

Church and Chapel

St Mary's and St Andrews Churches

The Living.

There were two Churches in this township, viz., S. Mary and S. Andrew, and institutions to both were made until the year 1497.—

Among the ecclesiastical possessions of the Priory of Castleacre. In the charters of the Earls Warren, is "Ecclesia de Dunham" of the gift of Wimer, lord of Gressenhale, which carried with it the advowson, this was that of S. Mary, the latter was the gift of Drogo, son of William, and this was the parish Church to which S. Mary was only a Chapel, but about temp. Henry II., each had a parish of its own of which the Prior and Convent of Castleacre had the patronage. These two Churches were probably standing in 1518, but only one is mentioned in the King's Books, valued at £12 1s. 10½—In 1522 the Rector of the Churches of SS. Mary and Andrew of Dunham Magna, had permission to take tithes of 13 acres of land, called Pentons. The ancient value of the Rectory of Dunham S. Mary was 12 marks and paid 5½ Peter's Pence, and the Prior of Sporle had a pension out of it of 13s. 4d., Procurations 5s., Synodals per annum 13d.—On the dissolution of the religious houses the Prior of Castleacre conveyed the patronage by fine to Henry VIII., and he, in 1538, granted it to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. —S. Andrew's was valued at 100s., Procurations 2s., Synodals per annum, 10d., and Peter's Pence 2½d.

The living is now a discharged Rectory.—The tithes were commuted in 1840 for £562—the present gross value is £373 (net £302), with 44a. 16p. of glebe, and neat residence, partially rebuilt in 1875, in the gift of R. Mason, Esq., and held since 1875 by the Rev. J. Blake Humfrey, M.A., Hon. Canon of

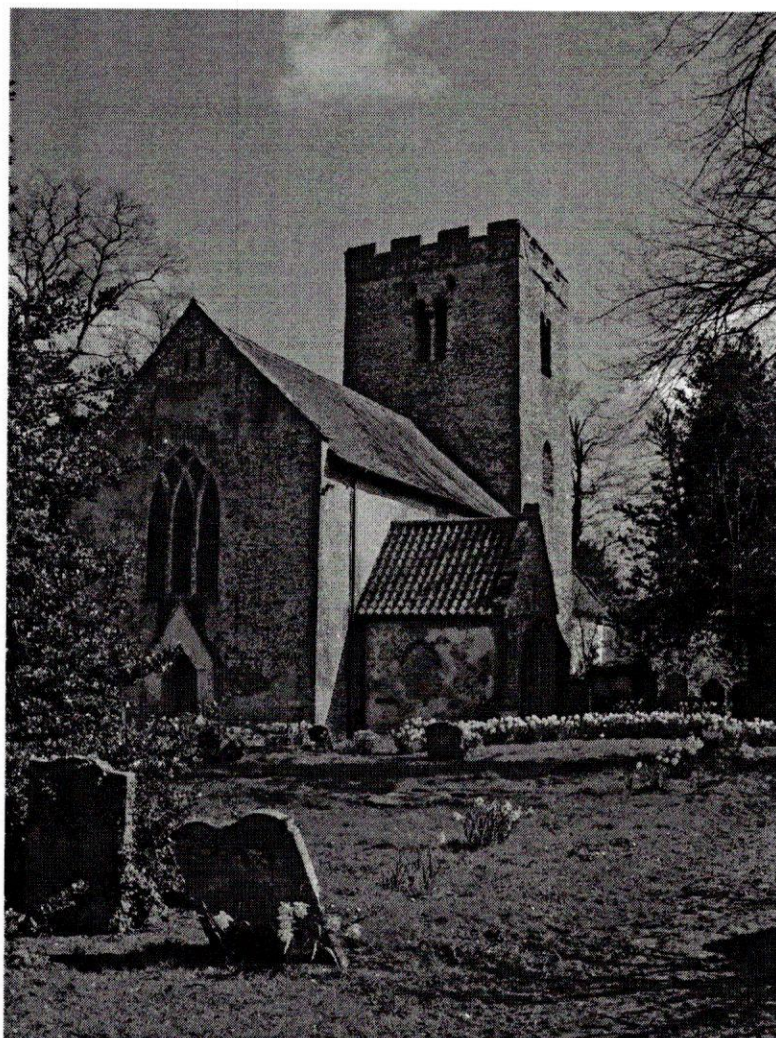
Incumbents of St. Mary's.

The following have been Incumbents of S. Mary's

- 1310 John Sykerfol de Lewes by the Prior and Convent of Castleacre.
- 1311 Richard de Derhani.
- 13— Richard de Shropham.
- 1325 Peter de Bleteraunt.
- 13— Richard de Barsham.
- 1337 William de Ely.
- 13— Humfrey Brynale.—
- 1372 William Sinverd.
- 1390 John Fowke.
- 1395 Richard Sayer de Newton.
- 1402 Lucas Stoke.
- 1403 John Fery de Bokenham.
- 1408 John Lokhawe.
- 1409 William Blakwell.
- 1409 Geoffrey Bettys.
- 1419 Simon Attleye.
- 1464 John Boor.
- 1483 William Conyngston.
- 1458 William Ottele.
- 1491 Edmund Herberd.
- 1497 Christopher Myne.

St Andrew's Church is one of the best preserved Saxon churches in the country.

St Mary's Church was across the road in what is now the garden of the Old Rectory. Why the church was abandoned is not known—the date of the last incumbent does not fit with the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536–1541).



St Andrew's Church

Manorial Notes

The Domesday Book says :—At the Survey Dunham was a berewic to the Manor of Mileham, which was held by W. de Noiers, being part of the land of Bishop Stigand, seized by the Conqueror.—It consisted of four carucates of land, then (T.R.E.) 18 villeins, afterwards and now (the Survey) 10; always eight bordars; then and afterwards two servi, now none; pannage for 20 hogs, and one acre of meadow; and eight socmen held 34 acres of land and one bordar and one acre of meadow; then one plough-team and a half, afterwards and now one in the demesne; always one plough-team, and a half might be restored; then one plough-team and a half amongst the tenants, afterwards one, now one half, and one might be restored; always two cows, eight hogs and six sheep. There always belonged to this the moiety of a market, and half an acre of land in Thetford, and two socmen with 40 acres of land and two bordars; always one plough-team; the whole, including Mileham, was valued in King Edward's time at £30, and now £60; and it was three leucas long, and one broad, and paid 26d. to the Gelt of 20s.

Rectors of St. Andrew's.

The following have been Rectors of St. Andrew's.

- c. 1226 Edmund de Walpole:
- 1310 John de Wygenhale—by the Prior and Convent of Castleacre.
- 1324 Simon de' Caley—ditto.
- 1349 Humphrey Byrinot—ditto. .
- 1377 Wells—ditto.
- c. 1390 John Phelyph (ob. 1397)—ditto.
- 1397 (name omitted)...ditto.
- 1418 Maur. Tournay—ditto.
- 1418 John Burre de Wyllysford—ditto.
- 1423 Gilbert, son of Simon Bocker—ditto.
- 1438 Geoffrey Broun—ditto.
- 1482 Edmund Harberd—ditto.
- 1505 Nickolas Chanon—ditto.
- 1510 Geoffrey Broun—ditto.
- 1518 Hugo Dryver, (Deer. Bacc.)—ditto.
- 1525 Richard Patriche—ditto.
- 1533 (name omitted)—ditto.
- 1554 William Kegall alias Londen—by Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
- 1559 Richard Garnat--ditto.
- 1562 Thomas Sadler—ditto.
- 1566 Edmund Golding—by Nicholas Mynne, Esq.
- 1572 Richard Brazell—by Andrew Clerk, and Christian his wife.
- 1577 Solomon Smith—ditto.
- 1580 Edward Grenewood—ditto.
- 1591 Cuthbert Norris—by Thomas Mighte, gen.
- 1599 Cuthbert Norris, S.T.P.—by Henry Bastard, of Dunham, gen.
- 1599 Samuel Gardiner, S.T.B.—by ditto, of Tharston.
- 1616 John Beacon, S.T.B.—by Cuthbert Norris, S.T.P.
- 1625 John Beacon—by the assignees of H. Bastard.
- 1635 John Dixe, M.A.—by Thomas Dixe.
- 1660 John Benton—by Mary Hogan, widow.
- 1679 Richard Ransom—ditto.
- 1694 John Wightman—by John Wastell, gent.
- 1721 Ambrose Pimlow—by Thomas Hogan, Esq.
- 1752 John Arnam, M.A.—by the Lord Chancellor (as guardian to Thomas Hogan, a lunatic.)
- 1788 John Humfrey—on his own petition.
- 1847 Robert Jackson—by Robert Blake-Humfrey, Esq..
- 1851 Robert Ferrier Jex-Blake—ditto.
- 1875 John Blake-Humfrey, M.A. Hon. Canon of Norwich, (the present Rector)—ditto.

This Manor was subsequently granted to Alan, son of Flaald, ancestor of the Fitz Alans, Earl of Arundel. During the reign of Henry III. Alice, widow of Eudo de Arsic or Harslek, held here, and in Southacre, one Knight's fee of the Honour of Mileham, and Sir Roger Arsyk held it under the Earl of Arundel in 1275, and the moiety of a weekly market on Saturday, with the assize of bread and ale, view of frank pledge, etc., and in 1309 John de Harsike had a charter of free warren.

Christian, wife of John de Harsike, afterwards married Thomas de Bittering, and had £7 13s 4d. per annum out of this Manor. It remained in this family till 1454, when by the marriage of June, one of the daughters of Sir Roger Harsick, to Richard Dorward, third son of John Dorward, Esq., of Bocking, in Essex, it was assigned to her, and through Margaret, their daughter and sole heir, passed to Sir John Wingfield, of Letheringham, Suffolk, who resided at the Manor house there, called Dunham Hall. Roger Wingfield conveyed by fine to Thomas Golding, gent. this Manor called Arsic's, and the Manor called Rous's here, in 1547, with six messuages, two cottages, 500 acres of land, 60 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 30 of wood, 100 of heath and furze, and £10 per annum rent in Dunham Magna and Parva, and East Lexham; and in 1564 Sir Thomas Golding, Kt., and Henry Golding, Esq., conveyed these Manors to Nicholas and William Minns.

In 1572 Andrew Clerk presented as lord, but in 1603 Henry Bastard, gent., held the Manor.—In 1660 Mary, widow of Thomas Hogan, Esq., left it to her son Sir Thomas, whose son Henry was his heir, and by Anne, his wife, a daughter of Sir Henry Wodehouse, of Waxham, had Robert, who died a minor in 1613. Thomas Hogan was lord in 1716, and had by his wife, (a daughter of Matthew Heliot, gent., of Litcham), a son Thomas, who was a lunatic, and died unmarried in 1779; at his death the house in Great Dunham where he resided, the Manors, advowsons, &c., came to his co-heirs, Thomas Barber, of Blofield, and Mary (Hogan), wife of William Mills, by whom they were sold.—Dunham Hall became the property of Mr. Dalton Chamberlayne. (The old house was pulled down about 1800, when it contained many Coats of Arms in the windows and panelling).—Other lands were purchased by Benjamin Kitmer.

In 1788 the Rev. John Humfrey became

which he devised to Robert Blake, Esq., who had taken the additional name of Humfrey, and his son, the Rev. J. Blake-Humfrey, became Rector, and was lord in 1889, who sold it to R. H. Mason, Esq., the present lord of the Manor and patron.

A Manor here called Rous's was part of the Manor of Litcham, belonging to Lord Bardo1ph, which extended here, and also into East Lexham, and held by Richard Rous temp. Henry III., and by Alan, his son, in 1287, who, with Jordan Foliet, or Follyot, claimed a moiety of a weekly market on Saturday, with the Harsicks, who had the other moiety. In 1403 the heirs of Osbert Mundeford held Rous's Manor in Dunham and East Lexham, by half a Knight's fee. The heiress of this family married Sir William Tyndale, Knt., which family held it in 1534, when it was sold to John Wright, of Kilverstone.

William de Rothing held a lordship here belonging to the fee of Lord Baynard, and claimed in 1287, a weekly market in Dunham Magna on Wednesday, and a fair yearly on the vigil, the day, and day after S. Margaret.

The Manor of Gressinghale extended here.—Wimerus, lord of Gressenhale, gave the patronage of the Church to Castleacre Priory—this was subsequently held by the Stutviles, Foliots, and Hastings.

At the Survey Ralph de Toeny held in Dunham two socmen, who held under Herold thirty acres and a half of land in King Edward's time; always four bordars and one plough team. This was part of Sparham Hall, in Necton, and was called Corbel's or Churchman's Manor, and held by Sir John le Briton in 1275, and by Ralph Churchman temp. Richard II., and by the Cockets in 1546.—In 1633 Henry Beke purchased it of Osbert Prat, and left it to his son, Jeremy Beke.

In 1561 lands called Walsingham Acre and Walsingham, two acres in the tenure of Henry Rust, were granted to Sir Edward Warner and Ralph Shelton, with lands belonging to Langley Abbey, in the tenure of Thomas Wingfield.—In 1558 Sir George Howard, Knt., had a grant of 21 acres in this town, and East Lexham, with liberty of foldage in the tenure of Nicholas L'Estrange, lately belonging to Magdalen Chapel, in Gaywood, by Lynn.—Richard Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, gave lands to that Chapel or Hospital, temp. Edward I., here, and in East Lexham, and Sir Eudo Arsic and

Alice, his wife, gave them lands, and a foldcourse for 250 sheep.

The Hospital of S. Mary Magdalene, upon the Causeway between Lynn and Gaywood, which Sir Eudo Arsick endowed with 21a. 1r. of land here, was not dissolved at the Reformation, but re-established temp. James I., and placed under the Government of the Mayor and Alderman of King's Lynn, and had all its old possessions.

In 1334 Dunham Magna was assessed for Tenths, etc., at £7 18s.; 20s. deducted circa 1449.

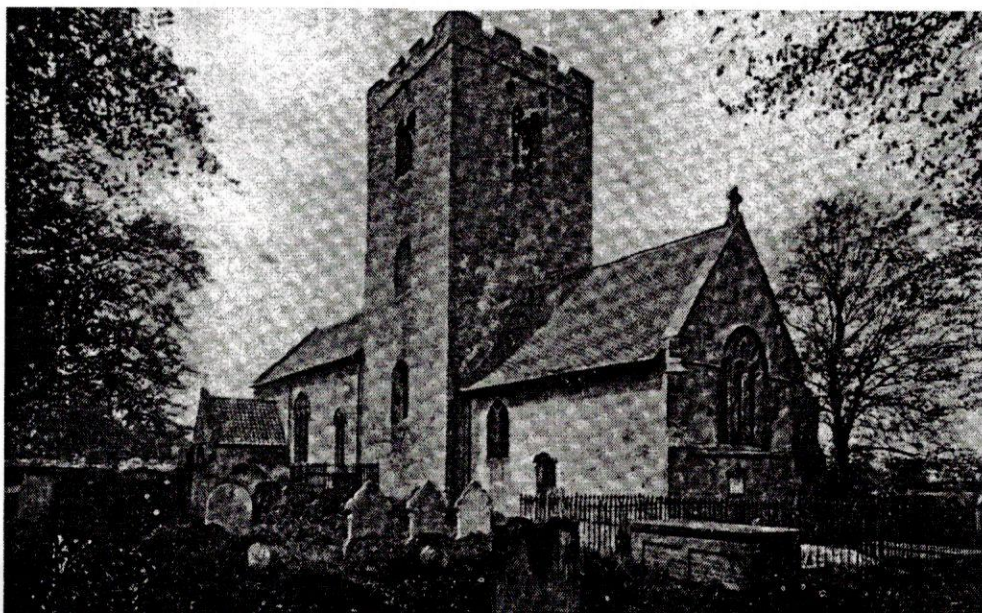
In 1428 the temporalities of Castleacre Priory here were valued at 4s. 4d. per annum; those of Westacre at 12d.; Langley Priory, 4s. 2d.; and Walsingham, 8d.

Roman Bricks in Saxon Walls

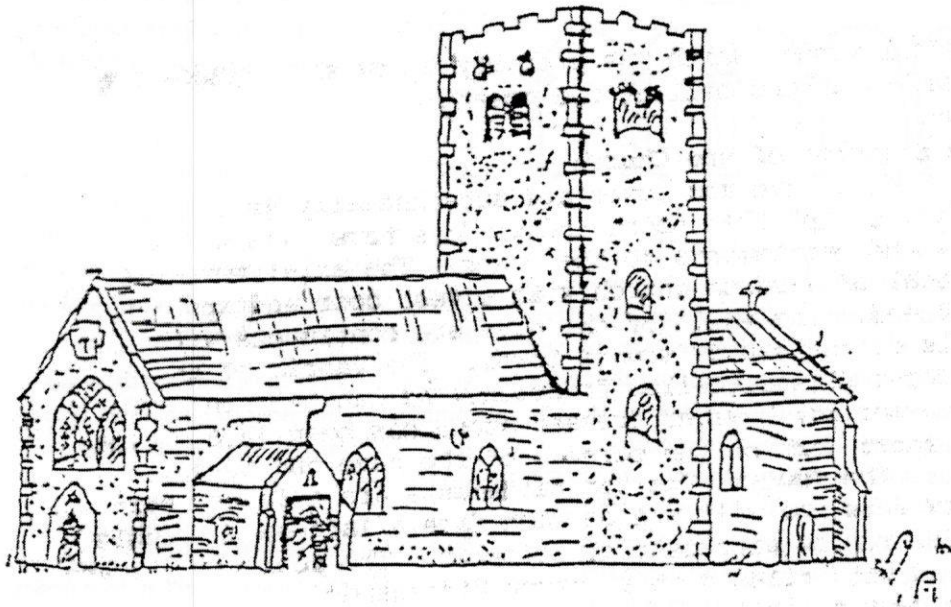
From *The King's England*. by Arthur Mee, 1948

GREAT DUNHAM. Its attraction is a rare little church with rough flint walls, standing among fine elms opposite the rectory, but it has a stirring legacy from the past. A Roman lord lived somewhere near the elms, and the Saxons took the bricks of his house for the walls of their church. Some of them are seen to this day in the round arches of the windows of the simple place which has grown up from that early building. There are those who think the steps of the porch, so dangerously worn by myriads of feet, are also Roman.

The Saxons built so that their work should last. Their windows are in the central tower, those of the belfry having baluster shafts between the lights, and on two sides are small round sound-holes. Long-and-short work is seen at the corners, and at the west end of the nave is a triangular-headed Saxon doorway, now blocked. On the gleaming cream walls of the nave, under the small windows, is crude Saxon arcading, and fragments of Saxon carving lie on a stone seat, in the corner of which is a tiny piscina. Foundations of an apse were found under the chancel by the builders of the 15th century. The eastern arch of the tower has fine cable moulding, the pulpit is made up of Jacobean panels, and the 15th-century font has eight angels round the bowl.



The Church of St. Andrew



The scattered village of Great Dunham stands to the south of the valley of the Nar in an area of some 2000 acres of land, farmed by about six farmeres One hundred years ago there were fourteen farms here. Adjacent to the Church on the south side is a Primary School erected in 1840 by the Rev. John Humphrey of Wroxham Hall who held a manor in this village at that time.

The present Church, surrounded by its lime trees, is the survivor of two Churches: the other was St.Mary's which has vanished. It stood in the grounds of the Old Rectory 50 yards west of this Church.

St.Andrew's belongs to the period 950-1000 A.D. The chancel was rebuilt in the 15th century and the earlier foundations of a semi-circular apse were found a century ago beneath the present sanctuary. Whilst re-rendering the chancel during 1996 three items were found from the period of the apse, before the chancel was constructed in its present form. On the north side is part of a pilaster strip, an original feature of the 11th century building. On the south side below the 19th century window is part of an arch formed of Roman tiles over a doorway into the apse. Nearby is part of a medieval cusped trefoil window which was probably a low side window for sounding a hand bell at the moment of the elevation of the Host.

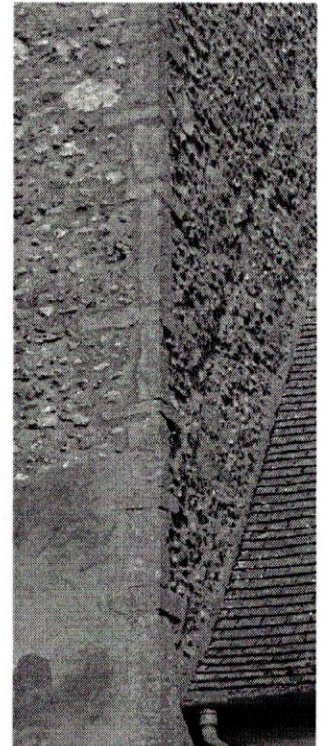
The Exterior of the Church

The nave and tower are substantially as originally built, except that doors and windows have been added to the nave and

is typical of a saxon church with a west door and apse at the east end. The walls of the nave are continuous with the walls of the sturdy square tower. The fabric of the church is uncut flints, called freestone, as can be seen where there is no mortar; however dressed stone has been laid in long and short work on the corners of the nave and tower.

The Tower: The top battlements are a later addition; below this you will see on each face a late-saxon double belfry window with central baluster. The round arches are filled with tiles with a "happy disregard" for precise -alignment typical of the Anglo-Saxons. These bricks or tiles came from a Roman site close to the churchyard. There is no dressed stone around these windows

The leaflet that explains some of the architecture and history of St Andrews Church is reproduced here. It was written by Mr Butler-Strong. It has been augmented by some photographs of the features discussed.



Long and short stonework in the tower. The line of the roof when it was thatched is also visible

Roman tiles used to make an arch below the 19th Century window.



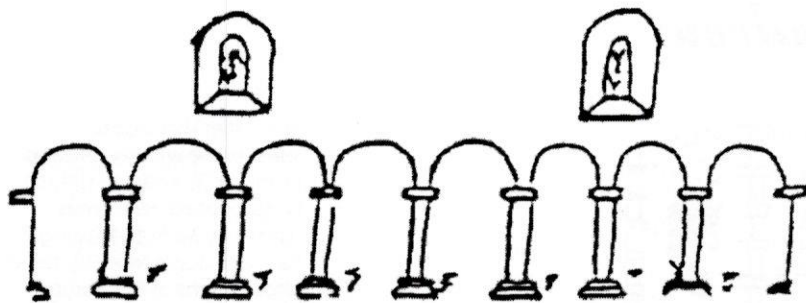


Figure 1.

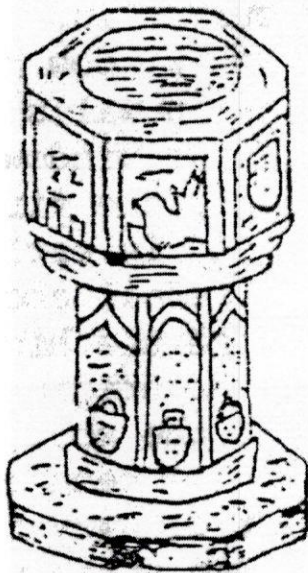


Figure 2.

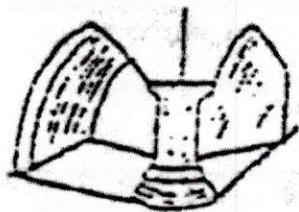


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

and the fraying of the edges only enhances the impression of great age. In passing it should be mentioned that the original nave roof would have been thatched. On the east and west faces of the tower above the belfry windows are two circular openings, or sound holes, which are a particular feature of late saxon churches. Lower in the tower are two round topped windows, which are set midway in the thickness of the wall with splaying both externally and internally; this is another saxon feature. There were no frills in those days and this was a practical sturdy building meant to last forever.

The Porch: The south porch has a very fine perpendicular doorway with three orders of mouldings and attractively carved capitals. There is a square hood mould above the arch but the spandrels have lost their carvings. Look for traces of flushwork around the base; above this the diagonal buttresses have been rebuilt with bricks. The stone exhibits in the porch are some early English work from the church of St. Mary. The inner doorway is 14th century with headstops and hood mould. Note the trace of a window outside above the porch.

The Priest's door into the 15th century chancel is typical of that period. Can you identify the two carved animals on its hood mould?

The Nave: On the north side there is a 3-light perpendicular window with a stepped embattled transome and another Saxon window high in the wall. Saxon windows were set very high in walls to avoid draughts, because they were not glazed. The two windows on the south side were added to give extra light; the first is a restored perpendicular window and the second is earlier. It is a double lancet window with quatrefoil above the Y tracery and has a hood mould with stops. Notice the high arch of Roman bricks indicating the position of the original Saxon windows. The north doorway is plainer than the south although probably the same age (14th century) and has been built up for a long

time. The triangular headed west doorway is in true Saxon style with a moulded surround of Norman strip work and again blocked up presumably since the 14th century but imagine the impressive view of the tower arches on entering the Church here.

There is a fine example of Saxon building on the west corners of the Nave, where large stones have been arranged alternately in long and short work to hold the corner of the building and the remainder of the walls done in freestone. There is a benchmark on the southwest corner stone.

At the east end of the Church is the stone coffin lid of a former priest and built into the wall is a memorial to a rector who died in 1750.

The Interior of the Church

On entering the nave you will at once notice the Saxon arcading.

The original placed Church high was up on lit the by walls small windows and beneath them ran a blank arcade, which appears to have extended the entire length on each side. Fig. 1 is a conjecture of the appearance of the interior of the north wall. There are diagrams hung in the Church to explain this.

The Tower arches are not the same. The nave tower arch has more Norman features and is wider. The chancel tower arch is more definitely Saxon so this indicates that the Church was built at the end of the Saxon period. Notice the rope motif of the imposts on the east side and the label moulding on the west side. The lower part of the curved mould on the west side has been chipped off, probably to make room for a rood gallery. Above it is a bracket which supported an early rood. And above that again is a doorway, now blocked and obscured which gave access to a gallery at the east end of the nave.

The font is 14th century and must have been most splendid in its time.

On the sides of the octagonal bowl are four shields and four signs of the evangelists. There are angels on the corners of the base and hanging shields on the octagonal stem,

The pulpit is jacobean carved oak, which has been very nicely restored. The picture at the back of the Church shows a sound board above the pulpit. The Reader's desk also has fine jacobean carved panels.

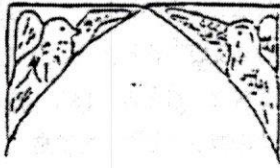


Figure 5

The angle piscina with a Norman pillar (Fig.3)

is in the nave with a window seat alongside.

There are two bells in the Tower; one inscribed "Thomas Newman made mee 1710". The other was made by John Draper in 1638. A third bell was cracked and sold in 1761.

In the floor of the Chancel is a brass coat of arms marking the grave of Henry Bastard who died in 1624. (This is covered by carpeting at present.)

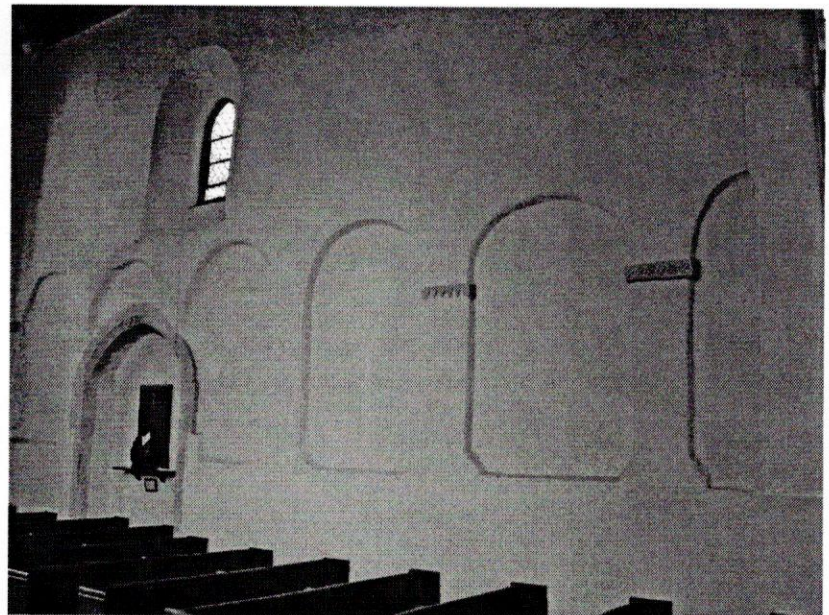
The piscina (Fig. 4) in the chancel is 15th century with a trefoil headed arch and nicely carved birds in the spandrels (Fig.5)

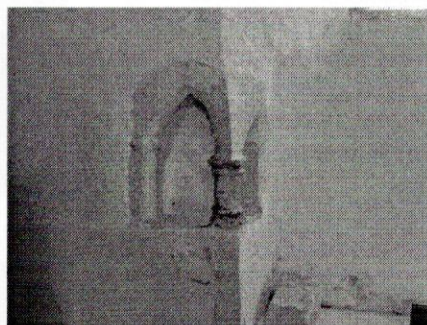
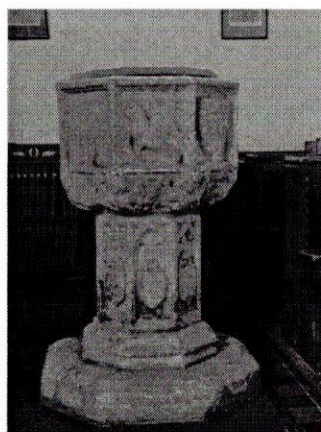
This Church most emphatically reminds us of the devotion of the earlier Christians in Great Dunham and how each succeeding generation for over 1000 years have prayed here and dedicated their lives to God. They have heard sermons from this pulpit for 300 years; they have brought their children to be baptised at this font for 600 years and they have brought their loved ones to be buried in this Churchyard for longer than we can possibly imagine.

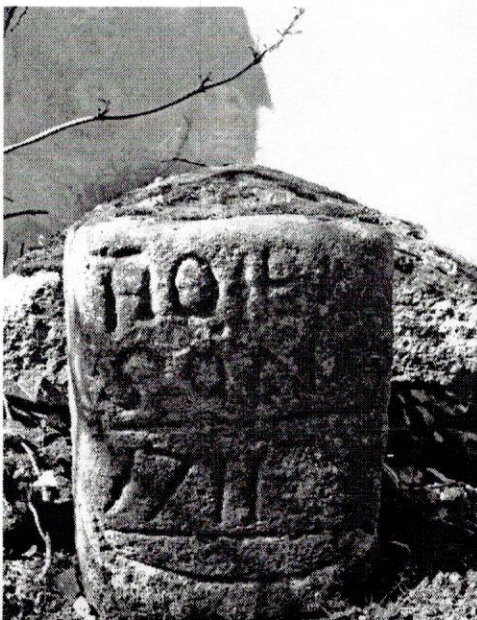
Further to these notes, which were written by Mr Butler Strong:

Around 2000 the bells were inspected with the view to get them working again. For many years, they had been rung by using the rope to throw the clapper against the bell and were, consequently very worn. It was discovered that the necessary repairs would have to involve the roof of the tower and the floors above and below the bell frame and, because it was not safe, that the bells should not be rung.

This work was eventually completed by a bellsmith called Mr Baines at a cost of £20354.49. Both bells are still in situ and the one that can be rung is now in a revolving cradle so it is parked in an inverted position.







These two photographs are of an unusual gravestone in the churchyard where the coffin shaped slab has its head embedded in the east wall of the church. The odd 'bridge' underneath is simply to allow for drainage. At the foot of this slab is a small stone with a name, possibly Thompson, and the date 1711 carved in it. Though the plaque on the wall nearby commemorates Ambrose Pimlow, his dates as rector were 1721 to 1752, the date of 1711 does not tally with those. Perhaps the smaller stone

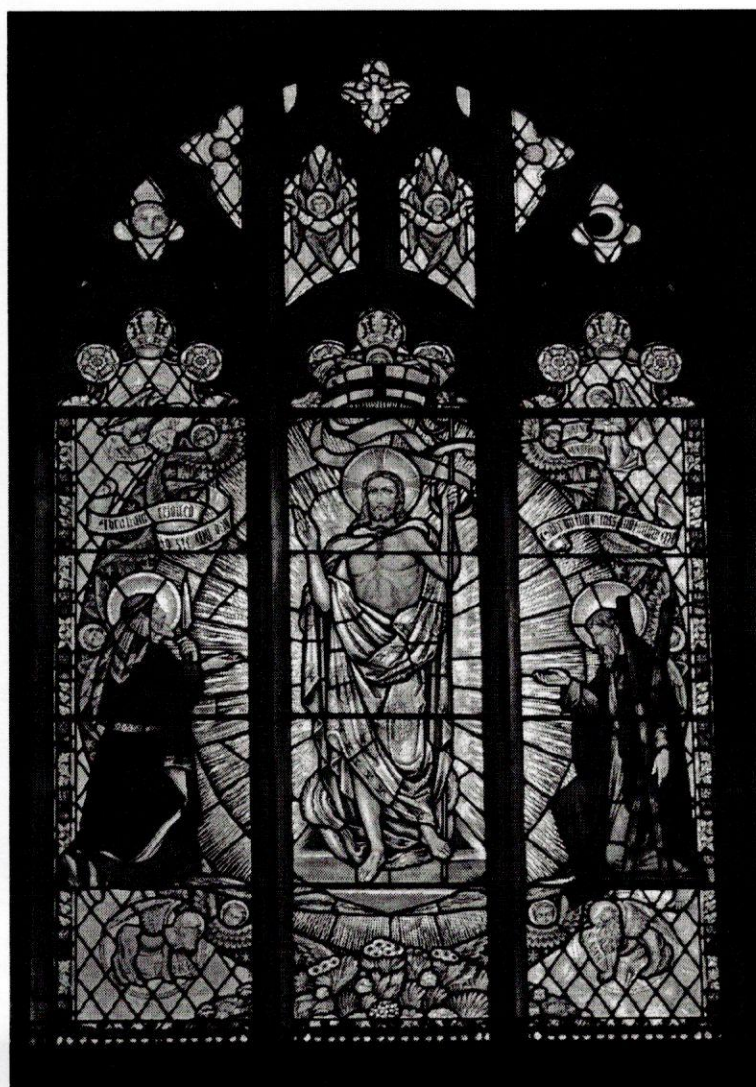
Memorial Window Dedicated at St Andrew's Church, Great Dunham

At Norwich Consistory on Saturday, citation was ordered to issue an application for the insertion of a stained glass window at the East end of the Chancel of Great Dunham Parish Church, in memory of the late Mr William Abraham Warnes, Church warden.

The new East window of Great Dunham Parish Church given in memory of Mr William Abraham Warnes by his widow, Mrs Warnes of The Hall, Great Dunham, was dedicated by the Bishop of Thetford on Sunday. Until his death about three years ago, Mr Warnes had been Church Warden

for 23 years. For 14 years before coming to Great Dunham, he lived at Litcham, where he also took an active part in the church and village life.

The centre light of the window depicts the resurrection, and the two side lights, St. Andrew, to whom the church is dedicated and Abraham. At both Litcham and Great Dunham, said the bishop, Mr Warnes had been the Rectors right hand man, counsellor and friend. His goodness was felt by many, and it was of that practical sort that left tangible evidence behind.



The only stained glass window in St Andrew's and the cover of the Dedication Service programme



DEVOTED PUBLIC WORKER

LATE MR. W. WARNES, OF GREAT DUNHAM

Mr. William Abraham Warnes, a prominent figure in public life, died at Great Dunham Hall on Monday, aged 85. He had been in failing health for over a year. A farmer at Great Dunham for 24 years, he was previously in business at Litcham and Southey. He was a native of Docking. Since 1930 Mr. Warnes had represented Great Dunham on Mitford and Launditch R.D.C., and for several years had been a member of its Housing Committee. He was on the Food Control Committee, too, and the Mid-Norfolk Assessment committee. He had served on the local Guardians Committee for a long period. Mrs. Warnes is also a member of Mitford and Launditch R.D.C., representing Lexham.

Chairman of Great Dunham Parish Council from 1930 to 1946, Mr. Warnes did not seek re-election last year owing to ill-health. He was also hon. clerk to the Parish Council throughout that period. From 1909 until leaving for Great Dunham, he was a member of Litcham Parish Council. He had been chairman of Great Dunham Charity Trustees from 1930. As a school manager, he served at Litcham 1909-23, and at Great Dunham until his death.

"ENDLESS TROUBLE"

In all his public work he was most conscientious, and took endless trouble to help the villagers. Reserved in manner, he held the respect of all sections of opinion.

For 34 years he had been a churchwarden. From 1913 to 1923 he filled that office at Litcham, and later at Great Dunham. A devoted worker, he gave fine service in both parishes. A keen sportsman, he was president of Great Dunham Cricket Club from 1923-46.

The funeral took place at Great Dunham Church on Thursday.

St. Andrew's Church, GREAT DUNHAM.

Order of Service

FOR THE
DEDICATION OF THE EAST WINDOW
DURING MORNING PRAYER,
11-15 A.M.

On Sunday, June 11th, 1950
(St. Barnabas' Day).

The Window will be dedicated by
The Right Rev. The BISHOP OF THETFORD
in memory of
WILLIAM ABRAHAM WARNES,
Churchwarden for 23 years.

On this and following pages are copies of the village newsheet, examples from 1928 to 1935. The Reverend E. C. S. Upcher, who wrote the first three of them is from the Upcher family of Sheringham Hall.

Great Dunham.

February 1928.

Holy Baptism. "Suffer little children to come unto Me."

Jan 7. 23rd Doreen Miriam Margaret, daughter of Miriam and Frederick Rawlings. (privately)

Funeral. "Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord"

Mary Spinks, aged 84 years.

Please note the following dates:-

4th Weds. 2.30. Mothers' Union at the Rectory.

5th Sun. Collections for the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel 2.45. pm Children's Service (Parents & others may come too)

6th Mon. 7.30 pm. S.P.G. Lantern Service in Church

21st Tues. G.F.S. Entertainment in Village Hall.

22nd Ash Wednesday. 2.30 pm. Working Party at the Hall.

7.30 pm. Lent Service in Church.

29th Weds. 7.30 pm. Lent Service - Intercession for Home Missions.

My dear Friends,

We have to record the death of another parishoner, Mrs Spinks, at the advanced age of 84. I am sure we should all like to express our sympathy with her husband & daughters, who waited on her so faithfully, especially during the failing years of her life.

On Sunday Feb. 5th our prayers, sermons & collections will be for the S.P.G. Missionary Society, & at the Lantern Service in Church on Monday evening the slides will be explained by the Rev. T. Hand, of Tattersett, who worked for 8 years in the Queensland bush.

Feb. 22nd Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent the season which comes to us with warnings, like that in Hebrews III. 12.

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." And may God give grace to each one of us, that we may see where in we have departed from Him, to a small or great amount, & that we may return to Him in penitence "While it is called Today" - let us all try & be regular in prayer, & at services asking God to help us in this matter.

Your friend & Rector E. C. S. Upcher -

2 Bible classes will be held at the Rectory on Feb. 14th & 28th at 2.30 pm

Great Dunham.

August 1929.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me."

Holy Baptism - July 7th -

Gordon Alan, son of Frederick and Miriam Rawlings.

David James, son of James and Ethel Smith.

Holy Matrimony. "Those whom God hath joined together, let
no man put asunder" -

July 6th Ernest Wilfrid Yull to Maud Ellen Taylor.

My dear Friends,

I expect that during part of this month, we shall be busy with harvest, let us hope & pray that it may be a prosperous one & that we shall have good weather for it - and we must not forget the many and various

harvests all the world over, that God in His goodness sends "that we may receive the fruits of the Earth in due season" - As August is the harvest & holiday

month there are not many engagements to announce. We are looking forward to a happy & successful fête on August Bank Holiday, & hope that many who cannot go far afield, will come & enjoy it.

At the M. V. meeting on August 14th, Mr. & Mrs. Hicks have very kindly promised to come & tell us about their life & work in Queensland, Australia.

The G. F. S. candidates have gained 2 more successes, in the Inter-diocesan competitions - the work being sent from Norwich to be re-judged in London - Irene Marshall for her story of a bird, & Mary Wyeth for her Knitting are to be congratulated. The G. F. S. festival

Great Dunham.

May 1930.

My dear Friends,

As this is the last magazine letter that I shall write to you, Mrs Upcher & I would like to take this opportunity of saying "Goodbye" (which means God be with you) to you all, we are trying to come & say it to each household individually, & if we do not manage it, it will only be for want of time; so to those whom we have not we say Goodbye, but I still hope we may meet from time to time as we are not going very far away.

My successor, the Rev. D. H. Briggs expects to be here before the end of May, so there will not be a long interval before he comes; & I know that the Churchwardens are arranging for services to be taken on all the Sundays. The Sunday School will be carried on as usual.

I am sure you will all give Mr & Mrs Briggs a very cordial welcome.

The Fumble Sale cleared £13.7.6 which will enable us to leave the Church finances in a satisfactory state. Thank you all for your help, both to those who gave & those who helped.

Again thanking all those who have shown us much kindness & real friendship during the eleven years we have been living here,

Your sincere friend.

E. C. S. Upcher.

D. H. Briggs took over as Rector in
XXXX

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

November 1933

ALL SAINTS DAY. This occurs on November 1st. The saints of God are those great ones who, through the centuries past have borne witness to the Faith, even unto the death of martyrdom, & having triumphed gloriously, have won their Crown of Life. They encourage us by their wonderful examples; they help us by their prayers; they live & serve God in their new Life; they are one with us in the great Family of God. We shall keep their Festival on Sunday, November 5th.

ARMISTICE DAY. This of course occurs on Saturday November 11th. We shall all keep the "two minutes silence" at 11 o'clock. During this short space we shall remain still to offer up a prayer of thankfulness and loving memory for those dear ones who laid down their lives for England. Two minutes before 11 o'clock the church bell will give the signal for the "silence". Sunday, November 12th being the nearest Sunday, will be also observed as before. A short service will be held, weather permitting at the memorial Cross a few minutes before 11 o'clock. Ex-service men are asked to attend, wearing their medals; after which we shall proceed to the church to complete the service. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord".

ST. ANDREW'S DAY. November 30th. This being the Festival of our Patron saint, we shall thank God for the Gift of our ancient church, and all that it means to us, of the means of grace and the hope of Glory.

THE GARDEN FETE. A Balance sheet hangs on the Church notice Board, and shows a net profit of £22.14.0.

MARRIAGES "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

October 7th ... Percy Everett & Harriet Gertrude Smith.
" 10th ... Arthur William Cooper & Eva Maud Myhill.
(at castle. acre) ... John Havers & Emma Louisa Archer
Oct. 28th ... David Cason & Bertha May Cornwell.

Very hearty congratulations to these happy couples!

It is with deep sorrow, that we have to record the death of Ellen Barton, which came with tragic suddenness. She was only confirmed last year, and was much loved by all who knew her.

R.I.P.

Your Sincere friend and Rector.

D. H. BRIGGS.

My dear friends.

We believe that on the whole Lent was kept better than usual, though there still remains much that might have been done. Up to date we have received very little in the way of Lenten savings; the Church box set aside for the distressed people of Canada has been largely neglected. We owe a debt of gratitude to those clergy who so kindly came to preach on the Wednesdays during Lent.

Easter Sunday was a happy day, and the attendance at Church was quite good. The Church itself, through the kindly help of decorators, was beautiful to behold.

Many of us can say, "We love the place O God wherein Thine honour dwells".

Our annual Vestry and Parochial Church meeting was held at the Rectory on April 5th. Our two retiring Wardens were duly re-elected as were also the members of our Parochial Church Council. To the latter were added the names of Mrs Everington and Mrs Perry of Hill Farm. We offer to these our heartiest congratulations.

The first general meeting of the council will be held on Tuesday, April 24th at 7.30. At this meeting it will be the business to map out the work for this ensuing year. We believe that our parochial efforts will be placed in good hands, and we wish them every success.

Members of the Mothers Union are invited to attend a meeting at the Rectory on Friday, April 13th at 2 o'clock to re-elect Committee, work for the Fete, etc.

Summer time begins on Sunday, April 22nd. Don't forget to put your clocks on one hour. Somehow it will seem that we have jumped into Summer before we have had much of the joys of Spring. The cold weather seems to have laid many of us low. Mrs Worley Clarke is attending the Hospital for treatment; Mrs Rawlings is ill, and a serious accident to Mr Sidney Whales' eye has caused much concern, and he is now in the Hospital. We wish all these speedy recovery.

Burial.

March 14th. John Spinks, aged 84 years. We offer sympathy with the bereaved. R.I.P.

Yours very truly,
D.H.Briggs.

ooooOoooo

Dear friends of Dunham Magna.

July 1935.

Here is July once more with us, and the height of Summer. What glorious weather, and despite all, the promise of a good harvest! Many of us begin to think of holidays, the call of the seaside and the open air. All this is good and delights the heart. But just one word may we add? In all your pleasures don't forget God. Take Him with you in your pleasures. Never let a Sunday go by without doing something for Him. If you want to go off for the day, meet Him in your Church in the early morning, or visit some other Church. Do you remember Our Lord's words:- "What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." Or again in the Epistle to the Hebrews, we are warned "not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is." This ought to be our pleasure; it is our bounden duty and service.

We are to work hard at our annual effort to raise money, and this year two thirds of the profit is to go to the Village Hall. First, we have the Jumble Sale in the Rectory grounds on Saturday, July 6th, at 3 pm. (if wet, in the Village Hall.) Then of course we are looking forward to the Garden Fete on Bank Holiday, August 5th. This is to be opened by Mrs E. Upcher. We shall give our old Rector and his wife a hearty welcome. And now please note that we are relying on our workers of former years to give us their valued help. Please, everybody, roll up and do your best! In addition to the usual competitions, we are to have a Baby Show, a parade of decorated bicycles and prams, a judging of noses and ankles, a hat trimming competition for men, and Bowls. Mrs Everington and Mrs Barnes have most kindly promised to organize a Children's Dress Parade. (The dresses ought to be the cheapest and most original.) This was a great success last year. Then of course comes the Comic Cricket Match (reversed sexes.) We shall want to hear the same roars of laughter as last year. Prizes will be offered for the various items. Bennett's Radio Band will play during the afternoon, and Gordon Gotts augmented Band in the evening for dancing (price of tickets 1/3.)

All stalls, etc, should be in position on the Saturday previous.

Burials.

June 6th. Harriet. Elizabeth. Hubbard, aged 85 years.

" 27 th. Edward Hubbard, aged 70 years.

We desire to offer sympathy with the bereaved.

Yours very truly,
D.H.Briggs.

ooooo

February 1938.

My dear friends.

True Bible lovers must believe in the necessity of "The Laying On of Hands" - the Bible name for Confirmation. Get your Bible, and just read the following passages and judge for yourselves.

- (1). Christ's promise of the coming of the Holy Ghost: St John ch 14 (15 - 18; 26 & 27) St John ch 16 (7 - 12) Acts ch 1 (4, 5, 8)
- (2). The Descent of the Holy Ghost Acts ch 2 (1 - 4)
- (3). The first Confirmation Service. Acts ch 8 (14 - 17)
- (4). Second Confirmation Service. Acts ch 19 (1 - 7)

Ask yourselves the question "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believe?" If not, why not?

"Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?"

Give your name in to the Rector, as He is anxious to commence classes, and do it quickly.

The Rector proposes an innovation during Lent. Instead of the ordinary Sunday evening service at 6.30, he is arranging to have lantern services. The slides will be very beautiful coloured ones, and should appeal to all those who do not ordinarily, perhaps, attend their Church at that hour. The Church of course will be darkened, and the Rector very earnestly invites you all to come, and everybody will be welcome.

There have been many happy social gatherings during the past month.

Mrs Peter Whales very kindly entertained the members of the M.U. to tea on Jan: 8th. The general public were invited to a concert afterwards, when the "Tartans" gave a splendid display of talent, and "brought down the house".

On Jan: 13th the Sunday School Children greatly enjoyed themselves. After tea a Conjurer puzzled us all. The "Gentleman" who sat on his knee was pronounced by the younger ones as being "a real man", because he moved and talked!

On Jan: 19th the Day School children had another treat. It was got up by Mrs Smith and Mrs Bambridge. The children enjoyed themselves greatly round a Christmas Tree. The jolly time afterwards was spent by practically the whole Village. We warmly thank all those who so kindly entertained both old and young during the winter month of January.

More social events to come!

A Whist Drive and Dance on Thursday, Feb 3rd in the Village Hall. (this happy event is intended to afford an appreciation of Mr and Mrs Porter in their splendid work for the Village Hall)

On Thursday, Feb: 17th, a Social for the purpose of purchasing a gramophone for the School - it will give much happiness to the youngsters, and commences at 8 o'clock.

Sewing Parties, on behalf of the Hospital, every Wednesday in Lent, commencing March 2nd, at the Hall.

Marriage. Jan: 15th Ernest Goodwin Bloomfield and Elizabeth Geraldine Wyatt - hearty congratulations to the happy couple.

Burials. Jan: 15th Elizabeth Hunter aged 81 yrs.

17th John Ellis aged 88 yrs. Sympathies with the

Yrs very truly, D.H. Briggs.

bereaved.

Reminiscences of Great Dunham Chapel

Many friends hold a great affection for the chapel at Great Dunham. Some of them have been willing to share their memories with us and these have been put together to make up this booklet, which we hope will bring pleasure to all who read it.

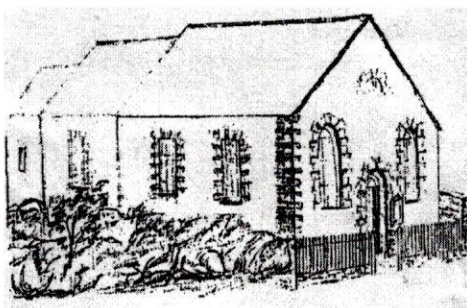
An article from the Primitive Methodist Church Centenary Celebrations 'Souvenir of Swaffham Circuit, 1836-1897'.

Great Dunham

As early as the year 1834-5 there appeared on the Lynn Circuit Plan, the following note:

'Anniversary Sermons will be preached at Great Dunham, October 19th by Mr. Grant, and at the September Quarterly Meeting, 1938, it was found that a preacher had been somewhat remiss in the discharge of his duties, to correct which, it was resolved 'that Brother C— sink on the plan for neglecting 'that Great Dunham stand next Litcham' (on plan). For some reason, however, the cause lapsed, prior to the ministry of Thos. Mackill and W. Peaceful, who in their report of 1843, speak of it's being remissioned by preachers from Little Dunham. The most cheering account we have of it's history is given in the Primitive Methodist Magazine, of the above year:

'Great Dunham has been lately opened, and here the Lord has singularly turned upon us the hand of His mercy. The opposition to our entrance, which sprang from a *Religious Quarter* was great, though finally overcome. We have obtained a house to preach in; and the word has been like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. About thirty souls have been converted since we entered the place, and twenty of these have joined our Society.' For some years, a hired building was used, and the present chapel and Schoolroom were erected in 1867, at a cost of £206, with only £58 debt when opened, Henry and Mrs. Newell, with Edward and Mrs. Barrett will long be remembered for their noble service rendered to this Village Society and



Week by week our Bro. Barrett has visited the homes of the people, distributing Gospel Tracts and thus witnessing for Christ. The mother of Bro. Isaac Cox had the honour of entertaining Hugh Bourne on his visit to the village, but both have long since gone home to meet again in the mansions on high. Henry Cory was class leader, made a home for the preacher and was for a long time the stay of the church. This place is noted for its missionary enthusiasm and generosity, Mrs. E. Barrett and the late Mrs. John Waller having been for many years ardent workers and successful missionary collectors.'

* * *

Preachers of Swaffham Station 1907

This lists number 37 as I. Cox, of Great Dunham, a member for 22 years, and a preacher for 14 years.

And number 60 as R. Stocking, of Great Dunham, a member for 25 years, and a preacher for 14 years.

Society Steward for Great Dunham in that year was H. Newell.

* * *

The Methodist Church

This is situated at the top of North Street. There used to be two services each Sunday

There have been 3 chapels in Great Dunham. The present one which was a Primitive Methodist is now a private dwelling, further down North Street on the opposite side of the road was a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which has been demolished and for a short time there was a chapel associated with the house now known as The Smithy in the Castleacre Road. This has also not survived.

Reproduced here is the text of a booklet of reminiscences of the Primitive Methodist Chapel by people involved with it and who worshipped there

miles to be there. Mr. Cox and the Barrett family had a large Sunday School. The chapel's anniversary took place on a summers day each year with pupils saying recitations, etc. This was the day when all the children had pretty new clothes to wear. At Whitsuntide a small organ was put on a large farm wagon drawn by a quiet horse. The children and Sunday School teachers sat in the wagon and drove round the village singing. They would then finish at the meadow near Litcham road and have tea and games.

Taken from 'Then and Now' by Albert Large, 1987

* * *

Social Activities and Services to Others

The following brief items are taken from a scrapbook style poster, which appears to have been put together around 1962:

This church was built in 1867 and shortly afterwards a Sunday School was formed.

♦

The membership of the church is now 10 and there are 25 children in the Sunday School.

♦

1962 – this year we are the holders of three circuit trophies: the Scripture Examination Shield; The Sports Cup and the Youth Festival Cup.

♦

The 1st Dunham Company of the Girls' Life Brigade was formed in 1958 with a membership of 14 in 1962 is also mentioned.

♦

Social Activities mentioned include: a happy week spent Youth Hostelling in the Peak District; the Sunday School Annual Summer Outing to the seaside; fortnightly Sunday School, with members over eight years old meeting at the Superintendent's home for tea, games, Bible study and discussion; the Annual Circuit Sports and twice winning the cup; young people attending a Youth Weekend at Raxawa; and joining with the King's Lynn Circuit and enjoying a 'profitable weekend.'

♦

Under Service to Others: the Norfolk County Council Residential Home for the

elderly, Westfields, in Swaffham seems to have benefited. A picture, unfortunately too dark to reproduce, shows the Sunday School outside the home. A letter from the County Social Services Officer, S. P. Utting reads:

Dear Madam,

At the last meeting of the Westfields Management Sub-Committee the Matron reported that the Dunham Methodist Sunday School children had held an Easter service and presented posies to the residents of Westfields and this was very greatly appreciated. I was asked by the Management sub-Committee to convey their thanks to you and the children of the Sunday School and to say how much they appreciate the interest you are taking in the Home.

♦

Carol Singing at Christmas time together with a Gift Service with all the proceeds going to Sheringham National Children's Home was another annual event.

* * *

Newspaper clips from the same poster read:

20 Questions for Methodist Circuit Youth

Swaffham Methodist Circuit Youth Fellowship held a 'Twenty Questions' session when they met at Westacre Methodist Church on Saturday, Mrs. G. Butcher of Little Dunham was questionmaster and members of the panel were Mrs. H. W. Charity, Mr. D. Charity (Swaffham), Mr. George Read (Litcham), and Mrs. B. Smith (Great Dunham).

Chairman for the meeting was Dorothy Moore of Little Dunham and the lesson was read by Ann Harrowing, of Narford. Members of the Great Dunham Church rendered a quintet and the prayers were led by Sister Eileen Beckett.

Residents of the Westfields Old People's Home at Swaffham had a visit from a party of 25 pupils and teachers of Great Dunham Methodist Sunday School and Girls' Life Brigade. They conducted a service and soloists were Susan Scott, Bridget Moore and Rosemary Zywnko.

Old People's Service

The residents of the Westfields Old People's Home, Swaffham, had a visit from a party of young people of Great Dunham Methodist Church on Friday, and they presented a

service of harvest festival. The children formed a large choir and they were from the Sunday School and Life Brigade at Dunham.

The service was conducted by Mrs. Hazel Martin, and the pianist was her sister, Mrs. Jessie Smith. The young people took along a great quantity of flowers, fruit and vegetables, and they presented flowers to the oldest residents of the home.

Great Dunham

Several members of Great Dunham Methodist Sunday School under two teachers, Miss J. Barrett and Miss H. Barrett, decorated one of their school rooms which had previously been used as a lumber room. As the number of scholars is increasing it has been decided to utilise this room as a classroom. The ages of those helping ranged from 9 to 12 years, and among the workers were Ann Cason, Susan Gore, Heather Thompson, Janet Halls, Barry Gore, David Jeary and Christopher Jeary. They dis-tempered walls painted doors and windows, varnished furniture, and did a host of other jobs.

* * *

Memories of Great Dunham Chapel

My memories go back a long way, I can remember as a very small boy being taken to Chapel with my whole family of eight – four boys, two girls and mother and father – sitting in two seats. When old enough we all took part in the Sunday School Anniversary. About forty children were in the Sunday School and the Chapel used to be full with people filling the aisle. The Tuesday following the services we had a wonderful time. We all had to be at the Chapel by 10.00 am to wait for the wagon to come up the road. This took us round the village as we all sang. Someone went round with a box to collect money for the Sunday School.

We had to go to Chapel every Sunday, and we got bored as there wasn't much taking place until the next year.

Quite a number of Sunday School boys and girls grew up to be members of the Chapel.

When the older pupils had to go to college, the numbers started to fall until they came home again and started work and took over the Sunday School work.

Four of these young people became Local Preachers including our two daughters. One of the others (now Mrs. Ruth Butcher-

Haines) is now President of LPMA.

The preacher very often walked miles to take the service and would stay to tea with someone before taking the evening service. Very often after this service there would be a Prayer Meeting.

Now we come to more modern times. My wife (Daisy) was now the Sunday School Superintendent, and when the war came things changed a lot. Numbers fell until there were only a few left.

When the war was over, we started up another Sunday School. Some of the young people started to come back and this was a very exciting time. With a good Sunday School the parents came to the services. Then a new Vicar (Rector) came to live in the village and said he would hike to start an Anglican Sunday School, but he didn't want to take any of our children away. He hoped we would all be able to work together. This worked wonderfully, as our Pastor was also willing to co-operate. Once a month the children from the Anglican Church came to our Chapel and the Rector took the service. Alternately, he invited our congregation and children to his church and our Pastor preached. This worked well for several years and was a great success.

The Chapel made good progress and for six years after my wife died I still looked after the Chapel with Joan and Jean, then I got married again and left the village.

Arthur Barrett

Sunday School Prize Giving
circa 1959



Left to right

Back row: —?—, Vallerie Waller, Jean Barret, Pearl Smith, —?—

Middle row: Alan Cason, Barry Gore, Heather Thompson, Mary Gore, — Cason

Reader's Services

My memories of the Chapel at Great Dunham, is taking Reader's services during the 1960's and 1970's. These were happy times in the Swaffham Circuit.

I used to pick up Miss Ethel Wright at Little Dunham on Sunday afternoons, and later a lady from the the council houses at Great Dunham.

Arthur Barrett's brother used to attend services, the Barrett family looked after the chapel. The members of the Circuit always supported Dunham's special services, such as choir evenings (with refreshments). The Circuit choir also gave musical evenings there. Sunday School Anniversaries were always well supported.

Margaret Banham

From the LPMA President

This chapel has always been dear to me. As a child and teenager my life revolved around it, I even lived next door to it. Sunday School, Worship, Guild, Mission Band and my beginnings as a Local Preacher all stemmed from this wayside Bethel. I was given a good foundation in the Scriptures within its walls, cared for and encouraged to see God in every part of life.

The Sunday School teachers, congregation, sincere Local Preachers (who came along week by week, mostly by bicycle and in all weathers), Pastors and Ministers all showed me something of God's wonderful love, not just by words but by their way of life.

We had such fun too! Sitting to the side of the pulpit we would mimic some of their peculiarities, preachers in those days moved about quite a lot and we often wondered if they would fall out of the pulpit in their exuberance.

We collected silver paper from sweets, it being during and soon after the war, and often during the sermon the sound of fingernail on this paper being carefully flattened could be heard, but the preachers never let this annoy them.

One man could only just be seen over the pulpit but his huge white-haired eyebrows and his lovely smile entranced us. He always brought pretty cards with a text to give each young person, a treasure for our Bibles. I still have one or two!

On occasion we performed plays with missionary themes, and had much fun dressing up and putting colour on our

a black person, only read about the different races. We worked hard for the Scripture Examinations and gained very good marks.

Sports days were a highlight too, competing with other Sunday Schools around the Circuit.

I was allowed to practice playing the harmonium and this began a life of music within the church which has given me such opportunity and pleasure ever since.

At this point I must say that among the members at the time Daisy and Arthur Barrett were outstanding in their love and devotion as leaders, and encouragers. Looking back, I realise that as youngsters we always played a part in the life of the chapel, not hidden in the background away from the adult congregation. Our faltering attempts were never sneered at, but we were urged on and helped to improve and to grow in many ways.

My father Cecil Wade heard the call to preach while a member there and together we stood to be recognised and accredited as Methodist Local Preachers what an honour for our family and a tribute to those who had over the years seen our potential and by prayer and practical help offered guidance. But that was Great Dunham Chapel.

The doors of this Bethel may close, but drops of love, grace and mercy will continue to drop from the lives of those who have been influenced when within its walls. Who knows how many people of all ages have been touched for good since it was built, or where the ripples have reached in our world, only God our Creator Father knows and He will continue to bless as He works out His purpose for all people.

To Great Dunham Chapel – well done for spreading the Good News over many years.

Ruth Haines

A Few Memories

I attended the Sunday School as a very small girl and eventually as a teenager was able to teach the class of little ones under the eye of Mrs. Daisy Barrett. Aunt Daisy taught me in day school, in the 'little room', and in chapel so obviously she had a great influence on my life.

The chapel gave us a full life, there was the yearly excitement of the S.S. Anniversary services when the congregation would spill over and some had to be just outside the doors. A stage put up by Uncle Arthur and helpers was filled with children all on



edge. Would we remember our lines when it came to our turn? The little girls all wore hats which had been refurbished by loving mothers with new ribbons. Uncle Joe (Bly) usually led the programme and had such a happy face, this gave us assurance as he encouraged each one to do our best.

We performed plays, I remember being made up as a Burmese girl on one occasion. We joined the Mission Band and I would sing a solo or duet during the services in other parts of the Circuit to which we had cycled.

We learned Services of Song and performed

them around the Circuit, the story between the songs always had a moral and Bible message.

Our Sunday School outings (real treats in those days soon after the war), there was great excitement as we neared the sea, 'who would see it first!' the cries went up as the ocean came into our line of vision. Poor bus driver how did he keep his cool!

The Local Preachers came and always gave the children a story, I remember Harry Ayres who was virtually blind, he really knew his Bible, and Harry Dawson who gave us card texts to keep. Clarence Howlett

Swaffham Circuit Sports, circa 1953



Dunham's winning team,

started his services with the same hymn 'My God, is any hour so sweet,' we sat in anticipation, would he change it this time? Dear Pastor Cook, 'Pasture Cook' we called him, who spent much time teaching us the Gospel of Jesus, not just by words but by his actions, and his interest in us.

We were all one big family in Great Dunham Chapel, and I shall never forget the people or the impact it has had on my life.

Cicely Rayner (née Wade)

To Remember . . .

To remember Great Dunham Chapel, its shape, the pews, the pulpit, the clock on the wall, the little hall at the back – where I had a king of study – is to remember so very much more.

To remember the events and people, especially the people, the Christian folk who are the church.

I came green, just demobbed from National Service in the Royal Air Force in Germany; for me a new situation in a new area amongst new people.

It was 12.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd October last that I arrived at Swaffham, and now it is mid-June, how the time has flown . . . I had so much to learn – to be a civilian, to understand the language, as well as to be a pastor.

The great help I received came from numerous quarters, so many that it would be impossible to list them; . . . So I wrote in the July–September Swaffham Circuit plan of 1958.

Ten months after arriving I was off to Richmond College for training for the Ministry. How often during my college days was I thankful for the insights I had received during my time at Great Dunham.

Forty years have passed and so much is happily etched on my memory, as if it were but yesterday. But of all the things and of all the people it is the Family Wade that I remember with love and joy most of all. They welcomed me into their home, next door but one to the chapel, and treated me as one of the family. To remember Great Dunham Chapel is to remember them.

The chapel may close, but the church lives on in the body of Jesus —Christian people.

As long as I have memory Great Dunham Chapel and people will live there.

*Rev. E. Peter G. Pomery, Truro, Cornwall,
August 1998*

Great Dunham Chapel 1998

I have lived in the village most of my life and I have attended the Chapel nearly every Sunday afternoon at 2.30 pm. I have seen many preachers come and go and have also attended the Chapel Sunday School when I was a little girl about 10 years old, that was 54 years ago. There was no Sunday School at church so my parents sent me to chapel.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett ran the Sunday School and there were about 20 of us in the Sunday School.

The Sunday School room was at the back of the chapel and when you came round to the front you went into the main part of the chapel.



1962 holders of the three
Circuit Trophies, Scripture Exam
Shield, Sports Cup and Youth

When we had our Anniversaries we all had to say a recitation each and I can remember Mrs. Barrett getting me to play an organ solo, as I was learning to play the piano at the time. I also sang a solo one year and I remember my grandfather who was in the congregation saying 'that was lovely' and clapped his hands.

But of course there hasn't been a Sunday School at the Chapel for many years now as the children became less and less and the parents didn't send their children any more. Then as the years passed by and I was older I used to play for the services until I started playing at church at East and West Lexham.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett looked after the chapel for many years until Mrs. Barrett became ill and later died. Mr. Barrett carried on for a while and then he married again and went to live at East Dereham. Mrs. Jean Gower took over and became steward and to this day we have about 10 regularly going to the services.

Now we learn that the Chapel is going to be closed in September 1998 as we cannot afford to have it done up. It requires too much money to have it repaired. It will be sad to see it closed as my father and grandfather went there when the chapel used to be full especially for the Anniversaries.

I hope you will like my little piece about Dunham Chapel and that it will be of interest to people in years to come

Mrs. Margaret E. Brewster

Organist at Twelve

Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Cox and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunter were the stewards of the Chapel when I was first taken there when I was six-years-old in 1926 by my grandmother.

The chapel had a large congregation, several children included and Miss Daisy Cox (later Mrs. Arthur Barrett) and Miss Aggie Barrett (Mr. A. Barrett's sister) played the organ. The preachers came on cycles or walked, one came in a pony and cart and they always stayed to tea with one of the Stewards because there were always evening services at 6.30 pm.

A very popular Sunday School was run and of course the Annual Outing to Hunstanton for Sunday School members in the summer, the small Sunday School organ was put on a wagon and the teachers and children went on the wagon round the village singing

and collecting for the chapel. At the end of the day they went to a meadow where tea, lemonade and a picnic was prepared by chapel members.

I first played the chapel organ when I was twelve years old and continued until I was 18 years old when I went out to work.

Another lovely memory was of Chapel Harvest Thanksgiving and then the weekday sale of all the produce. My mother used to make bags of Everton toffee and Mrs Cox made coconut ice. The chapel used to be packed with village people to buy the goods and young Mr. Norman Wagg from Litcham was a popular auctioneer, saying, 'Going - Going -Gone' at the end of each item.

Mr Arthur Barrett and his wife Daisy kept the Sunday School going very successfully and then their daughters Jean and Hazel, and Ruth Wade organised sports and got many certificates at the Sports and Youth Festivals covering a wide area.

A wonderful Sunday School Anniversary used to be the Sunday we enjoyed in the 50s and 60s, Mr. Joe Bly (Jenny Colman's father) was a very popular preacher to have on the S.S. Anniversary, he would always have interesting stories to tell the children.

Joan Smith (Organist and Secretary)

Our Special Memory of Great Dunham Chapel

We always associated Great Dunham Chapel with Arthur and Daisy Barrett, Hazel and Jean - great friends of ours.

On September 28th 1969, Eddy and I, our daughters Sue, 3, and Sharon, 3 months, our family and friends, made our way to Great Dunham chapel for the 2.30 pm service, where Sharon was to be Christened.

Rev. Frank Mellor was conducting the service, but as it turned out, he was having trouble with his voice, and asked 'Uncle' Arthur to help him with the Christening. He had always taken such interest in our children, and it seemed so right that he should take part in this special service.

This really made the day for us, and left it in our memories as a very special and happy occasion.

Joyce and Eddy Arbon

Tracing Our Roots to a Village Chapel

I was the minister with pastoral oversight of Dunham from 1981 to 1984 and have very

those days Arthur Barrett was a real stalwart who held things together. When he married and moved to Dereham we were very pleased when Jean Gower offered to step in. The congregation averaged about ten and we had some happy services. We had good relations with the Anglicans, typified by Joan Smith playing the organ for both Churches. I preached in the Parish Church on Remembrance Sundays and the Rector, Rev. Brian Cole regularly took services on our plan.

This is a time for remembering with gratitude the faithful service and Christian witness of many who have gone before us and of the influence of the Chapel on their lives. In giving thanks for this we recall also that Dunham was in fact an amalgamation of Great and Little Dunham. I preached at the latter way back in 1963 and was entertained to tea by George and Ruth Butcher.

Their good work at the LPMA home in Minehead until George's death and Ruth's becoming President of the LPMA is a sign that the influence of a Chapel lives on long after it has closed. I know in my own family, two of us are in the ministry, there is a District Enabler and there have been numerous Church officers and local preachers, all tracing our roots to a village Chapel which was closed years before I was born.

Rev. John Garfoot, King's Lynn, August 1998

My First Book of Prayers

My memory of Dunham Chapel is rather unusual, in so much that the building itself was completely unknown to me at the time, and in fact I probably didn't even set eyes on the building until some ten years later.

We should, however, begin at the beginning.

The first day at a new school is a traumatic day for anyone.

What I didn't know that September morning as I waited, a terrified five year old, outside the gates of Weasenham Primary School, was that the incoming infants weren't the only newcomers to the school that day. 'Miss' was also facing her first day. During the next two years 'Miss' was to become the focus of my life during the school week.

I was a lucky child by dint of the fact that my grandfather lived with us, and had taught me to read from a very tender age. Consequently, by the time I started school

while the others were grappling with 'The cat sat on the mat', my reading fare was the Daily Mirror.

It never occurred to me that the unending stream of reading material which came my way was appearing courtesy of 'Miss'. Well, at five it wouldn't, would it?

It was a sad day when 'Miss' left. As a parting gift I was presented with a small book, 'My first book of prayers', by her.

Seven years passed by, and at the age of fourteen I discovered the church. At a youth event at Great Massingham I was introduced to a lady named Jean Smith.

'Hallo Stephen, I haven't seen you for years.'

'Presumably, I am supposed to know this lady', I thought, but be blowed if I know where from!

Well it probably wasn't exactly like this, but that's the gist of it.

'You probably remember me as Jean Barrett from Weasenham School.' Of course, it was 'Miss'.

And so, at last, we get to the beginning of the story.

You see, Jean is the daughter of Arthur Barrett, and of course she was brought up into the world of Dunham Chapel, so these early influences on my life came from the love and witness found in that building, and yes, I still have 'My first book of prayers.'

Stephen Lynn, Treasurer

Fellowship and Friendship

There are so many happy and rewarding memories, even for the comparatively short time I have been part of Dunham Chapel.

Preparing together for Harvest Festival, decorating for Christmas services, and getting everything ready for Chapel Anniversaries.

Looking forward to a visit from our District Chairman. Welcoming new Ministers as they came into the Circuit.

There has always been a great feeling of fellowship and friendship, and this was very supportive during the difficult and sad times we have all experienced over the years.

It is with much sadness we realise that John Dawson and I will be the last Stewards of Great Dunham Methodist Chapel.

Jean Gower, Church Steward



In this photo, taken when the children of Great Dunham Primary School were doing a survey of the village, the chapel was fronted by a block wall. Today, the Chapel has been turned into a private dwelling and has no wall at all but in the earlier, prize giving photo the Chapel is fronted with a white paling fence.

The Fellowship Continues

The Chapel at Great Dunham was built by the hands of those who sincerely believed that there was a need for a non-conformist place of worship in the village.

Over the years many generations have come here to worship.. Children have been baptised, and at one time the Sunday School flourished.

Those children have grown up, married, and have children of their own, grandchildren too, Many have left the village. But the memories of happy times spent there remain.

Now the pretty little flint-faced building is to close. And to those loyal few who have remained so faithful and worked so hard to maintain the chapel, this is a bereavement.

But although the church building is to close, the church remains, for it is, essentially the people. The fellowship will continue and the seeds sown will grow in other places.

This is a new beginning and we take comfort that nothing offered to God is ever wasted. We cannot measure the harvest from the witness here.. But we believe God will use all that has been given in His own special way.

And God is still alive in Dunham, offering his constant care to us, and giving us his unconditional love.

We are part of that great cloud of witnesses and for that we give thanks. Shalom

*Rev. Pam Bayliss
Minister for Dunham
Swaffham and Dereham Circuit, 1998*

Sept 8th 1938

THE GHOST OF GREAT DUNHAM

Rector's Account of Apparition in Church

Visiting the ancient church of Great Dunham in the course of a day's excursion yesterday, members of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society heard a strange story of a ghostly figure that has been seen in and near the building.

Great Dunham Church dates from Saxon times and stands a little way from the road, screened by trees. It is one of the oldest places of worship in Norfolk. While the members were inspecting the interior the Rector (the Rev D H Briggs) mentioned quite casually that "a grey ghostly figure" was seen to walk across the chancel and to enter the vestry during Evensong about a month ago.

Eagerly questioned by members, some of whom were distinctly sceptical. Mr Briggs said, "My son, aged 24, saw the figure walk across the chancel and disappear into the vestry. It was also seen by another member of the congregation. It happened while we were singing a hymn."

There is no legend of a ghost haunting Great Dunham so far as the Rector knows and he has held the living for eight years, but he revealed that his gardener claimed to have seen a big hooded figure in black walking across the churchyard. He was on the road when it happened and he stood "rooted to the ground and shaking with terror." The Rector was at a loss to explain why the ghostly visitant at evensong should have entered the vestry - a comparatively modern addition to the building. Asked if he had seen it himself Mr Briggs replied: "I am not one of the sort that sees these things."