

St Edmund, Downham Market

Visiting : See www.achurchnearyou.com

Address : Church Road, Downham Market, Norfolk PE38 9LF

General Information

St Edmund's is located on a beautiful site, overlooking the town to the fens beyond.

Although the building underwent an extensive 19th- century restoration, a number of earlier features survive, including a 15th-century font, a lady chapel dating from c.1500 and an eight branch glass chandelier made c.1730.

Similarly although most of the glass was produced in the 19th century, the west window contains a collection of medieval fragments which were arranged during the restoration, including glass produced in the early 14th century. The 19th-century panels include work by leading workshops of the day, including Wm Morris & Co together with Heaton, Butler & Bayne.

West Window

The window contains a collection of fragments which were mainly set in six panels with red borders in the 19th century. The panels have been put together somewhat like a jigsaw and are believed to be made up of remnants rescued from both St Edmund's and neighbouring churches. Most of the glass in the panels dates from c.1430 – 1450, although where indicated some was produced even earlier.

Top Left and Right Panels: The panels depict naked souls praying and looking upwards. They were originally part of an illustration of the Resurrection of the Dead from a Last Judgement scene.

Middle Left and Right Panels: Here we see angels made up of a collection of fragments from a number of different figures. Of particular interest is the angel on the left, whose head was made c.1350. Not only does the angel hold a palm, despite this normally being an attribute of a saint, even more strangely on one wing is the head of a devil.

Bottom Left Panel: Contains a figure of St Barnabas holding a scroll with his name, dating from c.1300. Two similar figures of St Matthew and St Thomas can be seen in Norwich Cathedral, and came from the same original set.

Bottom Right Panel: A seraph is depicted standing on a wheel.

Tracery: In the tracery are the partial remains of two heads. The bald head to the left probably once belonged to St Paul, whilst on the right is a 16th- century man sporting a hat, who may originally have been part of a Crucifixion scene.

North Aisle West Window

This window, installed *c.* 1900, is dedicated to the memory of William and Rachel Pope. Believed to have been designed by Heaton, Butler & Bayne, it represents the story of the 'Sermon on the Mount'.

North Aisle North Window 5

Designed by Heaton, Butler & Bayne *c.* 1904, this memorial window remembers Rebecca Oakes. It depicts the figures of Faith, Hope and Charity

North Aisle North Window 4

Dating from *c.* 1870 the window honours the Virgin Mary.

North Aisle North Window 3

Designed *c.* 1896 by the continental firm of Mayer & Co, the window illustrates Luke 10: 42. It is dedicated to the memory of Ann Oakes.

North Aisle North Window 2

An undated panel. An extract from the Benedicite ('O ye light and darkness bless ye the lord praise him and magnify him forever') is quoted at the base.

North Aisle North Window 1

The main panels in this memorial window, designed *c.* 1872 by Cox & Son, depict three scenes from the life of Christ.

Chancel North Window

Designed *c.* 1875, probably by Mayer & Co, the window depicts Christ appearing to Mary.

East Window

Designed *c.* 1872, again probably by William Wailes, the main panels illustrate four major events in Christ's life, His: 'Nativity', 'Crucifixion', 'Resurrection' and 'Ascension'.

South Chapel East Window

Dedicated to the memory of William and Mary Oakes, the window, designed *c.* 1860 by William Wailes, depicts Christ as the Good Shepherd..The side panels contain text from Psalm 23.

South Chapel South Window 1

The window, designed c.1869 by Mayer & Co., illustrates Matthew 9:24: 'The maid is not dead but sleepeth'.

South Chapel South Window 2

A decorative window containing text, undated, probably attributable to William Wailes.

South Aisle South Window 1

A biblical scene designed by Heaton Butler & Bayne c.1896 in memory of John Nunn 'of this parish'.

South Aisle South Window 2

A 'Suffer little children' scene, installed c.1904 in memory of Marion Markham.

South Aisle South Window 4

The memorial window is dedicated to the memory of William Haylock 'sometime Chorister and Organist'. Designed c.1918 by William Morris & Co. it illustrates Nehemiah 12:46.

South Aisle West Window

Installed c.1897 the window commemorates Queen Victoria's 60th Jubilee. Designed by Mayer & Co. it illustrates a 'Suffer Little Children' Scene.