



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

All Saints is an ancient building, mainly in the Perpendicular brick style, (15th Century). It is built of stone, flint and The TOWER is the earliest part of the Church, evidence of which is an Early (1200 — 70 A.D.) archway and a sanctus bell window in the East wall of the tower. The upper part of the embattled 14th Century tower is a later addition of stone and flint chequer work. This being added in the 18th Century. Before this there was a spire which is now used as coping on the churchyard wall.

The door to the tower stairs is iron clad. In 1553 there were three bells, today there is a peal of six bells. Five were made in Thetford by John Draper in the years between 1629 and 1636 and the sixth, the treble was made in Downham Market by William Dobson in 1807. In that same year the bells were hung in a new frame made of elm wood which is still supporting the bells today.

The SIDE AISLES. There is an interesting two-light window at the Western end of the South aisle, dated about 1300. In this corner there is a rare iron clad chest of the 14th Century which is 87 inches long. The East window of the North aisle is in the Decorated style, 1270 1350 A.D. , all the others are examples of the Perpendicular style of window.

Both aisles have 14th Century arcades. There is a simple Porch built during the same century and the contemporary buttresses to the North aisle have V-shaped lower stages.

The NAVE. The Clerestory (above the roof of the side aisles) was built in the early Tudor period (1540 — 1602) of red brick.

The cut off ends of both the beams of the floor of the Rood loft are still showing, and the stairs which led to it still remain above the pulpit.

The Pulpit was given by the parishoners as a Memorial to the Rev. Henry Downton M.A. Rector from 1873 to 1885 (A hymn writer. An example of his work is the hymn no. 267 A & M Revised, *Lord her watch thy Church is keeping When shall earth thy rule obey,*)

In 1879, when the Church interior was restored and decorated, the aisles and nave were re-seated with open benches and the church can hold about 250 people.

The ROOF of the NAVE.

The roof is later mediaeval, the whole is coloured and the eastern bay; as a canopy of honour

to the Rood screen, has the sacred monogram. The roof is constructed in the form of a hammer beam and arch braced collar roof of very low pitch.

The hammer beams have been formed into male figures with ermine collars; holding musical instruments, a chalice, books, etc.

The wall posts are canopied and have very mutilated figures on them, (Cromwellian destruction).

Above, the deep cornices have eagles with outstretched wings painted on them.

This roof has been used as an example of fine church architecture, by the Historic Churches Trust.

The CHANCEL. On the South side of the Chancel the two windows once fitted to take shutters both inside and out. The Chancel is again of early construction dated as 13th Century or earlier.

The East window is a Memorial to the Rev. Henry Dawson M.A. , Rector from 1827 to 1873.

On the North wall of the chancel there is a marble monument to Thomas Raymond (d. 1680) who was first Keeper of State Papers to Charles II.

In 1886, a new organ was erected by public subscription.

The Clock was also donated by the Parish in 1890.

In the Church there is a Stuart table and there is a decorated octagonal font.

Extensive repair work to the Tower and part of the roof has been done in the 1970 s.

The Church possesses a Flagon of 1556 and Chalice 1568.

From the Church Magazine. The Rector, The Rev, Laurence A. N. Kyle writes —

December 1973 - I am now able to give an account of the cost of the recent repairs to the Church and say how we stand for the future.

Income

Cash in hand i. e.
from donations,
various events,
grants, Cull ey
bequest, Goodrich
Trust etc. 4, 990.76
Loans 2,550.00

£7,540.76

Expenses

Builder 6,945.91
Architect 387.40
Special Ins. 3.00
Carpeting 56.00

Half year's loan
interest 90.00

7,490.71

50.05

£7,540.76

October 1975 — I have had an interesting letter from a gentleman in London who is proposing to write a history of the great storm of 1703. He wanted to know if the spire of our Church was destroyed in that storm. He alleges there was enormous damage and loss of life and suggest

the occasion ought to rank with the Great Plague and Fire of London. I told him I knew nothing of the occasion and that we had no Church records which could help, other than that we believed the present flint chequer work belfry was built soon after that time.

R.E. Gadsby