



## About St John's

Yarburgh's St. John the Baptist is easily recognised by its sandstone tower, which dominates the local landscape.

The church can be dated with certainty to the early-15<sup>th</sup> century, because its predecessor was ravaged by fire in 1405. This makes it unusual for a medieval church as most were built over several centuries. Yarburgh is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Gereburg'. Its name derives from the Old English words 'eorth' and 'burh' meaning 'the fortification built from earth'.

The exterior of the church presents the visitor with a curiously asymmetrical view because it has a north aisle but lacks a south. The gabled south porch, added during the church's restoration, leads to a 14<sup>th</sup>-century doorway and invites the visitor to step inside. The clerestory illuminates the nave, enhancing the impression of space in the church. The windows throughout contain elegant, flowering tracery which draws the eye upwards to the ornate roof timbers.

The majority of the fittings, including the pews, pulpit and carved heads above the arcade piers, were added in 1854 when the church was restored under the direction of Louth architect James Fowler. The vestry was added at the same time.

The church was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1981.

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### Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

### Help us do more

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



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Church of  
St John

Yarburgh



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## The historic church of St John

### 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The plain octagonal **font** dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, its cover from a much later date.
- 2 The former **chancel screen** is now situated under the tower arch. The date is unknown, but it was probably built during the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3 Curious **lead plates** decorated with ships are displayed in the north wall of the tower and are of an unknown date.
- 4 Several **carved heads**, now whitewashed, decorate the nave wall above the north arcade. They are probably medieval in origin.
- 5 The early 19<sup>th</sup>-century **pews** have numbers painted on their doors. Each pew would have been allocated to a specific family.
- 6 The medieval **piscina** would have been used by the priest to wash the vessels used for Mass. Much of the piscina's lovely stone details are now obscured by the white plaster, which covers most of the church.
- 7 The **chest** dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century and would have been used to store parish records.
- 8 The **east window** depicts scenes from the Life of Christ and bears the following inscription: 'A tribute of esteem and affection from the parishioners, relatives and friends of the Reverend Henry Lloyd who was 11 years rector of this parish and died 17<sup>th</sup> November 1862 aged 46 years.'
- 9 One side of the **World War I memorial** bears the names of those who served in the war, whilst the other side commemorates those who actually died.
- 10 The **west doorway** on the outside of the tower dates to about 1450 and bears the now almost illegible inscription 'Wo so looks thys tree upon Pray for all yat ....(yt be gon)'. The spandrels, the spaces above the door, show, on one side, the Fall of Man, the Instruments of the Passion on the other. The devil is shown pointing to both in order to illustrate their connection.

