

St Mary's Church, Great Snoring

Address : St Mary's Church, The Street, Great Snoring, Norfolk, NR21 0HS

Further details : See www.norwich.anglican.org or www.achurchnearyou.com

General Information

Much of this lovely church dates from the 15th century and is Perpendicular in design. Features from this period include its tall tower, chancel arch and nave windows. Notable features from other periods include: its 13th century south arcade, 14th century Decorated sedilia and 17th century communion rails.

Only two windows contain stained glass, and most of this is merely in the tracery lights. What remains includes figures which would have originally been part of a 15th century series of the Nine Orders of Angels. There are particularly fine examples on display in the chancel south window.

Chancel South Window

Here we see the remains of a small 15th century series of the Nine Orders of Angels. The tracery lights contain the following (left to right):

- An feathered angel playing a lute
- A feathered angel holding a pair of scales believed to be from the Order of Thrones, members of which bring God's justice to us.
- An angel wearing: armour, a bascinet and a blue surcoat. He is from the Order of Powers, thus called because angels from this order have power over the devil. Here you can just make out a birch in the angel's hand which is being used to subdue a red devil.
- A feathered angel wearing a white robe helpfully labelled D(omi)nac(i)ones from the Order of Dominations. This order regulates angelic duties and would normally carry an orb or sceptre as a symbol of their authority.

The apex of the central main light contains the following (top to bottom):

- A demi-figure of an angel labelled 'cherubin'. The Order of Cherubim are the guardians of the fixed star, keepers of celestial records and bestowers of knowledge.
- A demi figure of an angel bearing the label 'Sanctus'.

Chancel North Window

The window mainly contains fragments of 15th century angels.