The Essex Society for Archaeology & History

in association with the Monumental Brass Society

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. David Lepine 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 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, Vice-President of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History and 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

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.

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