

St. Michael the Archangel, Booton, Norfolk - www.norfolkstainedglass.co.uk



Address:

St. Michael the Archangel,
Booton, Norfolk, NR10 4NZ

The Church is in the care of the
Churches Conservation Trust

For visiting and further informa-
tion see website :

www.visitchurches.org.uk



General Information

There is a general consensus that this church is “remarkable” and “extraordinary” – however there is less agreement as to the emotions it will invoke. These are best summed in the words of the Churches Conservation Trust: “You may love the church; you may be outraged by it, but you cannot remain unmoved by such an exuberant oddity”

The church was built at the end of the 19th century, completed in 1891. It was designed by the Reverend Whitwell Elwin, a descendant of Pocahontas of Hiawatha fame, without the aid of an architect. Elwin “borrowed” a vast number of details from other churches across the country e.g. the west window was influenced by St Stephens Chapel. Westminster, however, the slender twin towers and the central pinnacle are believed to have been designed by Elwin himself. As a result the church is best described as a “gothic fantasy”

All the windows contain stained glass of the period (or possibly a little later) and add much to the ambience of the building. In deference to the church’s dedication, all depict representations of angels, many of which are said to have been portraits of “blessed girls” with whom Elwin was an “affectionate, almost intimate counsellor” – as you can see they are beautiful individually and en masse create a stunning group. David King believes that although the designer of the scheme “started by imagining a strictly biblical or theological arrangement he soon became carried away on flights of iconographical fancy” The scheme itself was started by Cox, Sons and Buckley assisted by the glaziers Purchase and Booker. Subsequently Alex Booker was responsible for designing a number of the windows in particular those in the nave.



East Window

In the main lights Christ is depicted between the Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist. In common with all the chancel and nave windows putti’s heads are pictured in the tracery lights. At the base of the window the Angels are further represented by St

Michael who is flanked by two Archangels

Side Chancel Windows



All the side windows of the chancel depict Old & New Testament scenes which include angels. Namely:

Hagar in the Wilderness; Annunciations to the Virgin and to Zachariah; The Garden of Gethsemane; The Sacrifice of Isaac; Abraham and the Three Young Men. In common with all the nave windows putti’s heads are pictured in the tracery lights



Nave Windows

The Nave windows contrast in both colour and theme with those in the chancel. Thus, the viewer sees a mass of figures processing to the East mainly coloured in muted blues, silvers and greens interspersed with flashes of red. In the North all of windows depict Angels accompanying Saints whilst to the south are pictured a series of “Musical Angels” together with King David.



Some saints can be recognised in particular: St Agnes who is accompanied by her symbolic lamb; St Ursula who carries three arrows; St George who is dressed as a knight carrying his banner of a red cross on a white background. In common with all the chancel windows, putti’s heads are pictured in the tracery lights

Tower Windows



All the tower windows are darker than those in the nave again they feature a host of Angels. The prevalent theme in this section is of mothers and children thus for example we see the Virgin Mary carrying Jesus. Additionally a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, is pictured in each window. Together these imply that this area of the church is the Baptistry.



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