



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ST. MARY IN THE MARSH TN29 0BY

This picturesque mid-12th century church is set upon a mound, above the level of winter flooding as it would have been in the past. Outside in the south wall of the chancel a priest's door remains, and next to it a scratch dial can be seen. In the churchyard, simple wooden posts and a rail, mark the grave of E. Nesbit, author of *The Railway Children*, and other books and poems. Sheep farmer James Chittenden is also buried in the churchyard. The bloodline of New Zealand's Romney sheep can be traced to the Chittenden flock from the village.

In World War Two, an **Advanced Landing Ground** (airstrip) was built close to the village.

The **Victoria Cross** was awarded to **John Coleman**, who was born in the village.

The **church** was built on an artificial **mound** to raise it above winter flood levels.

The **star** references the ancient pub opposite the church. The **dark skies** of Romney Marsh are excellent for stargazing.

A distant **Looker's Hut**. These small huts were built across the marsh and were used by shepherds or Lookers.



The **harvest mouse** is one of the UK's smallest rodents. It is rare nationally but can be found on Romney Marsh.

Tree sparrows are declining rapidly in the UK, but a healthy population still exists on Romney Marsh.

Writer **E. Nesbit**, author of *The Railway Children*, lived nearby and attended the church. **Noel Coward**, her friend, stayed opposite the church and would sit in the churchyard to write. E. Nesbit is buried in the churchyard, where her grave is marked with a simple wooden post.

The gravestone of sheep breeder **James Chittenden**. The bloodline of New Zealand's **Romney sheep** can be traced to the Chittenden flock from the village.



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JAM on the Marsh

