

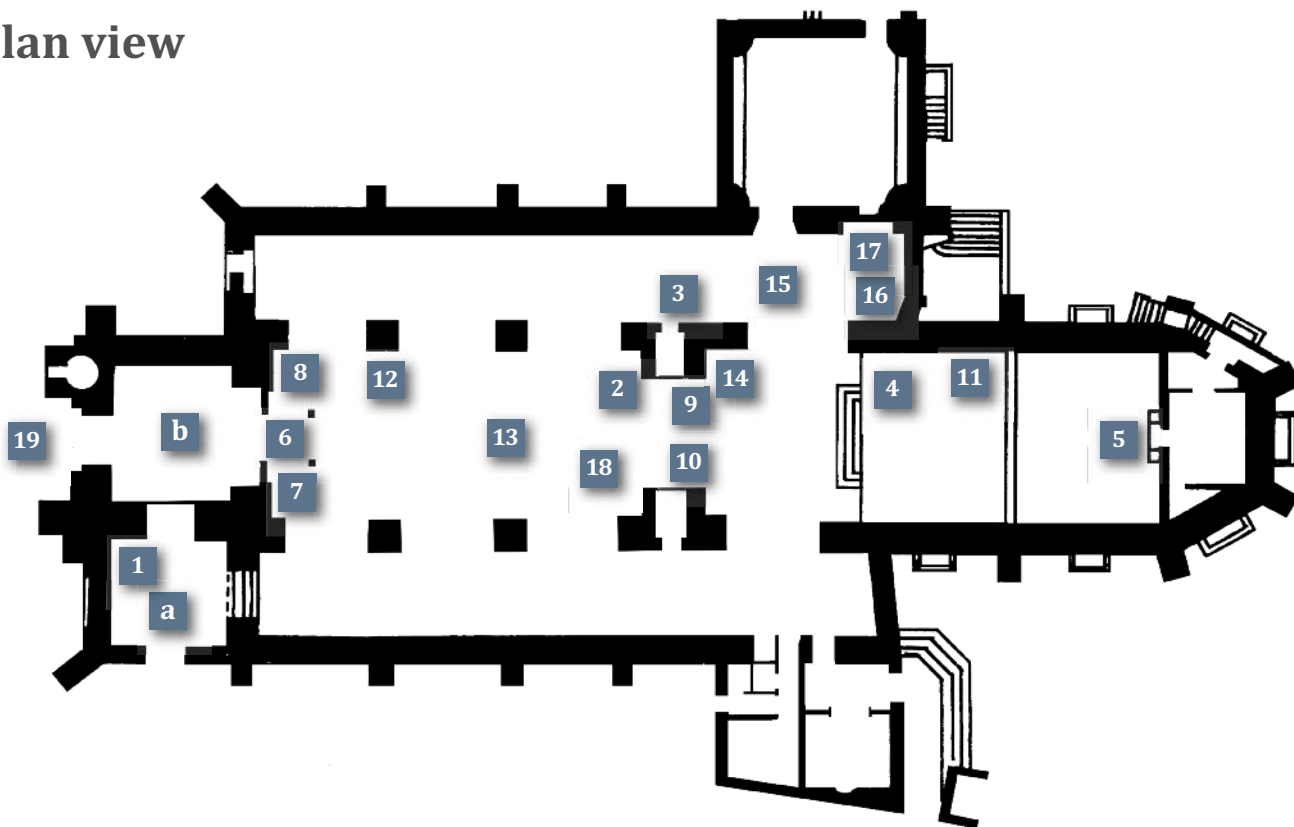


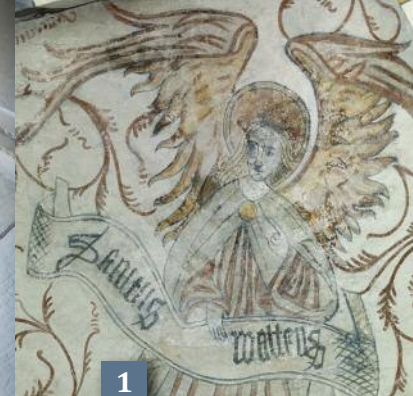
Budolfi Kirke

aalborgdomkirke.dk



Plan view





Aalborg Cathedral – Church of St. Budolf

A wooden church was built in Aalborg as early as around 1000. It was named after the Anglo-Saxon patron saint for seafarers, St. Botolph. The current Cathedral is situated in the same place as the original wooden church, testifying to the continuity of the faith through changeable times. Fires have ravaged the town and the Cathedral, soldiers have plundered and desecrated, Protestantism has replaced Catholicism, but despite all these trials, generation after generation have been able to gather in the Cathedral to listen to the words of the faith.

The Budolf parish council welcomes all visitors and worshippers for a moment's peace and prayer in our beautiful, old, living church (Denmark's smallest cathedral), which builds a bridge between past and present.

Cathedral porch

Daily access to the Cathedral takes place through the porch (a). Here visitors will find fresco murals ascribed to 'the Sæby master' Christopher, who lived and worked in Northern Jutland from 1500 to 1525. In the vaults are depicted the four evangelists' symbols: Mark's lion, Luke's ox, Matthew's angel (1) and John's eagle. The murals also show Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac, the holy family's escape to Egypt and a crossbow-wielding centaur with a forked tail symbolising falsity and evil. Note also the sneering mask left of the weather porch and the small, resigned figure to the right with closed eyes holding up the vault rib.

Tower

The door and weather porch (b) on the west side of the tower were constructed in 1900. This is the Cathedral's main entrance. The decorations are gallery fragments from 1766.



The initials on the shields are those of the people who owned the galleries. The shield on the north wall is from 1749 and bears Jutland's and Aalborg's coats of arms.

Pulpit

The Christian message is proclaimed and preached from the pulpit (2), which was granted to the Cathedral in 1692 and carved by the same artist who created the altar. The staircase section and the front of the pulpit recount the Easter drama. Each scene is flanked by two of the twelve apostles. The pulpit is carried by Moses holding the Tables of the Law – symbolising the fact that Christianity is based on the Old Testament. Above the pulpit hangs a richly decorated sounding board designed to prevent the priest's words from disappearing up under the vaults. The lower surface of the sounding board depicts a dove – symbol of the Holy Spirit. At the top stands Christ the Victor with a banner, blessing

the congregation and treading sin and death underfoot (these are symbolised by a serpent and a skeleton).

Above the pulpit's entrance door (3) the resurrection of Christ who is worshipped by Mary Mother of God and the twelve apostles, is depicted. Pietistic images from the mid-1700s are painted on the door itself.

Baptismal font

The three-sided baptismal font (4) from 1728 is made of white and blackish marble. Reliefs on its sides depict Jesus saying, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me'; Jesus talking to Nicodemus; and John the Baptist baptising Jesus in the River Jordan. During baptisms, a silver basin is put in the bowl.

Altar

The altarpiece (5) is early baroque and was granted to the



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Cathedral in 1689. It is a magnificent carving coated with gold leaf. It was created by the carver Lauritdz Jensen from Essenbæk Monastery. The middle section of the altarpiece portrays the Easter message: the Eucharist's institution on Maundy Thursday at the bottom, and above it a sombre Good Friday image in which the forward-leaning silver crucifix is highlighted against the dark background. Above this is Jesus' entombment, and at the very top the resurrected, victorious Christ with a banner, holding up his right hand in a blessing. The thick, twisted columns frame John the Baptist on the right and Moses on the left. At the edges of the altarpiece are the four evangelists, each with his personal symbol.

The two impressive 'angel candelabras' from 1686 on the altar itself are made of brass and weigh around 70 kg each.

Organ

Above the Cathedral's main entrance towers the organ's

impressive rococo façade (6) from 1749, bearing the national coat of arms of King Frederik V and his British Queen Louise. The organ was thoroughly restored and expanded by the organ-building company Th. Frobenius & Sønner in 2007-08. Today the instrument has 43 organ stops with an electronic combination system that can store 8,000 tone combinations. The organ's seven oldest stops are from 1848, while nine are brand-new. The organ produces a full, lively, colourful and singable sound that provides an impressive accompaniment to the Cathedral's services and its many concerts.

The Cathedral choir consists of thirteen singers and takes part in matins, ordinations and other important services.

Galleries

The Cathedral's four remaining galleries help give the interior of the church its special character. They were paid for



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by citizens of the city who wished to decorate their Cathedral. Formerly it was common for citizens to pay for their personal seats in the church. The gallery to the left of the organ (7) was erected in 1681. It has doors that can be hoisted up and down. The gallery to the right of the organ (8) was erected the following year.

The gallery (9) was used by the mayor and the churchwarden and was granted by three citizens of Aalborg in 1719. The front is decorated with Biblical themes – ‘Sin’ to the left and ‘Salvation’ to the right. At the back of the gallery are 17 images; six portray apostles, one portrays Jesus, and ten illustrate the Ten Commandments. The pictures date from the end of the 1500s.

The opposite gallery (10) is also called the ‘King’s Gallery’, because it is adorned with King Christian VII’s Danish and his wife Caroline Mathilde’s British coat of arms. This gallery dates from 1770. On either side are allegorical pictures –

from left to right – of Love, Hope, Faith and Justice. At the back are 12 pictures from the mid-1600s depicting Jesus’ Passion. In extension of these two galleries are depictions of the apostles. These were all painted by the Aalborg artist Laurits Friederich Weise in 1776.

Tombstones

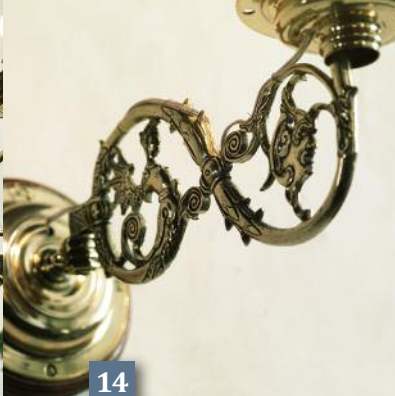
There are 19 preserved tombstones in the Cathedral, of which 16 can be dated from the mid-1600s to the end of the 1700s. The tombstones are preserved in the floors of the aisles, porch and turret room, and some have been set up in the choir walls (11) . However, none is in its original place.

Plaques – epitaphs

19 different plaques (12) from 1583-1775 have been preserved. The oldest was carved by Arent Snedker in memory of his wife Karine Hansdatter.



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Chandeliers

Hanging above the nave are four chandeliers (13), which were all granted to the Cathedral 'for its embellishment', as it was put in the donators' deed of foundation. The chandelier nearest to the choir is the oldest: it was granted by 32 Aalborg citizens in 1679. It weighs 172 kg. The three other chandeliers were gifted by the the citizens of Aalborg in 1682, 1709 and 1718. The Cathedral's other chandeliers are from the beginning of the 1900s.

Lamps

There are some beautiful, unique and richly detailed lamps (14) on the middle aisle's columns and above the door to the sacristy. These lamps can all be dated to the mid-1500s. The lamps in the choir are from the mid-1900s.

Ship model

At the entrance to the sacristy hangs a votive ship model

(15) that was granted to the Cathedral by churchwoman Petersen and stoker Søren Jensen in 1913. The ship has not been named, but bears the following inscription on its stern: From henceforth thou shall catch men, Luke 5:10.

Stained-glass windows

From 1905 until 1943, the Cathedral's large east-facing choir windows were decorated with impressive stained-glass designs. In 2006 the Cathedral received two restored fragments of these (16), which have now been installed in the old choir windows.

North aisle

A few years ago, the Cathedral was given a fragment of an altarpiece (17) by a donator's will. It represents Christ's Passion. With the help of the Conservation Department in the Danish National Museum, it has been determined that it is



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part of an altarpiece from island of Funen dating from 1450, and is worthy of preservation.

The chairs under the fragment – one with a drawer under the seat – are from around 1740.

Pews

The Cathedral's pews (18) are from 1900. The top decorative pieces on either side of the nave bear King Christian VI's mirror monogram. These were placed on the pews formerly reserved for the town's mayors and officials. 1739 and 1900 were the years in which the Cathedral underwent major restorations. The other decorative pieces with the flower arrangements date from 1900.

Bells and carillon

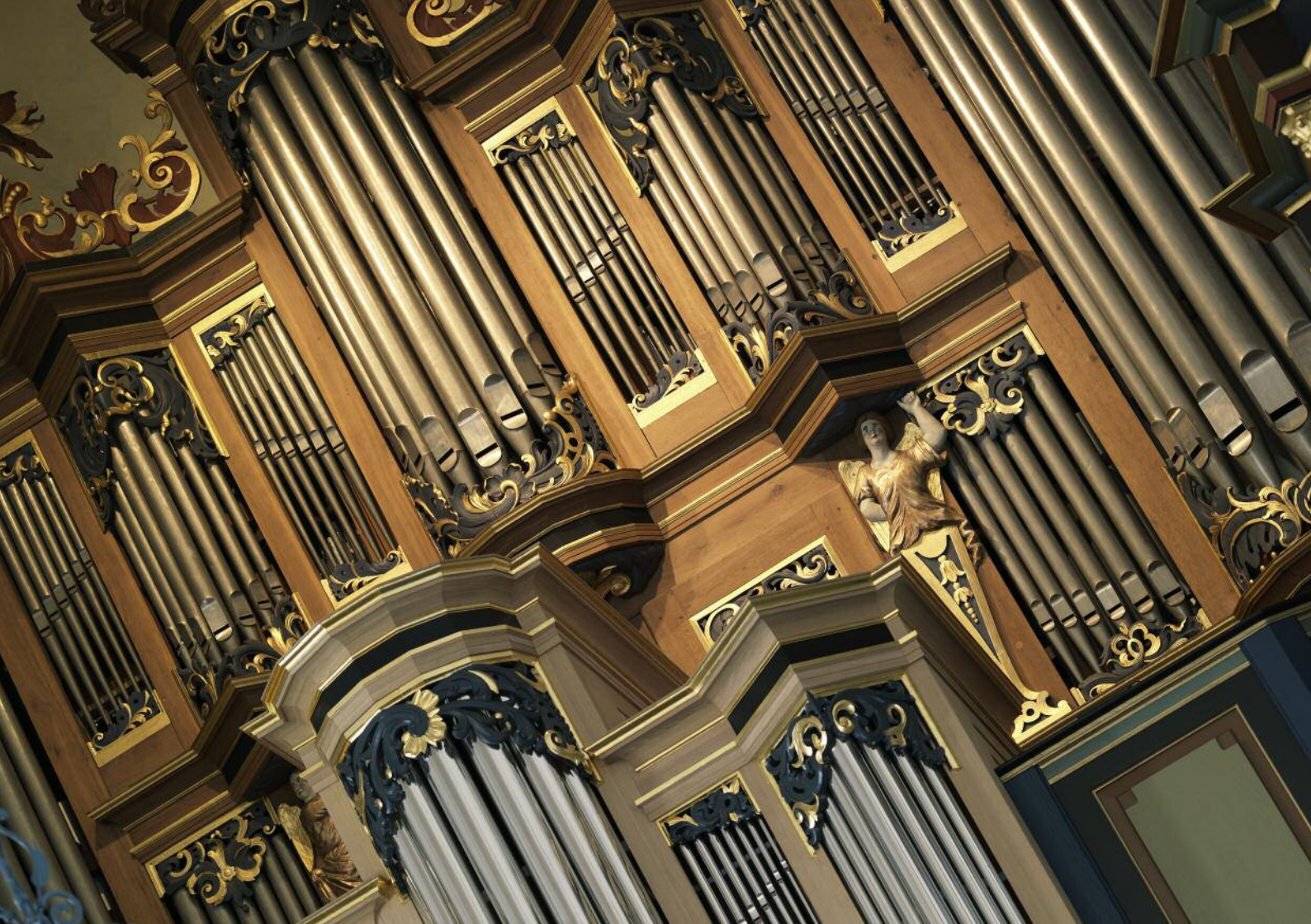
At all feasts and before every service, the Cathedral's three large bells are rung. The oldest two are from the 1660s. In

the steeple's north side hangs a 'tocsin' (storm bell) from 1681. The spire features a carillon with 48 bells. This was made in 1970 by the Dutch bell-making company Petit and Fritsen. The carillon can be heard just before and after each ten o'clock Sunday service, and on all other days on the hour between 9:00 and 22:00. The melodies change each hour.

Matched to the Church year and seasons, well-known tones ring out across the city's roofs. There are also carillon concerts on special occasions.

Spire

The spire with its weathercock (19) has been Aalborg's landmark since it was erected in 1779. It stands on a 28-metre-high turret. Together, the turret and spire measure 63.5 metres. The spire was erected with testamentary funds granted by the siblings Elisabeth and Jacob Himmerig in 1774 and 1773.





The Cathedral's dimensions

Length 56 metres, width 22 metres, incl. aisles.

Height, nave 11.5 metres.

Height, side aisles 6.5 metres.

Chronological table

1000-1100	Wooden church dedicated to St. Botolph (burned)
1100-1250	First Romanesque ashlar church – burned, foundations in crypt
1250-1440	Second Romanesque ashlar church – torn down
1440-1542	Gothic brick church with one aisle
1536	Reformation
1542	Gothic brick church with three aisles
1554	Cathedral of Aalborg diocese
1779	Spire erected – Aalborg's landmark
1795-1817	Clockwork and clock faces installed in tower
1899	North sacristy added
1943	Choir extended by 14 metres (cross on ridge shows where the church extended to) and chapel building to the south added
1975	Weathercock coated with gold leaf
2001-2002	The Cathedral undergoes major renovation

The publication Aalborg Domkirke contains more information on the Cathedral, its interior and history. It is available from the parish clerk's office, Algade 10, 9000 Aalborg. The book will be republished at the beginning of 2010.

This folder is published by the Parish Council of the Church of St. Budolf, June 2009.

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