

St Mary's Church, Ditchingham

Address : Church Lane, Ditchingham, Norfolk. NR35 2JS

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

General Information

The exterior of the church is dominated by its 100ft tower whose foundation stone was laid in the 15th century. At its base is the west doorway with canopied niches and its original figures (albeit greatly repaired) which are amongst the few in Norfolk that survived the iconoclasts.

Inside the church has a number of notable features including: a massive black marble memorial to the dead of the 1914/18 war, a 15th century font and a 1490 brass commemorating Philip and Margery Bozard.

Most of the glass dates from the 19th/ 20th centuries and includes a 1925 memorial window dedicated to Henry Rider Haggard which contains references to his life and writing including pictures of pyramids and his South African Farm.

North Aisle Windows: 2, 3 & East

Mid 19th century glass probably produced by the Powell workshop.

North Aisle Window 1

This c1925 window is dedicated to the memory of the famous novelist Sir Henry Rider Haggard, the author of many adventure stories including King Solomon's Mines. In the main lights we see Christ the King flanked by the Archangels Michael & Raphael. Pictures in the remaining panels include references to Rider Haggard's work and life. Of particular note are depictions of his African farm, the Pyramids and a view of Bungay from the Vineyard Hills close to his home.

South Chancel 2 & North Chancel 1

Both windows are believed to date from c1822. They are characterised by the use of gold stain and do not appear to contain any pot metal colours. Both contain heraldic symbols and two kneeling figures. In the South Chancel window one of the figures is a lady all of the others are knights.

East Window

The main lights in this c1850 window made by M & A O'Connor depict three scenes, namely : " Mary Magdalen anointing Christ with precious oil," "The Ascension" & "He is Risen"

South Chancel Window 1

This unique window made c1802 depicts a wreath encircling the name of the rectors who held office in the church between 1609 – 1802.

South Aisle 1

The main lights in this c 1870 window depict Christ declaring he is "The way, the truth and the Life" flanked by scenes of His baptism & crucifixion. In the smaller lights are the emblems of the four evangelists, the Agnus Dei and an angel.

South Aisle 2

The window is dominated by the central light which depicts the symbol of the Trinity

