



Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Issue 21

Winter 2016

Awl a'huld



Window in All Saints, Drinkstone. See back page.
Photograph courtesy of Simon Knott.

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From the Editors

Compiling this issue in the dark, damp days of November I am struck by the accounts sent in of summer ringing tours and high temperatures. Those days seem long gone! Many thanks to all those who sent in these accounts and all the other material I have received for this, the 21st issue of our little magazine. Thank you too to my son James and to Johann Tasker for technical support.

I was particularly pleased to receive the piece on page 10 from Stuart Bamforth who rings in Dunblane, but is one of the principals of the Whiting Society. I had not realised that that society has strong links with Suffolk.

The Association of Ringing Teachers courses continue to cause controversy in the pages of The Ringing World but those who have attended them have nothing but praise for them. See Veronica Downing's article about such a course held at Reydon this summer. Grants are now available towards the cost of attending such courses.

In order to make sure the next issue is out before Easter next year, please send in your contributions by the end of February to magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or by post to Sue Freeman at High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AG. Please do not wait until the deadline—send in your photos and stories when they happen.

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas with lots of festive ringing.

Richard Gates and Sue Freeman



Contributed by Jonathan Williamson

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From the Chairman

Congratulations on behalf of the Guild to Revd. Carl Melville, our Guild Secretary, on his recent licensing and installation as Priest in Charge of Claydon, Barham, Henley and Great Blakenham. I attended the service on behalf of the Guild at the church of St Mary and St Peter, Barham, in October and I must say what a pleasant service it was. It is good for our Guild to have links with the church and the stronger those links the better. Enough has already been written about events at York Minster and I will not add to it here; but I will reflect again on the value of having those strong links between our Guild and the church at local and County level and the importance of keeping communications open and working towards maintaining those links.



October was a busy month with the GMC meeting being held. Having opened a discussion during the June meeting on particular aspects of the Annual Report and reflecting the views expressed at the AGM, content alternatives had been worked through and a number of changes were defined. In those earlier deliberations in June we also set out a timetable and objective for the Annual Report to be delivered to all members a week ahead of the AGM so as to provide for a more informed meeting with respect to officers' published reports.

Which leads neatly to a request to all contributors to have their Annual Report content to Michelle Williams as soon as possible. And individuals with changed or wrongly printed details to notify their District Secretaries as soon as possible. Of course there are details like peal records that cannot be completed before the end of the year but for the most part details will be available during November. Please help Michelle by making early submissions.

Also at October's GMC meeting we heard from Philip Gorrod about the interest generated by the presence of the Guild's mini ring at the Folk East festival. It generated a real buzz, with some new participants returning for another go. Contact details were taken from a number of people for referral to local towers. It took a lot of time and commitment from a number of ringers to provide support. We should all be grateful for their effort. Well done all. Because of this success the GMC will look at how best to support future events.

At the AGM in April, talking about how to avoid or delay increasing subs, I said the easiest way was to recruit more members and I set a challenge for each tower to recruit a new member this year. How is it going? There is still time.

Enjoy the festive season and your seasonal ringing.
Alan Stanley

Hadleigh Ringers' Outing

On August 20th the Hadleigh ringers and friends from neighbouring towers enjoyed their annual ringing tour, this year to the north of the county. The party consisted of 18 people and 2 dogs.

First stop was Oulton to ring the six hung in a central tower. Originally Norman, the



top half of the tower was rebuilt in brick in the eighteenth century. For many of the group this was the first experience of ringing in the middle of a church rather than tucked away at one end or up a flight of stairs out of sight. The bells go well and the churchwarden arrived and made us tea and coffee which was very welcome.

Our next tower was St Margaret's, Lowestoft, where the

eight bells are hung in quite a small tower giving the ringers a very cosy ringing chamber – no room for bad handling here! Again, lovely bells to ring and interesting that they were installed in 1920 as part of the parish war memorial. Many of the bells were given by the fishing trade of Lowestoft. For example, the third was given by the Lowestoft Steam Herring Drifter Co Ltd, the fifth is the trawlers' bell, given by that trade and the seventh is dedicated to the memory of Skipper Thomas Crisp, a fisherman of Lowestoft, posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross. Another reminder of Lowestoft's history as a fishing port can be seen in the Fishermen's Memorial: panels set along the wall listing the names of local fishermen lost at sea.

The third tower of the morning was Pakefield another good eight when you get used to the ropes being hung in two lines of four rather than anything approaching a ringing circle. The setting of this thatched church is amazing – you can walk out of the churchyard onto the beach. Another very interesting building in that from Norman times until the eighteenth century it was two semi detached churches, with two dedications, two vicars and two congregations. Now it is one church with two naves side by side, but only one tower.



Sue and Steve Tye with Ollie

An excellent pub lunch prepared us for the next tower: Worlingham. On the easy six here we rang various doubles methods including St Simons and Stedman as well as call changes.



Terry at the wheel

Then it was a short drive to Beccles and the magnificent detached tower containing ten bells. For many of the group this was a first experience of ringing on ten, but it is certainly a wonderful ring to start on! A glorious sound, perfectly balanced bells which are a joy to ring. We confined ourselves, naturally, to rounds and call changes but for many of us it was the high point of the day.

It only remains to thank all those who made us welcome, our intrepid minibus driver, Terry England who was not helped on the return journey by very high blustery winds, and especially Richard Finch for organising the trip.

SF

Photographs by Richard Gates

A Family Quarter

Pettistree, Suffolk
SS Peter and Paul
Saturday, 20 August 2016 (7–3–13)
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Becky Munnings
2 Sally Munnings
3 Christopher Munnings
4 Alan Munnings
5 Ruth Munnings
6 Richard Munnings (C)



Back row: Christopher, Richard, Alan
Front row: Becky, Ruth, Sally

1st Wedding Anniversary Compliments; 1 and 3
4th Wedding Anniversary Compliments; 5 and 6
Ruby Wedding Anniversary Compliments; 2 and 4
To welcome Joshua Benjamin Munnings to the family - son of 5 and 6, nephew to 1 and 3 and grandson to 2 and 4.

South East District Outing

On Saturday, November 5th, David and I were persuaded, somewhat at the last minute, to join the South East District's outing to St Albans. As a district outing, it was a first for David in this area, and a first for me anywhere.

I have to admit to having had some reservations about ringing at the Abbey, but, having survived the 161 steps up to the ringing chamber, I very much enjoyed the experience, much enhanced by the



encouragement of Sally Munnings. The view of St Albans was amazing from that superb vantage point, and it was a glorious winter's day.

We then made our way to St Michael's, where there were 8 lovely bells, and then we had quite a hike across St Albans to lunch at the King Harry pub. Our first tower of the afternoon was conveniently across the road from the pub, at St Stephen's, where there were six bells; a longer draught, but nice bells.

We ended our day by hiking right up past the Abbey again to St Peter's. Here we found ten bells and a massive ringing chamber; again a very enjoyable experience. To our amazement we discovered that, as well as enjoying the ringing, we had walked just over five and a half miles between towers, so we were exercised in every sense of the word!

Gill Twissell Grundisburgh



Guild Social

When the NW District committee started to talk about the Guild Social for 2016 our first priority was to keep it simple. We were very aware that persuading Guild members to attend District and Guild events had become increasingly difficult over the years so we needed to run an event which would not require a lot of expensive resources and would take place regardless of the number of people who supported it. What could be simpler than ringing at a couple of towers, walking between them and finishing with a picnic? As Richy so kindly mentioned in his blog, this was a low budget event but not second rate.

Planning started way back in May with a quick check that the footpaths between Thornham Magna and Wickham Skeith were as easy to follow as they looked on the map. We'd decided to base the picnic at Thornham village hall just in case an indoor picnic venue was required!

On a very hot day in July the whole route was checked to work out where additional route arrows might be needed to supplement the maps. September still seemed a long way off at this stage but the village hall was duly booked and the towers organised. We also started to promote the event through NW District events in the hope that, even if the Guild members didn't turn up in their hundreds, the event could take place as a NW District event.

In spite of the hottest temperature since 1911 (34.4 C) being recorded on Tuesday 13th September, by Thursday evening it was raining! Remarkably most of the route arrows marked with chalk paint on the Thursday afternoon were not washed away although the ford was now only passable via the bridge!



In the end, we needn't have worried about support for the event. Over 30 people turned up from across all four Districts (just) and although the weather wasn't particularly hot or sunny, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we didn't lose anyone on the footpaths. The exercise and fresh air generated a good appetite and picnics were devoured quickly at the village hall, supplemented with tea and coffee and delicious lemon drizzle cake. A final activity in the form of a quiz (or three quizzes in fact) kept everyone busy and created a bit of friendly competition as people tested

their geographical knowledge trying to name coastal, Norfolk and Suffolk towns and villages.

So we now pass the Guild Social 'relay baton' on to the SE District. Plans are already in place to hold a barn dance on Saturday 16th September so don't forget to keep the date free as these events are organised for you as a Guild member and need your support!

Rowan Wilson – NW District Ringing Master

Bells and whistles (and mandolins too!)

Could we come and ring the bells at Little Glemham to open the festivities each day at Folk East? Yes, I think we could do that – but could we bring our mini-ring along too please? There might be some people who would like to learn about ringing. This email exchange led to a most enjoyable and productive time for a merry band of volunteers teaching ringing to a bunch of engaged and engaging folkies one rather blustery and slightly damp three-day weekend in August.

Folk East is now in its 6th year. Based in the grounds of Glemham Hall, it is growing in size every year. It's not just about music: there are instrument makers, purveyors of fine beers and pies, knitting workshops and of course, more Morris dancers than you can shake a stick at; in short, a perfect audience to appreciate our fine craft.

Some very determined people visited the mini-ring. There was nine year old Shoula, (names have been changed to protect the innocent), who was originally told she was too short – she wasn't going to give up and turned out to be a natural even though she could only hang on to the tail end at backstroke by the tips of two fingers. Then there was Mary, who only had one arm and came along just as we were about to pack up on the last day. With coaching from Hilary she managed to master handstrokes and backstrokes together. The people kept coming and our workshops time slots over-ran.

We rewarded those who learnt to ring with an 'I've rung on the Vestey Ring' sticker and a certificate for those who achieved the goal of ringing rounds (signed by Tom!) We handed out Suffolk Guild and CCCBR information leaflets, the former being specially produced for the event and now available for members to use as publicity material. We took names, postcodes and email addresses for all those who said they would like to know more, and since the event we've let them know where their nearest tower is and also got in touch with the local District Ringing Master to let them know they may have a new recruit. There was a further boost when Jed Flatters was interviewed by Lesley



Dolphin live on BBC Radio Suffolk.

Whether or not any of these people will ever enter the ringing chamber we don't know. Perhaps we'll need to follow up with an email in a year's time to see if they did and ask them how they're getting on. But what I do know is that if you want to find a receptive bunch of people to promote ringing to, you'd be hard pushed to do better than pop along to your local folk festival with a mini-ring.

Catherine Draper



Learning to ring rounds

Years past...

Fifty years ago the world was a very different place compared to today but what was happening in and around the Guild in 1965?

The Guild reports have been gradually digitised and uploaded to the website so now anyone can view the reports from 1921 to 2002 and take a trip back in time. I decided to take a look at the 1965 report and see what ringing was going on 50 years ago. Some figures from 1965 and 2015 reports make for an interesting comparison.

Year	1965	2015
Population of Suffolk	472,000(1961)	730,000 (2011)
Members	343	749
Junior Members	19	50
Peals	75	95
Quarter Peals	136	556
Listed Practice Nights	23	107
Total Funds	£294 16s 5d	£77,308.49

Not everything has changed though; this quote from the then secretary Andrew Beckwith's report could apply today!

also I think if we are to be honest with ourselves, the tendency to sit in front of a television screen instead of attending the local practice has become very rife in recent years.

I also found plenty of familiar names taking their early steps in ringing. Maurice and Derek Rose were elected as members and Rev. Laurence Pizzey called his first peal that year at Barking. Another interesting find was a rather novel peal rung at Ipswich St Clements in 1965 with a band comprising ringers called Alan.

3067	IPSWICH	
	On Sunday, May 9th, 1965, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes At the Church of St. Clement	
	A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR	
	Seven different extents.	Tenor 15½ cwt. in F.
	Alan F. Flatt Treble	*Alan Dilley 4
	Alan W. Payne 2	Alan R. Knight 5
	Alan Munnings 3	Alan R. Bridges Tenor
	Conducted by Alan R. Bridges.	
	* First peal.	

All the annual reports can be found at www.suffolkbells.org.uk/guildreports.php
Neal Dodge

The Whiting Society and Suffolk

The Whiting Society, of which I am one of 5 Principals, had the pleasure of touring East Anglia on a ringing tour between 4th and 6th of September and your magazine editor asked me to write a piece about it. The event was based at one of the Premier Inns in Braintree, and we'd only strayed across the border to ring at a handful of Suffolk towers. Indeed, one of our members looked out of the window at Bures and said, 'It's a terrific a view from up here, you can see all the way to Essex.'

Instead of describing the outing, I thought it more interesting to talk about my first experience of ringing in Suffolk and how it had quite an influence on the founding of the Whiting Society.

I started learning change-ringing in 1965 at Old Glossop (north Derbyshire) but attended church at Tintwistle and Hollingworth. The vicar of Hollingworth at that time was Rev. James 'Mr' Mair. He was a very popular vicar, but sometime in 1967, I think, he was offered the benefice of Bacton in Suffolk. If memory serves me correctly (and it often doesn't these days) the appointment was made by a lay preacher at Tintwistle who had either inherited or bought the rights to the benefice. If anyone can supply more information on this unusual arrangement, please do get in touch.

I thought it would be nice to visit Mr Mair at Bacton so, in 1968 just a few weeks after my 16th birthday, I organised a train trip to Stowmarket along with a ringing friend, John Jessop, who was about the same age. We stayed in a small hotel or B&B on the outskirts of the town and, to our surprise we also found it was the Suffolk Guild's AGM weekend. We were fortunate enough to be offered a lift around and grabbed 16 towers during our stay. Bacton wasn't one of these and I can't remember why not, but I do have vivid memories of the 'air-conditioned' ringing room at Cotton. Sadly, I note these bells are now unringable.

This was such a wonderful adventure that I became hooked on tower 'visiting' and in October that year, I organised another outing to West Cheshire. Arthur Whiting fixed up the transport and ringers. We have been continuously active since then. Arthur died unexpectedly in 1975 and we formally named the Society in his honour.

Apart from some further personal visits to Suffolk, the long and slow cross-country drive from our heartlands around East Cheshire put us off organising Society events in the county – until last year. In 2014, Graham Foat, a ringer from Chigwell, came to a training day we arranged at Rotherhithe and that generated our first members from East Anglia. Since then, there have been several training days at Chigwell, two outings to Braintree (both of which have crossed the border to Suffolk), and next year, we hope to base an event in the beautiful cathedral city of Bury St Edmunds.

Please take a look at our website www.whittingsociety.org.uk and if you are interested in coming along to some of our events, drop us an email to ask for details.

The (other) Whiting Society – ‘Peaks’

Another happy quarter peal tour and holiday arranged by Brian and Peta Whiting, this year in mid August on the borders of Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire between Leek and Buxton. The triangle formed by these two towers and Congleton area is some of the most stunning scenery in England; well worth a visit even if you don't ring!



The village of Flash

Our farmhouse was in the village of Flash, apparently at nearly 2000 feet, the highest village in England. This was Brian's 24th tour as leader, impeccably arranged: churches, bells, something for all ringing tastes and abilities, good 'tucker', fine wines and home brew.

Not many outstanding bells this year but some grand churches, notably Gawsworth, Prestbury, Leek and Astbury plus a glimpse of Pugin's masterpiece, St Giles' Cheadle.

Eleven quarters were scored from thirteen attempts, memorable amongst them Grandsire Caters at St Edward the Confessor, Leek, with Ellie Earey (16) and Diana (81 not out!) taking part. Ellie also rang Cambridge Major at the first attempt.

A lovely week and worth saying that in 24 years on tour, not one cross word. Our thanks, to Brian for all your hard work, to the chefs, the butler, the sommelier (Matthew) and everybody who 'pitched in'. We look forward to Exmoor next year.

To finish:

A very nice market town, Leek
Whether teenager, oldie or geek
The scenery's stunning
(With no 8-2s in the running)
It's an ideal place for a week.

GWP



From front to back, left to right: Max, George Pipe, Diana Pipe, James Smith, Peta Whiting, Gill Sparling, James Sparling, Tristan Shaw, Claire Haynes, Tessa Earey, Brian Whiting, David Sparling, Ellie Earey, Lizzie Sparling, Adrienne Sharp, David Stanford, Ralph Earey, Matt Earey.

Licensing and Installation

Guild secretary Revd. Carl Melville writes:

For the past three years I have been serving as a Priest as curate at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and in the Cockfield Benefice. On the 9th October however, I was licensed and installed as Priest In Charge to the Claydon Group of Churches, which is made up of Claydon and Barham, Henley and Great Blakenham. The service was held at Barham Church and somehow we squeezed in 311 people!

The Church of England has a number of funny traditions. One of them is the legalities surrounding a Priest's induction into a new group of churches. During the service the Bishop asks, 'Having licensed Carl I ask you, Mr Archdeacon, to install him and for the future to defend him.' The new Priest is dragged by the Archdeacon (kicking and screaming in some cases) and installed (gently placed into the vicar's stall). Another tradition is for the new Priest to ring one of the church bells during the service

The Incumbent technically has little authority in their church; the bulk of responsibility thankfully lies with the PCC. However, the incumbent does have sole responsibility for the worship and the ringing of the church's bells. Control of the ringing of church bells therefore belongs jointly to the incumbent and the churchwardens.

Canon Law states:

1. In every church and chapel there shall be provided at least one bell to ring the people to divine service.
2. No bell in any church or chapel shall be rung contrary to the direction of the minister.

As Barham bells are unringable, I was not able to chime one during the service itself. However, Henley Church has 8 bells so we were able to ring a quarter peal and have some open ringing before the licensing service.

It's because of bell ringing that I became an Anglican and later a Priest. I know



Paul Ebsworth, Lesley Steed, Robert Scase, Andrea Aderton, Matthew Kemsley, Lynda Lee, Amanda Richmond, David Lee, Wendie Summers, Sally Munnings, Jenny Scase, Carl Melville, David Steed, Deborah Blumfield, Margaret Cherry

every church would love a ringing vicar to help improve tower-church relations (or maybe you're happy keeping your vicar at arm's length!)
I take my duties as a Parish Priest seriously and see the tower as an essential part of the life of the church and community. I hope that over the coming years we can grow a bigger band for Henley and for the surrounding area.

Henley St Peter

Sunday, 9 October 2016 (8-0-3)
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Paul Ebsworth	4 David Steed
2 Andrea Alderton	5 Lesley Steed (C)
3 Pam Ebsworth	6 The Revd. Carl Melville

Rung on the back 6. Rung prior to the licensing and installation of the Revd. Carl Melville as Priest in Charge of St Peter, Henley, St Mary and St Peter, Claydon and Barham and St Mary, Great Blakenham.

Congratulations

Since our last issue many quarter peals and peals have been rung in the Guild, all of particular significance to those bands and particularly individuals who rang in them.

Here we pick out four peals of note.

George and Diana Pipe have recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. This was celebrated at St Mary le Tower by the ringing of a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus by their friends.

On 26th October Neal Dodge, the Guild's Public Relations Officer, rang his first peal of Norwich Surprise Minor at The Wolery, Ipswich.

Four days later, at Polstead, he rang the treble to a peal specially arranged for Hadleigh ringer Kevin Ward. The peal, of Norwich Surprise, Plain Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford Bob and St Clements College Bob was Kevin's first peal of Minor.

Special congratulations to Alan Mayle of Clare who, on November 1st rang his 1800th peal. He rang the tenor to a peal of Bristol Surprise Major at Helmingham.

The ART training day at Reydon

Do you have many years of experience teaching learners to handle a bell? One thing that is for certain you will learn so much more on the ART Teacher Training Scheme Module 1 on Teaching Bell Handling.

This training day, apart from being very well organised and put together, offers so much more than I anticipated. Graham Nabb is an excellent tutor and a very skilled teacher – just as well, so that he can pass on not only the theory but demonstrate the good practice.

One of the biggest issues we have in the bell ringing exercise is the quality of teaching newcomers how to ring. It may be that our own habits and style could do with some fine tuning (who looks in the mirror at themselves when they are ringing?) but it is also the way in which we impart information to others that we need to understand.

This training day is not just ‘how to teach a person to ring a bell’ but gives the knowledge and understanding of how people learn, the different styles of learning and the different ways people progress with their learning. One size of teaching does not fit all, as we discovered trying to teach each other.

Another very helpful concept demonstrated was the teaching of simple exercises that can improve bell handling and techniques, without the rope being pulled or bell being swung, so no panics about losing control of the rope or cracking the stay – how reassuring for the learner and instructor.

So, by the end of the day, you become a more reflective teacher, not just looking at the issues of the learner and handling the bell but how you as a teacher are performing and can best improve your performance so that learning to ring a bell becomes a positive and enjoyable two-way experience. The training doesn’t stop at the end of the day – but that is material for another time.

The traditional ‘ringers’ tea’ (lunch) and hospitality at Reydon was excellent and the church room next to a lovely ring of 6 makes the venue perfect too.

Thank you to all involved in the organisation of the training day.

Veronica Downing Chediston

Suffolk Guild Training Grants

Please be aware that Suffolk Guild members are welcome to apply for grants to assist with training and/or recruitment activities. So far, grants have been applied for, agreed and paid in respect of individuals attending the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) teacher training schemes.

If you wish to discuss an idea, or apply, please contact either me master@suffolkbells.org.uk, 077567 96950 or Rowan Wilson nemaster@suffolkbells.org.uk, 01284 700490

Tom Scase
Suffolk Guild Ringing Master

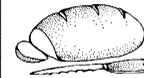
SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS SOCIAL

BARN **DANCE**

WITH
INTERIA REEL
+ LICENSED BAR



SAT 16th Sep 7:30pm



SPROUGHTON TITHE BARN

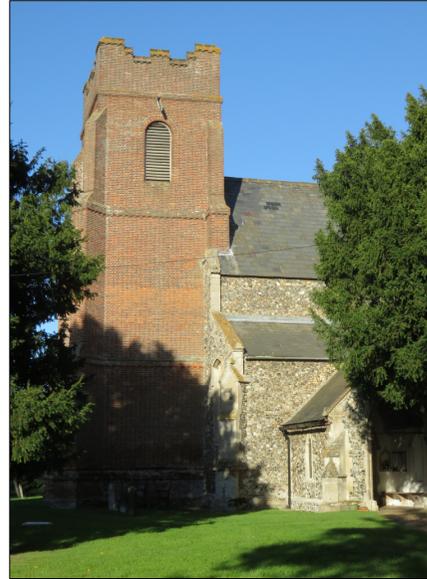
 **Book the date now!** 

Bring your friends & family

All Saints, Drinkstone

The parish of Drinkstone lies approximately mid-way between Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket and about a mile south of Woolpit. The village is in two halves, the older part being grouped around the church with predominantly newer dwellings being about half a mile south in Drinkstone Green. This part includes a fine village hall that opened in 2013. There are two mills beside the Woolpit road: a post mill that is one of the oldest in Suffolk and has been fully restored (though the sails are not currently in place) and a smock mill that was still in commercial use until about 20 years ago.

A church is mentioned in the Little Domesday book of 1086 but the present building dates from 1340. The great east window dates from this time and is the main one containing stained glass. The north and south aisles make the nave almost as wide as it is long. There is a 13th century octagonal font of Purbeck marble supported on eight columns and a central shaft, and a magnificent 15th century carved oak screen that once had a rood loft above. The church was extensively restored in the 19th century.



There are some interesting memorials in the nave. One is to Thomas Grigby who was killed in the Peninsula war of 1811 on board a transport bound for Cadiz, Spain. His ship was run down by a frigate off Falmouth and he perished together with 233 souls. Almost forty years later, during the Indian Mutiny, the fourth son of the rector John Peloquin Cosserat was shot in the mouth by a musket ball while commanding his regiment the first Punjab Cavalry against the rebels at Koorsee, India.

The Flemish bond brick tower is unusual and dates from 1694. The earliest 2 bells are from this time, with later additions in 1869 and 1891 to give the tower a peal of 6 bells (tenor 11cwt in A flat). There is no local band at present but the parish shares a vicar with nearby Woolpit whose band rings here on the 2nd Sunday of each month for morning service. Visitors are always welcome.

Nigel Gale