

who spent many years in exile in Elizabeth's reign but was allowed to return. Also on the north wall is a plate to John Bigs, with the words: 'As I was so are yee, as I am so shall yee bee'. Opposite is the marble monument of Samuel Jolliffe Tufnell, who was Vicar of the parish for 47 years.

THE LIST OF VICARS on the south wall was compiled from records in the Bishop's Registry and the British Museum. After William Dens, 1222, "The wicked vicar of Mundham", who had two wives, there is a gap of 150 years until the next name appears. Records are not available for this period.

THE PARISH REGISTERS begin in 1558.

THE CARVING OUTSIDE THE PORCH is too weather-beaten to yield much information but expert examination suggests that it shows the Virgin and Child over kneeling figures. The Latin inscription might be translated: "pray for the soul of Robert ---- who died the ---- day of May 1497."

THE LYCH-GATE was erected in 1887 as Queen Victoria's Jubilee memorial, at a cost of about £90.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION consulted for these brief notes include: contemporary parish records and parish magazines; The Sussex Archaeological Collections; Sussex Churches, by Frederick Harrison; Churches of Sussex, by R.H. Nibbs; Churches of West Sussex, by Peat & Halsted; The History of Pagham, by Lindsay Fleming; The Place-names of Sussex, by Mauer & Stenton; The Sussex coast, by Ian Hannah; and various other books. Most of these can be seen at the County Library in Chichester.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
NORTH MUNDHAM

The earliest known reference to North Mundham Church is in Domesday Book. This shows that a church existed in Mundham - or Mundreham, as it is there called - by 1085. Documents of the next century tell of the claim of Thomas a Becket to lordship over Mundham and Pagham, a cause of one of his quarrels with the King. Some years after this, Mundham Church passed into the possession of Boxgrove Priory, which held it until about 1525. Probably those parts of the church of that period which still exist were built or rebuilt at the expense of the Priory.

THE ARCHES which support the roof are Early English, 13th-century, and are of Caen stone. The piers are circular with simple bases and capitals. The unequal spacing of these piers and the greater height of those on the south side result in the arches being of different sizes.

THE TOWER is fifty-two feet high with a battlemented parapet. Perpendicular in style with a characteristic west window it was built sometime about 1500. A very lofty arch way leads to the nave, but the doorway to the spiral stairs is of later Tudor pattern. The stained-glass in the west window is modern. It is a memorial to the wife of Sir Robert Raper, a mayor of Chichester. It shows The Three Marys.

THE REST OF THE BUILDING is Victorian dating from the extensive restoration of 1883, when the chancel, vestry and organ chamber were added, and the 13th-century north and south

walls and windows, north doorway and south porch were rebuilt.

THE ROOF of the nave continues down over the north and south aisles, and to lighten the somewhat dark interior, the three dormer windows have been inserted.

PHOTOGRAPHS taken early in 1883, now on the south wall, show the church as it appeared just before the restoration was begun. The absence of a chancel will be noticed. Box-pews occupied much of the floor-space. The musicians' gallery was in the west end, and another gallery was in the north aisle. The Royal Arms and a hatchment hung upon the walls. There was a plaster ceiling. The larger photograph which was taken a few months later shows the work of restoration in progress.

The Revd. J.C.B. Fletcher, who became Vicar of Mundham in 1882, was responsible for bringing about the RESTORATION. The work was carried out under the direction of Mr. (later Sir) A.W. Blomfield, a well-known church architect of that time, and cost £5,600, which was found by the Vicar and his family. During the seven months that the church was not in use, services were held in the school. The church was re-opened and the chancel consecrated by Bishop Durnford on 18th December, 1883.

After the restoration many gifts were made to the church by various persons at different times. THE ORGAN, a two-manual instrument by Messrs. Wordsworth & Maskell of Leeds, was installed in 1884.

THE CHANCEL SCREEN was added in 1885. It was designed by Mr. Blomfield and is a good example of modern ironwork.

THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS in the Nave are believed to be by Burne-Jones. They replaced plain glass squares in 1889.

THE REREDOS or TRIPTYCH is an Italian painting on wood. The middle panel shows Christ at Emmaus. It replaced a worked cloth back-ground in 1889.

There were three BELLS. One bore the mark of Thomas Wakefield, who lived in the first half of the 17th century. Two were cracked. In 1889 all the bells were recast, and two new bells were added, by Messrs. Gillett & Johnson of Corydon, who supplied the clock about the same time. There is no outside face, as it was felt this would mar the beauty of the Tower.

THE FONT is the most ancient fitting in the church. The date is unknown. It may be Saxon. Cut from a single block of Sussex marble, it measures 3 1/4 feet across and is one of the largest in Sussex. On opposite sides are marks where lock and hinges used to be - perhaps a precaution against the stealing of holy-water for superstitious uses. The base is modern. The carved oak cover was given in 1887.

In 1978 a Church Room was built at the west end and over it a Balcony formed.

Most of THE MONUMENTS speak for themselves. Behind the north choirstalls is the tomb of Thomas Bowyer, a merchant of London, who retired to Leythorne in this parish and died in 1558. The crosses at the corners suggest that the marble slab which forms the top of this tomb was the pre-Reformation altar of the church. On the north wall is a tablet to Thomas, son of the above Thomas, a lawyer,