



Løgumkloster Church

-welcome

symbol of Mary, known from the seal of the mother abbey Cîteaux.

There is a baroque *baptismal font* (1704).

The *pulpit* was probably made in the nearby town of Tønder around 1580. It has reliefs showing the virtues and Latin inscriptions. Two wooden sculptures from former side altars have been placed on the westernmost pillars: Saint Anna with Mary and Jesus («Anna Selbstdritt», c. 1500) and a «Pietà» with Mary and the dead Jesus (c. 1500-1525). The organ was made by Marcussen & Son, Aabenraa (1969). It has been enlarged and given a new façade (2015).

Cultural centre

Løgumkloster Church is an inspirational centre in a living cultural milieu, which includes a Refugium with guest house and conferences, a Church Music School which trains organists, church singers and bellringers, the Danish Church's Educational Centre, the Art Museum Holmen and Løgumkloster Folk High School.

There is a weekly church service Sundays, a German service on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m., and Evensong every day except Sunday at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesdays with holy communion.

Published by the Parish Council.

Løgumkloster Church is associated with the union »European Charter for Cistercian monasteries and places«. The purpose of the association is to be a living context for exchanges and knowledge about the role of the Cistercians in European history, especially in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and to inform the public about the importance of the Cistercians in the cultural identity of Europe in the twenty-first century: www.cister.eu

Løgumkloster is the geographic centre of the Danish Klostrerute, which is a guide for tourists and pilgrims from Elsinore to Frederikshavn: www.klosterruten.dk

A detailed guide in Danish is: Jens Kristian Krarup, *Levende kulturarv. Guide til Løgumkloster Kirke*, published by Museet Holmen, Løgumkloster 2015.

- Europæisk charter for cisterciensernes klostre og steder www.cister.eu
- Folkekirken www.folkekirken.dk
- Løgumkloster kirke www.loegumkloster-kirke.dk
- Nordschleswigsche Gemeinde www.kirche.dk
- Folkekirkens Uddannelses-og Videnscenter www.fkuv.dk
- Løgumkloster Refugium www.loegumkloster-refugium.dk
- Løgumkloster Kirkemusikskole www.kirkemusikskole.dk
- Klostreruten www.klosterruten.dk
- Museum Sønderjylland Kulturhistorie Tønder www.museum-sonderjylland.dk
- Dansk kirke i Sydslesvig www.dks-folkekirken.dk
- Museet Holmen www.museetholmen.dk

Photograph on the front page: www.oldtidsglimt.dk

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FOLKEKIRKEN



Map showing Cistercian abbeys in Denmark and the Baltic region in about 1200. Taken from C. M. Smidt, *Cistercienserkirken i Løgum, Copenhagen, 1931*.

The medieval abbey

Løgum Abbey was founded in about 1170 as a daughter house of Herrevad Abbey in Scania, the first Cistercian abbey in Scandinavia, in the filiation of Cîteaux. The monks called the place to which they came *Locus Dei*, God's place. The church was completed by about 1325 and made up the north side of a four-winged monastic precinct. Today only the church and the

northern segment of the eastern monastic wing have been preserved.

In this wing are found a number of restored rooms, including the chapter room and the dormitory, which today has a remarkable wooden crucifix (from about 1945) by the Danish artist Astrid Noack.

In the years after the Protestant Reformation's coming to the duchy of Slesvig in 1542, the monastery was closed down.

The church has had three main restorations (1844-45, 1913-26, and 2014-15) and is today one of the best preserved Cistercian brick buildings in the Baltic and North Sea regions.

The monastery church has since 1739 functioned as a parish church for the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The exterior of the church

The church has stylistic characteristics in common with the Cistercian churches Fontenay and Jouy in France and the Cistercian church of Sorø in Denmark. The long building period of the church in the course of the thirteenth century is reflected in the romanesque windows at the east end and the gothic windows at the west end. Church and monastery were built in red brick, which until that time was not known as a building material in the region. With its height and symmetrical form in terms of walls, gables, windows and roof, the church is considered to be an architectural jewel.

The interior of the church

The fifteenth century *Triptych* was brought from Jerne Church in 1925. In the middle section is seen the Mercy Seat, with God the Father and his suffering Son.



To the left is the Virgin Mary and the child. On the right is Bishop Martin of Tours. On the side wings are the Apostles.

Onto the north wall of the choir has been attached a reliquary from about 1325. It is unique in Denmark. The sixteen small openings originally contained relics of the saints seen on the wings.

On the south wall of the choir is a *celebrant's chair*, also from about 1325. The middle seat was for the priest officiating (celebrating) the liturgy. The picture in the middle gable is partly newly painted: Christ lifts Mary's soul to heaven.

In the choir arch is a large *crucifix*, dated to the completion of the church around 1325, with Mary and John on each side (from about 1925). The crucifix was in the Middle Ages placed at a wall in the western end of the church, which was reserved for the lay brothers.

In the southern transept is the rebuilt monastic stairway (»night stairs«), leading up to the monks' dormitory.

In the southern aisle of the nave one can see the monks' *processional door* leading onto the cloister walk. The north and south side chapels contain, respectively, five and four choir stalls, made between 1502 and 1514.

High up on the north wall, above the pulpit, there is a wall painting of the *fleur-de-lis*, probably intended as a

