

St. Nicholas
Church,
Hintlesham.



2000.



Welcome to St. Nicholas' Church

This is no ordinary church guide book, your usual brief notes on the architecture and outstanding features.

Here, instead, is a wealth of information and erudition about people, the people who have prayed and worshipped in this church and who, in grateful thanks to God and St. Nicholas, have adorned it. Here in this booklet so painstakingly researched, and so delightfully illustrated, they come alive for us.

You will undoubtedly find this guide a rewarding read, and our thanks must go to Ken and Marjorie for all their work in producing such a unique booklet. Their wish is mine: that, as you look round this church with this guide to help you, you may be blessed by God, both now and always.

Jimmy Glennon

Jimmy Glennon,
Assistant Priest.

The earliest record of a Rector is of Adam de Filby in 1160, and a full list of incumbents is presently displayed near the South entrance to the church. By 1246 the Advowson (the patronage) belonged to the Crown (Henry III) when Nicholas Talbot became the first Vicar recorded under the Patent Rolls held by the Bishop of Norwich.

Major reconstruction and development took place in the 13th century, when the ownership of the manor was shared by two families, the Pipards of Devon and the Talbots of Hintlesham, and there is evidence of gradual rebuilding of the church over the succeeding centuries.

There are fragments of a St. Christopher painting on the wall above the North arcade. Churchgoers in medieval times believed in St. Christopher as protector, and these medieval St. Christopher paintings faced the people's entrance to the nave, for it was said:-

“Each day that thou the likeness
Of St. Christopher shall see
That day no frightful form of death
Shall make an end of thee.”



The old oak door leading to the vestry witnessed much of change and drama over the centuries. It is thought that the vestry was once used as a school or chapel. (There was a Chaplain in 1341 - C.P.R. 1340 - 43. p.327 Add.). Its



ancient squint or hagioscope (the small aperture in the wall giving a view of the altar) is said to have been intended for the use of lepers, but it is said also to have been made use of in Elizabethan times by the Timperleys living at Hintlesham Hall who were strongly papist and who, in an attempt to avoid heavy penalties being imposed at the time on recusants for not attending the protestant church, were said to have visited the vestry during church services and by observing the altar through the squint deviously obtained from the Rector affirmation of their attendance.

Several of the older inhabitants of the village tell of a secret passage to the church from Hintlesham Hall and one can envisage the clandestine underground

trips between the Hall and the church. The penalties for recusancy were very harsh indeed, ranging from the confiscation of property to death for high treason. Indeed, much of the wealth of the Timperley family went into a period of decline after the death of Sir Thomas Timperley, when his son Nicholas inherited Hintlesham Hall in 1594. This Nicholas appears to have been the most militant of the family, risking his all for his convictions. He was the first of the line to be openly known as a papist, maintaining the supremacy of the Pope and refusing to acknowledge the Queen as head of the Church of England. He thus became comparatively impoverished, and ended his days in Norfolk.



There were many more Timperley recusants to succeed him lower down the line, many with the same Christian name, though it is believed in some circles that the repeated use of the name 'Nicholas' testifies to the family's innate affinity to St. Nicholas Church.

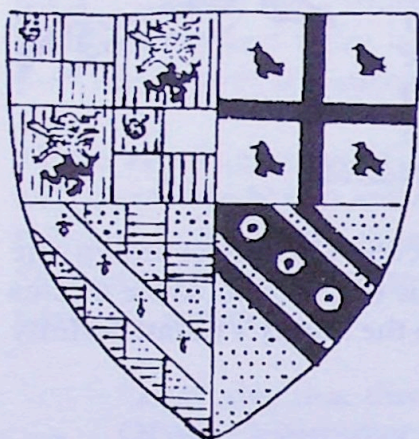


In common with other ancient churches, this one has suffered desecration from time to time for reasons of greed or bigotry. Heraldic brasses, for example, are recorded as having been torn up and melted down. Thomas Cromwell initiated great destruction in the time of Henry VIII, in drafting out most of the Reformation legislation and securing its passage through Parliament. In 1643, in the time of the Commonwealth, William Dowsing of Laxfield, a Puritan zealot (described by John Lodder, a vicar of Kesgrave, as "this unwelcome guest, clad in the sombre garb of the Puritan, with a tall hat") set about fulfilling his commission to rid the churches of "popery" and it seems rather significant that little or no damage occurred in his own church. As regards St. Nicholas Church, Hintlesham, however, a record of his activities shows the entry:-

Broke 51 superstitious pictures (glass) and took up three inscriptions and gave orders for digging down the steps. (This is a reminder that pre-reformation churches were often built with the chancel floor some six inches higher than that of the nave, as an act of reverence to the altar).

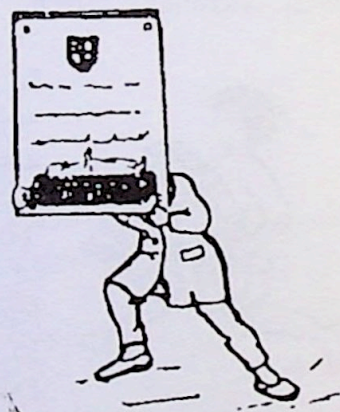


An interesting note here, following the damage done by Dowsing, is that the squint was blocked up and not reopened until much later - by the Rev. William Deane (1876-1900). In the process of its being re-opened, a clay pipe was discovered, which suggests that workmen in Suffolk were smoking within seventy years of tobacco being introduced into England.



There are records of many coats of arms which were in the church windows over the centuries, a study of which reveals much interesting information regarding families associated with the church in the past. Sadly, the window panes themselves are missing, though there is still some heraldry depicted on various monuments in the church, and there are some comparatively recently stained glass windows. With the coming of the Gothic revival in the 19th century, an absolute avalanche of

destruction ravaged our churches. Priceless examples of woodwork - oak screens, benches etc. - were disposed of, and even in some cases replaced with varnished pitch pine for preference. Manuscripts in the British Library indicate that at Hintlesham, between 1805/1824, "great alterations were made; monuments moved and newly painted; brasses all taken away with no one admitting any knowledge of their whereabouts".



The church was also restored in 1850/51 by Colonel J.H. Lloyd and the rector, the Reverend W.H. Deane, but no details of the work done can be found.



Desecration, sadly, is not confined to historic times. In June 1978, a 17th century painting of John the Baptist, thought to be Flemish and to be a copy of the original painting at Hampton Court, was stolen, as well as sets of brass candlesticks. A seascape by David Willis, presented by Mrs Barbara Parham, now replaces the painting stolen from above the table in the North aisle. The table itself is of the Stuart period, and was formerly used as the main altar of the church - prior to 1919.

The monuments in the church commemorate the upper echelons of the past society in the village, mainly the illustrious Timperleys. (How interesting it would be to have more knowledge of the adventures of some of the unsung heroes and



heroines lying with them in the churchyard). The Timperleys are thought to have come originally from Cheshire about the turn of the 15th century, and by marriage with the Howards of Norfolk became related to the highest in the land, including Ann Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth I. The princes murdered in the Tower, too, are connected, their estates going to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk. Interesting, too, to reflect that in the troubled days of Mary Tudor a Timperley was a rector of this church. Several of the line were knighted and many were the to-ings and fro-ings of the Timperleys alongside the Howards and the Mowbrays in the service of King/Queen and country. Indeed, one of the most

striking monuments of a Timperley is the one on the North wall of the chancel which originally formed the top of a table monument. It depicts a man in armour amidst shields, swords and battleaxes - in memory of Captain John Timperley, who died in 1629.

Close by is the monument to Michael Timperley, whose story truly is 'the stuff films are made of'. Convicted of recusancy in 1639 along with his wife Frances (a member of the Bedingfield family, renowned for their religious fervour), he begat many children who entered catholic religious establishments. Picture, if you will, the eldest - Frances, Abbess of the Blue Nuns of Paris - fleeing from persecution at home and abroad, returning to Hintlesham on one occasion, with some sick nuns, borrowing money and going back to France a year later to found a new convent at Faubourg St. Antoine which eventually became one of the most fashionable schools around the 18th c. for the education of the daughters of English Roman Catholics. The next child, Henry, became a Jesuit priest (Dom Gregory) in France, returning later to Hintlesham. Michael went to Ireland and Margaret became a choir nun at Pontoise. Certainly, finances from the Timperleys and their mortgaged estates went to support numerous female members of the family in religious establishments abroad - away from the home troubles of recusancy. Hintlesham appears to have been regarded as



reasonably tolerant, and its inhabitants reluctant to testify, on the whole, against their neighbours. One source refers to "Hintlesham with its friendly population".

It was Thomas Timperley (who rebuilt the main part of Hintlesham Hall and who died a blind man on the 13th January 1594) who bequeathed to the church "£30 towards providing a bell to be agreeable to a bass to the other two which be now in the steeple there"; he is commemorated by a monument on the South side of the chancel. They were, indeed, a most prolific family, as will be seen from this monument which depicts Thomas with his wife and their nine children - one son and eight daughters, and Nicholas Timperley and his wife with their children - six sons and eight daughters! About this time an earthquake shook Hintlesham Hall.

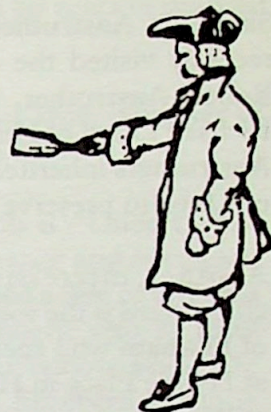
Contemporaries of the Timperleys were the Veseys. In 1539 a Thomas Vesey purchased the Manor of Hintlesham Priory, and in 1546 William Vesey is shown as the "Lord" of that manor. This priory and another called the Priory Manor of St. Peters, had been taken to form part of an endowment for a college at Ipswich on behalf of Cardinal Wolsey. However, it appears that Thomas Vesey strongly objected to official directives to leave the "Priory Manor", and when Wolsey tried to take over, he assembled his tenants armed with bows and arrows, and drove off the Cardinal's forces which had been sent from Ipswich to remove him. The Cardinal of course, fell from grace, and with him his college in Ipswich. After Thomas and William first acquired the Manor of Hintlesham Priory, also called Veseys, a

succession of Veseys continued to live and farm there until the death of another William who died in 1713. He appears to have been the last male of this line, and his heiress, his daughter Elizabeth, married Shelley Wankford. In 1739, their son William inherited the property, and assumed the name Vesey, although he was required under the terms of his grandfather's will to be buried as a Wankford. In contrast to the Timperleys the Veseys were staunchly protestant and produced a dynasty of churchwardens. Indeed, it was to mark the end of a five-year term of office as churchwarden in 1688 that John Vesey presented to Hintlesham church an almsbox, which, incidentally, is still in existence.

A Vesey it was who, in the time of the recusancy troubles of the Timperleys, was commissioned, and paid, to report to the Bishop of Norwich on the Timperley

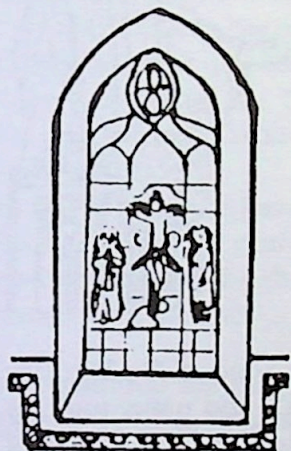


family's attendance or otherwise at the church services. It was this John Vesey, also, who in 1695 was commissioned to collect the sum of four shillings in the pound, based on the value of their estates, from the wealthier landowners (including himself and his own vicar, John Beaumont), to go towards the cost of carrying on the war against France.



More recent characters with monuments in the church are the Lloyds and Anstruthers. Sir Richard Lloyd, Knight, K.C., Recorder of Ipswich and Baron of the

Exchequer in 1759, has a tombstone in the churchyard but nothing in the church. He bought Hintlesham Hall from Richard Powis, M.P. for Orford, in 1725, and it remained in the possession of the Lloyds and Anstruthers for many years. One of the two remaining hatchments, of the former eight in the church, commemorates a Lloyd. A brass with coloured shields on the South wall commemorates James Hamilton Lloyd Anstruther and his wife Georgiana Christiana. She was the daughter of Viscount Barrington, and she it was who presented the stained glass window in the East wall of the church, behind the altar.



Others commemorated in the church at the Deane family, three of whom were incumbents successively from 1822-1900, and the early Victorian rectory still in use in Hintlesham was built by a Deane.

Five generations of Lloyd and Lloyd Anstruther, and three of Deanes are buried in the churchyard. Miss Charlotte Emily Deane, daughter of the Reverend William Deane, who lived at the Rectory until 1900, was said to have been quite a character, riding round the village in a donkey carriage and reputedly striking fear and terror into the hearts of most of the villagers with her autocratic and forceful manner. However, she was quite talented as a writer, and no doubt her bark was worse than her bite. A bronze bust of her can be seen in Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich.



Sir Ralph Anstruther, Equerry and Treasurer to the present Queen Mother, recently visited the church. His great, great, great grandfather was General Robert Anstruther, who married Charlotte Lucy Hamilton, daughter of Sir Richard Lloyd of Hintlesham, whose daughter married the Rev. W. Deane. The Anstruthers inherited the Hintlesham estate, and in the 1820's added the name of Lloyd to preserve the connection with Hintlesham in Suffolk.

Another interesting figure lying buried in the churchyard is the wife of Dr. Hensley Henson, a Bishop of Durham who spent his retirement from 1939-1945 at Hyntle Place in Hintlesham. He accepted a canonry in Westminster as a contribution to the war effort, but when the great moment came for him to preach his first sermon as canon in Westminster Abbey, in the presence of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, at a service marking the anniversary of the declaration of war, Adolf Hitler spoiled things. An air raid warning resulted in Winston Churchill sending official advice that the King should not leave Buckingham Palace. The Abbey was cleared and the service went ahead, so it is said, with only the Cabinet and a handful of people in the congregation. The "All Clear" sounded just as the service ended. Dr. Hensley Henson resigned the canonry with failing eyesight in 1941, and never took up residence in London. However, at the age of 80, on the death of the Rector of Hintlesham, he preached, and celebrated Holy Communion, here in St. Nicholas church each Sunday for a year, until a new incumbent could be instituted.



A subsequent and more recent occupant of Hyntle Place lies buried in the churchyard, no less illustrious than any others connected with this church, and remembered today with affection and deep admiration. This is Major General Jack Parham, Royal Artillery, highly decorated both at home and abroad for outstanding service during the second world war, yet a man of great humility. He is commemorated by the chain link fencing bordering the church and by the host of daffodils in the spring, planted in his memory by his wife Barbara, who reached the age of 90 in 1991.

Several members of the Kemball family occupy graves here, the interest being that they appear to be related to early settlers in Boston, Massachusetts.

A churchwarden of twenty years standing was Horace Henry Turner who died in 1949 at his home, Hintlesham Priory, where he had lived since the day he

was born - the whole of his life of 90 years. It is said that in 60 years of married life he never slept elsewhere than in his own house.

There is an interesting "altar tomb" in the churchyard, for Jane, daughter of Philip C. de Crespigny, M.P. for Aldeburgh, who died in 1783.

Another name of great renown associated with the church is "Gilbert". On Patent Rolls in 1341, a Geoffrey Gilbert was granted the manor and advowson of Hintlesham, and from these very early connections evolved a line of Gilberts which ultimately produced the celebrated Dr. William Gilbert, who in 1599 was styled "the father of electrical science", and author of the famous book "De Magnete". In 1601 he was appointed physician to Queen Elizabeth I, and is said to have been the only man mentioned in her will. Hierome Gilbert, William's father, lived at Dower House, Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, and is said to have been a cousin of the Timperleys. He became Recorder of Colchester where he lived in the old house called "Timperleys" in Trinity Street - which still exists.

Acknowledged to have given invaluable service to the village is also Dan Read, for more than 40 years landlord of the nearby "George Inn", who died in 1836 and is buried in the churchyard with his wife Rosey, who died in 1797, and their daughter Caroline.

It is said that the Rev. S.R.P. Mouldsdales, whose headstone is on the North East side of the churchyard, was buried, at his request, facing West, so that he would avoid having his back turned against his church and congregation. Before coming to Hintlesham he was very much associated with the academic and church life of Durham University.

Miss C.E. Deane, daughter of the Reverend W. Deane, was asked to write "A short history of Hintlesham", which was published monthly in the Deanery magazines during 1920/21, and referred to in a number of other publications about the Parish and the Church. Some of her observations cannot necessarily be accepted implicitly as infallible, but should be regarded as her personal account of events over the years. The following extracts are representative and make interesting reading:-

1. "In the stormy times of the Commonwealth, John Whiting was concealed in the woods for 11 years by the people (1649-1660), but on the Restoration his signature is again found as Rector. His heiress married William Beaumont, son of a Cloth Merchant of Hadleigh, and he succeeded Whiting as Rector with seven other Parishes. He expressed a wish for his body to lie where the

feet of his people would pass over him, so it rests under the doorstep of the church”.

2. “The Parish Church is a very ancient one. The conversion of East Anglia is generally dated about 630 A.D. Whether a ‘place of worship’ was erected in the common ‘mud and wattle’ style of those days, or whether the later building stands on the same site cannot be stated. The earliest records speak of it consisting of a Tower and one long nave, without a Chancel Arch and without battlements or outside buttresses to the Tower, these being put in in the early 15th Century when perpendicular work began. There are Roman tiles in the Tower testifying to the existence of a Roman settlement here”.
3. “In the churchyard there are buried 19 generations of the Norman family - graves with stones. Of course far more were buried in the churchyard as they lived in Hintlesham from 1100 till 1910”.
4. “The chief families who have owned land in Hintlesham since the Conquest are the Pipards, the Talbots, the Normans, the Timperleys, the Gilberts, the Veseyes, the Lloyds and the Anstruthers. Of all the people of Hintlesham through the ages of which I have any knowledge, the outstanding personages are Sir Edward Gilbert, Mr Whiting, the Rector, John Fortune, the noble blacksmith, who was martyred in the days of Queen Mary; and in late years my cousin, Sir Harold Deane, K.C.S.S., who is buried here; his memorial service held in St. Margaret’s, Westminster, was attended by royalty”.
5. “The Priory of Hintlesham was a Cell or Grange of the Convent of Wix in Essex, and it was much used as a residence of the Prioress who is said to have fought often with the Rector of the parish because they insisted on bringing their hawks to the church and putting them on the High Altar”.
6. “It is interesting to note the name of William Timperley as Rector in 1555, showing that though the family always remained Romanist he must have become a Protestant”.
7. “Now a very beautiful oak Rood Arch spans the entrance (to the chancel). It was put up a few years ago by the Timperley family in memory of their ancestors. It is made of Hintlesham oak. The Rood staircase was opened up at the same time”.

ABOUT ST. NICHOLAS

Our church is designated "Church of St. Nicholas of Myra, Bishop and Confessor, Hintlesham".

Nicholas was the son of a rich Asian nobleman of Patara in Lycia. He is reputed to have been an extraordinarily religious infant prodigy, growing more and more virtuous and fervent with the years. He then became first an Abbott and then Archbishop of the prestigious see of Myra, the ancient capital of Asia Minor. He became renowned for his great religious zeal and piety, and legends abound of the incredible miracles he performed. His death is recorded as in the year 342 A.D., his bones being eventually transferred in 1087 to the church in Bari, S. Italy, which place became a favourite venue for pilgrimages.

It is not, therefore, surprising, in view of his extraordinary saintliness as a child and his legendary kindness to children particularly, that he should become the patron saint of children - Santa Claus - associated with the bringing of gifts to children. In some European churches, Holland for example, children receive Santa Claus presents on the Feast day of St. Nicholas on the 6th December, when "Sinte Klaas" arrives wearing his Bishop's mitre and robes. (It was after the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century that there was a lessening of emphasis on Saints in England, and Saint Nicholas became merged with the Old Father Christmas of the mummings' plays, no Saint or Archbishop but a cheery fellow crowned with holly).



Perhaps the most popular legend concerning St. Nicholas is the one which tells of his casting three bags of gold through the open window of the house of an impoverished nobleman to provide dowries for his three daughters threatened with "a fate worse than death" and enable them to marry. The three gold balls forming the basis of the Saint's emblem derive from this story, and the pawnbrokers have adopted them as their trade sign, no doubt thinking "in the mirror of his cause I see the portraiture of mine"!!

No wonder, then, that the children of this village are so very much in evidence in the life of the church, frequently participating in special services and festivals and profiting, as they do, from the emphasis placed on the values of caring and public spiritedness both at the church and in the school.

In addition to the coats of arms presently on memorials and gravestones in the church, others listed below have been described, and in some cases illustrated, by acknowledged antiquaries since 1594. Many of these were on display in the windows of the church at various periods in the past. Some were on brasses on memorials, and there is little doubt that all those represented had some connection by marriage with families of Hintlesham:-

Pettistree.	Boothnell.	Eyue.	Babington.
Beckerling.	Daubigny.	Strellye.	Vavator.
Bagshaw.	Leeke.	Rokewood.	Townshend.
Mothermen.	Clifton.	Bishop.	Massey.
D'Oyley.	Barker.	Deane.	Strangeman.
Bedingfield.	Singleton.	Spencer.	Thursbye.
Stopford.	Dennies.	Berney.	Reinolds.
Gosselyn.	Partridge.	Burden.	Fuller.
Howard.	Clayton.	Green.	Cressye.

An interesting epitaph - on the gravestone of John Durrant who died at the age of 58 in the year 1818:-

“He was a good father
and husband too

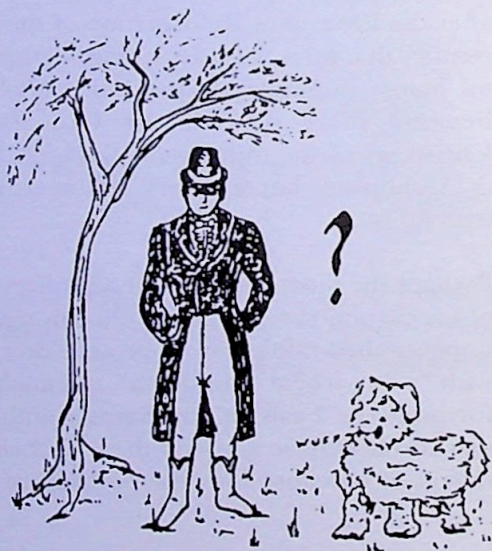
And an upright man as
many knew

And when alive he oft
would say

‘Between bark and
tree I go alway’.

But since he is dead
and in his grave,

We hope that Christ
his soul will save.”



ARCHITECTURE

The overall architectural style of the present building is a mixture of the 'Decorated' - 1290-1350, and 'Perpendicular' - 1350-1530, but it is apparent that it was reconstructed and enlarged in the 12/13th centuries and that many other alterations and additions have been completed progressively since.

The non-existence of early church records, or even "faculties", precludes the inclusion of precise details of many alterations, but the considered opinions of several church historians and writers have been weighed against information gleaned from a variety of other sources in order to arrive at the following conclusions:-

THE NAVE

THE PIER ARCADES.

Considered by most historians as the most outstanding feature of the church. Built in the 13th century, they consist of four bays with round and octagonal pillars; counter changed. The capitals (head or crowning feature of the column) on the North side have normal 13th century mouldings. On the South side the bosses have the usual water-holding moulding. They do not differ greatly in date, though the North side is the later.

ROOF.

Leaded portions replaced in the year 1952 by steeper and more highly pitched roof and covered with weathered tiles. Some of the lead was stolen, but the proceeds from the sale of the remainder was used to pay for some of the repairs.

THE CHANCEL

Built in the 13th century. Two lancet (slender pointed-arched) windows of this period can still be seen in the North wall.

The South wall appears to have been reconstructed in the 14th century; two windows, and a buttress with plinth moulding of this period, seem to support this assumption.

The side walls of the chancel were raised in comparatively recent times, and the roof is modern.

The West window of the chancel was repaired in 1959 after damage caused by blast during the 1939/45 war.

AISLES

Both the North and South aisles have a 13th century window near the East end, and there is evidence of the remaining part of the walls having been repaired and rebuilt later. The modern commemorative engravings on glass in the South aisle windows were executed at Ipswich School. The Eastermost window of the South aisle is of three lights with basket tracery, but is of a somewhat later period than the 13th century window in the North aisle, of three lancets, and having beneath it a trefoil-headed piscine niche.

The rest of the South aisle was rebuilt in the 14th century.

The Western portion of the North aisle was rebuilt more than half a century later and contains two Perpendicular (c.1350-1530) windows.

CLERESTORY

Added to the nave in the 15th century, probably soon after the work was completed in the North aisle.

The North windows (now blanked out) look into the aisle, the roof of which was rebuilt in the 17th century. At the West end of the North aisle a remnant of the 15th century lower pitched roof can still be seen.

SQUARE TOWER

The tower is a good example of a Suffolk Perpendicular (1350-1530) tower of the period before 'flush' (flint used decoratively) or flint and stone ornament came in. The tower and plainly embattled parapet was rebuilt in 1899.

The old West door appears to be original and has moulded muntins (vertical part of the framing of the door) but no tracery. Above is a 'Perp' style window.

OTHER FEATURES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

These are numbered in sequence starting from the font, as shown on the floor plan of the church - page 23

1. FONT

The font is of the perpendicular period (1350-1530) and is of traditional East Anglian style. It is carved from Caen stone, and we are privileged to have this example of work so skilfully and painstakingly executed by early craftsmen. It was previously the font of St. Bartholomew's church, Shipmeadow (near Beccles) - surviving a period in 1662 when the church was described as being in ruin. It

was installed at Hintlesham on the 9th March 1988.

The old font, which had been built by a Mr. K. Tovell in September, 1827, was removed and taken to Saint Edmund's church, Felixstowe.

2. HATCHMENTS

In 1899 there were eight hatchments hanging in the church, but now only two remain. In February 1959 these two were re-hung on the front of the organ loft, commemorating:-

(a) (left-hand side) Frances, daughter of James Daniell who married the Hon. Lindsey Merrick Peter Burrell in 1807 and died 25th August, 1846, aged 67 years.

(b) (right-hand side) Captain Heneage Lloyd, Coldstream Guards, died unmarried 22nd December 1776, aged 33 years.

3. ORGAN

The present organ was transferred to this church in 1934, from Sproughton church, (whence it was purchased for £75), when a new organ loft was also constructed, using oak supports made from trees from Hintlesham Hall estate. It is a two manual "Tracker" organ with 400/450 pipes, and was built about a hundred years ago by Messrs. Heale & Co. Plymouth.

The previous organ was only one manual, and originally stood in the chancel before being transferred to Beccles. Prior to this a harmonium was used to provide music for the choir and congregation.

4. BELFRY

There are six bells in the tower:-

Treble F. 4cwt.	1905.	Second E. 4cwt.	1677.
Third 12. 4¼cwt.	1678.	Fourth C. 5¼cwt.	1678.
Fifth C. 6cwt.	1722.	Tenor A. 8 cwt.	1678.

Bells were, however, in evidence before this. A Robert Leggy gave a bell in 1473 called a 'Sawntes' bell (i.e. Sanctus) at a price of ten shillings, and, as already mentioned, Thomas Timperley early in the sixteenth century gave £30 towards a new bell. The value of £30 in Elizabethan times, of course, bears no comparison with the value of £30 today.

Early records are incomplete, but it appears that in 1553 there were two bells, which had increased in number to four by 1890. By March 1905 five bells were in existence, when they were rehung in new frames, and an additional bell was

installed complete with fittings. This "new" bell was presented by a Mr Taylor who was living at the "Hall", and was inscribed "In memorium. Christine Frances Taylor. Died January 11th 1892. Aged 14 years". It has also been said that one of the bells came from Chattisham Church, but no written confirmation of this can be found.

The floor of the belfry was renewed with 400 white bricks, and the roof repaired in 1906.

5. WALL PAINTINGS

(a) A relic on the North clerestory wall above the first and second bays of the pier arcades of a figure of St. Christopher was revealed when the walls were scraped and cleaned prior to redecorating in 1894, and small fragments can still be seen.

(b) On the North wall of the South aisle traces of a pattern including figures of birds can still be seen, although they are gradually losing their detailed definition.

(c) On the West wall of the South aisle there were traces of fleur-de-lys and, it is said, all the walls were, at one time, decorated with paintings of lilies, roses, and "conventional" doves.

6. PAINTING - "THE CRUCIFIXION"

The 17th Century painting of the crucifixion hanging on the North door is thought to be of Spanish origin, and was donated to the church in 1959.

7. STAINED GLASS

There are a few remains of the 15th century stained glass in the tracery (i.e. intersecting ribwork) in the upper part of the central window in the North aisle.

8. STUART TABLE

The Stuart Table, bearing a plate inscribed "This table was used as the altar table in Hintlesham for many years" Temp. Charles II (1660 -1685), was purchased from the church by Sir Gerald Ryan in 1914/15 and removed to Hintlesham Hall, but was returned in 1936 together with the gift of a painting (later stolen) and the 18th century style tryptych which stands in the North aisle. The vicar, The Rev. Mouldsdales, then donated a cross and a pair of pewter candlesticks for use on the restored table and obtained hangings for the tryptych from Westminster Abbey.

9. PAINTING IN TRYPTYCH (North aisle)

Painted by David Willis, this seascape was presented by Mrs. Barbara Parham of Hyntle Place, to replace the one which had been stolen. In view of the Christian conception of a ship representing the church sailing through all perils (the word 'nave' meaning the part of the church where the people sit comes from the Latin word 'navis' meaning a ship) this picture is very apt - and in addition, of course, St. Nicholas is recognised widely as the patron saint of seafarers as well as children.

10. GROTESQUES

Used as corbels at either side of the chancel to support the 20th century embraced beam originally supporting a rood loft.

11. UNIQUE INCISED MONUMENT

Monument to Captain Timperley, originally part of a Table Monument on the floor of the chancel, which, around the year 1824, was dismantled, the existing part of the monument being removed and mounted on the wall near the Vestry door as it can be seen today. The material of this monument has been described by historians over the years as being slate, and more recently as carboniferous limestone, but during recent renovations the recessed sections of the surrounds have revealed details which indicate a composition associated with the very rare blue-black basalt which comes from the banks of the river Scheldt near Tournai, Hainault in Belgium (known as Tournai "Marble"). Due to the excellent and well preserved engraving, particularly of the heraldic designs, this monument is probably the most valuable in the church, from an historic point of view.

12. VESTRY

Thought to have been used as a school room and a chapel at one time. The oak door is original and there is an ancient squint providing a view to the altar.

13. ALTAR RAIL

Has 17th century twisted balusters.

14. EAST WINDOW AND SANCTUARY

Stained glass window presented by the Hon. Georgiana Christiana Anstruther in 1881. Some wooden panelling, until recently positioned in the sanctuary on the East wall behind the altar is described by Cautley and Pevsner as "Perpendicular" and "Crested", which led Cautley and others to suppose that it was part of the original rood loft parapet. It is now thought by modern experts

to be more likely to have been part of a 19c screen. It has been said to have been carved from oak supplied from trees at Hintlesham Hall. In 1988 this panelling, which is still in very good condition, was moved to the West end of the church.

There is evidence that a considerable number of alterations was made in the sanctuary during the 19c., but few details can be found. The present altar is neatly carved and inlaid with consecration crosses, with seven openings to accommodate detachable panels. It is thought to have been in its present position since the early part of the 20th century. The decorated base has been removed, and is now being used by the bellringers as a platform.

15. PISCINA

Recess (in wall in South East corner) for washing of Communion or Mass vessels.

16. WALL MONUMENT

To Thomas and Nicholas Tymperley and families, on the South side of the chancel within the communion rails. Inscriptions (approx. translation):-

(Left side) "Here lie Thomas Tymperley esquire who died on 14 January 1593 and Audrey his wife the first daughter of Nicholas Hare [Knight, Master of the Rolls] and Katherine his wife (who died in 1558).

(Right side) Here lie Nicholas Tymperley esquire who died and Anna his wife daughter and heir of William Markham Esquire".

When in 1988 this monument was dismantled for repair, an unexpected discovery was made behind it in the form of a recess surmounted by a bricked arch. In the "East Suffolk Illustrated" 1908/9, H.R. Barker writes, "In South



aisle of the chancel were plain sedilia - not now visible". Miss C.E. Deane has also written, "Timperley monument placed over a sedilia in the South wall". The base is of a different material and style of carving from the rest of the monument, posing another theory that the recess could originally have contained a tomb or effigy:-

A mystery remains regarding the heraldry now depicted on this and other Timperley monuments in the church, which is at odds with that originally displayed, described and illustrated as late as 1816. It is thought that alterations were made when the arms were repaired and repainted in the 19th century.

17. ROOD LOFT

The staircase was added in the 16th century. The pointed brick doorway enters the chancel immediately to the East of where the chancel arch or screen would originally be, and the entrance to the rood loft, 18 steps high, is further East. This suggests that the screen itself was set back enclosing a small chapel and altar on each side within the structural chancel beneath a very deep loft which projected as far as the end of the nave. The size of the loft is remarkable, and according to Francis C. Eeles - Secretary to the Central Committee for the Protection of Churches - can only be paralleled at Minehead in West Somerset, where, however, the treatment is very different.

18. CHANCEL

In 1856 a screen was provided and "fixed" in the chancel and in 1922 a screen was moved to the belfry. However, in 1953 a church inventory records "a plain screen in the chancel", although no one can remember ever seeing one in that position.

In addition to extensive structural repairs and redecoration to the roof and walls of the chancel in 1988, it became necessary to remove the choir stalls because of signs of deterioration in the general condition of the woodwork.

Here again, an unexpected surprise discovery. On the backs of the stalls - facing the walls behind - panels with the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed painted in gold on a black background were discovered. The last record of the existence of the Lord's prayer panel was in 1824 when the frame in which it was located over the Communion Table was renewed. Although not complete, the sections discovered are in remarkably good condition.

19. ST. NICHOLAS CARVING

In 1938, the Rector and friends donated a statue of St. Nicholas, to be erected in the niche on the South Aisle in memory of his late secretary. Inscribed "To the children of Hintlesham in memory of the dear life of Cecil Margaret Plummer. At rest 10th December 1937", the carving is linked with St. Nicholas as the Patron Saint of children.

20. PISCINE NICHE AND SOUTH AISLE ALTAR

This niche is square-headed and was probably intended to contain a door and be used as an ambry (for holding sacred vessels for the Communion). It is situated beneath the most Easterly window of the South aisle, and was, at one time, painted with the initial "M" and a conventional flower in red on a blue background. This part of the church was perhaps used as a "Lady Chapel", although in 1936, it was regarded as the "Children's Corner". In December 1984 the altar, formerly situated in the Bishop's Chapel, was introduced in the South Aisle when the front row of pews was removed.

21. DATE ON BEAM

The date 1759 and the initial "W.V." are carved on the wooden roof support in the South aisle, and appear to be tradesmen's marks.

22. SOUTH PORCH (Perpendicular c. 1350-1530)

The outside of the doorway in the South porch is richly moulded and the square-headed treatment with split black flints is said to indicate that this work was probably completed after the 'Black Death' - perhaps about 1360.

The porch was restored in 1911, the costs being met by Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan, of Hintlesham Hall.

23. CLOCK INTOWER

The clock produced by J. Smith and Sons, of Derby, was presented to the church in memory of Ellen Amelia Lady Ryan of Hintlesham Hall, (who died 22nd November 1935), by a member of her family.

24. OLDEST RECORDED BURIALS AND STONES

John Craton, vicar, who died 22nd August 1375, is said to have been buried in the chancel "before the image of Saint Nicholas", but no stone can now be seen.

The oldest memorial stone is probably the large one in the centre of the chancel (under the carpet). According to early historians it commemorated John Timperley and Margaret his wife, who died in the mid fifteenth century. There are still signs of where the original brasses were positioned but these have been missing for many years. The arms and the two figures on this stone were described and illustrated in Randle Holme's Cheshire Collections and Harleian MS.2129, fo.123 B., and by David Elisha Davy in MS. Add. 19105, ff. 26-46, following his visits to the church in 1805 - 1829. Davy also adds, "This, no doubt, is the stone which included the inscription mentioned by Weever, to the memory of John Timperley and Margaret his wife, but all the brasses had been removed by 1828". An original Court Roll clearly indicates that Margaret Pettistree, daughter and heir of William Pettistree of Sutton, Nr. Woodbridge, was the wife of John Timperley in the 11th year of the reign of Henry VI (1433).

The will of Sir John Timperley, dated 1522, indicates the relationship of the three early "Johns", after he refers to his wife Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Tey of Colchester. His father, another Sir John, appears to have been the son of the John whose memorial stone is described above. Sir John also bequeathed to his servant Robert Bagshaw two tenements, one called Legres in Hyntlesham and the other Burstall in the farm of Jeffrey. There was at one time a commemorative stone in the floor of the church to "Robert Bagshaw - Petrich (Partridge?) 1520".

Sir John also requested in his will, "The profits of my land called Cranys in Hyntlesham to find and maintain a lamp in Hyntlesham church, burning before the sacrament there, according to the terms of the will of Sir John my father". How thoughtful and generous of Richard Timperley, of Applecross W.A., Australia, who, following a visit he and his wife Hazel made to the church in 1991, sent an antique lamp to replace the one originally provided by one of his ancestors in 1522.

Another Timperley stone can be seen towards the Eastern end of the centre aisle of the Nave (under the carpet). The brasses of the figure and heraldic shields are missing, but the stone appears to be that of William Timperley, who died in 1528. (Stone described and illustrated in Har. MS.2129, fo.123.B).

MISCELLANEOUS

Churchwarden's Accounts Book for the period Michaelmas 1816 to Easter 1894 has at long last been returned to Hintlesham, by Mrs Betsy Collington who, in July 1991, visited this country, and brought back from America the accounts book which had been 'missing' for a number of years. Mrs Collington is a descendant of Horace Turner, who was a churchwarden in 1892.

The entries make very interesting reading, but in these earlier documents very little detail is recorded about the actual work involved. It is clear that carpenters, plumbers, blacksmiths and glaziers were regularly employed, but almost all of the entries in the accounts book are limited to the phrase "paid as per bill". However, the following items did include more detail and are of particular interest:-

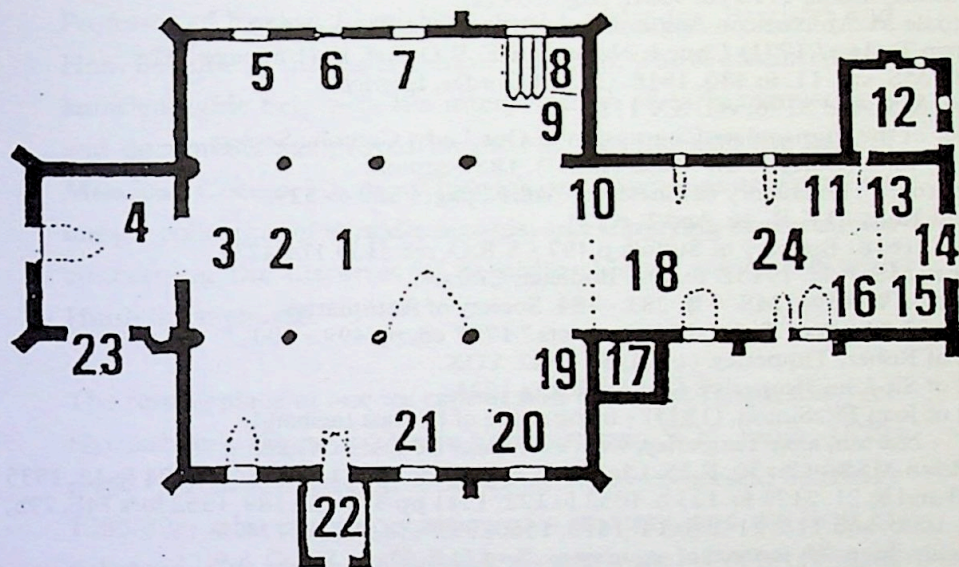
- 1825. Supply ornament for font and painting - £1.11s.
- 1825. 5½ days work in churchyard - 10s.1d.
- 1826. Sept. J Abbott built a new gallery - £2.18s.5d. (Probably in the West end of the church, for use by singers before the luxury of an organ).
- 1850. April 1. "The Rector (H.W. Deane) exhibited receipts from the secretaries of the Society for the enlargement of building of churches and chapels", but no other information on this subject is recorded.

More recent repairs and alterations:-

- 1919 Stocks and whipping post replaced.
- 1927 Churchyard extended - additional land given by Messrs Tollemache.
- 1959 The West window of the chancel, damaged by blast during second World War, repaired in 1959.
- 1959 A new oak screen was provided for the choir vestry in the North West corner of the nave.
- 1959 Footstones on graves in the churchyard were moved up to headstones.
- 1962 Two buttresses rebuilt.
- 1964 Old unmarked graves in the churchyard were levelled.
- 1972 Pews on the West side of the south aisle and those blocking access to the North door were removed. The North door was sealed up.
- 1985 Repairs to stonework, and reglazing of three windows in the North aisle, two in the South aisle and one in the South clerestory.
- 1985 Repairs to the tower and walls. "French" drains to all sides of the chancel and North vestry.
- 1987/ Chancel roof and supports strengthened.
- 1988 Chancel walls repaired and redecorated.
Seating in chancel removed, floor levelled and bricked over where seating had been.
Stone reredos on East wall restabilised.
Captain Timperley's 'table top' monument on North wall near vestry door cleaned and made secure in wall.
Thomas Timperley monument on South wall of chancel dismantled and refurbished by Mr. John Green, sculptor, of Washbrook.
- 1991 Bells and their fittings refurbished by David Salter and his team of volunteers from Ipswich.

GROUND PLAN

	Page No.		Page No.
1. Font	(14)	7. Stained Glass	(16)
2. Hatchments	(15)	8. Holy Table	(16)
3. Organ	(15)	9. Painting	(17)
4. Belfry	(15/16)	10. Grottesque	(17)
5. Paintings	(Wall.16)	11. Monument	(17)
6. Picture	(16)	12. Vestry	(17)



	Page No.		Page No.
13. Altar Rail	(17)	19. 'St. Nicholas'	(20)
14. Sanctuary	(17/18)	20. 'Niche' and Altar	(20)
15. Piscina	(18)	21. Date on beam	(20)
16. Monument	(18/19)	22. South porch	(20)
17. Loft stairs	(19)	23. Tower clock	(20)
18. Chancel	(19)	24. Oldest stone	(20/21)

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In assembling in this guide some facts and general information which we found interesting and thought may in turn interest you, we are indeed mindful of the inevitable gaps in a chain of events spanning some nine to ten centuries. The complete story would (and indeed may one day) fill a book - or even volumes. Time alone will tell.

We acknowledge with gratitude the help afforded us from so many sources and, in particular, John Hamilton Baker, LL.D., F.B.A., Professor of English Legal History at Cambridge, Barrister and Hon. Bencher of the Inner Temple, London, whose unstinted and knowledgeable help with the interpretation of early manuscripts and documents has proved invaluable, - as has also the help of Miss Joan Corder, F.S.A., of Ipswich, in allowing us access to her unique collection of heraldic records, and supplying expert advice concerning the histories of heraldic shields associated with Hintlesham church.

The resting place of one we cannot find is Robert Hyntlesham (or Hyrtlesham), (*Fasti' Ecclesiae Sarisberiensis*, W.H. Jones, 1879, p.95) - a Suffragan Bishop of Sebastopolis, Norwich and Salisbury 1385/89 - who poses something of a mystery, and we shall be delighted if, or when, we discover the whereabouts of his remains and what was his connection with Hintlesham in Suffolk.

So much, then, for a journey through the times and annals of St. Nicholas Church, Hintlesham. Still it stands, true to its founders, a building of great dignity and strength yet infinite peace within. May it continue so - our heritage bequeathed to posterity.

Marjorie and Ken.
Hintlesham.



Have you been to Hintlesham
In the month of May
When all the earth is waking
And Summer's on the way -
When flow'ring cherry trees bestir
Unfolding pink cascades,
And carpets of anemones
Bedeck the leafy glades?

Or have you been to Hintlesham
When Summer's in full spate?
It's hither-thither everywhere -
We're going to have a fete.
There are roses in the gardens
And flowers of brilliant hue -
And every day in every wayside
Up pops something new

And when the bustle's over
And it's quiet overhead -
The thrush has sung his heart out
And the wee birds are abed -
There's peace and charm aplenty,
A quiet calm descends

And there's a lovely feeling
Because you are with friends.



