

The church of Sønder Kongerslev

- A landmark of a village



by
Keld Jensen

The church of Sønder Kongerslev – A landmark of a village

The Church has always been there, high above the city. The church with the whitewashed octagonal tower and the church bell that rings the sun up and down or calls to church services.

I have often tried to draw the church with my pencil, but it is hard to get the angles to stand right in the octagonal tower. I have also photographed it. It lies there and represents something stable in my life and it also represents a great story.

It has been here throughout my life. It has been here for many generations in the life of my family. There are many churches which are much larger than this church, but here on the hill it seems very dominant and the lead roof and the fieldstone walls makes it seem very solid and sturdy. It stands out from all other buildings in the town.

The church was rebuilt and embellished through the centuries. The altarpiece is from 1597 and renovated through the centuries. The old church bell is from 1400. The first impression when you stand in the middle of the nave is the long history of this building.

Thoughts fall on the infinite series of events, this room has experienced. The utmost pleasure in the christenings and the weddings and the grief at funerals of close friends and relatives. The history of our own generation fills infinitely little in this context.

The whitewashed stone walls give the feeling of a bright and robust room. The decor seems like it always should have been here. Indeed it has, in our time. But our time is short compared to the history of this room. Before there have been murals and other decorations.

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There are many visual impressions. You get the feeling of something awe-inspiring. The atmosphere of the room makes you instinctively lowering your voice or completely be quiet.

There are many details you never have recognised, even though you have been in the church many times. A summer day the sun shines into the church through the large, decorative windows. It gives the room a whole new dimension.

When the camera is at hand, these visual impressions are caught and retained. It is interesting. For the image on the screen or in front of you on the photo paper, then your thoughts continues automatically: Who were the persons who carried out this particular details in the bricks, who have shaped this chubby putto? How were these people who have sat on the benches and let the eye wander around at his fellow man and the church, while the contemporary pastor preached?

The work with photography carries a lot. For the first time I got the permission of the sexton to climb up into the tower and see this bell, which I have heard so many times. The reverse of the masonry ceiling vaults appears as rough stones under the lead roof. The bell has coated with verdigris and is marked by centuries of use.

The church is presentable here on the hill. As a landmark for the village whether you are a believer or not. It is interesting that no former or current generations have set out to build a similar building that might stand in as many centuries? Even my old school is teared down. About a hundred years from now, our generation may no longer be traced in the buildings in the city.

But the church on the hill, it probably still will be here.



The church viewed from the south, May 2004



*The octagonal church tower,
July 2009*



The porch, July 2010



*The nave and the altar,
July 2010*



The altar, July 2010



Putti, July 2010

Quit

The church of Sdr. Kongerslev

Thumbnails





A crying putto, July 2010



*A detail in a figure in the church,
July 2010*



The altar, July 2010



*A star in the vault above the altar,
July 2010*

Quit

The church of Sdr. Kongerslev

Thumbnails





*Whitewashed masonry,
July 2010*



The pulpit, July 2010



*An angel on the pulpit,
July 2010*



*Head of a lion in woodwork,
July 2010*



*Window in the church at the south side,
July 2010*



The organ, July 2010



Organ pipes, July 2010



Organ Pipes, July 2010



An ornament on a lid of a coffin, July 2010



The church bell, July 2010



Light in the church, December 2010

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The church of Sdr. Kongerslev

Thumbnails





Christmas snow, December 2010

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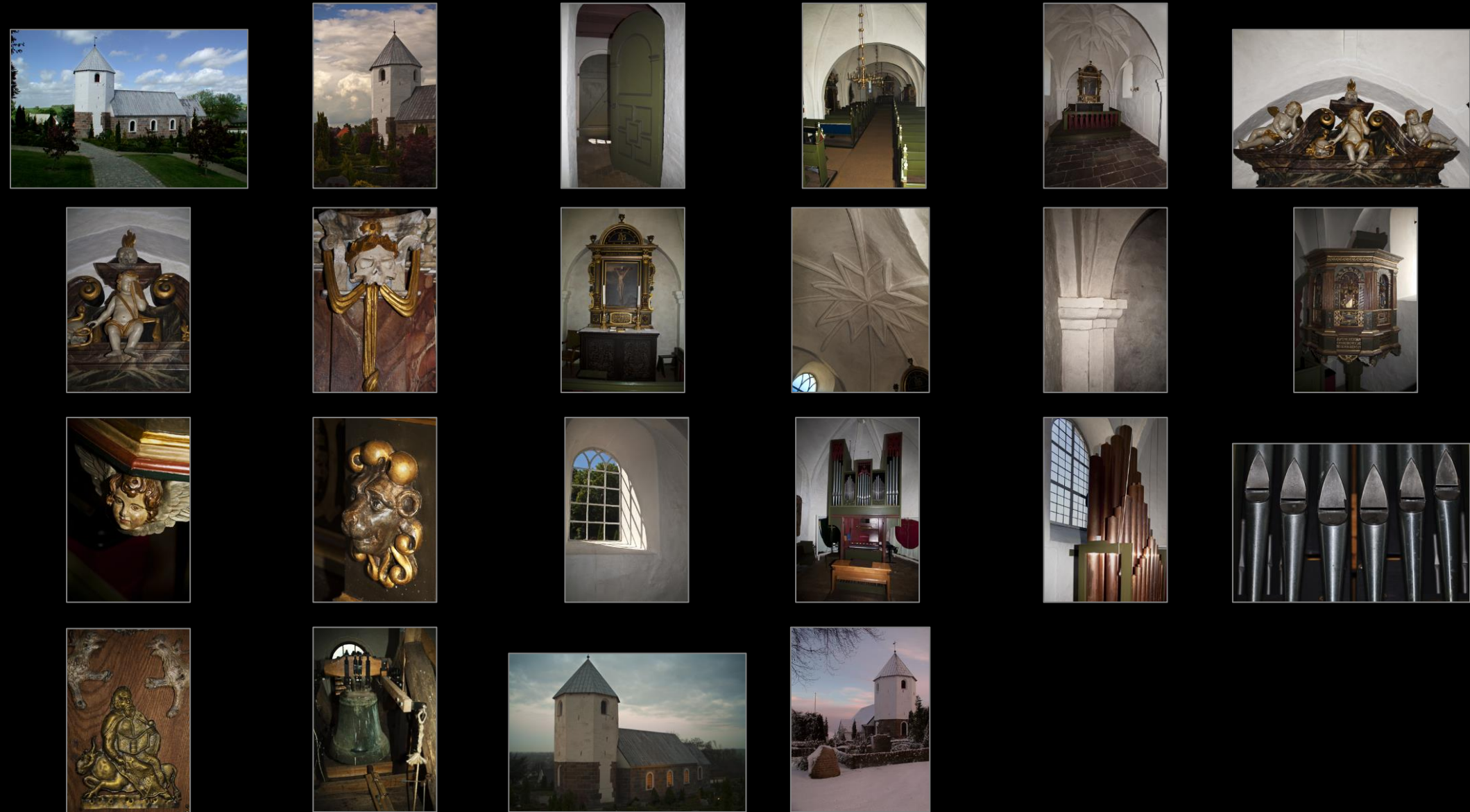
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