

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Address : The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Common Place, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6BP

Further details : See www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

General Information

The shrine was first established c1061 by Richeldis de Faverches following a number of visions of the Virgin Mary. It became a principal pilgrimage centre in England before it was destroyed in 1538 on the orders of Henry VIII, after which pilgrimage ceased for nearly 400 years.

The present day shrine was built in 1931. Established by Father Alfred Hope Patten, its design incorporates many features that would have been familiar to medieval pilgrims. As such it incorporates colourful paintings & statues and gives great honour to the Virgin Mary.

The decorative windows include both stained & etched glass which add much to the ambience of the shrine.

Guild of All Souls Chapel

Medieval worshippers would have expected churches to be bathed in colour. The stained glass contained in the chapel, although in a totally different style to that seen by early pilgrims, creates the same theatrical effect.

Milner Wing Tower

The stained glass in this window, inserted in 2009, depicts a number of scenes associated with the shrine. These include: depictions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a night scene complete with owl and a series of images showing pilgrims.

Pilgrim's Shelter

Here we see a delightful representation of the story of Noah's Ark, where the dove is returning back to the ark with an olive leaf in her beak.

Towards the base of the window is a scallop shell, which is the emblem of St James the Greater who is the patron saint of pilgrims.

Shrine Church

The 15 chapels in the church are dedicated to a saint and to a mystery of the Rosary. This theme is carried through to the windows which include depictions of :

- Christ as Salvator Mundi - Saviour of the World - Christ's right hand is raised in a blessing. In his left he holds a representation of Tao, often used philosophically to signify the fundamental or true nature of the world.
- Richeldis experiencing the visions of the Virgin Mary
- Scenes from the Passion of Christ