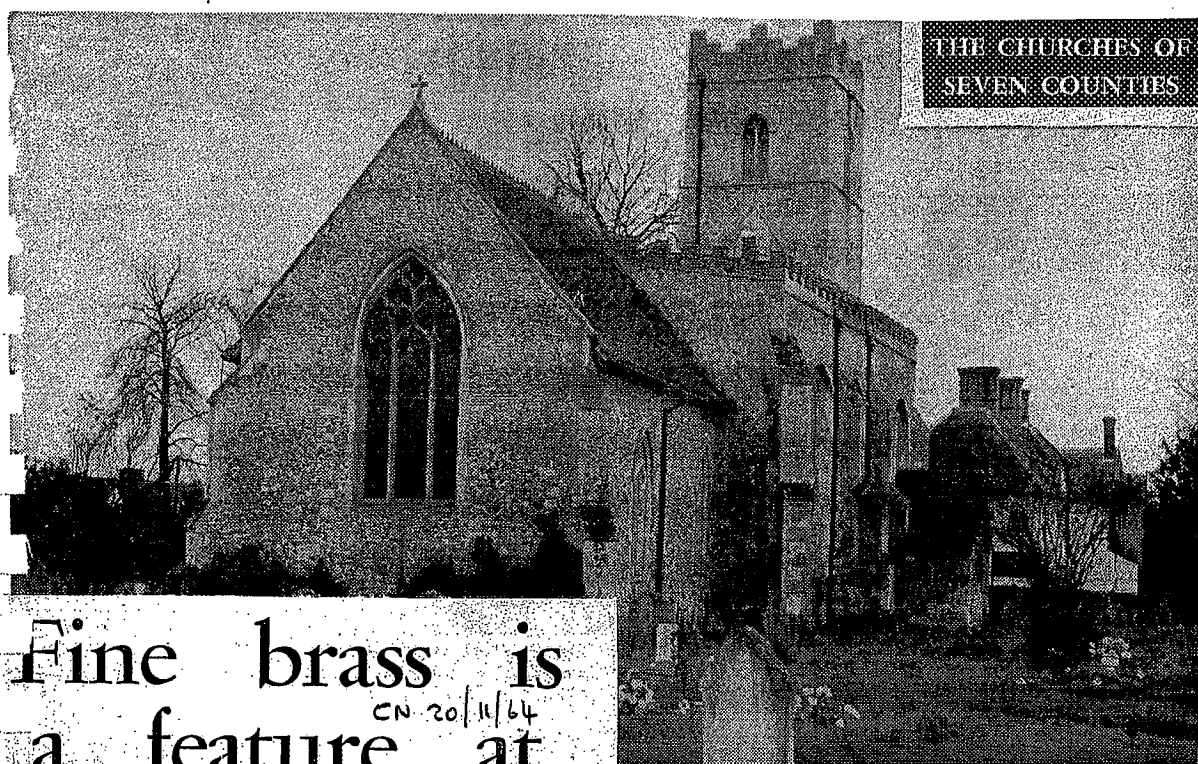


## **Press cuttings**



# Fine brass is a feature at Horseheath

CN 20/11/64

14TH CENTURY brass in the chancel floor at Horseheath Parish Church attracts brass rubbing enthusiasts from all parts of the country. It is believed to represent Sir John de Mentine, of Suffolk, who died in 1382.

The figure, more than 4 ft long and set in a Purbeck marble base, is a fine example of the well-perfected — so named — neck and shoulders, from the tippet of mail which

The inscription is now missing and originally there were two angels supporting the family arms.

There is a younger brass alongside but the head has been lost. The church once had several other brass memorials but unfortunately they have gone.

### Early man

The church, dedicated to All Saints, is on a site inhabited by man from very early times. Specimens of Neolithic man's craft have been found scattered over the fields in the parish.

It is thought that the first stone church in the village was built after the Norman Conquest. Pieces of the Barnack stone used then are now worked into the nave walls of the present church and distinguished by their characteristic zig-zag moulding. The church was drastically restored in the 14th century and given a decorated tower and chancel. The ground-plan then was much the same as it is today, but the roof was considerably lower and with fewer windows.

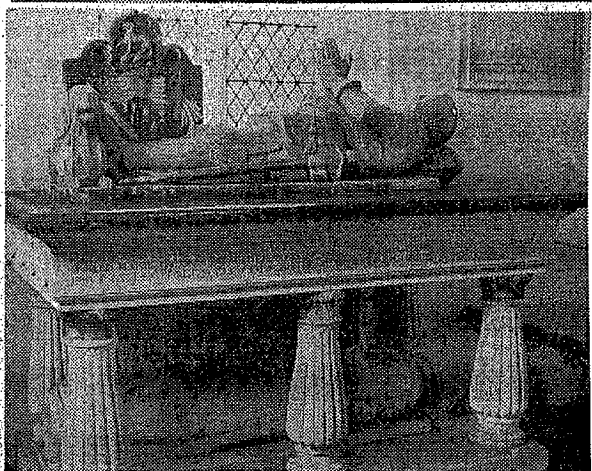
### Newel staircase

The tower has suffered less from restoration than any other part of the building. It has a newel staircase and some interesting gargoyles on the north and south faces.

It is strange to find a piscina in the South porch in the position of a holy water stoup. It is thought that originally it was in the Perpendicular nave when there might have been an altar on either side of the chancel arch.

There must have been wall paintings in the nave and painted glass in some of the windows, though now only small fragments of medieval glass are preserved.

The nave went through some heavy alterations in the 15th century and some of the early roof carvings are still left at the West end. The screen has weathered the 400 years and kept traces of red and white paint on the panels, which were once decorated by a floral design.



### Pictures destroyed

William Dowsing had Horseheath church on his list and destroyed a vast collection of pictures, but it was the 19th century restorers who took away much of the painted glass through good intentions.

A red bricked dormitory was added to the chancel and used as the village's first school, but it lasted only 100 years before being pulled down.

There are some imposing monuments in the chancel to local families. One from the 17th century has the kneeling figures of the children at the front with a son holding a skull to show he died before his parents.

Gillian Maltby

## INTO ACTION AT HORSEHEATH 1967

THE story behind a plaque on the churchyard wall at Horseheath is a little deeper than would at first appear. The plaque marks the spot where King George V and his generals had lunch by the roadside during military manoeuvres in the area in 1912.

But it was during these very manoeuvres that the military potential of the aeroplane first proved itself. Aeroplanes were used for the first time for observation purposes, immediately revealing preparations by both sides in exercises.

The manoeuvres had to be prematurely abandoned. However, memories of the occasion are brought back in an old photographic group, which has been presented to the Cambridge and County Folk Museum, by Mr. F. W. Kenworthy, managing director of Stearn and Sons, the photographic firm.

Among the personalities on the old print are King George V, Field Marshal Earl Roberts, Sir John Seeley, and Dr. Montague Butler, Master of Trinity.

4.12.1972

## HORSEHEATH RECTOR

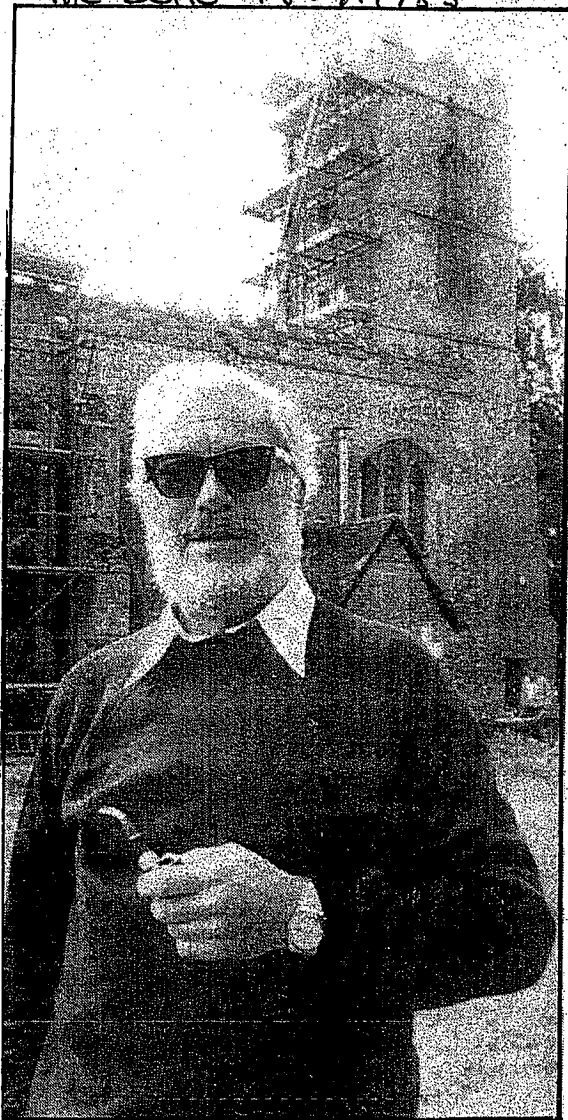
The Rev. Percy Wills, Rector of Tydd St. Giles, near Wisbech, has been appointed Rector of Horseheath, near Haverhill. He is expected to take up the appointment in the New Year.

Mr. Wills will replace the Rev. Gordon Johnson, who was Rector of Horseheath for seven years before taking up full-time charity work for Help the Needy. The village has been without a rector for a year.

The new rector, who is married and has a son and daughter, has been at Tydd St. Giles for nearly 10 years. Earlier he worked in the Manchester and Liverpool dioceses, having been ordained in Manchester in 1943.

# Work reveals the hidden secret of church window

THE GAZETTE 15.9.1983



Father Ryder outside Horseheath church, which is undergoing a facelift.

A BRICKED up window at Horseheath church has turned out to be a treasure trove of stone carvings.

As well as a perfectly preserved 17th century cartouche — a coat of arms — complete with original paint, workmen also found the figure of a boy with a bird, a broken figure of a bird, and part of a stone representation of the bible.

The finds have now been taken away for preservation work to be carried out on them by an expert conservator.

The priest in charge, Father Vivian Ryder, said the architects were "ever so excited" with the finds, which were revealed when workmen began unblocking the window as part of a £21,000 restoration project on the church.

## Major find

The cartouche is the major find because the plaster has perfectly preserved the original colouring, and Father Ryder is resigned to the possibility of the Victoria and Albert Museum wanting it when it has been treated.

The cartouche probably came from a tomb in the church, while the other items are thought to have fallen from the stone re-dedos, and were used as rubble when the window was blocked up in Victorian times.

As well as the unblocking, work is also being carried out to re-point the tower and battlements, and to replace a large window.

The church is still about £7,000 short of its target for the work, and Father Ryder said they would be glad to receive any help.

CEW NOTICE 17-10-1997

## CLOSURE OF THE CHURCHYARD OF ALL SAINTS, HORSEHEATH, CAMBRIDGE.

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, acting on an application by the Parochial Church Council to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in All Saints churchyard, Horseheath, Cambridge.

Provisions would be made for the following exceptions:-

a. in any earthen grave now existing in the said churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons heretofore buried in such grave, subject to the condition that no part of the coffin containing the body shall be at a depth less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave; and

b. in the said churchyard, in any grave space in which no interment has heretofore taken place, the burial may be allowed of the body of any person for whom or of any member of a family for which such grave space has been reserved and appropriated as a burial place, with the exclusive right of burial therein, subject to the condition that no part of the coffin containing the body shall be at depth less than one metre below the level surface of the ground adjoining the grave.

Any representations about the proposed closure should be sent to Room 972, the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (quoting reference BCR 95 13/2/105) within 21 days of this publication.

17.10.1997

*Commission grant of £3,025 means floodlighting can go ahead*

# Church will shine out at Millennium

CEN 21.7.1998

By JAMES NADIN

**HORSEHEATH:** The village church will be lit up for the year 2000 thanks to a £3,025 grant from the Millennium Commission.

All Saints' Church has been awarded a 45 per cent grant to help pay for floodlighting as part of a £2.2 million scheme which will see 400 churches around the country lit up for the historic celebrations in 17 months time.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and chairman of the commission, said: "The Millennium Commission is making sure National Lottery money is reaching the grassroots, where it can really make a difference to people's everyday lives.

"Our churches represent an important part of our culture and it is right that we should highlight them as we enter the third millennium.

"This scheme will help people appreciate these magnificent churches, which are part of our national heritage."

The church floodlighting scheme is one of 10 multi-site projects being supported by the commission, which is helping to fund projects including the creation of woodlands and open spaces and improving village and community halls.

Catherine Mary Dawson, All Saints' parochial church council treasurer, said: "We are very pleased indeed. They've given us 45 per cent and we've got to find the rest. We are hoping the whole village will join with us to raise the rest."