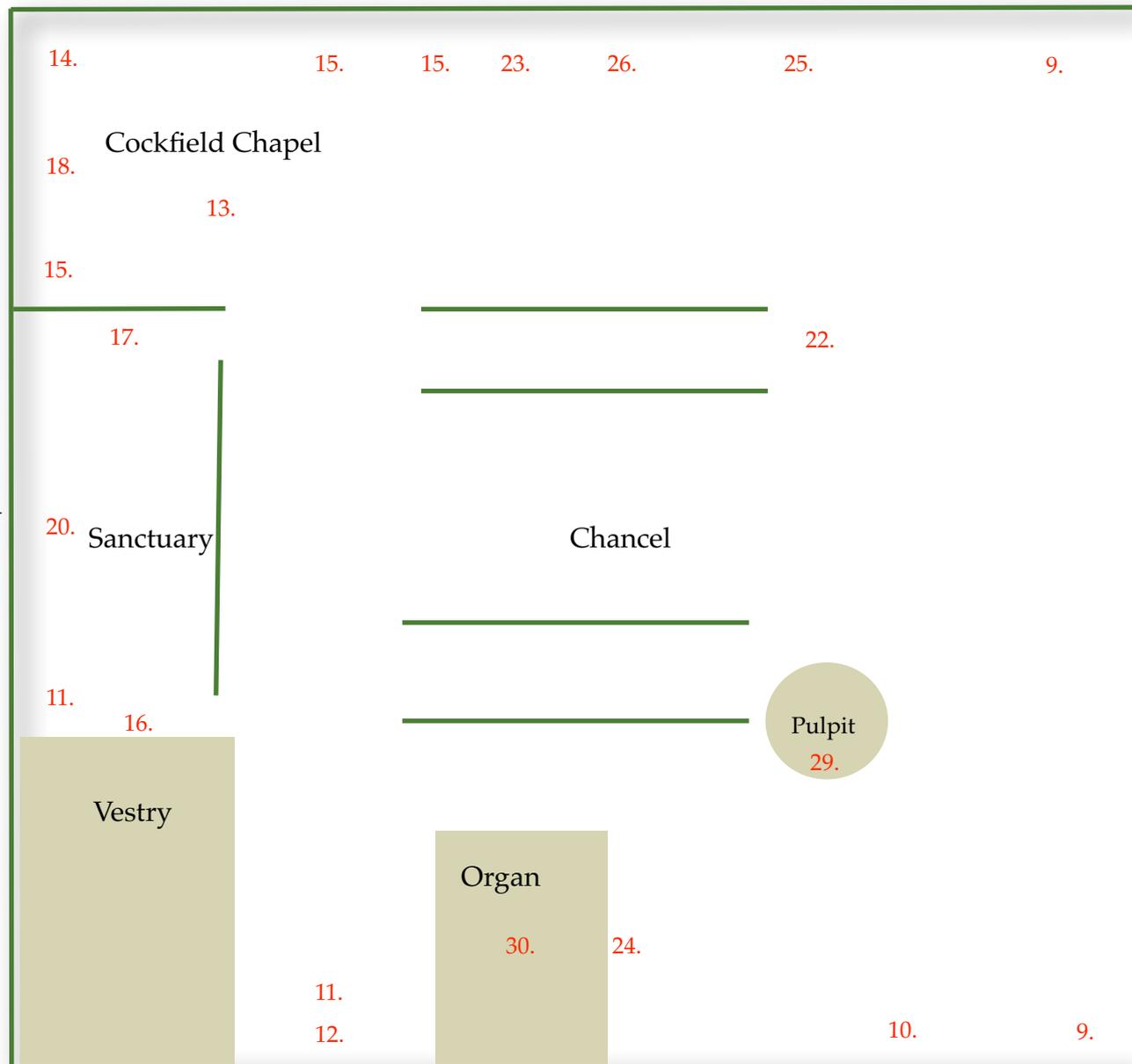
The Griffin pub in the High Street is named after the griffin, on the Hopton crest



Plan of St Peter's Yoxford

South Wall

East Window



North Wall

Hatchments

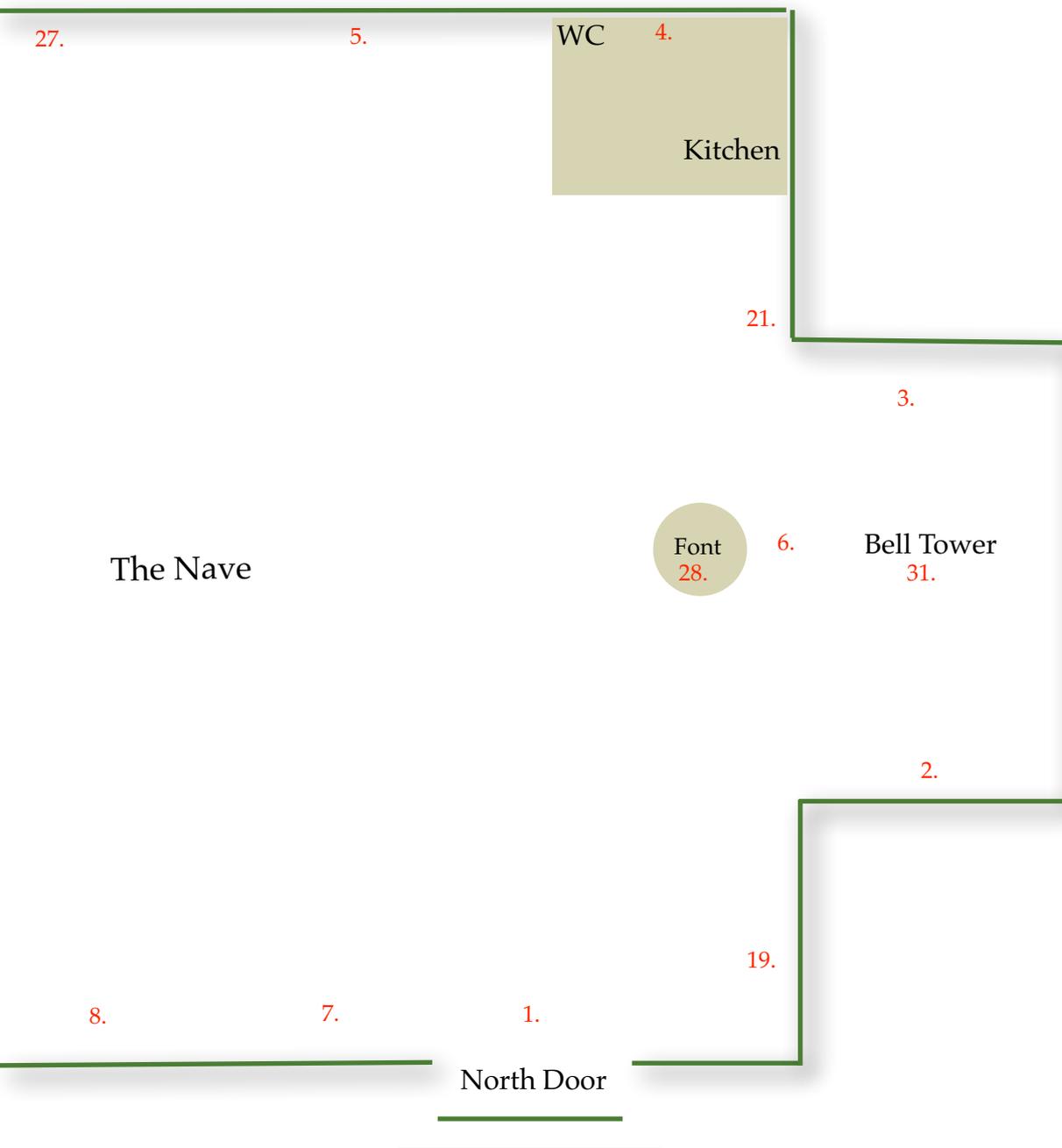
1. Thomas Mann
2. Elizabeth Eyre
3. Lucretia
4. Elizabeth
5. Thomas Betts
6. The five Blois hatchments

Family memorials

7. Betts
8. Davy
9. Lomax
10. Clayton
11. Copland
12. Miles
13. Hopton
14. Brooke
15. Blois

Medieval Brasses

16. John Norwich
17. Thomasine Tendring
18. Johanna Brooke
19. Skottow, Coke



Jubilee steps (due autumn 2012)

War Memorials

- 20. East window
- 21. Lomax
- 22. Bond
- 23. Blois
- 24. Organ

Architectural features

- 25. Piscina
- 26. Glass escutcheons
- 27. Glass fragments
- 28. Font
- 29. Pulpit
- 30. Organ
- 31. Bells

Medieval Brasses



Within the communion rails, on the side walls of the sanctuary, are the brass effigies of John Norwich (d.1428) in armour, the founder of the church, and his wife Maud (d.1418). The floor slab that they were taken from stands at the west end of the church, outside the kitchen. They lay originally in the pavement, just east of the chancel arch. It is to them we owe the present church. It was begun in his lifetime, and was completed after his death with funds from the sale of Cockfield Hall.

Opposite them are the effigies of Thomasine Tendring and her seven children. She is depicted as a corpse, nude except for the half open shroud; five of her children are wrapped in shrouds, indicating that they died before her. Thomasine was the step daughter of John Hopton, who bought Cockfield Hall from John Norwich.

Below the east window, in the Cockfield chapel, is a brass plate commemorating Johanna Brooke (d.1618), wife of Robert Brooke. She is depicted wearing a Paris cap, a ruff and an intricately brocaded petticoat.



Did you know...?

In the middle ages people believed that the soul's passage through purgatory could be eased by the prayers of the living. Brasses were intended, not only to commemorate the family, but also to encourage the prayers of the passer by.

Just inside the North Door, on the right, is a board fixed to the wall, bearing eight medieval brasses and one brass rubbing. Reading down on the left, they are:

An inscription and 2 shields, a remnant of a brass for Elizabeth Knyvet (d.1471), a half sister to Thomasine Tendring.

An inscription for William and John Tendryng, sons of Thomasine.

An inscription and 2 prayer labels 'Jesus merci' and 'Ladi help' for John Scottow (d.1511) and his wife Agnes (d.1529).

An inscription for John Coke (d.1522) and his wife Alice.

An inscription for Robert Rivet (d.1593) and his wife Margery.



In the centre of the board is an effigy of Anthony Coke, a descendant of John, whose family lived for several generations at Hog Hill Farm. He died on Easter Monday 1613, when this punning epitaph tells us:

“Lean hungry death who never pity took
Because the feast was ended, slew this cook”!

On the top right, there is an effigy of Christian Foxe (d.1618), a lady in a hat, ruff and farthingale, and her baby son Francis. She was the daughter in law of Francis Foxe (d.1612), and wife of John . The family lived at Rookery Park.

Below is the inscription for Francis Foxe a merchant aged 53 years (d.1612).

War Memorials



The Great War (1914-18) had a tragic impact on Yoxford, as elsewhere. The names of the fallen appear in the stained glass of the East Window, with their various regimental badges above the three symbolic figures: St George and the dragon, Christ crowned, with a chalice, and St Edmund, king and martyr.

There is a brass plaque between the bell tower and the North Door to Samuel Holt Lomax, killed in Flanders 1914, and a brass plaque with the Rolls of Honour for the First World War, and a wooden picture frame with the names of those local men who fell in the Second World War. On the hymn board behind the lectern is a brass plate to Stanley Bond who died in 1916, and to Charles Bond who died in 1918. In the Cockfield chapel is a marble tablet for Dudley George Blois, killed in action during the Battle of the Somme 1916, and it is sad to note that his wife Georgina lost him when he was 36, and then survived him for 50 years. Personal tragedies such as this affected many families during the First World War.

Finally, there is the memorial of the reconstruction of the organ, given as a thank offering by the women of Yoxford for the safe return of their men.



Did you know....?

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme 60,000 British soldiers were killed, and over 1 million soldiers of all nationalities were killed during the whole Somme campaign.

Architectural Features

The oldest visible part of the church is the south aisle. The original tracery can be seen more clearly from the outside, where one window has been walled up.

It was built in 1499 and had an altar at its eastern end, as proved by the piscina, which was revealed in 1868, three centuries later.

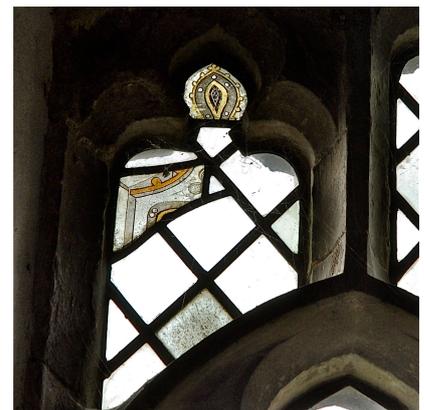


The oldest thing that can be seen in the church is the glass escutcheon, on the south window of Cockfield chapel, bearing the shield of John Norwich. In heraldic language: 'a party per pale azure and gules, a lion rampant debruised with a bendlet'. Next to it is an escutcheon of the arms of Clere, impaled on the Hopton crest.



We believe that Cromwell's men smashed all the religious images in the stained glass windows, leaving just the escutcheons, and that is why most of the glass in the church is modern.

Two windows further along, if you look carefully on the top left hand corner, you will see two remaining fragments of ancient, probably original, glass.





The Font was built in 1518, and probably had a gilded cover. The places for fastening the cover can still be seen on the stonework. The cover would have been destroyed by the Puritans, who also obliterated the faces of the four angels. One can also see Cromwellian graffiti on the pillar between the chancel and the Cockfield chapel; sadly, more recent scribblings have been added!

The Pulpit dates from 1620, but some parts of it, as now standing, are not original. Formerly it would have had an octagon sounding board.

The organ was given by the Revd. Henry Parr in 1870; the organ case came from a Moravian chapel in Fetter Lane, in London, in 1810. It used to stand at the west end of the church but was moved to its present position when it was reconstructed and recased in 1920.

The bells at St Peter's are especially fine. There is evidence that the church had three bells by 1553. There are now six, the smallest was cast in 1656, the largest in 1684 and the other four in 1655. In 1892 they were described as the best for tone and tune in the neighbourhood.

Did you know...?

That bells have been made at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry since 1570.



Outside

On the south west wall of the church can be seen the old south door. This used to be the main entrance to the church, but was walled up when the new North Aisle and door were built in 1837. According to Robert Parr's history there is a sundial scratched on the third buttress from the west end, but it seems to have been obliterated; and in any case would not have been very accurate as the church is not orientated to the true east: the east end faces 40 degrees S. of E. and the south side is thus almost SW!

The churchyard was closed to new burials from about 1900, with the exception of a small cremation plot at the west end of the bell tower. Many of the gravestones are now too old or damaged to be read clearly, but Doug Ireland in his comprehensive 2011 survey recorded as many as it was possible to identify.

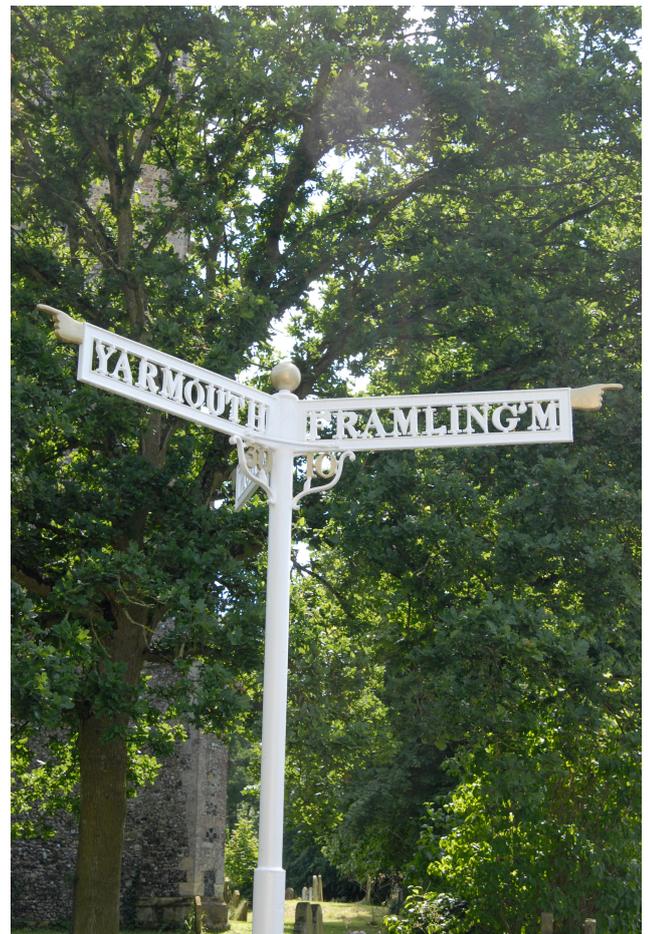
One of the oldest tombs that can still be identified is on the south side, an altar tomb to John Ingham (d. 1712) and his wife Jane (d.1715) of Rookery Park.

Another, which relates to Yoxford's importance as a crossroad is on the north west corner. It is a tombstone to Charles Dalby (d.1849), and faces the site of what was once The Three Tuns, a coaching hostelry on the Old High Road until it was destroyed by fire in 1926. It must have been a bustling place. The inscription on his tomb seems especially appropriate:

'Life's like an Inn, where Travellers stay,
Some only breakfast, and then go away,
Others to dinners stay, and are full fed,
The oldest only sup and go to bed,
Long is his bill, who lingers out the day,
Who goes the soonest has the least to pay.'

Did you know...?

In former times, the coaches would come down the Old High Road, stop at The Three Tuns, and then turn either left for Framlingham or right for Yarmouth.





“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”

(Philippians 4 v.4 - 8)



Acknowledgements: Much of the material in this guide was taken from 'Brief Notes on Yoxford Church' (November 1946) by Robert T.L. Parr, MA. We are also grateful to Doug Ireland who compiled a thorough survey of Memorial inscriptions in 2011.

Carole Lee, Yoxford, 2012.