

LIST OF THE RECTORS OF HINDERCLAY

1286 Rogerus de Caley	1662 Samuel Forster
1312 Thomas de Hothum	1681 John Baldocke (also Rector Redgrave)
1318 John de Burgh	1709 Timothy Maund
1319 Robert de Thorpp	1710 George Thompson (buried in chancel)
1329 Adam de Brom	1712 William Randall (also Rector of Wortham 1717)
1381 Thomas de Herpyngham (in chancel)	1759 John Gibbs (also R. Rickingham Supr.)
1383 John Otere	1785 Morgan Graves (also Rector of Redgrave and Buddesdale)
1391 Thomas Page	1802 John Smith
1344 William Heyward	1810 James Wright (also Rector E Harling)
1399 William Hyndelee	1819 John Cubitt (also Vicar of Palling-next-the-Sea, Rector of Overstrand and Waxham)
1404 John Butisford	1833 Thomas D Holt Wilson
1408 Richard Newport	1880 Thomas Robinson
1412 Nicholas de Baumburgh	1885 William W. Hawkins
1416 William de Norton	1896 Edmund Farrer
1416 Henry Osbern	1915 John Alexander Trimble
1430 John Benet	1922 William Bowen
1450 Thomas Strayles (Trellys?)	1930 Leonard A Gilbert
1455 Hugh Underwode	1934 Alexander R Shaw
1496 John Annor (died 1505)	1949 Eric S Alderton Judd
1505 John Dyar (died)	1957 George Vincent Cotton (also Rector of Rickingham)
1505 William Wright	1960 Leslie John F Welton (R. of Rickingham)
1506 Thomas Scarisbryke	1975 John A E Rutherford (also Vicar of Walsham-le-Willows)
1508 Lawrence Cleyton	1986 George Jeffrey Parker
1535 Thomas Jamys	1990 John William Fulton
1548 William Jamys	2015 David Harry Messer (also Stanton, Barningham, Coney Weston, Hepworth, Hopton, Market Weston & Thelnetham.)
1548 Thomas Borenfant	2018 Catherine Robin Bladen
1554 John Fraunceys (alias Ferror)	
1566 Thomas Symons (Simons)	
1583 Thomas Morse (deprived 1595)	
1595 Simon Bradstreet	
1596 Anthony Morse (died Rector 1604)	
1604 John Wyght (or White, died 1627)	
1627 Robert Howlett (deprived 1660?)	

A Guide to the Parish Church of St Mary - Hinderclay - Suffolk



1915



2015

How old is the Church?

There was already a church here at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. But the present structure dates from 1128, with many alterations during the following two centuries.

The Church from Outside

The chief material from which the church is built is flint, which is freely available locally. Stone is used for the buttresses and arches and especially on the tower. Brick appears in the possibly 16thC base of the porch and in the probably 18thC repairs to the west end of the south aisle. There is excellent dressed flint work at the top of the tower with decorative emblems and the repeated lettering SSRM (Salve Sancta Regina Maria - Hail Holy Queen Mary, referring to St. Mary, after whom the church is named. The roof of the church was thatched until 1842, when it was slated.

The Windows

All the windows in the south aisle and the north side of the nave are square-headed, except that the west window of the south aisle is in the Perpendicular style. The latter window has been partially filled in with brick and flint, probably when the vestry was constructed in the 18thC. In the tops of some of the other windows there are fragments of medieval glass.

At the west end of the south aisle, in the angle between the roofs of the aisle and the nave, there is a rather worn 14thC gargoyle to take water from the gulley between the roofs.

The Porch

The porch is of timber and still has its original 14thC wooden outer arch. Notice outside the priest's door (on the south side of the chancel) the headstops on either side of the archway. The blocked up north doorway of the nave, with its plain almost rounded arch, is 12thC and therefore one of the earliest features of the building.

Scratch Dial

There are remains of a scratch dial (a means of telling the time) on a quoin at the south-east corner of the chancel, although only the hole for the centre peg can now be seen.

War Memorial

In the churchyard the Memorial to the 18 men from Hinderclay who died in the First World War was unveiled in 1920 by Prince Frederick Duleep Singh. He was a member of Hinderclay church choir for several years, although he lived at Blo' Norton Hall. In an article in the Bury and Norwich Post at the time we read: 'The memorial cross bears the circle around it ... the circle, having no beginning and no end, signifying the eternal life and love won for redeemed humanity on the Cross when God Incarnate offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.' After the Second World War the names of two more men were added.

St. Mary's Well

On the outskirts of Hinderclay, almost in Thelnetham, there is a spring in the middle of a field known as St. Mary's Well. In times past it was thought the water could cure eye ailments and pilgrimages were made there.

The Patron

The patronage (the right to be consulted in the choice of a new Rector) of the living of Hinderclay remains in the Holt-Wilson family, descendants of Sir John Holt, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, who purchased the Manor of Hinderclay in 1685.

Summary

As with all the fine historic churches of England, St. Mary's Hinderclay reflects the zeal and devotion of Christians through the centuries who have lovingly built and maintained it for the worship of God.

My prayer is that you, the reader of this Guide, may sense the presence of God here and may also come to know Him personally.

John Fulton

Rector 1990-2014

(1993 Revised August Revised 2023)

Guild of St. Peter

The church had at least one medieval guild (a religious-cum-social society) the Guild of St. Peter, which was still in existence in 1505.

Glebe Land

In the vestry hangs a terrier (list of lands belonging to the church) dated 1870. It includes Bell Acre, on the north-east side of the churchyard, the income from which was to provide 'two bell ropes annually'. As far as we know all of the more than 25 acres of glebe land listed has since been sold.

Ringer's Beer Pitcher

The church possesses a fine example of a bell-ringer's beer pitcher, (now on permanent loan to the Moyses Hall Museum in Bury St. Edmunds) locally called the 'gotch' and holding about 2 gallons, inscribed:

'By Sam Moss this Pitcher was given to the Noble Society of Ringers at Hendercley in Suffolk (viz.) Thos Sturgeon Edwd Lock John Hans Rich Ruddock & Ra Chapman To which Society he once belonged 7 years and left in y one thousand seven hundard & 2

From London I was sent

As plainly does appear

It was with this intent

To be fild with strong beer

Pray remember the pitcher when empty.'

On the bottom of the pitcher is inscribed '25 March 1724'. The gotch, together with the exterior of the church, appears on the village sign, which stands on the green by the crossroads in the village.

The Registers

The Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials date from 1567, although all but the current ones are now kept at the Suffolk Record Office.

Inside the Church

The stocky-looking low pews in the rear half of the nave date from 1617, in the reign of James I, to judge by the date on the rear bench, which also has the letters JSK SK RL and TC - presumably the initials of the Churchwardens at the time. The diamond-shaped poppy heads on these pews bear a variety of rosettes and fleur-de-lys. There are 18thC box pews of pine with panelled ends in the eastern half of the nave and three large family pews in the south aisle.

Near the archway leading to the tower is the octagonal 14thC font. The lower half of the tower arch is filled with 18thC panelling, which is matched by that of the vestry. Partially obscured by the entrance to the vestry is a ledger stone to Samuel Howell and his wife, who died in 1751 and 1750 respectively. Judging by this and the Royal Arms, the panelling must date from the second half of the 18thC, probably during the time of John Gibbs, who was Rector from 1759-1785.

The Royal Arms

In the tower arch the Royal Arms are those of George III (1760-1820). They contain not only the three lions passant guardant of England and the lion rampant of Scotland but also the lilies of France and the harp of Ireland. Most distinctive of all, in the lower right-hand quarter can be seen the two golden lions of Brunswick, the blue lion of Luneburg on a golden background spattered with red hearts, the white horse of Hanover, and in the centre a representation of the Crown of Charlemagne, the badge of the Arch-Treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire, an office held by George, who was also Elector of Hanover and Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg.

The South Aisle

The low arches which divide the nave and the south aisle are 13thC. On the south wall is a modern but very tasteful oval memorial tablet to Charlotte Doe, nanny for 51 years to a family in Surrey, 'put up by their two daughters and six sons who owe more than they can ever repay to her love and care'. Lady Muriel Buxton was the grandmother of the present Duke of Grafton.

The Windows

The modern east window in the south aisle was installed in 1975. It represents the Transfiguration of Christ, Peter below and Christ above, together with the Tree of Life on the left and the River of Life on the right. The stained-glass windows in the south side have the following subjects, from east to west: in the first window, 'Let us create man in our own image', 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light', and the Annunciation (the angel Gabriel and Mary); in the second window, the Nativity (Mary, the Babe, and the Angel Gabriel), the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection (Christ standing on His tomb).

The window in the vestry was dedicated in 1994 and shows on the left, the Baptism of Jesus by John, and on the right, Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night; in the tracery above is an impression of flowers of the Holy Land. This, and all the windows in this aisle are based on designs left by Rosemary Rutherford, sister of our former Rector Canon John Rutherford.

The Chancel Arch

Moving towards the front of the church, the end of the rood loft floor beam, cut off presumably at the Reformation, can still be seen on the north side of the chancel arch. Every church in the Middle Ages had its rood (a figure of Christ on the Cross, flanked by figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. John). Beneath it would have been a screen dividing the chancel from the nave, with a loft (gallery) built above for the lighting of candles and the saying of masses in front of the rood. The existing square-headed screen is a late example, with its open tracery and moulded mullions (uprights) - the frame is thought not to be the original.

The Chancel

The Oak Communion Table was given in memory of Anne Aves.

In the chancel, the window on the north wall is in the early Decorated style with elongated trefoils in the two lights. Notice the remains of medieval coloured glass. Also on the north wall of the chancel is an interesting marble memorial to George Thompson, who was Rector for only a year before he died in November 1711.

At the top there is a cartouche of arms with three choughs, supported by garlands, standing putti (cherub boys) at each side, and cherub heads with wings and acanthus leaves below. The East Window has reticulated (network) tracery. The modern glass in the three quatrefoils at the top has, on the left, a candle, symbolising the Light of the World; on the right a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit; in the centre, the Cross with a fish. The fish is an early Christian sign, chosen because the letters in Greek for a fish ΙΧ ΘΥΣ are the initial letters of 'Jesus Christ Son of God' in Greek.

On the south side of the chancel a 14thC piscina (stone basin for washing the chalice and plate) with its arch and column is flanked by a dropped windowsill sedilia (stone seat for the priest, deacon and sub-deacon).

The 14thC window nearest to the screen, on the south side of the chancel, is divided by transoms (cross-bars) to form a low side window, and remains of hinges may still be seen on the jambs. The purpose of such a window was probably that, at the consecration of the bread and the cup, a bell could be rung through the open window, so that 'people who have not leisure daily to be present at Mass may, wherever they are, in houses or fields, bow their knees' (Archbishop Peckham 1281).

The organ was brought from the now redundant church of Rickinghall Superior in memory of Edwin John Aves.

The Churchwardens' staves were given in 1994 in memory of Mrs Annie Fisk, a faithful member of this church.

The Bells

In the tower there are six bells hung in an iron frame: the treble, cast by Thomas Osborn of Downham Market in 1790, has the inscription 'Cum Voco Venite'; the second and fifth were cast by Thomas Gardiner of Sudbury in 1716 and 1734; the third, cast by Roger Reve of Bury St. Edmunds in the period 1527-33, has the inscription 'Sancta Caterina Ora Pro Nobis'; the fourth bell of 1621 was a joint effort by John Draper of Thetford and Andrew Gurney, probably of Bury; and the tenor, which weighs over 10 cwt., was probably cast by Richard Brasyer I who was active between 1424 and 1482, and has the inscription 'Nos Thome Meritis Mercamur Gaudia Lucis'.