



St Mary Magdalene, Caldecote  
*A Visitor's Guide*

**T**HIS FULLY ILLUSTRATED GUIDE to one of England's smallest churches includes a record of priests from 1215 to 1947, together with a plan and listing of the memorials in the churchyard. An annotated colour reproduction of the Tithe Map of 1842 shows the position of the demolished 16th-century Rectory of which a photograph is reproduced. Among other illustrations are the fine font, the rare crocketed holy water stoup, and the memorial glass to William Makesey (priest from 1415 to 1424) – all of the 15th century. The extract from Domesday Book shows there to have been a priest in the village in 1086. The building is of early 14th- and early 15th-century construction over Norman foundations. Made redundant in 1978, ownership passed to the Friends of Friendless Churches in 1982. It has been transformed by their generous funding of the extensive restoration.

ISBN 978 0 9566771 1 2

The booklet is published by and obtainable from Caldecote Church Friends c/o 4 Meadow Cottages, Caldecote, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5LE.

Price £2.00 plus 50p post and packing.

Cheques payable to 'Caldecote Church Friends'.



## CALDECOTE

Hertfordshire

A History of the Village to 1600

CHRISTOPHER DYER

**T**HE VILLAGE OF CALDECOTE has been completely abandoned, so how can we write its history? Professor Christopher Dyer, the author of this booklet, has been able to use documents from the archive of the monks of St Albans, as well as the results of a large excavation carried out in the 1970s and recently published. He shows how and when the village began, and traces its development over 600 years from before the Norman Conquest until the 17th century. It is a story of landlords, such as the Limesy family and the monks, but also of ordinary villagers, who emerge as busy farmers, who after the Black Death of 1349 were able to build good-quality houses. They supported their community which was troubled by anti-social behaviour, and eventually the village was reduced to a few families and then to a single farm.

Professor Dyer is a leading authority on the history of the landscape, farming and everyday life.

'A vivid and rounded picture of life in one particular small place long ago.'  
 (Paul Stamper, English Heritage)

ISBN 978 0 9566771 0 5

The booklet is published by and obtainable from Caldecote Church Friends c/o 4 Meadow Cottages, Caldecote, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5LE.

Price £3.00 plus 50p post and packing.

Cheques payable to 'Caldecote Church Friends'.