

Feldballe Church

<http://sogn.dk/feldballe>

Feldballe Church, together with its surroundings, has a long and fascinating history. We will report only a few features here, however, so that you can get an idea of its characteristics. Quite a few years ago, a brick fireplace dating back to the 1200's was excavated near Langesø. Brick residues, when compared with monk stones in Feldballe Church and clay samples from an area called The Red Grave, proved that the Feldballe Church stones were both baked and formed in the parish, from parish raw materials. We note that the clay samples and brick kiln also supplied brick to Castle Møllerup, that Marshal Stig Anderson built. So he was also probably the church builder. Therefore the nave and chancel must have been built before Marshal Stig was outlawed and exiled, which occurred in connection with the murder of Erik Klipping in Finderup barn. "The king was killed in his bed in St. Cecelia the night of 22 November 1286 by his own men, those he had loved the most."

The church nave pulpit is from the early 1600's, donated by Squire Hartvig Kaas and Anna Juul to Møllerup. The pews are from the 1800's. The organ was built in 1992: the former organ is now in Søby Church near Hornslet. The church received its first organ in 1935! The pastor's slate dates from 2000. The entire ceiling surface was originally decorated around the year 1600, but the ceiling was later plastered and whitewashed, and did not see the light of day again until 1962. The ceiling ribbon text is from King Christian III's Bible (1550).

The Chancel Arch is from around 1700, expanded to make room for the woodwork and the figures, which are the four evangelists with their symbols, Moses with the Ten Commandments, and Jesus Christ. The wall is adorned with frescoes containing coats of arms.

The baptismal font in the chancel is believed to have been made by one of Horder's apprentices. The basin is south German from around 1575. The baptismal pitcher is of recent date. The altarpiece was donated in 1607 by Hartvig Kaas and Anna Juul, who also donated the large brass candlesticks on the altar.

The pictures in the altarpiece fields were inserted in 1709. The fresco in the south chancel depicts St. George and the dragon. It was probably painted around 1500. The ordination cross next to the horse's back legs is even older. Under the mural is a tombstone from 1682 for a clerk from Mariager monastery, Laurids Jensen Bay, who until his death lived on Skaarupgaard in Feldballe parish. On the north side is a tombstone with effigies of Hartvig Kaas and Anna Juul.

Behind the altar is the burial vault of Elisabeth Rosenkrantz (d 1720) and her husbands, Knud Gyldenstjerne (d 1682) and prefect Joachim Schak (d 1700). Under the entire church are vaulted tombs, but you may not visit them!

The vestibule is a late addition. It was built in two storeys to accommodate the tithed grain that the church taxes in the Middle Ages consisted of. It is in fact under the vestibule's floor, that the legendary Marshal Stig is buried!