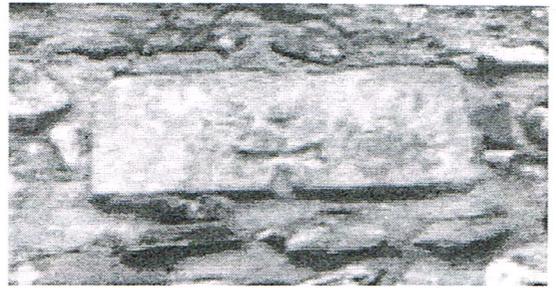




Above: Clopton's fine 14th century tower, with rather Victorianised, but nonetheless 14th century nave beyond.

Right: Consecration cross on the tower - but it is probably a fragment of an altar mensa.



There is a small stone with a consecration cross in it set to the right above the outer arch, but I think that it is not in its original place. It is probably part of the medieval altar mensa, broken up at the Reformation. It was probably used for some building repair at the time, and then rescued in the 19th century by a more sacramentally-minded generation, and set here.

Between this churchyard and that of the redundant church of All Saints at Debach two miles away once stretched one of the largest World War II USAAF bases in East Anglia, and at the west end of St Mary hangs the flag that flew over the base during those dark days. The memorial board lists a vast number of names, a quantity shocking in this intensely rural and sparsely populated parish.

One delightful survival, although others might not think so, is the H-shaped chimney that rises from the stove in the chancel, coming out between the nave and chancel roofs.



So many of these have disappeared in the last twenty years or so; I hope that this one doesn't.

Inside, there is a fine hammerbeam roof, worth a

