

FÖRKÄRLA CHURCH





THE PARISH

During the 13th Century Förlä was already its own parish, stuck between the much larger parishes of Listerby and Nättraby. The reason for this was the Danish outpost in Vambåsa, placed there because of the king's interest in Hjortahammar port, a few kilometers south of Förlä church. Later on Förlä became an annex parish to Listerby. In the 19th Century the villages of Great and Small Vambåsa, as well as Förlä village, were wiped out and therefore the parish is now sparsely populated. Förlä belongs to Johannishus fideikommiss and sits on Vambåsa mansion ground.



THE CHURCH BUILDING

Förlä church was built in the 19th Century, and replaced the medieval church, which was ruined in order to be replaced by brighter and larger churches of the 19th Century. Initially it was a Greystone church with a nave and a small chancel, to which a sacristy was later added. In 1863-65 the east and the west wall, as well as the sacristy, were demolished and a tower was built in the west end. On the east side an apse was added to the chancel and this also included the sacristy. In 1938 a new sacristy was built and the apse became part of the chancel.



TRACES FROM MEDIEVAL AND OTHER TIMES

On the south wall one finds a portal which bears witness to the medieval heritage – this was the church's original south porch and with its pointed arch portal it indicates a gothic style from around 1250. This, together with traces of renaissance art, makes it obvious that this is not 'just' a 19 Century church.



THE CEILING UNDER THE ORGAN BALCONY

As you enter the nave from the west you have a good view of the ceiling under the organ balcony. The current balcony was built in 1865, together with the organ façade. In 1929 the balcony was altered to fit the current organ. The beautiful, wooden ceiling under the balcony is made out of the medieval church's ceiling, which had been demolished to be replaced with the current ceiling in 1865. This sort of re-use was very foreign to the radical thinking of 19th Century, but someone must have seen the beautiful baroque painting of angels and decided to keep them.



THE PULPIT AND THE BENCHES

The pulpit is also from the old church and was constructed in the 17th Century. The preached word had become more important after the reformation and churches added pulpits, so that the priest would be heard, and in the case of Fölkärle church, it was placed by the window, so that the priest would be able to read from its light. The pulpit depicts sculptures of the four evangelists. The current benches in the church are from 1938, although the bench ends and the beautifully painted doors are from 17th and 18th Century. On the bench doors one can read the name of the person in the parish who sat there.



THE FUNERAL SHIELD

On each side of the chancel are two wood and pewter funeral shields. One belongs to chamber advisor H A Lövenskiöld, who was buried in the church in 1765. The other belongs to his brother in law, vice admiral Matthias Lillienanckar, who died in 1786. These men, together with their families, rest in the south part of the burial chamber under the chancel floor. In the other grave rests riding master Krägenfelt of Tromtö manor together with his young wife.

FRONT

Photo: Helena Johnsson

BACK

Part of the medieval paintings found on the outside wall during renovations 2015.

Photo: Helena Johnsson



Interior: Franz Feldmanis

FACTS

Year the church was built: 1863-65, with some medieval parts still present

Building style: Neoclassicism

Material: Greystone, brick, plaster

Architect: Unknown

Altar decoration: Triumph crucifix

Bells: 2 bells hang in the tower

Organ: A Mårtensson, Lund 1928