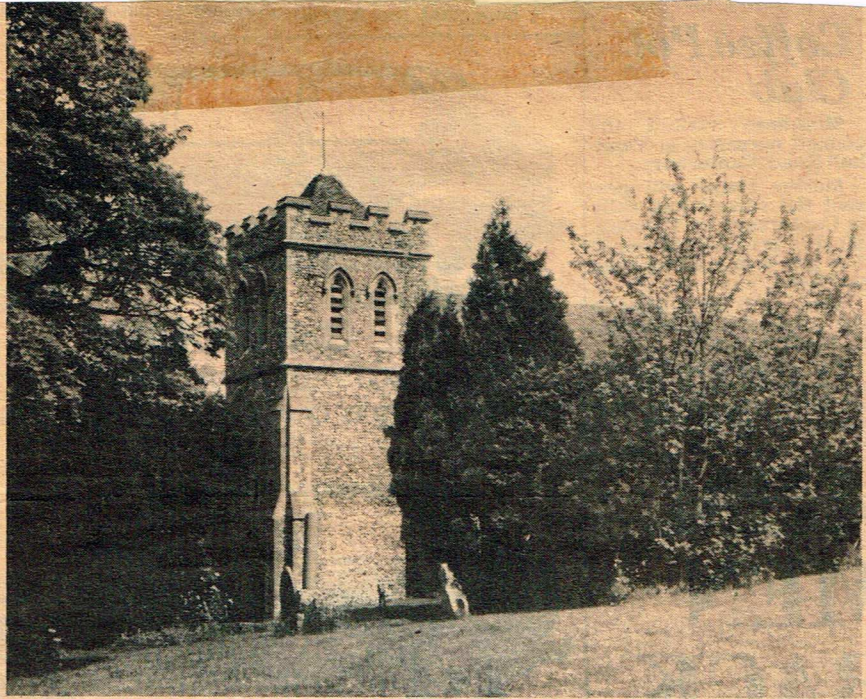


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St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, which is given a special mention in the new Good Church Guide, just published in hardback and paperback.

CHURCH GUIDE

A NEW almanac which is set to go places includes a few details on St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne.

The Good Church Guide includes historical background, architectural features and service details of nearly 500 English churches.

And its author and editor, Mr Tony Kilmister, said: "It occurred to me one needed a book which could be kept in the glove compartment of a car, so that when one was far away from home on business or on holiday, one could home in on an away church — to use the football term

He has relied on friends filling in a questionnaire as well as personal visits to compile his facts.

He has asked clergy to verify the completed questionnaires so that only facts appear in the guide.

Mr Kilmister, from Middlesex, describes himself as a keen member of the laity and is the executive director of a medical research organisation in London.

He says the Bekesbourne church is known as the church in the garden because it is approached through the grounds of Cobham Court.

The guide describes its Norman origins and memorials — including one to Sir Henry Palmer, Admiral of the Fleet during the reign of Elizabeth I, who died in Bekesbourne in 1611, and another to Nicho-

las Batteley, Vicar of St Peter's, who died in 1704, and his wife Anne.

The guide says these are two of the best ledger stones in the country.

Archbishop Cranmer's 1548/1549 version of the Book of Common Prayer was written in Bekesbourne and points of interest in the gatehouse to the old Archbishop's palace are noted, including Cranmer's cross and motto.

Another celebrated resident in the guide is Charles Tilstone Beke, born in 1800, who was well-known in the 19th Century for his exploration of Abyssinia and is buried at Bekesbourne.

The Good Church Guide is published in hardback by Blond and Briggs at £10.95 and in paperback by Penguin at £3.50.