

St Michael's Church Didlington

Visiting : See www.norwich.anglican.org or www.achurchnearyou.com

Address : St Michael's Church, Didlington Hall, Didlington, Norfolk, IP26 5AT

General Information

The church contains a late C13th century chancel, a Decorated tower and Perpendicular aisles & clerestory. Despite being the subject of a heavy Victorian restoration the interior still retains medieval features including the corbel heads and arcade pillars. Although the stained glass is mainly Victorian a small tracery light, which was previously thought to date from the 14th century, is now thought to have been made in the mid 13th century.

Chancel East

This c1853 window was made by John Hardman & Co (Birmingham). As would be expected by a firm that was so favoured by Pugin, they designed windows in a Gothic style. Birkin Haward believes that the quality of their work peaked in the 1850s/60s. Thus here we see a window designed with full high Victorian colour. The upper medallions in particular reflect a 13th century style. In the main lights we see scenes illustrating: the Nativity, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

Chancel North

The medieval roundel contained in this window contrasts considerably with the Victorian stained glass located elsewhere in the church. Whereas, the Victorian glass is bright (to some garish) here we see very subtle colouring. The panel was original thought to be 14th century in origin, although recent work suggests it may have been made in the mid 13th century.

South Aisle East / North Aisle East

These windows were made as a pair. They are believed to have been designed by George Hedgeland (who designed the west window in the Cathedral) in the mid 19th century and are dedicated to the memory of M & W Tyssen Amherst, who bought Didlington Hall in 1843. Both windows have "gothic" surrounds although the main lights are described by Haward as being "renaissance in character".

In the **South Aisle** window the main lights depict three scenes from the life of Christ namely: "The Angel at the Tomb", "The Ascension" and "Christ with Disciples and Sheep." At the base of the lights is a quote from Corinthians 1:15:22 "As in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive." Underneath a pelican vulning or wounding herself (the pelican became a symbol of the Eucharist in heraldry in recognition of her attentiveness to her young, to the extent that she provided her own blood when no other food was available) is flanked by the evangelists St Mark and St John who as normal are portrayed respectively as a winged lion and a rising eagle.

In the **North Aisle** window main lights depict three scenes from the life of Christ namely : "Christ Receiving the Cup", "The Resurrection" and "The Last Supper" At the base of the lights is a quote from Job 1 : 21 "The lord have (giveth) and the lord have taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" Underneath the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) is flanked by the evangelists St Matthew and St Luke who as normal are portrayed respectively as Divine Man and a rising ox.

