

St John the Baptist, Mileham - www.norfolkstainedglass.co.uk



Visiting : Please check opening via contacts on websites below.

Address : St John the Baptist,
Mileham, Norfolk, PE32 2RD

Further details :
www.norwich.anglican.org
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General Information

A church existed on this site as early as the 11th century. The current attractive building dates from the 13th century although it was not completed until later. On display are both Early English and Decorated architectural styles.

Rather unusually the 14th century tower is set on the north side of the church, leaving the west end free to : “give the best impression we can have in Norfolk of what a typical complete 14th century window would have looked like” (David King). In contrast the modern east window was inserted in 2004 creating an interesting juxtaposition between the two styles.

Chancel East Window



In 2004 three medieval panels were removed from storage and inserted into this beautiful Decorated window. The left panel dating from c1340-60 depicts a sainted bishop whilst the slighter later right hand panel made c 1380 shows a young male saint, probably St John. The splendid centre panel was made in the latter half of the 15th century by the Norwich School. It illustrates a very delicate St Agatha clutching her severed breast (a typical emblematic representation of the saint).

Other medieval fragments set in the window include a 14th century roundel and two kneeling donor figures.

The West Window

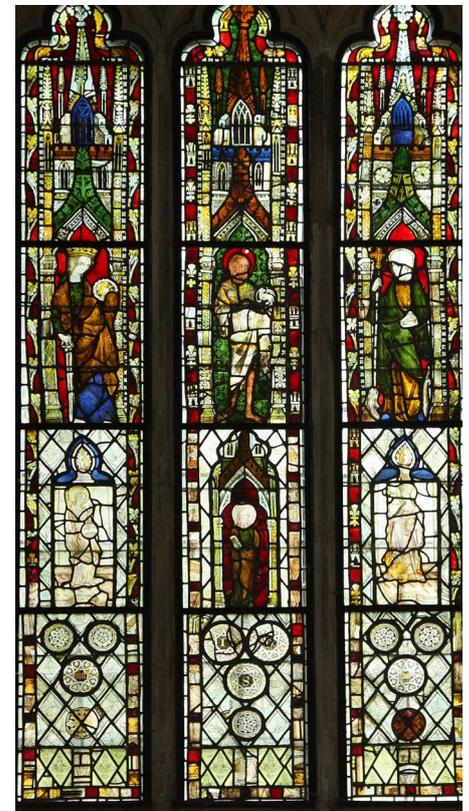
As noted above, here we are given a clear impression of what a typical complete 14th century window would have looked like. Thus in the main lights, we see large single figures of saints surmounted by tall elaborate canopies. At the base of the window is a horizontal band of quarry glazing interspersed with sacred monograms.

14th century glass is typified by its colouring. As such here we see the emphasis on tones of yellows, brown and greens which contrasts with the predominance of primary colours normally seen in 13th and 15th century work (for a brilliant example of the latter see St Peter Mancroft's east window).

The early 14th century Decorated architectural patterns created in the tracery leaves little room for the inclusion of figures in the tracery lights. This contrasts with later designs typified by Perpendicular architecture when figures could be incorporated into designs e.g. north aisle windows at Stody. Here we see foliage designs which again would have been typical for the period.

Four of the panels in the main lights contain 14th century figures distinguished by strong

vertical and horizontal accents and their colouring. Thus in the upper half of the window we see three saints carrying their distinguishing emblems : St Catherine with her wheel, St John the Baptist with his Agnus Dei and St Margaret with dragon and cross. The bottom panels have been transferred from other windows of these only the central figure, again portraying St John the Baptist, dates from the 14th century. The two outer figures of St Barbara (with tower) and St Margaret (with dragon and cross) date from the 15th century.



The window, designed by local artist Pippa Plackall, was inserted in 2004. It portrays the Baptism of Christ by John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovers over the two men whilst their mothers St Mary and St Elizabeth are depicted together to the right.

South Aisle East Window



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