

The Friends  
of  
Holy Trinity Church  
Ingham



Find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurch.ingham>

Or

[www.inghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.inghamvillage.co.uk)

# The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity Ingham.

## A Brief History

The Founding church in England of the Order of the  
Trinitarian Brothers.

A Historically Significant Church.

'For those with eyes to see, all England's history is in its walls'

In 1360 Sir Miles Stapleton and his wife Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Oliver de Ingham, founded a house for the friars of The Holy Trinity,

'The Trinitarians', at Ingham. A church did exist there from earlier times and the village was recorded as Hincham in the Domesday Book.

Sir Miles was granted a licence to rebuild the church and the body of the church was completed in the years leading up to 1360. Oliver de Ingham died in 1343 and his body lies in the founders position in the chancel to the North of the Altar.

The main object of the Trinitarians was the redemption of captives particularly those taken prisoner during the crusades.

By the time they came to Ingham the crusades had already had their day. The order never became important in this country and Ingham, despite its small size soon became the Mother House of the few houses established in England. When The Friary was set up it consisted of a Prior, a Sacristan who also acted as vicar of the parish and two more brethren. It did expand to include six Canons in the ensuing years. Today the Trinitarian order exists in houses in France and USA.

The Friary buildings were to the North of the church and some remains can be seen in the cloister arches, adjacent to the North nave and in the foundations of the Swan Inn.

By 1560 when Sir Thomas Cromwell's men came to Ingham it had ceased to function and so did not need to be suppressed. Legend has it that the brothers with the church plate had left for

St Bennet's abbey on the broads.

The imposing tower is over 100 feet tall. It was completed in the late 1400's when money was still being left towards its completion. It is recorded that in 1488 rector of the neighbouring Parish of Sutton left 6s 8d towards it.

It is topped by a stepped parapet that was added in 1533 .

An East Anglican feature no doubt derived from the churches in the South of France seen by pilgrims en route to Compostella.

It is said that during World War II Ingham and Happisburgh church towers were markers that guided pilots back to their East Anglian airfields. 'See those towers, through between them and nearly home'.

In 1440 the South porch was built. Possibly to be used as a formal gatehouse to the friary. It has three stories and the ground floor has a fine arched ceiling. There are only six other three story medieval church porches in Britain. This now serves as the main entrance to the church.

The large nave was constructed to serve as a Parish church, the Chancel was for the priory. Because of the proximity of the priory to the North there are no windows on that side of the Nave. There are a bricked up doorway and bricked up windows on that side. In the 1600's the church existed as a parish Church. One of the Stapleton daughters married into the Fellbrig family though records do not seem to exist. There is a brass plaque in the chancel recording the Stapleton family at this time and showing the Fellbrig link.

Above the west door there is a frieze of shields. There can be seen the leopard heads for Miles Stapleton and his wife Joan. In the shield to the north is the same shield impaling two rampant lions. It is not clear whose shield this was as the Stapletons had no male heirs.

In the 1700's there is evidence of a church in decline with bricked up windows, even the great West window was filled with clay..

By the early 1800's the church was almost derelict. Its thatched roof was collapsing and the record of services at that time was destroyed in a mysterious fire at the old Vicarage where the body of the incumbent was found. There was no record of church plate or churchwardens.

Then came the Victorian church revival. In 1833 it began with the raising of funds for the major task of restoration that was undertaken by Ewan Christian and J P Seddon and completed in 1876.

The damaged windows were repaired and reglazed and the remaining glass from the East window was put in the new clerestry openings giving welcome extra light to the church. Nave and chancel were reroofed.

The sedilia was practically rebuilt on the pattern of the largely original piscine that is part of the same composition. The medieval stalls were repaired and the pitchpine pews were installed in the nave though some of the old oak poppy headed benches were retained..

The floor was retiled in a pleasing pattern.

The new pulpit made of caen stone and the intricately carved wooden eagle lectern were designed by Seddon. Finally the children of the parish raised £60, no mean feat considering the money values of the time, for the font to be raised on its green and red Purbeck marble pillars on top of a stone platform.

Seddon's and Christians work no doubt saved the church from ruin and the fact that despite the extensive work done it still appears a medieval rather than Victorian building is a tribute to their sensitivity.

A visit to this lovely church is highly recommended. It is open 365 days a year from 9 till dusk.

There is a weekly service at 9.15 each Sunday.

Please see the website for details.

CM McClean

## The aim of "Friends"

All monies raised by Friends will only be used on the buildings and the churchyard and not for the day to day running of the church. Therefore, people who do not come to worship regularly may be prepared to support "Friends" fund raising Events to keep our parish Church at the heart of our community for all at times of joy or sorrow and as a quiet reflective place open to all in the midst of our busy lives.

Why not become a Friend (for as little as £1.00 per month) and help us preserve this historic building for our own and future generations.

## Frequently asked Questions

Q. Is it a charity ?

A. No it is under the umbrella of the PCC to aid administration.

Q. What is the purpose of the Friends Scheme?

A. To support the congregation in the funding of essential maintenance work on the fabric of the old building and churchyard.

Q. Will any money donated or raised by 'The Friends' be used for the day to day running of the church

A. No.

Q. Will it pay the Parish Share,

A. No, that is the responsibility of the congregation.

Q. Will the friends be doing fund raising events?

A. Yes to help keep the church at the heart of the community.

Q. How about a little collection box to keep at home for loose change.

A. Yes these will be available in church and from Steve.

Q. Will I be able to Gift Aid any donation?

A. Yes. Be sure to indicate on your application form.

Q. Why not Join up and help us to keep Holy Trinity Church Ingham as a heart of the community and help to preserve this historically significant church for our own and future generations.

A. Yes just contact Stephen Vaughan by email. [stephen8rodney@gmail.com](mailto:stephen8rodney@gmail.com)

OR call 01692 615501. If I'm not there please leave a name and number and I will return your call as soon as possible.

# The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Application form

**Full Name :**

---

**Address (including postcode):**

---

---

---

**Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:**

---

**Gift Aid**    Yes    No

Your information is important to us and will enable us to keep you up to date with news and events. It will be stored securely and not shared with any other body.

By signing this form you are confirming that you are consenting to the PCC of HOLY TRINITY CHURCH INGHAM holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes (please tick the boxes where you grant consent):-

I consent to the church contacting me by  Post  Phone  Email.

To keep me informed about  News  Events  Activities

Services at HOLY TRINITY CHURCH INGHAM

(note you can unsubscribe any time)

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Once again thank you very much for your own regular and committed giving.

If you would like to set up a standing order here is The Friends of Holy Trinity Church

Bank details. Sort code: 30-90-89 Account number: 29738568

Or We can Accept card payment on request

Where you do not grant consent we will not be able to use your personal data; (so for example we may not be able to let you know about forthcoming services and events); except in certain limited situations, such as where required to do so by law or to protect members of the public from serious harm. You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy Notice" which is available at back of Church.

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Friends Administrator at 1 Tithe Cottages Brumstead Road Stalham NR12 9DG or [stephen8rodney@gmail.com](mailto:stephen8rodney@gmail.com).

Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.