

ST. MICHAEL'S, WHITWELL

The tower with its fine flush-work, parapet, pinnacles and buttresses was built in the 1300s. The ring of eight bells was hung in a new frame in 1979. The nave has five bays set in very deep wall arches.



The nave was completely refurbished in 2011 with the support of several local and national organisations and a bequest from Miss Barbara Owen, who is commemorated in the gallery. Underfloor heating is provided by a ground-source heat-pump. This mediaeval building now provides an excellent venue for many church and social activities and events.

The chancel can be accessed from St. Mary's when the nave is closed or in use. It is now separated by a glass screen. It was restored as a WWI memorial and houses the memorial itself. At the same time the fine glass of the east window was installed. It is a good example of art nouveau, designed by Reginald Frampton, and depicts the Ascension.



Pray here with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven:

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*



A memorial on the north wall commemorates Messenger Monsey (1694-1788), who was the son of a Vicar of Whitwell and who was an eccentric physician to the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

*Bless, O Lord, all who are sick and sad, and all doctors and nurses
and carers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.*

ALL SAINTS, HACKFORD

After the fire in 1543, the tower, south porch (of which a fragment survives) and some of the nave, stood until 1796 when they were demolished. A recent geophysical survey, confirmed by archaeological test pits, has revealed the foundations of the church, which is now delineated by yew hedging marking the corners. Steps from the main path, information boards, and a seat enable visitors to appreciate and enjoy this sacred space.

THE CHURCHYARD

On the west side near the market place is the site of the Pound, where stray animals were impounded until claimed. In this area stands the town sign (see front page).

Yew trees are very long-lived and so are symbols of Resurrection.



A memorial stone in the south east corner marks the grave of the remains of many 14c people, unearthed in the course of repairs to Church Street nearby. The presence of remains indicates that the churchyard once extended over the street.



In the Conservation Area nearby wildflowers are left to grow as a reminder that churchyards are pockets of ancient meadowland. It is mown and the hay cleared in August to enable the plants to thrive. On the north side of St. Mary's is a strip of land where lady's smock (a flower of Our Lady) and spotted orchids make a beautiful annual display.

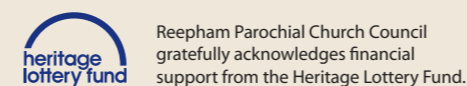
*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

We thank you for your visit. This leaflet is free, but a donation in the box by the door of St. Mary's would be welcome. Please sign the Visitors' Book.

www.reephambenefice.org.uk

This guide has been written by Tony Footitt.

Reepham PCC acknowledges the compilers of previous guides including N.W.Groves and Michael Sayer, and illustrations by Lorna Gray, Mike McEwen and David Richmond.



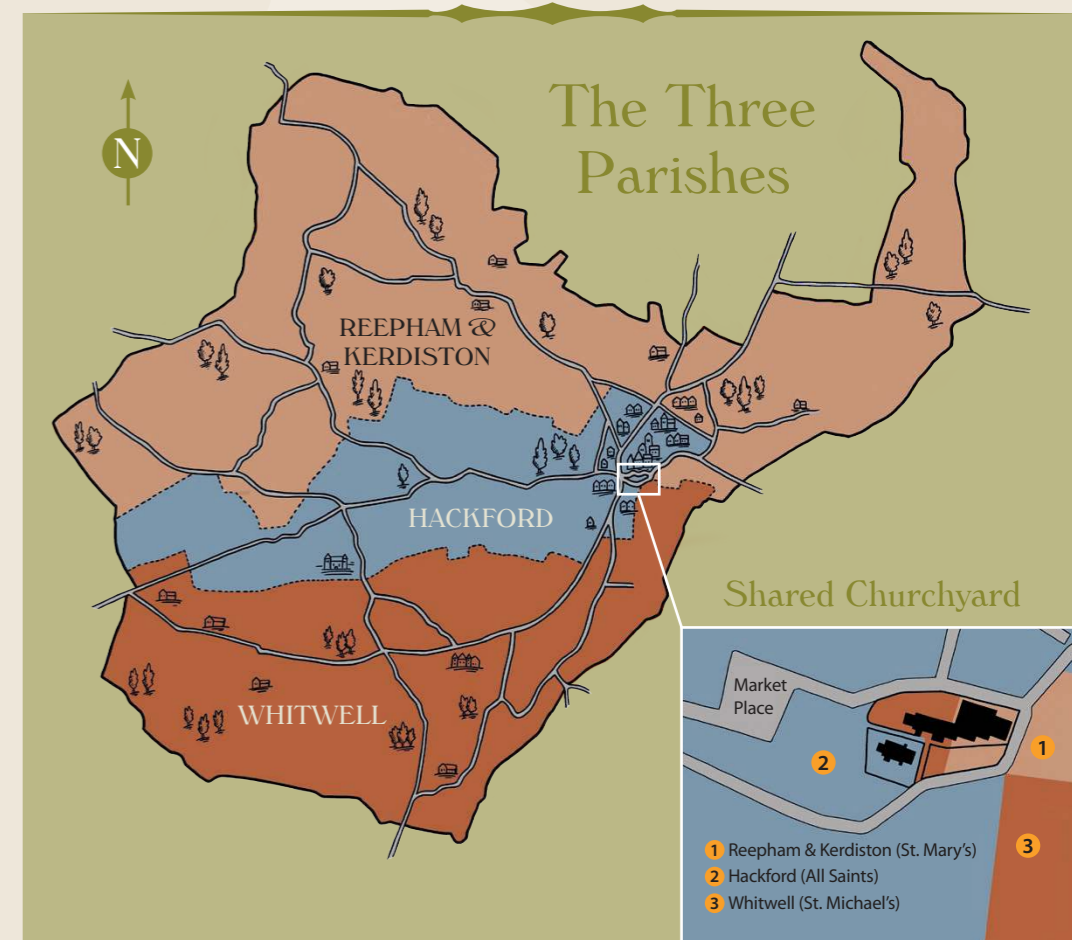
We wish you well as you leave to continue your journey in life.
*Thanks be to you, O Lord, for all that you have done for me.
May I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.*
(St. Richard of Chichester)

Welcome to Reepham's Three Churches

These boxes in the text enable you to appreciate the churches as places of pilgrimage and prayer as well as for their historical interest.

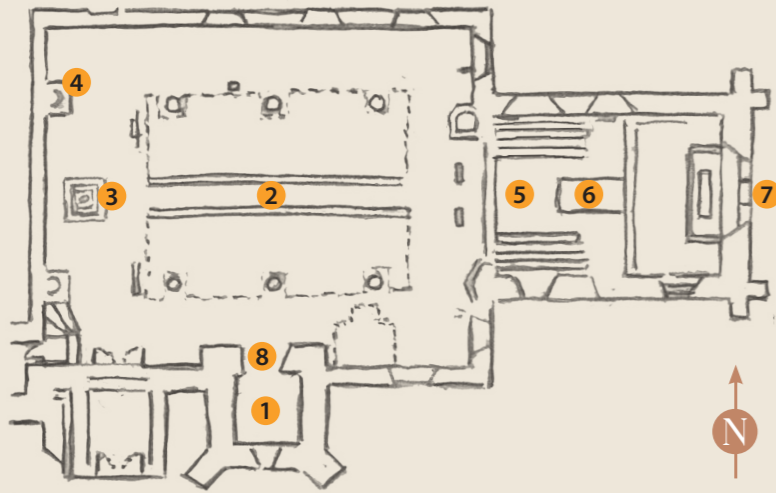


Reepham is unique in once having three mediaeval churches in the churchyard. The town sign depicts the story that they were built by three sisters, who had fallen out with each other. Maybe the strange proximity of three churches is a result of rivalry, but the real reason remains a mystery. Originally the churches of three adjoining parishes, they were united into one parish in 1935.



- 1 Reepham & Kerdiston (St. Mary's)
- 2 Hackford (All Saints)
- 3 Whitwell (St. Michael's)

ST. MARY'S REEPHAM (☞ KERDISTON)



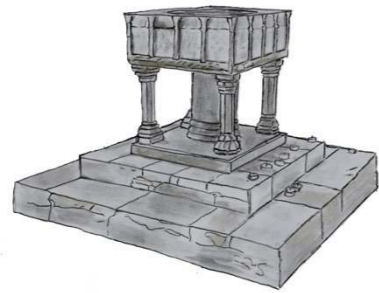
1 The tower is in an unusual position – halfway along the south side. This may be because the old parish boundary between Whitwell and Reepham passed along the west end of St. Mary's, and a tower at that end would have then been in Whitwell parish.

There are two bells. One is inscribed BEATI QUI HABITAT IN DOMO TUA DOMINE (*Blessed is he who dwells in your house, O Lord*), and on the waist DE BURI SANTE EDMONDE STEFANVS TONNI ME FECIT (*Stephen Tonni of Bury St. Edmund's made me*) with a crucifix and the date 1559. The other bell is dated 1811.

Thank you, Lord, for these churches, and their towers and bells calling us to worship. Help us to worship and pray as we follow in the footsteps of countless visitors to this holy place.



2 The nave is of uncertain date, but the south aisle was added in the 1200s, and the north aisle, with slightly different pillars, in the 1300s. A clerestory was replaced by the barrel vault (curved ceiling) in 1790. Strange **animals** are carved on the mediaeval benches at the back.



3 The font dates from about 1100 and is made of Purbeck marble. Here people have been baptised with water for some 800 years to begin their Christian journey. Near the font is an area for children's activities, and a model to create your own stained glass window.

On the west wall in the south corner are the **royal arms** carved in relief and dated 'GR 1745' i.e. of King George II. Also in this corner is an ancient **alms box**. On either side of the west window are **commandment boards**, which would once have been on either side of the east window.

We thank you, O Lord, for our Queen and country, and pray for her and all in authority under her, and for those who administer justice in the keeping of your commandments in our land.



4 On the pillar near the font is the head of a **churchyard cross**, which is said to have marked the spot where the three parishes of Hackford, Reepham and Whitwell met. The figures of St. Mary and St. John are under the cross, and, on the back, St. Michael between St. Andrew and St. Christopher.

5 The chancel unusually is lower than the nave. It was completely restored in 1880 at the expense of Lady Amelia Jodrell who lived in the neighbouring parish of Salle. Her arms, together with emblems of the Passion, are featured on the floor tiles.

In the north wall of the sanctuary is the very fine **monument of Sir Roger de Kerdiston** who died in 1337. He may have been a crusader who died in battle. On top of the tomb-chest lies his figure in armour with crossed legs and lying on a bed of cobbles. Do the cobbles represent his painful death or his sorrow for his sins? At his feet is a lion, a symbol of courage. Around the base are 10 small figures weeping in sadness.



O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not only remember the suffering they afflicted on us, remember the fruits we bought thanks to this suffering: our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, our courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown out of all this.
(from a scrap of paper found in a concentration camp)

Here you may light a candle if you wish, as a prayer.
We thank you, Father, for all who are baptised into God's family and help them grow in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 Another Kerdiston, Sir William (d. 1391), and his wife are buried in the middle of the chancel under a damaged **brass** memorial. The south wall contains seats for clergy (known as **sedilia**), a basin for washing communion vessels (known as a **piscina**), and a niche with an ogee arch used as a side-table (known as a **credence**).

The **communion table** is possibly originally of the 1600s, and the **choirstalls** have Victorian bench-end symbols of the evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Here Morning and Evening Prayer are offered daily. Communion is celebrated every week here or in St. Michael's.

We thank you, O Lord, for the sacrament of Communion, and all who have received your body and blood in bread and wine in this place through many centuries. Bless all who now celebrate and share in Communion in obedience to your holy command.

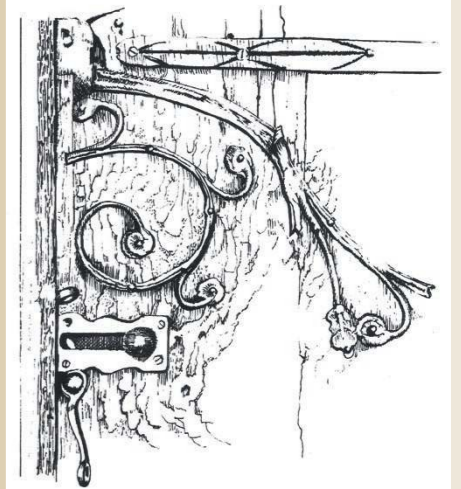


7 The east window contains a depiction of the Crucifixion by Michael O'Connor. The other Victorian windows contain stained glass designed by William George Taylor.

At the **chancel step** thousands have renewed their baptismal promises in **confirmation** and made their **marriage** vows.

On either side of the chancel steps are the **lectern** from which the Bible is read and the **pulpit** from which the Word of God is preached.

8 The iron scroll work (1400s) on the vestry (tower) door is very fine.



Bless, O Lord, our coming in and our going out, and keep us safe, through Him who is the door of the sheep, even Jesus Christ, Our Lord.