

PART IV

NORFOLK : CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS HOUSES ATTLEBOROUGH CHURCH

BY A. B. WHITTINGHAM

The late fifteenth-century rood-screen of Attleborough Church (Pl. VII B), whose loft has survived, is the most complete in Norfolk. When the Institute last visited the church, the hope was expressed that it might be moved from the west end to its proper position across the east end of the nave and aisles. This has since been done, the colouring cleaned and a painted rood uncovered on the wall above. The church has thereby been so transformed that the frustrating effect of the bare east wall is gone.

The central tower with two arcaded galleries inside is all that survives from the cruciform Norman church. Its belfry was rebuilt in the thirteenth century. The tower now serves as a chancel, all east of it having been destroyed. Since Norman days there had been two rectories here, the chancel serving the parish of Attleborough Major or St. Mary's, and its south aisle that of Attleborough Minor or the Holy Cross. By the will of Sir Robert Mortimer, 1397, a chantry was founded in the latter in 1405. The blocked arch apparently formed part of the reconstruction completed by 1417 when the first warden was instituted. At the Dissolution the chantry college was granted to the lord of the manor, who pulled down the chancel as well as the chapel.

By his will, 1379, Thomas Chanticleer desired to be buried in the chapel he had built on the north of the church of 'Attilburgh'. This refers to the north transept, which follows the detail of the aisles, but is an after-thought, as shown by a break. The nave and aisles with flowing tracery must therefore have been built by about 1370. The arcade capitals have mouldings characteristic of this half-century, being a little less advanced than at the Cathedral in the east clearstorey reconstructed after 1362, a type still used little modified at Sall in about 1410.

The vaulted porch is an addition by Sir John Radcliffe (died 1441), whose arms quartering Mortimer on a shield over the door are now unrecognizable. The advance of roof-construction brought the renewal of the church roofs in c. 1490, and the raising of the aisle and transept walls. The work was done by John Radcliffe, who on the death of his mother in 1485 had become Lord Fitzwalter. He was attainted as a confederate of Perkin Warbeck, and in 1496 beheaded at Calais. His arms (Fitzwalter) occur three times on the nave roof, on the north impaling Whetebill of Calais for Ann his first wife.

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CAWSTON CHURCH

BY JOAN EVANS

The fine cruciform church of St. Agnes¹ was mainly built by Sir Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk and Lord Chancellor of England, who died in 1414, and his widow. It is famous for its fifteenth-century angel roof, of which the precise date is not known. Blomefield states that in 1460 John Barker of Cawston gave money towards the building of the rood loft. This² has twenty paintings, the four Doctors of the Church, Saint

¹ *Norfolk Archaeology*, xviii (1914), 16 ;
xxv (1920), 368.

² See E. F. Le Strange, 'The Roodscreen of Cawston Church', in *Walpole Society Transactions*, II, 81.

Agnes and St. Helena, the Twelve Apostles with St. Paul, and Sir John Schorn, the canon of Dunstable whose shrine was in St. George's, Windsor; he is represented carrying the Devil in a boot, and was reputed to cure ague and gout.¹ The work of three painters may be distinguished; the first painted the eight figures on the North, the second the doors and the two panels beyond, and the third the remaining six, which are noteworthy for having their figures painted on parchment and applied to a stencilled ground. The first eight have the inscription 'prey for the sowles of William Attereth and Alice his wyff the weche dede these iiij panys peynte be the executoris lyff'. Blomefield records that in 1504 Richard Broune gave 4 marks to paint a pane of the screen. Some figures resemble those at Worstead, which can be dated to 1501, and the gesso work closely resembles that at Aylsham, which can be dated to 1507.

A wall painting in the South transept² represents St. Agnes with her lamb. The name Jon Bridale at the bottom may record the donor.

CLEY CHURCH

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

The church³ of St. Margaret, Cley (Pl. VII, A), is one of the most remarkable parish churches of Norfolk. The earliest portion is the mid-thirteenth-century NW. tower, and the contemporary north aisle had a gabled roof, the nave then terminating level with the east face of the tower. The new building was begun about 1330 on a large scale, the nave, both aisles and the transepts being of this date. About the middle of the fifteenth century the aisles were raised, the west end completed, the S. porch added and the roofs rebuilt. The church has admirable details and carving, a good font with the seven sacraments and a seventeenth-century pulpit. The S. transept is roofless and ruined.

EAST DEREHAM CHURCH

BY THE REV. NOEL BOSTON

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas (Fig. 1) is one of the biggest, probably the third, in the county, and is a splendid cruciform building, 170 feet long, with a nave 60 feet wide with the most unusual feature of double transepts. The present nave dates back to the twelfth century, although an extensive rebuilding took place in the thirteenth century when the chancel was entirely rebuilt. There are also traces of Norman work in the chancel arch and south-west door. The magnificent central lantern tower belongs to the fourteenth century and the famous painted ceilings, among the finest of their type in the country, were erected at the end of the fifteenth century. Dereham contains the largest of all the Seven Sacraments fonts (erected in 1468) and a metal lectern of about the same period. Sedilia, piscina, and aumbry are all in an excellent state of preservation. The Church also contains the tomb of the poet Cowper, and George Borrow, author of *The Bible in Spain*, was baptized here. An unusual feature is the slope, 3 feet 11 inches in all, of the floors from high altar downwards. A massive bell tower stands on the south of the church and quite separate from it. This was begun in 1512 and was still in process of erection in 1536. To the west of the present church is a ruin known as St. Withburga's well. Withburga, who is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, founded a church here prior to her death in 654. The church was formerly a 'peculiar' of the diocese of Ely.

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¹ See the Rev. James Buliver in *Norf. Arch.*, iii, 280.

² See *Norf. Arch.*, iii (1852), 37.

³ J. T. Micklethwaite in *Norf. Arch.*, xv (1904), 15; *A short history of*, B. Cozens-Hardy, 1928; both with plans.



A. CLEY CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH

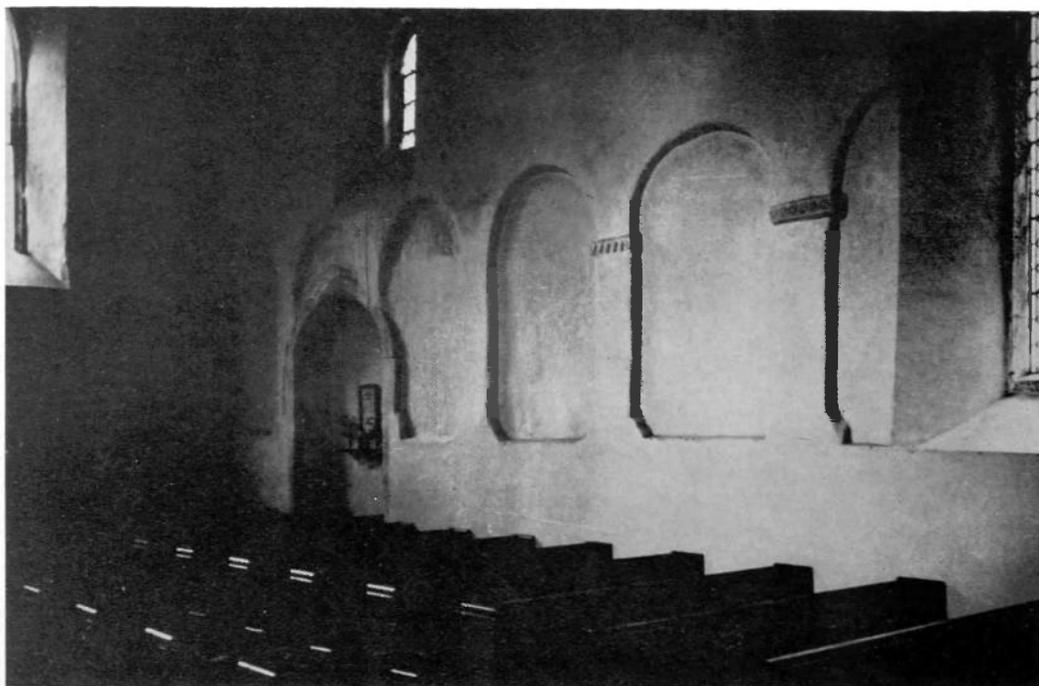


B. ATTELBOROUGH CHURCH : THE SCREEN

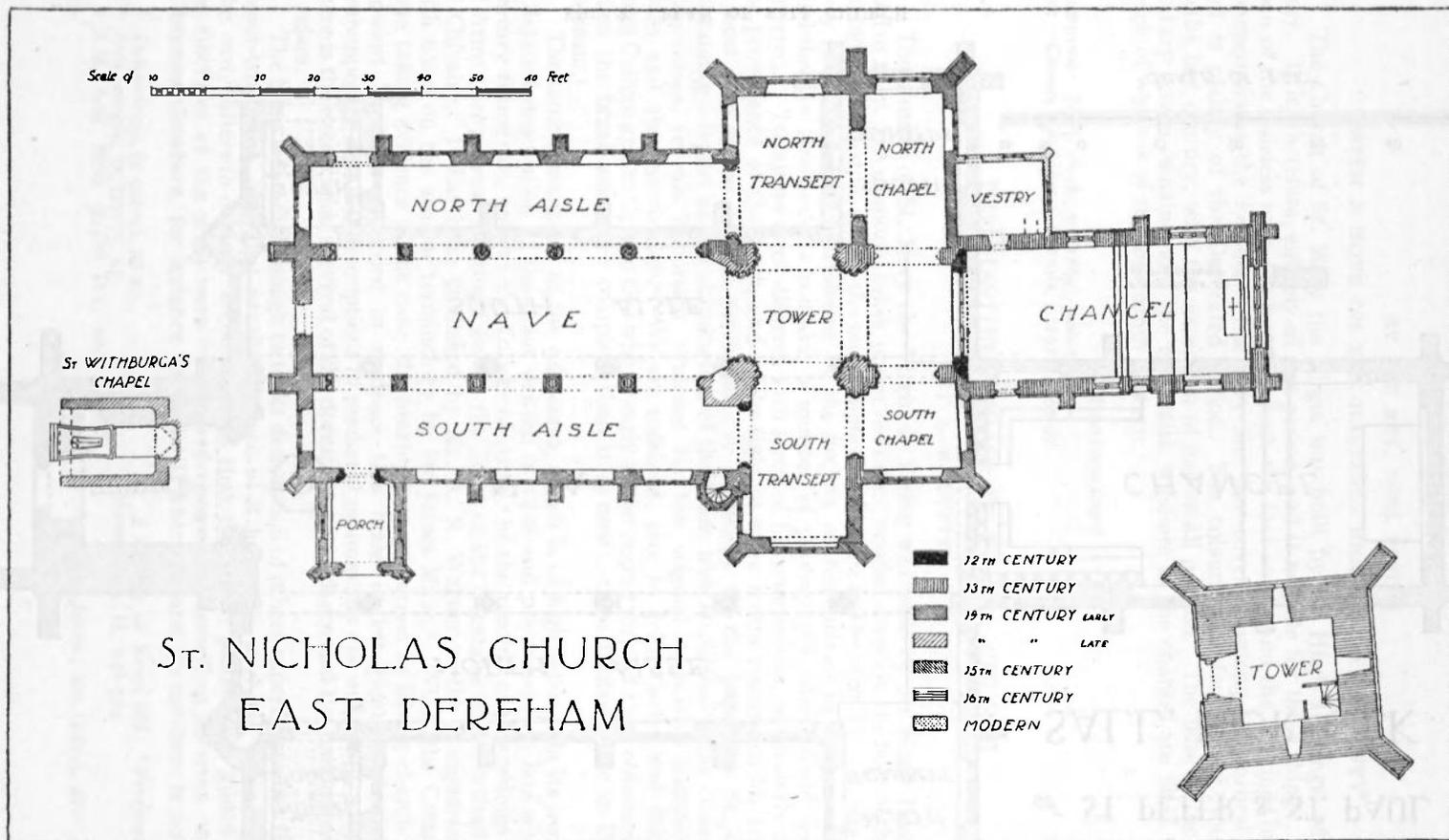
Photos, National Buildings Record



A. GREAT DUNHAM : INTERIOR LOOKING EAST



B. GREAT DUNHAM : NORTH WALL-ARCADE OF NAVE
Photos, National Buildings Record



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
EAST DEREHAM

FIG. I. PLAN OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, EAST DEREHAM
(From a block lent by Rev. Noel Boston)

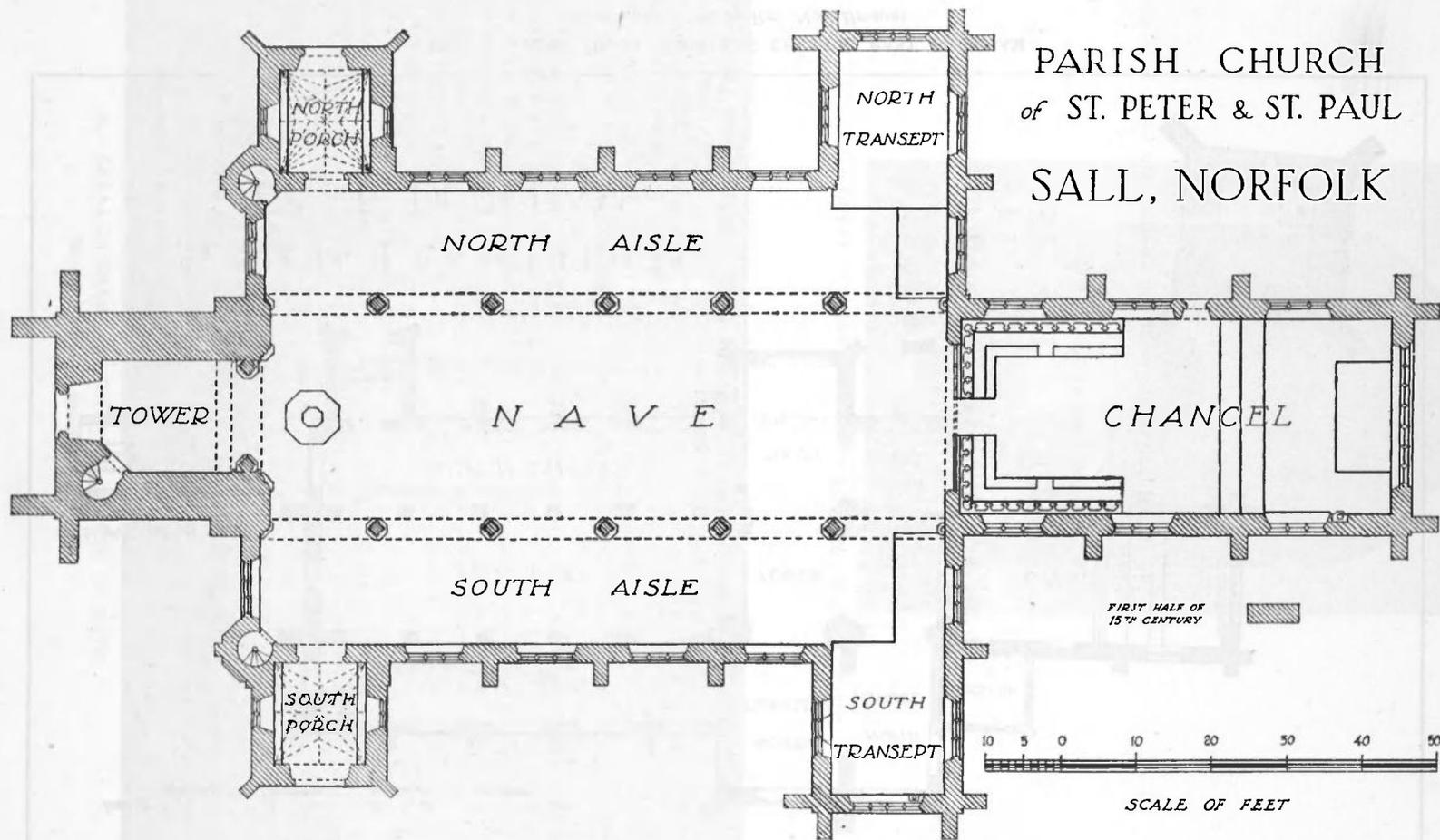


FIG. 2. PLAN OF SALL CHURCH

ELSING CHURCH

BY THE REV. NOEL BOSTON

WITH A NOTE ON THE HASTINGS BRASS BY A. R. DUFTY

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin was built by Sir Hugh Hastings, who died in 1347. It is, therefore, entirely of one period, and is notable for three things: the great span of the aisleless nave (39 feet 6 inches), the font-cover, and the Hastings brass which commemorates the founder. The very fine font-cover is among the earliest surviving and is plainly of the Decorated period. The colouring, unfortunately, was renewed in the last century, with the exception of one small portion. The base of the fifteenth-century screen remains, and the two south windows of the chancel are filled with glass much of which is of the fourteenth century.

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THE HASTINGS BRASS IN ELSING CHURCH

BY A. R. DUFTY

The church of St. Mary the Virgin at Elsing was built by Sir Hugh Hastings who died in 1347. His memorial brass, preserved under wooden covers in the floor of the chancel, though mutilated, is one of the most important brasses in the country. It was described very fully by Albert Hartshorne to the Society of Antiquaries in 1905, and his paper published in *Archaeologia* contains a number of photographs which could not well be bettered.¹ Today we must disagree with some of his conclusions, particularly concerning the provenance of the brass, and in the light of more recent researches his terminology is now seen to be in part erroneous. A postscript to the paper by St. John Hope containing a report on his examination of the brass, almost clinical in the closeness of its observation, reveals important evidence for the original decorative treatment of the brass and the matrix-slab.² We are indebted, too, to John Carter and the Rev. Sir John Cullum and to Craven Ord who as early as the years 1781 and 1782 obtained rubbings when the brass was more complete than it is now; these rubbings are in the British Museum.³

The most remarkable of the references, which is of high interest in its own right, is a detailed description of the brass written in 1408 and preserved in a late seventeenth-century transcript, now at the College of Arms,⁴ of the records of proceedings in a Plea of Arms (Grey *versus* Hastings) before the Court of the Constable and Marshall, or Court of Chivalry. It has been published by Mr. A. R. Wagner in the *Antiquaries Journal*, with notes on the armour terminology by Sir James Mann.⁵ While the Commissioners were taking evidence in the case, the hearing was adjourned to Elsing church where Sir Edward Hastings produced in evidence this brass of his great-grandfather. Near-contemporary detailed descriptions of medieval monuments are sufficiently rare, but here there is the exceptional survival of the documentary evidence and the monument to which it refers.

The brass is familiar enough to make description of it here superfluous, but the original colour-treatment, now that nearly all trace of it has gone, may not be so well known. The early fifteenth-century account shows that the latten plates were gilded and that the tinctures of the arms were in coloured enamel. Enamelling survives on numbers of brasses elsewhere, for instance at Stoke D'Abernon, and its use here is no surprise;

¹ *Archaeologia*, lx (1907), 25-42.

² *Archaeologia*, lx (1907), 41.

³ B.M. Add. MSS. 32488 D.1, and 32479

H.3.

⁴ College of Arms MS., 'Processus in Curia Marescalli', II, 348-354.

⁵ *Antiq. Journ.*, xix (1939), 421.

further, St. John Hope discovered remains of it in the incisions in the brass. But his examination revealed evidence of a more remarkable treatment. This was an inset of coloured glass in the spandrels and interstices of the canopy; from it he inferred that some of the shields of the 'weepers' and shields-of-arms elsewhere in the matrix-slab similarly were insets of coloured glass. On brasses the use of glass in this way is not known elsewhere in England, although close examination of certain of them may reveal evidence of it; as a decorative treatment it is by no means unique, other examples of its use, either where it survives or is known to have been applied, are on the Coronation Chair, the Westminster Retable, the Norwich Retable, the monuments of Edmund Crouchback and Queen Philippa, and, in humbler and entirely sensational form, on a large label-stop in Cley church, where a grotesque has the eyes inlaid in glass.

The evidence surviving to us in the references given above leaves us in little doubt about the appearance of the Hastings brass in its original splendour.

FELBRIGG CHURCH

BY E. A. R. RAHBULA

The Church of St. Margaret, Felbrigg (plan, fig. 3), attained to its present form in the first half of the fifteenth century when it was largely reconstructed, probably by Sir Simon Felbrigg, K.G., whose arms and badge are carved on some of the buttresses and in the

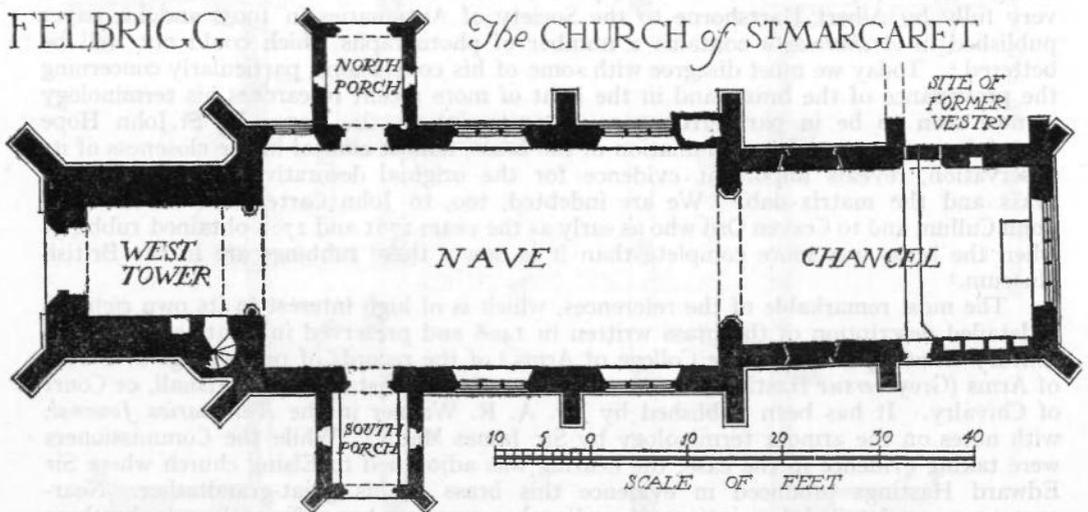


FIG. 3. PLAN OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, FELBRIGG

spandrels of the W. door. His brass is perhaps the most notable of those in the interesting series for which the church is well known.

Of the former church belongs the early fourteenth-century chancel-arch which remains *in situ*. A wafer-oven in the S. wall of the Tower is an unusual feature, and another comparatively rare possession is a late fifteenth-century Paten.

The earliest brass is of c. 1380 and depicts the parents and paternal grand parents of Sir Simon Felbrigg, who most likely was responsible for having it placed here.

The canopied brass of Sir Simon Felbrigg, K.G. [1443], standard-bearer to Richard II

and his wife Margaret, 1416, daughter of Primislaus, Duke of Teschen and lady-in-waiting to her kinswoman, Queen Ann, shows the knight holding the king's banner on which the quartered arms of Old France and England impale those of the Confessor, a shield adopted by King Richard in his latter years. Above the canopy the same shield appears by itself and impaling that of Bohemia; there are also the impaled shield of Felbrigg, a lion passant, and Teschen, an eagle displayed, and two shields bearing the Felbrigg badge, a fetterlock.

Among the number of mural monuments in the Chancel to members of the Windham family, those to Thomas (1571-1653) and his two wives (1) Elizabeth Lytton and (2) Elizabeth Mede by Martin Morley; and that to William (1647-1689), his wife Katherine and their daughter Mary are the most noteworthy. There is also a good bust by Nollekens of William Windham (1750-1810) the famous statesman.

GREAT DUNHAM CHURCH

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

The church of St. Andrew (plan, fig. 4), preserves the nave and central tower of a late Pre-conquest building, assigned indeed by Baldwin Brown¹ to the Saxo-Norman overlap. It has been shown that most of the arches including probably the wall-arcades are turned in Roman brick. Axe-work diaper is found on one impost of the west arch of the tower and on

The PARISH CHURCH of ST ANDREW
GREAT DUNHAM, NORFOLK

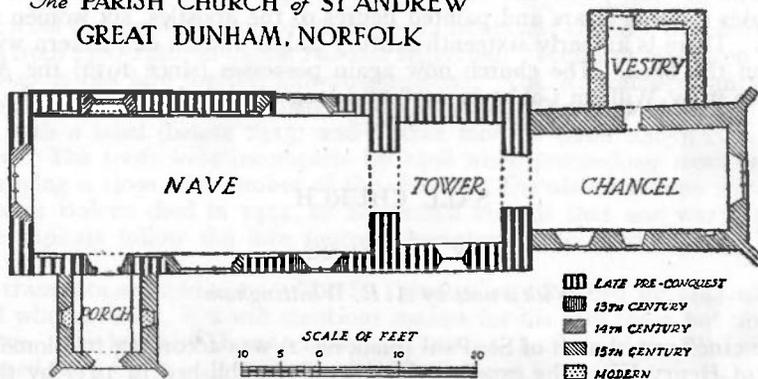


FIG. 4. PLAN OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, GREAT DUNHAM

an impost of the wall-arcade of the nave. The pilaster-strip framing is preserved on the east arch of the tower. The internal wall-arcade of the nave (Pl. VIII, B) is an unusual feature, several double-splay windows have survived and there are windows with mid-wall shafts in the bell-chamber. The nave and tower have long-and-short quoins and the west doorway is triangular-headed. The chancel was rebuilt in the fifteenth century but under it have been found the foundations of an apse.

It is remarkable that of four buildings with remains of much the same age, three should be found in adjoining parishes. Besides Great Dunham there are the churches of Newton also with an axial tower, East Lexham with a round tower and Guestwick with an axial tower.

¹ G. Baldwin Brown, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, 2nd ed., 346-7. See also *Norf. Arch.*,

i (1847), 91; *Antiq. Journ.*, iii (1923), 376; and *J. Brit. Arch. Ass.* n.s., xxxi (1925), 114-8.

HADDISCOE CHURCH

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

The church¹ of St. Mary has a remarkable circular west tower belonging probably to the Saxo-Norman overlap. The belfry windows have triangular heads and unusual enrichments.² The late medieval parapet is faced with checker-work. The chancel and nave are mostly of early twelfth-century date. The chancel has round windows (now blocked) in the side walls. The nave has a north doorway copying some of the detail of the belfry windows of the tower; the enriched south doorway³ has, above it, an arched recess with a carved and seated figure. The door has elaborate ironwork. In the nave is a painting, partly preserved, of St. Christopher and the Child. There is a Dutch inscription⁴ of 1525, and an interesting epitaph of a coach-driver, on the outward face of the churchyard wall.

RANWORTH CHURCH

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

The church⁵ is of no great architectural pretensions and seems to have been largely rebuilt between 1370 and 1420. Foundations of an earlier building have been found under the chancel. The painted rood-screen is amongst the most remarkable in Norfolk; it has parclores for side altars and painted figures of the apostles, six women saints and eight others. There is an early sixteenth-century pulpit and an oak lectern with a verse and music on the back. The church now again possesses (since 1912) the Antiphoner bequeathed to it by William Cobbe in 1478 and long alienated.

SALL CHURCH

BY JOAN EVANS

With a note by A. B. Whittingham

The fine cruciform church of St. Paul (plan, fig. 2) was according to Blomefield, built in the reign of Henry VI. The excellent history of it published in 1937 by the Rector, Canon W. L. E. Parsons⁶ has found no definite documentation for its date. The South transept was given by Thomas Brigg, who died in 1444, and the north by Thomas Roos, who died in the following year. The West doorway has the arms of Henry V as Prince of Wales, which would seem to indicate a date between 1405 and 1413. Several parishioners' wills of 1437 and later mention the rood-loft or the light before it, which suggests that the church was finished by that date.

The North Porch, with its array of heraldic decoration and its canopied niches, is particularly fine; the central boss of the vault is carved with the Last Judgment. Both it and the South Porch have vaulted chambers over. The West front has a frieze of

¹ *Suffolk Inst. of Arch. Journ.* (1869), 13.

² *Archaeologia*, xxiii (1831), pl. v.

³ H. J. D. Astley, *Mems. of Old Norfolk*, Illustration, 186.

⁴ *Norf. Arch.*, xxv (1935), lxv-lxvi, 161, 449.

⁵ *Norf. Arch.*, xviii (1914), xxxiii-xxxiv; v. (1859), 268; vii (1871), 185; C. J. W. Winder,

Illustrations of the Rood Screen at Randworth (1867); H. J. Enraght, *Ranworth* (pamphlet).

⁶ *Salle, the Story of a Norfolk Parish, its Church, Manors, and People*, Norwich, 1937. See also *Norf. Arch.*, xviii (1919), xvii; xxv (1921), 138. The spelling 'Sall' is usual, but Parsons calls it 'Salle'.

armorial shields, including those of Brewes and Mauteby, who held the manors of Sall, and of Morley and Kerdeston who held land in the parish. The spandrels of the West door are carved with censing seraphs: the doors are original. The great East window contains no less than seven lights.

The interior is remarkable not only for the fine nave arcade but also for its woodwork. Twenty-six of the stalls with miserere seats survive; the church was not Collegiate, but at least seven chantry priests served it. The lower part of the screen, which alone survives, is painted with the four Doctors of the Church, St. James the Less, St. Bartholomew and St. Thomas, with the clauses of the creed associated with them. The remarkable font cover, though it has lost the panels that linked its framing, remains of notable elegance; it appears to date from the middle of the fifteenth century. The font itself is carved with representations of the Seven Sacraments and the Crucifixion. It is inscribed: 'Orate pro animabus Thome Luce et me[i] uxoris ejus et Roberti filii eorum capellani et pro quibus tenentur qui hunc fontem fieri fecerunt.' The nave roof is supported by angels bearing shields of Brewes and Shardelow; the cornice once had angels bearing scrolls of Psalm CL. The beams were powdered with IHS and M crowned. The chancel bosses are carved with the Life of Christ. The pulpit is medieval and retains traces of colour.

There are a number of brasses and matrices, the most important being those of Geoffrey and Alice Boleyn, Thomas Roos and John Fountaine and his three wives. The shroud brass in the south aisle is also noteworthy. There are fragments of medieval glass, all that remain of an ensemble that must once have been splendid.

THE FOLLOWING NOTE IS BY MR. A. B. WHITTINGHAM

Apart from the tower above roof level, the transepts and chancel, the church including roofs dates from 1400-1420, as Canon Parsons suggested. Professor Hamilton Thompson's date, 1430-40 is too late for the following reasons. The N. transept, an afterthought (of c. 1430), had been altered and heightened by 1441. The arms of Henry V as Prince of Wales, with a label (before 1413) and France modern (after 1405), stand below the W. window. The roofs were incomplete by 1408 when proceedings were taken against those occupying a close with timber of the church. The aisle windows were unfinished when Thomas Boleyn died in 1411, as Blomefield records that one was a memorial to him. The capitals follow the late fourteenth-century type used in the Cathedral E. clerestory.

Both transepts are additions. The S. Transept was finished by 1444 when Thomas Brigg died who gave it. His will mentions masses for his soul there but not the actual construction. The brass of Thomas Roos 1441 was on the floor of the N. Transept which he heightened, and the roof is marked with his T round a rose.

The latest part of the original design seems to be the N. Porch c. 1420 (its upper vault is an addition of c. 1460). It was given by Geoffrey Melman who died in 1404 or by his widow. Martin's MS. in the City Library records his brass inscribed 'Orate p. aiabus Galfridi Melman & Agathe uxoris — — suptibs ta i meremio qua carpeta — ac totu porticu . . .'. Though this was a Flemish brass of 1400 palimpsest and Parsons thought the indent looked c. 1440, the difficulties are not insuperable. Brigg's brass was made 21 years at least after his death.

Martin states that the chancel was built by William Wode sometime in the reign of Henry VI, and records in one window the inscription 'istius ecclesiae rectoris qui hanc fabricam a fundamentis' and in another 'erexit et complevit 1440'. He was rector 1428-41. In detail the chancel resembles Wingfield, the estimate of £75 8s. 4d. for which in about 1430 is preserved at Ewelme. Parsons because of another window given in 1450 dated this chancel a decade too late.

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SWAFFHAM CHURCH

BY R. R. CLARKE

Swaffham Church, which the Institute visited informally, is a fine cruciform building mainly of the late fifteenth-century, but tower and north aisle date from the early sixteenth century. The nave has a double hammer-beam roof with about 200 angels bearing shields. The vestry contains a valuable library including the Black Book of Swaffham, a terrier of the church lands dating from 1448 to 1460.

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Rix: *Swaffham—Bygone Gleanings and Present* (1931), 35.

BINHAM PRIORY

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

Binham Priory was founded before the end of the eleventh century by Peter de Valoines and Albreda his wife as a cell to the Abbey of St. Albans, and dedicated to St. Mary. Its net value before the Suppression was £140 5s. 4d., and it was surrendered in 1539. The ruined portions are now in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works and the eastern parts and monastic buildings to the south have been more or less completely excavated. The nave up to the pulpitum still forms the parish church and is largely a building of early twelfth-century date with a fine thirteenth-century west front. The aisles have mostly been destroyed and the arcades built up. The original plan of the east end consisted of a main apse with flanking apses to the aisles and an apsidal chapel in each transept. The east end was extended perhaps in the thirteenth century, the apse being removed and the extension having a square end; the large added north chapel is later.

CASTLE ACRE PRIORY

BY P. K. BAILLIE REYNOLDS

Castle Acre Priory was founded in about 1090 by William de Warenne II for monks of the order of Cluny, which had been introduced into England by his father at Lewes. It was originally sited in the outer bailey of the Castle, but within a year or two it moved to the present site, where building was begun just before the end of the eleventh century. The church and the claustral buildings were completed before the end of the twelfth century and the west front of the church is a very fine example of the work of that period, unfortunately mutilated by the insertion of a large window in the fifteenth century. The church was lengthened eastwards in the early part of the fourteenth century, and a second Infirmary Hall was built at much the same time. In the late fifteenth century the western range was considerably altered for the improvement of the Prior's Lodging and for guest chambers. This part of the Priory continued to be inhabited till the nineteenth century and underwent various alterations during that period. The Gatehouse, of c. 1500, is of flint and brick, with shields of arms on the outer face. The Priory has been in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works since 1929, and the Ministry's *Official Guide* contains a full history, description, and plan.



A.



B.

WALSINGHAM PRIORY, EAST END, EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR

Photos, National Buildings Record



A. FELBRIGG HALL : VIEW OF S. FRONT
Photo, R. W. Ketton-Cremer



B. WOLTERTON HALL : VIEW OF S. FRONT
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THETFORD PRIORY

BY P. K. BAILLIE REYNOLDS

Thetford Priory was founded by Roger Bigod in 1103-4 for monks of the Order of Cluny. At first it occupied the church of St. Mary in the town which had been the cathedral of the East Anglian Diocese till 1094, when the see was transferred to Norwich by Bishop Herbert de Losinga. But the quarters proved too cramped and the present site was acquired in 1107. Building began at once, and in 1110 the community moved in. The church and claustral buildings are of the twelfth century. In the thirteenth century a new Lady Chapel was built to house an image of Our Lady which was discovered to have miraculous properties. This image became an object of pilgrimage, and later in the same century the Lady Chapel was enlarged, and the presbytery was extended to correspond. The Kitchen premises underwent extensive alterations in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The Gatehouse dates from the late fourteenth century. Hugh Bigod, son of the founder, was created Earl of Norfolk, and Thetford Priory remained under the special patronage of the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk whether Bigod, Mowbray or Howard, and was the burial-place of many of them, including Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, the victor of Flodden, who was buried before the High Altar. At the time of the Dissolution an elaborate tomb in Renaissance style was in course of preparation, perhaps for the then Duke, and fragments of sculpture for it were found in the course of excavation of the sacristy. The Priory has been in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works since 1933. The Infirmary remains to be excavated. The Ministry has issued an *Official Guide*, with history, description, and plan.

WALSINGHAM PRIORY¹

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

Geoffrey de Favarches in 1169, on the day he set out for Jerusalem, granted to Edwy his clerk the chapel of the Virgin which Geoffrey's mother Richeldis had founded, to the intent that Edwy should set up a priory there. It was related that the lady had been favoured by the Virgin with a sight of the Santa Casa at Nazareth, and this was the origin of the subsequent fame of the convent. The chapel and image of Our Lady of Walsingham formed the goal of one of the most celebrated pilgrimages of medieval England. In spite of what Harrod says in his book on the *Castles and Convents of Norfolk*,² there can be no real doubt that the large chapel shown by excavation to have stood on the north side of the church was the 'New Work' described by William of Worcester³ in the fifteenth century, and thus also the chapel which enclosed the timber chapel of the Virgin. William of Worcester's measurements of the chapel are in yards and inches and not, as elsewhere, in paces; and so are presumably exact. The 'New Work' he records⁴ as being 48 feet by 30 feet within the work, whereas it scales 47 feet by 31 feet on Harrod's plan, thus rendering the equation almost certain. Within it was the chapel of the Virgin 23½ feet by 13 feet in length and breadth. Harrod's attempt to identify the massive foundation of the chapel with the central tower recorded by William of Worcester fails utterly when confronted by Worcester's measurements. Whatever the length of his pace may have been it appears clear that the length of the nave was 70 paces as against 50 paces for the chancel and 16 for the tower between them. Thus the ratio of chancel to nave was as 5 to 7, whereas in those parts of the church shown on Harrod's plan⁵ east

¹ *V.C.H. Norfolk*, II, 394.² H. Harrod. *Gleanings among the Castles and Convents of Norfolk* (1857), 155-197.³ *Itineraria Symonis Simeonis et Willelmi de Worcestre*, edition, J. Nasmith (1778), 335.⁴ *Pilgrimages to St. Mary of Walsingham & St. Thomas of Canterbury*, J. G. Nichols' edition (1875), 13.⁵ H. Harrod, *op. cit.*, 165.

and west of the northern foundation the ratio is almost exactly reversed, thus disposing completely of his suggestion.

Erasmus' account of the Walsingham Pilgrimage shows clearly that the Chapel of the Virgin was on the north side of the priory church, and the statement that the chapel was exposed on all four sides need only mean that it stood well above the roof of the adjoining aisle of the church.

The only statement divergent from this identification of the 'New Work', occurs in a late medieval ballad of c. 1460, which states that the house reared by angels' hands was 'tweyne hundred more in distance' from St. Lawrence Chapel. This would appear to mean 200 feet or more; the actual distance would seem to be about 300 feet, but this discrepancy is hardly more than might be expected in such a source.

The site of the church was partially excavated in 1853 and it was then shown to have been some 240 feet long. The early fourteenth-century east wall and gable still stand (Pl. IX), but the rest of the church has been destroyed to nearly the floor-level or below. The refectory is a fine but ruined building of about 1300 which still retains the arcade within which was the pulpit. In the house is the vaulted undercroft of part of the dormitory-range.

THE SLIPPER CHAPEL, HOUGHTON IN THE DALE, NEAR WALSINGHAM

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

The Chapel¹ of St. Katherine was built probably about the middle of the fourteenth century and is excellent work of that age. This may well have been the place from which pilgrims walked barefoot to Walsingham, as did Henry VIII. It had become a House of Industry, but was bought about 1900 by Miss Boyd, restored and given to the Benedictine Order.

THE WALSINGHAM GREYFRIARS

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

This house of Grey Friars was founded by Elizabeth de Burgh, Countess of Clare, in 1347-8. It was surrendered in 1538 and the great bell was sold the following year. The dimensions of the church are given by William of Worcester and the foundations themselves have been excavated showing that here William's pace equalled $1\frac{3}{4}$ feet. The church was of the usual friars type with an aisled nave of five bays, an oblong bay under the steeple and an aisleless choir. The nave was separated from the church by a lighting area. The chief surviving remains are the guest-house, W. of the cloister, the Little Cloister south of the Refectory, and the Chapter House. The remains are of considerable interest owing to the fact that few remains of houses of the mendicant orders survive in this country. They were described to the Institute by Mr. A. R. Martin, F.S.A., and this note is based upon the fuller description which he has given in his book *Franciscan Architecture in England* (1937), 124-137.

¹ *Norf. Arch.*, xviii (1914), xviii. See also drawing of W. Front in *Building News*, Sept. 23, 1904.