

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

ALDWINCLE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

LONDON

Registered Charity No. 258612

PRICE: £1.00



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION
TRUST WELCOMES YOU TO
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
ALDWINCLE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Many years ago Christians built and set apart this place for prayer. They made their church beautiful with their skill and craftsmanship. Here they have met for worship, for children to be baptised, for couples to be married and for the dead to be brought for burial. If you have time, enjoy the history, the peace and the holiness here. Please use the prayer card and, if you like it, you are welcome to take a folded copy with you.

Although services are no longer regularly held here, this church remains consecrated; inspiring, teaching and ministering through its beauty and atmosphere. It is one of more than 300 churches throughout England cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust was created in 1969 and was, until 1994, known as the Redundant Churches Fund. Its object is to ensure that all these churches are kept in repair and cared for, in the interests of the Church and Nation, for present and future generations.

Please help us to care for this church. There is a box for donations or, if you prefer to send a gift, it will be gratefully received at the Trust's headquarters at 1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE (Tel: 020 7213 0660). For further information about the Trust visit our website www.visitchurches.org.uk

We hope that you will enjoy your visit and be encouraged to see our other churches. Some are in towns; some in remote country districts. Some are easy and others hard to find but all are worth the effort.

Nearby are the Trust churches of:

BLATHERWYCKE, HOLY TRINITY
9 miles SW of Stamford off A43

DEENE, ST PETER
10 miles SW of Stamford off A43

CRANFORD, ST ANDREW
4 miles E of Kettering just off A14

WAKERLEY, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
7 miles SW of Stamford off A43

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

ALDWINCLE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

by CYRIL FERGUSON AND OTHERS

HISTORY

The name of the village is derived from the two elements 'Ealda's nook'. Ealda was the landowner, and the village is in a chain of hills beside the valley of the River Nene. Some say that the 'wincle' element refers to the great double bend in the river nearby, between Thorpe and Wadenhoe. The tower of All Saints', which is conceived on a grand scale with close attention to fine detail, dominates the landscape for miles around and the proportions and workmanship of the rest of the church are of comparable high quality.

The poet John Dryden was born at the Old Rectory opposite the church in 1631. His mother's father, Henry Pickering, was rector here for 40 years; he died in 1637 aged 75 and is buried in the churchyard below the east window. His inscribed gravestone has recently been brought inside the church for its better preservation.

Another rector, for 57 years, was Thomas Haweis, a founder of the London Missionary Society and composer of a number of well-known hymns.

The church is basically 13th century in date, with a 15th century tower, chantry chapel and vestry. Evidence of the earlier building survives in the chancel arch and the piers of the south arcade. The north arcade is slightly later, perhaps 14th century, but the plate-traceried windows of the chancel, the east window and one on the north side, are of the 13th century.

The tower, the north vestry and the south chantry chapel are all 15th century; the chapel, latest of all, was built in accordance with a will dated 1489. There are few signs of later work, save that the roofs are twice dated in the 17th century and the chancel and east window were restored in 1863 at a cost of £200. In 1893 a proposal was made to remove the gallery and the pulpit and to replace the



All Saints' from the west

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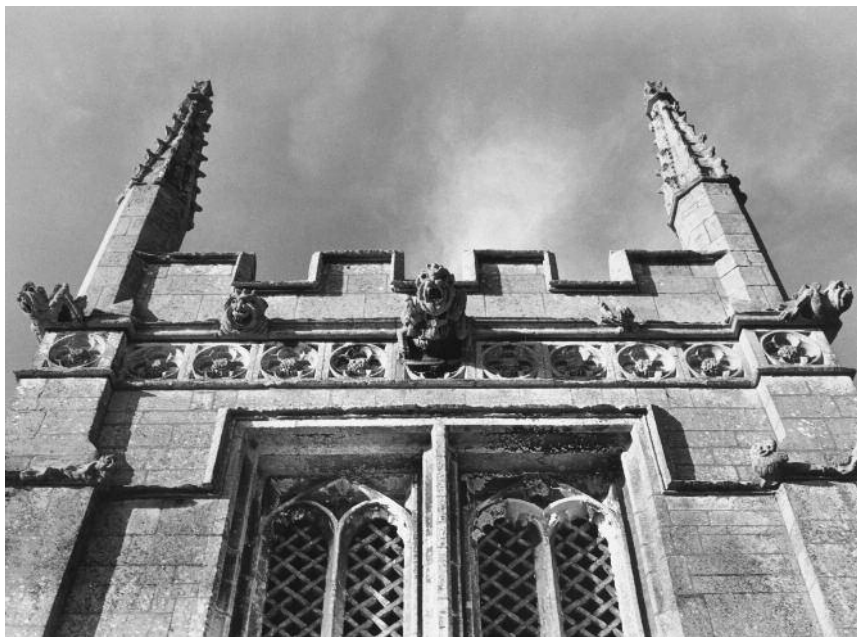


All Saints' from the east

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pews with chairs, and this work was carried out shortly thereafter. The south porch was rebuilt on a smaller scale in 1950 after it had been damaged by the fall of a tree.

There is another mediaeval church, St Peter's, at the other end of the village as there were originally two manors and two villages. It proved beyond local resources to continue to maintain both buildings. All Saints', which had been virtually disused for 100 years, was therefore declared redundant in 1976 and transferred to the care of the Redundant Churches Fund, now The Churches Conservation Trust. Since vesting repairs have been carried out under the supervision of Victor Farrar of Bedford and Peter McFarlane of Grantham.

*Tower detail*

(CHRISTOPHER DALTON)

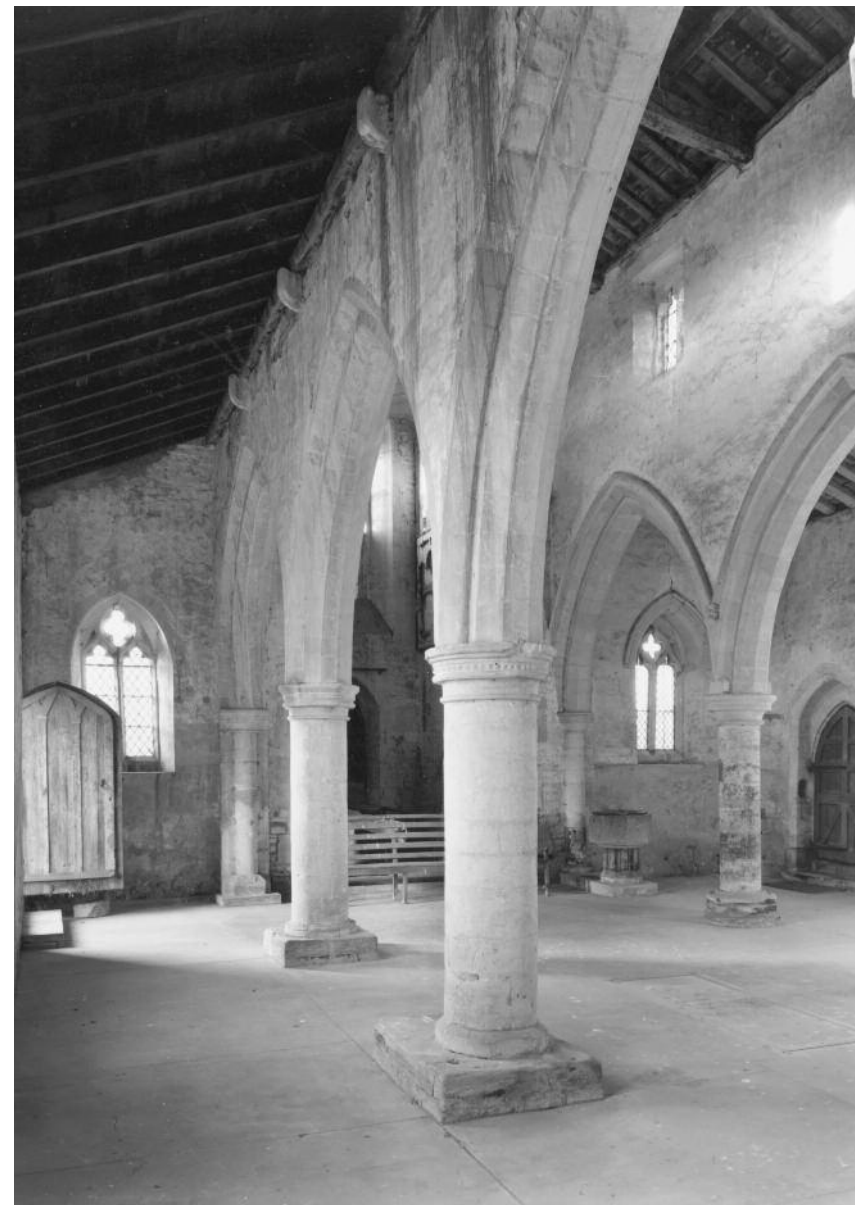
EXTERIOR

The church is built of the local limestone and the chancel is roofed with Collyweston stone tiles. The pinnacles on the tower, which is the same width as the nave, are particularly fine, as also are the gargoyles and the lively figures of beasts on the string-courses which mark each stage. Each pinnacle had a weathervane but these are now mounted inside the tower, along with inscribed lead sheets from the roof.

INTERIOR

Nave and Aisles

The octagonal font is 13th century. At the east end of the north aisle is a piscina, indicating the previous presence of an altar there. The absence of pews makes it possible to appreciate to the full the fine proportions of the nave and the arcades. Nothing remains to show

*The nave from the south-east*

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Monumental brass commemorating William Aldewynckle (d.1463)

(CHRISTOPHER DALTON © CROWN COPYRIGHT.NMR.)

that there were Georgian box pews in the church. There are ledger stones in the floor of the tower arch commemorating GW and W Fleetwood, dated 1747 and 1763. In the crudely constructed roof, the date of one of the restorations, '1676', and the initials 'I.D.' are carved on one of the gnarled cross beams. Over the chancel arch are two panels with the names of the churchwardens in 1814, and above these are paintings on canvas of the Ten Commandments and the royal arms, decayed but recently conserved.

There were formerly five bells in the tower, but in 1903 they were melted down to help to provide a new ring for St Peter's, and one new bell was provided by Taylor of Loughborough and hung in the fine 17th-century bell-frame.

Chancel

The substantial priest's stall of pale oak and the altar probably date from the early years of the 20th century. The communion rails and chest date from the 17th century. The east window glass, designed and made late in the 19th century, depicts Christ and St Peter by the Sea of Galilee and represents the text 'Feed my Sheep'.

There are a number of memorial tablets on the walls, including one set up in 1959 to John Dryden, and ledger stones in the floor. Two stones commemorating Thomas and Fleetwood Ford are of the Civil War period, 1642 and 1643, and there is a brass in front of the communion rails showing a man with his feet resting on a dog, commemorating William Aldewynckle who died in 1463.

A hatchment commemorating Margaret, wife of Elmer Spinckes who died in 1717, formerly in the chantry chapel, has been conserved and mounted on the north wall.

South chapel

William Aldewynckle's widow married again and became Elizabeth Chambre. It was she who founded this chapel as a chantry chapel in 1489. The coats of arms of the Chambre family and the Fleetwood family, to whom the manor passed in the 17th century, are delicately carved in stone on the north capital of the west arch and the west



Chambre chantry detail

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capital of the north arch. On the walls are corbels for the statues and that on the south has a shield below. There is a piscina under an ogee arch below the east window in the south wall. In the floor are ledger stones to members of the Spinckes and Gwillim families who used the chapel for burial from the late 17th century.

The fine traceried windows contain an assortment of ancient clear or tinted glass, along with some remains of 15th-century stained glass, as do the windows in the north and south aisles.



'The tower dominates the landscape for miles around'

(CHRISTOPHER DALTON © CROWN COPYRIGHT.NMR.)

Front cover: Exterior from the south-east (CHRISTOPHER DALTON).

Back cover: Interior looking east (CHRISTOPHER DALTON).

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