



# Pick of the Churches

The East of England is famous for its superb collection of churches. They are one of the nation's great treasures.

## Introduction

There are hundreds of churches in the region. Every village has one, some villages have two, and sometimes a lonely church in a field is the only indication that a village existed there at all. Many of these churches have foundations going right back to the dawn of Christianity, during the four centuries of Roman occupation from AD43. Each would claim to be the best - and indeed, all have one or many splendid and redeeming features, from ornate gilt encrusted screens to an ancient font.

The history of England is accurately reflected in our churches - if only as a tantalising glimpse of the really creative years between the 1100's to the 1400's. *From these years, come the four great features which are particularly associated with the region.*

- **Round Towers** - unique and distinctive, they evolved in the 11<sup>th</sup> C. due to the lack and supply of large local building stone.
- **Hammerbeam Roofs** - wide, brave and ornate, and sometimes strewn with angels. Just lay on the floor and look up!
- **Flint Flushwork** - beautiful patterns made by splitting flints to expose a hard, shiny surface, and then setting them in the wall. Often it is used to decorate towers, porches and parapets.
- **Seven Sacrament Fonts** - ancient and splendid, with each panel illustrating in turn Baptism, Confirmation, Mass, Penance, Extreme Unction, Ordination and Matrimony.

## Bedfordshire

**Amphill** - tomb of Richard Nicholls (first governor of Long Island USA), including cannonball which killed him.

**Bedford** (*Bunyan Meeting Free Church*) - on site where John Bunyan once preached. Windows depict scenes from 'The Pilgrim's Progress'.

**Bletsoe** - beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> C. alabaster monument to Sir John St. John.

**Campton** - 17<sup>th</sup> C. Osborn family chapel of Chicksands Priory.

**Cardington** - ensign of R101 airship, which crashed on maiden trip.

**Chalgrave** - isolated, with fine collection of 13-15<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings.

**Cockayne Hatley** - grave of poet William Ernest Henley, inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Long John Silver' in Treasure Island.

**Dunstable** - surviving part of Augustinian priory (c.1131). Scene of the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage to Katherine of Aragon.

**Elstow** - once part of Benedictine nunnery. Detached tower. Stained glass windows to preacher John Bunyan who was christened here.

**Felmersham** - finest Early English church in county. Arcaded west front, massive central tower and 15<sup>th</sup> C. oak screen.

**Flitton** - mausoleum (sculptured 16-19<sup>th</sup> C. tombs) of de Grey family who lived at nearby Wrest Park.

**Harlington** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. roof with corbels, some showing dragons.

**Henlow** - Victorian stained glass and Pilgrim Fathers connections.  
**Houghton Conquest** - largest village church in county. Dates from early 14<sup>th</sup> C. Magnificent font.  
**Hulcote** - fine example of small Elizabethan country church.  
**Keysoe** - inscription tells how in 1718, William Dickins fell from the top of the 14<sup>th</sup> C. tower/spire, but survived for another 41 years.  
**Knotting** - limestone tower, zig zag arch and churchyard cross.  
**Leighton Buzzard** - tall spire, painted angels, England's oldest wooden eagle lectern (13<sup>th</sup> C.) and medieval graffiti.  
**Luton** (*St. Mary's*) - chequered flint/limestone facade. One of the finest double arch stone screens in Europe.  
**Marston Moreteyne** - unusual detached tower and doom painting.  
**Milton** - window to Joseph Paxton, designer of the Crystal Palace.  
  
**Oakley** - set beside river. Fine screens and base of preaching cross.  
**Odell** - memorial to Lt. Col. V.C. Richmond, R101 airship designer.  
**Old Warden** - Belgian woodwork collected by Lord Ongley from 1841.  
**Pavenham** - splendid, with county's best green man corbel, many carved heads, uneven floors and Jacobean woodcarvings.  
**Potton** - gravestones date from 1690, carved with skulls and angels.  
**Shelton** - fine medieval church. Wall paintings and 14<sup>th</sup> C. font.  
**Southill** - tomb of Admiral Sir John Byng, shot on his ship in 1757.  
**Stevington** - Saxon origins, carved bench ends and Holy Well.  
**Sutton** - corbels include a dragon and a harp playing cat. Barrel organ.  
**Toddington** - angel roof and frieze showing 16<sup>th</sup> C. animals.  
**Turvey** - 13<sup>th</sup> C. door ironwork and wall painting of the Crucifixion.

## Cambridgeshire

**Barnack** - built of locally quarried stone. 15<sup>th</sup> C. Lady Chapel.  
**Barton** - aisleless church, fine oak screen and wall paintings.  
**Bottisham** - 13<sup>th</sup> C. porch, Georgian woodwork and stone screen.  
**Buckden** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. with memorials to three Bishops of Lincoln.  
**Burwell** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. built of local clunch stone. Roof carvings of elephants and mass grave of those who perished in an 18<sup>th</sup> C. fire.  
**Cambridge** - *see bottom of this section.*  
**Castor** - contains rare wall paintings of St. Catherine's martyrdom.  
**Doddington** - ancient oak roof decorated with angels.  
**Duxford** - central tower. Fine Norman crossing and wall paintings.  
**Elm** - turreted tower, double hammerbeam roof and box pews.  
**Etton** - boundary wall capped with medieval coffin lids.  
  
**Friday Street** - noted for leaning tower, caused by land shrinkage.  
**Great Paxton** - rare cruciform Saxon church dating from 11<sup>th</sup> C.  
**Great Shelford** - amazing Doom painting over chancel arch.  
**Helpston** - 19<sup>th</sup> C. peasant's son and poet John Clare buried here.  
**Huntingdon** (*All Saints' Church*) - contains the family burial vault of the Cromwell family, including the father of the great Oliver Cromwell.  
**Ickleton** - 11<sup>th</sup> C. columns, rood screen and wall paintings.  
**Isleham** - splendid 15<sup>th</sup> C. roof adorned with angels, ancient lychgate (one of best in country) and medieval bench-ends.  
**Kimbolton** - painted medieval screen, Tiffany window and monuments to Dukes of Manchester, owners of the castle.  
**Leverington** - impressive tower (with later spire). Two-storey decorated south porch and 15<sup>th</sup> C. stained glass Jesse Window.  
**Little Downham** - beautiful Norman doorway. Carvings include a boy sticking out his tongue. Britain's largest Royal coat of arms.  
**Little Gidding** - scene of a religious community set up by Nicholas Ferrar here in 1626. Fine panelling and brasswork.

**Long Stanton** - double bell-cote, thatched roof and 13<sup>th</sup> C. piscina.  
**March** - handsome spire and Britain's most outstanding double hammerbeam roof with 120 carved angels (their wings widespread).  
**Peakirk** - only British church dedicated to St. Pega. Rare lectern.  
**Ramsey** - dates from 1180. Originally a hospital or guesthouse for former abbey. Remarkable 12<sup>th</sup> C. nave.  
**St. Ives** - one of only four surviving bridge chapels in the country, built of Barnack limestone in around 1426.  
**Snailwell** - 12<sup>th</sup> C. round tower, hammerbeam roof and old font.  
**Soham** - pinnacled tower, with monkey on North Transept. Angel roof, ancient stone altar and bench ends.  
**Sutton** - 'pepperpot' tower. Built by two Bishops of Ely. Vaulted roof with carvings (angels, animals and men sticking out their tongues).  
**Swaffham Bulbeck** - superb decorated seats and carved benches.  
**Swaffham Prior** - two churches sharing same churchyard. Result of squire and townsfolk disagreeing.  
**Thorney** - once part of 10<sup>th</sup> C. monastery. Turreted west front and window depicting St. Thomas Becket.  
**Trumpington** - tomb chest with England's second oldest brass (c.1289) - showing Roger de Trumpington.  
**Westley Waterless** - early brass (c.1325) depicts a married couple.  
**Whittlesey** - the county's finest spire (mid 15<sup>th</sup> C.) Monument to 19<sup>th</sup> C. local hero, Sir Harry Smith, one of Wellington's generals.  
**Whittlesford** - fine Norman tower and wall paintings.  
**Willingham** - angel roof, wall paintings and painted screen.  
**Wimblington** - interesting stained glass windows and squat steeple.

## Cambridge

*St. Andrew the Great* - 19<sup>th</sup> C. with memorial to Captain James Cook.  
*St. Benet* - oldest in city. 11<sup>th</sup> C. tower, coffin stool and fire hook.  
*St. Edward King and Martyr* - 16<sup>th</sup> C. oak pulpit and 12<sup>th</sup> C. tower.  
*Holy Sepulchre* - one of five surviving round churches in England.  
*Great St. Mary's* - University church where degree ceremonies once held. Chime of clock copied for Big Ben. Datum distance point.  
*St. Mary the Less* - 14<sup>th</sup> C. with memorial to great uncle of George Washington. Wildlife churchyard.

## Essex

**Birdbrook** - memorials to Martha Blewit (died 1681) who had nine husbands; and Robert Hogan (died 1739) who had seven wives.  
**Bradfield** - memorial to Mr Edwin Harris Dunning, the first officer to land an aircraft onto the deck of a moving ship in 1917.  
**Bradwell-Juxta-Coggeshall** - Norman door and 14<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings of national importance.  
**Bradwell-on-Sea** - England's oldest Saxon church (654AD). Built by St. Cedd, using stone from Roman fort.  
**Brightlingsea** - ceramic wall tiles commemorating lives lost at sea.  
**Broxted** - stained glass windows commemorating the captivity and release of the Beirut hostages John McCarthy and Terry Waite.  
**Castle Hedingham** - complete late Norman church. Three massive doorways, carved misericords and double hammerbeam roof.  
**Chickney** - pre-conquest church. Brick floors and king post roof.  
**Copford** - contains some of England's earliest wall paintings (c.1150).  
**Danbury** - wooden knight effigies and carved pews depicting animals.  
**Dedham** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. rebuilt by local wool merchants. Appears in artist John Constable's paintings. Fine corbels and carvings.

**East Horndon** - Anne Boleyn's heart is reputedly buried here.  
**Felsted** - monument to Richard Rich, first Baron of Leighs. Said to be the most 'evil man in Essex'. Became Lord Chancellor in 1548.  
**Finchingfield** - memorial to William Kempe, who wrongly accused his wife of unfaithfulness and took a vow of silence for seven years.  
**Gestingthorpe** - memorial to Captain Oates, who was part of Scott's 1912 expedition to the South Pole.  
**Great Bardfield** - one of Europe's three medieval stone screens.

**Great Burstead** - 14<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings. A former church warden was Christopher Martin who led The Pilgrim Fathers to the USA.

**Great Warley** - early 20<sup>th</sup> C. Art Nouveau style (marble and glass).

**Greensted** - world's oldest wooden church (stave built), using spilt tree trunks which date from before 1013.

**Hadstock** - probably England's oldest door (11<sup>th</sup> C.), once covered with the flayed skin of a Dane.

**Harwich** - rebuilt in 1821. 17<sup>th</sup> C. tiles and Naval memorials.

**Hempstead** - tomb of William Harvey (discovered blood circulation).

**Henham** - fine screen, wall paintings and tales of 17<sup>th</sup> C. dragon.

**Ingatestone** - once part of priory. Pagoda-style wooden tower.

**Kelvedon** - 'Felix' is the only tortoise to be depicted in stained glass.

**Langham** - secret meeting place for artist John Constable and his bride-to-be Maria Bicknell. He also regularly painted from tower.

**Little Baddow** - 600 year old wooden effigies on two tomb chests.

**Little Braxted** - lavish 'William Morris' style decoration (late 19<sup>th</sup> C).

**Little Dunmow** - home of original Fitch chair used in famous trials.

**Little Easton** - superb 12<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings and memorial windows to USAAF 386<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group.

**Little Maplestead** - one of only five remaining round churches.

**Little Tey** - superb 13/14<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings. Many Norman features.

**Little Totham** - wooden tower and England's oldest door.

**Maldon** - unique triangular tower. Window commemorates George Washington's great, great, grandfather who is buried in graveyard.

**Manuden** - monument to Sir William Waad, a former Lieutenant of the Tower of London. Superb screen.

**Margaretting** - 12<sup>th</sup> C. with fine woodwork and rare Jesse window.

**Rivenhall** - almost intact Anglo-Saxon church, on earthworks of former Roman villa. Some of England's oldest stained glass (c.1170).

**Saffron Walden** - Essex's largest parish church. Built from wool trade wealth. Tomb of Thomas, Lord Audley and Lord Chancellor.

**Stansted Mountfitchet** - knight effigy (c.1300), probably Richard de Mountfitchet who built 12<sup>th</sup> C. castle.

**Steeple Bumpstead** - plaque to nurse Edith Cavell (executed by the Germans in the Second World War), a former nanny at vicarage.

**Thaxted** - superb tower, spire, battlements and flying buttresses.

**Tilty** - once part of abbey. Fine east window and wall paintings.

**Tollesbury** - windows depict association with sea. Swearing font.

**Tolleshunt Knights** - dates from 12<sup>th</sup> C. Now part of Greek Orthodox Monastery.

**Waltham Abbey** - Norman church (once part of abbey), reputed site of King Harold's tomb. 14<sup>th</sup> C. Lady Chapel.

**Willingale** - two ancient churches in one churchyard.

**Wormingford** - glass tells of local dragon story. Norman tower.

**Wrabness** - towerless church, with bells housed in a wooden cage.

## Hertfordshire

**Abbots Langley** - tablet to only English Pope, Nicholas Breakspear.

**Aldenham** - 13<sup>th</sup> C. Lady Chapel and tomb of Crowmer ladies.

**Anstey** - incorporates stone from former castle. Norman font decorated with merman. Medieval graffiti and 15<sup>th</sup> C. lychgate.

**Ashwell** - medieval graffiti, including drawing of the old St. Paul's Cathedral, burnt down in the Great Fire of London.

**Ayot St. Lawrence** - constructed by the lord of the manor, Sir Lionel Lyde in 1778-9. Unusual Palladian-style with two pavilions.

**Braughing** - large, with imposing spire. County's oldest bell.

**Brent Pelham** - 11<sup>th</sup> C. tomb of the dragon slayer, Piers Shonk. It depicts a cross, driven like a spear through the beast's jaws.

**Buntingford** - earliest purpose-built Anglican church in country made of brick. Tiny brass memorial to rector.

**Codicote** - woodcarving of little beast, said to represent the devil. Wooden grave rail to a man buried twice, a victim of body-snatchers.

**Cottered** - aisleless 14<sup>th</sup> C. church. Wall painting of St. Christopher  
**Essendon** - Reverend Richard Orme was so fearful of being buried alive that he had his tomb built above the ground, complete with door.  
**Flamstead** - Norman tower/nave. Rich wall paintings and graffiti.  
**Furneux Pelham** - windows by Morris/Burne-Jones. Unusual inscription on tower clock "Time flies. Mind your business".  
**Hitchin** - built from medieval wool trade wealth. Fine porch.  
**Hunsdon** - unusual brass to James Gray, featuring a skeleton.  
**Kings Langley** - early 17<sup>th</sup> C. carved pulpit. Tomb chest of Edmund de Langley, a son of Edward III (and the first Duke of York).  
**Kings Warden** - William Morris glass and medieval graffiti (jester).  
**Little Hadham** - memorial to Lord Capel (a royalist) executed for his loyalty to King Charles I in 1649.  
**Little Hormead** - superb Norman door with 12<sup>th</sup> C. iron decoration.  
**Meesden** - isolated in woodland. Brick porch and mosaic pavement.  
**Much Hadham** - two head stops by sculptor Henry Moore.

**Northchurch** - brass memorial to Peter the Wild Boy. He was found in 1725 living in a wood in Germany, then later brought to England.  
**St. Ippollitts** - church uniquely dedicated to St. Hippolytus, patron saint of horses. Animal shown on lectern.  
**St. Paul's Walden** - tablet commemorating the baptism of the late Queen Mother here in 1900. Her childhood home was nearby.  
**Sawbridgeworth** - rare puddingstone in tower. Noted for brasses.  
**Standon** - detached tower. Memorial to Sir Ralph Sadleir, custodian of Mary Queen of Scots.  
**Stanstead Abbots** - former parish church until 1882. 15<sup>th</sup> C. timber porch, Georgian high box pews and three-decker pulpit.  
**Tewin** - tomb of Lady Anne Grimston. She denied god in her lifetime, and as she lay dying, expressed the wish that, if it was true, trees might spring from her grave. Today trees grow through her tomb.  
**Therfield** - mysterious 14<sup>th</sup> C. stone depicting a tiny bearded man.  
**Throcking** - tower has 13<sup>th</sup> C. flint at bottom, brick at top.  
**Walkern** - Saxon, with effigy of 13<sup>th</sup> C. knight in Purbeck marble.  
**Wallington** - rustic-style benches. George Orwell was married here.  
**Waterford** - Victorian treasure house, with handsome organ and William Morris stained glass.  
**Weston** - hammerbeam roof and grave of giant Jack O'Legs.

## Norfolk

**Attleborough** - fine mural and best rood screen in county.  
**Aylsham** - gardener Humphry Repton (1752-1818) is buried here.  
**Baconsthorpe** - Heydon family monuments. Shield with three pigs.  
**Barton Bendish** - thatched. One of Britain's best Norman doorways.  
**Barton Turf** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. chancel depicts rare 'Nine Orders of Angels'.  
**Beachamwell** - thatched with Saxon round tower. Graffiti of devil.  
**Beeston** - fine spire, hammerbeam roof and medieval screens. Memorial to local world champion boxer Jem Mace.  
**Booton** - elaborate gothic church by 19<sup>th</sup> C. rector. Pinnacled towers.  
**Breckles** - circular stone of 17<sup>th</sup> C. lady who was buried upright.  
**Bressingham** - eight-window flint/stone clerestory. Fine carvings.  
**Burgh St. Peter** - curious tower, built in four brick cubes of decreasing size (like a pile of building blocks).  
**Burnham Deepdale** - round tower and font showing farming tasks.  
**Burnham Thorpe** - relics of Lord Nelson, who was baptised here.

**Castle Acre** - vividly painted 'wine glass' pulpit and rood screen.  
**Cawston** - superb, with angel roof, 16<sup>th</sup> C. painted screen and walls.  
**Cley** - ruin of south transept. Fine carving (imp, dragon and lion).  
**Cromer** - county's tallest tower. Memorials to the town's fishermen.  
**East Harling** - probably county's best tower. Superb 15<sup>th</sup> C. glass.  
**East Lexham** - oldest round tower in Britain, dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> C.

**Emneth** - former rector was creator of 'Thomas the Tank Engine'.  
**Felbrigg** - ancient brass to Knights of the Garter.  
**Forncect St. Peter** - Saxon round tower and superb carved bench ends, including sentry box with figure.  
**Fritton** - thatched with wall paintings and rare three-decker pulpit.  
**Gissing** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. double hammerbeam roof with many angels.  
**Gooderstone** - Norman tower and complete set of 15<sup>th</sup> C. benches.  
**Great Dunham** - one of Norfolk's most complete Saxon churches.  
**Great Hockham** - set on the forest edge, with ancient wall paintings.  
**Great Yarmouth (St. Nicholas)** - largest parish church in England.  
**Haddiscoe** - probably finest of all round towers, dating from 1100.  
**Hales** - excellent Norman doorways, 15<sup>th</sup> C. font and thatched roof.  
**Heacham** - memorial to Native American princess Pocahontas.  
**Heckingham** - mainly Norman, with one of Britain's best south doors.  
**Hilgay** - tombstone of George William Manby, which shows his mortar invention. This could fire a rocket with a line attached.  
**Horning** - 'Jaws of Hell', with a sinner pushed into a dragon's mouth.  
**Houghton-on-the-Hill** - late 10<sup>th</sup>/early 11<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings, including Garden of Eden.  
**King's Lynn (St. Margaret's)** - twin Norman towers, important brasses, 17<sup>th</sup> C. moon clock and high water (flood) marks.  
**Little Barningham** - weird pew with upright carved wooden skeleton.  
**Little Snoring** - one of only two detached round towers.  
**Ludham** - one of Norfolk's finest rood screens showing ten saints.  
**Martham** - 18<sup>th</sup> C. memorial telling sad tale of family incest.

**Norwich** - see *bottom of this section*.

**Oxborough** - nave destroyed by fallen tower. Terracotta tombs.  
**Ranworth** - 'Cathedral of the Broads'. Superb views from tower. One of the finest painted rood screens in the country.  
**Reepham** - unique example of three churches in same churchyard.  
**Ringland** - breathtaking Norwich School glass and ironbound door.  
**Roughton** - good example of round tower showing Saxon origins.  
**Salle** - gem of Norfolk churches. Angel roof, seven sacrament font and reputed burial place of Anne Boleyn.  
**Saxlingham Nethergate** - earliest collection of Norwich glass.  
**Shelton** - as a child, the future Elizabeth I took refuge here after her mother Anne Boleyn was executed. Fine 15<sup>th</sup> C. stained glass.  
**Somerton** - tomb of Robert Hales, once Europe's tallest man.  
**South Burlingham** - thatched, with finest 15<sup>th</sup> C. pulpit in county.  
**South Lopham** - Norfolk's finest Norman tower. Carved elephant.  
**Stow Bardolph** - wax effigy (in cupboard) of Sarah Hare, who died in 1744 after pricking her finger whilst sewing on a Sunday.  
**Swaffham** - hammerbeam roof with 200 angels. Effigy of famous Pedlar of Swaffham, with his wife and dog.

**Terrington St. Clement** - Cathedral of the Marshes. Breathtaking font cover opens to show bible scenes. Detached tower.  
**Tilney All Saints** - massive tower and spire. Hammerbeam angel roof. Grave of local giant Tom Hickathift.  
**Tittleshall** - 14<sup>th</sup> C. monuments to Coke (Earls of Leicester) family.  
**Trunch** - superb carved font canopy, one of only four in England.  
**Upwell** - angel roof from Dorothy L. Sayers novel 'The Nine Tailors'.  
**Walpole St. Peter** - one of Britain's best. Dates from 14<sup>th</sup> C. Vaulted roof with colourful bosses, carved benches and painted screen.  
**Walsoken** - fine Norman features. Hammerbeam roof, carved stalls and 450 year old Seven Sacraments font.  
**West Walton** - one of the finest Early English churches, built around 1240. Superb detached tower, wall paintings and hammerbeam roof.  
**The Wiggenhalls** - three churches, with two noted for some of England's best carved bench ends  
**Woodton** - round tower. Memorial to Lord Nelson's great grandmother.  
**Worstead** - funded by medieval wool industry. Loom and fine screen.  
**Wymondham** - rare two towered church (built in 1107), the result of a disagreement between the townsfolk and monks of former abbey.

## Norwich

*St. Andrew's* - flint tower. Suckling Chapel with fine monuments.

*St. Giles* - tallest tower in city. Hammerbeam roof and fan vault porch.

*St. Julian* - site of the cell of 14<sup>th</sup> C. Mother Julian of Norwich.

*Octagon Chapel* - fine 18<sup>th</sup> C. brick building with elegant portico.

*St. Peter Mancroft* - 15<sup>th</sup> C. with Flemish tapestry, medieval glass and memorial to Thomas Browne.

## Suffolk

**Acton** - England's oldest brass monument (Robert de Bures c.1302).

**Aldeburgh** - grave/memorial window of composer Benjamin Britten.

**Barningham** - fine rood screen and carved benches with monsters.

**Barsham** - Saxon flint round tower and thatched roof. Fine benches.

**Blundeston** - round tower. Featured in the Charles Dickens novel 'David Copperfield'.

**Blythburgh** - superb flushwork, angel roof, carvings of Seven Deadly Sins, Jack of the Clock and scorch marks of devil dog Black Shuck.

**Boxford** - fine tower, timbered north porch and mural to Richard II.

**Bramfield** - one of only two detached round towers. Thatched nave, wall paintings and one of Suffolk's best carved rood screens.

**Bures** - contains ancient wooden effigy of knight.

**Bury St. Edmunds** (*St. Mary's*) - Suffolk's largest medieval church. Superb angel roof. Henry VIII's sister is buried here.

**Clare** - beautiful church of lovely proportions. Fine details and glass.

**Covehithe** - 14<sup>th</sup> C. church was too big to maintain, so it was partly dismantled, and a small thatched replacement built within its nave.

**Dennington** - fantastic medieval carved benches, one featuring the legendary Sciapod creature (the only example in an English church).

**Denston** - rich treasure house, with carved frieze and benches (look for the crane). Fan vaulting in south porch. Seven sacrament font.

**Earl Soham** - Suffolk's best single hammerbeam roof. Bible scenes depicted on walls. Triple hour glass.

**East Bergholt** - unfinished tower, so bells in 16<sup>th</sup> C. wooden cage. Sketch by John Constable. His parents are buried in the churchyard.

**Euston** - rebuilt 1676 in classical-style with rich decoration. Ten Dukes of Grafton are buried here.

**Eye** - majestic church with flushwork tower and carved/gilded screen.

**Framlingham** - hammerbeam roof, 17<sup>th</sup> C. organ and magnificent 16<sup>th</sup> C. tombs of powerful Howard family, Dukes of Norfolk.

**Fressingfield** - one of the best flushwork porches, single hammerbeam roof, and bench ends with heraldry and figures.

**Gisleham** - Norman round tower, wall paintings and 15<sup>th</sup> C. porch.

**Gislingham** - double hammerbeam roof and three decker pulpit.

**Groton** - memorials to Winthrop family. John Winthrop was one of the early US settlers, later becoming first Governor of Massachusetts.

**Hadleigh** - longest church in county. Medieval spire. Bench end shows St. Edmund's head with wolf.

**Hawkedon** - scratch dial, Norman font and bench ends, including one with three heads of men with flowing moustaches.

**Herringfleet** - thatched, with round tower and good stained glass.

**Huntingfield** - remarkable medieval hammerbeam angel roof.

**Icklingham** - unspoilt treasure house of medieval work. Thatched with rare early tiled sanctuary floor.

**Iken** - isolated, overlooking estuary. Flint tower and Saxon cross.

**Ipswich** - *see bottom of this section.*

**Kedington** - Barnardiston family monuments, Jacobean pulpit with wig post for parson, superb wood carvings and medieval graffiti.

**Lakenheath** - hammerbeam roof with angels (wings outspread). Wall paintings, carved bench ends and superb 13<sup>th</sup> C. font.

**Lavenham** - outstanding 15<sup>th</sup> C. late Perpendicular, funded by wool trade. Knapped flint/stone tower. Richly carved screens.

**Little Saxham** - fine Norman round tower. Charles II's pew.  
**Long Melford** - one of the best. Superb flushwork and Lady Chapel. Funded by wool trade. Rabbit and Alice in Wonderland windows.  
**Lound** - known as 'golden church' with much gold leaf decoration.  
**Mendlesham** - porch has been the town's armoury since 1593.  
**Mildenhall** - beautiful roofs adorned with angels. Massive tower.  
**Mutford** - 14<sup>th</sup> C. only Norman church tower with Galilee porch.  
**Nayland** - contains altarpiece (c.1809) by artist John Constable.  
**Needham Market** - outstanding hammerbeam angel roof.  
**Parham** - fascinating graffiti of medieval ships in tower archway.  
**Polstead** - old English bricks. Suffolk's only medieval stone spire.  
**Ramsholt** - 11<sup>th</sup> C. oval tower. Smugglers gravestones.

**Sapiston** - amazing Norman doorway with medieval head. Scissor-beam roof and wall paintings.  
**Shelland** - one of only four English churches dedicated to King Charles I. Wooden wig pegs and barrel organ.  
**South Elmham** - round tower, 13<sup>th</sup> C. font and medieval benches.  
**Southwold** - large with excellent flushwork. Angel roof, painted screens and Southwold Jack (15th C. figure).  
**Stoke-by-Nayland** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. cloth church. Superb tower. Brasses of important Tendring and Howard families.  
**Stowlangtoft** - dates from late 14<sup>th</sup> C. Flemish carvings flank altarpiece. Superb bench ends and misericords.  
**Thornham Magna** - rare thatched tower, superb early 14<sup>th</sup> C. painted retable and wall paintings depicting legend of St. Edmund.  
**Ufford** - outstanding 15<sup>th</sup> C. font cover, rising 18 feet (5 metres).  
**Walpole** - fine nonconformist chapel converted from house in 17<sup>th</sup> C.  
**Walsham Le Willows** - mainly 15<sup>th</sup> C. with flint-chequered north porch. Terracotta reredos and maiden's garland (1615).  
**Wenhaston** - doom painting (c.1500) depicting Last Judgement.  
**Wingfield** - magnificent tombs, including one with wooden effigies.  
**Woodbridge** - 15<sup>th</sup> C. flushwork tower and porch. Tomb of Thomas Seckford, Tudor statesman and local benefactor.  
**Woolpit** - superb double hammerbeam roof. Fine 15<sup>th</sup> C. south porch and many woodcarvings (animals).  
**Wortham** - England's largest Norman round tower (top missing).

#### Ipswich

*St. Margaret's* - superb 15<sup>th</sup> C. double hammerbeam roof.  
*Unitarian Meeting House* - 17<sup>th</sup> C. early nonconformist chapel. Timbered interior with box pews and gallery.



visiteastofengland.com

PLEASE NOTE: No part of this information sheet may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.