

Welcome to *Torsö church*



**Svenska
kyrkan**

Mariestads
församling



The altarpiece is a lime tree sculpture made in 1954 by the sculptor Arvid Bryth. It depicts the the miraculous draught of fishes at Lake Gennesaret where Jesus reveals himself to his disciples, according to St. John, chapter 21.



Torsö church

From time immemorial the parishioners have come to church to worship. Babies have been baptized, young people have been confirmed and given the Holy Communion, couples have entered into matrimony and the dead have been buried in peace.

(From Sockenboken Torsö, Nils Forsell 1951).

It is not known when the first church was built, but it was probably of wood and situated on the same site as the present church. This wooden church was replaced by a stone church, probably some time during the 12th or 13th century. It was called the church of Wiksala, the name of the parish at that time. A 1671 drawing of it, by Johan Peringsköld, can be seen in the church. This stone church had a shingle-covered tower, a rectangular nave and a longer and narrower chancel. On the southern wall was a wooden porch. The ceiling was vaulted and decorated with biblical paintings. This church was demolished in the 1830's when the present church was built.

The present church is a so called Carl Johan's church. It was made of stone that was rough-cast with white plaster and had a tiled roof. The tiles came from the nearby Skeberga tileworks (1720-1870). The church was consecrated in 1838. Above the western entrance is a porphyry slab with the inscription: "In 1838, in the 20th year of Carl XIV Johan's reign this temple was built."

Around 1880 it was noticed that the weight of the roof made the walls bulge. The walls were stabilized with wall ties.

There have been many renovations. In 1865 the pulpit was moved from above the altar to the northern side of the church, in 1900 a new floor and new pews were put in, in 1953 electric lighting and heating was installed. The present colour scheme is from 1985.

In the chancel are two small, stained glass windows, donated by Isabella and Rudolf Kjellén at their wedding in 1898. The money was put in the bank to be used to adorn the chancel. In 1913 the parishioners had made up their minds and bought stained glass for the two windows.



The 13th century stone base for the baptismal font is the oldest object in the church.



On each side of the altar rails is a seven-branched candlestick. One is from 1801 and the other from 1955, both of them with inscriptions stating that they are donated to the church to adorn the altar to the glory of God. ▶▶▶



The wolf-shaped weathervane from the old church is now placed in the porch, above the entrance to the nave.



Other objects of interest

Altar crucifix of wood, made by Arvid Bryth in 1954.

Wooden baptismal font, made and donated by the parishioners Claes Johansson, Gösta Eklind and Olle Jonsson. Its shape is taken from the lower part of the pulpit.

A 17th century grave slab on the wall in the porch.

Two church bells, made in Stockholm in 1876 by Joh A Beckman & C:o, both with inscriptions: "When you hear me, go to the house of the Lord and worship."

The collection bags are kept in the vestry, the oldest is from the early part of the 18th century.

The carpet in the chancel was made by Agda Österberg, Varnhem, in 1953. It is called "Tree of Life".

The Afghan carpet inside the altar rails was donated in 1953 by members of the Bohlin family from Sundet Sörgården.

Christ sculpture in painted plaster by Thorvaldsen. It used to stand on the altar.

Chandeliers from 1690, 1742, 1953 and 1985.

The hymn boards were donated by Peter von Bahr in the 18th century. The wooden postaments were made in 1901.

The wooden coffer with iron mounting for the offerings is from 1713.

The 1865 pulpit replaced an older pulpit above the altar. A roof was added in 1953.

The votive ship made by the fisherman Karl Ramberg from Bromö, was donated to the church in 1958.

The organ was built in 1865 by J N Söderling, Gothenburg and altered in 1953 by the organ builders Fredriksborgs orgelbyggeri in Hilleröd.

