

St Mary, Elsing - www.norfolkstainedglass.co.uk



Visiting : Please check opening via contacts on websites below.

Address : St Mary's, Elsing, Norfolk, NR20 3EA

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



General Information

St Mary's is rare amongst our medieval churches in that it was all built at one time. Thus it was constructed around 1330 and is described as "one of the best copybook examples of the Decorated style" (Mortlock & Roberts). As would be expected the nave windows are large with elaborate tracery whilst the geometrical patterns in the east window add much to the beauty of the church.

Little stained glass remains in the church, unfortunately it has been lost as much by lack of care as Puritan iconoclasm. However, examples of work by both 14th and 15th century craftsman remain giving some impression of how the church glazing originally appeared.

East Window

The window is now almost entirely made up of clear glass. Originally it would have been stained and pictured: figures of Sir Hugh Hastings (d1374, who financed the building of the church) and his wife Margaret Foliot; scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary together with her Coronation; various heraldic shields.



Among the few fragments remaining in this window is the head of an ox, originally part of a nativity scene, which can just be made out in the lower left tracery.

The South Chancel Windows

The window contains a medley of glass which is believed to have dated from the 14th century, restored in the 19th century by J & J King.

Window 1



The main figure on the right is St Matthew, although following the restoration he has been given the fuller's bat of St James the Less. David King believes that the small seated figure, wearing a red garment in the upper left hand light may be the original 14th century figure of Mary and would have formed part of a Coronation scene. Other fragments include a censuring angel and the Foliot coat of arms.

Window 2



The two figures in the main lights depict St Jude (carrying a boat) and St Philip.



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