

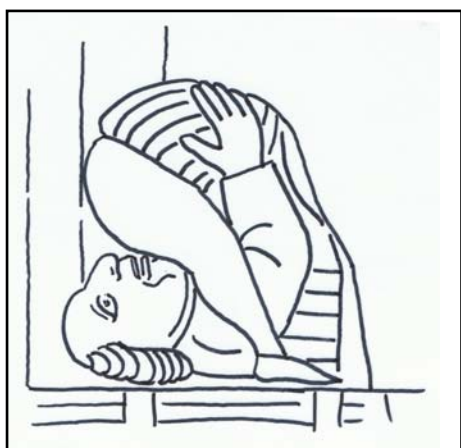
# Men of the Trees: The Woodcarvers tale

**F**or most of the middle ages the villagers coming to church here in Lakenheath would have been expected to stand up during the services. Only the old and sick were allowed to sit down on a few benches against the side walls. The nave of the church would have been a large open space. Then, in 1483, a local man called William Lacy died. In his will he left money for making pews for the church. The pews that William Lacy paid for are the ones you can still see in the church today.



Above: Benchend carved to look like a lion. The woodcarver had probably never seen a real lion. Can you find it in the church?


Below: A wood carving of an acrobat. Acrobats and tumblers were popular medieval entertainers.

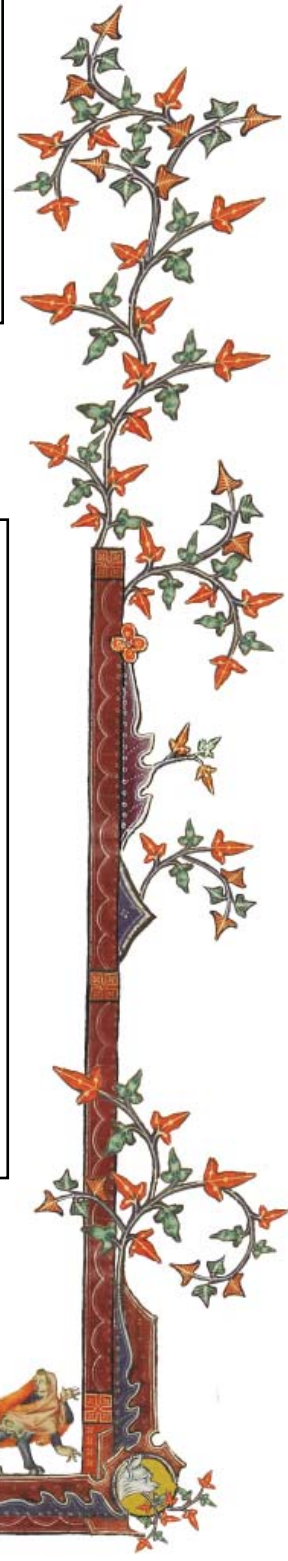
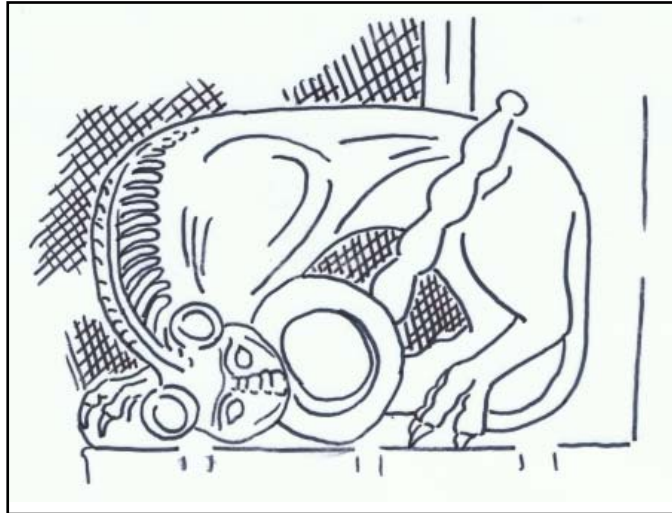


**E**ach of the pews has a different carving at the end. These show people, animals and scenes from famous medieval stories. Some of the animals are real. Others, like the Wyvern, are imaginary. Over the years many of the carving have been broken and others have been worn smooth by generations of hands. Feels how smooth and polished the wood has become.



# The Tiger and the Mirror

**T**he story of the Tiger and the Mirror was well known in the middle ages. According to legend, if you wanted to steal a Tiger cub then you had to lay a mirror in the path of the cub's mother. Instead of chasing you, the mother Tiger would stop to admire her reflection in the mirror. The story does not say why you would want to steal a Tiger cub in the first place. 



**Draw a picture of your favourite bench-end**

