



It is a great pleasure to bid you a hearty welcome in our beautiful church in Vinderslev.

Everybody is welcome to visit and experience our beautiful church. We only ask you to respect the place as a church and think of the church as built and consecrated for service, worship and praise. So walk about in quietness!

The church is built in Romanesque style in the 12th century. Its ashlar (square stones) were then found on the fields. They have in the Ice Age found their way to this place from the north together with the glaciers of the Ice Age. Especially in rainy weather the ashlar sparkle in all colours.

Outside you notice many beautiful details in Romanesque style for instance the beautiful twin-window in the eastern end wall, as well as the two original entrances, one to the south for the men and one to the north for the women. Both of them are now walled up, but are very beautiful with their fine column portals, which are imitations of the ones we see at Viborg Cathedral. The southern portal consists of 4 columns and on the tympanum a lion is resting. It guards the entrance. You say that a lion sleeps with open eyes and therefore sees everything. It is the king of beasts and of the earth. It is a symbol of God. The same applies to the eagle next to it. It is the king of the air and belongs in higher regions. It is a symbol of Christ, who came from on high.

The northern portal consists of 6 columns, and on the tympanum you see a person, probably Saint Francis of Assisi, who is preaching for the birds. The tower with its entrance and the porch are built in late Gothic style, and in the loft above two church bells hang. The oldest of them – from the year 1320 – bears the inscription PAULUS, which is the Catholic name of the bell.

Inside the late Gothic arches of the church are impressive, but still most beautiful are the many murals, of which those in the nave are painted about 1510, undoubtedly executed by the same craftsman who has also decorated several other churches in Jutland and on Zealand. The “Vinderslev-master” he is called. The subjects are mostly found in the Holy Scriptures, especially in the Revelation of St. John the Divine.

In order to understand the thoughts of the artist, it is important to remember that the pictures come from the Catholic time. The main subject above the chancel arch describes the Day of Judgement. Christ is sitting on his throne with his feet resting on the earth as the judge of the world. (Isaiah 66:1 “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool”.) Remarkable is also the rainbow (Genesis 9:16 God will see the rainbow and remember his everlasting covenant with men), the sword (a symbol of judgment and punishment), and the lily (the symbol of grace). Over Christ’s head you see a dove (symbol of the Holy Spirit). On the right side of Jesus you see Mary, the Holy Virgin, and on his left side St. John the Baptist. Mary is represented with a naked breast. (Luke 11:27 “As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”

On the northern side of the arch the redeemed are on their way into Heaven. At the entrance to the first gate St. Peter stands with the Keys of Heaven in his hand. From there an angel with a banner of the cross leads them on to the heavenly castle. Several persons have already arrived: kings, bishops and monks.



On the southern side of the arch there is picture of hell, which is inhabited by ugly devils with tails and sharp claws. In other places there are imaginative pictures e.g. the picture of the geese who are hanging the fox in the gallows.

The murals in the chancel date from the time after the Reformation, about the year 1550. In the foliage you can find a card-playing woman. It is said that she was playing so eagerly that she forgot God. Thereby she won a lot of money, but one night the devil came to get her soul because of her sinful way of life. In her great distress she invoked the Holy Virgin Mary's assistance. She was saved, and for the money, she had won in playing cards, she had Vinderslev Church built. In the arch you find the escutcheons of Niels Skeel's family and of Karin Krabbe's family, the estate owners of Vinderslevholm. It is highly probable that they have paid for the decoration. The murals in the chancel have never been whitewashed.

The altarpiece dates from the Renaissance. At the very top there are 2 figures that represent Adam and Eve and between them you see the serpent in the Garden of Eden. The same scene is at the bottom of the baptismal basin. The baptismal font is the same age as the church and undoubtedly executed by the same builder. It is extremely fine work.

On the northern side of the chancel there hangs a sepulchral tablet (memorial tablet) in memory of the Skeel family of Vinderslevgård, now called Vinderslevholm. On the tablet are the names: Hans Skeel, Niels Skeel, Karen Krabbe, Ingeborg Skeel, and Dorte Skeel. From 1530 Niels Skeel was the owner of the estate. The other names are the names of his children. "In these dangerous times" it says on the tablet. The words refer to the nordic Seven Years' War (1563-1570), in which Hans Skeel took part. He was killed in the war at Svarteå in the year 1565, in other words one year after the tablet was hung up. Ingeborg Skeel is the person in all of Vendsyssel known and fabled as "the wicked Mrs. Ingeborg of Voergård", who was an extremely capable and enterprising woman. Maybe she was not as wicked as the legend tells. Notice the two infants in swaddling clothes. It shows that they died as babies

The pulpit is carved in the Renaissance style, and you can see the four evangelists: Matthew with the angel, Mark with the lion, Luke with the ox and John with the eagle.

On the churchyard on an old grave there are two interesting stone crosses from the Romanesque times. Between the crosses there was undoubtedly earlier a long lying stone, which has unfortunately disappeared. On one of the stones you see a craftsman with his tools: anvil, hammer, tongs, a measuring instrument and brickwork. On the back of the stone there is a bell. There are many indications that the builder is buried here.

Thank you very much for your visit.

The parochial church council