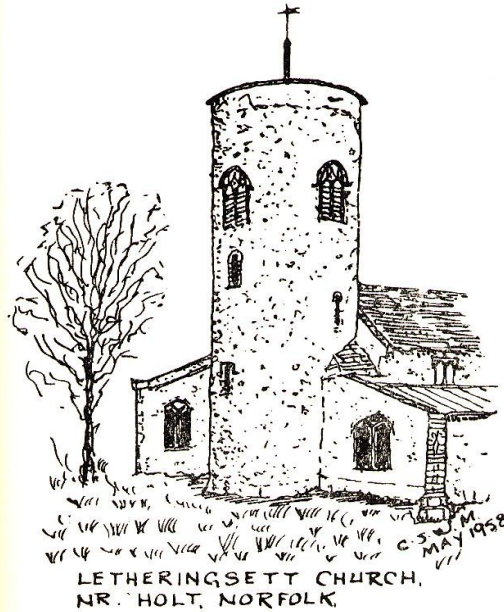




The Round Tower

Vol. XLV No 3

March 2018



LEATHERINGSETT CHURCH,
NR. HOLT, NORFOLK.

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

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY TOURS

12th May at 10am Norton Subcourse, Thorpe next Haddiscoe, Haddiscoe, before AGM at Haddiscoe Village Hall at 2.15pm. Bring lunch.

Saturday Tours, first Church 2.30pm

2nd June Pentlow, Little Bradley, Bartlow

7th July East Lexham, Shereford, Syderstone

4th August Thorpe Abbots, Needham, Rushall

1st September Worthing, Bylaugh, Haveringland

CHURCH TOURS

on Sundays, first Church at 2.30pm

15th April Coltishall, Hoveton St Peter, Hoveton St John, Horning

20th May Reymerston, Hardingham, Kimberley, Carlton Forehoe

17th June Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham, Heacham, Sedgeford

15th July Sparham, Elsing, Swanton Morley, Foxley

Everyone is welcome to join us, and all 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 an optional form of Evening Prayer at 6pm or 6.30pm. The Service on 18th June will be the Benefice Evensong at Diss at 6pm. Further details from 'Lyn Stilgoe 01328 738237.

The next issue is June 2018 and the deadline for contributions is 15th April 2018.

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

Anne Woollett and Paul Hodge
The Cardinal's Hat
Back Street
Reepham
Norfolk
NR10 4SJ
Tel: 01603 870452
anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk

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**

Fir 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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There are good reasons to receive the magazine as a PDF as well as a paper copy. Firstly colour photographs are in colour. Secondly the text can be read in as large a font size or as small a font size as you like.
Email pt.hodge@tiscali.co.uk to receive the magazine as a PDF.

For up to date information visit the website. For up to the minute information follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook. Links to our Facebook page and our Twitter feed can be found on the website.

www.roundtowers.org.uk

This edition of the magazine really benefits from being seen in colour.

Round Towers and Scratch Dials.

Round towered churches are of course a feature of many Norfolk villages. Having time on my hands on a crisp February day I decided it was high time to take another one off my visit list. I had heard of a small and ancient church not far away and settled on a plan to see it.



The church of St Margaret in the Norfolk village of Worthing, just off the road from Holt to Dereham is associated with the Elmham group of churches. The group is part of the Sparham Deanery in the Diocese of Norwich. This is an ancient building of great charm, standing in peaceful solitude. It is some distance south east of the village, which has moved steadily away over the centuries. In summer St Margaret's must be easy to miss, situated as it is behind the roadside hedgerow. On a cold winter day the simple outline of the church emerges into view from the road past the village through the leafless trees ahead. A short drive on a track to the left reveals the churchyard gate.

The round tower of St Margaret's is barely as high as the nave to which it is attached. It was not always like this. The tower belfry has disappeared following a collapse lost to memory. But it is substantial for all that and gives the whole building a unique "feel". Old as the tower is, built in the Middle Saxon period 900-1000AD the nave is older still*. In the quiet isolation there is a sense that this structure has absorbed the secrets of time. There is another sense also, that in deference to this absorbed wisdom the village itself has moved away to make respectful space for a holiness of silence.

The south porch reveals reminders of busier and more prosperous times. There is a fine Norman arch with zig-zag moulding which represents a major devotional investment in a modest building which otherwise reflects the humble location it was built to serve. But also to the left of the door are the familiar markings of a medieval scratch dial – of the type which proliferate and survive in so many churches. These sun dials had a specific purpose before the arrival of mechanical clocks.



A scratch dial (also known as a mass dial) is usually in a circular shape, carved into the exterior church wall and used to tell the time of church services. At the centre of the dial is a hole where a small peg (a 'style' or 'gnomon') was inserted to act as a simple sundial marker. Usually they have only three or four radiating sections rather than a full 360 degree of lines as it was only necessary to tell the time (or more specifically the hour) of services, so extra lines were unnecessary. At St Margaret's the dial is well worn and ragged but unmistakably bears witness to the diurnal round of worship, active, measured and regular.



But there is more. It starts with the fact that the east wall of the church has no window. It seems that the chancel which would have incorporated a window has long since disappeared, replaced by a expanse of flint, supported by recycled stone and some interesting brickwork which identifies these works as happening within the last couple of centuries.



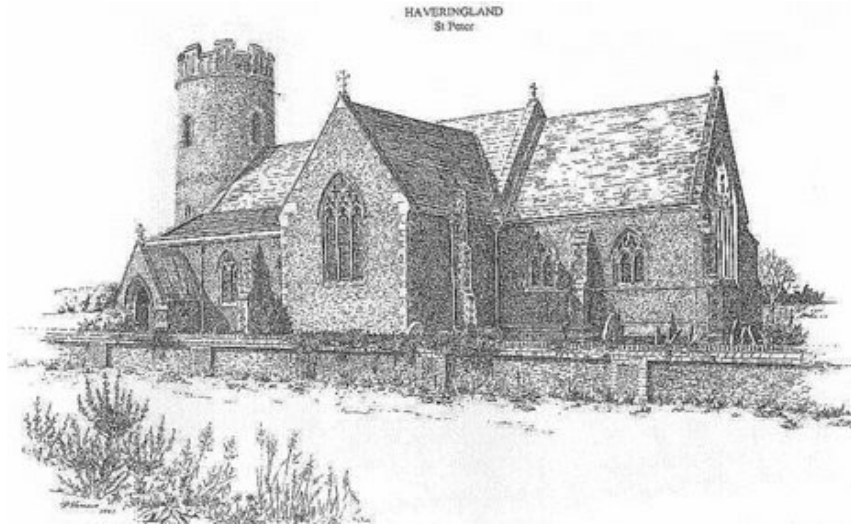
Among this reorganised rubble is another scratch dial. This one at head-height incised on one of the stones. It is better preserved than the south porch example. But here of course its presence reflects its redundancy in the centuries of the mechanical clock. But the stone continued to be useful. A time for every purpose.



This article is taken from the website **Dave Betterton Miscellany** and is published here with the kind permission of Dave Betterton. All photographs by Dave Betterton. *While W J Goode argues that the tower is Saxon it is now generally thought that it collapsed and was rebuilt in the 18th Century. Eds.

Remembering 70 years. RAF Swannington 1944-1947.

On November 11th the 70th anniversary of the closure of RAF Swannington was commemorated at Haveringland St Peter's church with a very well attended Remembrance Day service. There were numerous representatives from the Armed Services, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and descendants of airmen who flew from here as well as local parishioners and other visitors.



Haveringland, St Peter. A drawing by Dot Shreeve.

The airfield was built in the park of Haveringland Hall. Local resident Nigel Boldero gave an account of the airfield which was started in 1942 when the woodland was cut down and concreted over and the Hall requisitioned for the officers mess. The airfield was in action in 1944-1945 as the base of two squadrons (85th and 157th) that flew De Havilland Mosquitos. Mosquitos (or the wooden wonders as they were known because of their wooden frames) were speedy and versatile aircraft used to intercept Luftwaffe aircraft and to support RAF Bomber Command operations over Germany.



A Mosquito aircraft with St Peters church in the background.



Aerial view of the site of the airfield today. St Peter's church is bottom right.

Australian squadrons with Spitfires were also based at Swannington in 1945. In March 1945 the airfield was bombed, the last bombing of a British airfield in WWII. Between 1946 and 1947 aircraft were serviced and modified for sale at the base which was closed in 1947. The Hall was blown up in 1948 but there are some remains of the airfield buildings including the concrete road to the church. Go to the Geograph article for more information <http://www.geograph.org.uk/article/RAF-Swannington>.



A commemorative row of trees were planted to the church and there was also a flypast and poppy drop.



There was a well-established community at Haveringland before the Norman Conquest and the church is recorded in Domesday Book. The tower which is circular to its top is generally agreed to be C11 and probably of Saxon origin because of its fabric of conglomerate and flint, some well coursed, the use of broken Roman roof tiles, single light belfry openings, and fillet between the tower and west wall of the nave.



The north aisle was probably part of the medieval church but the chancel, south aisle and transept as well as the parapet to the tower are part of an extensive restoration in 1858.

There is a fine font, probably C13, and there are a few medieval features, including an inscribed slab.



The inscribed slab. Photograph by John Salmon.

The Norfolk Heritage Explorer (Haveringland Parish summary) reports the discovery of medieval pottery and post medieval pottery in the area around the church and a recent metal detector's discovery has been a medieval pilgrimage bottle with a scallop shell on one side and a shield with a coat of arms on the other.

RTCS will be visiting Haveringland on the 1st September. See page 2 for details of the afternoon tour.

Anne Woollett

Roy Tricker is a good friend of The Round Tower Churches Society and has given papers at several of our Study Days. This brief biography shows Roy is well qualified to enthuse us all.

Roy was born in Essex, spent his early childhood in Hertfordshire and moved to Suffolk when he was 10 years old. He was a teacher for most of his working life, and Head of Religious Education at Copleston High School, Ipswich, for 18 years. For the next 11 years he was South East Regional Field Officer with the Churches Conservation Trust, and then took early retirement in 2002. He has been a Licensed Reader since 1970, and is also a Lay Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

A crusading church-crawler since the age of four, Roy spends his time sharing his passion for these amazing buildings, praising and promoting them from the pulpit, projector and coach seat. He gives countless lectures and slide shows, has written over 200 church guidebooks and some published works, and has broadcast on radio and TV. He firmly believes that the love of churches is absorbing and infectious for people of all religions and of none, and also that every old church is the most interesting in the country, because it is a unique character, well worth getting to know and love.

The biographical details about Roy have been taken from the Aldringham-cum-Thorpe parish website.



Summer Tours 2017. Part Two

July welcomed us to Suffolk with warm, sunny weather.

Thornington St Peter was hosting a fundraising afternoon when we arrived and ‘Lyn and Richard worked hard to make the visit a success. The tower here is 40 feet high, with a Tudor brick stepped octagonal parapet. Notable, in the middle section of the tower, is the blind arcading.



Thornington St Peter

The interior shows much Victorian restoration, including a fanciful ‘Romanesque’ tower arch. Six men from the parish are recorded on the Memorial for the Great War. Two members of one family died on consecutive days in May 1918. The battlefield cross of 2nd Lieut. A Bence Trower hangs in the church. Munro Cautley notes that ‘the most remarkable feature of the church (because it is believed to be unique) is the method adopted of widening the nave.’ The lower part of the nave walls inside, was scooped out and a continuous moulded stone corbel course was inserted to support the original width of the wall above.

To know more about Thornington visit Simon Knott’s website. Also visit the RTCS website for more text and photographs about Thornington.



The Great War memorial at Thorington St Peter

Bramfield St Andrew's post Norman tower is circular for its full height of 43 feet and is unique being the only one of our round towers built as a freestanding structure. Both nave and chancel are thatched. Inside the church the rood screen of circa 1500, has been described as the 'loveliest in Suffolk' with its original colouring and ornately carved canopy. The painted panels to the south include a beautiful Mary Magdalene. In the chancel the 17th century monument to Arthur and Elizabeth Coke has particularly fine sculptured figures. Elizabeth lies holding her infant child. On the chancel floor are a large number of ledger slabs for the Rabett and Nelson families.



Bramfield St Andrews. Mary Magdalene panel



Bramfield St Andrew. Elizabeth Coke

Bridget Applewhait, whose parents were Nelsons, was ‘carried off by an apoplectic fit’. Edward Nelson died in 1681 and ‘learnt when of mature years (under the recent most treasonable despotism) to serve with his whole heart the Church of England and the cause of the King’.



Bramfield St
Andrew

Visit Simon Knott’s website to learn more about Bramfield.

Theberton St Peter’s tower rises to 57 feet, circular for two thirds of its height with a contemporary octagonal belfry section and a flush-work parapet. Nave and chancel are under a continuous ridge and thatched. Outside, on the north wall, evidence of a 12th century string course can be seen, while high up under the eaves is a corbel table of the same date. Coursed flint work in this part of the wall could be contemporary with these features. A south aisle was rebuilt in the 19th century and a gurgle of gargoyles takes rainwater from its roof. Entering the church via the 15th century porch, with its fine flushwork, one is

met by some of the remains of Zeppelin L48, which crashed in the village in 1917. Also from the Great War is a memorial window to Col. Doughty-Wylie, who was awarded a posthumous VC for bravery at Gallipoli. North of the nave (inside the vestry) is a handsome Romanesque doorway with chevron moulding. A total length of almost 100 feet for the combined nave and chancel gives an impression of space to the interior and there is much more of interest, including an East Anglian style font, an aumbry in the north wall of the chancel and a late 15th century pulpit.



Theberton St Peter

For more information about Theberton visit [Simon Knott's website](#). RTCS gave Theberton a grant of £2000 in 2013/14. Many thanks to our membership. We couldn't have done it without you

August gave us an overcast start in North Norfolk.

Matlaske St Peter's tower is circular to a height of 33 feet, rising with a later octagonal stage and parapet to 45 feet. From the exterior



Matlaske St Peter

the church appears foreshortened. The chancel fell in 1726. Inside, the tower arch is faced with brick and there is a 15th century font and cover. The Hanoverian Royal Arms are in good condition and there is a Commandments Board. An ancient chest and a wooden stretcher bier are stored on the ground floor of the tower.

For more information and photographs visit [Simon Knott's website](#). RTCS gave a grant of £500 towards roof repairs in 2015/16.

Stody St Mary stands in an elevated position. The tower is circular for its full height of 51 feet. In addition to the nave and chancel, there are north and south transepts, all roofed in lead. Inside is a 13th century font with shallow arches on the bowl. Large 15th century windows have good contemporary figures in their tracery lights, showing prophets, kings, apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, the 15th century roof is the outstanding feature here. It is carried right through to the east end and intersects with the roofs of the transepts with a central boss carved with IHS. The cross vaulting and central boss has similarities with the roof at St Mary Coslany, Norwich.



Stody St Mary

For more information and photographs about Stody visit Simon Knott's website.

Letheringsett St Andrew greeted us in bright sunlight. The tower is circular for its full height of 50 feet. There was a major restoration here in the 1870's. There are many modern memorials to the Cozens-Hardy family and a striking death mask head of Johnson Jex, the 19th century village blacksmith. His passion was clock and watch making. It is said he taught himself French so he could read the works of French horologists. During our visit the 18th century barrel organ was playing. For more information and photographs about Letheringsett visit Simon Knott's website.



Letheringsett St Andrew

Text and photographs by Stuart Bowell

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – May 2018.

At The Round Tower Churches Society we are committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018. The information that falls within the scope of the Data Protection Act, will also fall within the scope of the GDPR. The GDPR gives you greater rights. We have re-written the policy to reflect the change.

The Data Protection Officer for the Round Tower Churches Society is The Treasurer: Mr Nik Chapman. The full policy can be found on the website. Any questions regarding this Policy and our privacy practices should be sent by email to the Treasurer at treasurerroundtowers@btinternet.com

Wat type of information is collected from you? The personal information we collect might include your name, address, email address and IP address.

How is your information used? For most members we use your information to:

- Process a donation that you have made;
- Post quarterly magazine or send electronically as a Pdf.
- Notify you of changes to the Society;
- Collect Gift Aid from HRMC

We review our retention periods for personal information on a regular basis. We are legally required to hold some types of information to fulfil our statutory obligations (for example the collection of Gift Aid). We will hold your personal information securely for as long as is necessary.

Who has access to your information?

- We will not sell or rent your information to third parties.
- We will not share your information with third parties for marketing purposes.
- We do not employ any automated decision making or profiling.
- We will not contact you for marketing purposes by letter, email, phone or text message.

Your choices. The GDPR is specific in providing the following rights for individuals:

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- The right to rectification
- The right to erasure
- The right to restrict processing
- The right to data portability
- The right to object

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
2 Hall Road, Chilton Hall, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1TN
Tel: 01449 614336 email: gw.sab@btinternet.com

VICE CHAIRMAN Mr Michael Pollitt
60 Chamberlain Road, Norwich, NR3 3LY
Tel: 01603 486997 email: michaelbpollitt@btinternet.co.uk

SECRETARY Mrs 'Lyn Stilgoe
Crabbe Hall, Burnham Market, King's Lynn PE31 8EN
Tel: 01328 738237 email: jastilgoe@aol.com

TREASURER Mr Nik Chapman
treasurerroundtowers@btinternet.com

GRANTS OFFICER Mr Nick Wiggin
Fir Tree Cottage, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EX
Tel: 01473 785596 email: nickwiggin@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mrs Teresa Wiggin
Fir Tree Cottage, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EX
Tel: 01473 785596 email wigjiter@outlook.com

MAGAZINE EDITOR Dr Anne Woollett

WEBSITE The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepeham, NR10 4SJ
Tel: 01603 870452 email: anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk

MAGAZINE EDITOR Mr Paul Hodge

SOCIAL MEDIA The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepeham, NR10 4SJ
Tel: 01603 870452 email: pt.hodge@tiscali.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Mrs Caroline Chapman
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