

St Michael's Church, Langley

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

Address : St Michael's Church, The Avenues, Langley, Norfolk NR14 6BL

General Information

A church has stood on this site since Norman times though the current building originated in the 14th century and was extensively renovated in the early 19th century. One of the most outstanding features of the church is its collection of continental glass. Much of this (like neighbouring Chedgrave & Thurton) originated in Rouen in the 16th/17th century and following its importation by JC Hampp was brought here by the Dowager Lady Beauchamp where it was installed by S C Yarrington in the early 19th century . A large proportion of it was reset in the 20th century by G King and Son.

East Window

The window contains a collection of continental glass, some from Rouen, dating from the Middle Ages. It is believed to have been originally set by SC Yarrington (who built his reputation installing foreign glass), and rearranged in the 20th century by G King & son. The glass is characterised by its brilliant colour and strong figural representation, which reflects the style adopted at Rouen after the time of the Renaissance. The scenes in the central lights include "The coming of the Magi," "The angel announcing the birth of Christ to the Shepherds" and "Christ's trial by Pontius Pilate"

Nave & Chancel Windows

The nave & chancel windows generally contain a selection of roundels, rosettes and shields set on clear glass. Much of it is continental in origin & would have originally been set by S C Yarrington, following its importation by Christopher Hampp, although it has since been renovated By the local firm of G King & Son. The latter has resulted in the removal of much early 19th century work. Surviving 19th century panels include the demi figures of St James (holding shells) and St Bartholomew (with flaying knife) produced by Robert Allen, a Lowestoft Porcelain Painter, which can be seen in North Nave window 3.

West Window

The main lights contain representations of three of the Evangelists : St John, St Matthew & St Mark. It is believed that as late as 1938 they were located (along with St Luke) in the nave. The figures appear to date from 1825/45 & may have been produced by Yarrington. The demi figures in the tracery lights were made by Robert Allen, a porcelain painter from Lowestoft (his work has also survived in North Nave window 3) and portray from left to right : St Andrew, St Matthew, St Gregory & St Matthias.

The majority of the glass in the window dates from the 16th/17th century. Much of it was from Rouen cathedral and it became available for sale after the French Revolution. It was imported by John Christopher Hampp (a Norwich weaver and merchant) and was bought by Lady Beauchamp Proctor who arranged for the glass to be installed here and at Langley & Thurton.

It was originally installed by S C Yarrington (who built his reputation installing foreign glass), however, it was restored c1960 by Kings of Norwich.

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