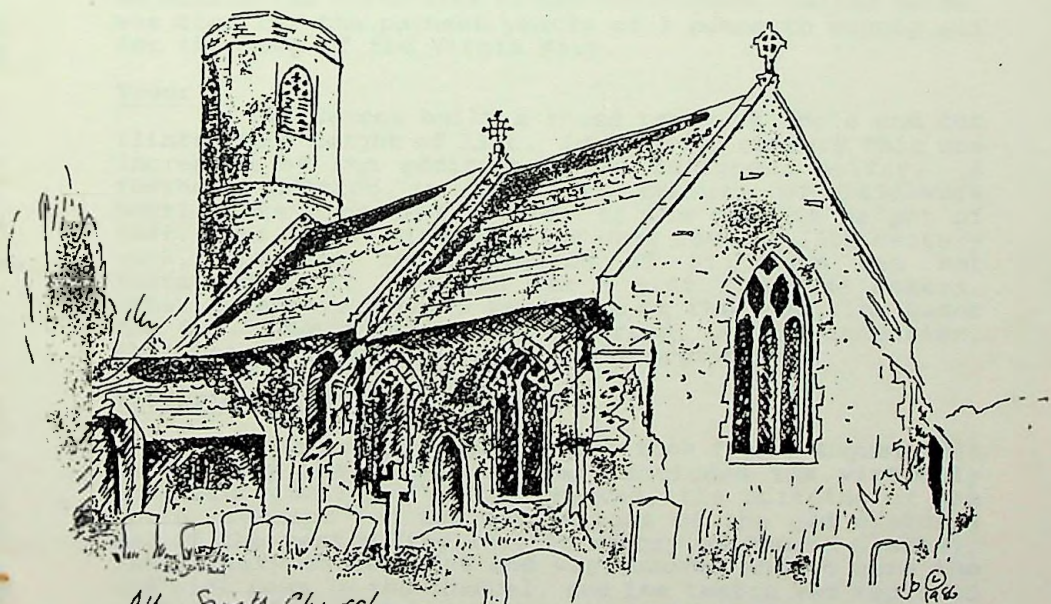


**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
STUSTON**



*All Saints Church
Stuston.*

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STUSTON
A brief history

There has been a church at Stuston since Saxon times - it is mentioned in Domesday Book - but of that building (which was probably mainly of wood) only the Tower remains. The nave and the chancel were rebuilt in the 15th century, together with the south porch. Gone too, is the oratory (dedicated to St. Katherine) which, during the 13th century, stood on the north side, approximately where the transept now is. The field adjoining the north side of the churchyard, called Golds, was tied for the payment yearly of 3 pence to supply oil for the lamp of the Virgin Mary.

Tower

The Saxons built a round tower of whole and cut flints, to a height of 33ft. In the 14th century this was increased by the addition of an octagonal belfry. A further addition in the 15th century of brickwork battlements brought the tower to its present height of 54ft. The lancet window in the west face is 13th century work, but the representation of St. John was not installed until 1861 and was a gift from the makers. Other extensive repairs were done at the same time under the Rev. Edward Paget, who reported, on his induction, that the buildings had been sadly neglected.

Victorian repairs.

These repair works, which took from 5 August 1861 to 11 July the following year, included the virtually complete rebuilding of the chancel, the building of the north transept (on the foundations of the old oratory) and of the vestry (the last in memory of Osmund Clarke). The gallery at the west end was removed and so were the old high pews in the chancel, and the thatch was replaced with grey Staffordshire tiles. A new pulpit was made by the Rev. J. Braham Johnson and the stained glass east window installed. This window is the work of Robert Baynes of the firm Heaton, Butler and Baynes, and is counted among the finest of his work; it is listed in most works on Victorian glass. While the repair work was going on, all services were held in the tithe barn, which stood in the grounds of the Rectory (it has long since disappeared) and was specially cleaned for the purpose. At that time the population of the parish was 232, which was 8 fewer than 10 years previously. It is now about 160.

Bells

There are four bells in the tower. They were recorded by Raven as:

1. no inscription
2. John Draper made me 1627
3. C & G Mears, Founders, London, Walter Chenery Rector, Osborne Tippell, Churchwarden 1853 (hung to replace one which was cracked).
4. C & G Mears, Founders, London, 1857, (again replacing one that was cracked).

Monuments

Within the church, the monument to Sir John Castleton and his family (he died in 1727) is a very good example of 18th century marble. The Castletons lived at Stuston Hall, which was demolished in 1780; part of the moat remains. The family had many ramifications, including the Lord Mayors of Dublin. The first baronet was created in 1641, but the title is now extinct.

There are stained glass windows and a wall plaque to members of the Clarke family who lived at Stuston House, at Stuston Place and at Parham. For a small country church, Stuston has an unusual amount of good Victorian stained glass.

The font has a simple octagonal bowl with moulded cup and base. It dates from the 15th century.

Registers

The Church registers go back to 1630. The first entry for births is for 10 March 1630; for marriages, 5 January 1631; and for burials, 4 November 1631. However, there are some gaps in the entries for later years. The Churchwardens' account books start in 1737 and make fascinating reading. For instance, at the beginning of May 1786, the Church was "thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed, both inside and out, previous to parochial visitation made by the Rev. J. Gooch, Archdeacon of Sudbury, on 26 May". Things have not changed much! A new prayer book "for the Clergyman" cost £2 2s in 1843; the old one was given to the clerk.

In the Bodleian Library is a manuscript dated to 1400 of a Legenda (service book) following the use of Sarum. On the last pages are the words; "Iste liber pertinet ad ecclesiam de Stustun" with the names Johannes Couper de Stouston, Johannes Cade and Thomas Cade. These names also appear in "The Boke of Brome" of contemporary date. The manuscript, which is bound in leather of around 1600, was given to the Library by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob Colfe in 1616.

Reformation troubles.

The troubled times of the Reformation reached Stuston. In 1583 Robert Morse (married Margaret Collinson of Brome) was "delated to the Court of the Bishop of Norwich for attending secret Mass in the parlour of Stuston parsonage" and also that he "entertained a Priest called Montford Scott who was later excommunicated". (Caraman: "Henry Morse, Priest of the Plague Year"). The Rector at that time was Sir Miles Yare and he also did not escape from trouble. In March 1583, one Richard Lacey of Brockdish deposed that;

"Sir Miles Yare, parson of Sturson nere Skole in Suff sayeth Masse Commonly in his parlour in his owen howse and also that he sayeth that in the said chamber ar all thinges necessary pertheyning thereto"..
(S.P. Dom. Eliz vol 169 No.19)

At the same time he was acting as Priest in the Church using the Anglican service. He seems to have finished up in Norwich gaol.

Stuston Authors

Stuston entered the world of letters with the Rev. William Broome LL.D. (1713-28), who worked with Pope in translating Homer's Odyssey. With some help from Elijah Fenton "a Jacobite" he produced some eight books for Pope. As Henley records:

"Pope came clean off with Homer, but they say Broome went before and kindly swept the way"

There seems to have been some fairly acrimonious correspondence later over the payment for Broome's work. Broome was accounted a great man of letters in his day, and in 1735 "The Gentleman's Magazine" ran a poetry competition in his honour (he had been a regular contributor for many years). It should be pointed out that at that time, Stuston was reckoned one of the best livings going.

Coming to the present day, the Rev. Christopher Idle has had some 40 of his hymns included in "Hymns for Today's Church" as well as some in other books.

Charities

Mention has already been made of the oil for the lamp of the Virgin Mary. In 1710, Elizabeth Bosworth (née Castleton) settled in trustees a close of 4 acres in Stuston to permit the Rector (Edward Bosworth) to receive the rents and profits for his own benefit, subject to the condition of his performing duty in the parish Church and reading prayers, and preaching on Good Friday and also paying 5s on Good Friday and 5s on Christmas Eve yearly to be distributed by him and the Overseers of the parish, among such poor persons as should be the most constant in their attendance at church. The charity no longer exists.

The earliest mention of missionary work dates from 1762 (James Pawsey, Rector). On 3 October of that year, a Brief was read in the Church; "for building colleges at Philadelphia and New York in America". On 3 November following, a collection was made from house-to-house and the sum of 7s 1d was raised. At that time there were 117 people over 16 in the village and 45 under; they were living in 29 houses.

The parish school and teacher's residence were built in 1862 on Common Land given by Sir Edward Kerrison (Lord of the Manor), at a cost of £86 14s 6d. The builder was Rampling of Eye. There were 45 day scholars and 65 Sunday scholars. The school closed soon after the last War and the building was subsequently sold.

Rectors of Stuston

The list of Rectors attached is not complete. Stuston is one of the many parishes which have not been fully researched and the Bishop's Rolls have never been transcribed. The dates given for some of the earlier incumbents are when it is known they were in residence; they are not necessarily the dates of institution. There is an interesting over-lap during the Commonwealth period which has not been satisfactorily explained. Note also the two dates given for the death of Edward Bosworth; these reflect the change in the start of the New Year - a change yet to be made by the Inland Revenue!

Rectors of Stuston

Nicholas de Cramavill	1275	
Roger de Brome	1316	
John Bacun	1384	also at Brome
Sir John Herold (or Harrolde)	1504	
Eli Lache	1545	
Christopher Ferrer	1546	
John Ferrer	1550	
Robert Crabbe	1554	
Robert Fordham	1566	
Sir Miles Yare (or Yarr)	1570	also at Brome
Hugh Smith	1592	
Simon Northfield	1599	
Edward Fenn (or Fenne)	1600	buried 7/6/34
Robert Webbe (or Webb)	1634	
Thomas Payne	1641-61	
George Rayner	1644-50	also at Oakley
Nathaniel Sterne	1662-73	
Edward Bosworth	1674-1713	died 8/1/13 or 8/1/14
William Broome LLD	1713-28	also Oakley and Eye
James Oldfield	1728-55	also Brome
James Pawsey	1755-92	died 30/7/92 aged 71
William Walker	1792-1832	died 28/3/32
Walter Chenery	1832-59	died 3/12/59 aged 58
Edward H Paget	1859-68	
Francis G Holmes	1869-1909	
Edwin Borthwick RN ret.	1910-25	sometime Kings Chaplain
F.H. Edwin	1925-32	
E. Crellin	1932-45	united with Thrandeston
W.W. Sutton	1946-50	
E.H.O. (David) Bennett	1951-72	Brome & Oakley added May '72 died Oct.1972 aged 58
John Jowitt	1973-82	
Alec Colson	1982-86	
William E. Smyth	1987	
(Priest in Charge)		
Christopher M. Idle	1988-95	The North Hartismere Group of seven Parishes formed by the addition of Burgate, Palgrave and Wortham.

Orick Stevenson

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