



From "The Wisbech Society Annual Report" 1951 by Grahame Gardiner.

All saints church in Walsoken, is just outside the Borough of Wisbech. It is peculiarly situated, for while it in Norfolk, it is in the Diocese of Ely.. The county and borough boundary separates the church from the adjoining cemetery, and its Rectory is in the town area. In fact the ecclesiastical parish of Walsoken covers the greater part of the East ward of Wisbech, and so comes within the Purview of the Wisbech Society.

It is the oldest of of the famous Marshland churches famed throughout the country as splendid examples of different periods of English architecture. The Norman Nave and Chancel arch at Walsoken are very fine, as can be seen from the illustration on the cover of this report.

The magnificent fifteenth-century truss roof with angels and with brackets containing coloured figures of saints and apostles, has been damaged by water, worm & beetle. It has recently been restored under the skilful guidance of Mr. Marshall Sission F.S.A. F.R.I.B.A. at the cost of £5,000, and the fine roof of the North chapel is now being repaired at a further cost of at least £2,000.

At the west end of the Nave, high up above the tower arch, is a life size wooden figure representing King Solomon, and this was flanked by two oil paintings on canvas depicting The Judgement of Solomon. When these were taken down to be cleaned and repaired, further paintings on panelled boards of the same subject were discovered behind them, the verdict of the king.

These are believed to have been erected about 1620, and the illustration above shows the callous women with the dead child waiting the verdict of the king.

The other picture shows the true mother pleading, while the soldier holds the live child with is sword raised. These boards were also removed for renovation, and then was found on the plaster of the tower wall the remains of a third and much earlier representation of the Judgement, in some respects resembling those on the boards, but different in the grouping. These were more finely drawn., the head of the pleading mother suggesting the work of a clever artist, but damp has erased a good deal of the pictures, and they will be retained, but again covered by the paintings on boards, while the canvasses probably late eighteenth century, will; be hung in the tower.

These three sets of paintings are said to be unique in the country and have attracted a good deal of attention, as well as reviving interest in a notable church.