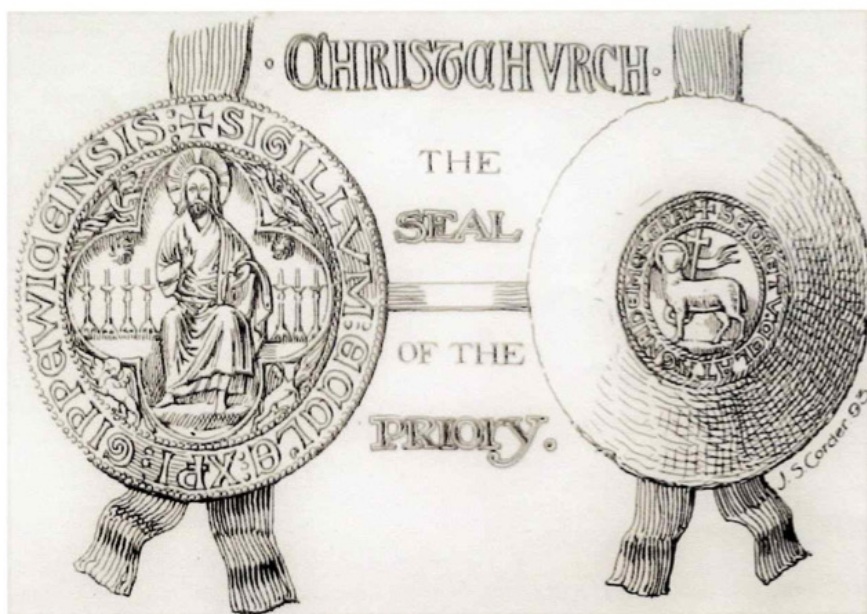


From the old to the new – the logos



The Seal of the Priory about 1300 and the current logo of St Margaret's Church.

The Early Church



Above -
Detail from
coffin lid
Left -
C13th Door

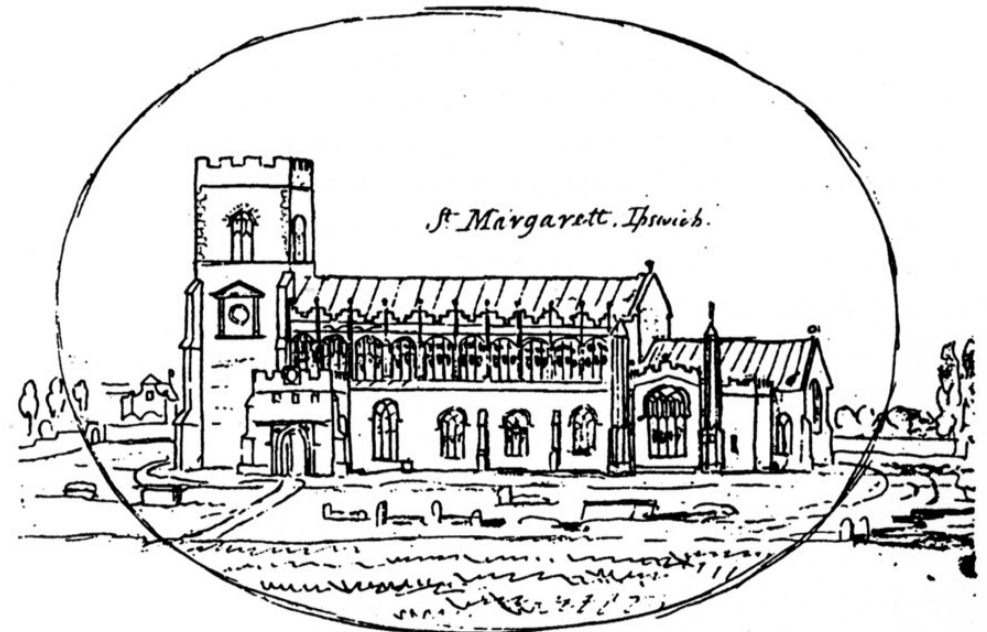
There is no identifiable part of the Priory which stood roughly where Christchurch Mansion now stands. Of an early church on this site nothing remains save the door, now hanging on the north aisle wall, and a stone coffin lid beside the south door.

The first mention of St Margaret's church is in 1307 and by 1381 the parish was the largest in the town.

How has this church changed over the years?



From John Ogilby's Map of Ipswich, drawn 1674, published 1698



Pen and ink drawing by Isaac Johnson, c. 1800

The earliest picture of the church on the left dates from 1674. There is a plain edge to the line of the south aisle wall where it joins the roof. In a later picture (c1800) on the right the sundial on the porch has been replaced by the clock face on the tower. There is also only one arched louvre on each side at the top of the tower. As you look at the pictures below see how the path to the south door has moved over the years.

How has this church changed over the years?



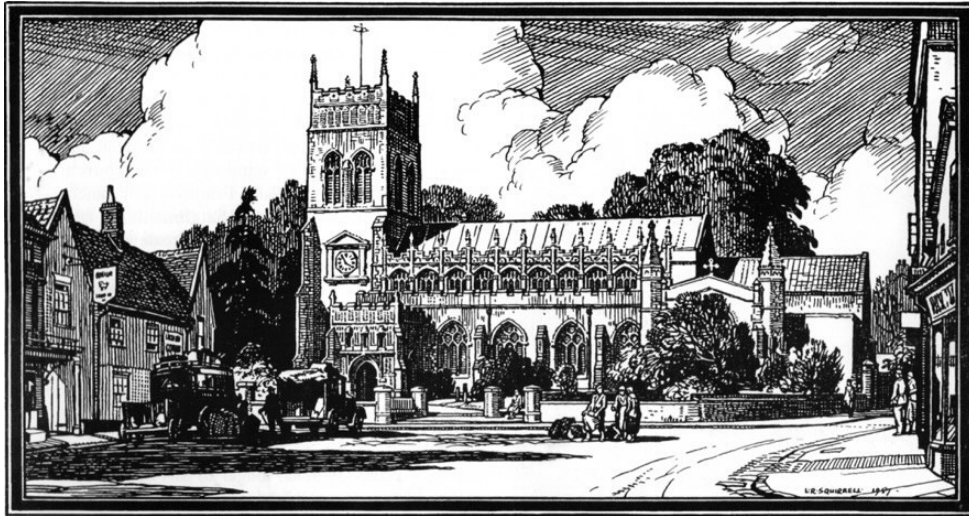
23. ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

Engraving by Capone.



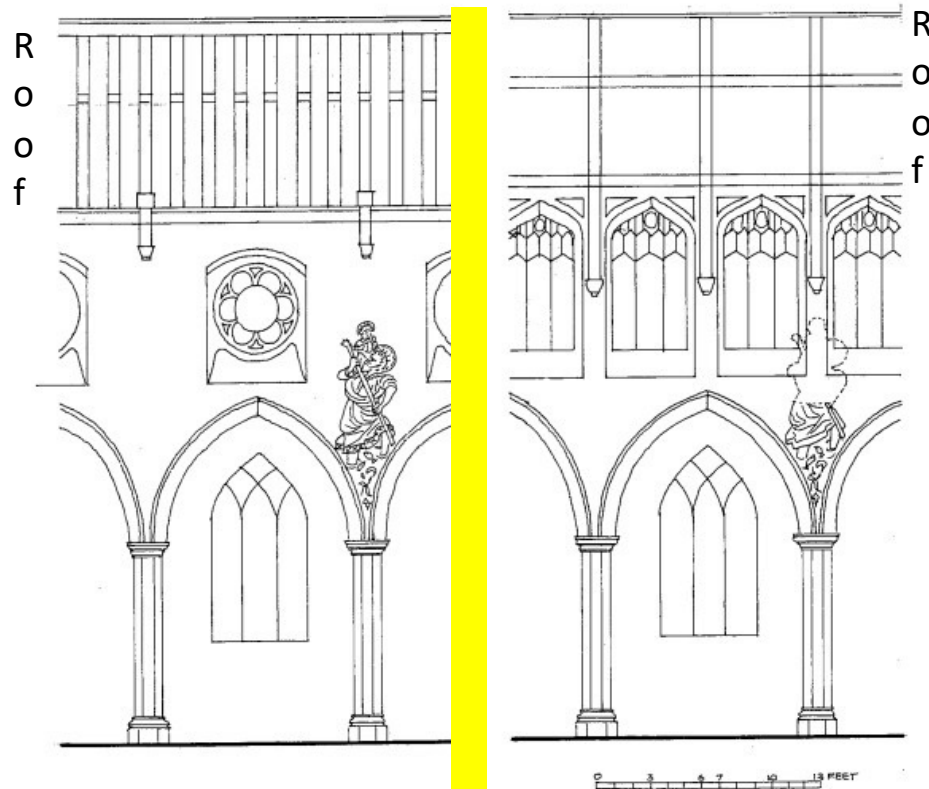
Not much changed by 1830 but then the tower was raised in 1871. There are now two louvres for the bells, the height of the tower has been raised by the addition of flushwork and there are finials on the four corners of the tower. Also, there is a parapet where the south aisle wall joins the roof. You can just see the railings and gates and also a gas lamp and ladder in the second picture from about 1910.

How has this church changed over the years?



In 1957 Leonard Squirrel made a pen and ink drawing of the church. The gates and iron railings had been removed following bomb damage during the Second World War. The photo is from a 1970s postcard. Once again there are no finials on the corners of the tower! We think they had become so weathered that they had to be removed to ensure the safety of those walking below. They were replaced in the 1980s repair schedule. If you look outside today you will see that we have been replacing some stonework this year, once again for the safety of those below! The new stone looks much whiter but will weather.

How has the height changed over the years?



Before 1495

After 1495

Although there are no pictures of the early church, we know that the roof of the nave was raised to its current double hammerbeam form in about 1495.

From a wall painting (no longer visible) we can surmise that the church had a clerestory of small windows which were made much bigger and more frequent as part of the restructuring of the roof.

Conjectural Diagram Images used by kind permission of the Estate of Birkin Haward.

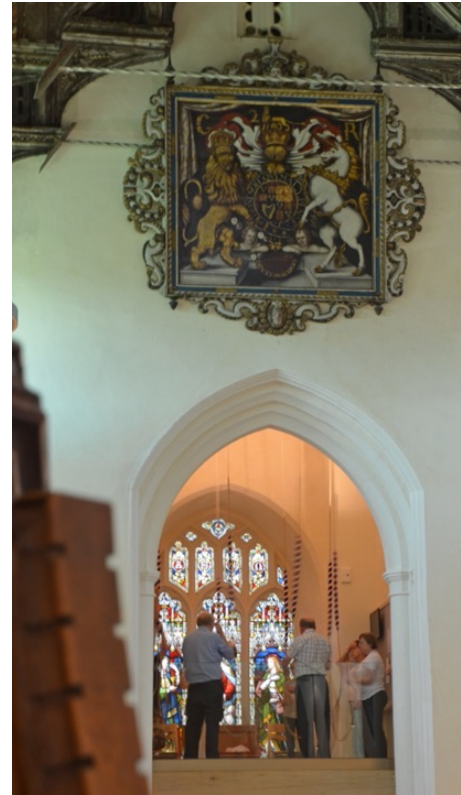
Information taken from "Discoveries in the clerestory and roof structure of St Margaret's Church Ipswich" by John Blatchly and Peter Northeast and published in: Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History Volume XXXVIII Part 4 1996.

And what about the interior? The east end...



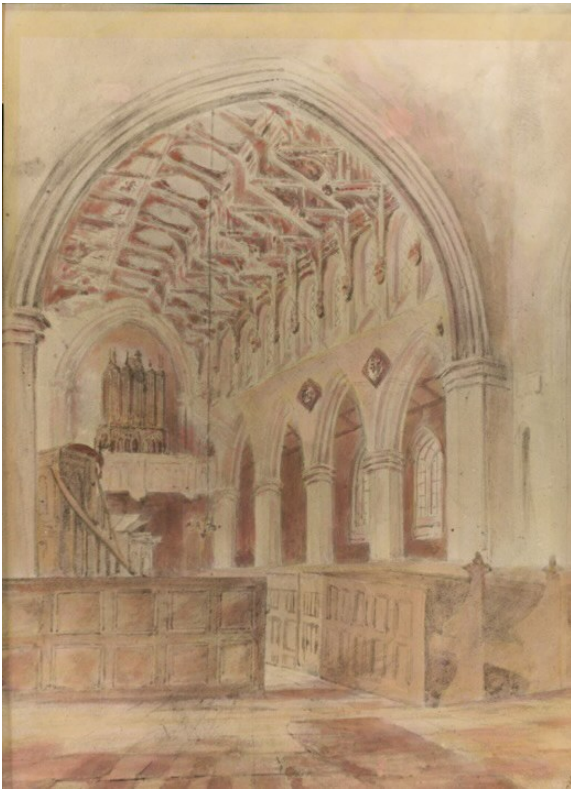
The left picture is thought to be 1930-50. The arched areas contained the Ten Commandments, the smaller left hand square (between the left arch and the altar) the Lord's Prayer and the right hand square (between the right arch and the altar) the Apostles' Creed. The new paneling was installed in the 1960s.

And what about the interior? The west end...



The first picture is taken from a painting by Frederick Davy dated circa 1840. It shows the organ in a gallery at the west end. This was removed in 1846 and for many years the middle picture was the view seen from the east end. More recently in 2018 a new ringing floor was inserted into the upper part of the tower arch.

And what about the interior? The nave...



The first picture is the whole painting by Davy circa 1840. It shows the box pews in the nave. They were removed in 1846, and the current pews were installed. The second picture is of a lithograph from an engraving made in the mid 19th century looking towards the east end of the church and is much as it appears today. However, the Coat of Arms hangs above the chancel arch rather than at the west end. It also shows coloured glass in the north and south aisle windows.

And what about the interior? The nave...



This picture is from about 1910. Note the position of the organ! In 1844 it was in the west end gallery. By the time of the lithograph a new organ had been installed in what is now the choir vestry in 1868. By the time this photo was taken the organ had been enlarged in 1906 and moved to the south transept. The present organ was installed in 1982 and placed in the north transept.

The lectern, prominently placed in the centre of the nave aisle, is still in use today and stands to the north side of the nave altar.