

St. Mary's Bakenham



B A K E N H A M .

Bakenham Church 1827

Pakenham

'Pacca's FELD or HĀM', (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names - Ekwall, Ellert*).

(N.D.) The earliest mention of Pakenham occurs in the will of Theodred, Bishop of London, (c.926 x c.951), when amongst other bequests, he gave land at Barton, Rougham and Pakenham to, 'my kinsman Eadulf's son Osgot'.

(N.D.) Abbott Leofstan of Bury St Edmunds (1042 x 1065), leased half a carucate of land in Pakenham to an unnamed freeman, on condition that after the freeman's death the whole of his land there shall revert to Abbey.

(N.D.) King Edward the Confessor (1044 x 1065) gave the estate of Pakenham, which formerly belonged to Osgot, to the Abbey. It is possible that Osgot, who by then had gone into exile, had been the freeman who had leased the land from the Abbot.

(1086) The Domesday survey records a Church holding 30 acres in alms of free land at Pakenham.

St. Mary's Pakenham

The church is sited on a promontory overlooking the village which lies in a low sided valley that stretches from Grimstone End in the north to Barton Mere in the south. The original church as recorded in 1086 was probably a wooden structure built by the Lord of the Manor whose house would have stood nearby.

After the Conquest of 1066, the Normans began the task of reforming and modernising the English Church, bringing it up to date with the Norman and Continental model. Anglo Saxon architecture was swept away and a great wave of rebuilding took place supported by a new aristocracy prepared to invest their recent financial prosperity in this task. It was during the reign of Henry 1, (1100 x 1135), that a 'Walter' is recorded as founding a new church at Pakenham.

Church Time-Line

- Early 12th century. Walter's church built consisting of a nave, central tower and chancel. The chancel was probably half the size of the present structure with an apsidal east wall.

- Mid to late 13th century. Chancel altered and extended. Transept added to south wall of tower. New windows inserted in the walls of the nave.
- Early 14th century. North entrance to the nave added.
- Late 14th to early 15th centuries. Tower strengthened with diagonal buttresses and altered to receive the octagonal belfry. Porch erected over the north door and new roofs were added to the chancel and nave.
- Late 15th century. East window in chancel and west window in nave inserted.
- 15th century. Chancel screen added. Font probably installed at this time.
- Mid 16th century. Chancel pews added. Windows installed in west end of chancel.
- Early 17th century. Communion rail erected.
- 18th century. Gallery erected in nave. Box pews installed in nave, gallery, and on the floor of tower.
- Mid 19th century. Church restored and enlarged.
- Late 19th century. Chancel restored.
- Late 20th century. Tower restored.
- Early 21st century. North and south transepts reordered.

Church Exterior

Nave

The north wall of the nave is pierced by a two-light lancet window with quatrefoil plate tracery of the late Early English period, (mid to late 13th century). It probably replaced an earlier Norman window as nothing of that period remains.

The south wall of the nave contains another two-light and quatrefoil plate tracery window and a simple Norman doorway with shafts, scalloped capitals and rolled mouldings. Under the window there is what appears to be a stone coffin built into the wall. It is reputed to be the resting place of Walter, the founder of the church.

The west wall of the nave contains a large Perpendicular window similar in design to that on the east wall of the chancel. It appears to be in original condition apart from minor repairs. It may have been necessary to raise the height of the nave walls to accommodate this window as above it can be seen the line of an earlier gable. Below the window stands a Norman doorway built in the same style as the south door. It is in original condition apart from the external shafts which were replaced during the restoration. The engraving of 1822, (below), shows both this and the south doorway of the nave partly stopped up with windows inserted in their top halves.



Dakenham Church 1822

Tower

The bottom two thirds of the tower date from the construction of the original Norman church. In the late 14th century the top of the tower was modified, an octagonal bell chamber added and the corners of the walls strengthened by the addition of diagonal

buttresses. Three of the belfry openings are carved in the classic ogee style of the early 14th century; the south opening which dates from 1958, is in the Perpendicular style. Note the four carved figures above these openings; two of these are hollowed out to carry rainwater off the tower roof and went out of use after the transepts were added. The white crenulated brickwork at the top of the Tower was added c.1805. The oak louvers were repaired in 2016.

Stair Turret and North Transept

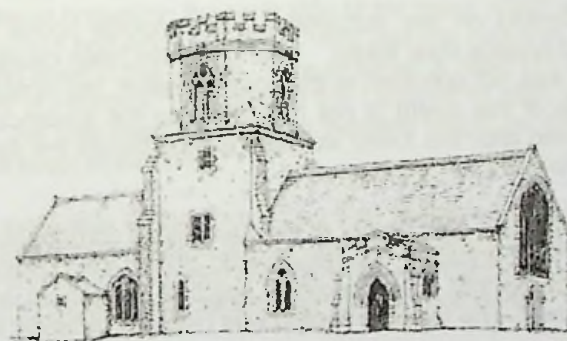
The stair turret, originally designed to be located on the south side of the nave, leads to the ringing chamber; it was added during the church restoration of 1849 – 1850. The architect employed for these works was Samuel S. Teulon and all his designs are loosely based on the Early English style. In front of the turret door lie the remains of the memorial stone of Dorithea Humberston who died on 1st December 1564; she was buried in the chancel on the following day. She was the wife of William Humberston and granddaughter of Thomas Spring of Lavenham who financed the building of part of the church and the steeple there. The stone was first recorded in the chancel in 1735 and in 1778 it was moved to the nave aisle. It was still there in c.1830 and was probably removed from the church when the present tile floor was laid.

Chancel and Vestry

The north wall of the chancel is pierced at the east end by an Early English lancet window of the 13th century and at the west end by a three-light window with flattened arch typical of the Tudor period of the 16th century. Between these windows stands the vestry which during the same century became the place where parishioners met to administer the affairs of their parish. A drawing by Walter Hagreer published in 1850, (below), shows the vestry with a gabled roof set at right-angles to the chancel and a very small square window in the north wall. The vestry was totally rebuilt in the late 19th century in its present form. The large two-light window in the north wall is in the early Tudor style of around the late 15th century. It may have been re-used as it is similar to one shown in Hagreer's drawing, located in the north wall of the tower. Before turning the corner, notice the hood moulding above the chancel roof indicating its original height when thatched.

The east wall of the chancel contains a large five light window in the Perpendicular style of the mid to late 15th century. By the middle of the 19th century this window was in a poor state of repair being held together with brick-bates, clunch and cement

reinforced with brass wire. It was rebuilt in 1887 using Corsham Stone in the same style as the original, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.



Dakenham Church 1849

The south wall of the chancel contains similar windows to those seen in the north wall. In addition it contains a priest's door with a small lancet above all in the Early English style. This door was usually located to the west of the chancel and may have been moved to make way for the three-light Tudor window. It would appear that the lancet window opening was altered to accommodate the doorway, thus minimising structural disturbance. The four stone coffin lids fixed to the wall are thought to date from the 13th century.

South Transept

The south transept of 1849 – 1850 occupies the site of an earlier transept which appears to have been destroyed by fire. This was suggested by the discovery of the stub of a burnt timber purlin found above the south tower arch during the Victorian restoration. Foundations for this structure were also discovered during the construction of the present transept, but were not recorded. An engraving of the Church by H Davy published in 1822, (above), shows an Early English arch inserted in the south wall of the tower which would have given access to this transept. The

arch is shown blocked and fitted with a three-light Tudor style window. Above the arch in the engraving can be seen a hood moulding which indicates the height of this lost transept. The small lancet window shown below the moulding admitted light into the ringing chamber and remains unaltered.

Note the pink staining on the buttresses, hood moulds above the chancel and transept roof, and priest's door frame. This may have been caused by heat, which suggests the fire was not confined to the south transept, but spread throughout the church. The date of this event is not recorded, but the evidence suggests that it would have occurred after the tower was altered and before the date of the chancel roof, i.e. late 14th to early 15th century.

The buttress on the south-east corner of the tower stops abruptly above the height of the chancel wall. Its foundation was discovered during the building of the present south transept showing that it had originally reached the ground and therefore pre-dated the first transept. The missing section was probably removed when it was built.

A new door was inserted in the west wall of the transept in 2002 to provide a fire exit from the Martin Room and is built in the same style as the Stair Turret door.

Churchyard

In many parishes the north side of the churchyard was not consecrated and was used as the burial place of felons, outcasts, un-baptised infants and suicides. This area could often be the venue for village festivities and social activities such as dancing or games, but by the mid-eighteenth century these activities were discouraged and moved elsewhere. Mary Quayle, the wife of Reverend Charles Jones, Vicar of Pakenham 1845 - 1861, could remember her grandmother, (1725 - 1785), telling her about the game of 'Camping', a rough form of football. It was played in the field next to the churchyard known as the Camping Close, where the Vicar had the honour of first kick.

Gravestones were a seventeenth century innovation and one of the earliest surviving headstones records the passing of John Ager, Gentleman, 'Who departed this life February 7 1677'. Although death is considered the 'Great Leveller', the position you occupied in the churchyard depended on your social standing. The Patron who held the living and his family could have their mortal remains buried in the chancel, and the Gentry could be interred in the nave or porch or externally to the immediate south of the nave. There are at least four thousand burials recorded in the surviving Church Registers which begin in 1564.

The erection of the new transepts in 1849/50 involved the disturbance of several graves. This problem was mentioned in a letter written by the architect Samuel S. Teulon and sent to Reverend Charles Jones in November 1847. On the back of the letter, Reverend Charles Jones had made notes of six graves and a vault on the south side and eleven graves on the north side of the tower which would be affected. Some of these burials had occurred since 1800 and the relatives of those interred were still alive and living in the village. One of these, a John H Robinson, wrote to the Bishop of Ely in February 1849 asking his Lordship to stop the moving of his parents' burials. He was assured that their remains would be decently re-interred and today they lie south of the nave.

The wall on the north side of the churchyard was constructed in two stages during the years 1825 and 1826. A large part of the upper wall was repaired in 2003 by Simon Williams, one of only four flint knappers left in Britain, and known for his work on the spire at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds.

In 1943 the churchyard was extended and a parish cemetery established to the east of the church. In 1960 a faculty was granted to level the churchyard, realign some of the headstones, and place the footstones at their base to improve maintenance.

Memorial Stone

Before entering the Porch you will see on the other side of the footpath, a square stone carved with a Celtic cross on its west face. On the east side are carved the words 'ECCLESTA ISTA AUCTA ORNATA MDCCCL'. - 'This Church was enlarged and adorned 1850'. It stands as a memorial stone to record the completion of the improvements to the Church in that year.

Interior

Porch

Thomas Aunstey, vicar of Pakenham 1417 - 1421, left a bequest in his will dated 8th June 1421, to make an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary in front of the porch of the church. The porch may have been newly built as it was in the Perpendicular style of his time. It was taken down and rebuilt during the restoration of 1849 - 1850. An engraving of the north side of the Church published in 1827, shows that originally it had been crenulated above the door. Within the Porch are two bronze tablets commemorating the names of the men of the village who gave their lives for their country in the two World Wars.

Nave

If you entered the church just before its restoration you would have found the whole atmosphere rather dark and claustrophobic. Overhead and stretching nearly two-thirds of the length of the nave stood a gallery approached by stairs which were probably situated against the west wall. The area below is lit by two small windows fitted into the upper half of the partially stopped up south and west doors; in addition to the gloom, the atmosphere would have been filled with the smell of damp and mouldy walls. Beyond the font which stood near the west door and stretching to just past the south door, were located free sitting box pews or benches for the poor. Next to these and stretching along the rest of the south wall of the nave were the appropriated or rented boxes of the leading trades people; the Bridges, probably from the Bell Inn, the grocer Mr. Batterbee, Mr. Sparke from Nether Hall Farm, the Mr. Jacob of Red Castle Farm, Mr. Potter the butcher and the box reserved for the occupants of Barton Mere. Two small pews against this box were probably reserved for the churchwarden and the parish clerk. On this same side and under the fine Norman arch, (replaced during the Victorian restoration), stands the reading desk, its location making it visible to most of the box pews situated under the tower and in the nave. Standing by the door you could also see the box pews located against the north wall of the nave. At the east end of these pews stood the box rented by Mr. Stedman of Pakenham Manor Farm, its position placing it immediately by the pulpit which was located under the Norman arch. Nearby stood another small box, which presumably was for another churchwarden. The rest of the boxes on this side were either free or available for rent.

Climbing up to the gallery you stand bathed in the bright light coming through the west window. Against the north wall stands the organ and organ pew and on either side of the central aisle stand a row of narrow box-pews. The area near the organ is heated by a stove which was the source of a severe fire as reported in the Morning Herald of 27th March 1834.

'On Tuesday morning at two, Pakenham Church, Suffolk was discovered to be on fire by two women who were going out to wash. Considerable damage is done to the roof part, which fell in on the organ. The fire is supposed to have originated in a flue which runs along the wall from a stove.'

The plastered barrel vaulted ceiling above your head is in a poor state of repair, stained by several leaks from the roof and mould growth. Walking down to the front of the gallery you can clearly see the Norman arch in front of you with its twin beyond

leading into the chancel. The way through the arches is narrow because of the pews under the tower and the position of the pulpit and reading desk.

The restoration of 1849 – 1850 saw the nave transformed with the removal of the gallery, box pews, and ceiling. The roof, which dated to mid 15th century, was replaced and new floor tiles were laid throughout the nave, transepts and crossing. Solid oak pews, with carved fleur-de-lys, based on the design of those at Stanton Harcourt in Oxfordshire, were installed in the nave and transepts.

Today you enter the church through the Decorated north door into a large and spacious nave. The Norman arch of the south door stands complete, whilst the west door has been reduced with a flattened arch, presumably to accommodate the west window above it. The octagonal font is Perpendicular in style and was repaired and 'refined' during the restoration. It is carved with four symbols of Our Lord – the Pelican, the Lamb, the Unicorn and the Lion – and four symbols of the Evangelists – the Angel, the Lion, the Ox and the Eagle.

In rotation the images are:-

East	Pelican in piety – Sacrifice of the Cross.
Southeast	Winged Ox – Luke the Evangelist.
South	Lion – Christ's Resurrection.
Southwest	Eagle – John the Evangelist.
West	Unicorn – the Virgin Mary.
Northwest	Winged Lion – Mark the Evangelist.
North	Lamb or Agnus Dei – Christ.
Northeast	Angel – St. Matthew the Evangelist.

It stands on an octagonal stem with figures of seated monks at the corners. One appears to be meditating, one holds a satchel, one reads a breviary and one holds a reliquary. In 1778 the antiquarian Cullum visited the church and recorded a Greek inscription that he found on the font. The late Ranald Clouston kindly obtained the following translation for me. In Greek it is a palindrome, i.e. it reads the same backwards or forwards: -

'Wash [my] transgression not only [my] face'

The tabernacle cover is in memory of Barbara Rose Jones 1833 – 1931, wife of Reverend Charles William Jones, vicar of this parish 1861 – 1904. It was designed

by Mr. Geoffrey Webb of East Grinstead and the carving carried out by Messrs. J. Howard and Sons of Norwich.

Near the font lie the remains of John Cooke, gentleman, of Red Castle Farm who died in March 1725. His memorial stone was recorded by Cullum in 1778 but is now lost.

The two Early English windows are filled with memorial glass. The window on the north side is dedicated to the memory of Thomas Compton Thornhill who died in 1877 aged 14; he was the son of Sir Compton Thornhill, a former Conservative Whip at the House of Commons. The work is attributed to Heaton, Butler and Bayne. The window in the south wall is a memorial to Hannah Harrison of Bury St. Edmunds and is attributed to William Wailes. Her father John paid for the re-pewing of St. Mary's Church in Bury St. Edmunds. There is a fine memorial to Hannah and two of her sisters in the Churchyard.

The lectern, a handsome brass eagle, commemorates the death of Edward Quayle Jones, the third son of Reverend Charles William Jones, who lost his life at sea in 1875 aged 17.

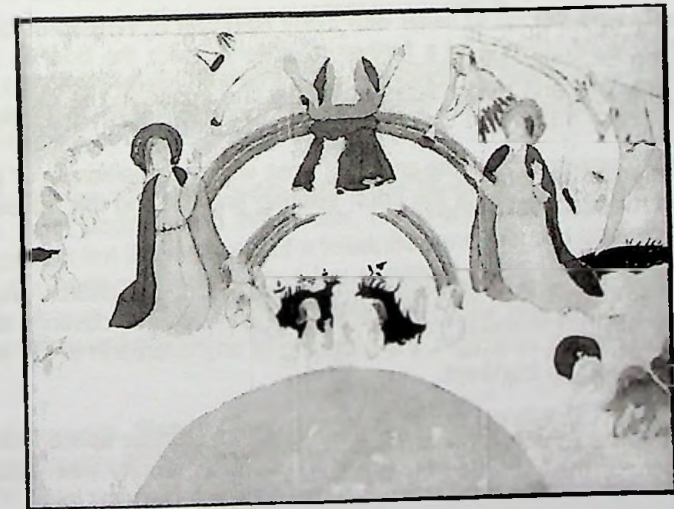
The Crossing

At the restoration, new arches were inserted in the north and west walls of the tower, their design matching the same Early English style of the existing arch in the south tower wall. During this work a 'Doom' painting was discovered over the nave arch and recorded by Reverend Charles William Jones. The west arch replaced the original Norman arch, opening up the view from the pulpit which was placed in its present position to address the congregation now sitting in the new transepts and the nave.

The ceiling of the crossing was designed, illuminated and erected by Walter Hagreen of Ipswich in 1880. It is made up of 16 panels constructed of wooden boards covered in linen cloth. The elaborate monograms of 'IHC' and a crowned 'M' representing Jesus and his Mother Mary.

Below the crossing stands the nave altar which is dedicated to the memory of Barbara Cunliffe 1900 - 1970, first wife of Captain Cunliffe, for many years a devoted Christian worker and member of the congregation. Donated by her family, it was designed by Mr. Jack Penton, a distinguished Suffolk artist, and the work was executed in sycamore and American walnut by Mr. Barrie Chester.

On opposing walls forming the western side of the side arches are two plain panelled boards facing into the centre of the crossing. Little is known of their provenance but it is strongly believed that they were placed in this position to form the backing to the two chairs for Bishop and Arch Deacon which stand in the Chancel and can be carried to these locations for formal events.



Doom Painting by Rev B A Browning 1931. Based on a drawing by Rev. C W Jones

The South Transept

The south transept stands on the site of an earlier structure, which was entered through the Early English arch in the south wall of the tower. It may have been a Chantry chapel for one of the leading Pakenham families or a Guild chapel. Guilds are mentioned in the wills of three men of Pakenham; William Gambon left 3s 4d to the Pakenham Guilds of St. Peter and St. John in 1446/47, John Calabyr left money to the Guild of St. Peter in about 1458 and in 1460, John Rows of Pakenham left 6s 8d to the Pakenham Guild of Corpus Christi.

Lord Calthorpe of Ampton, who was then the Lord of the Manor, generously donated enough money to meet the construction costs of the south transept during the restoration.

The South Transept Meeting Area - "The Martin Room"

A bequest was made to the Church in 1999 by the Kristina Martin Trust (see appendix).

A working party was set up to liaise with Tony Redman of Whitworth Co Partnership for the production of plans and a further re-ordering with the brief to maximise the benefit of this bequest and to consider ways that the space in the church could be utilised to enable community use with provision made for disabled access.

It included the improvement of the crossing area with the positioning of the nave altar which promoted the removal of the choir seating and making this space into a more usable area.

The original thinking was to redevelop the west end of the church around the font together with the north and south transepts, but with material costings and monetary strictures on the project very tight, the planning of any alteration to the west end was dropped in favour of the transept.

The south transept had for many years been used as storage space hidden behind a curtain taken across the mid-point of the transept. A faculty was obtained for the reordering and was commenced in 2002, to be completed a year later.

The new scheme has a timber and glazed screen, with a gallery over, a kitchenette at the south end, and a stairway leading to the gallery. All the timber used in the south transept, apart from the stairs, is European Oak. The new room is heated separately from the rest of the church, thus providing a warm meeting area to be used for church meetings. The gallery was planned to provide useful space in the form of an upper meeting room which would also permit additional seating for concerts and drama and large weddings and funerals.

The gallery has the added advantage of allowing closer examination of the stone bosses created by Teulon.

The nature and form of the screen and gallery were carefully arranged to minimise the intrusion and sub-division of the south transept, and the light reduction into the

crossing. The location of the screen and choice of materials hopefully have reflected this. No change to the chancel area or to the chancel screen took place, but existing pews and choir stalls were made mobile, and pew platforms at the crossing area removed.

The work done to establish drainage and water supplies for this development were placed beneath the paths running along the south side of the nave in previously disturbed earth, thus minimising archaeological interference.

In addition to new lighting in the transepts, improvements have been made in the crossing and chancel with the careful use of both upward facing and downward facing floodlights.

The builders 'Valiants' of Barrow, were considerably assisted by the stewardship of churchwarden Keith Boundy, and the Rector, Reverend Ian Hooper in their work to complete the project but the inclusion of a toilet, flower cupboard and repositioning of the screen in the north transept drained the available funds from the Trust and the ground floor work was finished without the planned oak panelling fitted to the south wall and the subsequent provision of doors to cover the kitchen area and door to the stairs.

The Bishop of Dunwich, Bishop Clive, officiated at the service of Dedication, held in the church, on Sunday 20th of July 2003. A special flower festival was held to mark the celebration.

The Trustee to the Martin Trust, Mr Nevil Barker attended the church in 2006 to assess the work funded by the Trust and was disturbed to find that the works had been drawn to a close without, in his view, an adequate end product. He was to carry out a lengthy discussion with Mr Nigel Farthing, the churchwarden in place at the time, and a further set of plans drawn up by Mark Cleveland of Whitworth Co-Partnership to provide for the enclosing of the upper room with a planar glass screen, cupboards for filing systems and desks set into the south end of the room. This was to achieve the completion of a suitable memorial to the memory of Kristina Martin. (See appendix attached).

The work was completed in 2015 and was blessed and consecrated by Bishop Martin as his first public duty in the Diocese at a Patronal Festival in September of that year with a flower festival and a full evensong. A choir was present for the service and included many members of the Saint Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir.

The North Transept

The existing choir screen in the north transept was moved further south towards the organ. This improved the natural lighting of the space, and enabled the erection of cupboards on the north wall. An innovation for the church, positioned adjacent to the north wall, is a toilet with easy access for persons with disability. The rest of the space was set aside for a choir vestry but is currently more valuably used as a flexible space for storage. Drainage and water supplies have been taken from the west end of the church, and the drainage runs for these are also fitted beneath the adjacent external pathways to limit disturbance to the graveyard.

Mounted on the walls of the transept are two Funerary Hatchment boards. A hatchment board was hung over the entrance of the house of the deceased resident and was later transferred to the parish church. Thomas Discipline died on the 18th April 1752 and his hatchment hangs on the south wall. The Dexter or right side is black and the Sinister or left side is white which indicates a surviving wife. On the opposite wall hangs the hatchment of his wife Merolina who died 6th November 1761, the black background indicating that she was a widow. Merolina was one of the two surviving daughters of Sir Thomas Spring and his wife Merolina Jermyn; her sister Mary married Reverend John Symonds of Horinger at Hengrave Church. The sisters were the last of the line of the Spring family who purchased the Manor of Pakenham in the mid 16th century.

Church Organ

The organ in the gallery was moved to the north transept during the restoration and remained there until it was replaced by a new organ made by Theodore Bates of Ludgate, London. The new organ arrived at Thurston Railway Station on Monday 26th October 1863 and was brought to Pakenham the following day. On the following Friday afternoon the children had a holiday so that the instrument could be erected in the school room. On 5th November the school logbook recorded that *'The new Organ opened in the church'; there was a tea party at the Vicarage and the event was attended by, 'a great many clergy', but as ever – 'Very very wet day'.*

Re-opening of the church

The *Bury and Norwich Post* of 25th September 1850 carried an announcement that morning and afternoon services would be held on Tuesday 8th October 1850, to celebrate the completion of the works. Clergy were requested to attend in gowns and met at the vicarage. The occasion was duly reported in the paper where the

removal of the Norman arch was regretted. The condition of the chancel was described as 'dilapidated', and it was suggested that it should be restored to its original style, the ill-proportion Eastern window being replaced with a plain three lancet window.

The Chancel

Entry to the chancel is through a restored Rood Screen which contains 15th century work in its lower section. The seven shields mounted along the top contain symbols of The Passion: -

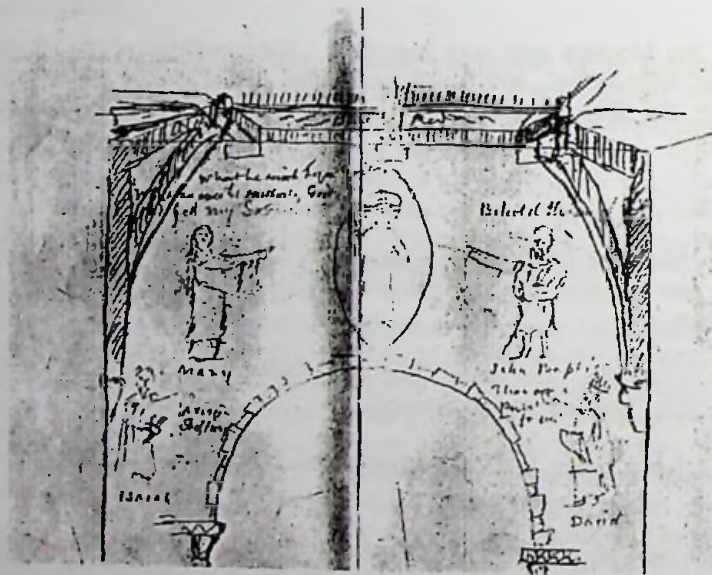
The Cross. The Dice. The Nails. The Title, (INRI). The Crown of Thorns. The Seamless Robe. The Ladder and Sponge.

Above the screen hangs a cross containing an image of The Crucifixion and the Agnus Dei.

Consideration may have been given to painting a representation of the Rood figures on the Chancel Arch. A sketch survives showing the arch adorned with the image of Christ flanked by Mary and John the Baptist. Below Mary and John stand the figures of Isaiah and David.

The chancel is Early English although much altered. The roof timbers, hidden behind the vaulted matchboard ceiling, are dated to c.1400. At the east end is a Canopy of Honour with the symbols of the Sun, Moon and eleven Stars representing Jacob, Rachel and the eleven brothers of Joseph. The east window is filled with memorial glass to the Spring and Symonds families and their descendents. This work, which dates from 1887, is by G.M. McDowell.

In 1786 the Archdeacon ordered the two Early English sanctuary windows and those over the priest and vestry doors, which had previously been blocked, to be opened. To achieve this, the monuments to John Spring Casbourne and John Symonds had to be moved from their original position above the vestry. The sanctuary windows are now filled with memorial glass in memory of the Reverend Charles William Jones, Curate and Vicar of Pakenham 1848 – 1904. Both windows are by G.M. McDowell.



Proposed Chancel Arch Painting

The window over the priests door contains fragments of 15th century stained glass. The remaining window on the south side is dedicated to Edward Greene M.P. of Nether Hall by his widow and dated 1892. The window on the north side is in memory of Harry Clemence Bridges 1913 who was Churchwarden for seventeen years. Both windows are attributed to T.F. Curtis, Ward and Hughes.

On the north wall is a memorial to Joan [John] Brownsmith, Vicar of Pakenham 1696 – 1721. It was originally located on the external east wall of the old vestry, entry to which is through the medieval door on the north side of the chancel. The lock on this door is upside down which may indicate that it had been re-used.

The communion rails are Jacobean although the gate was restored in 1929. There is a trefoil headed piscina in the sanctuary; the arch dates from the restoration, whilst the base appears to be original. The reredos was erected in 1868 by Reverend C.W. Jones and his brother as a memorial to their mother and father. It was designed by S.S. Teulon and carved and erected by Thomas Earp of Lambeth. The mosaic is the work of Salviati and Co. of Venice and London. The design

incorporates the letters Alpha and Omega, the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet, signifying that Christ is both the beginning and the end.

The chancel pew on the south side is 15th century, whilst that on the north appears to be a copy and is supposed to have been made by a local carpenter in c.1865.

The Canopies above the chairs in the Sanctuary were carved by the Reverend B.A. Browning Vicar of Pakenham 1929 - 1938, and installed by Leonard Raynham of Pakenham.

The chancel floor is paved with many memorial tablets to the Spring family of Pakenham Hall and Newe House, and the Le Strange family of Barton Mere. Three of the Spring family were knighted and held the office of High Sheriff of Suffolk, two of whom were M.P.'s for Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk between the years 1622 and 1641.

Ringin Chamber

The stair turret contains a circular stair which gives access to a ringing chamber set above the crossing and its delightful painted ceiling. One of the panels lifts up to give access for the raising or lowering of the bells from the tower. The ringing chamber contains a set of levers for chiming of the bells. In 1977 it was discovered that the upper part of the tower had become structurally weak and needed repairing. After nearly four years of work, a concrete ring beam had been installed to support the octagonal top of the tower on its square base and other repairs carried out. Half the money required for this work was raised by events organised by the people of Pakenham.

The Bell Chamber

Access to the bell chamber is gained from the ringing chamber by a steep open ladder through a hatch into a dark, poorly lit, shallow (5 foot deep) sound deadening chamber to separate the ringing chamber from the bells. The bell chamber contains an oak bell frame of double curved brace construction which is no later than 15th century and may well be the original frame of the 14th century bell stage. The frame was designed for three large bells swinging east-west and was later adapted to take two more swinging north-south. In 1992 the bells were retuned and the bell-frame restored. In 1999 a new treble was added.

The dates of the bells:-

- The Treble Bell. Weight 5cwt. 0qtr. 10lbs., was cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1999 and is inscribed "Make me a Channel of Thy Peace", and "Given by The Ringers".
- The Second Bell. Weight 5cwt, 1qtr. 21lbs., was cast by Mears and Stainbank at Whitechapel in 1872 and is inscribed "O come let us worship" along with the names of the vicar and churchwardens.
- The Third Bell. Weight 6cwt. 0qtr. 19lbs., is the oldest having been cast at Thetford in 1626 and is inscribed "Jon Draper made me"
- The Fourth Bell. Weight 9cwt. 1qtr. 15lbs., is inscribed "Lester and Pack of London. Fecit 1760.
- The Fifth Bell. Weight 9cwt. 1qtr 24lbs, was cast at Whitechapel in 1872 by G Mears and is inscribed "Good Will to Man"
- The Tenor Bell. Weight 12cwt. 1qtr. 18lbs., was made at Whitechapel in 1862 by G Mears; it is inscribed "Glory to God" along with the names of the vicar and churchwardens.

From the bell chamber a vertical ladder with loops to protect the climbers is hung from the north-east wall giving access to the roof via a counterbalanced roof hatch.

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Martin Harrison July 2003.

Further amendments have been added in 2017 by Mr Nigel Farthing. Churchwarden 2005- 2016

Appendix. A. The Martin Family.

Mr Thomas Acquine Martin and his wife Jacqueline were the owners of Nether Hall, Pakenham until 1990. They were blessed with a daughter Kristina Acquina who was born in 1943. They had no other children. The Paternal grandfather and uncle to Mr Martin ran a steel industrial company in India.

On the Birth of the daughter a trust was set up from the funds made available from the business.

Kristina Martin was fatally injured in Italy 1967 her body being buried in that country.

In 1987 the family were confronted with the request from the Catholic Church in Italy (The family were followers of this faith) to remove the body and rebury it as it was to be exhumed by law from the current grave.

The Catholic Church was unable to assist them in England therefore the family approached the Rector of Pakenham, The Reverend Pearson, to allow the body to be interred in a grave in the graveyard to the church. This was agreed and her body placed in a grave sited close to the front wall of the churchyard in the South East Comer at a position closest to her home, Nether Hall.

She was followed to her resting place by both her Father and Mother who are buried nearby.

In 1999 the Trust Fund, set up by the Grandfather to support Kristina and also the Catholic Church in India; in the person of the Trustee, Mr Nevil Barker of Hunters Solicitors, Lincolns Inn London; contacted The Reverend Ian Hooper, Rector of Pakenham. The trust offered the Church the sum of £100,000 to carry out work in the Church which would serve as a facility for the parish and community of Pakenham. It was also to provide the Trust with a suitable, well constructed and self funding facility which could provide a long lasting memorial to the family and Kristina.

The whole project was completed in two phases between 2002 and 2015 at a total cost to the trust of £198,000. (Mr Nigel Farthing)