

## St Andrew's Church, Norwich

**Address :** St Andrew's Church, St Andrew's Street, Norwich, Norfolk. NR2 1AQ

**Further details :** See [www.norwich.anglican.org](http://www.norwich.anglican.org) or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

### General Information

The church is the second largest medieval parish church in Norwich. It is a fine example of a hall church in late perpendicular gothic style complete with a timber roof of tie beam construction. The tower is the oldest part and dates from 1478. The rest of the building was erected by 1506 when it replaced an existing structure. The wealth of the parish is reflected by the use of freestone to face the building.

The building contains many interesting features including a row of carved shields believed to date from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and be associated to William Appleyard, who in 1403 became the first Mayor of Norwich. Additionally the church has one of the finest collections of memorials in the City of Norwich. Here are represented Mayors an Alderman, a sea captain and a variety of business leaders. In particular the Suckling Chapel contains a gallery of late Elizabethan and Jacobean memorial art.

Although the majority of glass in the church dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, very good examples of 16<sup>th</sup> century glass have been reset in the south aisle windows. One such panel depicts the 'Dance of Death' and is remarkable as being the only surviving example of this subject reproduced in glass in the country.

For further information and to view the details of each window click the  boxes below.

### East Window

The window designed by Ward and Hughes c1865 is dedicated to Samuel and Agatha Stone.

The main lights depict a selection of scenes relating to the life of Christ including the Nativity and Crucifixion. In the tracery lights saints are clearly recognisable by the emblems they carry. They include: St Peter who carries a key, John the Baptist with the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) and St Andrew who holds the saltire cross.

### South Chancel Window

The window is again designed by Ward and Hughes and is dedicated by the Vicar, Arthur Charles Copeman, to various members of his family in 1869.

The main panels depict three New Testament scenes:

- Left panel: Pictures Christ with children whilst the tracery light above bears the inscription: 'Suffer little children to come unto me.'
- Central panel: Shows Christ with St Peter. The tracery light above carries the message: 'Feed my lambs.'
- Right panel: Again pictures Christ with children and the tracery light above carries the words: 'Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.'

### **North Chancel Window**

This window is also designed by Ward and Hughes c1870. It is: 'Dedicated in grateful remembrance of this church by Agatha and Elizabeth Simpson Stone'.

The window contains scenes from the life of John the Baptist and carries the words: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness...Prepare ye the way of the Lord...Make His paths straight.'

### **South Aisle 1**

The main lights contain stained glass dating from c1510. The panels would originally have been set in the east window.

When the east window was originally glazed St Andrew's overlooked one of the public spaces used for civic pageants i.e. the area outside the great preaching church of the Blackfriars. As such the need for display in the east window, the most important in the church, was paramount. Originally the window would have contained five lights. The three central lights would have contained a Crucifixion scene and have been flanked by two panels depicting related Old Testament scenes. The fragments remaining from these Old Testament scenes have been reconstructed in this window.

The device whereby Old Testament events are seen as anticipating those of the New Testament is known as typology and was often used in medieval windows. Thus on the left we see a scene from the story whereby Abraham is ordered by God to sacrifice his only son Isaac which is clearly linked to New Testament story of Christ's crucifixion. Particularly notable is the figure of Abraham ascending the hill with Isaac. On the left the raising of the Brazen Serpent, which God gave to the people when they repented of their lack of faith, teaches man that he can be saved only by faith in the crucified Christ.

The style contrasts with the 15<sup>th</sup> century panels in St Peter Mancroft's east window and it would appear that here the glassmakers were influenced by Flemish or French craftsmen. Thus here we have well proportioned figures, drapery displaying tubular folds, stipple shading and Renaissance costume details.

### **South Aisle 2**

The main lights contain heavily restored roundels containing six coats of arms.

These include the arms of the:

- Salter / Bridge families. John Salter, an ironmonger, was sheriff in 1639 and mayor in 1655. He was married to Elizabeth, daughter of John Bridge. John died in 1669 and was buried in the north aisle of St Andrew's church.
- Salter/ Woodroffe families. William Salter (son of John) followed in his father's footsteps becoming sheriff in 1681 and mayor in 1686. He was married to Katherine Woodroffe whose family lived in Yarmouth. William died c1700 and was also buried in St Andrew's.

### **South Aisle 3**

The main light contains panels of reconstructed fragments together with small chevrons.

### **South Aisle 4**

The main lights incorporate two panels of medieval glass. On the left is a panel made up of fragments of glass. To the right we see one of the most interesting panels of glass in Norfolk which depicts the 'Dance of Death'.

The fascinating panel was originally part of a series in the south clerestory and is believed to be the only surviving example of this theme in England made in glass. It depicts a skeleton leading away a bishop and reflects the late medieval preoccupation with the possibility of sudden death, particularly pertinent when plagues were prevalent.

### **North Aisle East Window**

This 1926 window is dedicated by members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Norfolk Volunteers and the 1<sup>st</sup> East Anglian Brigade to comrades who fell in WWI.

It depicts Christ flanked by St Michael and St George. The former is symbolically weighing souls whilst, unsurprisingly, the latter is slaying a dragon.

Rather poignantly at the base of the central light the sun is setting over what appears to be a desolated battleground.

### **North Aisle North Window 1**

Here we see two small panels dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Of particular interest is the left hand panel which portrays Robert Gardiner who was sheriff in 1480 and mayor in 1490, 1499 and 1506. Both he and his two wives are buried in the church. Robert was a great benefactor to St Andrew's and was responsible for the roodscreen together with much of the glazing and the benching. Here he is represented kneeling in a room with his merchant's mark in a window under which an inscription reads: 'To Robert Gardiner, sometime Mayor of this worshipful City.'

### **North Aisle North 2 and North 5 Windows**

Fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century glass remain in the tracery lights