

### Visit to All Saints' Church, Kings Bromley

On Friday morning 29th April, a group of Historians and friends met in front of All Saints' Church in Kings Bromley to hear Allan Howard give a guided tour of the exterior and interior of the church.

Firstly Allan described how the various parts, the nave, the chancel, the tower, the chancel aisle and the porch, had been built in different ways from Norman to Victorian times giving the church its mixture of architectural styles. Once inside he explained that it was once a Catholic church up to the Reformation of the 1530s; various features of that era still remained, such as the steps which once led to the rood screen and the piscinae which were used during the celebration of mass. He went on to talk about how decoration and images had been removed during the Reformation and Civil War/Commonwealth periods and how, starting in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, features like stained glass windows and even the altar had been re-introduced. The greatest change to the inside of the church occurred in 1869, when the Rev. Dainty renovated it, re-roofing the Chancel and introducing the new pews. Allan explained that the Lords of the Manor, firstly the Newtons and then the Lanes, regarded the Chancel as their own, filling it with features commemorating themselves - such as plaques, stained glass windows and sarcophagi.

Once the tour had finished the Historians group moved on to the Royal Oak, where a convivial meal was enjoyed together.

