

Säby Church

ENGLISH



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SÄBY CHURCH – A BRIEF GUIDE FOR VISITORS

This church was founded in the 12th century. In 1965 a sandstone portal was uncovered behind the organ and it says that the wall dates from the early Christian times.

During the 15th century, when the villagers were being taught by monks to make bricks, the wonderful arches were built.

All the spectacular frescos, which can be seen here, date also from this time. It is thought that they were painted by one of the most famous church painters in Sweden Master Amund, but it could have been one of his leading pupils.

During the 17th century the murals were covered with chalk. But in 1931 they were uncovered and in 1968-69 the arches were carefully restored.

The subjects of these painting are partly from the Bible, but we can also see certain national saints, such as St.Olof, King of Norway (died 1030) St.Erik, King of Sweden (died 1160) and a crowd of woman saints, among others St.Birgitta's daughter, St.Katarina of Vadstena.

At the end of the 17th century the North Transept was built and 50 years later the South was added. The church was now in the shape of a cross.

At about the same time two **Crypts** were built. To the right of the chancel you can find

Wrangel's crypt dated 1748 and on the other side Witting's crypt dating from 1746.

The Steeple with its three church bells is from that period too.

Once Säby Church was extremely rich in priceless art treasures, but invaders and robbers plundered most of these. However, a single priceless treasure is left- the **Pietà** a fine wooden carving that is placed opposite the pulpit. It shows the dead body of our Lord Jesus lying across The Blessed Mary's knee. The Pietá is a masterpiece, carved in Lubeck around 1425.

The Baptismal Font (behind the pulpit) dates from 1593.

The Pulpit dates from 1653 and is in the Baroque style.

The Altar The grandest part of the church- is adorned with the crucifix from the medieval period. Its origin is unknown. The stained glass window above the altar was made by Jerk Werkmäster and was given as a gift to the church in 1933 by Sigurd Pira.

Finally, if you look up at the **Organ Gallery**, you can see a beautiful old fascia remaining from an organ built in 1749. The organ you can see now dates from 1969 and was built by Grönlund's Orgelbyggeri in Gammelstad.

Generation after generation of visitors have worshipped. Everybody is welcome to join us at our Sunday services.

