

St Nicholas's Church, West Lexham

Address : St Nicholas's Church, West Lexham, PE32 2QN

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

General Information

This pretty church of medieval origin was in a dilapidated state before it was almost completely rebuilt and redesigned by the architect Arthur Blomfield in 1881. Nevertheless it does retain a number of its earlier features including an imposing 14th century tower, and a simple 15th century font.

Apart from an evocative WWI memorial window to the memory of Frank Beck, and his Norfolk Regiment, the stained glass was all made by Heaton Butler & Bayne.

All Windows apart from North Aisle Window 1

These windows were all This window was designed by the firm of Heaton Butler and Bayne who were one of the largest and most prolific of the 19th Century craftsmen, particularly noted for the brilliance of their High Victorian work produced in the 1860s.

- The East Window is undated. The central light shows Christ's crucifixion. He is flanked by the Virgin Mary and St John
- The South Chancel Window 1 is undated. The main lights depict the evangelists St Luke & St John. In the tracery lights above the former are a palette referring to the tradition that Luke was a painter and what appears to be a physician's bag referring to his profession as a doctor. Above St John is a chalice containing a serpent which alludes to the cup of sorrow foretold by Jesus
- The South Chancel Window 2 was made c1905. The main lights depict the evangelists St Matthew and St Mark. In the tracery lights above Matthew are a money chest which refers to his past as a tax collector & a sword which reflects the nature of his death. Above St Mark we see a Bishop's miter which refers to the fact that he was the first Bishop in Alexandria.
- The North Chancel Window 1 was made c1882. St Celia, the patron saint of music is depicted carrying her emblem of a harp. She is accompanied by St Gregory, wearing his Papal garb.
- The South Aisle East Window is undated. Here we see St Felix and St Ethedreda. As is traditional the latter is wearing a crown and carrying a book.
- The South Aisle West Window was made c1882. Here St Peter is depicted carrying the key to Heaven and St Paul his emblematic sword
- The North Aisle West Window was made c1883 it depicts the prophet Isaiah and St John th Baptist holding the Agnus Dei.
- The West Tower window was made c1881. On the left is a scene depicting "Christ's Baptism" & on the right "Christ at a Feast" (Cana?)

North Aisle 2

This beautiful Arts & Craft styled 1920s window was designed by Karl Parsons. At its centre is a superb figure of St George. It honours the memory and bravery of Captain Frank Reginald Beck & the Norfolk Regiment.

Frank Beck (3rd May 1861 – 12th August 1915) was a Land Agent on the King's Sandringham Estate. He was instrumental in the formation of the Sandringham Company of Volunteers in 1906 which included grooms, gardeners and household staff from the Estate. On the 12th August 1915 Beck led his company on an attack at Suvla Bay in the Dardanelles when he and most of his comrades were slaughtered.