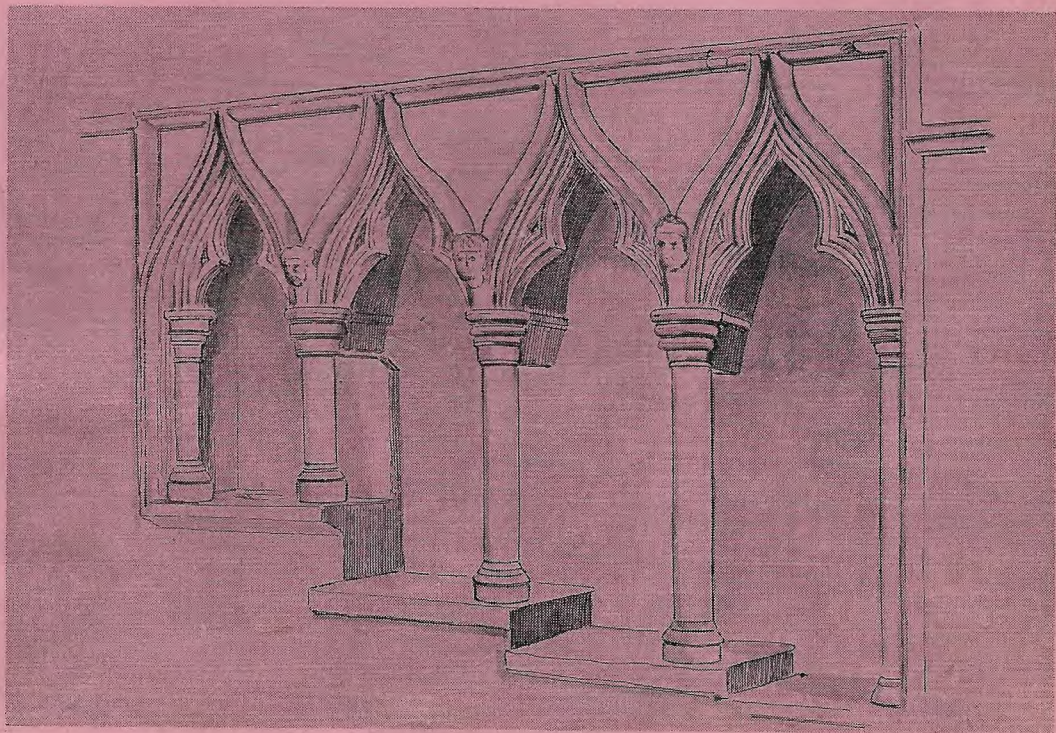


The
PARISH
CHURCH
of
ALL
SAINTS,
STANHOE,
Norfolk



*As is the case of so many of our ancient parish churches,
this one is in great need of money for restoration work
particularly to the roof which is in a bad state. The compilers
of this booklet hope that the restoration fund will benefit from
its sale.*

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS STANHOE NORFOLK

THE beauty of the church is in its proportions which can best be seen from the chancel and looking back to the transitional west window which gives light to the whole building.

The octagonal piers of the arcades, the lovely shafted arches of the chancel windows with a string-course connecting the whole are most satisfying, and best of all is the piscina-sedilia with its ogee arches and head-stops which seem to represent from E to W, a woman, a crowned king and a bishop.

It is always unwise to give an exact date, but the time of building can be fixed with fair certainty from c 1290—1340, and most of the work mentioned, and the slim unbuttressed tower which forms the south porch, belongs to this period.

The doorways and most of the windows are also of this date, and the inner south doorway appears to be earlier than the outer. The windows in the south aisle are a decade or two later, and two in the north aisle were replaced by three-light windows in the 15th century and contain good clear glaze. In one, heraldic glass with the Seymour crest of two eagles wings has been inserted in memory of Colonel Charles Seymour of Barwick House. The east and north-east chancel windows are 19th century.

There are two ancient coffin-lids on the floor at the west end, and outside there are mass dials, two on the south face of the tower and one on the south-east buttress of the chancel.

There are memorials and inscriptions to people connected with Stanhoe's past. In the nave floor a plain black slab with a scallop shell shows the arms of Sir John Tracy, a former owner of 'Marches Manor' in Stanhoe who was buried here in 1663, and in the chancel floor hidden now under the carpet is the grave of Robert and Bridget Displin (or Discipline). Robert signed the registers as 'guardian' or churchwarden in 1649 and 1665. Bridget left £15 in her will to give to the church its splendid silver-gilt flagon which is inscribed 'The gift of Mrs Bridget Displin the relict of Mr Robert Displin of Stanhoe. Given to Stanhoe Church in Norfolk.' Also in the chancel on the south side lies the Honourable Gilbert Vane who died in 1772 and who, the register tells us, was buried in fine linen. This was contrary to the law of the day which ordered that all corpses be wrapped in woollen cloth, and so the fine of £5 was levied and duly distributed to the poor of the parish. His shield shows three gloved hands and a crescent.

The wall tablets to members of the Hoste family who lived at Barwick House one of whom was a Rector of Stanhoe, are interesting especially to students of both naval history and foreign Orders of Chivalry, for Sir William Hoste who was one of Nelson's most efficient young captains and was present when Nelson's right arm was amputated at Teneriffe, later received the Order of Knighthood of Marie Therese of Austria (K.M.T), and his soldier brother above, the Order of King Ferdinand of Sicily and of Merit (K.F.M.). Sir William also has a memorial tablet near to Nelson's tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral. Captain Mathias whose memorial tablet is on the north wall was a prisoner-of-war in French hands for 10½ years, but though he returned to his family at Stanhoe in July 1814 'in perfect health,' he died in less than six months.

The font, pulpit and reading-desk were erected in 1853 as a memorial to the Rev. Daniel Everard, a former Rector of Stanhoe and of Burnham Thorpe.

The Reredos was given by Mrs. Cross in memory of her husband Mr. Guy Cross who was for many years churchwarden and treasurer to the church.

The twelve-branched brass candelabrum is fine, the two tiers depending from a double-headed eagle, and there is a Stuart chest in the vestry but this is now rather dilapidated.

The church, besides the flagon already mentioned, has a fine silver-gilt cup and paten made by Peter Petersen the famous Norwich silversmith in 1567. It is engraved with the words 'For-the-Towne-of-Stan-Howe.'

There is something of a mystery regarding the parish registers as the earliest dates have all been altered in 16th century handwriting. The first page is headed 'Bought for the towne of Stanhowe containing eight sheets of parchment, Anno Elizabethæ Regni 10,' yet the first entries are apparently from 1558, but on looking closer it is clear that the baptismal entries from 1568—78 have been changed to make them appear ten years earlier, but the burials which follow are unaltered. They contain many interesting records including almost weekly collections for disasters in the British Isles and on the Continent, and written inside the cover of the register beginning 1790 occurs 'Collected in this Church for the Sufferers in & from the Battle of Waterloo this 27th August 1815 the sum of £12 4s. 1½d. James Royle, Curate.' A pathetic one tells us that in 1720 'old Goody Burgany was buried without a coffin.' This entry is written upsidedown.

A list of Rectors is in the vestry, and there are some photographs of former incumbents including one of the Rev. Kirby Trimmer who wrote the first Flora of Norfolk.

There are interesting tombstones in the churchyard, a classic one on the north side, of the Lynn family of Allen who occupied Stanhoe Hall in the 18th century and who were close relations of Fanny Burney the famous diarist, and on the south-east boundary a white marble monument considered to be very beautiful commemorates Mary Hollway, only child of John Calthrop, Esq. of Stanhoe Hall, who died in 1856. This shows a life-size weeper reclining on an urn, the whole enclosed in heavy classic railings.

The tower contains one bell only, but the records show there were once three.

Finally a little incident which took place in the church sometime in the year 1590 and which brings a personal touch from the past. It is to be found in the records of the Archdeaconry Court at Norwich and says that Elizabeth Symms, who was evidently the wife of the curate Simon Symms, 'did impudently and most wickedly cut out a piece of Robert Atkins wives hatt,' and was fined for the offence. This must have been a memorable Sunday for the congregation.

The village of Stanhoe is recorded in Domesday Book and spelt there 'STANHU,' which is considered to mean a stony hill. It once possessed a chapel dedicated to St. Peter but now there are only a few bumps in the ground to show where once it stood.

There is the flint core of the base of a wayside cross which is scheduled as of historic interest and which may have pointed the way to Walsingham situated as it is on a cross-road. On a map of 1752, which has recently come to light, the surveyor has drawn this with a tall shaft and a cross on the top.

Stanhoe Hall not far from the church is a lovely house of Queen Anne design which Dr. Pevsner confidently dates 1702, and which legend says was built by Sir Robert Walpole for Maria Skerritt who became his second wife. There are interesting remains in the domestic parts and in the cellars of an earlier hall which apparently faced east upon the road to Brancaster. The road or 'way' was moved when the grounds of the new hall were laid out, and has since become lost in the fields north of the hall. What is left is still called Parsons Lane because the old Rectory once stood there.

Among old place names in the records occur Newport, Easthall Close, Lowesdale, Cokkes Close and Well Hill. No old road names survive which is a great pity. Those lost, besides Brancaster Way, are Deepdale Way (Station Road), Northgate (from the cross to the Hall), Newport Street, and very many connected with the chapel as Petergate Way, Street and Lane, and Procession Mile which was probably connected with the ceremony of beating the bounds, and seems to have been the old road to Docking from the south side of the village. 'Marches Close' a field-name indicates that one of the manors here was owned in the Middle Ages by the powerful March family.

Like many other Norfolk villages Stanhoe shows signs of declining, for the census figures for 1851 were 519, while in 1961 the population was only 330.

The village once had a flourishing railway station, but being a mile away its loss was not greatly felt when it was closed to passenger traffic in 1953.

A List of Rectors of the Church of All Saints, Stanhoe, Norfolk.

1221	John de Albini	1645	Daniel Gardner (signed also in 1645, 47, 50)
1315	Robert de Winfarthing	1651	Thomas Potter
1333	Hugh de Foxlee	1660	Frederick Bishop
1349	John de Methwold	1681	Thomas Sedgewick, M.A.
1367	Nicholas de Nocke (alias de Creyk)	1700	Nathaniel Hill
1393	John Cotes	1701	Robert Hill
1403	Gilbert Springman	1731	George Jacomb
1414	Maurice Tournay (de Weasenham)	1760	Briggs Cary
1415	Thomas Pytecok	1793	Daniel Everard, M.A.
1424	Robert Basage or Busage	1853	James Philip Richard Hoste, B.A.
1436	Richard Langyard		Barwick united with Stanhoe
1438	Robert Courteoure	1860	Augustus William Noel, M.A.
1465	John Palmer	1884	Henry Earle Bulwer, M.A.
1475	John Aiskerth	1902	Raymond Charles Black, M.A.
1481	William Radcliffe, Litt.B.	1932	Howard Bannister, M.A.
1520	Richard Taylor, Litt.B.	1935	Gerald Lloyd Morrell, M.A.
1543	John Adamson	1938	E. Loftus Macnaghten
1554	Laurence Ashworth	1939	Frederick H. Harding
1612	Edward Hampton (signed Register in 1637)	1943	William Arthur Tucker
1634	Thomas White	1945	Edmund Henry Pillifant
1638	George Beck	1962	

Stanhoe Register . . .

April ye 17th & 18th 1713.

Collected then in Stanhow & Berwick on account of ye fire at ye Great Malthouse at Brancaster
ye sum of one pound eleven shillings.

April ye 18th.

Collected ten shillings more on ye same account ye whole sum of one and forty shillings, was
payed this day to Mr. Harris as Trustee for the rebuilding of ye said Malthouse.

Stanhoe Churchyard . . .

Mary Nickles
who died Sep
30th, 1826
Aged 22 years.

Robert Nickles
who died July
29th, 1827
Aged 56 years.

*A tender father now lies here
Likewise three loving daughters dear.
Ye little think who read this stone
How soon the case may be your own.*

Written by

MRS. A. E. TUCK

with invaluable help from

MRS. M. E. BROWN

MISS GILLIAN TUCK

MR. PAUL RUTLEDGE, B.A.

FLT.-LT. PETER THORNTON-PETT

Drawing by DAVID NEWTON

JUNE, 1964.

Printed by W. P. Seeley, Bolts Close, Wells, Norfolk