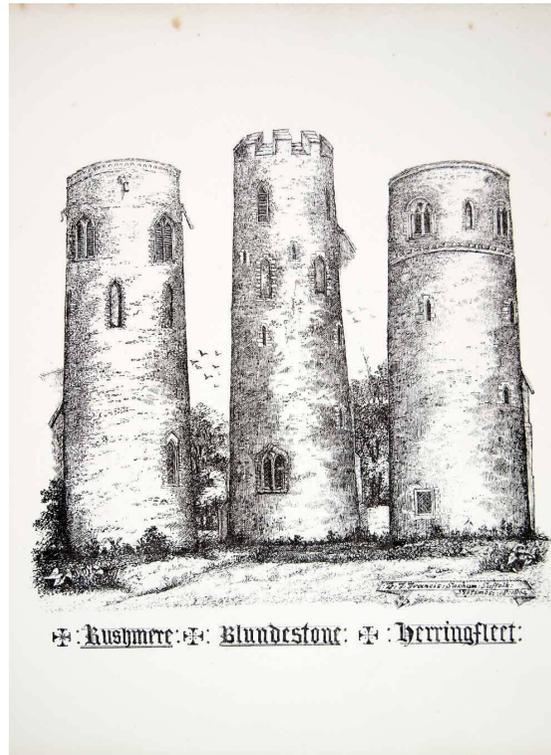




# The Round Tower

Vol. XLIII No 1.

September 2015



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Our cover illustration is a scan of an original 1864 lithograph of three round tower churches by Rev. W.F. Francis of Great Saxham.

As we promised in the June magazine we are publishing Richard Harbord's working notes for his Cockley Cley article. We hope you agree that these notes make for fascinating reading and add a worthwhile and different perspective to the history of our churches. Page 4.

Colin Howey shares his enthusiasm for Heckingham on page 16. Colin is the chairman of the Stonemasons Training Partnership. This supports the recruitment and training of apprentice stonemasons serving seven year apprenticeships in Norwich.

Chairman Stuart Bowell reminds us from page 18 about some of the churches we visited in 2014. We think 'mizzily' must be a Suffolk word or expression! Part Two of Stuart's report on our 2014 tours will appear in the December 2015 magazine.

**The next issue is December 2015 and the deadline for contributions is 1st November 2015.**

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

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*Minimum £20 (overseas £30) a year of which 25% goes towards the printing and posting of The Round Tower magazine and administration. 75% now goes to the Repair Fund of the RTCS.*

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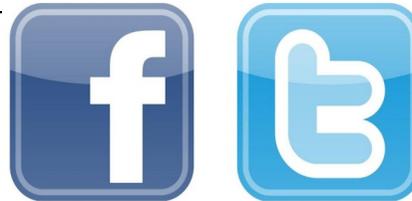
#### **THE ROUND TOWER**

**The quarterly magazine of the Round Tower Churches Society  
Vol. XLIII. No 1. September 2015.**

[www.roundtowers.org.uk](http://www.roundtowers.org.uk)

Cockley Cley	14
Heckingham	16
2014 Tours. Part One	18
Society Officers	23

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## COCKLEY CLEY.

### Further Notes.

St Mary's was an Anglo-Saxon timber framed chapel. The nave and chancel was not originally of the same width; the latter having been extended eastwards in c1240.

The earliest listed priest (John de Cley) was presented in 1300, surely after the chancel with its lancet windows was built in 1240 when the Earl of Mowbury acquired the principle manor.

The Dashwood family held the manor from around 1700 to 1817, and then it went to the Buckworth family. Their modest memorials are in the church.

**1330-60**, Rohesia, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert de Valeyns married

Sir Edmund de Pakenham from an adjoining parish. They became Lords of the East Hall manor in 1315 when they presented the Rev William de Bokeland who was priest in Cley until 1339. They seem to have been responsible for replacing the south wall of the nave with an arcade of three bays and two elaborately shaped piers; a south aisle, door and porch. These have a proto-Decorated style. Some of the windows in the nave and chancel were fully Decorated in style. The two cusped slit windows in the former tower may also have been inserted by John de Saxham (-Parva, in Suffolk) the lord of the West Hall manor which was held off the Honour of Richmond, in Yorkshire. He presented his sons to the church in **1339** and **1342**. Thomas de Saxham died in 1379 and was buried in Cley All Saints Church. In 1382 the family donated their part of the manor to Ingham Priory (north-east Norfolk).

c**1415**, the clerestory was added with three square-topped windows. Two similar windows were inserted in the south wall of the chancel. Ingham and Dereham Priors owned most of the parish by that date until the dissolution in 1533 after which the Beddingfield family of Oxburgh acquired it. William Dowling's considerable bequest in 1415 for the aisle windows and the tower may have helped. Thomas Oldfield of Cley leased the East Hall manor in 1367 and his descendant Edmund Oldfield died lord of the manor in 1460.

**1866**, a new manorial family moved into Cockley Cley Hall.

In **1552** St Peter's (square?) tower had three bells but soon afterwards it caught fire and remained a ruin until the mid 1700s. Within a few years the entire church had disappeared.

<u>Priests</u>	<u>presented</u>
1300, John de Cley,	by William de Waleyns
1315, William de Bokeland,	by Sir Edmund de Pakenham
1339, Hugh de Saxham,	by his father John
1342, Thomas de Saxham	he was buried in the church in 1379
1374, William de Huugelord	by Richard Holdych
1402, Simon Cobale	by the Prior of Ingham
14 . . . Joseph Walsingham	by same
1427, Richard Dycon	by same

1464, Richard Ereswell by same  
 1515, William Echard by same  
 1533, John Fulger by William Lyster, of London  
 1563, Robert Gibson by Anthony Bedingfield

1804, Robert Rolfe by John Richard Dashwood  
 1819, same by Richard Dashwood  
 1896, Edward Harris by Richard Buckworth  
 1910, Herbert Pole by Sir Samuel Roberts  
 1938, Cyril Hughes by same  
 1956, Cecil Kirkpatrick by Sir Peter Roberts  
 1961, Hugh Blackburne by Bishop  
 1972, Leslie Kithcen same  
 1978, Philip Sawell same  
 1882, David Abraham same  
 1987, Christopher Chatarat same  
 1995, Anthony Toolett same

1900 the parish area; 4427 acres, of which a third was heath and 6 acres of lake (the Park)

Population; 1821, 238; 1841, 244; 1871, 255 (a high point).

The term 'Cockley' was first recorded in documents in Richard II's time.

A major Roman Road crossed the parish east and west from the Fens to the north-east part of Norfolk. This lay in the southern part of the parish. There were many Roman villas in this western part of Norfolk but none are known in this parish. Several Roman coins have been found there though.

St Mary's Chapel, on the south side of the stream on the east side of the road.

This chapel, the old Manor House (before 1698) and St Peters Church were all on the same lane that led east wards from the main road. Perhaps the old village was on the same street but this track has now been lost.

Chapel is 31' by 21' in plan. The east window survives and the original walls. It had a medieval guild and 9 ½ acres of glebe. In the mid c13th William de Valeyns held the advowson for this and All Saints Church. He held the chapel for his own uses.

The church had no tower but the chancel was an apse which was integral with the adjacent walls. In his booklet on the village history, printed in 1970, Sir Peter Rogers made out a case for claiming it dated from the Danish period (8thc!) but this is unlikely.

**1533**, the chapel was licensed for the sacraments.

**1540**, the Chapel was appropriated by All Saints Church and converted into a Rectory. A large brick chimney stack was added and the roof ridge was raised by a metre so that a second storey could be added. Square mullioned windows were inserted but the original Norman slit windows on the west and north sides were left undisturbed.

**1948**, it ceased to be a cottage after 400 years of domestic occupation.

It mentions' the church key is kept by Mr G Harbord', ... The octagonal parapet to the tower was part of the 1866 restoration work but it is also shown in Ladbrooks' drawing of **1820**.

There had to be a strict seating arrangement with only a few free of 'pew rents' in the aisles

#### Manorial history.

**1086,**

1.73; Kings Manor in (Cockley) Clay, South Greenhoe Hundred; value then £6, later £4; now £5.

8.92; Earl of Surrey's Manor, in (*Claiia*) ie the same of the same; value then 10s; now 15s.

66.65; Annexations of Baynard; in same of same, value 7d.

21.14, Renold son of Ivo; *Cleietorpa* (Cley Thorpe) in South Greenhoe; value then 60s, now 40s.

Renald was the tenant in chief; later under the Earls of Clare, Peter son of Sir Ralph de Cley,

Was the sub-tenant/ LOM (ie lord of the manor).

The total population for the combined estates were 45 men – about 200 people.

About 180 arable acres (only?) with 9 ploughs; 11.5 acres of meadow in demesne.

Pig woods for 36 pigs; 462 sheep; 3 oxen; 2 water mills; total value 185s.

The value of these estates was already in decline between 1066 – 1086, in strong contrast to other parts of Norfolk which where values were on the rise.

#### East Hall (King's) Manor

**1177**, Peter gave the advowson of St Peters Church to Buckenham Priory with 5 ½ acres and homage to the over-lord, William FitzAlan and his children, with a toft & croft.

**1240**, John son of Peter de Cley sold to the Prior another 50 acres who also appropriated 23 acres of church glebe.

Later 1200s, the Earl of Gloucester was head tenant, with Sir Simon FitzRichard, sub tenant with 240 acres, ½ messuage, a fold course for sheep, free tenants and villagers.

**1293**, the manor passed to Thomas de Repps and then a life tenancy for Thomas de Clifton and his son Adam. The parish became 'highly manorialsised' with a complex web of ownerships.

**1316**, Thomas de Repps was considered LOM.

**1333**, he gave it to his son with a windmill at 18d pa rent.

**1367**, William de Keteringham sold it to Thomas Oldhall of Cley who died LOM in 1460

**1428**, there were less than ten households in the parish due to the Black Death

**1478**, Roger Langdon, and John Crudde sold the manor to Sir Edmund Bedingfield.

**1540**, there was a fire in St Peters Church and it was abandoned soon afterwards

**1698**, the Dashwood family of Kitlingham acquired the estate and demolished the old hall

**1722**, by then the Dashwoods had managed to consolidate their holdings taking over the lands of the medieval land-owning families of Bedingfield, Bagge and Chamberlayne

**1727**, Mary Dashwood of Cockley Cley Hall died; her husband Richard in 1738 as LOM.

**1770**, Richard Dashwood (LOM) died and his wife Anne in 1781.

**1773**, Elizabeth Dashwood died and her husband John Richard Dashwood (LOM), 1818. The Dashwood family owned the estate between 1698 – 1818 and their memorials can be seen in All Saints Church.

**1782**, an estate map was drawn showing the open sheep walks, the park and lake near the Hall and the earliest plantations. All this was shown on William Faden's map of Norfolk

**1817**, the Buckworth family acquired the estate

**1866**, Theophilus Buckworth paid for the restoration of All Saints Church and later he also rebuilt the Hall in an 'Italianate' manner.

**1907-26**, the estate was owned by Francis Allen.

**1926**, it was acquired by Sir Peter Roberts 3<sup>rd</sup> Bart; 1912-85; of Ecclesall, Sheffield where he Master Cutler, High Sheriff and MP. He was keenly interested in antiquities so it was he who set up the Icene Village in the river valley and the museum (now closed). This is the pretentious work of a wealthy but ill informed amateur so it is highly controversial;

1. the site south of the river was not an Iron Age settlement.

2. the methods of constructing replicas of the huts were modern and not authentic.

3. the shape of the palisade and 'guard houses' are also not authentic.

4. long houses and round huts were already displaced by the late Iron Age, etc etc.

His contorted claims for the chapel are also misguided – not Byzantine in layout or built by Syrian monks! The chancel arch and south doorway are early Norman.

Sir Peter famously presented a set of cutlery to President Eisenhower.

#### West Hall Manor

**1066**, a Norman knight, Gilbert de Blunt held the manor.

**1166**, a daughter of William Fitz Richard married Ronan Conan, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Richmond. His descendant, Alan Earl of Richmond held it as tenant in chief, and it long remained in the Honour of Richmond in Yorkshire.

**1236**, William Blount was the sub-tenant of the manor for ½ knights fee.

**1262**, Sir William de Blunt was killed at the Battle of Lewes in Sussex. His sister Rohesia married Sir Robert de Valeyns and it passed to that family.

**1280**, William Mont-Chensys held it for a knights fee off Richmond paying 20s pa to the castle Ward and £45 pa, for this and another manor

**1287**, Sir William de Valeynes held the manor off his relative, Sir Robert de Valeyns as LOM with free warren, assize of bread & ale; a capital messuage, 216 acres of arable, 5 of pasture, 18 of heath, the liberty of two fold-courses, a windmill. This was held off the Honour of Richmond for 4s 8d, (only!) pa.

A third part of this manor included 297 ½ acres arable, 20 of meadow, 100 of heath, a water-mill, free warren on heath-land outside the parish, held by the Waleyns/ Valoins family off the Mont-Chensys temp Edward 1.

**1315**, Sir Edmund and Rohesia de Pakenham became LOM and was succeeded by their son Robert Pakenham. The Barony of Mont-Chensys passed to the Earls of Pembroke who held it off Richmond.

**1347**, Hugh de Saxham (-Parva, in Suffolk) held this manor for ½ knights fee.

**1353**, Sir Thomas de Saxham was the LOM and he took Arms.

**1382**, John, son of Robert de Saxham gave the manor to Ingham Priory and in

**1384**, he died LOM and was buried there.

**1393**, Thomas Moore owned the manor and sold it to Dereham Priory.

**1402**, the Priory held it for ½ knights fee of the Earl of Pembroke, and he off Richmond.

**1538**, after the dissolution it was granted to Sir William Wodehouse of Waxham (north-east Norfolk). He sold it to Robert and Bridget Hagon and they to Bedingfield family of Oxborough - 4 messuages, 3 sheepfolds all in West Hall manor. Caldicote manor extended into Cley parish.

#### Cley Thorpe.

‘Thorpe’ is usually a term meaning outlying annex to the core village. It was worth 40% of the value of the King’s manor so clearly it was not a small affair. Was the separation between the areas north and south of the river? Even in 1086 both manors came under the same Kings jurisdiction.

Langwade Manor, also on the west side of the parish.

This name means the ‘long ford’. There is a fairly small area within the parish boundary hemmed in by large heaths to the north and south; with river meadows in the middle. The manor stretched beyond these boundaries though.

On the road between Cockley Cley and Goodestone, near to the latter was a cluster of buildings adjacent to the river – a wayside cross, perhaps a Leper House, bridge, water mill and a moated house. It was owned by the de Cley family - Richard, then Robert, then Hamon. Robert and his brother Ralph donated the manor to Dereham Priory. In the mid c13<sup>th</sup> this included 100 arable acres and two fold-courses that extended into the adjacent parishes to the west, of Shingham, Caldecot and Oxborough. Thomas Bedingfield of Oxborough rented it off the Priory for 33s 4d, pa.

The Abbot of Dereham had 100 arable acres, a messuage and a water-mill, paying 6s 4d, to Richmond- was this the same area?

Robert son of Sir Robert de Valeyns granted villeinage to Ralph de Langwade which he previously held off the Cley family.

#### All Saints Church

The patronage of this church went with the West Hall manor.

Late c14<sup>th</sup> the tower, nave and chancel were built, perhaps replacing an earlier smaller building but that is very uncertain.

**1334**, the tax value (tenths etc) for Cley-juxta-Swaffham was rated at £8

**1449**, it was rated at only £6; a reduction of a quarter reflecting the great loss of population during the plague years of the late c15<sup>th</sup>.

**1742**, a third of the rents (£3 10s, pa) on 10 acres in Swaffham Field was left for the up-keep of the church but this only amounted 1/6<sup>th</sup>. The rest went to the poor. There was a poor-house near the church with ¼ acre of land, value 28s/ pa.

St Mary's Chapel,

South elevation, a door with re-used stones each with 4 chevrons including the jambs; 3 stones left side; 4 right. Quoins of Barnack stone (Stamford) – no long & short work; walls of whole field flints in rough courses. Door west of centre; slit window east of centre. All encased in flints.

West elevation; the full gable survives; no sign of a blocked doorway; centre slit window with a slab lintel. Patches of original render still in place.

South elevation;

Inside a Roman lead coffin against the west wall. A round-headed recess to its right like a cupboard. Windows widely splayed internally. Steps down to a cellar against the north wall. Were the walls built on the site of a Roman Temple?

Chancel arch wide and round with stone masonry.

1552 confiscation of moveable church goods in Cockley Cley.

NA vol 30, 77; All Saints Church, witnessed by Richard Johnson & Robert Nurse, church wardens; John Dugate & Andrews Hasking, parishioners

A silver chalice of 12 ounces, @ 12s 8d per ounce (reserved)	44s 0d
A copper gilt cross & a pyx	18d
Velvet vestment & cope, 2 old copes – one in crewel work, one in red silk; a suite of red silk vestments; a blue satin vestment;	25s 8d
5 other vestments (11 in total)	2s 4d
4 lead candle-sticks& a pair of lead censors	9s 0d
3 bells, of 4; 6 & 7 cwts (which was reserved)	
17 in all @	£12 15s 0d
Total	£16 17s 6d

St Peters Church, witnessed by William Newman & John Mackyn, church wardens, John Clifton & John Harby, parishioners.

A silver chalice of parcel gilt @ 3s 8d, per ounce	36s 8d
A blue cope velvet cope, a red bawdkyn silk cope, an old blue silk cope,	
An old cope with chequer work, an old blue velvet vestment	20s 0d
A red taffeta vestment, 2 tunicles, a blue damask vestment	5s 0d
A red saye vestment; 2 old thread vestments	20s 0d
3 bells, of 5 (reserved), 6 & 7 cwts, 18 cwts in total; @ 15s 5d/ cwt, £13 10s 0d	
	£17 11s 8d

Within a few years St Peters Church had been completely demolished and lost, yet in 1552 its contents were worth slightly more than those of All Saints Church.

**1664** Hearth Tax assessment for Cockley Cley; 24 dwellings with a total of 62 hearths. John Bagg gent - 7; James Bagg? gent – 5. Exemptions not listed.

1666 Hearth Tax assessment for same; 60 hearths, paying £3. No name list given Norfolk Genealogy magazine, vol 20, 69.

1720 estate map, (Cockley Cley; Cottage Museum - there were about 24 dwellings shown.

**Notes taken on 3.8.13, during the visit to Cley by the RTCS.**

1. Mr Mullinger, fabric officer of the church showed people where to park and locked the church after the visit. He had a plan of the church 'somewhere in a storage box'.
2. Lionel Chively, was managing the visitors booth at the Museum that day. Aged 86 he was an electrical mechanical engineer in Sheffield for many years. His concern about RH's project was that the comments about St Mary's chapel conflicted with what was written in the published leaflet written by Sir Peter Roberts in the 1970s. For over ten years he has lived in the bungalow formerly occupied by Brian Harbord, church warden of All Saints for many years. His wife has lived in Cley for 65 years
3. The fall of the round tower.

Mr Chivers sheltered from a storm inside the vestry and amidst the thunder he thought he heard falling masonry. This was a portent of the collapse of the tower. On the Saturday before it did fall there was a wedding in the church. After the ceremony the wedding party posed at the south side of the tower for photographs – this was just where the tower collapsed only a few days later. Some thought the ivy growing on that side of the wall could have weakened its fabric. The south side collapsed from the first floor upwards taking the west side with it. The flint rubble was collected in large plastic bags and stored in Sam Robert's barn along with the one bell. Cut masonry from the towers was placed against the west wall of the churchyard. The metal bell frame was left in the churchyard where it got in the way of the grass mowers. It was soon discarded. Since then the towers has been stabilised and tidied up. There now seems little prospect of rebuilding the tower.

It was a warm sunny dry afternoon so there was a large turnout of members – perhaps seventy.

Lyn Stilgoe gave a tour of the outside of the building. She stated that the tower originally had two slit windows with large stone caps and internal splays. These suggested that the original tower was Norman. The nave was so drastically rebuilt by the Victorians that its original date can no longer be determined.

RPH gave a short talk inside the church where he stated that the manorial records give a different story of when the church was built. They suggest that All Saints replaced a much early church on the other, eastern side of the village – St Marys. Local reports say that this church is not just Saxon but Byzantine in origin and if so it could be the earliest church in Norfolk. Various dates from the records say that the shift from that tiny chapel to All Saints Church was accomplished by 1300 when the new building was completed and dedicated. All this information makes the diagnostic features on the former tower very unreliable – the stones could have been re-used from elsewhere. This conclusion agrees with the report published by Stephen Hart in the Norfolk Archaeology journal which is the highest authority on this subject.

The Roberts family.

**Samuel Roberts**, 1763-1848, 86; was born in Anston and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Samuel senior and Mary Sykes. They had a business in Sheffield making silver plated cutlery and table wear. He wrote many tracts and books. The first was in 1790. Many of them were on radical subjects and he campaigned against slavery. In 1794, he married Elizabeth dau of Robert and Elizabeth Wright. And had a son and three daughters. One of them Mary, published 'The Royal Exile'. He died at Park Grange in Sheffield. His son was Samuel Roberts (no 2) JP who died in 1887.

Notes on Swaffham.

1071, the Brindle of Norwich, a battle when Ralph Guader, Earl of Norfolk was defeated.

1086, William Warrene was made over-lord of Swaffham and was based at Castle Acre where he founded a monastery.

1315-17, famine; 1348 Black Death.

1706, the town acquired a fire engine stored in the church porch.

1775, a fire that destroyed 22 houses and damaged two others, displacing 40 people. It may have started in a blacksmiths workshop. This was in dense property at the back of the White Hart Inn and Cobb's Pightle.

1798 census, 1022 males + 1126 females = 2148 popn

1801 census, 452 dwellings ( 11, unoccupied) = 2220 popn

1854, 2375a, heath-land; 4122 a, arable; 600a meadow; 30a woods = 7500a, total  
1127 farm workers = 3358 popn.

Near the church is the 'Paddocks' where a 6<sup>th</sup> c, Anglo-Saxon burial site was found. It was usual for these to be placed half a mile from a settlement – as happened here. The Camping Lands and Antingham lie near the parish church.

*'The Breckland Wilds'*, R Rainbird Clarke.

Cockley Cley Park has a small artificial lake of 3 acres on which Gadwell Duck, Mallard and Tufted Duck thrive.

Great Cressingham – a high status Roman building – ie, a villa, with tessellated pavements was found when digging started for a new housing estate, excavated in 2002-8. An east –west Roman Road from the Fens crossed the north part of the parish. In 1086 it had 49 households and two churches.

Hundred came into existence in the 800s. This was an area for 100 families and a hundred plough-lands. This was the Anglo-Saxon province of 'Wissa', related to the River Wissey.

A synopsis of the history of All Saints Church, Cockley Cley

The bell tower, nave and chancel of this church were erected as a single build in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. That has been convincingly demonstrated by the architect Stephen Hart in his book on Round Towers and in the Society's magazine. The question he

Left hanging was, ‘was there a Norman church on the same site as the present All Saints Church?’ Relying on the historic fabric alone cannot answer it; but the manorial history of the parish is very helpful.

Cley doesn’t look like a deserted village. There is a pub on one side of the church and a rectory the other side. Along the village street there are many modern houses and bungalows, but they have not always been there. The original village street ran parallel with the stream that flows through the parish. Houses lay either side of that stream until the late 1800s. There was also a manor house and another church – St Peters, both of which have now gone. In 1900 the structure of a third church was found embedded in the fabric of an old cottage – St Mary’s. Each of the original two churches served a different half of the parish – the East Hall and West Hall manors. In modern times the village shifted to higher ground away from the flood plain of the stream when a piped water supply became available.

St Mary’s was small like a chapel and Norman, built with Barnack stone. It was abandoned in 1268 when a new manorial family took over and at the same time, All Saints Church was begun on a much larger scale to replace it. It was probably finished by 1300 when the first recorded rector was appointed and he came from the manorial family of the West Hall manor. St Mary’s became the private chapel of the East Hall manorial family and eventually was converted into a cottage. That part of the parish continued to worship at St Peters Church right up to about 1560 when it was burnt down. Until then it was almost as well endowed as All Saints but it was never rebuilt.

This sequence of events suggests beyond doubt that there was no Norman church on the site of All Saints before it was built.

#### Phases of development in COCKLEY CLEY

##### 1. Iron Age & Roman occupation.

*Icknield Way* went through the centre of the village from Hunstanton in north-west Norfolk to Hillborough to the south and eventually to Stone Henge in Wiltshire. The Romans built another north-south road further east called *Peddars Way* which by-passed the parish. There are the sites of several burial mounds in the parish including one on the east side where the skeleton of a tall Bronze Age man was found buried. The Romans built two east-west roads which went through the parish, from Caister by Norwich and Caister on Sea which converged to pass westwards through the Fens. The areas of medieval cultivation were by-passed by those roads. That raises the possibility that this same land was also cultivated during the late Iron Age. A temporary Roman camp on the south side of the parish may have housed the builders of these roads. No Roman estate centres have been found in the parish but many coins and artefacts have been.

##### 2. The late Anglo-Saxons and Normans.

In the great survey of 1086, Cockley Cley had 41 men and a population of about 185 people. There were four manors, two being very small. The King’s manor was the

largest and it had the jurisdiction over an area of nearly 6000 acres. This was bigger than the present parish which covers about 4400 acres. The amount of land under cultivation was not given in the survey but the eight ploughs used suggest quite an extensive area. This was confined to the valley that runs through the parish. There were two manors, East Hall and West Hall; and two churches – St Mary's to the west and St Peters to the east. The little Norman chapel of St Mary's survives today. It was converted into a cottage and that preserved its original form which included an apsed chancel and splayed slit windows. There was still some woodland and large sheep runs to the north and south of the arable land. Beyond that there were huge heaths and a warren was built in that area to the east.

### 3. Medieval and Tudor periods.

In 1268 St Mary's Chapel was taken over by the manorial family and a new church was begun that became All Saints. This was also close to the stream. Another cluster of buildings were made on the western boundary of the parish at Langwade – a bridge, moated manor house, boundary cross on the road; a water mill and perhaps also a leper hospital. At the same time, much of the parish was donated to Norfolk monasteries – Dereham Abbey and Ingham Priory. During the late 13<sup>th</sup> century there was a rise in population so more land was brought into cultivation. This was made possible by the first windmill to be recorded in Cley in 1333. This was a time when poor crops meant that many villages were deserted in this Breckland part of western Norfolk – there were four of them to the west of Cley. Then came the Black Death and according to the remission given to the tax assessment of Cley, its population was reduced by a quarter.

In 1551, St Peters Church was as well endowed as All Saints Church but when it burnt down, it was never rebuilt. This indicates that the village no longer had a need for two large churches. By 1664 there were 24 houses with a total of 62 hearths. Of those, seven had only one hearth and the largest (the manor-house?) had seven. Even allowing for several people being too poor to pay the tax, this was a big drop in population. The manor-house was burnt down in 1698.

### 4. Modern times.

In 1722 the Dashwood family managed to consolidate most of the arable land under their own ownership. Then huge sheep walks and heaths were bought up by the Beddingfield family of Oxburgh Hall to the west. The Dashwoods commissioned a huge estate map that shows the parish had not yet been enclosed and it was still completely divided up into the Medieval common fields, furlongs and strips. In 1817 a new manorial family took over the estate – the Bucklands. In 1866 Theophilous Buckland rebuilt Cockley Cley Hall on a grand scale and much of All Saints Church using the same architect Richard Phipson. In 1919 the Roberts family from Sheffield bought the estate and took a great interest in its management, welfare and history. This resulted in the building of the Icen Village.

Cockley Cley, Norfolk; the **1086** (tax) Great Survey  
 South Greenhoe Hundred (North Greenhoe Hundred, is on the north Norfolk coast).

**1.73**, King's estate, of the East Hall Manor, Cley (*Cleia*)?  
 2 Freeman held it (before 1066), now the King (holds it)  
 Then (before 1066) and later (after 1066) 10 Villagers, now 8  
 Always 7 Smallholders; Always 2 Servants  
 Then 4 demesne ploughs, later 3 oxen (only); now 2 ploughs  
 Then 5 men's ploughs; later 4, now 3  
 Always 2 (water-)Mills; a 20-pig Wood, 8 acres of Meadow,  
 Godric had (before ?) 60 sheep.  
 Value then £6, later £4, now 100s; 14 tax paid  
 Area of jurisdiction, 1 by 1 leagues.

**8.92**, Earl of Surrey's estate (also in East Hall Manor?)  
 Osmund held  $\frac{1}{2}$  carucate of land before (and, now?)  
 Then and now, 5 Smallholders, Always 1 plough, 1 acre of Meadow  
 3 cobs before and now; 6 cows; 20 pigs; 102 sheep, 1 bee-hive  
 Value then 10s, now 15s.  
 William de Warren holds the jurisdiction.

**66.65**, Annexation of Baynard, (a small estate also in East Hall Manor?)  
 2 Freeman with 14 acres, value 7d.

**21.14**, Reynald, son of Ivo's Manor, in Cley Thorpe (West Hall Manor?)  
 Before 1066, Toli held it; in 1066, Ronald.  
 Then and later, 6 Villagers, now 1; 2 Smallholders; always 3 Servants  
 Then and later, 2 ploughs, now 1 (in demesne)  
 Then 1 men's plough, now  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 A 16 pig Wood; 2 acres of Meadow; 1 cob before; now 15 wild Mares;  
 then 20 pigs, now 11; the 100 sheep, now 300;  
 Value then 60s, now 40s.  
 Also 3 Freeman with 20 acres, always  $\frac{1}{2}$  plough;  
 The King has jurisdiction over these 3 Freeman.

Note; 10.12/ 10.62; are in Cock-Thorpe which is in North Greenhoe Hundred.

Summary.

Men;	$19 + 6 + 2 + 6 + 3 = 36$	Pig Woods	$20 + 0 + 0 + 16 = 36$
Ploughs	$5 + 1 + 0 + 1\frac{1}{2} = 7\frac{1}{2}$	Pigs	$0 + 20 + 0 + 11 = 31$
Meadow	$8 + 1 + 0 + 2 = 11$ acres	Sheep	$60 + 102 + 0 + 300 = 462$
Lands	$60 + 100 + 20 = 180$ acres	Value	$100s + 15s + 30s + 40s = 185s$
Mills	$2 + 0 + 0 + 0 = 2$ water mills		

The value of the combined estates also declined by 18%. There was an increase of livestock, especially of sheep.

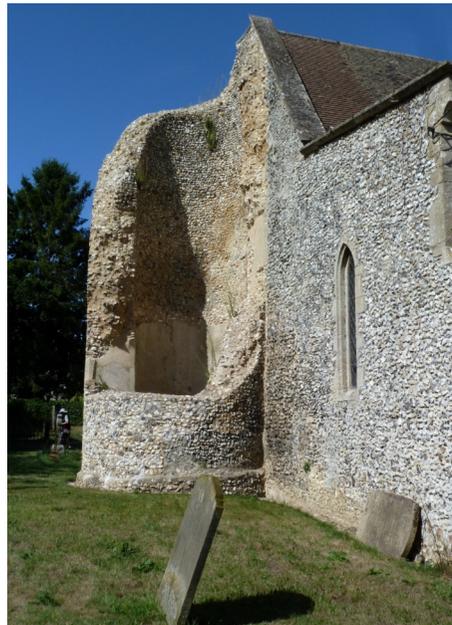
Summary.

<b>1066</b>		<b>1086</b>	
<u>1.73</u> , 27 men		<u>1.73</u> ,	23 men
9 ploughs			5 ploughs
£6, value			100s, value
<u>8.92</u> , 6 men		<u>8.92</u> ,	6 men
1 plough			1 plough
10s, value			15s, value
<u>66.65</u> - - -		<u>66.65</u> ,	2 men
			0 ploughs
			7d value
<u>21.14</u> , 15 men		<u>21.14</u> ,	10 men
3.5 ploughs			2 ploughs
60s, value			40s, value
<u>Total</u> , 48 men		<u>Total</u> ,	41 men
13.5 ploughs			8 ploughs
£9 10s 0d, value			£7 15s 7d, value (155s/7d)

Conclusion

The population had declined in twenty years by 15% from about 220 to 185 people (ie 7 men, x an average of 4.5 people/ working person)

Ploughs (and plough-lands?) declined from 13.5 to 8, or about 1620 to, 960 acres.



The tower of Cockley Cley.

## **St Gregory's, Heckingham.**

A number of Church Crawlers have been kind enough to share their favourite churches with the Church Crawlers Anonymous Facebook group. As an adopted son of Norfolk, with its 659 medieval churches to choose from I am somewhat spoilt for choice. However, after much considered chin holding I have decided to offer this pen portrait of St Gregory's Church, Heckingham.

I confess, I have a 'thing' about those small slightly scruffy rustic churches that seem to be lost in time. Living somewhat in the shadow of its neighbour Hales, Heckingham is one of my personal favourites

It never looked finer than the sun-drenched afternoon I spent exploring here a few summers ago. The gentlest of breezes tickled the untended swaying grass. Meanwhile, in contrast to this movement, the gravestones seemed to stand rooted with defiant stillness. Amidst a murmur of insect wings, birdsong and the swish of grass, I stood. The flint rubble walls of the church glistened in the sunshine. This lovely little, largely Norman, parish church seemed to draw me in with a promise of musty, spidery coolness - and so I made my way into the porch.





As you can see from my photograph, the doorway, a Norman architectural riot of mouldings is a wonder! In fact, so splendid is it that I found myself slightly frustrated by the confines of a porch that does not allow one the space to stand back and gain the perspective a doorway like this deserves. With anticipation, I opened the clout-nailed door, which let out the marvellous noise that only ancient and rusty creaking hinges will allow.

Among the many things I could tell you about the interior of this church, two curiosities stay with me. Firstly, there are the crudely depicted skulls on the ledger slabs for the Crowe children who died in the early seventeenth century. Examining the dates carefully, it appears that two of the Crowe daughters - dying many years apart - shared the name, Mary. Secondly, if you look closely at the ledger slab in the aisle you will see several faint crosses carved into the surface. From their position it becomes apparent that what we have here is a recycled mensa; a pre-Reformation altar slab.

If you ever have the chance, in defiance of satellite navigation and in fusty solidarity with Pevsner and others, go get yourself an OS map and drive down narrow lanes in south Norfolk and allow your mind to wonder/wander as you stand in the doorway at Heckingham; allow yourself to become a small part of its story.

Colin Howey

## **There is one more 2015 Round Tower Churches Society tour.**

5th September. Meet at Hardley at 2.30pm. We then move on to Hellington and Surlingham.

Everyone is welcome to join us. All our tours are free, though donations are encouraged at every church. Teas will be provided by one of the churches during the afternoon.

### **Summer Tours 2014 - Part One**

Our tour season began on a murky, mizzly May morning at **Rushmere** St Michael. The church is thatched, nave and chancel under a single ridge and the tower is circular for its full height, with four two- light belfry openings and topped by a brick parapet. There is a traditional East Anglian lion font and in the reveal of a nave window a faint wall painting can be seen. The roof thatch is visible from the interior. In the chancel, which is wider than the nave, are Y-tracery windows and recessed in the jamb of a dropped window sill sedilia is a piscina with a tracery head



Rushmere

The weather had improved slightly when we reached **Mutford**, St Andrew. Approached from the west the church stands high in the landscape. At 66 feet 6 inches, this is the tallest of the round towers, circular for about three quarters of its height with a later octagonal top with stone quoins and a flushwork parapet.

The belfry openings have lost their tracery but the flushwork of the faux windows in the non-cardinal faces, is an indication of how they may have looked. This is the only

round tower church with a western Galilee porch. Inside the church, the step of the font is inscribed with the name of the donor, Dame Elizabeth of Hengrave, but the 'orate' has been partially scratched out. In the chancel wall is a fine 14<sup>th</sup> century piscina with an ogee arch and beside it a dropped windowsill sedilia.



Mutford

**Frostenden** All Saints has a tower circular for its full height. The nave and chancel are tiled under a single ridge, with the walls rendered, as is the south aisle which includes the south porch. Over the porch a blue sundial gives both the hour and some advice in Latin, 'Vigilate et Orate' – watch and pray. The porch has stone groining and a central boss carved with a pious pelican and there is much graffiti in evidence – symbols, names and dates. Suddenly, rain then hail rattled on the roof and Richard was forced to pause while outlining the interior features of interest. These included an 18<sup>th</sup> century 'stretcher' bier, a 15<sup>th</sup> century font with Tudor rose decoration and a prayer desk incorporating 15<sup>th</sup> century poppy head bench ends.



Frostenden

June gave us beautiful sunny weather. We arrived at **Horse** to find a mason re-pointing the nave south wall. He was pleased to tell us about his work and stressed the importance of using lime mortar when re-pointing flint. All Saints has an octagonal belfry stage. The south porch, nave and chancel are all thatched; nave and chancel under a single ridge. The underside of the thatch can be seen exposed from the interior of the church. There is a plain simple 14<sup>th</sup> century font, also a square headed screen with some nice carving in the tracery. In the chancel a three section aumbry retains its original hinges. Driving from Horse, we caught sight of two Marsh Harriers. These magnificent raptors are more common than they once were, but a sighting is still a thrill to lift the spirits.



Horse



Arriving at **West Somerton** St Mary, one is immediately struck by the many brick lined putlog holes in the tower. The octagonal belfry has stone quoins and is contemporary with the circular stage of the tower. We saw more thatch here with the nave and north porch both having this roofing material. This church is well cared for and the 15<sup>th</sup> century screen and pulpit both have delicate tracery. However, the wall paintings are perhaps the greatest treasures here. Trumpeting angels greet the good souls arising on the Day of Judgement.



West Somerton

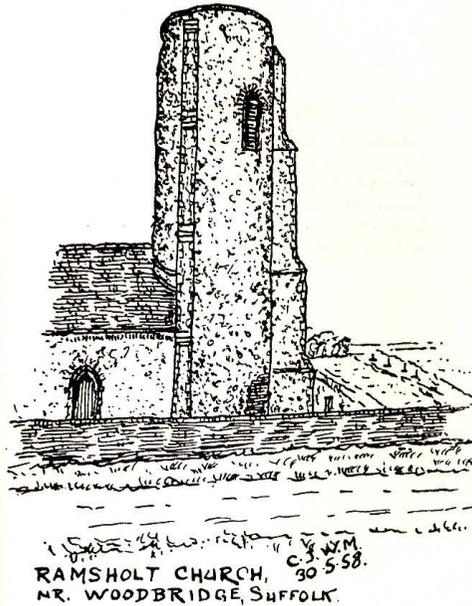


Rollesby

Our final church on this tour, was **Rollesby** St George. Here the tower has a two stage octagon atop its circular base. Its total height of 60 feet makes it the second tallest of the round towers. Unusually, both the north and south aisles are wider than the nave. There are some interesting memorials, including one in the chancel, which has the reclining figure of Rose Claxton, wearing contemporary dress with a ruff around her neck, she died in 1601, at the age of 22 years. We were given a fine tea, featuring scones topped with cream and strawberries – an early contender for tea of the year.

Stuart Bowell

**Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>.**



The day starts at 11am with a talk on Round Towers by RTCS Chair Stuart Bowell. The day then continues with a display of pictures and photos, river trips, activities, walks and talks, music etc.

A great opportunity to visit this splendid Round Tower Church and help support the repair work to this much loved church.

New material is being added to our website by Anne Woollett every week.

1360 tweets of interest to enthusiasts of round tower churches have been posted to our Twitter page since your RTCS editors were persuaded by two regular tour members to bite the bullet and sign up for Twitter a year ago. We have 752 followers as at the 1st August. The British Museum decided to follow us recently . How cool is that! Follow us at <https://twitter.com/RTCSociety>

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