



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN, SNARGATE TN29 0EW

Built c.1200, the north and south aisles were soon added and in the 14th century a spacious east end was created. In the north aisle there is a wall painting of a great ship dated c.1500, a reminder of the nearby shipbuilding yards that existed at that time. From 1817 to 1829 the Rev. Richard Harris Barham was the vicar of St. Dunstan's, during which time he wrote his humorous tales *The Ingoldsby Legends*, some of which relate to Marsh folklore.

The Red Lion is one of many beautiful **ancient pubs** on Romney Marsh.

Smuggling was once rife on the marsh and many of the churches were used to store smuggled goods! A large seizure of tobacco was made from the belfry at Snargate.

The **large church** was built on an **artificial mound** surrounded by trees. RH Barham was once rector here, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, under pen name Thomas Ingoldsby.

Inside the church, a **painted glass panel** from the 15th Century depicts **St. Dunstan**.



Inside the church is a **large ship mural**, discovered in 1964. Folklore suggests the mural indicated the church was a safe place to store smuggled goods. It was more likely the site of a shipwright's altar. Ships were built nearby, when open water still flowed near here.

Mole hills are a common sight, but it's unusual to see a **mole**. A **badger** hides over near the trees.

The **yellow wagtail**, **marsh tit** and **curlew** are all birds found near water.

"Snargate" comes from the snare-gate or sluice gate here which controlled **water** levels in the area.