

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Kettleburgh

Suffolk



A History and Guide

THIS history and guide is written in replacement of an earlier guide by the late W M Morfrey (1989), now out of print. In its compilation I have endeavoured to extend and update Mr Morfrey's excellent Guide. I have drawn extensively on earlier authors, especially Robert Hawes, whose monumental manuscript *History or Memoirs of Framlingham & Loes Hundred in Suffolk* (1712) (British Library Add. Mss. 33247) gives a valuable insight into the appearance of the church before the extensive remodelling of the church in the 1860s, and D E Davy's *Suffolk Collections* vol. XX (B.L. Add. Mss 19096). These works are available locally on microfilm and as typescript extracts at Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich. I am indebted to The Revd. Roger J Dixon, M.A., Priest-in-Charge of the united benefice of Brandeston and Kettleburgh, for assistance and encouragement. Errors and omissions herein are mine alone.

In researching this history, I have become increasingly aware of ambiguities and inconsistencies in the written record; there is certainly opportunity for further study. If in some small way I have encouraged in others an interest in the history and fabric of our churches, I am well satisfied.

Photographs are by the author, line illustrations by Gwyneth Fookes.

Robert Warner
Upper Norwood, London
June 1998

WE WELCOME YOU in the name of Jesus Christ and invite you to pray for God's work in this place. We hope that you enjoy your visit, and find peace in this much loved building and its beautiful surroundings. Any gift that you may leave will be gratefully received towards the maintenance of our church. Thank you and God bless you.

St Andrew's Church

A church has stood in Kettleburgh since at least Saxon times. Domesday book tells us that in King Edward's time Edric Grim held the manor of Kettleburgh as one manor, for four carucates of land, half under the patronage of St. Etheldreda's (Ely Abbey), and half under that of Edric of Laxfield. In 1086 it was held by Count Alan.

The present church dates mainly from the 14th century, but the structure incorporates earlier work, for during repairs carried out in 1952 remains of a small window, thought to be Saxon, were uncovered. There is also a 13th century coffin slab in the chancel, and a stone coffin built into the south-east wall of the nave – presumably pre-dating the construction of the wall.

Exterior

The church consists of a square western **Tower**, a **Nave** with a **South Porch**, and a **Chancel**. Overall the church is about 27 metres (88 ft) in length and about 6.5 metres (21ft) in width. The **Tower**, about 15.7 metres (51 ft) in height, is of the Decorated period, about 1350. It has battlements, and flushwork decoration at its base, and on the diagonal buttresses standing at the south-west and north-west angles.

The windows of south side are irregular, mostly of 15th century date. The second tier of two-light windows high in the wall may have been inserted as a preliminary to the construction of a south aisle which was never carried out. The low **Priest's Door** appears to be 14th century. The **East Window** is in the Perpendicular style; together with some of the south windows marking alterations made during the 1400s. In the north wall, at the east end of the nave, a **blocked archway** marks the **Chantry Chapel** of the Charles family, whose tombs used to lie there. The late-14th century **Piscina** that served the chapel's altar remains to the east of the arch. The **North Door** led to a wicket gate at the far end of the churchyard, and a footpath to the old Rectory, about a quarter of a mile further north. Kettleburgh Old Hall, home of the Charles family from 1265 to 1507, when it was purchased by Thomas Stebbing, stood 'about the flight of an arrow from the north-west end of the church'. Hawes (1712) tells us that it was a large house built of flint stone, 'built (as appears from the foundation) upon a piece of land containing two acres, encompassed with a large and deep moat'. Part of the moat remains. Kettleburgh New Hall, built in the 16th century, stands about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile to the south-east of the church.

The **South Porch** has lost its 15th century parapet, perhaps sometime in the 18th or 19th century when the pitch of its roof was lowered and a two-light window inserted over it, together with a similar one over the north door, to give more light to the west end of the church, including the gallery formerly there. The **South Door** is ancient.

Interior

At the west end of the **Nave**, spanning the tower arch there was formerly a small but elegant **Gallery**, erected in 1710. Hawes (1712) described it as 'having a swelling bolection-work front of right wainscot with an architrave, frieze and cornice,

by a fluted column of the Ionic Order'. He records that it 'was built partly by subscription, partly at the parish charge, and the donations were so small that the largest did not exceed 15 shillings' (75p). The gallery was taken down in 1891. Some years earlier (about 1879) it was the scene of an unusual incident. A farm labourer from a nearby cottage was convicted by Framlingham magistrates of riotous and indecent behaviour at St. Andrew's, Kettleburgh, at a Sunday afternoon service that September. He had seated himself in the gallery, with his dog on his lap and all was well until he urged the dog to 'speak to'em lad', whereupon it broke out into a great commotion of barking. Its master had obviously been drinking, and the Verger and his son had a struggle to eject man and beast, the service meanwhile having been abandoned. The Chairman of the Bench, the rector of Cransford, said that had this happened in a chapel he would have sent the man to prison, but as he himself was a clergyman he did not want to give the impression of being prejudiced, and instead fined the defendant £2.10s.0d (£2.50), with costs of 13s.6d (67½p).

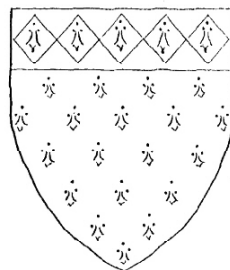
The **Royal Arms of Queen Anne** hang above the ringers' gallery, on the east wall of the tower. The arms were evidently painted in 1707 or soon after, as they display the union of England and Scotland that took place in that year, and were in place in the church by the time Hawes finished his monograph in 1712. Hawes records that at that time they stood above a frame containing the Ten Commandments mounted on the east wall of the chancel above the communion table, and almost hid the east window. In the east wall of the tower there is evidence of a Sanctus Window, now blocked up.

The octagonal **Font** dates from the early 15th century, the gift of Lady Alice Charles in memory of her husband Sir Thomas

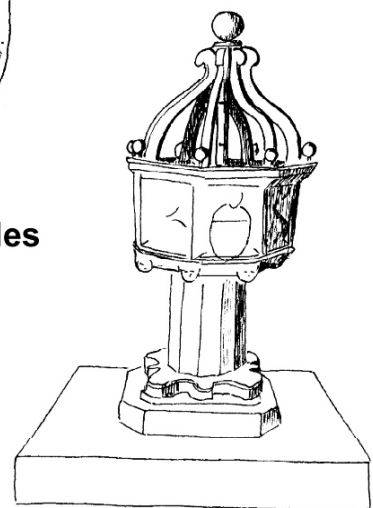
Charles, who died in 1419. The escutcheons around the bowl alternate with lions 'sejant gardant' – seated and looking full-face – and bear the arms of (1) north - Gu. three rams' heads cabossed Arg. armed Or. RAMSEY of Kenton (Lady Alice's father). (2) east - Sa. a chevron Arg./Erm. between three cinquefoils Or/Erm. KENTON. (3) south - Erm. on a chief Gu. five lozenges Arg. each charged with an Erm. spot.

CHARLES and (4) west CHARLES impaling RAMSEY, signifying the marriage of Sir Thomas Charles of Kettleburgh with Alice, daughter of Ralph Ramsey of Kenton. There are

charming angels' faces at the corners, with their wings interlacing. The oak **Font Cover** is Jacobean, but Hawes describes the cover in 1712 as 'a wainscot type painted of a yellowish colour'.



Arms of Charles



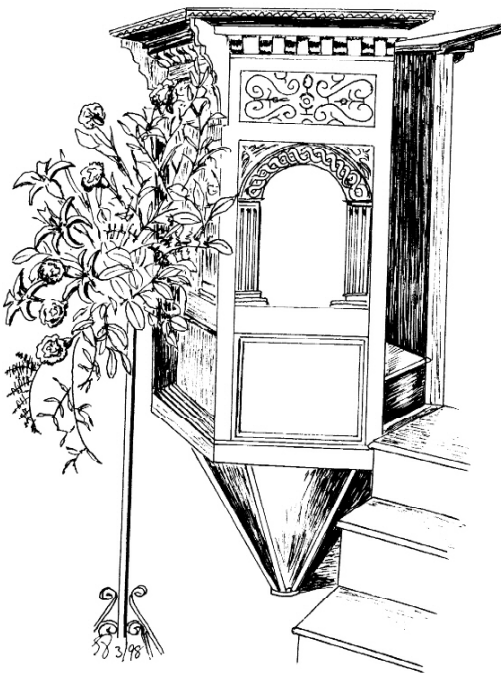
15th century font

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The nave has a plain **Hammer-Beam Roof** of typical East Anglian design; the chancel had **Arch-Braced Roof**, later ceiled in. In 1712, according to Hawes, the roofs were covered with lead, except for the porch which was tiled. Now the Nave and Chancel roofs are tiled, but the porch leaded. An illustration of 1931 shows all three roofs leaded; the lead of the Nave and Chancel roofs was removed and sold in 1951.

The small Queen Anne **Parish Chest** has three locks, so that only the Rector and the two Churchwardens acting in unison could open it. It once held the **Parish Registers**, now in Suffolk Record Office, and other documents and valuables. The Parish Registers date from 1561.

The nave **Benches** came from St. Mary Quay, Ipswich, after that church became redundant after the Second World War. The church was re-seated in 1882, but perhaps the five 15th-century benches in the chancel are original ones. Hawes described the church as 'well seated after the old way'.



The Pulpit

At the north-east end of the Nave is the blocked archway that led into the chantry chapel of the Charles family. Beside the archway stands the fine **Pulpit**, originally an early Jacobean three decker, with hexagonal sounding-board. It has been cut down, probably during restoration carried out in 1891, when the western gallery was demolished, the bells re-hung and the oak chancel screen inserted. The pulpit has lost its sounding board and bible board, together with the clerk's desk. The pulpit door was probably incorporated into the present Reading Desk, other panels being used as the base of the chancel screen. The pulpit is both unusual and graceful.

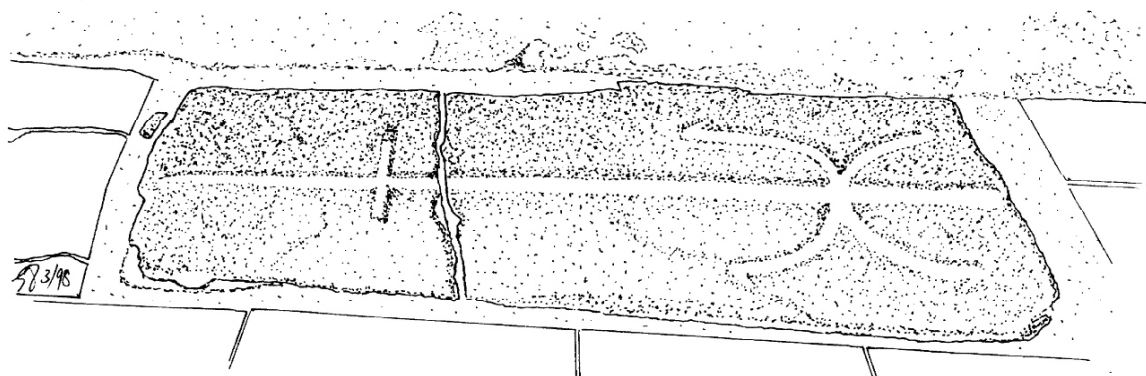
On the south side of the Nave are the **Rood Loft Stairs**, which in pre-reformation times led to the Rood Loft above the Chancel screen. The bottom step of the vise is actually the lid of ancient coffin built into the wall. In 1948, when some work was being carried out in the church, workmen, mistaking the protruding part of the coffin side for old cement repair, chipped it away and made an aperture which revealed a cavity in which a skeleton was seen. Expert examination revealed it to be of a 20 - 30 year-old male, 5ft 8ins. tall. No remains of clothing or wrappings were apparent. The aperture was then sealed up. It appears that sometime about 1450 - 1500 a window was made above the built-in coffin, the coffin lid forming the inner sill of the new window. From the reveal of the window, in the thickness of the wall, the rood loft vise was formed, the coffin-lid forming the bottom step of the vise.

The **Chancel Screen**, of oak, was erected in 1891, and incorporates in its base some of the panels from the Jacobean pulpit and clerk's desk. The **Altar Rails** are 17th century, formerly three-sided in the Laudian manner, but now arranged in a straight line. The **Holy Table** is also 17th century, with legs closely matching the rails; unusually small, it has been fitted with a larger removable oak top, and is raised on blocks to bring it to a customary height.

Flanking the Altar two splendid **Commandment Boards** are mounted on the east wall. Dating from the beginning of the 18th century, contemporary with the Royal Arms, they are very similar to those at nearby All Saints', Saxtead and perhaps painted by the same hand – although those at Saxtead do not have the spelling mistake that appears in our opening precept. A heavy early-17th century walnut **Credence Table**, its top inlaid with a sacred monogram, and thought to have come from a church in Italy, is unfortunately no longer on display. The stool, standing on the **Sedilia**, and made of timber from the old bell-frame, is used instead.

On the Chancel floor, in the north-east corner close to the east wall is a **Memorial Brass** to Arthur Penning † 1593. He was the eldest son of Arthur Penning of Kettlebaston, and came to Kettleburgh in 1556 through marriage with Frances Stebbing, heiress of the Stebbing family of Kettleburgh New Hall, by whom he had a son and daughter. Frances died young, and Arthur took for a second wife Catherine Brook, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. He died on 23rd December 1593, aged about 65 years. He is depicted in ruff and gown, and his wives wear hats and brocaded petticoats. The upper part of one of the women and the inscription have become broken off.

To the south side of the chancel floor is a 13th century coffin slab engraved with a floriate cross. There are **Wall Tablets** in the chancel commemorating 19th and 20th century rectors, and black **Grave Slabs** in the chancel and in the nave commemorate members of the Sparrow and Foster families, who lived in Kettleburgh in the 17th and 18th centuries. One of the former, from Sparrowes House, Ipswich ('The Ancient House' in Buttermarket) has a splendid carving of the Sparrow arms. On the south wall is an 18th century copy of Murillo's 'The Two Trinities', which perhaps came from Spain after the Peninsular War.



13th century coffin slab

Five 15th century benches with good poppy-heads stand in the Chancel. Four have arm-rests with some interesting carvings, mostly of fabulous beasts, one with stag's horns. There are others, including a man taking a ride on a lion's back; a tower with a little face looking out of a window; a standing figure with a staff and another holding perhaps a loaf while in front of him on the ground is a box with an ornamental lid.

The Church Plate, now in safe keeping, includes an Elizabethan silver cup and cover inscribed 1569. There is a pewter alms dish struck with a number of makers' marks.

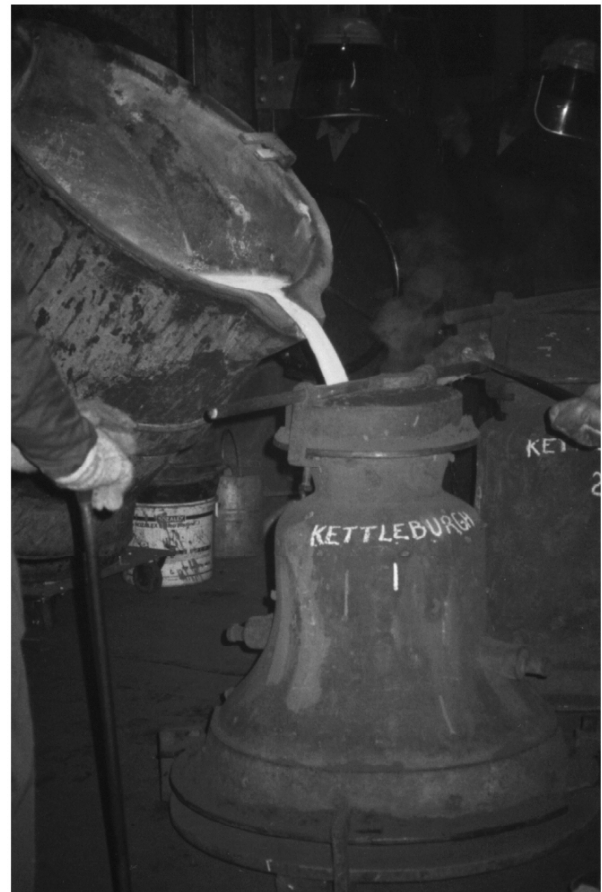
The bells

St Andrew's now has six bells. The churchwardens were summoned to appear at Ipswich by nine on the morning of 2nd May 1553 to declare to Edward VI's commissioners what moveable items the parish possessed. (Many valuable vessels, ornaments and vestments of the medieval church were starting to disappear into private hands). Our wardens declared 'Three Great Bells', but of these only the middle one now remains, as the present no. 5. It is inscribed 'Sancta Maria Ora Pro Nobis', and has the mark and lettering of the foundry at Bury St Edmunds. It was probably cast about 1480.

The tenor is Elizabethan, from the Norwich foundry of William Brend and is dated 1592. Like the two of the same year that he supplied to nearby Monewden and Dallinghoo, its inscription is crowded with initials of parishioners who had subscribed for its making. The AP. almost certainly denotes the Arthur Penning of the brass.

The fourth was cast by Richard Phelps in 1711 at the great Whitechapel Foundry in London. It bears the names of Dr Samuel Thompson, Rector; also of Robert Sparrow gent. and Robert Salmon, the Churchwardens.

For some years before 1992, the bell frame having become unsafe and the bells taken down, the bells stood silent on the nave floor. By the great generosity of Theodore and April Gamble, American Lord and Lady of the Manor of Kettleburgh, three new trebles were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on 19th December 1991 in the presence of the donors, the Priest-in-Charge (Revd. Roger J Dixon MA), the Churchwardens and



Casting the new treble bell

their wives. At the same time the earlier three bells were repaired and tuned. The bells were re-hung in a new frame, and were dedicated the Lord Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, The Right Revd John Dennis, on 4th July 1992.

THE BELLS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KETTLEBURGH

Bell	Inscription	Diameter	Weight		
		<i>ins</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Qrs</i>	<i>Lbs</i>
Treble	HANDS ACROSS THE SEA 1991	$24\frac{5}{16}$	3	0	1
2nd	THE REVEREND ROGER DIXON JOHN BATER DEREK HILL CHURCHWARDENS 1991 MARY LEVY	26	3	2	9
3rd	THEODORE GAMBLE LORD OF THE MANOR OF KETTLEBURGH 1991 APRIL GAMBLE	$27\frac{15}{16}$	4	0	7
4th	SAMVEL THOMPSON D:D:RECTOR ROBERT SPARROW GEN: ROBERT SALMON CH:W: R:P: FEC:1711 (Richard Phelps, Whitechapel:1711)	$28\frac{7}{8}$	5	0	0
5th	SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS (Probably Reignold Chirche, Bury St. Edmunds:c.1480)	32	6	0	0
Tenor	AP.RGWWLPAFRWPSRSNGLBIFTP 1592 (William Brend, Norwich:1592)	$34\frac{7}{8}$	7	2	0





St. Andrew's Church in 1931

reprinted from *Suffolk Chronicle and Mercury*, 3rd July 1931

Note the leaded nave and chancel roofs and the railings - now gone - around the table tomb in the churchyard.

Incumbents

A list of incumbents hangs near the font. **Thomas Darly** was instituted rector 4th October 1507 at the presentation of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey. He was punished in 1527 for fighting a M^r Paul, a 'servant of the French Queen'. **William Rouskull** was instituted 9th July 1553, a few days after the accession of Queen Mary, at the presentation of William, Lord Howard. Notwithstanding the changes in religion, he continued as rector during the greater part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, until 1584, an incumbency of over 31 years.

John Litherland was instituted 10th November 1584, at the collation of the Bishop by lapse. During his incumbency it was agreed, in 1608, that 'for ever' the rector's tithe of the cheeses made in the village each April and May should be brought to him in the Chancel. They were to come from half of the farms on one Sunday, from the other half on the next, until a total of 15 thirty-pound cheeses had been delivered. This indicates that altogether 150 cheeses were produced in the parish each spring – two tons in all. This part of Suffolk was indeed then known as the 'seat of the dairies', and continued as such until the old rich pastures were for ever broken up during the Napoleonic Wars to make way for corn-growing. John Litherland died 15th November 1619

Cuthbert Dale was instituted 14th September 1630 at the presentation of Sir Robert Naunton, Kn^t. For his loyalty to King Charles the First and refusing the Covenant he was ejected from the living in 1642 by the Puritans who alleged various crimes against him: being a common swearer and curser, having been frequently drunk, neglecting and deserting his cure, saying that he hoped the late Lord Cook was in Hell for maintaining prohibitions, and other faults as observing the decent rules and orders of the church, neglecting the parliamentary fasts, calling a member of the congregation an 'unmannerly clown' for wearing his hat during sermon time, and 'expressing great malignity against the Parliament' – an unpardonable crime. On 23rd February 1644 the Puritan iconoclast William Dowsing, appointed Parliamentary Visitor to rid churches of 'superstitious objects', came to the church. His diary records –

In the glass six superstitious pictures, gave orders to break them down, and to level the (Chancel) steps in 20 days.

He charged the parish 6s.8d (37½p) for the privilege of his visit. During the Commonwealth the dead were buried without religious ceremony and weddings were civil ceremonies before magistrates – only four were recorded during the 20 years of Dale's absence.

At the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 the intruded minister, **Henry Stephens**, was ejected and Cuthbert Dale restored. He died 2nd February 1667 and was buried in the Chancel.

The registers show that during the incumbency of **Samuel Thompson**, 1696-1738, he apparently married no less than 618 couples, an average of 15 a year, suggesting that for some reason many of the couples came from outside the small village. Hawes records that Samuel Thompson 'made an addition to the Parsonage-house, new leaded the Chancel, and paved it'.

Notable amongst more recent incumbents are **George Turner** who edited Forby's 'Vocabulary of East Anglia', 1830. He was rector for 31 years, and was succeeded by his son, **George Thomas Turner**, who likewise held the benefice for 31 years. **Robert Whiting** had been for five years sub-warden of Radley; he was a celebrated Cambridge tutor, a Fellow of Trinity College and a great musician. His successor, **Robert Owen Davies** held triple doctorates of Oxford, Dublin and Durham.

The Churchyard

In an unmarked grave lies a highly respected Waterloo veteran, **James Colthorpe**, born in the village in 1791 and enlisted as a soldier at 18. In the fighting in America he was wounded in the thigh and by 1815 had been invalided to Chelsea Hospital. Hearing, however, that his regiment had returned to Portsmouth he absented himself without leave and rejoined them a few weeks before they set out to the Low Countries and Waterloo. In the battle he was hotly engaged in the fighting at the farmhouse of La Haye Sainte and afterwards took part in the forced march to Paris. After peace was proclaimed he was discharged on full pension and returned to Kettleburgh for over 60 years more.

In his final illness at 88 he cheered himself with the hope that he would shortly see once more the Duke of Wellington. 'I do so want to see our Iron Duke again' he said.

White's Directory of Suffolk, 1844, records **Samuel Hart**, 'herbalist and *poet*' as an inhabitant of Kettleburgh He advertised himself as

'Curer of bunions, Scab heads, Rheumatism, Scrofula and various other complaints incidental to the human frame. Poems and Pieces composed and arranged on any occasion'.

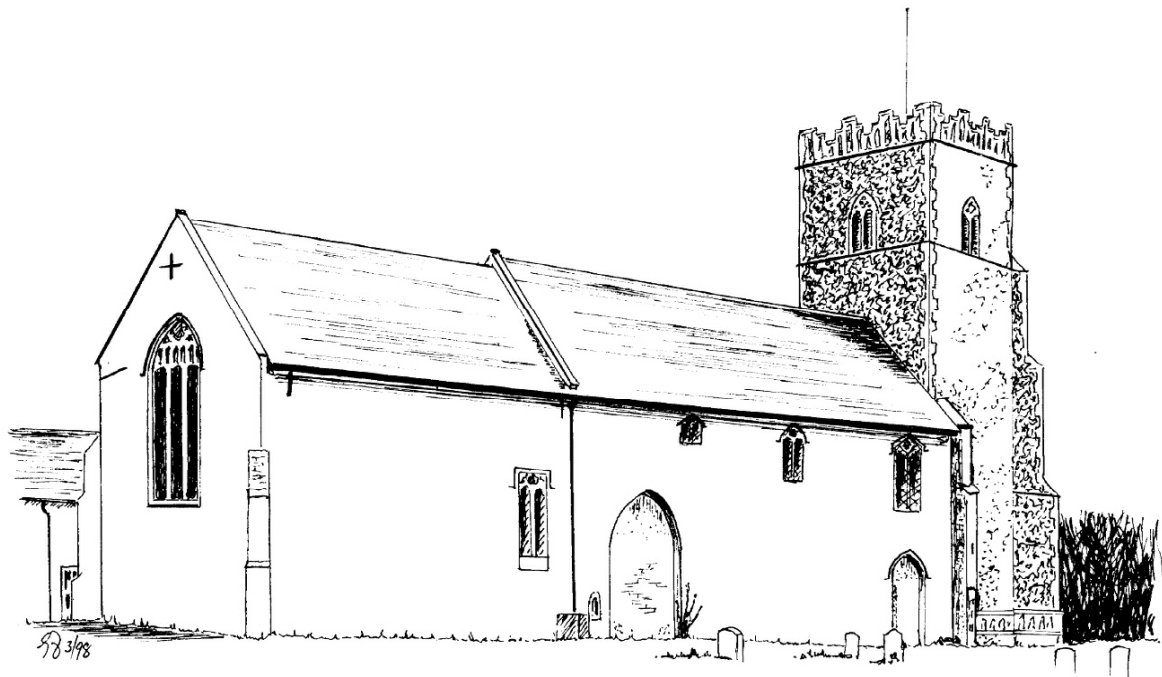
Several gravestones carry verses of his making, all now virtually illegible. That to Hannah, wife of William Farthing, who died 1st February 1854 runs as follows:

Her last words when on her deathbed lie
 She spoke plain and not bewilderin.
 She said dear husband I must die
 Pray provide for my poor children.
 At one o'clock that morn death struck her severe
 So that she died at half-past seven.
 Those left behind that loved her dear
 They hope to meet with her in heaven.



St. Andrew's Church, Kettleburgh

from the south-west



St. Andrew's Church, Kettleburgh
from the north-east

A drawing by Gwyneth Fookes 1997

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