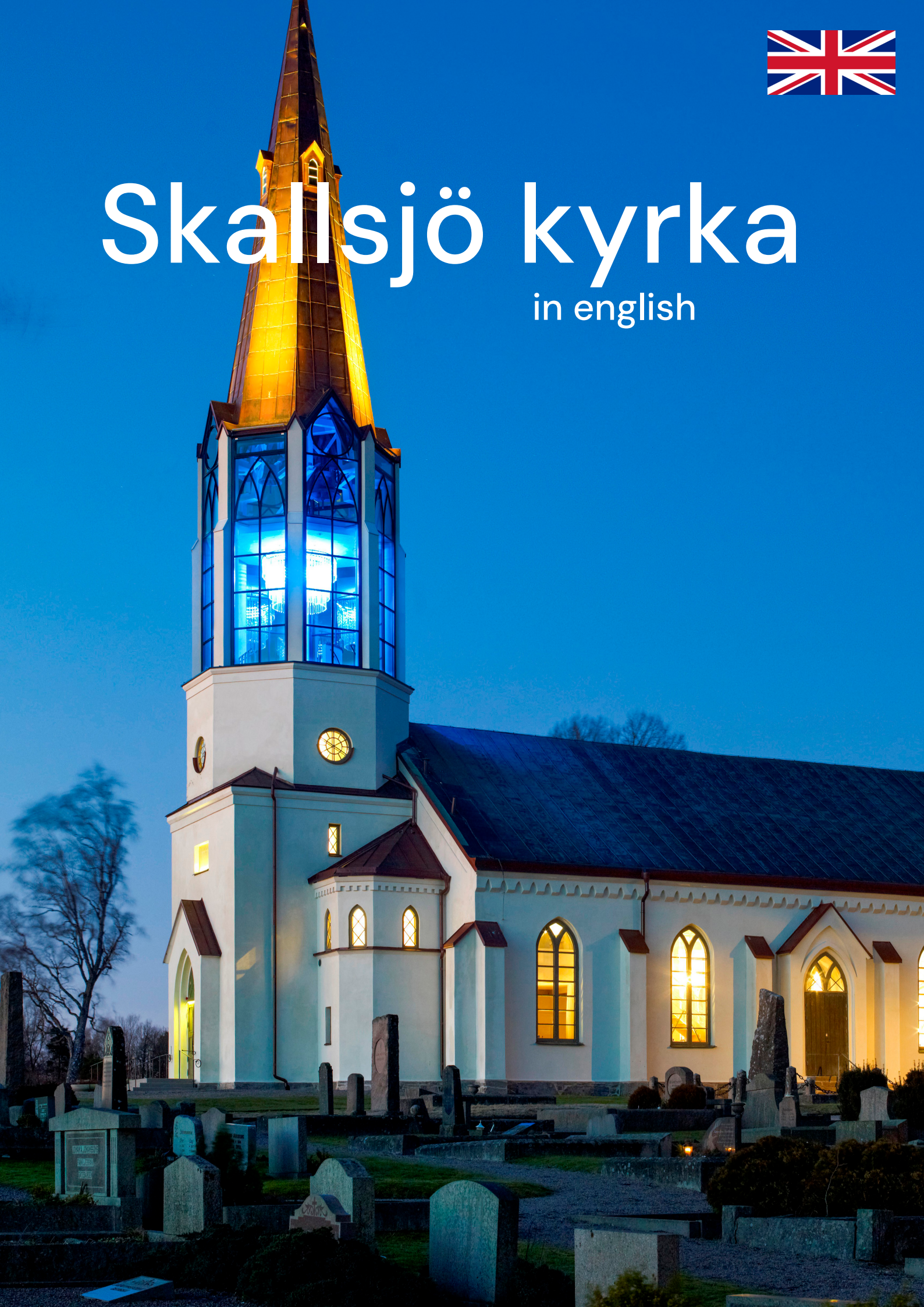




Skallsjö kyrka

in english





Skallsjö old church seen from the north. Today the site holds the church ruin.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Skallsjö built its first church in the 13th century. The church was placed approximately where the pagans had a sacrificial holy place. Eventually the church became too small, so during the 17th century it was expanded.

The same problem with a too small room occurred again in the mid-1800's, at a time when the church was in need of repair. On the 23rd of May 1849 the parish council considered building a new church. The church would be closer to Tollered, which at that time was the main village.

In 1856, Johan Theodor Berg from Tollered, submitted drawings for a new church. The parish wanted the new church to be bright with high windows, in contrast to the old dark church.

The parishioners were satisfied with the drawings submitted and a fund-raising for the church construction was initiated. The land where the church now stands, the former cottage Ekelund, was donated by the family Hofvings at Floda manor.

Church construction began in 1861 and ended in 1863 at a cost of 40,000 Swedish crowns. Thanks to donations, the financial situation was solved: Johan Teodor Berg from Tollered donated 25,000 Swedish crowns and Peter Wilhelm Berg from Nääs donated 6,000 Swedish crowns as well as funding the organ.

Today the church is 29 meters long in addition to the porch and counts approximately 15 meters in width. In 1907 the tower was rebuilt and today there is a new, higher and more slender spire counting 42 meters high.

As late as 1939 electricity was installed in church and in 1951 the church spire was clad with copper.



The church before the renovation in the 1940s.



The old church, which was allowed to decay when leaving it for the new built church.

THE ROOF PAINTINGS

The artist Joel Mila has painted the ceiling in the church. He was born 29th of September 1895 in Jönköping, an artist who worked with, for instance; mosaic, glass window, roof and wall painting in churches. He is also to be found in profane art. In 1923 he painted the roller coaster at Liseberg, an amusement park in Gothenburg.

1954, Mila was assigned by Skallsjö church council to draft a painting for the chancel. In 1956, after one and a half years of preparation, he initiated the work and on December 8th, bishop Bo Giertz consecrated the paintings.

Today, the paintings are cleaned and the colors have a true lustre. Small parts of the painting is kept uncleaned and at these spots you can see the difference in the colors.

The font is renovated and is now situated at the bottom left of the church.



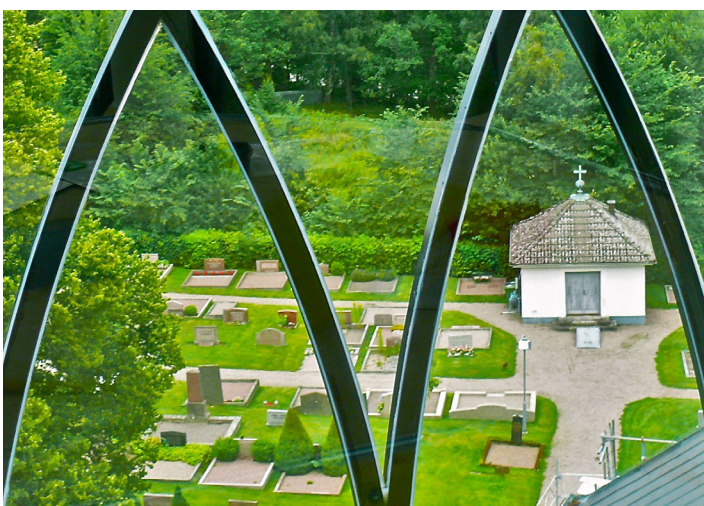
THE TOWER

In the tower room, where you have a wonderful view, there is a large chandelier, consisting of 270 prisms of different sizes. You can read more about it on the next page.

In the tower there are two bells, both from the old church. In 1695 the large bell was donated by Gustaf Abraham Örnevinge. On the bell it says "You are consecrated to God – the best and greatest and King Carl XI and the congregation Skallsjö".

In the tower there is also a small bell from 1636. On it it says "Most High God, my noble treasure, your spirit guides me day and night".

In connection with the renovation in 2010–2011, a copper box was built into the tower containing period documents such as Lerums Tidning, the book about Skallsjö church, photos, prices for daily necessities and a linen cloth on which those who worked in the tower wrote their names.



THE CHANDELIER

In the tower room there is a large chandelier, consisting of 270 prisms in different sizes. This chandelier can be lit in different colors, although it mostly shines in white/yellow.

The colors that illuminate the chandelier follow the liturgical colors of the church year.

The church year is structured somewhat differently than the calendar we use today. The church year begins with the First Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday.



The liturgical colors that illuminate the tower are:

White

The color of joy and purity. It is used during times when joy is the focus, such as Christmas, Easter Sunday, the time after Easter, and Pentecost. But the color white is also used during other holidays and at baptisms and weddings.

Red

The color of the Holy Spirit and blood. It is used at Pentecost (the feast of the Spirit) and Sundays in memory of martyrs, people who died because of their faith in Jesus. Boxing Day and St. John the Baptist's Day, the Sunday after Midsummer, are such days.

Green

The most common color during the church year that stands for spiritual growth. As a believer and Christian, you are never "finished", but always have more to learn, both as a Christian and as a human being. The color is used during the Trinity Season, which falls during the summer and autumn, and the Thirteenth Day Season.

Violet and blue

The color of repentance and preparation. It is the most serious color of the church year and is used in Advent, when we prepare for Christmas, and in Lent, in preparation for Easter. The color blue can also be used on Marian days such as the fourth Advent when the theme is the Mother of the Lord and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Black

The color of sorrow and death. It is only used on Good Friday (the day Jesus dies on the cross), and at funerals. Black is not a color in the chandelier, but we have turned off the lights on Good Friday to remind us that Jesus died for us.

The liturgical colors can also be seen on the priest's clothes, the stole and the chasuble, and the communion textiles, among other things, inside the church room.



CHURCH INTERIOR

The candlestick was made in the Tollered-Nääs forge in 1991 and is located in the lower part of the church.

14 new floor candlesticks have been made by the blacksmith Ivan Dahlstrand in Tollered. He was inspired by the leaves from the old painting on the side of the pulpit.

The floor clock was made in 1783 by clockmaker Anders Lindberg and was probably donated to the old church by Jacob von Utfall in Nääs. The floor clock previously stood in the old church in Skallsjö. The painting and clockwork in it were restored in 1911 and again in 2006.

The tombstone of the Trana family in Nääs was moved from the old church to the new one in 1895. The church also contains the banner of the district governor Johan Gustafsson Örnevinge, and in the front of the choir are two angels blowing trumpets. These were found outside the church ruins shortly after the old church had been abandoned.

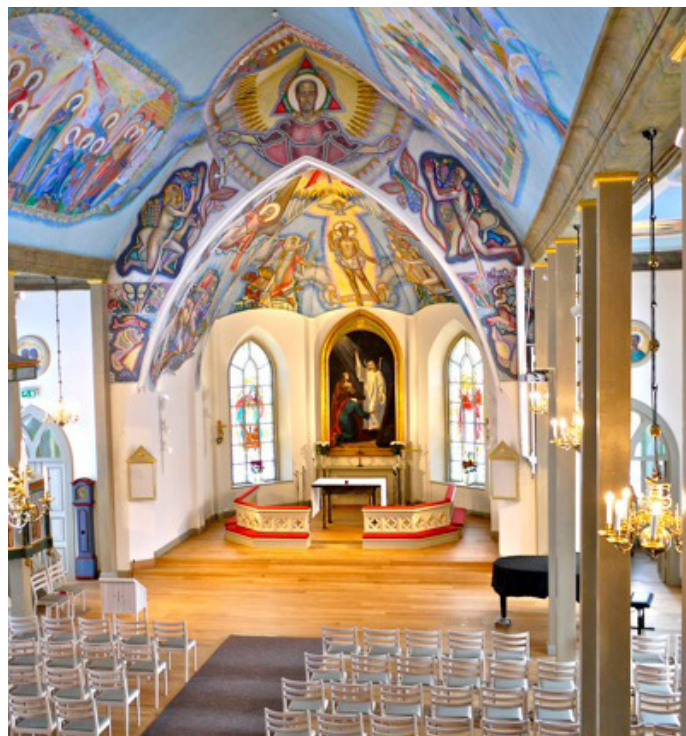
The choir windows were decorated in 1915 with stained glass by Yngve Lindström. They were donated by Anna von Proschwitz at Floda manor and cost 2000 riksdaler.

Gustav V approved the drawings for the windows in September 1914. The left window shows Jesus with Joseph and Mary and the right one shows Jesus' ascension to heaven.

The altarpiece was painted in 1863 by the artist Werner and depicts Jesus' resurrection and the angel telling the women that the tomb is empty.

The pulpit received its paintings in 1956. The figures around it are Christ, Paul, Olaus Petri, Luther and Schartau. The cost, 2300 kronor, was donated by the parish's sewing associations in Ryggebol, Tollered and Floda.

The original church organ was built in 1863 by Söderling and some organ stops still remain. During the renovation in 1939, the organ was expanded and electrified. It was completely renovated in 2002 and is now fully mechanical.



REFURBISHMENT 2010–2011

The pews have been removed, except in the gallery, and replaced with chairs. The chair is called "Josef" and was designed by Jonas Olsson, Falkenberg. Each chair has a hymnbook pocket, sound absorber and connecting fittings. The chairs can be connected in rows or circles. "Josef" is an improved version of the "Lola" chair, which was made for the wedding of Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel in Storkyrkan in 2010.

Three layers of old flooring have been removed and new oak flooring has been laid in blocks, just as the pews were before. Two wide steps now lead up to the choir, otherwise everything is on one level, including the storage rooms. Underfloor heating has been installed and a specially woven carpet from Kasthall is in the old aisles. The church has been completely repainted inside.

The pulpit has been refurbished and some old paintings have been brought out on the side panel.

The wall under the organ gallery has been moved forward to make room for a large gathering room, sacristy, cloakroom and disabled toilet. Old windows have been salvaged and are now being reused in the gathering room and as a mirror frame on the wall outside the disabled toilet. A staircase leading up to the organ gallery has been built.

The old tower spire was lifted down using huge cranes and placed next to the church while it was being renovated and given new copper sheeting. The church bells were stored in a building next door in the meantime.

The tower was torn down stone by stone. At the bottom, the tower was reinforced with concrete pillars. The new glass tower was lifted into place. The renovated tower spire with the bells was lifted up on December 20, 2010 in minus ten degrees.



The tower as it looked before the renovation started. The red color is red algae that has arisen in connection with moisture damage.



The altarpiece has been renovated and has been given a brighter shine. The old altar has been shortened in depth so that only one shelf remains, the pillars are newly marbled.

A new movable altar is in place. It was made by Sven Karlsson at Nääs carpentry and marbled by Tommy Blom. The altar roundel is removable and can be disassembled.



The masonite panels that were added from a previous renovation have now been removed so that the old joinery is visible. The altar ring has been reupholstered and covered with red wool fabric.

The baptismal font has been renovated and has been placed at the bottom left of the church.

THE CHURCH TODAY

Today, Skallsjö Church is a popular place for church services, and is visited annually by around 20,000 people. Baptisms, weddings and funerals take place every week and church services every Sunday.

You can read more about the parish on our website, www.svenskakyrkan.se/skallsjo and our social media.

The parish hall is located in central Floda, at Uddaredsvägen 1.



PHOTOS FROM THE CHURCH

Night and day, all times of the year. Skallsjö Church is beautiful regardless of the time of year.

