

accessed by a circular staircase of 63 steps to the belfry. There were no inscriptions in 1810.

By 1831 a painting of Christ at table and Mary Magdalene drying his washed feet with her hair, hung on the north wall of the chancel. The chancel had been in a state of dilapidation for several years. The church being remote, a stable had been erected against the north wall of the ruins for the 'accommodation of distant residents', meaning their horses. There were still no inscriptions inside the building.

### Wantisden

Davy visited this church also in 1810 and measured the chancel 24 feet by 13 feet 4 inches and the nave 34 feet by 16 feet. The communion table was railed



Late 12<sup>th</sup> century font (Wantisden). Photograph: Diana Gaskin.

and the 'ordinary' pulpit stood on the south side of the nave. The arms of George III were over the arch at the east end. This arch, 'with zig-zag mouldings', and the one between the porch and nave he described as 'Saxon' although we know them to be Norman. The font appeared to be of some antiquity. The (coralline) crag tower held one bell made by Pack and Chapman of London in 1773.

In the chancel was a slab in memory of Marie, late wife of Richard Wingfield, esquire, died 1587. To the

south of it were two stones, but the inscriptions were lost. Marie was the sister of Bess of Hardwick.

Below the communion rails was a stone to Elisa and Nathaniel, children of William and Ann Morris, who died aged thirteen and ten respectively. In the nave was a granite slab to Brian Smith. Opposite the porch door was a brass plate to Robert Harvie, second son of John Harvie of Ickworth, died 1633, and Marian his wife.

Davy visited on two further occasions, in 1823 and 1833. He described the two stones beside the Wingfield one, one being of whitish material and the other Purbeck. At the head of the Wingfield stone had been a very old one that formerly had brasses on it, the pins were still in position especially around the border. Davy sketched the squints either side of the chancel arch, also the font and the layout of the whole church. He compared the font to that at St. Martin's, Canterbury and dated it circa 1200. By the time of his last visit there was an additional inscription and long epitaph within the communion rails to Thomas Comyn, clerk, who died in 1832, aged 62 years.

### Sudbourne

Davy visited in 1810 and 1839; the chancel measured 35 feet 9 inches by 22 feet and the nave 51 feet 7 inches by 20 feet wide. The communion table was railed and the tower contained one bell made by



Pulpit, circa 1700 (Sudbourne). Photograph: Diana Gaskin.