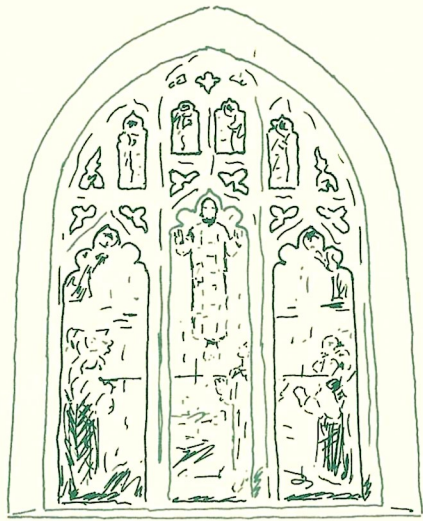
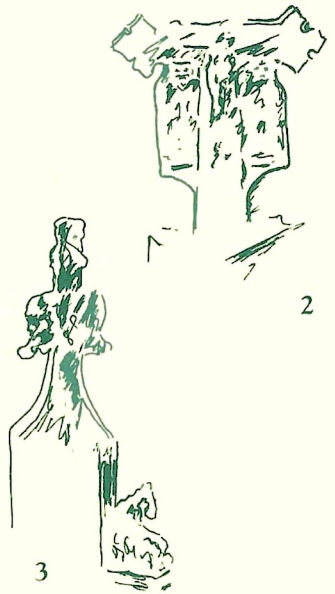


1



6



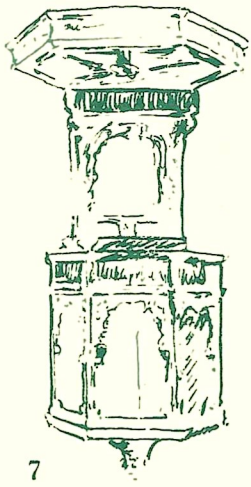
2



5

Some things to look for in our Churches

- 1. **THE NORMAN FONT.**
- 2. **ANCIENT STONE CROSS.**
Beyond the font, reputed to have marked the point where the three parishes met.
- 3. **WOOD CARVINGS.**
On the head of the choir stalls and rear pews of the nave.
- 4. **TOMB IN SANCTUARY.**
Sir William de Kerdiston, on bed of cobbles to symbolise a Christian life is a hard campaign.
- 5. **ANCIENT ALMS BOX.**
On steps leading to St. Michael's.
- 6. **20th CENTURY EAST WINDOW.**
Depicting the Ascension, in St. Michael's.
- 7. **JACOBEOAN PULPIT.**
Also in St. Michael's.

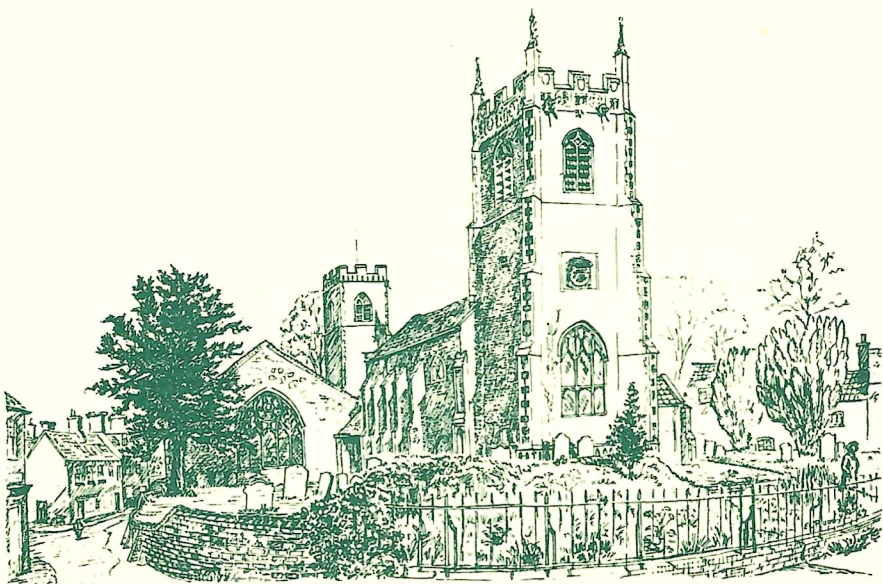


7



4

The Three Churches of Reepham



Welcome to our Reepham Churches.

To enter a churchyard and discover two churches is a little unusual; yet here, in Reepham, in the past there were three.

Saint Mary's, Reepham, the church of the present day united benefice; Saint Michael's, Whitwell, the adjacent church, today used for Sunday School, day centre for the elderly and for parish functions; and All Saints, Hackford, destroyed by fire in 1543. Why three churches, so close? Legend suggests three sisters each with their own church but what we are sure of is that the parish boundaries meet in the churchyard.

Saint Mary's today serves the three parishes of Reepham, Whitwell and Hackford and, as the active church, continues to undergo minor changes since restoration in the late 18th century. For example, in the 1970's the organ in the south aisle was moved from the gallery of Saint Michael's and in the near future the Jacobean pulpit will be moved in a similar manner.

It will be seen from the list of Rectors, from 1261, found behind the font, that the Rector of Reepham now serves an enlarged united benefice, embracing the neighbouring parishes of Sall, Wood Dalling and Thurning. The order of service alters from the Book of Common Prayer to the Alternative Service Book and a regular congregation is encouraged by well attended family and festive services. The

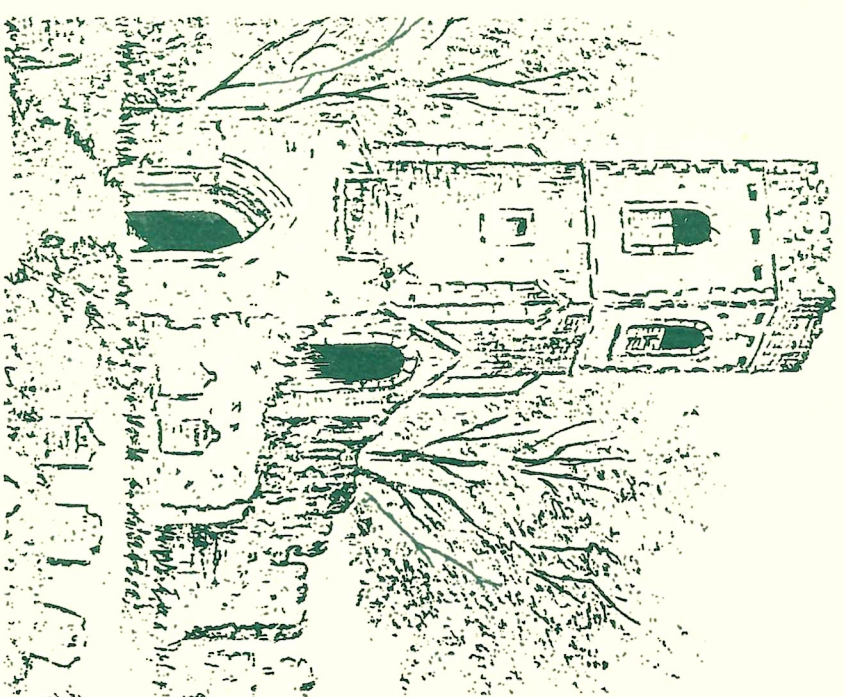
programme of services provides for Morning Prayer and Communion in each parish once a month and on a number of occasions in the year we join or are joined by our friends from Reepham Methodist Church.

Saint Michael's, Whitwell, connected by the choir vestry to Saint Mary's, remains a consecrated building where Evensong is held in the chancel bi-weekly. The bells are rung by local and visiting ringers.

Like many Norfolk communities in the last ten to fifteen years, Reepham has seen the erosion of a way of life — one wonders how the peaceful invasion will be recorded in future years. With the Church being the core of national and local heritage, it is in our Reepham Churches, on a quiet afternoon, where one can still find a little of the quiet dignity that remains in these times of change.

From our past we highlight here a number of features of our Father's House. A little of our heritage is displayed in the showcase at the east end of the north aisle where, for instance, can be seen a Register from the reign of Elizabeth I.

Thank you for visiting our Churches; we hope it has been enjoyable and bid you 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'.



The ruins of the third church, All Saints, Hackford. Reconstruction of a drawing made a few years before demolition in 1796.