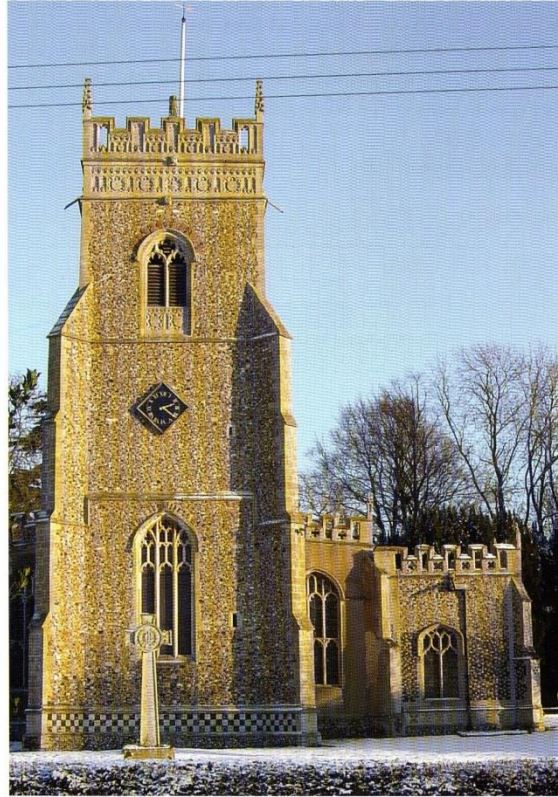
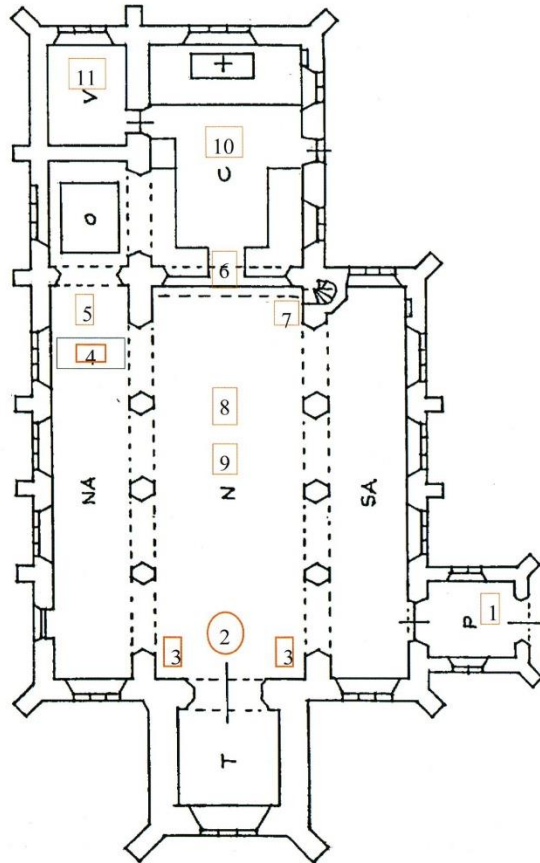


**St Ethelbert's Church,
Hessett, IP30 9AX**



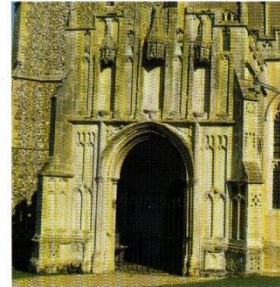
Welcome to Hessett Church.

Originally thatched and built in the 14th century. In the 15th century the Lord of the Manor, John Bacon, was the 'sheep reeve' for Bury Abbey and was responsible for greatly enlarging and ennobling the church. John Bacon's initials can be seen on the stone shields at the top of the tower. This work was designed by Simon Clerk, Master Mason for Bury Abbey, who lived in the village for 30 years.



1 Porch

The fine South porch, bearing the initials JB on the buttresses, was built in the early 16th century. The South face has magnificent stone carving with vaulted niches which used to support statues. Angel pinnacles decorate the corners. A well worn St. George and his dragon can be seen in the spandrels.



2 The Font

Designed for total immersion of infants. Made in 1451 in Norwich. The inscription around the base step tells us that it was donated by Robert and Agnes Hoo.



3 Sindon (Pyx Cloth) & Burse

Photographs of these unique mediaeval treasures are at the West end of the nave. The **pyx** is a veil used to cover the hanging pyx, containing the reserved sacrament which, in mediaeval times, was suspended above the high altar.



The **burse** is like a large envelope in which the bread for communion was kept. It was painted on one side with a picture of Our Lord, and on the other a representation of Jesus as the 'Lamb of God'.

4 The Chest

This vast iron bound parish chest was used to store valuables for the church and parish.



When Cromwell's men called the villagers gave them the 3 keys but not the iron bar necessary to gain access. As a result Hessett kept her mediaeval treasurers (pyx cloth and burse) which are now in the British Museum.

5 Royal Arms of Charles II & The Clock

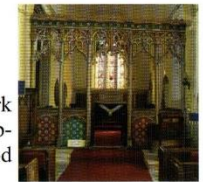
The Heraldic Arms were appropriately modified when Queen Anne came to the throne but have been altered back to their original design. They were originally displayed above the Chancel Arch.



Beneath the Arms is the mechanism which worked the church clock for 150 years until 1972. It chimed the hours and quarters and needed regular winding. Payment for winding was given in the form of an allotment of land opposite the church - the site of the house called 'Clock Piece'.

6 Rood Screen

This beautiful 15th century woodwork has lost its original paintings. The upper beam would have supported a rood loft.



7 Stairs to Rood Loft

The stairs lead to what used to be a platform supporting a large central crucifix flanked by statues of the Virgin Mary and St. John.



8 Stained Glass Windows

A wealth of mediaeval stained glass survives but most of the heads were destroyed to leave mediaeval bodies. The heads are 19th century additions.



In the South aisle can be seen St. Paul (with his sword), The Ascension (Jesus' feet disappearing above some angels), the Betrothal of the Virgin Mary and Joseph, and at the East end Mary Clopas with her 4 children, and Mary Salome with her 2 children. In the North aisle can be seen the Resurrection of Christ - dressed in black emerging from a coffin, and the Scourging of Christ.

9

Wall Paintings

Hessett is probably most famous for its wall paintings. In the North aisle can be seen 'The Seven Deadly Sins' above 'Christ of the Trades' - what you should not do on Sundays. In the South aisle St Barbara can be seen holding her tower. Above the South door is a rather obscure St. Michael with his weighing scales, and above the North door is St. Christopher which is the first one to be seen on entering the church, the patron saint of travellers.



10

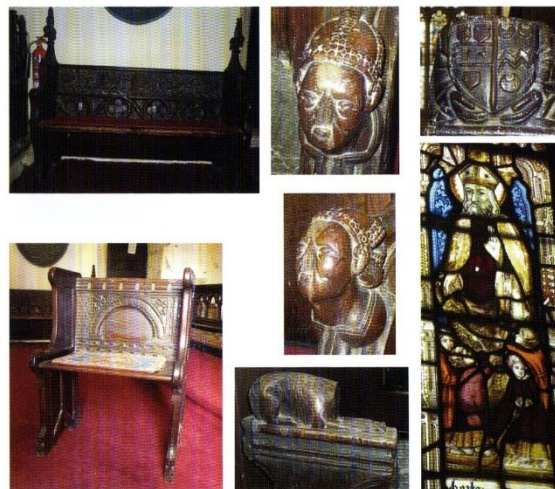
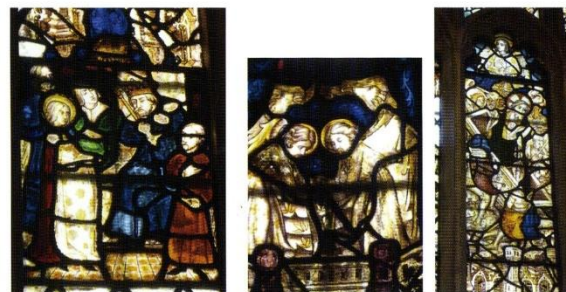
The Chancel

This part of the church is still 14th century which is darker and has a lower roof; there are no clerestory windows and the organ blocks one window. The original mediaeval 'return' stalls remain with delightfully carved arm rests. The door to the vestry is original 14th century and is set in a beautifully moulded 14th century arch.

11

Vestry

This is unusual in having 2 floors and the original wooden staircase. An Anchorite is said to have lived here: there is a fireplace and a 'squint' through to the high altar so that she could see the hands of the High Priest as Mass was prepared. A small area of medieval tiles remains in the floor.

Can you find these?**What do these show?****Services**

9.30 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays at Beyton

9.30 a.m. on 3rd Sunday at Hessett

10.45 on 1st Sunday Family Service at Rougham.