

St Mary the Virgin, Long Stratton

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Address : St Mary the Virgin, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2TA

General Information

This attractive church with its round Norman tower was renovated in the 19th century. Despite this it has retained many of its earlier features including: its 13th century north aisle, an early 17th century font cover and a large monument to Sir Edmund Reeve and his wife Mary. Sir Edmund was appointed a judge in 1639 and on the memorial he has been modelled wearing a red fur lined robe and a black tricorne cap. However, St Mary's most famous feature is the Sexton's wheel, which is beautifully displayed in a glass case. Believed to date from around the 15th century it is understood to have been used by the Sexton to determine the day on which penitents should start their fast.

Glass in the east window is mainly a mix of medieval (both English and European), although it was not arranged until the early 19th century. Windows in the south chancel date from c1860.

East Window

The east window is mainly filled with a mix of European and English medieval glass together with early 19th century infills. It was originally commissioned by the Rev. William Walford in 1805. The glazier was probably S.C Yarrington. In 1929 the window was restored 'in thankfulness for the recovery of Margaret Grace from serious illness'.

South Chancel Window 1

This window was erected c1866: 'In memory of Walford Henry Barton who died of yellow fever at St Thomas in the West Indies aged 24 years...as a mark of esteem by his brother officers in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Service.'

It was probably designed and made in the J & J King workshop (Norwich) and depicts Christ walking on the sea. The subject must have been considered particularly appropriate because of the links that Walford and 'his brother officers' had with the sea.

South Chancel Window 2

Dating from c1858 the window depicts two New Testament scenes. On the left Jesus blesses children on the right he cures the blind. The window was probably made and designed by J. Grant (based in Costessey).

Vestry Windows

The windows contain remnants of medieval glass.