



Svenska  
kyrkan



WELCOME TO  
~~~~~  
the Church of Glömminge

## CHURCHES ON ÖLAND

If you live on an island, you must be able to sail. Living by the Southern Baltic Sea has brought extensive contacts with the nations to the South.

Already in the Viking Age, the change of religion became obvious on Öland, not least because Christian graves began to appear on the village burial sites. The first churches were built during the 11th century, using wood and stave technique. A few scattered stave church planks still remain. Monuments engraved with runes have withstood the ravages of time and are preserved in six churches.

During the 12th century, 34 stone churches were built here. Soon after that, seven chapels were added at fishing villages and trading places. The earliest churches had windows and porches facing both the North and the South. A few even had a tower at the West end, and if so there would also be a porch there. Around each church, a burial place was provided for the dead and a stone wall surrounded the holy place. These churchyards are still in use.

In the 13th century and the Middle Ages many churches were provided with secular top floors and to almost half of them, a tower was added at the East End as well. The church buildings served as places for worship as well as storage space and for overnight accommodation. The role of the church during the Middle Ages shows how the church and

the world went hand in hand.

The following centuries saw only interior changes to most of Öland's churches. They were provided with arches and sometimes with new quires or porticos. Following the Reformation, new demands were made on church buildings. Preferably, the congregation should be seated, but the small medieval churches were short of space. Additions widened many churches, but towards the end of the 18th century, the thought of new buildings gained ground.

The churches on Öland have very few medieval artefacts. Numerous wars and the ravages by the Danes in 1677 left little behind. Today only one medieval church on Southern Öland is preserved intact. In another three, medieval rooms have survived. Seven churches have medieval towers.

Today's churches preserve ideals of style and function from the 18th and 19th century hall churches. The seated congregation listens to the service and sings together. Large windows make it easy to read from the Hymnal and the sermon spreads the Word throughout the entire building. Modern churches are gradually adapted to modern forms. Flexibility, participation and even technology make demands. On Southern Öland, one church has been adapted to modernity while preserving its medieval structure  
– the Church of Ventlinge.



## SOMETHING ABOUT THE GLÖMMINGE CHURCH

The church is situated on the crossroads between the road from the Kalmar Strait and the major road towards the North. Here travellers from the North had a straight road to the ferry from Röhälla to Kalmar.

The church was built towards the end of the 12th century with an apse, a quire portico and a tower at the West end. During the high Middle Ages, a transept was added to the South and also an extended quire with a straight end. The transept was given a portico, typical of the style at that time. Remnants of medieval murals are preserved on the North wall. The West end tower has several arched floors and a basic plan across the building.

A porch opening placed high up testifies to the secular use of

the building as a storage magazine. The quire portico also shows traces of trade and tradesmen's guilds.

The church was seriously damaged by fire during the 1677 war. Work to secure the tower and to prevent it from falling down was undertaken soon afterwards, as strong masonry support under the North gallery testifies. Broken roofing tiles, made at the Petri tileworks outside Lübeck, were used as filler material.

The current church took form during renovation and extension work in 1819 when the church was given the shape of a modern hall church. This was done by straightening all the walls and saving only the tower, part of the north wall and the south portal of the cross arm.



# WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF GLÖMMINGE

Your eyes will catch the special environment with the white church barns, the old vicarage and the church already from the road. The church is surrounded by a church yard with trees and a stone wall. The gates were locked in order to prevent cattle from entering the church yard, but people could use the climbing stocks besides the gate. Walking across the church yard, you will notice the beautiful view to the West with horse paddocks and clumps of oak trees.



*Vicarage Environment*

The Glömminge church is one of two churches in the Glömminge-Algutsrum parish which was created through amalgamation in 2016. Both of them are used continuously for the work of the parish.

The parish hall just to the East of the church yard was completed in 1990. It has become a valuable and much used meeting place for the many different activities of this parish.

Standing by the porch at the West end, you will notice that the church has been altered and added to. The tower was originally placed at the centre of the gable but a later addition left it to one side. Ever since it's beginning in the 12th century, this medieval little church has seen both rebuilding projects and additions.



*Tower from the West End*



# WELCOME IN

Glömminge is one of few churches on Öland that had a tower from the very beginning. Originally, there was a chamber on the ground floor in the tower for the master builder. It was open towards the church, but nowadays it is a separate porch. Two 17th century bridal pews are kept here as well as the old church chest, in which the church's money and the communion silver were kept.

Inside you can imagine the original medieval church in the North-West part of the room, open towards the chamber in the tower, the quire and the sacristy, with an open ceiling and visible beams. The small windows did not let in much light. As the church was enlarged, it became lighter with an added ceiling and larger windows, a quire at the East end and a gallery with an organ at the West end. What you see is a mixture of architecture and furnishings from different periods, but nothing is older than the latter part of the 17th century. Only the gravestones in the floor in the quire are preserved from the medieval church.

The mural on the North wall tells the stories of St Gertrud and Erasmus.



*Two Bridal Pews*



*The Mural Fragment*

## TIMES OF UPHEAVAL

During the upheavals caused by the Danish ravages most of the church at Glömminge was plundered, burnt and destroyed so that "not even a little splinter remained, but only the wall" as the then vicar wrote about the attack in 1677.

However, the parish was lucky to have an exceptionally enterprising vicar, called Fr Hwessing. He begged for money from various quarters, and even King Carolus XI contributed a great deal. As the King and his companions were hunting at Glömminge, the vicar took the opportunity to secure the means to pay for new church bells.

"God be my witness, what diligence I had to use before I could achieve this bell. Gathered together all the means I could think of to redeem it. When the bell was home, and we had

redeemed it, in May 1689, there were no money at all in the church fund, no more than one silver coin and 18 and a half cent," Fr Hwessing wrote about the purchase of the new bells.

The restoration work continued for many years under the leadership of the vicar, Fr Hwessing, and around the year 1700 the church \*was more or less restored. The Danes had attacked Öland already during the Kalmar war in 1611 in order to conquer the Fort at Borgholm. A terrible bloodbath had taken place at the Greby moor. Many valuable items from the church at Glömminge, including the two bells, were brought to Denmark. The then vicar ended up in captivity with the Danes but came back after a few years



*The drawing is a sketch of the church and the wall at Glömminge, by H Rhezelius, in the summer of 1634.*

*Glömminge kyrka och bogårdsmur, avtecknade på sommaren 1634 av J H Rhezelius. KB.*

# IN TO THE CURCH

There is a small fragment on the North wall of the murals that decorated the interior from the 15th century. A little further along you see the pulpit, an excellent piece of rococo work from 1775.

## The Votive Ship

The votive ship, the brig Souwenir, which hangs in the quire, is a gift from a man from Kalmar who was distressed at sea outside Röhälla but was saved.

## The Reredos

"Golgotha" was painted in 1873 by the famous Glömminge painter N.J. Jonsson. His paintings can be found in several other churches, houses and major farms on Öland. The old reredos, "The Last Supper" from 1740 by Graubner now hangs on the South wall.



## Baptism

Nowadays most baptisms take place in the church, using the beautiful font made of Öland stone. It was designed in 1939 by the then vicar of the parish, Carl Areskog, who also designed the stately portal made of Öland stone, which leads you from the East in between the church barns.

## Music

Singing and music is important for the worship of this parish. The organ, from 1983, built by Ingvar Johansson, Västbo Organ builders at Långaryd, contributes greatly.





The Joint Parish of Southern Öland consists of 7 parishes that together manage 18 churches and 1 chapel. The church of Glömminge is situated in the Parish of Glömminge-Algutsrum.

Södra Ölands pastorat  
Kyrkgatan 3  
386 92 FÄRJESTADEN

Phone: +46(0)485-380 12  
E-mail: [sodraolands.pastorat@svenskakyrkan.se](mailto:sodraolands.pastorat@svenskakyrkan.se)  
[www.svenskakyrkan.se/sodraoland](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/sodraoland)

Follow us on social media!



Svenska Kyrkan södra Öland



@svenskakyrkansodraoland