

St Mary's Church, Pulham St Mary

Address : St Mary the Virgin, The Street, Pulham St Mary, Norfolk IP21 4RD

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

General Information

This very attractive medieval church underwent a full restoration in 1886. Unlike many other restorations of the period many beautiful features were repaired or enhanced rather than removed. Thus, for example, it boasts one of the most lavish 15th century porches in the county, an early 15th century arcade and a rood screen of the same period with a first class 19th century top.

Most of the glass was designed by the firm of Burlison & Grylls and was installed in the late 19th or early 20th century. Burlison & Grylls were important designers at this time the firm being formed by designers who originally trained with the renowned glass designers Clayton & Bell. Additionally medieval fragments, many attributable to the 15th century Norwich school of glass-painters, have been retained and reset into a number of the windows.

East Window

The window was designed c1884 in a 15th century style. It depicts scenes from the life of Christ including his birth, presentation and crucifixion.

Chancel South Window 1

The main lights, designed by Burlison & Grylls, were installed in the late 19th century. They depict St Columba, St Edmunds and St Felix.

Fragments of glass attributable to the 15th century Norwich school of glass-painters have been reset in the canopy and the tracery lights. The latter contain the remnants of a set of 'virgin saints'. From left to right we can now see:

- St Mary Magdalene, carrying a large vase
- St Barbara, carrying her emblematic tower and palm
- Fragments
- Fragments, and the head of an unknown virgin saint
- St Cecilia, with a wreath of roses
- St Catherine, carrying her emblematic wheel and book.

Chancel South Window 2

The main lights were designed by Burlison and Grylls and installed c1901. They depict St Anne, the Virgin Mary and St Margaret of Antioch. The tracery lights contain fragments of 15th century glass which include fragments of 15th century glass made by the Norwich glass which were originally a series of twelve apostles. Emblems (some fragmented) allow us to recognise the following from left to right: St Peter (keys), St Andrew (saltire cross), St James the great (shell), unknown, unknown, James the less (fullers' club).

Chancel North Windows 1 and 2

Again designed by Burlison and Grylls c1900 these narrow windows are very similar in design. Window 1 contains a large figure of Mary Magdalene holding a vessel

containing oils whilst window 2 depicts St Margaret of Antioch slaying a dragon. Below each figure are shields on which are pictured emblems of Christ's passion.

Chancel North Window 3

This c1900 window designed by Burlison and Grylls illustrates the: 'Wedding Feast at Cana', where Christ changed water into wine. The tracery lights contain fragments of medieval glass.

South Aisle East Window

This c1900 window designed by Burlison & Grylls pictures three New Testament scenes: the Holy Family escaping from Bethlehem, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples at Pentecost, Jesus as a boy preaching to the elders in the temple.

Nave North Window 1

This c1900 window designed by Burlison & Grylls pictures three scenes from the Old Testament Book of Esther. The Book tells how Esther, a Jewish woman and the adopted daughter of a Jewish man named Mordecai, was chosen as queen of Persia by King Ahasuerus because of her beauty. Subsequently Haman, chief man at the king's court, who hated Mordecai obtained a decree to put all Jewish people to death. As a result Esther, at great personal risk, revealed her own nationality to the king and managed to obtain a reversal of the decree.

The tracery lights contain medieval fragments.

Nave North Window 3

The glass, made by the 15th century school of Norwich glass-painters, contains the only complete medieval set of twelve apostles in the county. They have obviously being subject to repair and some have fragments missing. A number can still be recognised solely by the emblems they carry as follows:

- Top Row: James the Greater (shell), John (cup containing serpent), Peter (keys), Andrew (satire cross), possibly St Thomas (spear), James the Less (fullers' club)
- Bottom Row: St Philip (basket of bread), unknown, St Matthew (book & bag of money), St Jude (hull of ship), unknown, unknown

Nave North Window 4

This late 19th century window designed by Burlison & Grylls c1893 is dedicated to the memory of Isabella Gascoine.

The tracery lights contain the four evangelists easily recognisable from their accompanying emblems: Matthew holding the Divine Man, Mark holding a winged lion, Luke with a winged ox and John with an eagle.

The scenes in the main lights are rarely represented in stained glass. Their source is identifiable from the quotes contained in the windows below. To the left we see Moses after his discovery in the rushes by Pharaoh's daughter accompanied by the words: 'Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give thee thy wages'. To

the right we see a scene from the story of the tower of Babel accompanied by the words: 'He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.'