

All Saints Church



Hawstead

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Welcome to our Church. We hope you will enjoy your visit to our ancient parish church which is full of interest and contains some unusual features for a country church

This booklet is an update by A.E. Hillman, Churchwarden. The original was produced in 1978 by the then Rector, Revd. Cedric Catton in conjunction with Glyn Hammond and Maureen Hewston, together with Clive Payne who did much of the careful and detailed research. We thank them for their contribution.

It is probable that there has been a church on this site since Saxon times. Certainly there was one here at the time of the Norman Survey (Doomsday Book) and evidence of a post-Norman Conquest church comes from the North and South doorways. Built of freestone and flint it contains Norman, early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture.

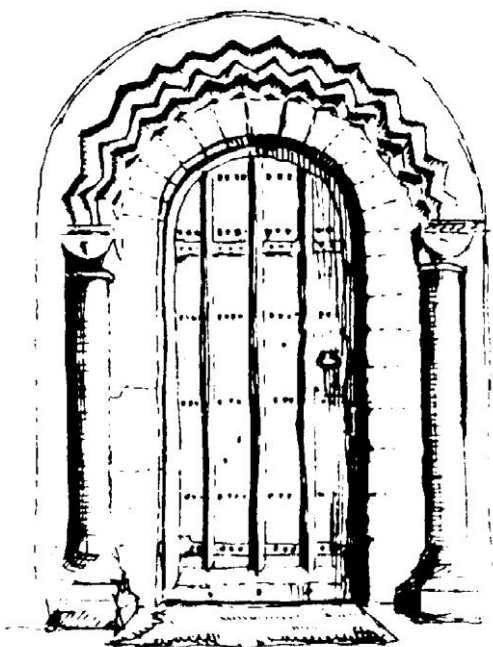
The body of the church is late in the general trend for Suffolk church building. It was not completed until 1552 when the Drury family were resident Lords of the Manor.

Revd. Keith Finnimore. Priest-in-Charge. October 1998

Exterior

The entrance to the churchyard is by way of the lych gate erected in 1903. A walk around the churchyard is recommended starting from the tower which was completed in 1510. It is 63 feet high and beneath the battlements there is some intricate flushwork. There is a frieze of shields to Sir Robert Drury above the West door. To the North of the tower there are the remains of the old churchyard cross. The oldest tombstones lie to the south of the church; one bears the date 1685.

A thatched roof was replaced by slates and tiles in 1780



South Porch

The dog-toothed pattern of the doorway arch is typical of the Norman style. The windows either side contain the armorial shields to the three local families who were the main benefactors of the church; the Drurys, the Cullums and the Metcalfes.

An old mounting block is to the east of the south doorway

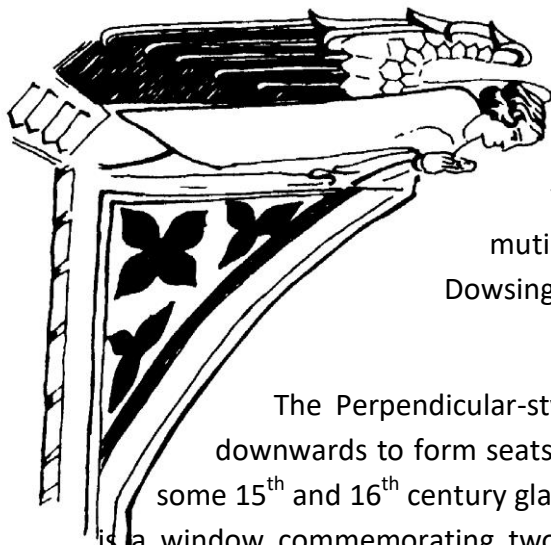
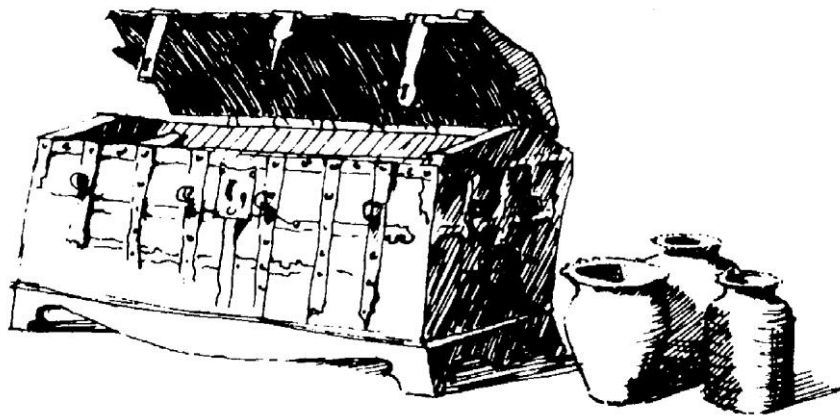
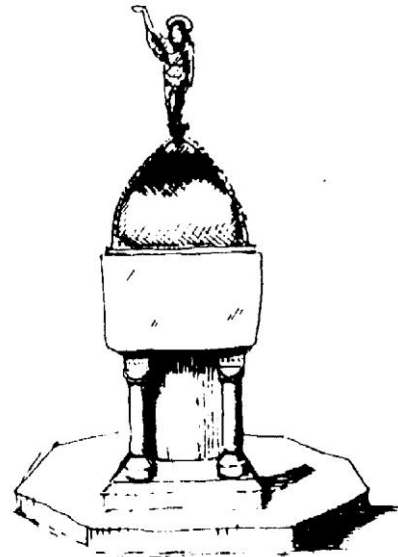
Interior

Bell Tower

From this position the church interior can be fully appreciated. There are three bells in the tower, one mediaeval and two of the 17th century.

The 13th century font shows traces of the iron fastenings which were used to lock it against the use of holy water for witchcraft.

The rails in front of the west door were once 17th century altar rails and there are a couple of 16th century benches nearby. The arch linking the nave to the tower is unusually high and at its base is a 14th century iron-bound chest with a slot at one end which was used for contributions towards the maintenance of the poor.



The Nave

The mid-16th century angel hammerbeam roof was mutilated during the Cromwellian period under William Dowsing who “brake down all superstitious images”. It was over-restored in 1858.

The Perpendicular-style windows are unusual in that the sills extend downwards to form seats for the benefit of the “aged and infirm”. There is some 15th and 16th century glass in the north windows. Above the north doorway is a window commemorating two former Rectors of the parish: Rev. Joseph Hall

(1601-1608) who later became Bishop of Norwich and Rev. Sir John Cullum (1762-1785) who published the History and Antiquities of Hawstead in 1784.



The neo-gothic organ dates from 1857 and originally stood in the chancel. It was restored and moved to its present position in 1898. It was rebuilt in 1910 and then further renovated in 1975 following a generation of silence.

The pews were installed in the mid-19th century but the poppy heads on the front four ones were reset from 16th century benches. They are allegorical creatures.

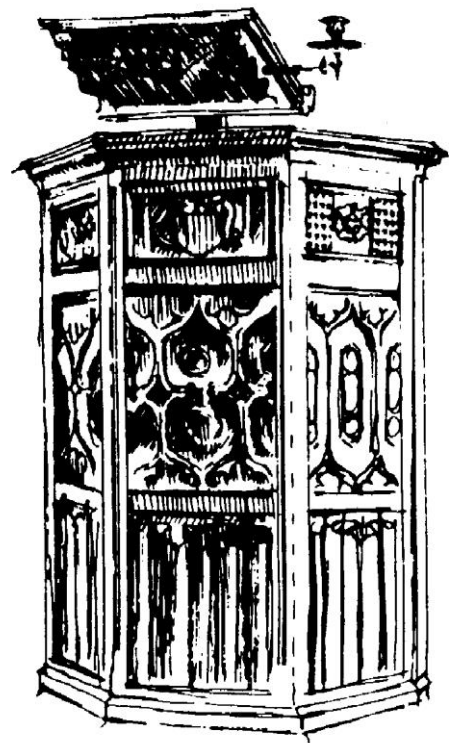
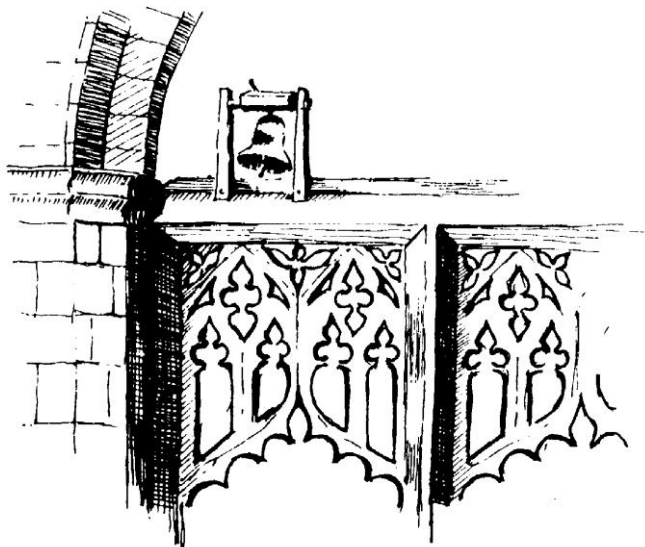
There are several tablet monuments to members of the

Metcalfe family who lived in Hawstead House.

The pulpit is a rare pre-Reformation survival c. 1520 and includes a carving of the Drury coat of arms. The Lectern is of a similar period.

Close by and to the right of the pulpit is the tomb-chest dated 1557 to Sir William Drury. Set in the Purbeck marble lid are brasses to Sir William, his two wives and numerous children. Just above the tomb-chest on the south wall are two brasses, one of a girl and the other of a boy. Both are early 16th century. At one time Sir William's funeral helmet hung above the tomb but it was removed To Moyses Hall Museum some years ago for safe keeping.

To the left of the chancel arch there used to be two sets of family box pews (for the Cullums and



Metcalfes). They were removed during the 1970's to reveal the 13th century piscine. One of the pews is Jacobean and has been re-erected in the south-west corner of the nave.

The much-altered Rood screen (late 15th century) divides the nave from the chancel. The south post of the screen has been partly sawn through probably under the orders of Dowsing

which fortunately were never completed. The Rood figures are Italian and date from 1906 but the Sanctus Bell is a very rare survival from pre-Reformation days.

Chancel

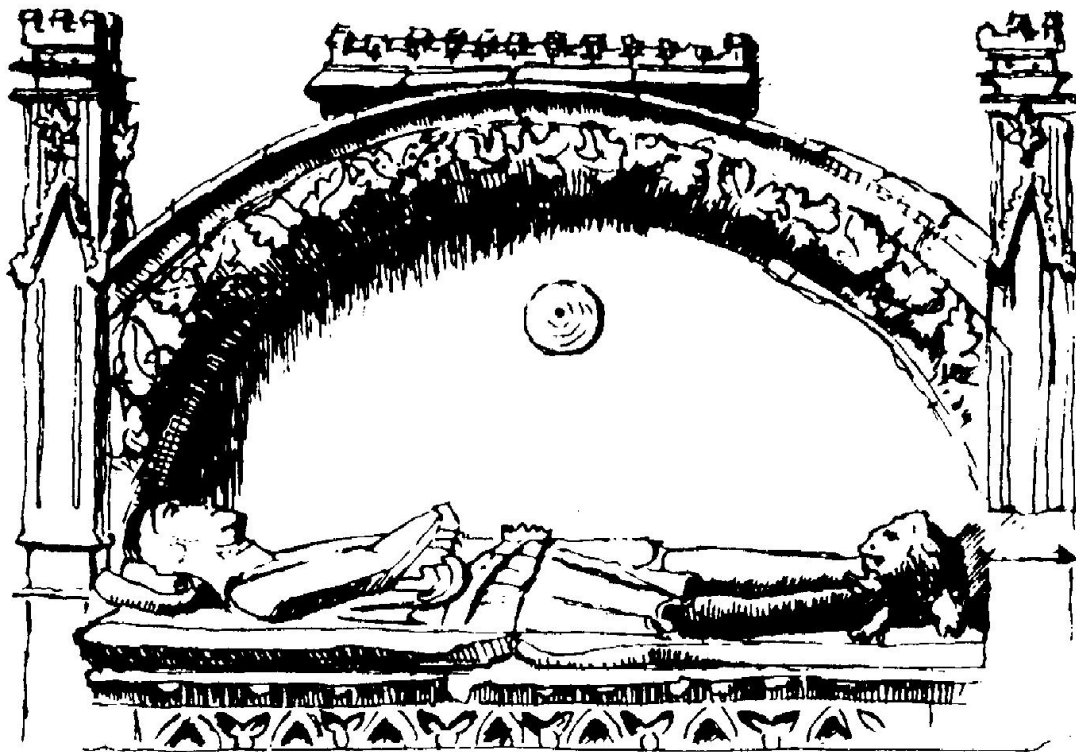
The chancel predates the nave. Much of the fabric is c.1300. Later additions, particularly the monuments, give it a heavy and perhaps over ornate appearance.

The tracery of the south side window contains a 15th century Virgin and Child among other fragments. On the same window is a low-side or bread window which still retains the internal iron hinges.

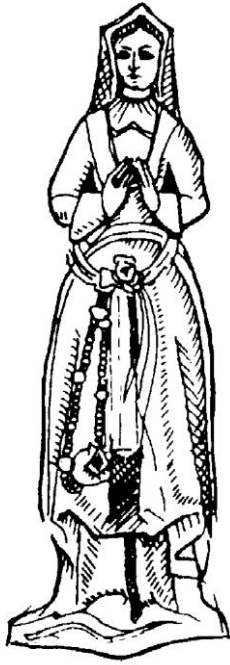
The stalls in the south west corner have early 16th Century traceried fronts with a carved angel and a priest.

The east window by Heaton and Butler dates from 1856.

Monuments



Few churches in Suffolk possess as many monuments as Hawstead. The earliest is the tomb recess in the north wall which contains the effigy of a cross-legged knight. It is late 13th century and reputed to be Sir Eustace Fitz-Eustace, one of the early Lords of the Manor of Hawstead.



The Drury Monuments.

The Drury family, also Lords of the Manor, resided at Hawstead Place during the 16th. Century. In the centre of the chancel floor there is a brass to Ursula, daughter of Sir Robert Drury who died c. 1530. The monument in the north east corner is to Sir William Drury (d. 1589) and his son Sir Robert (d. 1616). Sir Robert became the friend and patron of the poet John Donne. Donne sent him an Elegy on the first anniversary of the death of his only child, Elizabeth. She died in 1610 aged 15 and her tomb in the south east corner includes a Latin verse inscription almost certainly composed by Donne.

The Cullum Monuments.

The Cullums became Lords of the Manor in the mid 17th century. The large and rather heavy Italianate monument is to the memory of Sir Thomas Cullum, the first baronet, who died in 1664. He purchased the Drury estate in about 1615 which was then based at Hardwick. Following the death of the last baronet in 1926, the family residence of Hardwick house was demolished. Throughout the chancel and nave there are several tablets and floor stones to the Cullum family as well as a number of former Rectors.



The altar reredos and the neo-Gothic chandelier date from 1887. Sadly a valuable church plate was stolen in 1968.

The Registers date from 1558.

In recent years the church has undergone a number of renovation works including an extensive programme of tower repairs in 1986 and the complete relaying of the nave and tower floors in 1997. At the same time a 20th century Time Capsule was buried in the floor between the font and the west door.



Rectors of Hawstead

Before 1244 Hugo Dyne

Before 1294 Thomas de Morton

1308	Roger, son of Eustace de Hawstead
1330	John, son of William de Bradfield
1359	Will de Stanton
1361	John de Bedford
1364	John Sideford
1404	Clems Cook
1422	Robert Ive (May)
1422	Gilbert Mylde
1453	Will Coleman
1456	Mag. Thomas Coote
1505	Thomas Thorney
1526	Dis William Eglyn

1547	Will Sibotson Capellanus
1565	Richard Adams
1601	John Hall
1608	Ezekiel Edgar
1643	Theophilus Luddington
1670	George Pitches
1672	John Harris
1689	Anthony Pitches
1720	Richard Pitches
1727	Richard Williams
1737	John Smith
1762	Sir John Cullum Bt.
1786	William Steggall
1794	Edward Gosling
1852	William Collett
1882	T.G.L. Lushington
1885	Leslie Mercer
1929	Jack Lewis Jones (also Rector of Nowton)
1971	Interregnum for three years
1974	Cedric Trevor Catton (also Rector of Nowton, Stanningfield and Bradfield Combust)
1979	John Bernard Chalklen
1991	Keith Anthony Finnimore
2003	Martin Thrower
2010	Jayne Buckles
2016	Interregnum