

**EMAS EARLY MEDIEVAL FIELD TRIP  
TO WING, BRIXWORTH AND EARLS BARTON  
ANGLO-SAXON CHURCHES**

**SATURDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017 - WITH DAVID BEARD**

David Beard will be our guide to three outstanding examples of Anglo-Saxon churches. They are Wing in Buckinghamshire and in Northamptonshire, Brixworth and Earls Barton.

In spite of later alterations in the Perpendicular style, All Saints, Wing, is still an outstanding example of a Pre-Conquest Anglo-Saxon church. Although opinions differ, the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of construction that involved the nave, north aisle and crypt goes back to the early 9<sup>th</sup> century. Wing is very unusual in that it is an early aisled Anglo-Saxon church, as proved by the limestone rubble construction of the north aisle wall. The polygonal chancel was built over the distinctive crypt at a later date. The exterior of the chancel is decorated by tall pilaster strips at the angles of the 7-sided apse and these strips carry thin arches, similar to blind arcading. In the mid 1950's two doors were discovered high up at the west ends of the north and south nave walls. Also unusual a timber gallery, as at Brixworth, is the crypt at Wing and its actual function within the church.

The later developments in the Anglo-Saxon church of All Saints, Brixworth equate with 9<sup>th</sup> century construction at Wing; though literary and architectural evidence prove that the original church at Brixworth dates back to the early 7<sup>th</sup> century. Hugh Clapham describes Brixworth as "*perhaps the most imposing architectural memorial of the 7<sup>th</sup> century surviving north of the Alps*". The 7<sup>th</sup> century church is not quite the same as the impressive building we see today. That church would have had a wide tall nave with aisles, a large presbytery (as wide as the nave), a polygonal apse and a western two-storeyed porch with porticus chambers to the left and right. The aisles were removed. Three arches formed an arcade to divide the nave from the presbytery, but sadly in the 15<sup>th</sup> century the chancel was given a square end. A tower was built over the western porch with an attached stair turret. A first floor room in the tower, with a triple baluster shaft opening, looking down the nave of this church suggests that perhaps royal or religious dignitaries privately attended services being performed below. There are many more aspects to this beautiful church, which can only be appreciated by a visit.

The main feature of All Saints, Earls Barton is the magnificent, decorated Late Saxon tower. The decoration is formed from pilaster strips that go up the entire height of the tower, which has three setbacks. These strips also form triangles, crosses and diamonds as decoration on the upper two setbacks. There are three ground level entrances to the tower, but the arched recess on the first level has prompted much discussion as to its true function. Very importantly, this was a foundation having a nave within the tower and a chancel, rather than the usual tower, nave and chancel. The fact that long and short work is present on all four angles of the tower means a nave, the same width of the tower, could not have existed.

Lunch has been arranged at the Coach and Horses In Brixworth. If you require lunch please make your choice from the menu included. Please send your lunch choice on the section of the menu for R. Yeaxlee to her with a separate cheque made payable to her for the cost of the lunch.

A coach will leave **BAKER STREET TUBE STATION, Boots Entrance, at 7.50am**. The cost of this field trip is £36.00 for EMAS members and £39.60 for non members. (Cheques made payable to EMAS). If you wish to join this trip please fill in the attached slip and send it with your EMAS cheque, lunch slip and cheque to R. Yeaxlee as soon as possible.

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**EMAS Field Trip to Wing, Brixworth & Earls Barton - Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
From BAKER STREET TUBE STATION AT 7.50am**

Name .....

Address (in full).....

.....Post code: .....

Your mobile telephone no. .... **R.Y's** mobile no. 07931 988469

I/We enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cheques made payable to EMAS). Please enclose this form, trip cheque, lunch slip and cheque to: Rosemary Yeaxlee, 50 School Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9BB.

## Lunch Menu for Coach & Horses, Brixworth

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your own copy

*Please tick box by dish of your choice*

*2 course menu for £6.95*

- a. Italian salad
  - b. Soup of the Day
  
  - A. Fish and chips
  - B. Steak and ale pie and new potatoes
  - C. Walnut pancakes with filling of spinach & mushrooms, chips
- 

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Please send 2<sup>nd</sup> section of menu to R. Yeaxlee with your cheque, for lunch only, made payable to R. Yeaxlee, 50 School Lane, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 9BB