



The Round Tower

Vol. XLIV No 4

June 2017



SOUTH PICKENHAM CHURCH, 1958.
NR. SWAFFHAM, NORFOLK.

£2 to non members
www.roundtowers.org.uk

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY TOURS

Saturday Tours, first Church 2.30pm

3rd June South Pickenham (see cover) Threxton, Merton

1st July Theberton, Thorington, Bramfield

5th August Matlaske, Stody, Letheringsett

2nd September Wacton, Aslacton, Tasburgh

NORFOLK CHURCH TOURS

Sunday Tours, first Church at 2.30pm

18th June North Lopham, South Lopham, Fersfield, Diss (please note changes to the itinerary we published in the March magazine. We did highlight that we might have to make changes).

16th July Weasenhams St Peter, Weasenhams All Saints, Great Massingham, Little Massingham

Everyone is welcome to join us, and all our tours are free, though donations are encouraged at every church. Teas will be provided by one of the churches during each afternoon. The Sunday Tours normally end with a form of Evening Prayer at 6pm or 6.30pm. The Service on 18th June will be the Deanery Evensong at Diss. Further details from:

'Lyn Stilgoe. 01328 738237 or jastilgoe@aol.com.

The Round Tower Churches Society does not, as a body, hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed in the magazine, on our social media platforms or on our website; nor does any Editorial in the magazine necessarily express the official opinion of the Society.

The next issue is September 2017 and the deadline for contributions is 1st August 2017.

Please send items for publication either as email attachments or on disc as **separate** files – text, photos, drawings etc., or by post to:-

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Membership Subscription

Minimum £20 (overseas £30) a year of which 25% goes towards the printing and posting of The Round Tower magazine and administration. The rest goes to the Repair Fund of the RTCS.

Magazines are published in March, June, September and December. The membership renewal date is the first day of the month following the application for membership.

To join the Society or to make any enquiry about your membership please contact Mrs Teresa Wiggin, Tree Cottage, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EX. Tel: 01473 785596. email wigjter@outlook.com

THE ROUND TOWER

The quarterly magazine of the Round Tower Churches Society
www.roundtowers.org.uk

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www.roundtowers.org.uk



Two paintings of Haddiscoe by Sir John Arnesby Brown (1866 - 1955). The artist lived at Haddiscoe and is buried in the churchyard. Many thanks to Haydn Brown for sharing these images with us via Facebook. These two photographs look so much better in colour. A reason to receive your magazine as a PDF.



Before his untimely death Trevor Ashwin digitally enhanced this version of the Google Earth image of the previously unknown round tower church at Kerdiston near Reepham that we featured in the March 2017 magazine.



Lead Roof Appeal

As RTCS members will recall, Merton had lead stolen from its roof in September 2015 and Thwaite had lead stolen in November 2015. Other churches in Norfolk and Suffolk have also been targeted by lead thieves. When lead is stolen water gets into the church and the church fabric, wall paintings, etc quickly deteriorate. RTCS were able to provide Merton with some immediate support to enable them to cover the roof with tarpaulin while the church wardens set about the long and difficult task of obtaining funding for repairs.

As a result of these thefts it was suggested that RTCS set up a Lead Roof Appeal to create a fund to assist churches, and in doing so provide some moral support to churchwardens as they dealt with the damage. We would like to thank the 36 RTCS members who contributed to the fund which by September 30th 2016 had raised a splendid total of £1660. Your committee have used this fund to provide support for Merton (£500) and Thwaite (£500) and also to Intwood for repairs to their lead roof (£250). The balance in the fund is being held in reserve as and when it is needed by other round tower churches.



This photograph gives an indication of how the removal of lead leads to problems. Once again this photograph looks so much better on colour. Receive your magazine as a PDF

John Scales asked whether churches should be using other materials which are less attractive to thieves. The churchwarden at Salle which was also targeted by lead thieves tells us there is another material but it costs as much as lead and has a life span of only twenty five years, much shorter than the hundreds of years a good lead roof will last under normal circumstances. Materials such as thatch and tiles are usually not now appropriate because of the pitch of the roof. Also, the Heritage agencies which provide most of the funding are still keen to see like-for-like replacement.

Many churches are trying to decrease the risk of theft by improving their security with lighting, alarms, CCTV and Neighbourhood Watch schemes. These are expensive, however, and may not be appropriate for isolated churches.

Merel marks

Following our article about the archaeology at Hemblington in the March 2017 magazine Joyce Wallis emailed to ask what a 'merel mark' was. We looked it up in a dictionary. Nothing! We looked it up on the internet. Nothing! We contacted Sue Rowe, churchwarden at Hemblington who sent us this extract from the full archaeology report by Giles Emery of Norvic Archaeology



The merel mark is inscribed on the west facing side of a buttress on the north side of the church just east of the new extension.

About merel marks.

A petroglyph was noted during the course of the excavation and images were taken in the hopes of further identifying the origins and meaning behind the unusual design. It has been deeply carved into one of the west facing stones forming the buttress on the east side of the blocked north doorway (c. 1.2m above ground level). The design is a fairly crudely executed square c. 50mm high, divided into four quarters with diagonal lines further dividing each quarter, with possible but unclear traces of diagonals sloping the other way (i.e. forming a cross within

each quarter). A long cross has been added to the top of the square, although this is misaligned with the centre of the square and could possibly be a later modification to the intended petroglyph. The mark is perhaps rather too large and not precise enough to be a form of traditional mason's mark. Also mason's marks are unlikely to be found on an exposed face unless the stone is re-used. Alternatively, this graffiti may be some form of heraldic device or memorial mark, or even an atypical form of a churchyard cross, although these are normally set centrally upon a stepped base.



The mark has little erosion and may be of post-medieval date. Even if this is the case, the intention of the mark is unclear. If the cross is overlooked, in form it strongly resembles the 'merels' type apotropaic markings recorded within numerous Norfolk churches.

Often confused with gaming boards such as 9-mans-morris or 'merels' (hence the name) they are usually far simpler and they are invariably on vertical surfaces. They have often been classified as one of the series of apotropaic designs that function as the 'endless knot' design - essentially designed to trap evil within them (Matthew Champion).



This is a close up photograph of the Hemblington merel mark.

It seems that the Christian meaning of the square was transferred to the merels board and, together with other elements, was used in folk art for Christian magic. Some merels can be explained this way, the meaning of others remains speculative. This mark is located by the north door, which could be significant to its interpretation as some form of ward.

In most medieval churches, the main entrance and porch are located on the south side of the building, while the north door was an ancillary one, reserved for more sporadic use, for example as an exit point for processions. Traditionally, the north door to a church has been associated with various superstitions, folklore and quasi-religious beliefs in which it is often referred to as the 'Devil's Door'.

In some churches the north door was said to have been kept closed at all times aside from Christenings, Baptisms and Communion. One common theme is that the door offered an exit for evil spirits, believed to be particularly significant during the baptism of a child when the Devil was to be driven out and had to be able to leave. The trend of blocking the north door in churches through the post-medieval period can perhaps be attributed to a post-reformation abandonment of such practices, although there are instance of blocked north doorways in medieval periods.

So there we are. We can now all speak and write with authority on merel marks thanks to Sue Rowe and Norvic Archaeology..

The Sketches of the Rev. R. J. Simpson

In 2014 I was given a collection of late-nineteenth century pen-and-ink sketches by the North Norfolk clergyman Robert James Simpson. The drawings are mostly of church exteriors and interiors, country houses and village scenes, and include several of North Norfolk's round tower churches.

Although Simpson distributed his work among his friends, neighbours and other antiquarians, few copies seem to have survived and I have found little information about him online and in print (1). Yet his drawings are surely of interest to church historians. Dating mostly from the 1880s and 1890s, they are often the first visual record of the restoration work carried out in many parishes during the Victorian period and can easily be compared with Ladbrooke's earlier depictions and with later photographs. Simpson also provided detailed images of church interiors and furnishings, such as pews, fonts, brasses and monuments. Below is an overview of his life and work, as well as a brief description of one of his drawings.

Simpson's life

Robert James Simpson was born in 1830 at Bury St. Edmunds, where his father, Robert, ran the Classical and Commercial School on College Street. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, before entering the Church and for the first 18 years of his clerical career he held curacies in various parishes in Suffolk, Norfolk and Kent.

In 1872 he was appointed to the living of Felbrigg with Metton in North Norfolk, remaining there until his death in 1897. He married Gertrude Brown, whose father was an architect who had worked on Norwich cathedral. Two of Simpson's children followed in their grandfather's footsteps and became architects. One, Lewis Simpson (1869-1971), trained with Sir Arthur Blomfield before moving to The United States of America, where he worked on Henry Ford's mansion and designed several churches in Michigan (2).

R. J. Simpson lived at Metton Rectory for 25 years, and with only about 50 households to minister to in Felbrigg and Metton, he easily found time to pursue his interest in art.

1 The National Trust Collections have about 30 of his images (<http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/results?SearchTerms=reverend+r+j+simpson>) and the Norfolk Museums Service has others

2 Lewis W. Simpson papers (Accession No. 419), Benson Ford Research Center, Dearborn, Michigan, USA

Simpson's sketches and the Anastatic Drawing Society

It was in 1865, while serving as curate of St. Peter's, Maidstone, that Simpson's first work, a study of the ruined College of All Saints, appeared in a volume of sketches published by the Ilam Anastatic Drawing Society. The society had been founded in 1859 by the Rev. George Mackarness, Vicar of Ilam, Staffordshire, 'for the purpose of collecting amateur drawings in pen and ink ... of the scenery, churches, manor-houses and monastic ruins of the land, with special preference for those subjects of which there exist few, if any, published engravings' (3).

Anastatic printing was invented in Germany and introduced to Britain in the 1840s. It was a form of transfer lithography that employed a zinc sheet instead of stone. An image was placed face-down on the zinc and dilute acid was applied to the back of the sheet of paper. The metal was etched by the acid except where it came into contact with the ink, leaving the image in relief on the zinc plate. Ink was then applied to the zinc plate and used to make facsimile prints. Although the zinc plates could be reused, the original ink sketch was destroyed.

It was not until the 1880s that Simpson began contributing regularly to the publications of the society's successor, called simply the Anastatic Drawing Society. The 1884 volume contained images he had sent of Barningham Northwood, Metton and Thurgarton churches in Norfolk and Wingfield church in Suffolk, as well as a street scene he had sketched in Aylsham. In an undated letter to the Society's editor, William Fretton F.S.A., Simpson announced that he had 'just been taking 5 different sketches of Bromholm Priory in the parish of Bacton, Norfolk, which I hope to do for the next volume' (4). In the same letter he also asked Fretton to send him the names and addresses of any Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries who might like to purchase his drawings, revealing one of the reasons behind the publication of his works. He said that he hoped to raise £100 to pay for repairs to the roof and walls of Metton church.

3 Ilam Anastatic Drawing Society, volume dated 1865 (<https://ia800303.us.archive.org/9/items/ilamdrawing06ilamuoft/ilamdrawing06ilamuoft.pdf>)

4 Papers of W. G. Fretton relating to the Anastatic Drawing Society (Ref. PA 919/25/2), Coventry History Centre

In 1889 he issued *Illustrations of St. Margaret's Church, Felbrigg, Norfolk*, and four years later, in Part IV of *Leaves From My Sketchbook*, he declared that £500 was needed for the restoration of Felbrigg church. There were three holes in the roof, including one directly above the brass of Sir Simon de Felbrigge, which often sat in a puddle of water. Other parts of the nave and some of the pews were rotten.

Simpson sketched most of the nearby round tower churches (Aylmerton, Bessingham, Gresham, Roughton, Sustead, Thwaite and Wickmere), as well as other churches in the area (Barningham Northwood, Beeston Regis, Felbrigg, Gimingham, Hanworth, Knapton, Mundesley, Paston, Southrepps, Thurgarton, Trimmingham, Trunch and West Beckham) and further afield (Belaugh, Salle and Stalham).

He sketched the seats of the local gentry, including Hanworth Hall, Sheringham Hall and Bessingham Manor House, and a few village scenes (Aylmerton, Cromer, Sustead, etc.). His depictions of church interiors included porches, rood screens, pews, monuments, brasses, fonts, chests, keys, piscinas, sedilias and patens. Simpson's private publication *Leaves From My Sketchbook*, as well as the volumes issued by the Anastatic Drawing Society and prior to that by the Ilam Anastatic Drawing Society, were all printed by the Ipswich firm of lithographers and printers, S. H. Cowell.

A brief example: Bessingham church

St. Mary's re-opened on 17 November 1869 'having undergone a most careful and thorough restoration during the spring and summer' (5). Although 'every relic of a past age that could admit of preservation has been carefully retained' (6), there were several new features, which can clearly be seen in Simpson's drawing of the porch and round tower. If we compare the picture to Ladbroke's earlier work, we can see that buttresses have been added to the porch and a cross placed on top of it. There is also a new buttress on the south wall of the nave, and the roof of the nave seems to have been raised. Cracks in the tower have been repaired and the blocked window half-way up the tower is visible. Though not shown on Simpson's drawing, the east window

5 *Re-Opening of Bassingham Church*, Norfolk Chronicle, 27 November 1869 (page 7, column 1)

6 Ibid (the same source).

was also enlarged during the restoration and a cross was installed at the east end of the chancel roof.

Conclusion

The Rev. R. J. Simpson's sketches are an important historical record for church historians and it is unfortunate that his work has been largely forgotten. Comparing his sketches with earlier and later drawings can provide clues to the changes that took place during this period of restoration and modernisation.

Since acquiring some prints in 2014 I have found others for sale on eBay. Although I currently live abroad I hope to share my collection with Society members at a later date. If anyone can shed further light on Simpson's life and work or has questions about the images I have found, the easiest way to contact me is by email:

jcspurrell@gmail.com.

Biography of the Rev. Robert James Simpson:

1830 Born in Bury St. Edmunds to Robert Simpson, a schoolmaster
1854 Ordained deacon, appointed Curate of Boxford, Suffolk
1855 Ordained priest
1856 Curate of Weybread, Suffolk
1860 Curate of Rockland, Norfolk
1864 Curate of Banham, Norfolk
1864 Curate of St. Peter's, Maidstone, Kent
1865 Published first sketch: 'College Ruins, Maidstone'
1872 Rector of Felbrigg with Metton, Norfolk
1880s-1890s Published numerous sketches of Norfolk scenes
1897 Died at Metton Rectory

Jonathan Spurrell

See page 16 for a drawing of Bessingham by the Rev. R.J Simpson.

ROUND TOWER CHU
Statement of Accounts for the Y

<u>2016</u>	Income	<u>2017</u>
24,230	Opening balance	20,728
10,202	Annual subscriptions	11,196
1,331	Tax relief on Covenants and Gift Aid	1,629
1,340	Donations and lectures	3,018
62	Bank and COIF Charities Deposit Interest	52
75	Magazine advertisements	111
596	Sale of books and Society items	436
24	Postage charges from sale of Society items	11
-	Study Day donations	567
<hr/>		
37,860		37,748

Balance Sheet as at

226	Nat-West Bank– Current Account	731
7,676	Nat-West Bank—Reserve Account	16,353
1 2,609	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	12,658
217	Petty cash in hand	271
<hr/>		
20,728		30,013

Richard Barham. Hon. Treasurer

I have examined the Accounts and Books etc of the Society and certify that this is
Michael Coates. Hon. Independent Examiner. 27th April 2017

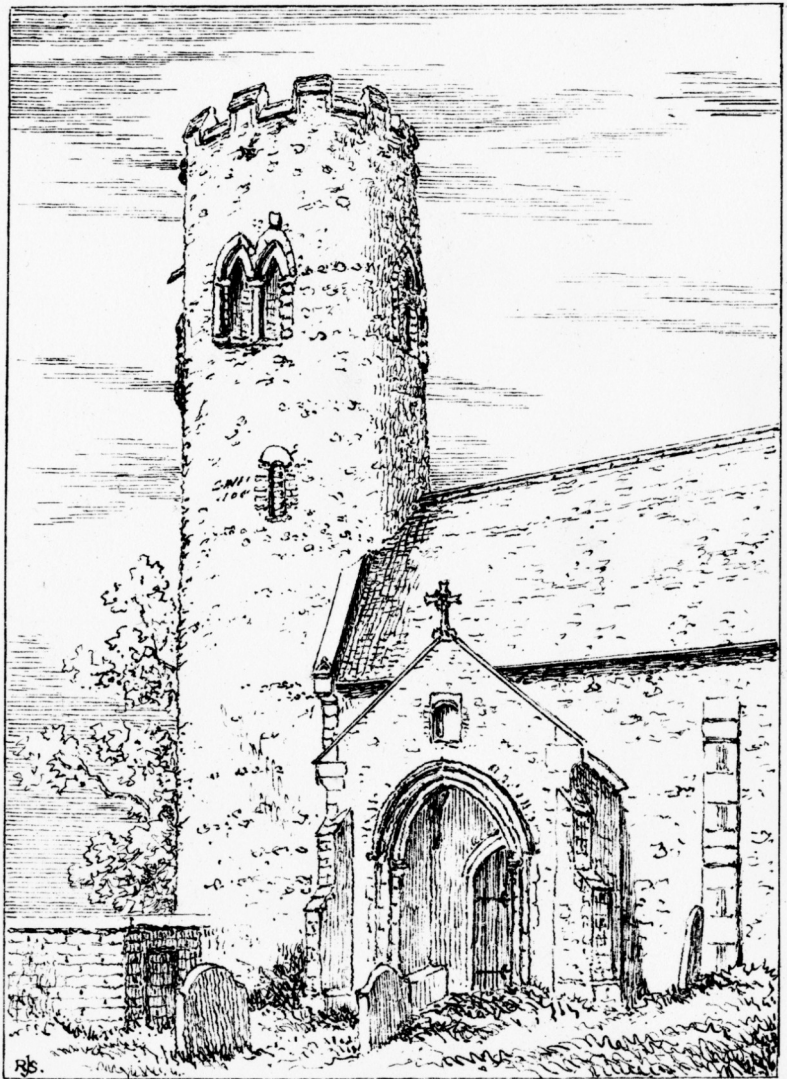
CHURCHES SOCIETY.
the Year Ended 31st March 2017

<u>2016</u>	Expenditure	<u>2017</u>
14,000	Grants to churches	4,450
1,000	Magazine printing	988
836	Magazine posting	826
84	Purchase of Society items for sale	-
161	Postage, Stationery and Advertising	182
-	Hire of rooms for AGM and committee mtgs	-
860	Donations to churches	825
132	Website rental	132
19	Secretary's expenses	7
40	Overpaid subscription	-
-	Speakers Fees and Hall hire, Study Day	325
20,728	Closing balance	30,013
<u>37,860</u>		<u>37,748</u>

Assets at 31st March 2017.

20,728	Society Account	30,013
<u>20,728</u>		<u>30,013</u>

This is true Statement of the financial records.



BESSINGHAM.

Bessingham church tower by the Rev. R. J. Simpson
(Reproduced by permission of Norfolk Museums Service;
CRRMU 1979.39.5)

Thoughts of a retired carpenter on the Angel Roofs in East Anglia

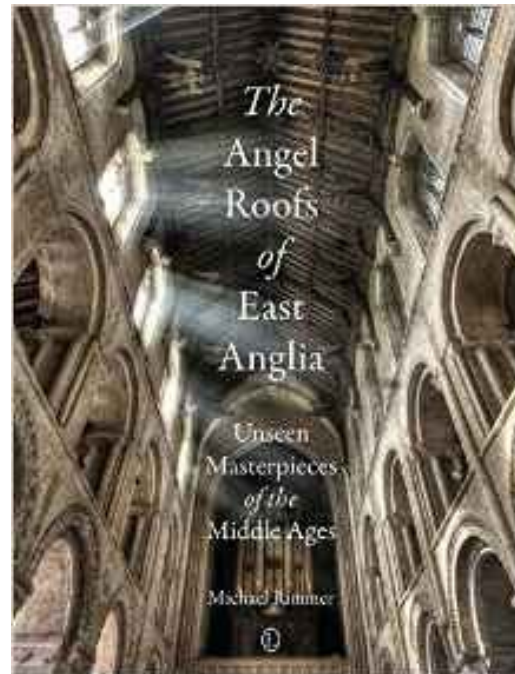
As a retired carpenter with involvement in roof construction I found the lecture by Michael Rimmer, the Angel Roofs of East Anglia of particular interest and in spite of the medieval builders using the wheel the thought of manhandling heavy roof sections of green oak into position can only be described as awesome. There must have been several cases of roofs moving and even collapsing under such weight before a more general understanding of both weight and movement was more fully understood. While some iron nails were employed, wooden pegs, or tree nails, were widely used during these early assemblies and components would have been bored out in such a way that when the pegs were driven in it would draw the joints tighter together. The heavy oak trusses would have been dragged into position against the outside wall and then on the inside scaffolding, where they finally reached the opposite side and spanned the building. They would then have been strapped to keep them upright and stop them falling over and the process repeated time and time again until all of the timbers were in position. Small round wooden pegs were also used to fix clay roofing tiles, usually two holes were made in the wet clay and when finally used the pegs would have protruded through the tiles and were hooked over a horizontal batten. All the weight on a roof, and it is considerable, pushes downwards from the ridge and this results in the rafters which are fixed to wooden wall plates being pushed outwards. To combat this cross beams or ceiling joists are used from one side to the other being nailed both to the toes of the rafters and the wooden plates which results in the whole roof being tied together. A thick section timber called a purlin is usually fixed to the underside of the rafters half way down from the ridge on both sides running parallel and this in turn is supported by angle struts which transfer the weight to the inner walls. Just above the purlins, collars are fixed across the width of the roof which again helps to

combat any outward push higher up. During the Roman period both reed and sedge was used as a roof covering as well as large heavy clay tiles often weighing between 3 and 4 lbs. These would be laid in rows and bulled together with tapered half round tiles covering the joints. While the face of these hand made tiles were made with two upstands the undersides were flat with no provision for hooking over wooden battens so the angle of the roof had to be quite shallow to stop the tiles sliding off. Such roofs with a very shallow pitch would result in a considerable spread at the eaves and the probability of snow in the winter months would increase the weight significantly resulting in a need for many extra supports beneath the rafters.

Paul Durbridge

Reproduced with permission from the Lowestoft Archaeology and Local History Society.

Michel Rimmer lectured on the Angel Roofs of East Anglia at our 2016 Study Day.



**‘The Angel Roofs of East Anglia’ by Michael Rimmer.
A selection from the reviews.**

“Look at this book and give thanks that these angelic hosts were beyond the reach of the destroyers. Here for the first time they are rightly celebrated as a precious legacy from late medieval England.”

Sir Roy Strong, former Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum and of the National Gallery.

"Outstanding. His magisterial survey focuses largely on the rich heritage to be found in Norfolk and Suffolk. The photography is superb and the text provides fascinating details of the history, construction and craftsmanship of these masterpieces.”

D.P. Mortlock, author of *The Guide to Suffolk Churches*.

"This wonderful book documents one of the major survivals of Catholic England in meticulously researched text and the most sumptuous colour photographs. Michael Rimmer's exhaustive survey of the angel roofs of East Anglia and beyond will provide the essential companion to these treasures for years to come.”

Simon Knott, creator of *The Churches of East Anglia* websites www.suffolkchurches.co.uk; www.norfolkchurches.co.uk.

“Michael Rimmer’s outstanding photographs reveal the visual quality of these works of art, in many cases for the first time. An accessible and stimulating introduction sets out major issues in the study, history and development of this largely neglected but fascinating subject.”

T.A. Heslop, Professor of Visual Arts, University of East Anglia.

“Michael Rimmer allows us to enter worlds that are otherwise remote. His text provides privileged access to the minds both of the medieval kings and carpenters who produced the roofs, and the early modern religious vandals who diminished them. But the greatest privilege is to see the roofs themselves through his camera lens.”

John Onians, Professor Emeritus of World Art, University of East Anglia.

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY
The 44th Annual General Meeting was held at Lound Village Hall ,
on Saturday, 6th May 2017 at 2.15pm.

1. The Chairman, Mr Stuart Bowell, welcomed the 30 members and friends present. The Hon Chaplain, Rev'd Philip Gray, kindly led the opening prayers.
2. **Apologies** had been received as recorded in the Minute Book
3. The **Minutes** of the **43rd AGM** on 7.5.2016 were agreed and signed.
4. The **Chairman**, Mr S Bowell, thanked all the people who supported the Society in many different ways. The Summer Tours had been well supported, the Study Day was an enjoyable event, and recently the Society had been able to help with Flintspiration, a Norwich Historic Churches Trust event. Two long serving Members of the Committee had retired, Mr Richard Barham (Treasurer) and Mrs Pauline Spelman (Postal Officer), but other Members of the Committee were willing to take on these tasks. The Chairman particularly paid tribute to Mr Barham's 20 years as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and was delighted that Mr Nik Chapman would take on the task of being Treasurer. Mrs Teresa Wiggin has volunteered to handle the new membership applications. Mr Barham expressed his thanks for the appreciation of his work.
5. The Retiring **Treasurer**, Mr Richard Barham, presented the Accounts, with the total funds of £30,013, an increase of nearly £9,800. This is largely due to fewer grants applications, with only £4,450 given out, although there are outstanding commitments of a further £8,000. Mr John Butcher proposed acceptance of the Accounts, seconded by the Rev'd P Gray, and agreed. Mr Barham thanked Mr Chapman for taking on the Treasurer's duties, and thanks were also given to Mr Coates for his help as Independent Examiner.
6. The **Grants Officer**, Mr Nick Wiggin reported that only five grants had been given, totalling £4,500, with seven more being promised. He detailed work done at Lam-marsh and Gissing, and future work at Threxton, Sustead and Tuttington. Mr Pollitt reported on the work of the Norfolk Constabulary and other interested bodies, such as the Diocese of Norwich and Ecclesiastical Insurance, to set up a scheme to assist in the prevention of lead thefts from church roofs. Mr Pollitt proposed that the Society should contribute £2,500 to the fund to help provide alarm systems for the vulnerable churches. Mr K Scales seconded, and this was agreed. Mr Pollitt pointed out that many grant making bodies now only give grants where churches have alarm systems. The Rev'd P Gray proposed that the Grants Officer's Report be accepted, seconded by Mr K Scales, and agreed.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** Mr Barham took the Chair and proposed that Mr Bowell to be re-elected as Chairman. This was seconded by Mrs M Butcher and agreed. The Chairman then asked for proposals for the positions of Secretary Mrs Stilgoe, Treasurer Mr Chapman, Grants Officer Mr Wiggin, Magazine Editors Dr A Woollett and Mr Hodge, Committee Member Mrs C Chapman, Membership Secretary Mrs Wiggin, Vice Chairman Mr Pollitt, which were all agreed, (individual proposers and seconders recorded in Minute Book). In addition Mr Pollitt proposed the

appointment of Mr Barham as Life Vice President, which was seconded by Mr Butcher and agreed.

8. **Independent Examiner:** Mr R Barham proposed the re-appointment of Mr M Coates, seconded by Mrs Stilgoe, and agreed.

9. **Any Other Business:** Miss Hanson expressed her concern at the announcement that the Heritage Lottery Fund would no longer be giving grants specifically to churches and asked for ideas of how to protest about this decision. Mr Chapman emphasised that more must be done to attract new members to the Society, which is a charity and needs subscriptions to raise its funds for churches.

After the Meeting refreshments were kindly provided by Lound Church.

Treasurers Report. 2016-2017.

I am pleased to be able to report on another satisfactory financial year for the Society. Whereas in the previous financial year the Society gave £14,000 in grants to churches the current year saw only £4,450 given in grants. The reason for this is that fewer churches applied to the Society for help.

A further £8,000 has been promised to churches as they raise funds for repairs. These monies will be released to churches when the repair programmes get under way.

In my previous report I mentioned that some members had still not increased the amount of the standing order to reflect the rise in subscription to a minimum of £20. Once again I must respectfully remind members to check that they are paying the correct minimum subscription to the Society.

The sale of used stamps and old stamp collections has once more proved profitable and Geoff Swain has raised £438 from this in the last year. So keep the donations coming – either direct to me at any of our tours or events or direct to Geoff at 39 Midfield Road, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts, NG17 9BZ.

Many thanks to Michael Coates for examining the accounts.

So ends my twenty years of service as the Treasurer to the Society. Over that time I have had contact with hundreds of members and this has resulted in many good friendships. A sincere thanks to all members for their support during my time in office.

Richard Barham

Good news for Welborne.

All Saints Church in Welborne has been awarded £168,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its 'Fawlty Tower' project, enabling essential repair work to be carried out.

The condition of the tower had been a cause for concern for many years, and the church revealed it needed urgent action.

The money will also help with the installation of a new toilet and improvements to lighting and sound systems.

Parochial Church Council fabric officer Richard Took said: "We are delighted that, thanks to National Lottery Players and the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been given this once in a lifetime opportunity to save our church. It has been a focal point serving the village and local community for 1,000 years and it's great to know that we're a step closer to preserving it for future generations."

Eastern Daily Press. 21 4 17

Grant Officers report 2016-2017

This year we have paid out five grants totalling £4450 where work is under way. We have outstanding promises of over £8000 to churches where work has yet to start.

Topcroft. £1500 to help resolve a damp problem at the base of the tower.

West Dereham. £200 to help rewire the church.

Lamarsh. £2000 to help with the removal of old plaster and then to replaster large parts of the tower.

Intwood. £250 to help with the refixing of lead flashing to the roof.

Gissing. £500 to help with major structural repairs to the vestry and to update the elecric and to install heating.

Nick Wiggin

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY

PATRON **HRH The Prince of Wales**

FOUNDER **Mr W.J. Goode**

HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT **Mr Richard Barham**

CHAIRMAN **Mr Stuart Bowell**

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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