

All Saints Church, Poringland

Address : The Street, Poringland, Norfolk, NR14 7AD

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

General Information

There has been a church on this site since the 12th century – although all that remains of the original building is the round tower, which was adorned with an octagonal top in the 15th century when the church was completely rebuilt whilst in the mid 16th century the clerestory & hammer beam roof were designed in the prevailing late Perpendicular style. One of the church's greatest treasures is the medieval glass which is displayed in the east window.

The East Window

Here we see remnants of medieval glass taken from elsewhere in the church during its 19th century renovation. The upper tracery contains emblems from the passion including: the cross, a spear, a nail, whips and a tunic ringed with pieces of silver.

The central light contains a figure of Christ who as “The Man of Sorrows” is exhibiting his wounds and wearing a crown of thorns.

There is some controversy over the identity of the figures flanking Christ. It is now believed that the majority of the figure to the left is the Angel Gabriel (although the head has been replaced) from an Annunciation scene. This is based on the fact that it carries a scroll which reads “ (Ave_ Mar(ia) gracia plena Dominus tec(um))” i.e Hail Mary full of grace may the Lord be with you. The figure to the right is now understood to be Christ, not John the Baptist as previously thought . It is typical of medieval paintings of Christ. Here he is displayed with the marks of nails on his feet and he carries a resurrection banner.

Remaining Windows

The stained glass in the remaining windows mainly consists of medieval fragments reset by George King & Sons.

