

## HALESWORTH U3A CHURCH CRAWLERS SUMMARY OF VISITS 2018

We have enjoyed another excellent summer visiting churches. The programme was agreed by the members with different people taking responsibility for arranging the visits each month. Average attendance was 14 members. We were lucky with the weather and this added to our enjoyment visiting churches in the beautiful surroundings of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Our April visits were to **St Peter and St Paul, Aldeburgh** and **St John the Baptist, Snape**. The Garrett family worshipped at St Peter and St Paul. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was the first woman to qualify as a physician and surgeon. She was buried in the graveyard where a memorial stone can be seen for her and other family members. We had a very knowledgeable guide from the church who shared his knowledge of the church, its history and fabric. St John the Baptist was very interesting too and we were fortunate to have a very knowledgeable guide.

In May we visited **St Mary's, Ditchingham** and **St Peter's, Hedenham**. Both these churches are just over the border into Norfolk. At St Mary's we enjoyed a talk from a member of the congregation. The author Rider Haggard farmed in the area and provided church wardens for many years. An interesting church in a rural setting.

It is usual that we have one full day when we venture further afield and this year it was to Norfolk. The churches were **St Michael and all Angels, Barton Turf** and **St Mary's, Worsted**. The glory of St Michael and all Angels is its Rood Screens. At St Mary's, Worsted another wonderful screen. Worsted village was a delight too. It was so peaceful and felt as if time had stood still. What a joyous and uplifting experience this June day proved to be.

In July we first visited **St Mary's Walpole** which now only has occasional services. It was then to **Walpole Old Chapel** where we had a talk from a member of the volunteer team who was very knowledgeable. The chapel is open for visitors at times through the summer and sometimes for events. It is a very worthwhile experience to visit such an historic chapel.

In August we visited **St Andrews, Ilketshall St Andrews**. A knowledgeable lady from the Church told us about the history of the Church and its surroundings. They say you can get lost in the Saints but certainly this lovely church is well worth finding. Time really did seem to have stood still. Despite this it was clear that there are people who really care about this church and its history.

In September we visited two churches very different from each other both not far from the Suffolk coast. **St Andrew, Rushmere**, near to the A12 and then to **St Edmund, Kessingland**. St Edmund felt very much a church by the coast. The day we visited there were nautical flags hanging from the rafters. There is a modern stained glass window dedicated to the Kessingland Driftmen.

Our last visits for the year were to **St Peter, Wenhaston** and **St Andrew, Westhall**. St Peter's has an amazing doom painting and we had a very interesting talk given by a very knowledgeable lady. St Andrew is full of interest and we enjoyed a very knowledgeable talk about its history and treasures.

If these brief notes interest you come and join us. We are a friendly group and you will visit the most glorious churches each one unique with its own history. All places of worship for centuries.

Jan Derham, Group Coordinator December, 2018



Hedenham, May 2018



Ditchingham, May 2018



Rood screen and medieval glass at St Michael and all Angels, Barton Turf

