

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT.....? LITTLE GLEMHAM & IT'S CHURCH – AUGUST 2015
www.littleglemhampc.org.uk

Little Glemham is a small village with a population of around 190; it sits astride the A12 between Woodbridge and Saxmundham. The village has a church, pub and village room. There are no shops; the nearest being Wickham Market, Saxmundham or Framlingham. Southwold and Aldeburgh on the east coast, and Snape Maltings (Aldeburgh Music) are close by.

The church has about 12 people on the Electoral Roll and is well supported by them. There are 4 services a month – Holy Communion (BCP), Holy Communion (CW), Morning Prayer and Family. In addition, the Snape & Farnham Branch RBL holds an annual Carol Service and The Royal Naval Association an annual Trafalgar Day Service. The Rector is The Rev Mandy Reynolds, the Churchwarden Philip Hope-Cobbold and the Treasurer Jane Stanford. Fundraising events are held throughout the year. There is a Harvest Festival Service in the church and also a service in The Lion Inn when there is an auction of produce. We have a candlelit Carol Service in the church and a Christmas Party at the Hall - all these events are well attended by the village. The church is a popular wedding venue, situated on the edge of the park and close to the Hall. So, we're quite lively with a lot going on in a rural sort of way! Rod and June Clare are volunteers who keep the church and churchyard spick and span.

To get to St. Andrew's Church, turn off the A12 to the right, if coming from the south or left from the north and take the road towards Blaxhall. A short distance after leaving the village there is a track (Church Drive) through the fields to the left, leading to the church. The Earl of Guilford and Major Philip Hope-Cobbold are Patrons.

Outside the south porch is a glassed-in ancient statue of the Saint Andrew, to whom the building is dedicated. A more recent figure of Our Lord is over the doorway on the west side of the tower. The oldest part of the Grade 1 listed church is the Purbeck marble font, in which babies have been christened since the 13th century. The fine 15th century tower and a Norman doorway, on the north side of the Church, are also remains of an earlier building. The "Old Old Rectory", close to the church, is now two cottages – Old Church Cottages. The "Old Rectory" a Georgian mansion is just north of the village on the A12.

The family of Glemhams, who lived firstly in the old moated Manor House in the park from the 13th century and then in the "new" Elizabethan Hall from the middle of the 16th century until 1700, are commemorated in the brasses in the walls of the North Chapel. Sir Thomas Glemham was a Royalist supporter, and both he and his brother, Henry, who was Bishop of St Asaph, are buried here. In Sir Thomas's epitaph, are the words "This silly grave, these happy cynders hyde" reminding us that "silly" is an old Suffolk word (from the Anglo-Saxon 'Selig') for Holy.

After the Glemhams, the estate passed to the Norths (Earl of Guilford's family). In the North Memorial Chapel, is a marble statue of Dudley North, who is described in Arthur Mee's "Suffolk" as a man famous in his day, one of the organisers of the trial of Warren Hastings, a mourner at the funeral of Sir Joshua Reynolds and a pall bearer at the funeral of Edmund Burke. Beneath the Chapel is the North family vault, and the wall tablets are interesting for their descriptions of those buried there. The Cobbold brewing family moved into the Hall in 1923 – which is open to the public on certain days and holds many events, including Civil Marriage Ceremonies, Receptions, Festivals and Fairs.

The St. Andrew window on the north wall of the church, was given by parishioners and friends in memory of Edward Septimus King who died in 1925. He was rector of the two Glemhams, following his father. This window is the work of a local artist, Margaret Rope of Leiston. Also the work of Margaret Rope is the sculpture which stands in the Norman doorway, beneath the 18th century Commandment Table. This was restored in 2000. Other works to the tower and various windows were completed in the late 1990s, and under-pew heating was installed in 2002. Major repairs have recently been completed to the tune of £180,000 with an EH/HLF grant of £140,000 towards – so we had to find some £40,000! We are very grateful to the various grant giving bodies that have given us funds. Repairs are still needed to the southside gutters, downpipes and drains.

Local train stations are at Saxmundham and Wickham Market connecting to Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Norwich to the north and Ipswich, Colchester and London to the south. Good local schools are: Woodbridge School, Thomas Mills High School Framlingham, Framlingham College, Farlingaye High School Woodbridge, Benhall Primary School, Saxmundham Primary & Middle Schools, Saxmundham Free School.



St Andrew's Church

*THE PARISH OF
LITTLE GLEHAM, SUFFOLK*

Old English: Glem (happy, revelry, games) = ham (homestead, village, manor_(small))

Domesday Book 1086: Glaimham Parva – probably “a small enclosure, homestead or village noted for its revelry or games”.

*Modern English: Little (small + Glem (gleam (of humour), glimmer glisten, shine) + ham (town, village))
So, we come back to the beginning – “A small village noted for its gleam of Humour” or even “a shining example of a small village”!*

