

St Botolph's Church Trunch



An account of the
history and special features of the
Chancel
including interventions and
repairs.

PREAMBLE

In 2006 St Botolph's was inspected in accordance with the *Inspection of Churches Measure, 1995*. It was discovered that there were major problems with the Chancel roof. The estimated cost of repairs was completely beyond the ability of the village to raise. The only recourse was to obtain grants from external agencies, especially English Heritage. The English Heritage procedures required the compilation of a research-based account of the history and maintenance record of the relevant part of a building. Restoration Committee member Anne Horsefield undertook to do the necessary research and to write the account. This was done and happily the grant application was successful.

This account is a suitably amended version of the submission made to
English Heritage.

INTRODUCTION

Blomefield's *History of Norfolk, Vol. VIII, 1800* gives the following description of St. Botolph's Church, Trunch –

“Church is dedicated to St. Botolph, and is a regular pile, with a nave, 2 aisles, and a chancel covered with lead and has a tower with 4 bells.”

One hundred years later in 1900, Bryant, in his *Norfolk Churches Vol. 5, The Hundred of North Erpingham*, writes –

“The church which stands nearly in the centre of the village is dedicated to St. Botolph and is a handsome edifice of flint with stone dressings in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture and one of the best in the neighbourhood.”

Christobel M. Hoare affirms in her valuable book, *The History of an East Anglian Soke, 1918* – “Of all the Soke Churches none can really compare to St. Botolph's of Trunch.”

The Rev. Percival. J. Goodrich in his *The Story of Trunch* published in 1939 says – “We can readily endorse her view [C.M.Hoare] as we pass round the magnificent building and, more especially, note its grand interior. The church remains in its pristine beauty.”

Cautley, H.Munro; *Norfolk Churches*, 1949. In the section ‘Notes on Norfolk Churches’, Cautley gives St. Botolph’s four stars (****) and says “*This is one of the most interesting churches in the county.*”

More recently (2002), Simon Jenkins in his book *England’s Thousand Best Churches*, included St. Botolph’s, Trunch in his chapter on Norfolk Churches.

Notes on additional Sources of Information

In addition to the above listed books, the following references were consulted –

- Fiske. R. C. *A History of Trunch*, 1974
- Mortlock & Roberts *The Popular Guide to Norfolk Churches*; No. 1, North-East Norfolk, 1981
- Rose. M. & Harvey. K. *The Misericords of Norwich Cathedral* 1994
- The description of St. Botolph’s written after the 1987 survey done to confirm the **Grade I Listed** building status.
- The information leaflet *TRUNCH ST BOTOLPH* produced for **Church Tours** and written by Lyn Stillgoe in 2007.
- *Trunch Miscellany – A Walk Around Guide* [to St. Botolph’s] First edition by Rev.M.Westney 1978, second edition by Rev.J.Guyton 1985.
- Various original documents in packages (referenced as PD242/...etc..) were examined at the County Archive in Norwich. These will be referred to in the relevant text.
- The Minutes of St. Botolph’s Trunch PCC (1953 to 2007) provided accurate dates and information.
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The authors Rev. P.J. Goodrich and R. C. Fiske were historians who sourced original medieval documents for their books. The information thus obtained has been used in this report.

Methodology for this account of the Chancel

After an overview of the history of the chancel, the exterior features will be described, along with the windows and their restorations. The interior

features and their restorations will be discussed in the order that they are met with on walking towards and into the chancel. Documented repairs made in 1862 will be quoted and then finally, the details of the installation of utilities will be given.

Overview of the history of the Chancel

Fiske suggests that the chancel is the oldest part of the church – late C14. The Priests' Door is of the Decorated style – 1272 to 1377. The windows and South Chancel Porch are in the Perpendicular style 1377 to 1485.

The Domesday Book (1086) records a church being at Trunch with 10 acres. This would have been built by the Anglo-Saxons and was probably of wood as only the churches belonging to the administrative bishopric were built in stone. It has been suggested that the scattered pieces of dark brown carstone in the walls indicate the re-use of Saxon stone as this hard sandstone can be found locally. In my opinion, as these stones are not dressed, the prior presence of a wooden church is indicated.

The church was part of the Rural Deanery of Repps and there is list of the names of Deans from 1304 to 1339. The list of Rectors of Trunch begins at 1294. Trunch was obviously an important church in the area so a grand new edifice was planned and built. The market for the Soke of Gimingham was held at Trunch, again showing the village's importance to the local community.

At the time, the area was prosperous due to the trade in wool, weaving and woven fabrics. Wealthy merchants and landowners became patrons of churches and guild chapels as a show of influence, power and their faith. As the Rev. Goodrich states “..... Its [St. Botolph's] ancient features are still a cause for admiration and remark by those who, to-day, gaze on this gift to posterity – this gift to all – by our forefathers.”

Medieval builders often planned a new church by making a square of a certain size and then using this as a template for the rest of the building. The chancel was usually two squares and the nave a multiple of the square.

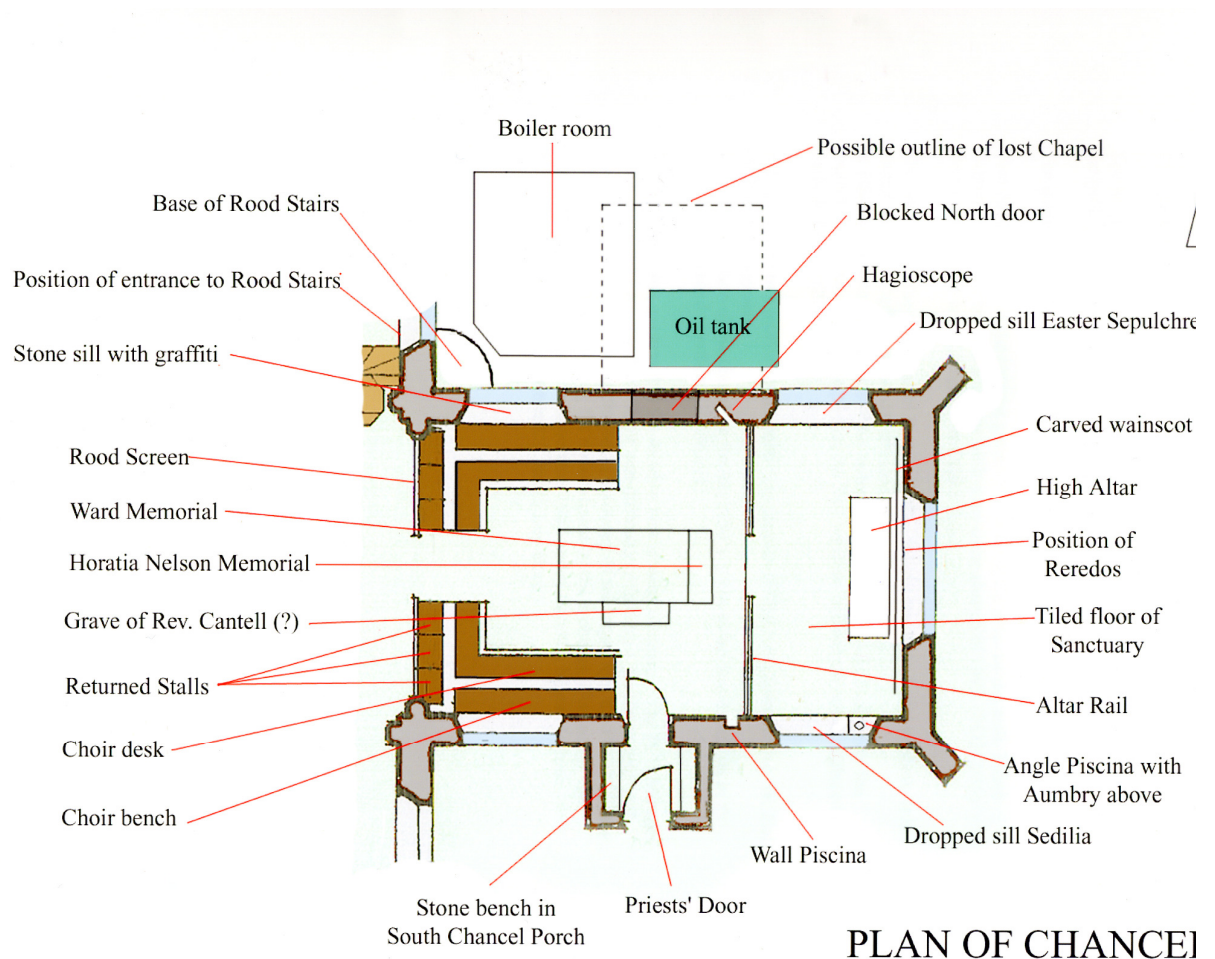
The chancel at Trunch measures 34 feet 6 inches long and 18 feet 3 inches wide, which is a rectangle of almost two squares. Working from a plan, the foundations could be laid down. The chancel must have taken several summers to complete as not more than 10 feet of masonry could be raised with unconsolidated lime mortar. One feels that plans for the church were made and perhaps kept at a patron's manor during the winters. As the years went by, architectural styles evolved from Decorated to Perpendicular.

At St. Botolph's within the chancel there are the choir and sanctuary. Attached to the chancel on the south side is the South Chancel Porch – the Priests' Porch. Probably there was a room/chapel on the north side. See Plan of Chancel.

On looking at the walls one can see different phases of work – for example there are more half-ball gallets low down in the walls than higher up. The progress and quality of the build was almost certainly affected by the loss of skilled masons in the Black Death in 1349 and succeeding years.

A spreadsheet of significant repairs and alterations to the Chancel is appended to this account.

PLAN OF THE CHANCEL



EXTERIOR FEATURES OF THE CHANCEL

The East Wall



The height to the base of the parapet is about 30 feet with a further estimated 6 feet to the gable top. The eastern corners are supported by diagonal stepped buttresses.

The gable cross, of a crocketed Celtic/Irish style, was restored and reinstated in 1989.

Two downpipes from the parapet gutters are fixed at the sides of the wall. These discharge into a channel which was built around the church in 1899. (PD242/35)

The wall houses the magnificent Perpendicular, 3-light transomed east window. It is glazed with Clouded Variegated Cathedral glass. (PD242/44).

In 1896 the architect Edward S. Prior noted in a report to SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) that the East window had been recently reglazed in Cathedral Plate. (PD242/34).

In 1920 repairs to a mullion were done. The invoice (PD242/39) from Arthur. W. Hallis is in the County Archive.

At a full inspection of the church in the late 1950's it was noted that a mullion in the east window needed attention. (PD242/44).

During 1985 it was evident that the window was in need of repairs. The PCC Minutes of 12th May 1987 recorded that there was difficulty in finding a glazier to deal with such a large window. The PCC Minutes of 3rd September 1987 detail the repairs listed by the architect. Eventually, the whole window was removed in November 1988 and restoration begun. In June 1989 the restored window was reinstated. (Church Log Book).

The South Wall



This wall has two early perpendicular 3-light windows separated by a stepped buttress springing from the apex of a gabled porch leading to the priests' door. (Details of the porch to follow below.) The windows are not identical – the westernmost has quatrefoil designs in the tracery.

The easternmost window – WS01 – was restored during the years 1994 to 1999 along with work on the nave and north chancel windows. These restorations were funded by English Heritage. The westernmost - WS02 – was mistakenly omitted from this project but was later, in 1999, restored and paid for by the PCC. See below the photographs of the 'before and after' restoration work on WS02.



The South Chancel Porch



The integration of a buttress with a porch is very unusual. (Others occur at Warham St. Mary and Grundisburgh.) Bryant in his *Norfolk Churches 1900*, quotes the architect Brandon as saying “.... this arrangement was probably had recourse to after the construction of the priests’ doorway which is Decorated, to resist an apprehended spreading of the walls in that spot, and is a remarkable instance of the simple yet elegant manner in which the ancient architects surmounted any difficulty of the kind.” The wall is still sound after 600 years!

As can be seen from the photograph, the Perpendicular porch front has been built with great style and care. The lowest course is of knapped flints with some garretting – flint flakes inserted between the main stones. Either side of the doorway some good quality flushwork can be seen. The arch over the door is decorative with alternating dressed voussoirs of ashlar and flints. Inside the porch there are built-in stone benches and the

walls and ceiling are plastered and whitewashed. The roof is lead covered.

The Decorated arch over the priests' door has a series of fine mouldings.

The lead covering to the roof was repaired in 1988 – 1989. There have also been repairs to the west and east walls.

The North Wall exterior

This wall has evidence of many changes to the chancel. Unfortunately the area is dominated by the partially subterranean boiler house constructed in 1908 (PD242/38) and the modern fuel oil storage tank.

The two 3-light Perpendicular windows match those on the south side. (Note that both westernmost windows have their lower sections unglazed. Possible reasons for this will be discussed when describing the interior of the chancel.)

Between the windows there is clear evidence of a doorway, now blocked with flint work to match the wall. The vertical jambs are an assortment of ashlar stones and the pediment over the doorway is of badly decaying soft ashlar. This must have been an entrance to a room/chantry chapel. When the boiler room was being excavated, the builders removed some flint foundations made for a room about twelve feet square. (PD242/38). Strangely one cannot easily see where this room was 'attached' to the chancel. Was it ever built?



Also difficult to ascertain is where the hagioscope opening was in the outer masonry. It must have been designed to open into the room/chapel.

Under the easternmost window there is an area of wall that has a fair number of bricks amongst the flint gallets. Could this area have been altered to make the Easter Sepulchre in the late C15 when bricks were becoming available?

In the corner junction of the chancel and the north aisle, there are the foundations of the rood stair tower. This appears to have been circular and made using small rounded flint stones. Again it is difficult to see how it connected to the existing walls. Near the corner there are 'modern' bricks used to repair the 'scar'. The entrance to the stairway was through the east wall of the north aisle, beside the present pulpit. The upper exit must have been on the nave side of the chancel arch but there are no clues to its position.

The Roof and Parapets

The leaded roof has 18 sections. At some time in the early C19 the rafter ends rotted causing the lead to be unsupported and to crack. The result was water entering the wall from above causing the plaster on the chancel walls to disintegrate. This was solved around 1830 by removing the decayed ends of the rafters and the building of a 'gutter trough' of lead-lined brick walls, seen as the parapets from below.



The architect, Edward S. Prior in 1896 wrote in a report to SPAB that "The chancel would seem to have had a new roof some 60 years ago and is furnished with brick parapets." (PD242/34).

Over time this gutter grew leaks and the chancel plaster was damaged. In 2004 part of the south parapet was taken down to allow an examination to take place to find the source of the leaks. A few repairs were done and the parapet replaced. More details of this in PART II.

Along with this report, the archive envelope (PD242/34) contained directions on how to repair a lead roof. (The nave roof was in need of attention at the time, 1896

INTERIOR FEATURES OF THE CHANCEL

The Chancel Arch



This arch forms an imposing entrance to the chancel. It is described as being a double chamfered arch with responds terminating in polygonal capitals. When viewed from the nave its form is further enhanced by the attachment of the hammer-beam roof of the nave, which was constructed in 1486 following a bequest.

Just to the right of the arch apex there is the remains of a pulley fitting that was used to hang and manage the rope of the rowell light which illuminated the rood. High within the arch above the rood screen there would have been the rood loft, accessed by the rood stair to the left of the arch on the nave side.

In the reigns of Henry VIII and the minority king Edward VI it was decreed that all roods and their lofts were to be destroyed and the 'treasures' of every church should be listed and confiscated. (*Goodrich, 1939* quotes the original indenture of 1552 and lists the treasures taken.) The carved frieze of uninhabited vine scroll, now fixed to the top of the screen, is the only remaining substantial part of the loft. The loft spanned both sides of the screen as can be seen from the bases of fan vaulting still attached to the screen. It must have been a fine loft to behold.

Every Church is subject to the *Inspection of Churches Measure, 1955*

In the Inspection in the late 1950's (PD242/44), the inspecting architect noted

"Crack in North Arch.

Crack has moved since being pointed up.

The Chancel Arch cracks are considered serious because the arch itself has sagged and there is an open joint about 6 inches above the springing. This point may be dangerous and should be repaired."

There is now no trace of this crack/joint repair so the arch must have stabilized.

The Rood Screen

Although its loft has gone, the rood screen is still an imposing structure. It is dated 1502 and was made following a bequest written in the will of John Gogle.

The screen has three bays right and left of the arched opening. Each bay in the dado has two saints and they are surmounted by crocketed ogeed arches. Sadly many crockets are missing but much of the complex polychrome decoration still has rich colours. The base of the screen is richly carved with a trail of battlemented crestings standing on a sill of continuous quatrefoils.





Most of the faces of the saints have been defaced – a record of the visits of the King's Commissioners around 1560 and/or William Dowsing's men in 1643- 44.

Rev. Goodrich quotes the Earl of Manchester's order to destroy "everything superstitious in East Anglia."

The Choir

Returned Stalls

There are six returned stalls with misericords abutting the rood screen. They are of late C14 or early C15 age. The style of the supporters on the misericords is not unlike those seen in Norwich cathedral.



The six stalls could have been ordered from the cathedral workshop by two patrons of the new church as two misericords on the south side have high quality carvings of two handsome gentlemen. These are so distinctive that surely they must have been portraits. It might be possible to date these carvings by the style of the hats and facial hair.



The central south misericord has a “lion mask” – possibly a symbol of power. Perhaps the most senior clergyman sat here.



The three stalls on the north side have misericords of angels holding shields.

The eight elbow rests are carved with a range of angels and demons.

By the C19 the wood work of the returned stalls and choir stalls had become badly damaged. All were repaired in 1881.

The Choir Stalls

On each side, the choir stalls are raised up on platform faced by stone work with quatrefoil (south side) and hexafoil (north side) openings in it. Each structure is in fact a sounding box and its effect is to amplify the songs and chants and responses of the liturgy. (The sound of modern choirs singing in the choir is greatly enhanced by the chancel acoustic and sounding boxes.)



South side

North side

Most of the furniture and fittings of the choir stalls are medieval. (The repairs as noted above are Victorian.) Four of the six desk sections are original and their graffiti records an interesting history. For a while, 1646 to 1750, the choir was used as a schoolroom. Ink wells were cut into the desks. The children carved their initials, dates, 'houses', a church, flags and "Three Men's Morris" squares.



Inkwell

1746 date graffito

1673 date graffito



“Three Men’s Morris” square on wooden desk

Several “Three Men’s Morris” squares are also carved into the stonework in the window ledge. These carvings are also found in the cloisters of several Cathedrals including Norwich, so it is possible that monks carved them at St. Botolph’s.



Before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the patronage of St. Botolph’s and Bromholm Priory was to Castle Acre Priory. It has been suggested

that monks from Bromholm Priory would come to the church for services and to collect their temporalities.

This ancient game is explained in Appendix 1 to this account.

As noted before, the lower sections of the windows are not glazed but finished in stone. In turn, the lower half of this narrow wall is buttressed to halfway across the window ledge. A possible reason for this is that the masons thought that the original window openings as built were too big in relation to the high chancel walls and could cause instability. Perhaps this corroborates with the need to construct the South Chancel Porch buttress as mentioned in the appropriate section.

The Priests' Doorway

The inner door is made of deal planks, painted a sad grey. The porch is used as store for chairs. Above the doorway there is a shallow 2-centred arch and above that the open pediment follows the shape of the arch.



Wall piscina

Just east of the Priest's door is a simple wall piscina. It is suggested that this has been moved from its original position – either the Lady Chapel in the south aisle or perhaps from the north chapel when that was demolished. Another suggestion is that it indicates that the easternmost part of the chancel was completed some time after the westernmost. Masses were possibly held in this smaller area with a temporary altar and piscina.



Blocked North Doorway

The outline of this doorway is clearly seen on the north wall. (I wonder if there is another fine Decorated arch behind the plaster.)



The doorway led to a room that could have had the following uses: -

- (a) As the chantry chapel for the Guild of St. Botolph
- (b) As a vestry
- (c) As an Anchorite Cell - but these were quite rare.

Hagioscope



The hagioscope or squint is clearly angled to allow worshippers in the side chapel to see the priest at the altar.

It is unlikely that it is a 'lepers' squint' as lepers would not be allowed into the village, let alone getting close to the church to watch a mass.

The Sanctuary

The Easter Sepulchre



It is thought that the stepped, dropped window sill below the north window was used to receive the wooden Easter Sepulchre used to house the Crucifix and Host while they were watched over from Good Friday until Easter Sunday.

The Altar Rail

This is a modern rail, C19, made of Oak.

The Sedilia

The sedilia is a simple dropped sill in the south wall.



On both sides there are stone pillars, the one to the east forming part of the angle piscina and aumbry.

The Angle Piscina and Aumbry

This is a delightful feature as can be seen in the photographs below. The piscina bowl is of a clever design of pointed and petal shaped drainage channels.





The aumbry above has a hinged brass door. It is not now used to store the sacred vessels. The PCC Minutes of 22nd November 1977 record that the door hinges had been repaired.

The Reredos

The colourful reredos boards in the arches of the stone reredos at the base of the east window are a modern addition to the sanctuary. In 1925 a Faculty (PD242/32) was issued for the fixing of mahogany boards to the stone reredos - the boards to be painted to match the style of the rood screen and a citation to be placed above them. The result is very pleasing.



The row of stone shields are carved with the following, reading from the north –

- St. Catherine's Wheel (St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, was patron of the living of St. Botolph's at one time)
- The Arms of the Garrard family
- 'I H S' symbol (the first 3 letters of the Greek for Jesus)
- The Trinity symbol
- The Arms of the Norwich Diocese (3 mitres)
- St. George's cross
-

NB: The identities of the shields are taken from the *Church Tours Guide*. The note about St.Catherine's Wheel is mine.

The Carved Wainscot

This wainscot is rarely seen in normal times as it becomes obscured by the altar table. It is a series of beautifully carved panels, each one having symbolic foliage in the centre. The two outer panels bear a citation while the six central ones carry a referenced verse from the bible.





The wainscot was a gift from the Reverend W.F. Kimm and his family and was installed in 1906. (PD242/35).

The Tiled Floor

The sanctuary floor is unashamedly Victorian. The tiles were laid in 1902 (PD242/36).

The wooden platform was installed in 1913, along with the lengthened Georgian altar table.

The Roof and Ceiling

Edward S. Prior in 1896 wrote in a report to SPAB that ... “The chancel ceiling has been given plaster panels between the old principals which have been smoothed over and painted in (?)graining. The result is lean and disagreeable but generally sound and I have advised the Rector that it should not be meddled with.” (PD242/34).



The roof and ceiling were restored in 1907 under the direction of Reverend Kimm.

At the 2006 Quinquennial Inspection it was noted that some of the plaster panels are showing cracks and are crumbling and are in danger of falling down. This damage has been caused by the ingress of water through the lead roof. Hence the need for ‘meddling’ and restoration work.

The chancel cannot be used until the roof is sound.

The Roof Beam Bosses

Six bosses are attached to the bases of the shorter principals. Using binoculars, one can study them and see the symbolic carvings on the angels’ shields.

On the north side there are palm fronds, the Face of Jesus while on trial and the Sacred Heart. This series represents the events of Holy Week.



On the south side, the shields show a hammer, three nails and a pair of pincers. These represent the Crucifixion and Deposition of Christ.



Plaster damage to Sanctuary Walls

As mentioned above in connection with the roof, water ingress caused damage to the plaster which began to flake off the south wall in 1996.

The 1996 Quinquennial reported that “urgent work needed to be done to the south side of the chancel wall.”

By December 1996 a local builder had carried out repairs to stabilize the wall but further plastering is now required.



The Memorials

The Thextons

The Reverend Goodrich provides information about the relationship of this family with Trunch. The Thextons were from Yorkshire and Launcelot was Rector to St. Botolph's from 1576 to 1588. He was succeeded by his son Robert and then by a further two 'Roberts'. Members of the family held office in Trunch for 150 years. (Rev. Charles Parkin, writing in *Blomefield, 1808, Vol. VIII*, gives more details of the rectorships of the Thextons.)

Launcelot Thexton

This wall monument on the north wall above the blocked doorway is the oldest memorial in the church. Again binoculars are needed to appreciate its design and text.



To quote from the Grade I listing survey –

“North wall of chancel with wall monument to Launcelot Thexton 1588. Ashlar. Pediment carried on pair of strapwork

pilasters. Between pilasters a rounded recess carved with a cloak, shield and helmet above brass inscription panel. Apron below in form of opposing strapwork scrolls.”

The monument is quite badly eroded and it is difficult to see that the ‘shield’ is in fact the Thexton Coat of Arms and above the helmet there is a horse’s head arising from a castellated crown – again part of the Thextons’ heraldry. (*Fiske, 1974*).

The monument does in fact tell one much about the Reverend Launcelot Thexton. He was a scholar of Theology and the small plate in the pediment is thought to have the name ‘Jehovah’ written in an ancient Samaritan script. Further searches on the internet reveal much about his life and ministry in troubled Tudor times. He is buried in the chancel.

Thexton Tablet

On the south wall above the priests’ door there is an unusual tablet. It is to the memory of Robert Thexton, son of Launcelot, and his wife Ann.



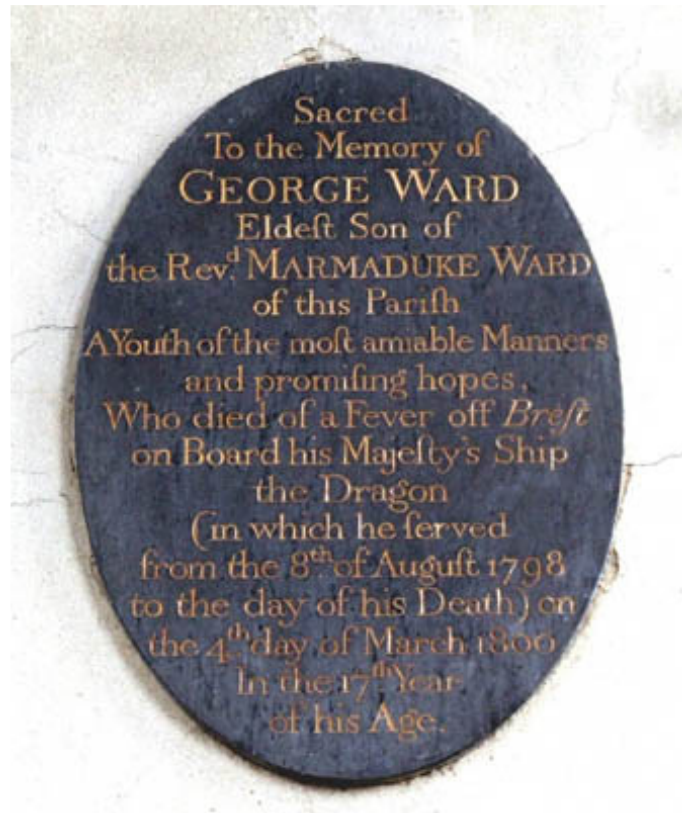
The initials R T and A T are in the corners of the square. Within the square is a circle that encloses a device to symbolise the Passion of Christ.

My suggestion is that the arrangement of the sceptre, pick axe and Christ’s head is in the form of the Chi-Rho (X P I) which is itself the symbol for Christ.

The memorial surely must have been designed by a scholar of Theology and History of Christianity.

The Memorial plaque for George Ward (north wall)

This young seaman died at sea but is commemorated in St. Botolph's because earlier generations of the Ward Family held office here and some are buried in the nave.



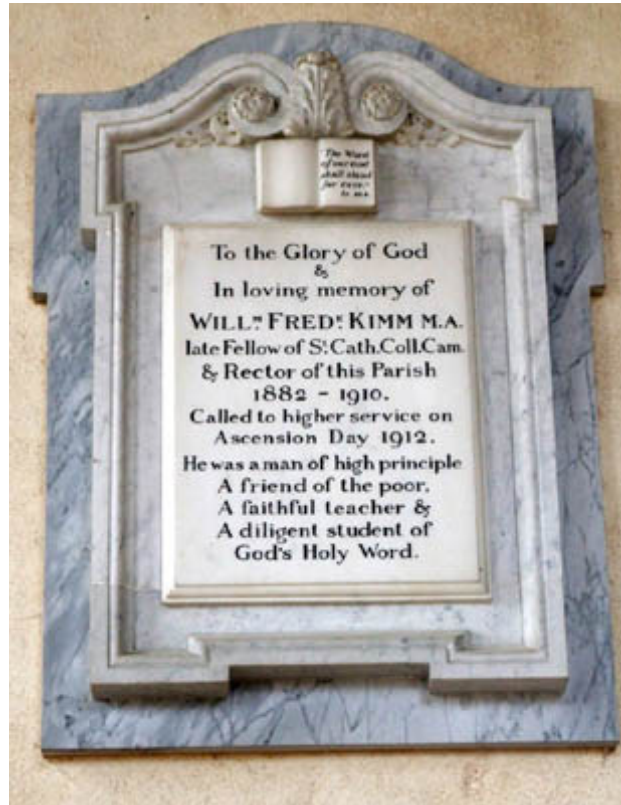
The Ward Family Memorial Ledger Stone

In the centre of the choir floor (beneath the carpet) is a large black marble ledger stone in memory of members of the Ward Family.



After her death in Kent, a small matching ledger stone was added to the memory of Horatia Nelson who was married to Phillip Ward. It is interesting to imagine Lord Nelson in St. Botolph's as he may have attended services here.

The Wall Tablet for Reverend W. F. Kimm (south wall)



As already noted the Reverend W. F. Kimm, Rector from 1882 to 1910, did much restoration on the chancel roof and gave the church the beautiful wooden Wainscoting symbolic carvings for posterity. It is fitting that he has a wall tablet on the south wall to commemorate his life. Notice that Rev. Kimm was a fellow of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. St Catherine's Wheel is one of the reredos bosses.

The Wall Tablet for John and Mary Daw (south wall)

To the east of the priests' door is a wall tablet to John and Mary Daw.



They were from Cornwall but, in later life, lived and died at Trunch Rectory. Their remains are interred in the chancel presumably under initialled tiles close to the sanctuary step.

Gravestone, possibly to Robert Cantell

Set into the floor is a large rather crude gravestone (possibly of Purbeck Marble) with an indentation that once may have held a brass memorial plaque.

In *Blomefield, 1808*, there is recorded an inscription on a gravestone to Robert Cantell who died in 1480. (He had been rector since 1438.) In Bryant's *Norfolk Churches, 1900*, there is no mention of this inscription so I assume it was on a brass that has been removed so the stone could relate to Robert Cantell.

Richard Mytton

Buried in the chancel is Richard Mytton who by his will of 31st January, 1504, directs his body to be buried in the chancel at Trunch before the image of St. Botolph. The statue has gone and the grave is unmarked. Richard Mytton was rector from 1481 to 1504 and "...gave the chancel roof", (*Goodrich, 1939*). The roof at its base bore the inscription in Latin asking that '....prayers would be said for the soul of Richard Mytton who gave the chancel roof.'
(Perhaps this was the first restoration of the chancel roof?)

Repair to the Fabric of the Chancel in 1862

The archive envelope PD242/33 contains documents relating to repairs to the roof and other structures.

June 1862 Specification for the restoration of the church.

- use Bastard Stucco when plastering
- Chancel – repair lead covering to keep out the wet and repair the roof timbers and boarding and stain all new timbers to match the old.

March 1863 Receipt to Robinson Cornish.

For work done at Trunch Chancel

Plastering walls, cleaning stonework,
colouring ceiling and woodwork and
repair of Lead to Roof

£23 – 10 – 00

Repairing stonework of Piscina

£1 – 5 – 10

£24 – 15 – 10

Installation of Utilities

The central heating was installed in 1908. (PD242/38.) It must have been a convecting system from a coke-fired boiler. Now there is an oil-fired boiler with a pumped system. (Note that the original specification for the heating did not include the chancel radiators.)

Electricity was wired into the church in 1939. The chancel has two pairs of spotlights mounted high on the walls and illuminating the east wall and altar.

PCC Minutes of 1st May 1991 record that the church electrics had been updated and two sockets had been installed in the chancel.

The electrical system for the whole church was renewed in 2009 following safety concerns.

An Assessment the Significance of the Option to Reinstall the Eaves.

The Original Chancel Roof.

We are fortunate to have this etching of St. Botolph's made around 1815.



It may be seen that the leaded chancel roof reaches beyond the wall.
(Note there is no guttering anywhere, so the rainwater must have cascaded around the church.)

It is recorded in his will that Rev. Richard Mytton gave the chancel roof in 1504.

The Construction of the Parapet Gutters.

By the early 1800's the lead over the rafter ends had thinned and cracked allowing water onto the timbers. These rotted, the lead was unsupported and water could enter the walls, eventually causing plaster damage in the chancel.

Unwilling to do a full restoration of the rafters, the authorities opted to shorten the timbers and build lead-lined brick gutters to support the shortened rafters and to form a trough to catch the water. To make a gradient to carry water to two new cast iron downpipes mounted on the

east wall, the trough base was made in a series of three steps by planks under the lead lining. The brick parapets are almost certainly made of 'Norfolk Reds' probably made at the brick kilns in Trunch. Stone copings cap the outer walls.

This was all in place by 1900 as seen in the illustration in Bryant's *Norfolk Churches*.

The date of the works therefore must be between 1815 and 1900. A further clue comes from Edward S. Prior's report to SPAB in 1897. (PD242/34).

To quote –

“The chancel would seem to have had a new roof some 60 years ago and is furnished with brick parapets. The gutters behind them often choke and I would propose additional outlets with projecting lead chutes to throw off storm water.”

Guttering, downpipes, soakaways and a channel around the church were installed in 1899. (*Goodrich 1939*.)

The water from the chancel roof was, in fact, being channelled in pipes underground and through the churchyard wall to the yard of the neighbouring slaughterhouse – The Shambles. Free cleaning water when it rained!

(The present occupants have blocked the hole in the wall and now water discharges into a 2 metre deep French drain.)

Observations from the *Inspection of Churches Measure, 1955*.

2001 Quinquennial Inspection

Priority A: Chancel roof gutters, parapets and downpipes need attention.

October 11th 2003

North gutter was cleared and inspected by church architect and English Heritage architect. They decided to postpone gutter repairs as the cracks in the tower were causing concern.

PCC Minutes of 28th August 2003.

The PCC voted to go ahead with the investigative work to the south side chancel gutter.

In January 2004, the Trunch PCC paid for an investigation of the problems. The eastern third of the south parapet was dismantled. This was necessary because the gutter trough is too narrow for men to walk and work in. Some minor faults were found and repaired. Surprisingly the whole structure was dry!



2006 Quinquennial Inspection

Both gutters cleaned and inspected.

Recurring problems with the Parapet Gutters.

1. They are very high – 25 feet plus and thus difficult to access. Cleaning was/is rarely done.

2. The gradient in the trough is not steep enough to make self-clearing possible.
3. Debris collects.
4. The lead deteriorates under the debris and cracks.
5. The lead thins and cracks at the plank steps.
6. Water enters the wooden planks which rot and collapse so adding to debris and water collection.
7. Water enters the wall and eventually seeps into chancel wall plaster causing it to disintegrate.
8. The Norfolk Red bricks are showing signs of weathering and re-pointing of the parapet is necessary.

The Proposed Reinstatement of the Eaves.

The parapets are to be taken down. The lead will be removed from the gutter trough and roof.

Any unsound timber will be removed/cut away and new rafters fitted or good timber scarphed onto the old rafters.

The whole chancel roof will be re-leaded.

The top of the chancel walls will be made suitable to support the rafters and new cast iron guttering.

The new downpipes will be on the north and south walls and will discharge water into two new soakaways to be dug away from the chancel.

The chancel roof will then be back in its original state and we hope it will last for several hundred years more.

CONCLUSION

To read this account is to have been a 'time traveller', starting in the late C14 and ending in the early C21 – just over 600 years!

During that time, the chancel of St. Botolph's in Trunch has witnessed so much; changes in architecture styles and building skills: the enhancement of the church in pre-reformation times only to have so many of its treasures 'removed and destroyed' when the reformation came: numbers of worshippers decreasing: secular use of the church increasing.

The 'official' religion went from Roman Catholicism to Protestantism then back to the Roman Church only to be followed by the protestant Anglican Church. Even this ministry was interrupted by a spell of Non-Conformism under the puritanical Commonwealth. Research into the

personalities connected with St. Botolph's would be rewarding and enlightening but that subject is beyond the scope of this document.

By the C18 the local population was confused by all these changes and church attendance fell and the fabric of the chancel began to deteriorate. The chancel was used as schoolroom for many years and the children have left their mark!

The Victorians began the repair and restoration of the church in the early C19. New furnishings were installed in the chancel to enhance the sanctuary. Repairs to the roof did stop the leaks for a while but the construction of the parapet gutters has generated many problems.

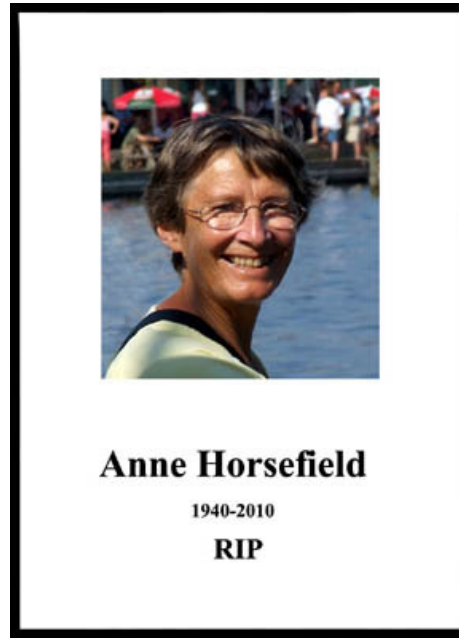
Past generations have cared for the church and now it is up to the C21 generations to make St. Botolph's sound for the future, hopefully for many hundreds of years.

One final quote, taken from the Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the PCC on the 14th April 1988.

“One the main items for discussion at these meetings was the maintenance of the fabric of St. Botolph's.

Its chief beauty lies in its age and architecture but therein lies its weakness.”

This account of the Chancel history was compiled by Anne Horsefield B.Sc. (Hons) PGCE. Anne was a member of the Restoration Committee from 2001 to 2007.

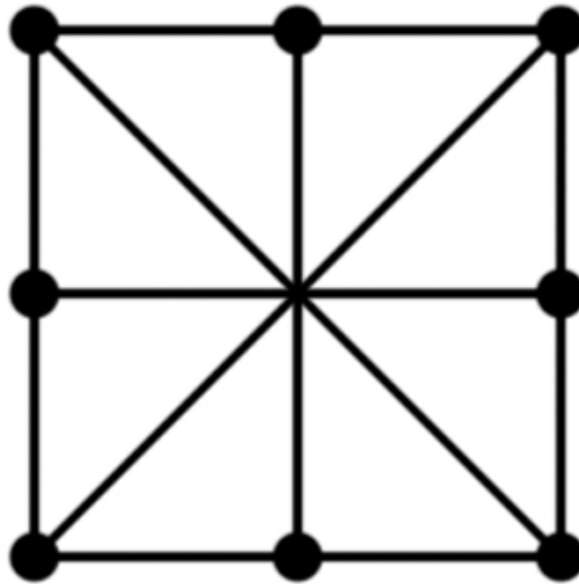


After a long battle with cancer, Anne died on New Years Day 2010.

*(Prepared for the web by Peter Horsefield B.Sc. (Engineering) ACGI,
Chairman of the Restoration Committee from 2001 to 2006).*

Appendix 1 – Three Men’s’ Morris.

There are several examples of this matrix incised on horizontal surfaces
in the Chancel: -



This is the field of play for Three Men's Morris.

Three Men's Morris is an ancient game that is thought to be a direct ancestor of Noughts and Crosses; it is known by many other names, including Nine Holes, and is related to the later and more complex Six Men's Morris and Nine Men's Morris. The game involves two sets of four pieces (one set for each player), each set having its own colour. Players take it in turns to place pieces on intersection points, and the first person to place three along a line wins the game. There are two versions of the game. The simpler one does not have the diagonal lines on the matrix.

The earliest known board for Three Men's Morris was found on the roof of the temple in Kurna, Egypt, dating back almost three and a half thousand years.

Its earliest known appearance in literature is in Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*. The Chinese are believed to have played it under the name *Luk tsut K'i* during the time of Confucius (c. 500 BC).

Boards for Three Men's Morris dating back to the thirteenth century can be found carved into the cloister seats at the cathedrals at Canterbury, Gloucester, Norwich, and Salisbury, and at Westminster Abbey.

Appendix 2 – Key dates in the Chancel history.

From	To	Event	Notes	Source
1272	1377	aisle windows	decorated style	Goodrich Rector of
1272	1377	priests door	decorated style	Goodrich
1300	1400	Misericords (there are six)	Style of the 14C period	Goodrich See "Mis
1300	1400	Tower built	decorated style	
1349		First Black Death arrived		Goodrich
1350		Installation of the font	Unsupported assertion	ex Fiske? Trunch M
1377	1485	Most of main church	perpendicular style	Goodrich
1380		Nave built (and Clerestory??)	Unsupported assertion	Goodrich Timing of
1400	1500	South porch built	Scratch dial inside porch	Must be I
1440		Bell cast by Thomas Delenne	Cracked - sold in 1863	To Warne
1500		font canopy	Unsupported assertion	Goodrich
1502		rood screen erected	Will of John Gogyl of 1498	screen screen is
1552		two bells removed	smallest one was left	Goodrich indenture
1560		rood lofts destroyed	by Commissioners	Goodrich
1643		Dowsing's iconoclasts	contemporary records	Goodrich
1646	1750	Chancel used as a schoolroom	contemporary records	Graffiti of
1707		bell cast	Cast-in inscriptions	bell
1710		bell cast	Cast-in inscriptions	bell
1719		tenor bell cast	Cast-in inscriptions	bell
1808		Organ built by William Gray	Contemporary records	Of Londo
1815		Date on etching given by Revd. Goodrich	One of a series by the same artist	Goodrich Note leac was thatc Parish re
1863		Bell of 1440 cracked and sold		
1864		Pews, pulpit and reading desk replaced	By churchwardens	Goodrich Parish re
1881		Chancel "thoroughly renovated"	Cost £600	Goodrich Parish re
1882		Tomb of Revd Thomas Jarrett	South-East of porch	
1896	1899	Nave and aisle roofs repaired	Accounts include re-leading	Goodrich PD 242/3
1899		N side drains and soakaway installed		Goodrich
1901	1902	Chancel floor re-laid	Accounts	PD 242/3
1903		Tower windows & roof repaired	Contemporary Report	PD 242/3
1907		Chancel roof renewed	by Rector W F Kimm	Goodrich Parish re
1908		Heating installed	Estimate for the work	PD 242/3
1909		Porch repaired and paved		Goodrich Parish re
1920		Windows repaired	Receipt	PD 242/3
1925		Altar reredos installed	Faculty	PD 242/3
1939		Two bells still in use	Note by Rector Goodrich	Goodrich
1939		Electric lighting installed	Faculty	PD 242/3
1949		Organ fitted with with blower	Faculty	PD 242/3
1956		Some restoration of Font Canopy	Unsupported assertion	ex Fiske? Trunch M
1961		Clock installed	Faculty	PD 242/3
1961		Lady Chapel built	Faculty	PD 242/3
1969		South Porch roof repaired	Church log book	
1969		Oil fired boiler installed	Quinquennial of 1970	
1974		Tower north face & Lightning conductor	Quinquennial record of 1981	Anderson
1975		Nave roof repairs (easternmost bay)	Quinquennial record of 1981	Anderson
1977		Nave roof repairs (next bay from east)	Quinquennial record of 1981	Anderson
1980		Nave roof repairs (all remainder)	Quinquennial record of 1981	Anderson
1983		Water supply installed	Church log book	
1985		New oil-fired boiler installed	Church log book	
1989		Font Canopy surveyed for restoration	Church log book	
1995	1996	Conservation of Font Canopy		EH £9,00
1999	1994	Repairs to windows WN01-05 and WS01	Final Certificate	EH Grant
1999	2001	Repairs to windows WS02		PCC paic

