

Since 1862 there have been 4 generations of Revd. Thomas H. Waller's family serving as Rectors. The last, John Pretymen-Waller died in service in 2013 after forty years of ministry, thirty-nine of those in Waldringfield.



Sunday Services

Prayer Service

Occuring every first Sunday
of the month at 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion

Occuring every third Sunday
of the month at 10.30 a.m.

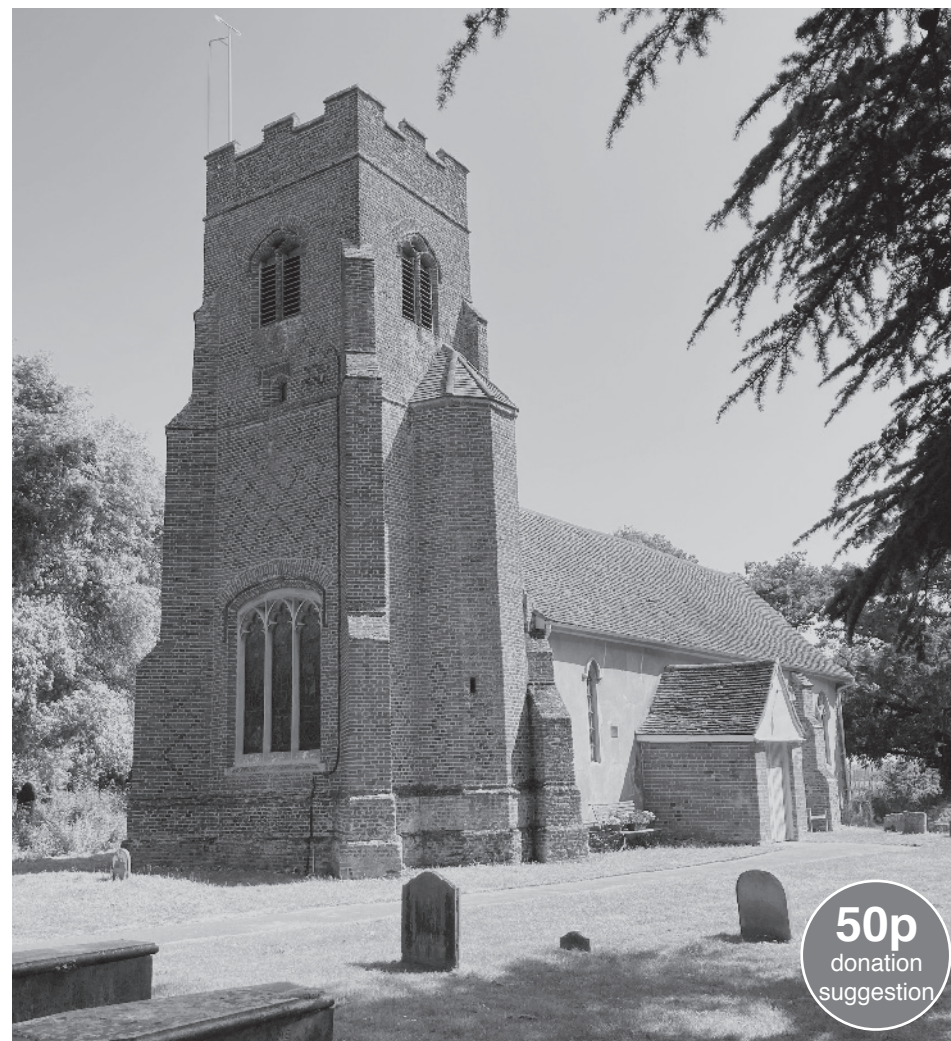
For further information go to:
[https://www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/2027/](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2027/)

Rectors of Waldringfield

1305	Nicholas de Herteval
?	Adam do Brunham
1330	Richard Taverner (de Neburn)
1349	Thomas de le Soler (of Ipswich)
1383	William Staloun
1386	John Brook
1392	Walter Arnald (of Debenham)
1405	Thomas Gylon (of Peynton)
1492	Stephen Esthawe
1436	John Lovell
?	John Skryvaner
1441	William Duraunt
1448	John Herward
1468	John Elvyse
1483	John Marlesford
1485	William Lyster
1496	William Maryett
1520	William Coke
1555	John Goffe
1561	Henry Wardman
1581	Edward Hibbert
1588	Edward Ball
1606	Aquila Sayer
1607	Richard Curtois
1621	William Redgrave
?	?
1660	Charles Simkin
1662	Thomas Lupton
1675	Thomas Wragge
?	?
1697	William Cavell
1719	Thomas Bacon
1735	Henry Kirk
1744	James Browne
1796	William Kett
1833	Charles Waller
1838	William John Edge
1848	Alfred Stuart
1862	Thomas Henry Waller
1906	Arthur Pretymen Waller
1948	Trevor Waller
1974	John Pretymen Waller
2016	Ian Wilson
2024	Nicholas Lindsey Williams

A LOCAL HISTORY GUIDE

Welcome to All Saints Church Waldringfield



50p
donation
suggestion

There was probably a church on the same site in Saxon times, very small and perhaps built of wood. A Saxon burial urn was dug up in the churchyard in 1841, now in the Purnell Collection at the British Museum, which suggests that the site was a burial place in pre-Christian days and was taken over for the first Christian church in the parish. In recent years there have been interesting finds of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon shards when graves have been dug. Terret ring moulds (used in the production of metal parts for chariot harnesses) from the late Iron Age found in 1984 are unique in this part of East Anglia.

The walls of the nave and chancel appear to be much older than the tower and may be 14th Century. The red brick tower was built in the early 16th Century during the reign of Henry VIII, perhaps during the rectorship of William Coke, who came from a family of wealthy Norfolk landowners and may have paid for it. The small low window on the south side of the nave could well have been used by lepers to watch the celebration of Mass from the churchyard in medieval days.

According to the inventory dated 1790 there were four bells in the tower which by 1813 had been reduced to just one. The tower was restored and reroofed in 1809 which would suggest that the other bells were sold for gunmetal in the Napoleonic Wars, the money raised being used to repair the tower.



The inscription on the remaining bell is "Stephen Brame Church Warden 1714". Another perhaps more interesting tale is that the bells were stolen and that the third bell taken capsized the boat as it was being rowed across the River Orwell, but this is likely to remain a fictitious story unless one day it turns up during a deep dredging of that river.

The very fine 16th century octagonal font has 4 symbols of the four Evangelists and four angels on its eight sides. It is amazingly still in almost perfect, undamaged condition.



By 1862 the church had fallen into a ruinous state, with a leaking roof and walls green with mould. The Revd. Thomas H. Waller was instituted as Rector and set to work restoring the building.

At this time (1860-1890) the Coprolite industry was flourishing in the parish (coprolite was the name given to fossilised dinosaur dung dug out from the land, from which nitrate was extracted to create a valuable, artificial fertiliser).

The 18th century horse-box pews were replaced by the present oak pews. The Georgian pulpit remains from that period. The East window, known as the Coprolite Window, is one of the better examples of Victorian stained glass and the South-East window and the two North windows were installed at this time. Many beams, including the rood-beam, were removed and replaced with steel tie-rods and a ceiling put in. The rood-beam was cut into three pieces and along with other remains of the rood screen were incorporated into the porch roof, where they can still be seen today.

A barrel organ provided the music for services in those days. Thirty pounds were spent on it in 1864 which would lead one to think that it was quite a large instrument, capable of playing 20-30 tunes. The present pipe organ came from a small parish near Norwich. Among the interesting memorials is one to Sir Lawrence Bragg, the Nobel laureate in physics, made by Will Carter, and one to Captain Francis Waller B.A. who in 1855 left £20 to provide bread for the poor in the parish.