

# Something Special In Every Church

Churches' Trail



## Welcome to our Benefice

Of the 921 ancient churches built in Norfolk, 659 remain. We are proud to present our group of eleven churches – ten are used regularly for worship and the other, North Barningham, is under the care of the Norfolk Churches Trust. We hope you enjoy this trail through the beautiful North Norfolk countryside.

**What makes our churches special?** Apart from being places of quiet contemplation and prayer, it's the people who have made and cherished them. Some are commemorated by objects such as the window celebrating the life of Richard Hardy (part of which is shown on the cover). **Can you spot in which church?** We can only wonder at what our forebears achieved during their lives as we enjoy their legacy.

**Opening hours** In the main, churches will be open from 9 am to 5 pm or dusk if earlier. If you intend to rely on one of the pubs for refreshment then please ring ahead because not all are open all day.

**How long does it take?** Allow for at least a total of 2 hours for exploring the churches; and 1¼ hours travelling time by car or 2½ hours by bicycle.

**Feel free** There is no charge for this booklet – we are keen to share our beautiful churches with you. However, we would be most grateful for a small contribution in the collecting box of **every church** you visit. When you sign the visitors' books please mention that you are on the **Churches' Trail** and how many churches you have visited so far. Thank you for joining us. Feedback is welcome on **[www.churchestrail.uk](http://www.churchestrail.uk)**

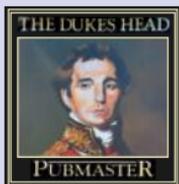
# 1 Saxthorpe/Corpusty



This 15th-century screen must have looked really splendid when it was created. You can still see the intricately-painted flowers and foliage together with the ornate carvings.

## Crossword clue

What animals grin down from the beams above?



## The Dukes Head, Corpusty

Family-friendly pub in the heart of the village serving traditional, home-cooked food.

Open all day.

01263 587529

## 2 Edgefield

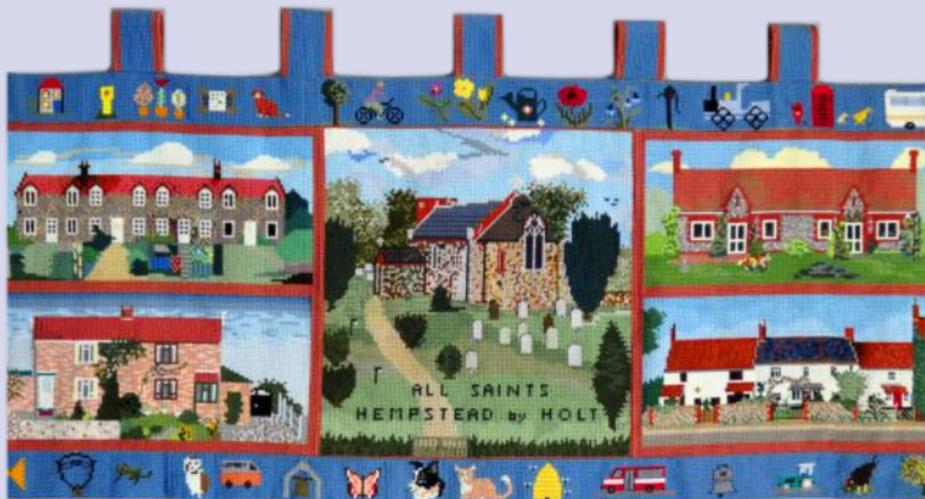


This detail from the 1980s window, in the south aisle, commemorates the re-building of the church inspired by Canon Walter Marcon who is depicted riding his bike. The greater part of the design is taken up with the new church appearing to rise out of the ghost of the old one. Canon Marcon was Rector of Edgefield for more than sixty years from the 1870s to the 1930s and is remembered in Norfolk as the cycling parson, and for moving his church half a mile, stone by stone.

### Crossword clue

This is what we use to make words and can be found in odd places around the church.

### 3 Hempstead



In 1998, the ladies of the Kneeler Group decided to celebrate the Millennium by making *another* kneeler but, propitiously, they were given a gift of canvas and wool and other possibilities came to mind. Eventually a tapestry depicting some of the houses that can be seen on a walk from one end of the village to the other was decided upon. All these buildings represent the different types of architecture to be found in the village.

The Kneeler Group involved as many people from the village as possible to either stitch a panel, or put a stitch or two in the border. The border tells us about village life.

#### Crossword clue

What can you see crawling beneath the good book?

## 4 Baconsthorpe

Easter Sepulchres are generally found in the north wall of the chancel like this one. The crucifix, and sacred elements in commemoration of Christ's entombment and resurrection are deposited here from Good Friday to Easter Day.

Easter Sepulchres are only found in England and Wales and are usually made of wood – this one, however, is made of stone like just one other in Norfolk.

### Crossword clue

What kind of bells can be found at the west end of the church?



## 5 North Barningham

This monument to Sir Austin and Dame Elizabeth Palgrave dates from the 1630s. They gaze out blankly from within alcoves: he bearded and vaguely quizzical; she will brook no nonsense!

The Palgraves lived in nearby North Barningham Hall. When Sir Richard Palgrave died without issue in 1732 the association with that branch of the family ended. By 1745 there were only two inhabitants left in the village and the church fell into a state of disrepair. In 1973 bearers of the Palgrave surname organised a service on St Peter's Day followed by the formation of the Palgrave Society to carry out maintenance of the church and churchyard. The tradition of the St Peter's Day service continues.



### Crossword clue

You'll find a 'window' in the floor in the shape of a \_\_\_\_\_.



3 Hempstead  
All Saints



2 Edgefield  
St Peter & St Paul

This alternative route is ideal for cyclists but has many hidden bends for the unwary motorist

Site of old church



1 Saxthorpe St Andrew



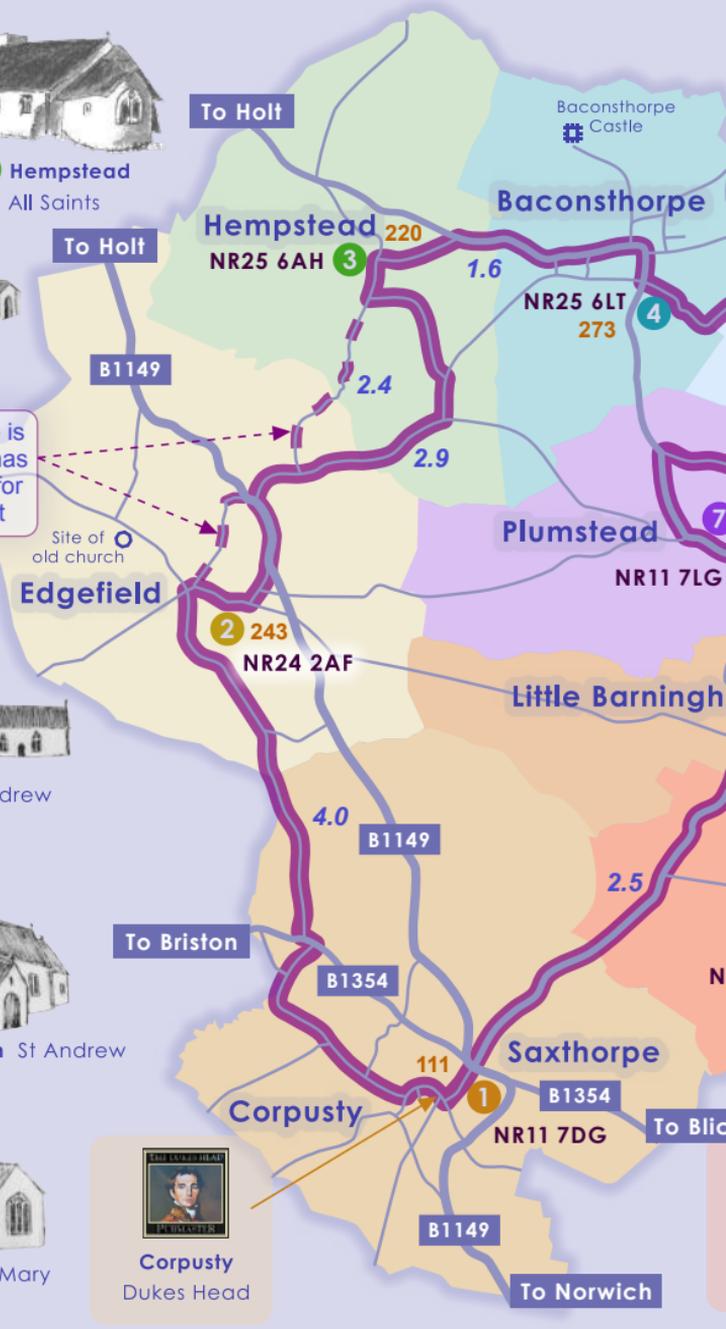
11 Little Barningham St Andrew



10 Itteringham St Mary



Corpusty  
Dukes Head



To Holt

To Holt

B1149

Edgefield

Hempstead  
NR25 6AH 3

Baconsthorpe

Baconsthorpe  
Castle

NR25 6LT  
273

Plumstead

NR11 7LG

Little Barningham

To Bristol

B1354

Saxthorpe

Corpusty

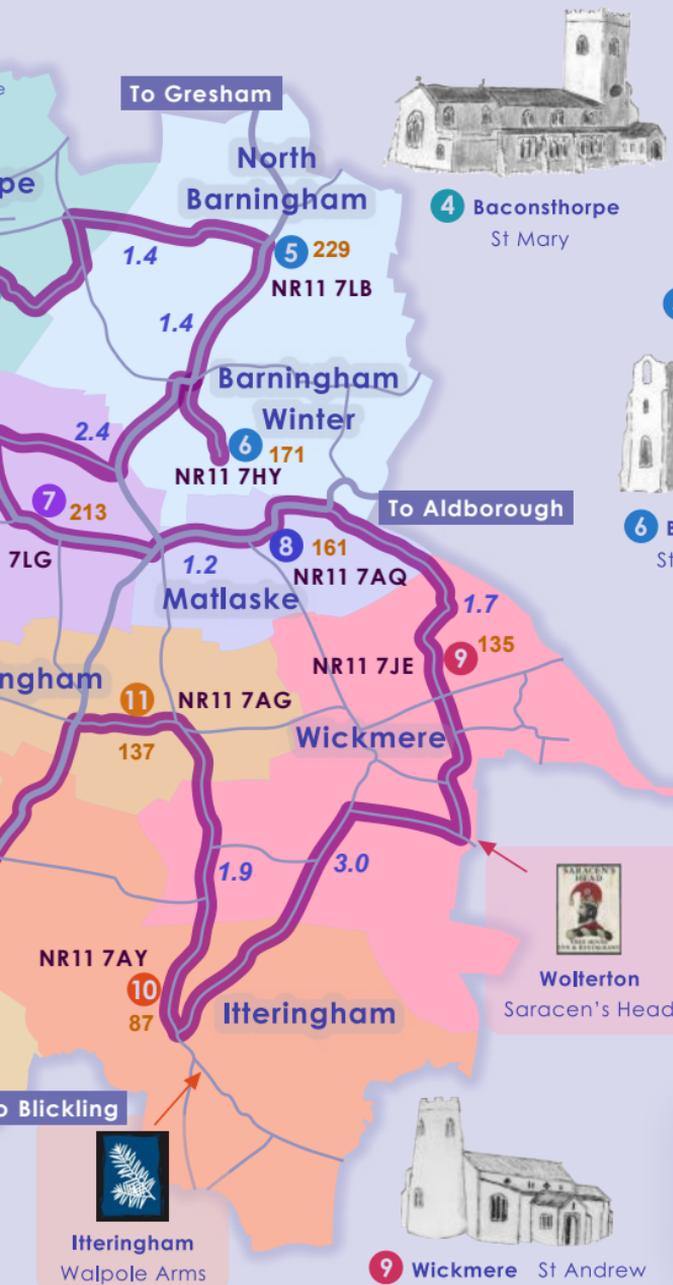
NR11 7DG

To Blic

B1149

To Norwich

North



**4** Baconsthorpe  
St Mary



**5** North Barningham  
St Peter



**6** Barningham Winter  
St Mary the Virgin



**7** Plumstead  
St Michael & All Angels



**Wolterton**  
Saracen's Head



**8** Matlaske  
St Peter



**9** Wickmere  
St Andrew

**2.2** Miles between  
churches (Total  
about 24 miles)

**243** Feet above  
sea level



**Itteringham**  
Walpole Arms

## 6 Barningham Winter



Perhaps the most striking feature in this church is the reredos or carved backdrop behind the altar – you certainly won't miss it during a service.

A reredos usually depicts religious iconography or images but this one has soldiers in their WWI uniforms approaching a central cross.

### **Crossword clue**

Baptisms take place under the -----.

## 7 Plumstead



The 15th-century tower has elegant pinnacles and knapped-flint flushwork – a typical fancy at the end of the Middle Ages. Each flint (a local material found in abundance to this day) is knapped until it has a flat surface which can then be inserted *flush* with the stone of contrasting colour. Creating flushwork is labour-intensive but can be less expensive than importing stone.

The gargoyles below the flushwork represent the four Gospel-writing Evangelists as a winged ox, an eagle, a man and a lion.

### Crossword clue

What strange shapes can you see decorating the flat gravestone inside?

## 8 Matlaske



The Corbel Heads supporting the nave roof are particularly fine. They would have been mediaeval characters, but are more likely to represent human moods:

- North West* The Preacher, Anguish, Indulgent
- South East* The Devout, Talkative, Disappointment (pictured above)
- North East* Peaceful
- South West* The Drunkard

### Crossword clue

Lest we forget the \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky?

## 9 Wickmere/Wolterton



There are two ancient chests in the church typical of the style from the late middle ages to the middle of the 16th century. They each have three separate locks – the keys would have been in the possession of the priest and two churchwardens; so all three would have to be present when they were opened. Typically they would have contained vestments, altar cloths, ecclesiastical vessels and plate, and probably alms.

### Crossword clue

The Church was restored in 1938 by the Earl of \_\_\_\_\_'s wife.



### The Saracen's Head, Wolterton

A welcoming Georgian Inn that provides the most delicious local and seasonal menu that you could wish for. 01263 768909

## 10 Itteringham



Royal arms were used to symbolise the King's authority and, after Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church of England in 1534, they began to appear in churches. The royal arms in this church are those of William IV.

### Crossword clue

How many foot notes are there in the church?



### The Walpole Arms, Itteringham

A traditional country pub dating back to the 18th century serving modern British Cuisine – open every day. 01263 587258

## 11 Little Barningham

The major feature of the interior is the 17th-century box pew which stands at the front of the north side of the nave. On its south-west corner is the large figure of a skeleton in a shroud, holding a scythe and an hour glass. This is Death himself, and the inscription, after recording that Steven Crosbee had it constructed to seat married couples, reminds us that:

*As you are now so once  
was I. Remember Death,  
for ye must die.*

A cheerful thought! The pew is dated 1640 but the carved skeleton is a replacement made after the original was stolen at the end of the 20th century.

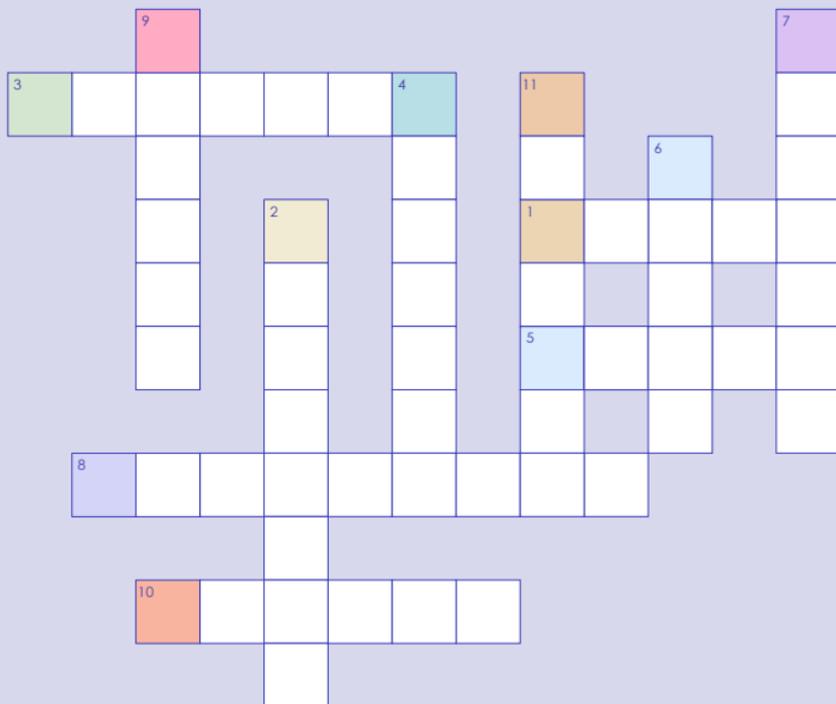
### **Crossword clue**

Which Prime  
Minister visited the  
church in 1936?



# Crossword

Look around each church to answer the clues on the church pages. If you are struggling you will find extra clues near the visitors' book in each church.



**Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards putting this booklet together.**

[www.churchestrail.uk](http://www.churchestrail.uk)

© 2015 The Benefice



**Overland Cycle Hire in Holt**  
07733 445511 01263 713293