

# Giske Kyrkje

## Giske Church



# The church

Giske Church was built around 1130. The walls are still the originals, but the roof and interior are newer.

The walls of the church are made of marble. The inside and outside of the church are covered in plaster to protect it.

Underneath the left window on the south side of the church, you can see the marble, which is from Norway and Italy.



*The marble underneath the window*



# The church

Giske church is a Lutheran church.

The church is still in use for  
weddings, funerals, concerts, and  
Sunday services.



# The restoration

In 1756, the church underwent a restoration. Much of the church's interior dates back to this time.

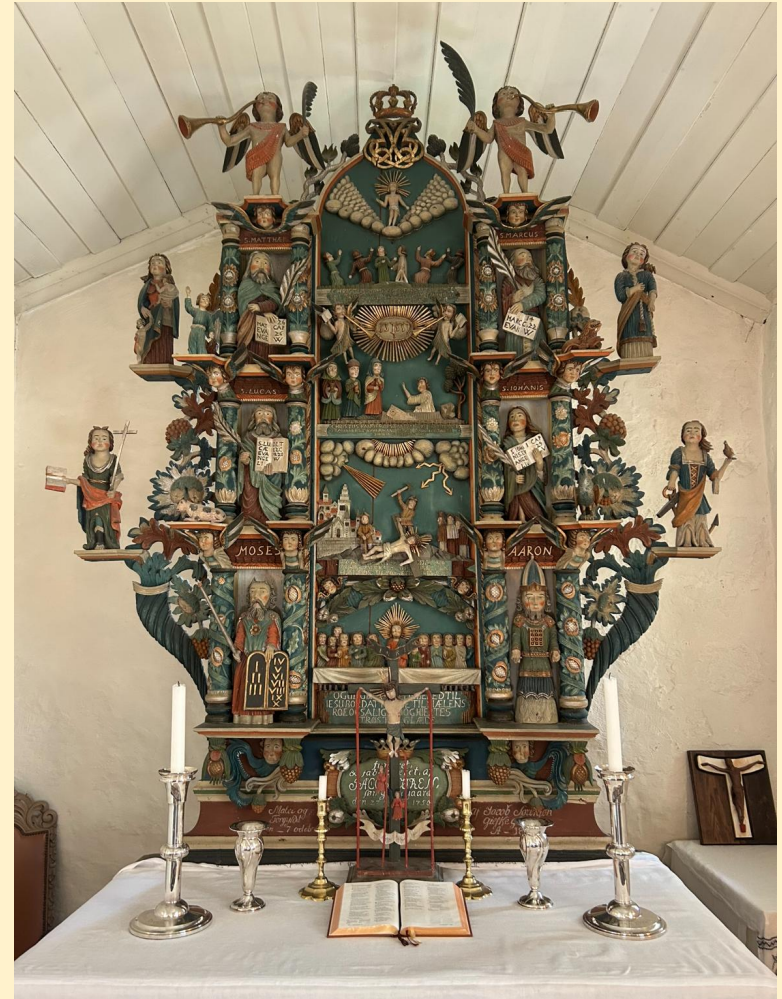
*This panel hangs on a wall inside the church. It tells us about the restoration.*





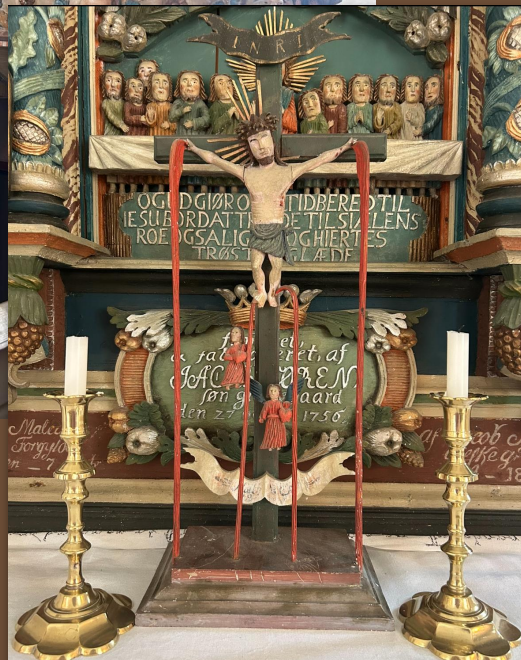
# Tavle-Jakob

A young man from the island named Jakob Sørensen Giskegaard was a skilled woodcarver. He has made six altarpieces in the area, hence his nickname, Tavle-Jakob, or Altarpieces-Jakob. Much of his work is here in the church.





# Tavle-Jakob's work in the church





# The oldest objects in the church



Original altarcloth from 1688.



Copy of crucifixion group from the 13th century.

# Pretty Valborgs grave

On the south side of the church, you can find a grave protected by a glass roof. This grave is very old; many believe that the church's builder is buried there.

There is a story about this grave, about a girl named Valborg and a boy named Axel. They were in love and wanted to marry each other, but were not allowed to, because Valborg was from a wealthy family, and Axel was poor.

Valborg ended up taking her own life and was buried in this grave. When Axel died only a few years later, he was buried on the opposite side of the church. This was because the rich and the poor were buried opposite sides of the church. Eventually, a tree grew from Valborg's grave, and another tree for Axel's. The trees grew so tall that the branches met above the church, so Valborg and Axel got each other in heaven.





# The kissing crosses

When the church was built, it was a Catholic church. After the reformation, it became a Lutheran church, which it still is today.

When the church was Catholic, it was a pilgrimage church. In the year 1345, the Pope sent a letter to pilgrims, telling them that if they visited Giske Church, they would get one hundred days of their sins forgiven. Therefore, pilgrims visited the church and carved crosses into the walls.

These crosses are called kissing-crosses, and you can find them on the east side of the church, on the right side of the door.



Thank you for visiting  
Giske Kyrkje!