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Vol. XXXV11 No. 4 June 2010



The Round Tower

Vol XXXV11 No 4

June 2010



Repps with Bastwick, St Peter, Norfolk

50p to non-members

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Tea Towels -Five Suffolk or five Norfolk Churches	£2.75	Plus 50p p&p
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ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY TOURS 2010

Saturday Tours - first church 2.30pm

5th June	Beeston St Lawrence, Ashmanhaugh, Great Hautbois
3rd July	Roydon, Wortham, Stuston
7th August	Kilverstone, Breckles, Rockland St Peter
4th September	Long Stratton, Topcroft, Denton

All the Tours are in Norfolk, except Wortham and Stuston in Suffolk on the 3rd of July.

Church Tours - Sundays, first church 2.30pm

20th June	Stratton St Michael, Shelton, Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary
18th July	South Acre, West Acre, Castle Acre, Newton by Castle Acre

Everyone is welcome to attend both sets of Tours. There is no charge, although donations to the churches are encouraged. Refreshments will be provided by one of the churches each afternoon. The Sunday Tours visit Norfolk Churches with square, round or no towers! These Sunday Tours end with a form of Service, usually Evensong at 6.30pm, though attendance is optional. Any queries please phone 'Lyn Stilgoe on 01328 738237.

Can anyone help?

Debbie Roberts of Ely is seeking a lift to the Tours. She is prepared to get to a convenient pick-up point by train or bus, and to share the cost of petrol. If you can help, please contact her on 07597 908036 or email deborahr@tiscali.co.uk

Guided Tour

If anyone is making a visit to the Norwich or Wyndham area and would like a small guided tour around some of the areas' churches - John Lee (of *A Sketching Summer*) has offered his assistance. Contact John on 01953 603535.

The next issue is September and the deadline for insertion is Friday 30th July 2010.

Please send items for publication either as email attachments or on disc as separate files – text, photos, drawings etc., or by post to:-

Susan Williams
Flinten Barn
Thornage Road
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NR25 7JD
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swilliams151@btinternet.com

Membership Subscription

Minimum £10 (overseas £15) annually of which 40% is for the printing and posting of The Round Tower magazine and administration, with the balance going to the Repair Fund.

Magazines are published on the 1st of March, June, September and December. Membership renewal date is the first of these dates following the application for membership.

To join the Society, please make contact with the Treasurer:-

Mr Richard Barham

6 The Warren, Old Catton,
Norwich, NR6 7NW
Tel: 01603 788721

THE ROUND TOWER

The quarterly magazine of the Round Tower Churches Society

Vol. XXXV11 No 4 June 2010

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Photographs:-

Front Cover — Dot Shreeve

*With thanks also to Simon Knott
www.norfolkchurches.co.uk and Bill Sibley*

REPPS WITH BASTWICK, ST PETER'S CHURCH,



Ladbroke's drawing of Repps church in the 1820s

This church is one of the small number of round tower churches where the nave and chancel are later than the tower. It consists of a round west tower with an octagonal top, a 22 feet-wide nave, a brick chancel and a brick south porch.

The nave walls are three feet thick and incorporate some medieval brick in putlog holes and in relieving arches over windows and the north door. The windows on both sides are the same two-light pattern with Decorated tracery, and the wave mouldings of the south door are consistent with a mid-fourteenth-century date; the stone arch of the pointed north door, however, is a thirteenth-century pattern and is apparently reset.

The chancel walls are of eighteenth-century brick. The side windows have cusped Y-tracery and the three-light east window has cusped Intersecting tracery.

The brick south porch has a four-centred arch and big diagonal corner buttresses and may be sixteenth or seventeenth-century.

The tower is circular for about three-quarters of its height, with an octagonal belfry. Its material is mainly cobble flints with a few large erratics; it is roughly coursed but not very obviously so. A small pseudo-Norman ground-floor west window with modern stone external facings is

DATES FOR THE DIARY

ANNUAL MASS AT WEST TOFTS CHURCH
Wednesday 21st July at 6.00pm



Photo courtesy of Bill Sibley

ST MARY, HADDISCOE

**Sunday 1st, Sunday 29th and
Monday 30th August**

World War 1 Exhibition

Event includes food/posters/artefacts and
Country Teas 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Contact Mrs Harvey on 01502 677459 for
more information

SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

SCA CONFERENCE, BAR CONVENT, YORK

Documenting Destruction in Yorkshire: The Dispersal of Monastic Artefacts

17th - 19th September

Speakers will include Professor Richard Morris (University of Leeds), Pam Graves (Durham University), Leslie Johansen (University of York), Kevin Booth (English Heritage) and Andrew Davison (English Heritage). They will be discussing the re-use of the monastic landscape and material culture in the aftermath of the Dissolution.

There will also be an extensive series of tours, to Holy Trinity Priory and St Mary's Abbey in York, the Yorkshire Museum, Byland and Rievaulx Abbeys, and to English Heritage's store of monastic material in Helmsley.

For more information visit www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol

DATES FOR THE DIARY

BEACHAMWELL VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY

Sunday 6th June 12.00 noon—5.00pm

Organ Recitals, Hilgay Silver Band, Ouse Washes Molly Dancers, Ploughman's Lunches, Afternoon Teas, Variety of Stalls, Raffle & Tombola

In aid of St Mary's Church, Beachamwell. Enquiries: 01366 328817

THE RYBURGH CONCERT SEASON 2010

St Andrew's Church, Great Ryburgh, Norfolk

Friday 11th June 7.30pm "Mistresses and Nostalgia"

A song recital on a Shakespearean theme given by Hugh Latham

Saturday 31st July 7.30pm Piano recital by Pippa Trent

ART EXHIBITION AND SALE OF PAINTINGS

St Peter's Church, Thorington

12th June 12.00 noon - 5.30pm & 13th June 10.00am - 4.00pm

Event includes a performance by members of the Halesworth Community Choir, Silent Auction, Raffle, Craft Stalls, Treasure Hunt, outdoor games for children, homemade lunches and afternoon teas.

Contact Trish Gower on 01502 478267 or email trish@wenhaston.net

REDGRAVE, RICKINGHALL SUPERIOR AND INFERIOR CHURCHES GUIDED TOUR

Saturday 19th June 10.30am £13.00 including lunch

Clive Paine will be leading a guided tour starting at Redgrave Church, where coffee will be served from 10am followed by lunch of quiche and salads etc. at Redgrave Church. After lunch drive to Rickinghall Inferior Church followed by a short walk to Rickinghall Superior Church. Booking essential. For information and tickets contact Jean Sheehan on 01379 890237. All profits from this tour will be for the benefice of Redgrave-cum-Botesdale with the Rickinghalls.

Rickinghall Inferior Church, an early Norman round tower church with mainly fourteenth century additions will be open each Saturday during the summer from approx. 10.00 am until 5.00pm.

shown as a pointed lancet in Ladbroke's drawing of the 1820s. At first-floor level, patches of brickwork in the flintwork slightly east of south and north indicate the locations of blocked openings which, internally, have splayed flint jambs and round rear-arches of flint laid radially or nearly so. In the east wall at this level internally, there is evidence of an upper door, now blocked with modern brick. There are no signs of other or blocked openings in the internal wall below the present belfry.



The tower from the south-west

The octagonal belfry has flintwork similar to that in the circular stage; it has stone quoins at the angles and twin pointed-trefoil bell openings in the cardinal faces, shafted between the lights and with a quatrefoil in the apex. These are recessed within an outer order comprising a pointed arch springing from square abaci on shafts. Each section of wall between the belfry openings is decorated with two bays of blind arcading with pointed arches and pierced stone tympana. The belfry terminates with a stone table course carried on closely-spaced semi-circular corbels above which the battlemented parapet stage has medieval brick quoins and similar bricks randomly distributed in its flint work.

The belfry stage is circular internally and there is no variation in the internal fabric at the level where it joins the circular stage. The belfry openings have pointed flint arches with occasional medieval bricks in them and in the reveals.

Convincing indications that the circular and octagonal stages were built in one operation are provided by the absence of features in the circular stage reliably datable to the eleventh or twelfth century that could support the possibility of there having been an earlier belfry, and the continuation of the circularity of the internal walls into the octagon with no variation of their fabric at the level where the external change of shape occurs. The whole tower, except the parapet stage, can therefore be dated by the belfry details to the thirteenth century.

The tower arch is round-headed, 4'4" wide and about eleven feet high; it has a plastered finish and simple chamfered imposts in the reveals only. Being eleven feet high, it is unlikely originally to have been a west entrance to the church and so was presumably built as a tower arch; this naturally implies that a tower would also have been built at the same time, whether as part of the original church or as an addition. The flat east wall within the tower is an indication that the tower was probably added to an existing church, but although the tower arch is round-headed which might suggest an earlier date, the tower has no definite corroborative evidence to establish that it may be contemporary – the west window which Ladbrooke shows as a lancet is unreliable because its stonework is obviously modern, and the shape of the rear-arches of the two blocked openings at north and south is inconclusive; located at a height barely above nave eaves level, they are far too low to have been belfry openings, and as there is no evidence of any other former openings below the present belfry, the circular stage is never likely to have stood as a finished tower. This means either that the present octagonal belfry replaces an earlier one or that it is contemporary with the circular stage.

The apparent difference in age between the round-headed tower arch and the Early English tower could therefore be because the present tower replaces an earlier one, and the flat east wall within the tower above the tower arch suggests that this wall was originally the west wall of an earlier nave to which that original tower had been added.

If the tower is a replacement of an earlier one, the round-headed tower arch suggests that the church to which the original tower had been added would have been pre-thirteenth-century, but the present 22-feet-wide nave with Decorated windows and walls containing medieval bricks is apparently fourteenth-century.

It seems therefore that after the present tower had replaced the original one, the early church except for the middle part of its nave west wall must have been demolished and the present nave built with its west wall bonded to junction between the tower and the retained middle section of the original west wall which is about 5" thinner than the present west wall measured outside the tower.

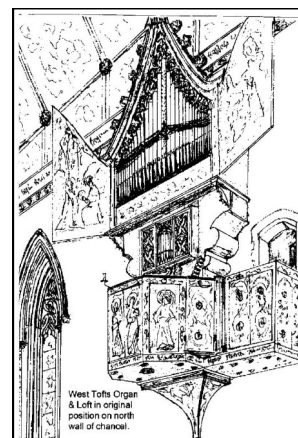
The pointed north door appears to be a thirteenth-century pattern and may have been reset when the nave was rebuilt, perhaps having originally been introduced into the old nave when the tower was added.

The Organ, now in South Pickenham Church

This small but remarkable instrument stood in the elegant painted loft which remains on the north side of West Tofts chancel and is approached by a staircase from the vestry. In 1942 this instrument was taken to Mundford and in 1950 it was acquired by the Rev'd L. Sturman for South Pickenham Church, where it has since been erected in a loft, specially designed for it, at the west end of the nave.

Organs were a special interest of Sir John Sutton, who had done so much for the music of Jesus College Cambridge and had given the organ there. He had studied organ cases on the Continent and had ended his life in Bruges. It is not surprising therefore that there is Flemish workmanship in this instrument and in its fine painted organ-case, the wing doors of which close, triptych-fashion, over the front pipes. The paintings on these doors show the Adoration of the Magi (left) and the Nativity (right); they are signed 'EB, 1856' on the former side and 'Bruno Boucquillon, Antwerpen, 1856' on the latter. The pipework is the work of Hooghuys and was made in Bruges and Ghent. The instrument was shipped over to West Tofts in 1857. It was restored and enlarged in 1881, when the Swell organ was added by Miller of Cambridge and work was done on the case by Rattee of Cambridge, who were woodcarvers to the Ecclesiological Society. The organ has two manuals, pedals. Tracker action and the following speaker stops:

Swell Organ (3 octaves)	- Gedact, Flute, Hautboy
Great Organ (4.5 octaves)	- Open Diapason, Stopped Diapason, Principal Twelfth, Fifteenth, Mixture
Pedal Organ (1.5 octaves)	- Pedal stop



Organ in original position (left) and as the loft is now at West Tofts church (right)

LETTERS

‘Just a quick note to say how much I enjoyed John Lee’s ‘A Sketching Summer’ in the March edition of The Round Tower. John’s heady mix of round tower churches; flora and fauna; a pub lunch and cricket; and, topically, a touching memorial to a tragically young serviceman, have whetted my appetite for my own summer forays into the English countryside. So many thanks John and happy sketching in 2010!’ *Robert Michel* by email.

Sir Lionel Dymoke

‘There is a small error in the article on St Clement’s, Fiskerton, Lincs, in the March 2010 (Vol XXXV11 No 3) edition of the Round Tower. The Suffolk-style brass in Horncastle Church is of Sir Lionel Dymoke, not Dymore. (Sir Lionel, who died in 1519, is a distant cousin; he was a first cousin to my 15 x great-grandfather).

Members of the Dymoke family were then the King’s Champion, an hereditary office which attaches to the owner of the Manor of Scrivelsby. The Champion’s role was to fight in combat any challengers to the new King at his coronation banquet. The office, which is still held by a Dymoke, is now purely ceremonial.

Sir Lionel’s father was Sir Thomas Dymoke, King’s Champion at the coronation of Edward IV (but subsequently executed by Edward IV when he joined a Lancastrian uprising), and his older brother was Sir Robert Dymoke, King’s Champion at the coronation of Richard III, Henry VII and Henry VIII. Sir Lionel was knighted at the Siege of Tournai in 1513 and was Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1516.’ *Henry Long*

Tom Pallister writes regarding West Tofts:-

‘In reply to John T. Rhead’s query as to the lack of a description of this church by Bill Goode, (Vol XXXV11 No 2 December 2009), I would like to let him know that it is not a round tower church but it is of great interest. There is much about this church including colour photographs to be found on the ‘Norfolk Churches Site’ website www.norfolkchurches.co.uk. The other churches in the Stanford Training Area are also described. I hope this is of interest. The following information regarding West Tofts Organ I found in a guide booklet to St Mary’s Church West Tofts by Roy Tricker...’



The church from the south-west

On the evidence described, the chronology of construction might be:

C.11. Original towerless church built.

C.12. Tower arch formed in nave west wall and Norman tower added.

C.13. Present tower replaced the original one. North door inserted in nave.

C.14. Original nave demolished and present one built. Existing north door reset.

C. 16. or 17. Porch built.

C.18. Brick chancel replaced the former one.

The above interpretation is based on the assumption that the tall round-headed tower arch predates the tower. Alternatively, still assuming the flat east wall in the tower to be evidence of the tower’s addition to an earlier nave, the tower, tower arch and insertion of the north door in that nave could all be contemporary features of the Transitional style between Norman and Early English of the early thirteenth century. It would still appear though, that the nave was subsequently rebuilt with thicker walls and the north door being reset.

Stephen Hart

Update on All Saints Church, Edingthorpe



‘Thanks very much for your letter confirming your very generous offer of a grant of £4,000. I am at once amazed and delighted at the Society’s generosity.

The scaffolders started work on the Tuesday after Easter and the attached is how the church looked yesterday. Today all the side-screens are on as well as the tin lid! So, we are under way at last and the next thing is the removal of the old thatch.

Then we can see the full extent of the work needed to the timbers etc...’

BELLS AND BELFRIES

The Venerable Bede (who died in 735 AD) wrote that bells were rung in monasteries to call the monks to the regular daily offices. Anglo-Saxon bells were made up of a pair of shaped metal plates that were welded or riveted together and dipped in bronze. They looked like a tall Swiss cow-bell. Most of the surviving early examples are in fact small hand bells that sat on the altar table – for example St Patrick's bell in Ireland. Many early tower bells were rung by striking the outside. A rare survival can be seen in Worcester Museum which has been approximately dated to 900 AD. Its long neck is narrower than its width. Such bells could have been placed outside the church say in a free-standing timber frame. This arrangement has been often resorted to when bell towers were being repaired.

King Athelstan issued an edict in 970 AD asking thanes to build church bell towers in order to establish their credentials as the land-owning elite. By that date thanes or groups of freemen owned most of the local churches. Privately owned chapels did not need to call the community to prayer as services happened or began at the thane's discretion. The graveyard may have served the local community but not always the church. The parish system was still under developed so many communities relied on colleges of priests based in minsters for pastoral care. I see Athelstan's edict as an attempt to encourage the development of the communal parish church system. The response in Eastern England to this call was delayed by nearly a century partly due to the Viking incursions. Despite this there were many greater and lesser minsters across England in the 11th century that probably did have bells.

Bell-casting developed in the late Anglo-Saxon period. The medieval historian William of Malmesbury, cited St Dunstan (died 988 AD) who said that church bells were a rarity in England in his time ('*Church Bells of England*', Walters, 1912; page 3). He, King Canute in the early 11th century and other Anglo-Saxon leaders donated bells to churches. In 960 Croyland Abbey in the Fens was presented with seven. The monks gave each bell a name and they became famous for their pure

heads in worn pale stone - the openings filled with old wooden boards pierced with vertical rows of round holes. Taylor and Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, devote over a page to this building, opining that the tower arch, with its impostes adorned with plain grooves, and a blocked window by the porch, with traces of non-radial voussoirs, could be 1000 years old.

Among the monuments in the church I noted a ledger slab, certainly of non-local stone, to Elizabeth Garneys died 1675, with the arms (Argent) a chevron engrailed between three escallops (Azure, alternatively Sable - Joan Corder, *A Dictionary of Suffolk Arms*, Suffolk Records Society 1965). On another monument a variant on these arms is impaled on the distaff side with the curious device of a tortoise viewed from its back - the arms of Charles Gaudy of 'Crowes-hall in comitatu Suffolciae' - Vert, a tortoise passant Argent (*Suffolk Arms*).

Joseph Biddulph

NAMES ON GRAVESTONES

In ones visits to churches a walk around the churchyard can sometimes reveal Christian names that are no longer in use in these modern times. I repeat some we have seen whilst browsing in the churchyards:- *Amabel, Athalie, Celina, Clarinda, Charlise, Dallas, Evaline, Elvina, Eryl, Elmire, Feodora, Hebe, Ivylene, Jamasena, Lorina, Markina, Maravilla, Tryphosa, Tryphen, Thurza, Thomasin, Verbena.*

Perhaps others could add to this list on their church travels?

A gravestone in St Mary's church yard at Denver records what must have been a truly dreadful day for the Lancaster family. It reads:-

*Deposited in the same grave, the bodies of
two amiable, intelligent and very
promising children
Robert Lancaster aged 10 and
George Lancaster aged 8
They were in perfect health on the morning
of the 19th February 1864 and the same day
after a few hours illness they yielded up their spirits to God*

John Lee

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Part 1

In exploring round tower churches without the use of your own transport you need I suppose to do your homework. The first pleasurable stage was putting a red ring round all the RT churches I could trace on the O.S. maps of East Anglia and calculating how far from possible bus routes. Obtaining up-to-date information on routes and frequency proved harder than one would expect, but even an old timetable indicated that there would be something with some regularity along the A140 between Norwich and Long Stratton. So I was pleased to find a cluster of RT churches to either side of this main road and spent several happy hours here in Wales mapping out a walking route that would be possible for me to perform. The chance to try out my plan did not materialise till I was staying in Sheringham on 25th June 2009, which unfortunately was a scorching hot day, but I did at least see several churches I had been interested in for some time.

A little off the route, just past Harford Bridge, are the RT churches of KESWICK and, a mile or so further along a lane, INTWOOD. Somewhat further on, I got a glimpse, without getting off the bus, of the church at SWAINSTHORPE, its tower having a round base with a polygonal top. The former 'Norman', according to *King's England: Norfolk* (1940), the latter 14th century, while Taylor and Taylor *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* report a couple of give-away Saxon features, flint and tile west quoins of the nave and the vestige of a blocked window near the porch, that some time I would like to investigate for myself.

We arrived at the large village/small town of LONG STRATTON where, next to the busy main road, there is the church with a rather slender round tower with perpendicular windows at a lower level, a rendered parapet, and a little spike of a spirelet with a weathercock on top. The big clerestory windows are reported to be 14th century (*King's England*), while the chancel is pleasingly roofed with pantiles.

Walking the quiet lane next to the church, I came across a large round tower with domestic windows in it, which turned out to be a former windmill, now part of an agricultural suppliers'. Not far from here along a little lane under trees I found the rather similar tower at MORNINGTHORPE. This tower appears to bulge out about halfway up, a result, it may be, of a former octagonal tower being encased in flint in order to make a cylinder. As well as a traceried Late Gothic window at ground level, and double windows below the parapet, there are narrow openings in the tower with tiny monolithic

tones. The bells were lost in a fire of 1091. Several bell foundries existed in England before 1066. The presence of church towers suggest that bells were hung in them soon after construction work was completed but this may be far from the truth. They were suspended by a rope from a beam and then attached to a metal loop welded onto the top of the bell. Suspending bells high up in a church tower also suggests to modern thinking that they were rung from below by pulling a rope. This may not have been the case in many early churches. An Anglo-Scandinavian 'stave' church was found by archaeologists on the site of Anglia TV Centre in Norwich. It existed about 1000 –1075 AD. This was a small, two cell building made of timber but without a tower. It is thought that a bell might have been hung in a bell-cote above the centre of the roof ridge. Many other early churches probably followed a similar pattern.

After 1066, bell foundries increased in number and casting methods improved. In 1091, the '*brasiarius*' Fergus of Boston, Lincolnshire is documented as a bell founder. In the mid 13th century, a monk from Evesham, Worcestershire wrote about the methods used in bell casting. Each bell had to weigh 9/8ths of the one before it, to create a tonal difference between them. Tuning early bells was rough and ready. A file was rubbed on the lip or striking plate where the clapper hit the inside surface of the bell chamber. About 1350, bells with semi-tones were introduced and large towers with more numerous rings were developed. Ancient bells, struck on the outside had a tendency to crack. Medieval bells have a rod attached to the inside of the bell chamber. The clapper or bulbous end swung against the rim of the bell mouth, which was thickened to absorb the repeated impact. When the rims showed signs of wear, the bell could be 'turned' so the clapper struck a different section of the edge. Later bells were attached to a wheel, which could be turned full circle by pulling on a hanging bell rope. The wheel and bell were enclosed in a cage of heavy timbers. Much more is known about early bells than bell-frames as timber is more perishable. With several pits in a row this arrangement clearly favoured square towers. Many of the larger round towers could accommodate three bells but if more were wanted, the frames had to be stacked over each other. With flint

round towers of dubious structural strength that was a risky undertaking. The centrifugal weight of a rotating bell is 50% greater than its dead-weight and it is difficult to evenly distribute that around all of the tower's circumference.

In Norfolk, one in six church bells were medieval (*'The church bells of Norfolk'*, by John L'Estrange, 1874) which was a much higher proportion than in most English counties. Many medieval bells were lost in the mid 16th century when the contents of parish churches were stripped out and sequestered by the state. Bells were then easily the most valuable items. Medieval bells are generally much heavier than later examples. One early survival is in Caversfield Church, Oxon. It may be the oldest in England though a bell at Claughton, Lancs., was dated at 1296 and another in Billericay, Essex dated circa 1300 (and recast in the 19th century). The oldest bell in Norfolk is in St Lawrence Church, Norwich, dated circa 1350-60. The information above comes mainly from an article on church bells by A G G Thurlow (*'Norfolk Archaeology'* journal, vol 28; page 241) published in 1942 and may be out of date by now.

In 1368 there was a *'Church Goodes Survey'* made in Norfolk (*Norfolk Record Society* publication, vol 19–part 1, pages 1-8). In Norwich, 45 churches are listed with a very detailed survey made in each of them. Few are recorded as having bells (*'campana'*). St Peter Mancroft, the leading civic church of the city, had six. The church already had a large bell tower in 1368 but it was rebuilt in 1455 on a much larger scale and it now has thirteen bells. Not even *Sacring Bells* are recorded in the other Norwich churches. Were they inaccessible to the surveyor or were they ignored as they were made of poor metals with little economic value? If there were then few church bells in existence, perhaps bell towers were built only in the hope that costly bells would one day be donated and installed. This hardly mattered. Church towers had several incidental uses – for defensive purposes; as a vestry or for storing church valuables; as a baptistery with a font if the tower space was large enough, etc.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009 - 2010

I have the honour to report on a satisfactory financial year for the Society.

The most obvious feature, when comparing this year with the previous year, is the collapse of interest income on our deposit account. £115 compared with £1,197 in the previous year! We can but console ourselves in the knowledge that we are not alone in this predicament.

During the year we paid out £12,500 in grants to 14 different churches, which is somewhat less than the previous year but, then, we helped 19 churches. We have also made promises totalling £21,400 to 13 other churches and these grants will be paid once the various repairs get started.

Once again, I record a very big thank you to Jack Sterry for donations totalling £650 from the sale of his books and calendars. In all, Jack has given the Society a total amount of £2,200—a remarkable effort.

Membership of the Society continues to hover around the 570 mark, and thanks to all for keeping my life as Treasurer free from stress.

Finally, on a personal note, thank you to all who sent me messages of cheer following my unexpected operation to have my appendix removed. Normal service has now been resumed and I am feeling fine.

Richard Barham

GRANTS PAID 2009 - 2010

CHURCH	Grant towards:-	Amount
BRAMFIELD St Andrew	Re-thatching of roof	£2000
BRUISYARD St Peter	Guttering repairs on chapel	£200
WEST DEREHAM St Andrew	Repair of porch & windows	£1000
EDINGTHORPE All Saints	Re-thatching of roof	£2000
HASSINGHAM St Mary	Repair of guttering	£500
INTWOOD All Saints	Down pipe renewal	£200
LITTLE PLUMSTEAD	Repair of stained glass	£2000
Sts Protase & Gervase	windows	
LOUND St John the Baptist	Repair of vestry roof	£200
METTINGHAM All Saints	Tower repairs	£1000
ROUGHTON St Mary	Repair of aisle windows	£200
GT RYBURGH St Andrew	Repairs to churchyard wall	£200
WEST SOMERTON St Mary	Re-thatching of roof	£1000
TASBURGH St Mary the Virgin	Repair of tower roof	£1000
WISSETT St Andrew	Tower strengthening	£1000
TOTAL GRANTS PAID DURING THE YEAR		£12500

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY

THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at The Village Hall, Seething, on Saturday, 8th May 2010, at 2.15pm.

1. The Chairman, Mr Bowell, welcomed the 31 members and friends present. The Rev'd Philip Gray kindly led the opening prayers.

2. **Apologies** had been received as recorded in the Minute Book.

3. The **Minutes** of the **36th AGM** on 9.5.2009 were agreed and signed, following a proposal by Mr Barham, seconded by Mr Hart.

4. The **Chairman** launched the new booklet "East Anglian Round Tower Churches" by Mr Stephen Hart, @ £1.50. The Chairman then gave a review of the year, stressing the importance of keeping the Society in the public view with the Tours, Talks, etc. The Study Day last October had been much appreciated. He expressed his sincere thanks to all the Committee members, mentioning the Magazine going from strength to strength and the diligence of the backroom people putting it into envelopes! It would be great if there could be more volunteers to serve on the Committee.

5. The **Treasurer**, Mr Barham, explained the decreased income due to lower bank interest, reduced Gift Aid and no legacies. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr Wiggin, seconded by Mrs Stilgoe and agreed.

6. The **Grants Officer**, Mr N. Wiggin, reported that 14 churches had received grants of £12,500, with a further £6,000 to two others since the end of the financial year. Churches are being hard hit by the great cost of investigative surveys before work can start.

7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** the appointment of Mr Bowell as Chairman was proposed by the Rev'd P. Gray, seconded by Mr Hart, and agreed. The Committee members were proposed for re-election en bloc by Mr Bryan Wykes, seconded by Dr Alan Stroud and agreed.

8. **Auditor:** Mr Barham sincerely thanked Mr Russell Hadman and proposed his re-appointment, seconded by Mr Spelman and agreed.

9. **Any Other Business:** Mr Richard Harbord asked if the Society could clear the churchyard around the ruins of Appleton Round Tower. Mr Michael Pollitt thought that the web-site should be made more pro-active, to give news of grants and activities as they happen, and would be prepared to help with this. These two points will be discussed by the Committee. The coach for the visit to the Stanford Training Area on 24th August was fully booked within a week of the publication of the March Magazine.

Following the Meeting tea was kindly provided by Seething P.C.C.

The known Norwich churches with round towers and their bells are:-

1. *St Mary, Coslany.* It still had two medieval bells in 1874 and four others. Two bells were cast by John Brend, junior (active, 1634-66) brasier on All Saints Green.
2. *St Etheldreda,* and 3. *St Julians;* When St Etheldreda was bombed in 1942, the bells were hung in a detached timber frame out in the churchyard. This reverted to what may have been an ancient practice. John Brend (above) made one bell. William Brend, his father (1634-58) made another.
4. *St Benedicts;* the same John Brend above made the treble bell for this church with another by Elias Brend, active 1658-66. That bell was moved to Gunton Church near Lowestoft after World War 11.
5. *St Pauls;* Richard Braysier (well named) working from 1424 onwards made one of the bells. The belfry was removed in 1812 and all the rest of the church was lost in 1942 from bombing and later demolition.
6. *St Mary-in-the-Marsh;* Lower Cathedral Close; a narrow church with nave and chancel about the same width. It was a pre-Conquest church; mostly demolished in the 16th century.

The mid 18th century Norwich historian, Kirkpatrick compared the melodious peels of various city churches. Change-ringing developed in the 17th century producing a peel of bells with a tune. Bells became more numerous and smaller than their predecessors. Wooden box-cages with longer bell pits were provided to accommodate bell-wheels and their related equipment. By then, Round Towers were still being repaired or rebuilt but in far fewer numbers and only where a small number of bells were required. New bells were needed to replace the old ones. The Bishop's Faculty Book (*Norfolk Record Office*) is a good way to trace the movement of church bells. St Peter Mancroft Church in Norwich has one of the finest peels in Britain – something the humble round tower could never compete with yet it has a different sort of charm and unpretentious beauty.

Richard Harbord

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY						
Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2010						
Society Account						
2009	Income	2010		2009	Expenditure	2010
26,161	Opening Balance	55,094		16,250	Grants to Churches	12,500
7,460	Annual Subscriptions	7,701		1,068	Magazine Printing	979
1,358	Tax Relief on Covenants and Gift Aid	1,286		189	Purchase of Society Items for sale	572
1,385	Donations and Lectures	1,402		920	Postage, Stationery & Advertising	1,026
35,402	Legacies	-		50	Hire of rooms for AGM & Committee Mtgs	80
1,197	Bank and COIF Charities Deposit Fund, Interest	115		450	Donations to Churches	900
172	Magazine Advertisements	111		29	Website Rental	29
937	Sale of Books and Society Items	712		14	Secretary's Expenses	-
12	Postage from Sale of Society Items etc.	28		20	Treasurer's Expenses	16
					Speakers Fees (Study Day)	309
				18,990		16,411
				55,094	Closing Balance	50,038
74,084		66,449		74,084		66,449
Balance Sheet as at 31st. March 2010						
1	NatWest Bank - Current Account	1		55,094	Society Account	50,038
42,895	- Reserve Account	37,802				
12,085	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	12,181				
113	Petty Cash in hand	54				
55,094		50,038		55,094		50,038
				I have examined the Accounts and Books, etc. of the Society and certify this is a true Statement of the financial records.		
Richard Barham Hon. Treasurer				Russell Hadman Hon. Auditor 3rd. May 2010		