



The Round Tower

Vol. XXXIX No 4

June 2012



St. Mary's church, Broomfield, Essex.

£1.50 to non members

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The next issue is September 2012 and the deadline for contributions is 1st August 2012.

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

Anne Woollett and Paul Hodge

The Cardinal's Hat

Back Street

Reepham

Norfolk

NR10 4SJ

Tel: 01603 870452

anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk

Membership Subscription

Minimum £10 (overseas £15) a year of which 40% goes towards the printing and posting of The Round Tower magazine and administration. 60% goes to the Repair Fund of the RTCS.

Magazines are published in March, June, September and December. The membership renewal date is the first day of the month following the application for membership.

To join the Society or to make any enquiry about your membership please contact :-

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. XXXIX No 4 June 2012

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We will visit Gayton Thorpe in September.

The Round Tower Churches Society is now on Facebook.



Editorial.

Society members visited Ilketshall St Andrew church after our AGM and we saw the splendid Wheel of Fortune. Valerie Grose in her article on page 7 clears up any confusion between Wheels of Fortune and Wheels of Life.

Our cover photograph of Broomfield was taken by Robert Evans. We are grateful to him for permission to use his copyright image. The society will be visiting Broomfield on the RTCS Essex Day not only to look at the fabric of the building but also to admire an example of the work of the late Rosemary Rutherford in this her centenary year. Anne Haward has written an appreciation of Rosemary Rutherford that will appear in the September magazine.

On page 15 you will find details of the 2012 RTCS Study Day. If past experience is anything to go by early booking is strongly recommended.

Round towers in Norwich Cathedral? Richard Harbord examines the evidence on page 16. We thank NMAS for allowing us to use the copyright image of the Cotman drawing.

Chairman Stuart Borrell on page 20 reminds us of some of the many good things we saw on our August and September 2011 tours.

This magazine includes the annual accounts and Treasurers report, a list of churches that received grants from us during the year and the minutes from the AGM.

Finally if you have information about events to be held in Round Tower Churches please inform us in good time for them to be promoted in the magazine or on our Facebook page. Entries on the Facebook page can appear almost immediately. However, it can be up to four months before entries for the magazine are able to reach your target audience.

STOP PRESS: We will publish an article in the September magazine about a newly built round tower church in Suffolk. There are no problems with dating this one.

RTCS SATURDAY TOURS.

2nd June 10am South.Ockendon RM15 6SH, Broomfield,
(Church Hall for packed lunches),
2pm Gt Leighs CM3 1PL, Bardfield Saling, Lamarsh.
7th July 2.30pm Ingworth NR11 6PD, Tuttington, Brampton.
4th Aug 2 30pm Raveningham NR14 6NS, Heckingham, Brooke.
1st Sept 2 30pm Gayton Thorpe PE32 1PN, Shereford, Gt Ryburgh..

Heckingham



NORFOLK CHURCH TOURS Sundays 2.30pm.

17th June Claxton NR14 7HZ, Ashby, Carleton St Peter, Langley.
15th July Warham St Mary Magdalene NR23 1NH, Warham All
Saints, Hindringham, Thursford.

Further details of all the tours are available from 'Lyn Stilgoe, 01328 738237. The Essex Day plans to visit five of the six round tower churches in the county (Pentlow was visited 2007). This tour will involve a lot of driving. South Ockendon last had an official visit by the RTCS in 1994! For both series of tours teas are provided by one of the churches. The Sunday Tours visit all kinds of Norfolk churches. Sunday Tours usually end with an optional Evening Service at 6.30pm. All Tours are open to everyone and are free but we ask for donations to each church.

MUSIC IN ROUND TOWER CHURCHES.

These churches are marvellous concert venues. Many have very fine acoustics. The North Norfolk Music Festival now in its eighth year is firmly established as one of the country's leading chamber music festivals. In September 2011 Gary Ryan one of the world's leading classical exponents of the guitar was invited to give a concert in St Margaret's Church at Burnham Norton.

The concert sold out quickly.

As an internationally acclaimed performer Gary took the audience on a fascinating musical journey. He presented a programme which included works by Albeniz, Tarrega, Villa Lobos as well as Walton's colourful *Five Bagatelles*. The recital finished with some of Gary's entertaining and original compositions including pieces from his *Scenes from the Wild West*.

Before and after the concert and during the interval the audience were entranced by this splendid church. Simon Knott on his website considers St Margaret's at Burnham Norton to be the most beautiful of the six surviving medieval Burnham churches in terms of its setting and its structure. This church contains one of the finest Norman fonts in Norfolk - square, bulky, brooding, magnificent. However, perhaps the church is best known for the heptagonal wineglass pulpit, which has six painted panels. Four of them feature the Latin Doctors of the Church: Gregory, Augustine, Ambrose and Jerome. They are shown in splendidly human poses, reading, writing and in one case, sharpening a pen. St Gregory's papal tiara has been scratched out, but not St Jerome's cardinal's hat.



The most famous name associated with St Margaret's is of course Horatio Nelson. His father was Rector here and two of his brothers as well - though not at the same time. William Nelson was Rector at the time of the Admiral's death which must have concentrated the attention of the press of the day on what is still a remote corner of Norfolk.

The Eighth North Norfolk Music Festival takes place from 22nd August to 2nd September 2012. Programme details and a booking form are available from www.northnorfolkmusicfestival.com. A brochure can be obtained by sending an email to northnorfolkmusicfestival@gmail.com or by telephoning 01328 730357.

Paul Hodge

WHEEL OF FORTUNE AT ILKETSHALL ST ANDREW.

There are 51 Grade One listed buildings in Waveney a non-metropolitan district of Suffolk. Waveney is made up of 57 civil parishes. The main towns are Lowestoft, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold. There are fourteen Round Tower Churches in Waveney one of which is **Ilketshall St Andrew** isolated in deepest rural Suffolk and as yet completely untouched by urban sprawl.

Over the years as with most ancient churches Ilketshall St Andrew (listed Grade One in 1953) has seen many changes. Following a fire in 1898 extensive work was carried out and saw wooden and tiled floors laid in nave and chancel, windows were enlarged and walls raised and plastered. In 2001 during preparation of the walls for redecorating several areas of wall painting became visible. Mr Tobit Curteis, a specialist in the conservation of wall paintings, was called in to investigate further and conserve what lay behind these plastered walls. Painstaking work, using a surgical scalpel, and other specialist instruments uncovered a remarkable find (one of only two known examples in this country) a Wheel of Fortune. This work took Mr Curteis and his team of six



Rochester

At Houghton on the Hill a lost village near South Pickenham whose last cottages were demolished some years ago all that now remains is a farmhouse and the church. The church had been left to disappear but was re-discovered on a WI ramble with no roof and a tower hidden by ivy. Restoration uncovered the earliest known and extremely rare depiction of a Holy Trinity wall painting. This is most likely unique to Britain. It is now thought that many other churches may have wall paintings hidden under layers of plaster and whitewash.



Ilketshall

conservators three months to complete. Were it not for the redecoration programme this rare find would have remained undiscovered.

The other Wheel of Fortune in the country is at Rochester Cathedral. This is more accomplished in artistic terms but the iconography is standard. The Ilketshall example is technically less sophisticated but some aspects (for example the eyes and smaller figures) appear to be unique.

How fortunate then that within the almost unknown gem of a church at Ilketshall St Andrew, (with a round tower thought by W J Goode to have evidence of early Saxon work) there is a Wheel of Fortune. This contrasts with a Wheel of Life at Kempley, Gloucestershire (see the letter from Miss Croft of Bristol, RT magazine, December 2011) which are more common in medieval art than Wheels of Fortune. “Life” wheels appeared later and seem to develop from Wheels of Fortune. They depict God shown in the centre roundel.



Ilketshall

From this ten “spokes” of a wheel. each having another roundel on the end, display the ages of man. The Wheel of Life, at Leominster Priory, is another variation on the theme. Wheels of Life are depicted as static pictures on the walls whereas Wheels of Fortune (deriving from the Goddess Fortuna) are shown giving the impression of being turned/rotated. At Ilketshall, various figures, on the wheel, are shown being drawn up and thrown down, as is typical of the iconography of the period. Fortuna’s name seems to derive from *Vortumna* (she who revolves the year).

At St Mary’s Kempley, Gloucestershire and Leominster Priory, on the Wheels of Life the main focus of interest is God, as the central figure. In Wheels of Fortune, Fortuna, as the name implies has strong influence on people’s fortune, good or bad. In “Agamemnon” a tragedy by the Roman playwright Seneca the Younger, written around 55 BCE. “O Fortune, who dost bestow the throne’s high boon with mocking hand, in dangerous and doubtful state thou settest the too exalted. Never have sceptres obtained calm peace or certain tenure; care on care weighs them down, and ever do fresh storms vex their souls. ... great kingdoms sink of their own weight, and Fortune gives way ‘neath the burden of herself.”

Wheels of Life are not Wheels of Fortune, anymore than Rugby and Soccer are both football. Both involve the kicking and throwing of balls, but they are two distinctly different games.

The late Sir John Betjeman said that when he was eight or nine years old, he used to visit the Norfolk Broads with his father. He recalled spotting the outline of the church tower of Belaugh against the sky and claimed that it gave him a passion for churches. He admired the Comper work at the Round Tower Church at Lound and if he had known about it would undoubtedly have hastened over to Ilketshall to view the latest discovery in East Anglia the rare and quite splendid Wheel of Fortune at Ilketshall St Andrew.

Tobit Curteis Associates, 'A Unique Wheel of Fortune in Suffolk: The Discovery and Conservation of the Wall Paintings at the Parish Church of Ilketshall St Andrew', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History*, Vol. 41 Pt 1, (2008)

Valerie Grose

Simon Knott discusses Wheels of Fortune :at: www.norfolkchurches.co.uk

The Wheel of Fortune was probably derived from the Consolation of Philosophy by the 6th Century philosopher Boethius. Famously Boethius has Fortune tell us that “inconstancy is my very essence; it is the game I never cease to play as I turn my wheel in its ever changing circle, filled with joy as I bring the top to the bottom and the bottom to the top. Yes, rise up on my wheel if you like, but don't count it an injury when by the same token you begin to fall, as the rules of the game will require”.

This fatalism is also seen expressed in more common wall painting scenes as the Three Living and the Three Dead, where the noblemen out hunting are reminded by corpses in various states of decay that as you are, so once was I: as I am so you must be, therefore prepare to follow me. The suggestion is that it is of no use to store up earthly treasures, but the wheel is also intended to remind the viewer of the temporality and uncertainty of these things, and that it is far better to concentrate the mind on higher thought..

TREASURERS REPORT 2011-2012.

One again, I have the pleasure to report that the Society has had a satisfactory financial year.

The main item of expenditure, as usual, is the grants which we have made to help churches with their repair programmes. This year we gave £16,500 to help fourteen churches. One church, Cranwich was given a single grant of £5000 to help with the cost of rethatching the entire roof. It is interesting to recall that Cranwich received the first ever grant given by the Society way back in 1974, when they received the princely sum of £20! I feel that these two figures illustrate very well the progress which has been made by the Society in the course of just under forty years of existence. Once again, I make the point that all of what we have been able to achieve comes from you, the members. I hope you will take pride from the help which you have enabled the Society to give to churches in need.

In addition to the grants already paid, the Society has also made promises totalling £13,700 to churches seeking help with forthcoming repairs. At the end of the financial year our funds stood at £31,453 and we hope that we shall be able to continue to help those Round Tower Churches which are faced with costly repairs.

During the year the Society received generous donations of £500 from the Moncrieff Trust and a further £700 from Jack Sterry resulting from the sale of his books and calendars. There was also an anonymous donation of £25, and special thanks to those members who gave extra amounts over and above the annual membership subscription fee. Looking forward to the next financial year, we will be hit hard by the increase in postage rates. Each quarterly magazine posting will cost an extra £80! Any little additions to your annual subscription will be gratefully received!

In my last report I mentioned that Geoff Swain had taken on the task of raising funds from the sale of stamps. Anything to do with stamp collecting can be turned into cash and Geoff has already donated £131 to the Society. So, if you have any stamps or collections of stamps send them to Geoff and he will turn them into cash for us. Stamps may be sent to Mr G Swain at 33 Saville Street, Bidworth, Mansfield, Notts, NG21 0RW, or if more convenient, may be given to me on our tours and I will make sure that they reach Geoff.

I end my report with thanks to Michael Coates who has taken on the task of auditing the accounts and to you, the members, who keep the Society going.

Richard Barham

GRANTS PAID 2011 – 2012.

CHURCH	GRANT TOWARDS:-	AMOUNT
ASHBY St Mary	Plaster repairs and line washing	£2000
ASLACTON St Michael	Structural survey of Tower Arch	£ 500
BARDFIELD SALING St Peter and St Paul	Repairs to tower roof drainage	£1000
BARSHAM Holy Trinity	Repair of East Window	£1000
LITTLE BRADBURY All Saints	Provision of window guards	£ 500
BRUISYARD St Peter	Drainage repairs	£ 500
CRANWICH St Mary the Virgin	Re-thatching	£5000
INTWOOD All Saints	Repair of church roof and drainage	£1000
EAST LEXHAM St Andrew	Repair of tower roof and parapet	£1000
RAMSHOLT All Saints	Repair of walls and buttresses	£ 500
RICKINGHALL INFERIOR St Mary	Repair of West Window in south aisle	£ 500
GREAT RYBURGH St Andrew	Updating electrical switchgear	£1000
STODY St Mary	Repair of belfry floor and staircase	£1000
THORINGTON St Peter	Repair of windows	£1000

		£16500

SOME EVENTS AT HADDISCOE, ST MARY.

Sunday 10th June. 'Art Alive' celebrates 'Angels'. Teas 2-5pm.

Sunday 5th August. Family History and Archives Exhibition. Teas 2-5 pm and Songs of Praise at 6.30.

On all Saturdays and Sundays in August the Family History and Archives exhibition and teas will be open and available from 2-5pm.

This splendid Round Tower Church is open every day.

ROUND TOWER CHURCH

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2012.

Society Account

2011 Income 2012 2011 Expenditure 2012

50,038	Opening balance	39,444	20,100	Grants to churches	1 6,500
8,391	Annual subscriptions	7,784	1,065	Magazine printing	1,200
1,428	Tax relief on Covenants and Gift Aid	1,383	737	Magazine posting	819
2,951	Donations and lectures	1,879	1,444	Purchase of Society items for sale	210
83	Bank and COIF Charities Deposit Interest	104	276	Postage, Stationery and Advertis	
183	Magazine advertisements	147	46	Hire of rooms for AGM and committee mtgs	80
805	Sale of books and Society items	560	750	Donations to churches	783
24	Post age charges from sale of Society items	13	30	Website rental	30
270	Battle Area Tour donations -	22		Secretary's expenses -	
24	Treasurer's expenses	17			
235	Battle Area Tour – Coach and donation -				

24,729 19,871

39,444 Closing balance 31,443

64,173 51,314 64,173 51,314

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2012.

39,444	Society Account	31,443
2,683	Nat-West Bank– Current Account	729
24,491	Nat-West Bank—Reserve Account	18,286
12,249	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	12,342
21	Petty cash in hand	86

39,444 31,443 39,444 31,443

Richard Barham. Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined the Accounts and Books etc of the Society and certify that this is true

Michael Coates. Hon. Independent Examiner. 1st May 2012

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY

The 39th Annual General Meeting was held at Ilketshall St Andrew Village Hall, on Saturday, 12th May 2012 at 2.15pm.

1. The Chairman, Mr Bowell, welcomed the 34 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 **38th AGM** on 7.5.2011 were agreed and signed, after a proposal by Mr P Hodge, seconded by Mr N Chapman.
4. The **Chairman** gave a review of another satisfactory year, thanking the Committee members individually for their hard work, and all the members for their support.
5. The **Treasurer**, Mr R Barham, explained the accounts, saying grants of £16,000 had been given, with a further £13,700 promised. The funds have been greatly helped by additional kind donations. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Dr A Woollett, seconded by Mrs M Butcher, and agreed. Mr Barham gave his thanks to Mr Michael Coates for agreeing to be the Independent Examiner of the Accounts and for his knowledgeable help.
6. The **Grants Officer**, Mr N. Wiggin, had received 19 new applications during the year, and 14 grants have been paid. Mrs M Jackson proposed a vote of confidence in the work of the Grants Officer, seconded by Mr R Batty, and agreed.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The appointment of Mr S Bowell as Chairman was proposed by the Rev'd P. Gray, seconded by Mrs Chapman, and agreed. The existing Committee Members and Officers were proposed for election en bloc by Mr J Butcher, seconded by the Rev'd P Gray, and agreed.
8. **Independent Examiner:** Mr R Barham proposed the appointment of Mr M Coates, seconded by Dr Woollett and agreed. Mrs T Wiggin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Coates, seconded by Mr Barham, and agreed.
9. **Any Other Business:** Dr Woollett said there was now an RTCS page on Facebook, with links to the Norfolk Churches Trust, etc. The Magazine had been greatly helped by photos from Mr G Troughton and Mr S Knott. Mr Hodge expressed his gratitude to Microsoft Corporation for donating expensive software to help with the production of the Magazine and their great help in setting this up. Dr Woollett recorded the concern of the Society about the 20% VAT, which will make our money go less far in helping with restoration work. Mr Bowell outlined the Study Day at Bawburgh Village Hall on 29th September 2012.

**ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY.
STUDY DAY.**

**Saturday 29th September at Bawburgh Village Hall.
NR9 3LL.**

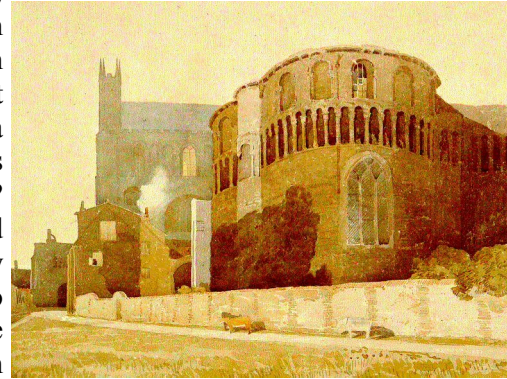
- ♦ Meet at the Village Hall from 9 30 for coffee.
- ♦ Welcome and two lectures starting at 10am.
- ♦ Break for lunch at about 12 30. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be available.
- ♦ Third lecture at 1 30.
- ♦ At 2.45 there will be a tour of St. Mary and St. Walstan Church with 'Lyn Stilgoe and Dick Barham.
- ♦ The day will finish with tea and biscuits at about 4 15.

To book please write to Stuart Bowell, 2 Hall Road, Chilton Hall, STOWMARKET, Suffolk. IP14 1TN with a cheque for £10 made payable to 'The Round Tower Churches Society'. Please enclose your telephone number, email address if you have one and a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques will not be presented until all speakers have confirmed. Rev. Canon Haselock has already agreed to speak to us on Screens and Screen Paintings.

Topcroft Roses and Strawberry Teas - Sunday 24th June 2012,
11am to 5pm £3 entry. Free parking. Come and visit Topcroft Hall Gardens to see a large display of roses and also extensive herbaceous borders and wooded garden. Strawberries and cream teas will be available all day.

ROUND TOWERS IN NORWICH CATHEDRAL?

When the eastern part of the cathedral was completed, there were three radiating chapels with apses. The one in the centre has long gone but the other two survive up to eaves level. These are two storeys high, each with a chapel below and a storage chamber above. They are approximately round and formed by two circles (nave and apse) that intersect. The artist John Sell Cotman drew the southern chapel of St Luke about 1807/08. His image gives it a distinct 'round-tower' look. Was this the intention of the builder? The buildings are chapels and not bell-towers though sacristy bells may have been attached to them. At the intersection of the curved and straight surfaces on the exterior, half round 'quadrant pilasters' were added. This is also a distinctive feature of early East Anglian churches. Today the pilasters only rise to eaves level. Originally they were topped with conical pinnacles which were much taller than now (1). There were six pinnacles in all.

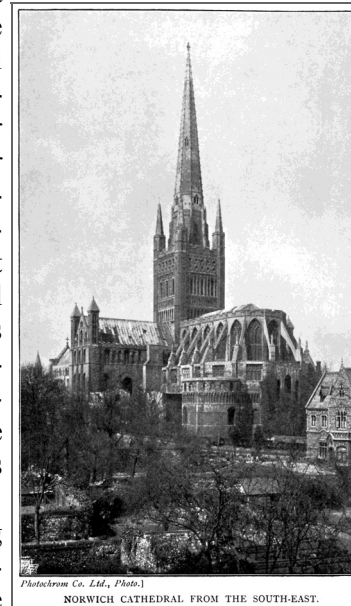


The drum part of the nave is much wider than most church round-towers but only slightly wider than Wortham Tower in Suffolk – the biggest of the church round-towers. The height of the Norwich chapels is similar to some of the smaller Norman towers seen in parish churches but with their high pitched conical roofs (now gone) they would have appeared much taller. Roundness is emblematic in the Romanesque, which was the style adopted by the Normans. In Norwich Cathedral we see circles or half circles throughout the design. On each side of the belfry in the crossing tower, there are two rows of roundels. Round windows can also be seen inside the western Cloisters. Given that every part of the Cathedral is loaded with symbolism and meaning, can the roundness of the chapels be just incidental or was there an agenda behind the design?

These chapels were built early in the 12th century. By that date, the 'Great Rebuild Programme' was well under way in Eastern England where the old wooden, thatched churches were being rebuilt with stone walls. Round bell-towers were added to some churches in a second phase of construction and a few even had a tower integrated into the structure so they were built together with the nave of the church. If the cathedral chapels were built to resemble

the towers of those parish churches, was it to celebrate the Norman achievement of initiating this Rebuild Programme; as a monumental and symbolic gesture? There is a strong reason for rejecting this form of speculation. The *First Register* of the cathedral, written in the 12th century, says that the eastern end was completed by the first bishop, Herbert of Losinga between 1095 and 1119, when he died. The northern chapel of St Stephen (by the 15th century, called the Jesus Chapel) was reserved for the bishop's private use or as a chapter house, while another chapel was under construction in the palace grounds on the northern side of the cathedral. While a Benedictine monastery was being added to the southern side, its prior used St Luke's Chapel though that story may be based on legend rather than fact. Could the original and smaller apsed chapels have been rebuilt with larger plans, at a later date? That idea is not supported by any clear evidence in the surviving fabric, yet there have been numerous changes to it during the building's lifetime. The cathedral has been the victim of several fires as well as 900 years of decay. Much of the facing material on the exterior of the chapels has been renewed especially during the 19th century. In the Middle Ages the small round headed windows were enlarged and changed to a Gothic form. In the 19th century they were rebuilt reinstating the original round heads but with bigger openings. If there had been early changes in the plan of the chapels then that would be visible on the interior walls but there is no evidence of that. Despite these considerations, there are several contradictions to the conventional story of the cathedral's development.

It is convincingly alleged (2) that the whole design of the cathedral is based on a system of proportion (one to the square root of two) and this can be found in the shaping of its various parts, in each dimension and at every scale. A Platonic ideal has been applied so the design achieves perfect visual harmony, overcoming some of the clumsiness and inelegance seen in earlier Norman cathedrals. The problem with this theory when applied to the design of the round chapels is that they are distinctly clumsy in plan. Dr Pevsner calls them 'weird, inside and out'. The two intersecting circles of nave and apse abut the curved walls of the presbytery and ambulatory which means that the purity of their geometry was compromised. Also the repetitive arcade seen inside and



outside the chapels had to be fitted to suit the awkward plan form. These arcades went around most of the cathedral's exterior giving it a visual unity at high level and they are effective in disguising the anomalies of the plan of the chapels.

How could such a compromised solution have been part of the original disciplined design for the cathedral when they do not fit in with the overall proportional system? Historians minimise such a consideration by saying that the Normans had a predilection for experimental shapes when it came to side chapels. This is hardly convincing. The plan of Norwich Cathedral closely follows that of Bury St Edmund's abbey church, where construction started twenty years before Norwich Cathedral was being planned (circa 1091-95). In fact the Bishop wanted Bury Abbey to be his cathedral. When that idea was thwarted, he decided to build a replica of it in Norwich. The eastern end of Bury has three radiating chapels which were in the form of apses. At that point the comparison between the two great churches ends. In a later phase of development, Bury placed an emphasis on the monumental western end whereas Norwich preferred to be more articulate at its eastern end. Looking at a wider picture and other influences, the greatest Norman churches with three eastern apses, placed them in '*echelon*' (ie parallel in plan). In the late 11th century, the '*chevron*' type of plan was imported from France. In that arrangement, chapels radiate from the centre of the presbytery. This meant that their altars did not all face eastwards. Alternatively if apses were added to detached chapels as at Norwich, those apses could be rotated to face east. That is what happened at Norwich except that they point an additional 10° towards the central axis. Both chapels are symmetrical in this regard so it cannot have been an aberration in their setting out. About the same time, axial chapels with a similar shape to the ones in Norwich were being added to Canterbury and Gloucester Cathedrals. In both those case, later accretions and changes have muted the visual impact of their basic rounded forms. On the Continent, only one comparable example has been found – at Méhun-sur-Yèvre, near Bourges in France. Here is the second contradiction in Norwich Cathedral. Its overall design is derivative of many other churches so its layout was not innovative. Instead it is a mature consummation of Romanesque development in English Cathedrals yet in regard to its round chapels, it clearly was being innovative.

The third contradiction comes from the career of the second Bishop of Norwich, Evorard de Montgomery (circa 1066-1147). The *First Register* of the cathedral merely says that he finished building the cathedral, monastery and bishop's palace as laid out originally by Bishop Herbert of Losinga (1095-

We know that bishops took an active part in the design and administration of great building works. By 1119, the eastern part of the cathedral; the crossing tower up to roof ridge level; and the eastern bays of the nave were finished. From then on we are expected to believe that Evorard merely followed the concept of Bishop Herbert without making any modifications to the basic design. Does his character as far as we can read it through the events in his life, bear this out?

Evorard was the younger son of a powerful and wealthy Norman earl. He was also a distant relative of William the Conqueror so he became a royal chaplain to William's successors. When mature, Evorard was an archdeacon in the Salisbury diocese before becoming Bishop of Norwich in 1121. His biggest problem was that England was in a state of civil war. Empress Matilda was challenging her cousin Stephen, last of the Norman kings, for the throne. Evorard walked a tight-rope of loyalty until Stephen's brother made aggressive claims against the property of the Norwich Diocese.

This discomforted the Earl of Norfolk and bishop, leading eventually to a break with the king. There was also a sharp rivalry between Evorard and the prior of the Benedictine monastery attached to the cathedral. When a boy called William de Haverland was found murdered in woods just outside Norwich in 1144, there were claims that he had been ritually martyred. Evorard dismissed these as outlandish but the prior supported them. Eventually it was the prior who succeeded Evorard as bishop. In 1152 it was he who had William translated so that he could become the patron saint of the cathedral, erecting a great shrine to him by the high altar. As early as 1135, Everard was encouraging the Cistercians, a monastic offshoot from the Benedictine Order, to build an abbey at Fontenay on the Côte d'Or in north-eastern France. It was there that Everard escaped from Stephen, far from Norwich and Normandy. Just before he died, Everard was present when the Pope consecrated the new monastic church. Everard was buried at Fontenay by the main altar in 1047. Could such a man have merely executed the plans of his predecessor at Norwich without making changes of his own, especially in regard to the radiating chapels? The question can only be finally answered through archaeology and in regard to those chapels, that is still awaited.

Richard Harbord

References;

- (1). 'Norwich Cathedral, 1096-1996', Ian Atherton etc editors, Hambledon Press 1996.
- (2). 'The architecture of Norwich Cathedral', Eric Fernie, Clarendon Press 1996.

The pencil and watercolour Cotman drawing is in the Norwich Castle Museum collection .

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY TOURS. 2011. Part Two.

The August tour took us to north-west Norfolk. Little Snoring St Andrew stands high with its separate tower a notable feature. It seems the original church was pulled down and then rebuilt a little further north. This tower may be partly Anglo-Saxon but its conical tiled roof with dormer style belfry openings is later perhaps even 18th century. The south doorway is an enigma and caused much discussion; a mixture of round and pointed styles possibly the result of reused stonework from a Norman arch. Window styles varying from Norman through Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular to Tudor are all present here. On entering the church there is much to see; a Norman circular font with foliage carving, an angled piscina and an extremely rare example of a set of Royal Arms of James the Second. From more recent times, boards on the west wall record the war effort of Allied airmen who served at the nearby airfield.

Further west, Syderstone St Mary has round-headed belfry openings with Y-tracery. In the north wall, blocked pointed arches can clearly be seen, evidence of a former aisle. Entering the church by the west doorway at the base of the tower, both nave walls show evidence of former aisles, with round blocked Norman arches in the south wall. A fine east window has glass celebrating the return of peace after the 1939-45 war.

At Sedgeford St Mary we were welcomed by parishioners and the incumbent who served us a splendid tea. Here the aisles have been extended westward to enclose the lower part of the round tower which has a later octagonal belfry. The church in effect has a 'West Front' and there is a fine clerestory with six windows on each side. Inside is a square Norman font of Purbeck marble. There are some faint wall paintings, including a St Christopher. Graffiti is a modern day scourge but historical graffiti gives us an insight into the past. At Sedgeford there are some interesting examples including 'Parish Clarke 1665 William Cram', 'Christopher Finlea 1665' and 'WC 1656'.

In September our tour was to the east and north of Norwich. Hemblington All Saints has a delightful rural setting. The tower roof is tiled and capped with lead, which gives it the appearance of a shell slowly exiting a gun barrel. The nave and chancel are continuous, with no arch between, but the dominant feature here is the wall painting on the north wall. Not only do we have St Christopher but scenes of his life and martyrdom survive including two harlots sent to tempt him (they failed in their task). A fine font has been recoloured, which gives an idea of how it may have looked in pre-Reformation times. Seven seated saints can be seen on the sides of the bowl, while more saints, including St Lawrence and St Mary Magdalene, stand around the shafts.

St Protase and St Gervaise is a unique dedication at Little Plumstead. The church is close to recent housing developments and was much restored during Victorian times. There are some good brasses here, a man and his wife with a butterfly head-dress of the late 15th century and a Tudor brass to Sir Edward Warner, once Lieutenant of the Tower of London, who died in 1565.

Arriving at Old Catton, we enjoyed a good tea in the vicarage garden before proceeding to St Margaret's. There is considerable medieval brick in this building and the round tower has an octagonal top. Inside are a number of monuments, including one of 1820 to Jeremiah Ives, a former Mayor of Norwich. There is also an 18th century western gallery. The Reverend Richard Hart was vicar here for almost 40 years during the 19th century.

So the season ended for another year during which we had been blessed with fine weather, some excellent teas and the usual good attendances from our members. By the time you read this we will be 'at it again' in 2012.

Stuart Bowell.

N.B. Correction to a misprint in the March magazine. On page 15 on the Mautby report after '...angles to the octagon.' it should have continued 'A former south aisle to the nave is no more, but there is evidence of its existence inside the church, where the arcade can be seen in the wall. Below the south east nave window is a stone effigy of a cross legged knight....'

The Round Tower Churches Society is now on Facebook .
If you are on Facebook and 'like' our Facebook page you will be able to post and share links, news and photographs. Facebook is a speedy way of communicating. As an example the Thetford conference advertised below was posted on our Facebook page on the 11th March shortly after conference details were announced but too late for the March magazine.



The Society for Church Archaeology in association with the Association for Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists will be hosting a day conference '**Thetford: The Medieval Church in Context**' in Thetford on **Saturday 28th July 2012**. There will be five speakers and in the late afternoon there will be guided tours of Thetford town which boasts a spectacular concentration of medieval sites.
For more details visit <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol/> or contact the conference secretary. Michael Shapland, 162 Elgar Road, Reading RG2 0BN. m.shapland@ucl.ac.uk. 07817606153.

DICKLEBURGH, ALL SAINTS. 1st July 2012.

The world famous choir of Trinity College Cambridge under the direction of Stephen Layton will perform works by Purcell and Tallis, Bach and Schutz. Mendelssohn and Elgar, and Part and Taverner in the church starting at 7pm.

Tickets are £12 in advance or £15 on the door. Tickets are available from Frank Clark, 7 Limmer Avenue, Dickleburgh, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4PP. 01379741291 or you can email Rebecca@heaser.com. Cheques payable to Dickleburgh PCC with SAE please.

BEACHAMWELL, ST MARY. July 2012.

Flower Festival. 21st, 22nd and 23rd July 11am to 4pm. Organised jointly by the parishes of Beachamwell and Barton Bendish. This year in St Mary's Church, Beachamwell. All profits to the two churches.

Flower displays, refreshments, jewellery, ironwork. books, cards and much more..... Enquiries 01366347563/328774 or williamsoldies@gmail.com.

SHIMPLING, ST GEORGE: June to December 2012.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen and the 25th anniversary of the vesting of St Georges with the Churches Conservation Trust: June 5th between 2 & 4pm.

Heritage Open Days (10am to 5pm): September 8th & 9th (Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride on the 8th).

Open Days (11am to 4pm): 6th & 7th, June 4th & 5th, July 7th & 8th, August 4th & 5th, 26th & 27th.

Celebrating St Edmund: Tuesday November 20th Morning Prayers 10.30am.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: Thursday December 13th 7pm.

NORFOLK OPEN CHURCHES 2012.

Details of Norfolk Open Churches 2012 are now available. A 44 page booklet has been published (the website norfolkopenchurches.com has updates). The dates for Open Churches Week 2012 are Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th August. If you require further information contact Jennie Hawks, Historic Places of Worship Support Officer on 07799703803 or by email at jennie.hawks@norwich.anglican.org.

If you missed the Norfolk Churches Tour on the 22nd April (and even if you were there) there is another opportunity to visit **EDINGTHORPE**. If the same group of people are doing the refreshments you are in for a treat.

Edingthorpe Gardens. Open Sunday June 10th 2012.

11 am TO 5 pm.

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SALES & MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Mrs Pauline Spelman 105 Norwich Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0LF Tel: 01603 743607
MAGAZINE EDITORS	Dr Anne Woollett The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham, NR10 4SJ Tel: 01603 870452 email: anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk Mr Paul Hodge The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham, NR10 4SJ Tel: 01603 870452 email: pt.hodge@tiscali.co.uk
COMMITTEE	Mrs Teresa Wiggin Fir Tree Cottage, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EX Tel: 01473 785596 Ms Susan Williams Flinten Barn, Thornage Road, Letheringsett, NR25 7JD Tel: 01263 712301 email: swilliams151@btinternet.com Mr Michael Pollitt 60 Chamberlain Road, Norwich, NR3 3LY Tel: 01603 486997 email: michael.pollitt@archant.co.uk
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