

ST. BOTOLPH'S BURGH



This unique little church, whose beginnings date back as far as 590 AD, is dedicated to both St Botolph and St Andrew both of whom are depicted in the east window.

The Church stands on the summit of a steep bank, formerly part of a Roman encampment. According to Dr. M. R. James, St Botolph was originally buried in the Saxon Chapel at Burgh in 590 AD but in 1095 AD the monks of newly erected Abbey of Bury St Edmunds, anxious to get more relics, transported the body from Burgh to Bury. There is evidence that the church remained dedicated to St Botolph up to 1498, although, historically, the intrusion of the influence of St Andrew would have taken place during the reign of Edward I when Robert Bruce, Comyn, Balliol and other Scots Lords held large estates in Suffolk. Dedication reverted to St Botolph as recently as 1959/60.

The Church you see today has features belonging to every century since the 13th, although some of the brickwork and tiles belonged to a mansion which existed on the site before the earliest Saxon Chapel.

THE TOWER

The Tower is 14th Century and is decorated unbuttressed with battlements decorated by arched panels in flushwork with small quatrefoil windows below the bell openings. There are six bells rung from the basement which forms the porch. The door handle to the main door is 13th Century.

THE FONT

The Font is 15th Century and is a good perpendicular bowl. On the bowl are the four symbols of the Evangelists each bearing a scroll inscribed with his latin name, two seated angels bearing respectively cloth and crown and two figures of the Annunciation.

THE PAINTING

The modern and very original painting by Anna Zinkeisen done in 1969 depicts all the birds mentioned in the Bible. The late artist was a resident of Burgh.

THE CHANCEL AND NAVE

The Chancel and Nave have fine timber roofs, the principle springing from figures of angels with rich cornices between them. On the right of the nave is a round-headed and a cinquefoil Piscina with a quatrefoil shallow basin, which may have served as a rood altar.

THE PULPIT

The Pulpit is original in style and was carved in 1708.

THE SEDILIA

On the Sedilia at the top right of the chancel is a 14th century chest made of white poplar wood and iron-bound. It has recently been beautifully restored.

THE WINDOWS

The Windows are by Kempe who managed to recapture the luminous quality of mediaeval glass.

THE ALTAR

The Altar is ornate with Gothic detail carved by Gambier Parry.

*THE TOWER IS NOW IN NEED OF MAJOR REPAIR
Please donate to our Tower Fund as generously as you can*