

February 2022

CHANCEL

The Chancel was rebuilt around 1350.

There are two **stalls** on each side.

The ends on the north side have medieval poppy heads.

Those on the south are probably from the 1876 restoration.

The **Altar** was given in 1895 by Marion Ketton from nearby Felbrigg Hall. It is of inlaid cedar wood; these woods include walnut, satin, maple, olive and ebony. It was made locally at Hanworth by Richard Chapman.

To the right of the altar are **sedilia** and **piscina**.

The **sedilia** has two bays with the **piscina** to the east. They have an impressive cusped and crocketed canopy.

There is a **second piscina** in the Nave in the wall by the small Altar to the right of the rood screen.

In the Chancel are two two-light **windows** on the south wall; the one by the Altar was evidently added after the piscina was fitted. This stained glass is of 1879 and the other of 1906.

The **east window** is from c1362, the stained glass from 1904.

By the Altar are 2 **priests doors**.

That on the south side is in use but that on the north side is blocked but may have given access to a vestry as there is rendering on the outside of the wall.

Thank you for visiting this Church.

Notes prepared by Canon Emeritus William Bestelink

The Church of St. John the Baptist, Aylmerton, Norfolk



A short guide to the Church

St John the Baptist Church, Aylmerton

THE CHURCH

It consists of a round tower, south porch, nave and chancel. On the north wall is a **ruined transept** which was a chantry chapel. A squint for viewing the Service from outside can be seen on its west wall.

TOWER

It was built after the Norman conquest around 1200 and was extended in height later. The upper part was rebuilt in 1912. **Access** is from the Nave, but also by an outside door near the south porch which was discovered in 1912.

There is one **bell**, which is of 1600, by William Brend of Norwich; this was repaired and rehung in 2017.

SOUTH PORCH

The south porch was built about 1420. There is a **niche** over the outer doorway for a statue.

Over the **south door** itself is a ledge for a statue. Either side of the door are **columns** with ornate capitals which are castellated. They are reminiscent of the arms of Castile in Spain which includes a castle. The link is thought to be with John of Gaunt who was patron of the Church and had claimed the crown of Castile 1371-88

Above the porch is a **parvise**, or priest's room. The access staircase to it is to the east of the main door in the nave; note its narrow iron-bound door.

NAVE

This was rebuilt in c1400 to be both wider and higher.

There are 3 tall perpendicular style **windows** from the same time, two on the south wall and one on north. The **stained glass** of the **north wall** is from 1898 in memory of Marion Ketton, of Felbrigg Hall who had given the Altar.

By the pulpit, there is a two light 'Y' style window in the blocked archway in the north wall which had given access to the now ruined north transept.

In the **west wall** are 2 further windows, one either side of the Tower, also built around 1400.

In between at the apex is a blocked window; this may have been a belfry window from the tower when the nave was lower.

Facing in from the south door is an eight-sided **Font** of Purbeck marble from 1200s.

Beyond it is a **pipe organ** built in 1865 by Mark Noble of Norwich for West Runton Church; this was moved to Aylmerton in 1903. It has 6 stops with an offset keyboard and pedals centred on G instead of the normal D.

To its right is a **pillar stoup**, for holy water, which is in an ogee niche by the blocked north doorway (visible from the outside). It had been discovered behind plasterwork in c1840.

Both the oak **pulpit** and the pine **pews** are from 1876.

The **rood screen** was built c1445. This has traceried arches but the panels at the base have been removed. The top of the staircase giving access to the former rood loft is blocked at the top over the pulpit. **Access** at the bottom was from the now ruined north transept and is now blocked by a brick wall.