

Visit To Sandringham Church

On 8th of October, 28 members of the Art Appreciation group made a visit to Sandringham Church. We were met by the Verger who first took us around the outside of the church pointing out interesting things like the inscription over the Lych Gate – something that is easily missed. We also stopped by the graves of the two Prince Johns.

Once inside we took our seats in the pews and listened to him describe the interior whilst also giving us many interesting facts. When he finished his talk, we wandered at leisure looking at the church as well as enjoying the refreshments provided. The verger was on hand to answer any questions we had.

Being a private party, we were able to go as far as the altar rail, avoiding walking on the brass cross embedded in the floor – which is where any member of the Royal family who dies at Sandringham is laid before leaving for London. It was wonderful to be able to admire the altar at such close quarters.



The verger had told us that the Chancel and Sanctuary were redone in memory of

Edward VII after his death in May 1910. The money for this work was donated by the Royal family along with friends. Rodman Wannamaker, a good friend of the King and Queen, donated the silver altar, which contains a ton of silver. It was made by the London silversmiths Barkentin and Kraal. It was first used on the year anniversary of King Edward's death. Rodman Wanamaker also gave the altar rail and many other gifts to Queen Alexandra.

The remainder of the Chancel took rather longer to complete. The intricate carving would have taken a considerable time and it is believed it was the early 1920's before it was finally completed. Another gift to Queen Alexandra from Rodman Wanamaker was the pulpit. Again, it was made by the same silversmiths. It was given to her for her 80th birthday. Sadly,

she died before it was installed.

So many things to look at in the church such as the wonderful stained-glass windows and the Italian marble font. In fact, the church has two fonts; a 9th century Greek font, which was an immersion font, stands on the outside of the church. There are the standards of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, Hatchments from the Royal trains which carried the bodies of both King George V and VI, the aluminium and ivory model of St George which is in memory of the Duke of Clarence – this was made by sir Alfred Gilbert – the jewelled Bible and much more to enjoy.

Report by Susan Sullivan



It was a cool, damp day! We sheltered under the cork oak tree in the church grounds.