

Monumental Brass Society

in association with the
Essex Society for Archaeology and History

Saffron Walden, Essex

Saturday, 16th July 2022

The church of St. Mary the Virgin at Saffron Walden is one of Essex's largest churches, with a total length of nearly sixty-two metres, occupying a commanding position above the streets of the quaint market town. The present Perpendicular building was begun in the late 15th century with the spire added in 1832.

The church contains a very interesting collection of ten brasses ranging in date from c.1430 to 1619. The majority were returned from Audley End House in 1901 by Charles Cornwallis, 5th Baron Braybrooke and mounted on the north aisle wall. A brass inscription records the fact (LSW.XX). David Lepine, our Hon. Editor, will focus on the two 15th century clerical brasses. The earliest dated c.1430 depicts a priest in mass vestments with an unusual device of a pelican in piety renewed in 1901 (see illustration overleaf). The building also contains twenty-one indents many of which pave the floor of the south chapel.

The one outstanding monument by Cornelius Harman commemorates Thomas Lord Audley who died in 1544. The black touchstone tomb is a rare example of the provincial influence of Henry VII's Italian memorial in Westminster Abbey. David Carrington, the renowned conservator from the Skillington Workshop, will share his knowledge of the tomb and explain the proposals to move it from the south chapel to the north aisle.

Programme

- 2.00p.m. **Welcome**
by Martin Stuchfield, President of the Monumental Brass Society
- 2.05p.m. ***The medieval town of Saffron Walden***
by Liz Allan
- 2.35p.m. ***'He fed his sheep well': the clerical brasses of St. Mary's, Saffron Walden***
by David Lepine
- 3.00p.m. Tea and viewing of the brasses
- 3.30p.m. ***The tomb of Thomas Lord Audley, Lord Chancellor, 1544***
by David Carrington

The Church will be open prior to the meeting and all are welcome.

The meeting is free with no booking required.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin is situated in Church Path, Saffron Walden. The postcode for satellite navigation is CB10 1JP. The nearest station is Audley End (served from London: Liverpool Street) which is 3 miles distant representing an approximate journey of 10 minutes by taxi.

Overleaf: Pelican in piety engraved in 1901 from the brass of a priest in mass vestments, dated c.1430.

