

All Saints' Church...



7 Sacrament Font

- ♦ Is probably of **Saxon origin**
- ♦ Has a rare 15th century **octagonal 7 sacrament font**, in excellent condition.
- ♦ Has a **13th century Nave** with 14th century perpendicular windows.
- ♦ Has a simple decorated, **15th century east window**
- ♦ Has **many memorials**, earliest of which is dated 1505

The village is also interesting historically...

- ♦ The name Gresham probably derives from 'Gur Beck', a local stream and 'ham' meaning settlement.
- ♦ Gresham is referenced in the Norman Domesday Book (published 1086)
- ♦ Thomas Chaucer, son of Geoffrey (author of "The Canterbury Tales") held the manor of Gresham in the early 14th century; Chaucer Barn stands at the Western end of the village today.



Gresham Castle 3D recreation

- ♦ Gresham Castle - the Paston family in the 15th century held Gresham manor and castle but lost it during the Wars of the Roses; Margaret Paston wrote vividly about this struggle over Gresham in a surviving Paston letter.



John Gresham

- ♦ The family which takes its name from the village, held land here in the fifteenth century before moving to Holt where in 1555 Sir John Gresham founded Gresham's School. Sir John's nephew Thomas was Chief Financial advisor to Elizabeth I, and founded the Royal Exchange in London which developed into the Stock Exchange. The Gresham family emblem, the grasshopper, sits on top of our village sign today.

- ♦ George Edwards, founder of the first Agricultural Workers' Union lived in Lower Gresham.

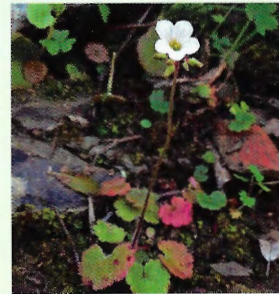
Find out much more in the church and on our website:
greshamchurchfriends.org.uk

Designed and printed by Cheverton Printers

Flora in the Churchyard

In the spring the Churchyard is lit up by carpets of Snowdrops, Aconites and Lesser Celandine. Later on, Bluebells carpet much of the ground.

Either side of the main path, Meadow Saxifrage is gently spreading. Look for its distinctively shaped leaves (right).



Meadow Saxifrage Saxifraga - Ed Stikvoort

Between Springy Turf Moss grows Germander Speedwell with tiny blue flowers and rows of white hairs on the stems. Nearby is Cow Parsley with white umbel shaped flowers.



Dog's Mercury Saxifraga - Jan van der Streaten

Along the road boundary at the side of the church can be found Polypody fern, Arums, Ground Ivy and Dog's Mercury with its unusual shaped leaves (Left).

Look too for Field Woodrush, also known as Good Friday Grass because its flowers appear around that time. Its leaves are rough to the touch. You will also find Barren Strawberry. The leaves are tiny versions of our cultivated strawberry but it bears no fruit.

Fauna

Three types of bat reside in and around the Church. There are Brown Long Eared, Pipistrelle, and Soprano Pipistrelle. Hopefully the bat boxes now in the trees will encourage them to stay!

Red Kites have taken up residence nearby relatively recently. If you look up you may be able to see one hunting overhead with its distinctive tail helping it hold its position in the air.



Red Kite

Barn and Tawny owls also live in the village. At night they can be heard calling but you may be fortunate enough to see a Barn Owl hunting during the day.

Both the introduced Muntjac and native Roe deer live in the wooded areas surrounding the Church. Tread quietly and keep your eyes open!

North Norfolk Countryside

Cycle Routes around All Saints' Church Gresham

NR11 8RF



Three routes, something to suit everyone

En route, visit our wonderful round towered medieval church and village

Recently restored thanks to lottery funding
and local fundraising



Matlaske Route 7 miles

Leave Gresham church cross roads south towards Bessingham, following sign posts. Fork right at Bessingham church, signed to Matlaske, through Bessingham on the North Barningham Road. Bear left to Matlaske on Brick Kiln Lane. Turn right to Matlaske towards a free-wheeling hill on to The Street towards Baconsthorpe and

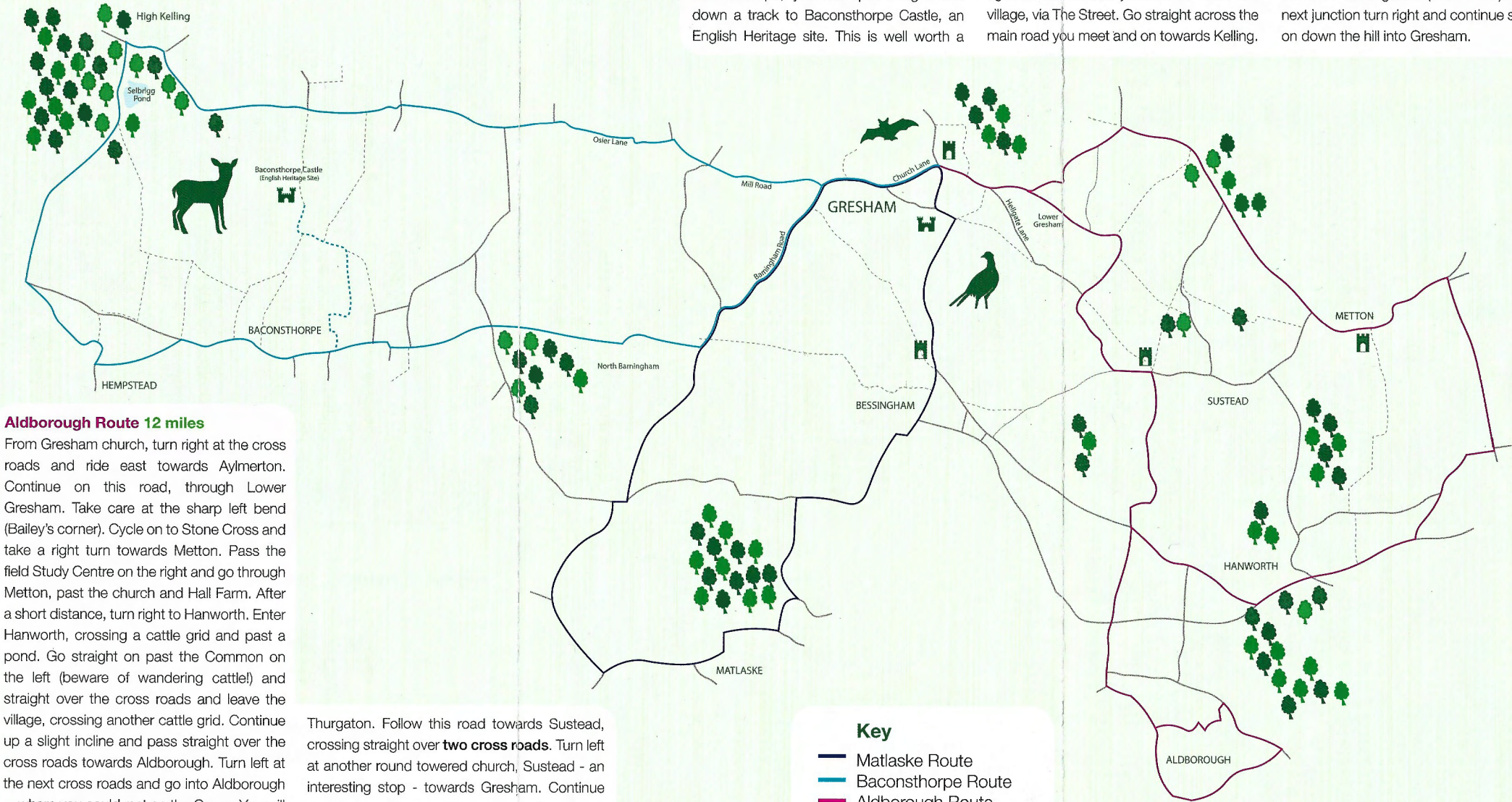
straight on towards Little Barningham. At a cross roads, turn right to Gresham. This road becomes narrower, and after a short uphill section, turn right on a bend to Gresham. This narrow country road leads you back to the western end of Gresham. Turn right at the junction to return to the church.

Baconsthorpe Route 12 miles

At Gresham church cross roads, turn right towards Sheringham. At the end of the village, on a bend turn left on the Barningham Road. An undulating narrow country lane brings you to a junction. Turn left and shortly after, right to Baconsthorpe, a long mostly straight road. Turn right into Baconsthorpe, you will spot a right turn down a track to Baconsthorpe Castle, an English Heritage site. This is well worth a

visit (extra 1.5 miles) and a good stop for rest and relaxation. Continue West along The Street in Baconsthorpe and, once out of the village, ignoring turn to Edgefield, take a left turn down Chapel Lane to Hempstead. You will come to an unusual church on the opposite side of the junction. Good stop on the small green opposite the church. Turn right at the church junction to leave the village, via The Street. Go straight across the main road you meet and on towards Kelling.

Arrive at Selbrigg Pond, a great picnic and rest spot. Continue on this road to a road junction where there is a deer sign on the left. Turn right (not currently signposted), past Hurricane Farm Barn. Road bends right towards Gresham. Continue past the church, taking Rectory Road and following signs to Gresham. Bear right to Gresham, on a narrow winding road (Osier Lane). At the next junction turn right and continue straight on down the hill into Gresham.



Aldborough Route 12 miles

From Gresham church, turn right at the cross roads and ride east towards Aylmerton. Continue on this road, through Lower Gresham. Take care at the sharp left bend (Bailey's corner). Cycle on to Stone Cross and take a right turn towards Metton. Pass the field Study Centre on the right and go through Metton, past the church and Hall Farm. After a short distance, turn right to Hanworth. Enter Hanworth, crossing a cattle grid and past a pond. Go straight on past the Common on the left (beware of wandering cattle!) and straight over the cross roads and leave the village, crossing another cattle grid. Continue up a slight incline and pass straight over the cross roads towards Aldborough. Turn left at the next cross roads and go into Aldborough ... where you could rest on the Green. You will find a pub, shop, Post office and playground here. Circle the Green and leave the village by the same road you entered, signposted

Thurgaton. Follow this road towards Sustead, crossing straight over **two cross roads**. Turn left at another round towered church, Sustead - an interesting stop - towards Gresham. Continue straight, ignoring a junction, entering Lower Gresham past Seaton Barn and Common Farm. At junction with main road, turn left to return to Gresham church.

Key

- Matlaske Route
- Baconsthorpe Route
- Aldborough Route
- Road
- - Track