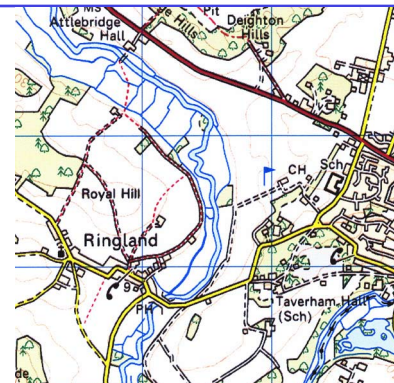


St. Peter, Ringland, Norfolk - www.norfolkstainedglass.co.uk



Address: St Peter Church,
Ringland, Norfolk, NR8 6JA
Visiting: Normally open daily but
check before making a special trip.

For further visiting details see:
www.wensumgroup.org



General Information

This beautiful medieval church dates back as early as the 13th Century, as evidenced by its surviving west tower. The current nave and chancel were added in the 14th and 15th centuries. The church retains many treasures including its beautiful hammer beam roof described by Mortlock & Roberts as “one of the most perfect small-scale roofs anywhere.”

The church also contains a small but outstanding collection medieval stained glass, particularly remarkable as it is rare to find so many full scale figures of this era in a Norfolk Church. Although the age of the glass is not documented, David King dates it to the 1460s based on both the presence on the roof of Walter Lyhart’s shield (Bishop of Norwich 1446 - 72) and the fact that the donor figures installed in nearby Taverham church in the 1460s were painted from the same cartoon. Additionally the figures are painted in a style which is redolent of the period being characterized by sharp detail, thin pointed facial features and ornamental drapery and accessories

North Clerestorey Window 6



At the base of the window are three kneeling donor figures, above which are two beautiful roundels.

North Clerestorey Window 5



In this window we see a beautiful mid 15th century representation of the Annunciation. The Virgin Mary wears a white robe and a red mantle decorated with ermine. She kneels at a desk. The archangel Gabriel wears a feathered suit, in the manner of an angel being represented in a mystery play; he has blue and purple wings, wears an ermine tippet and skirt and carries a mace.

Above the Virgin Mary is a roundel depicting a winged lion, representing St Mark, whilst above Gabriel is a roundel containing a rising eagle, symbolic of St John.

North Clerestorey Window 4

The left panel contains a mid 15th century representation of the Holy Trinity. The figure of God the Father is incomplete although it is possible to make out a



red mantle lined with ermine. The crucified Son wears a loin cloth whilst the Spirit is represented as a dove flying upwards above His head. A kneeling man, possibly a donor figure, worships at the base.

The right panel depicts the Virgin Mary and Child. She wears a decorated white robe and ermine lined blue mantle. She is crowned and holds the Child in her left arm and a sceptre in her right. The child appears to be holding an apple. A kneeling woman, possibly a donor, is depicted at the base.

The tracery lights contain: the symbols of the four Evangelist (i.e St Matthew as the “divine man”, St Mark as a winged lion, St Luke as a winged ox and St John as a rising eagle), the heads of an angel and a male saint, various roundels and depictions of the sun.

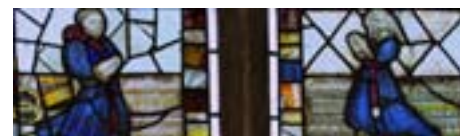


North Clerestorey Window 3

St John the Baptist (mid 15th century) wears an olive green mantle over a garment of camel skin, complete with its head which lies on the ground beneath John’s feet. Originally a lamb would have stood on a book held in

his left hand; this has been lost and replaced by part of a figure of an angel.

In the top half of the window are two roundels including one depicting a winged ox, symbolic of St Luke.



North Clerestorey Window 2

At the base of the window are two kneeling donor figures, above which are two beautiful roundels. The glass dates from the 1460s (see above for further details on dating the glass).

South Aisle window 1



Although the majority of stained glass has been removed from this window it retains a brilliant medieval roundel depicting a beautifully drawn centaur with fiddle and dog. This relates in both

its subject matter and style to the early 14th century East Anglian illuminated manuscripts, where margins were often populated by such grotesques. It is known that originally there were at least three more roundels from this series in the church including one depicting a rabbit wearing a monkish habit, holding a book and riding on a grotesque animal

South Aisle Window 2 & West Window

Medieval fragments



Norwich Historic Church Trust preserves our Medieval Church Heritage for future generations.
Visit: www.norwichchurches.co.uk