

KIRKEGÅRDENS
BILLEDBOG
THE PICTURE BOOK
OF THE CEMETERY

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Nr. 43, oktober 2026

No. 43, October 2026

Kirkegårdens billedbog

Jeg havde ikke tænkt mig at læse navnene. Det var udsmykningen, der trak mig rundt mellem stenene på kirkegården i Komdrup. Efter nogen tid gik det op for mig, at det var som at bladre i en bog.

Det er en billedbog, som er blevet til over hundrede år. Hver side var en udsmykning eller en figur, der på forskellige tider var valgt af borgerne i den lille landsby.

På den første sten, jeg stod længe foran, var der en olielampe. Blålige og grønne farve. Den var støbt i bronze. Den hører til de ting, man sjældent ser i hverdagen i dag, men en gang symboliserede olielampen i kristendommen Guds ord, troen og håbet om opstandelse.

Komdrup var en gang en landsby med bondegårde. Derfor er det også naturligt, at flere gravstene er prydet med relieffer eller udhugninger i granit af bonden. Han går bag ploven, og foran ham trækker hesten.

Mange udsmykninger er måske valgt, fordi de skal virke som et symbol, der har relevans for den afdøde og den afdødes liv. Men man-

ge er måske også blot udsmykninger, som blev valgt, fordi nogle mennesker syntes, de var smukke.

Udsmykningen er jo oftest ikke valgt af personen, der ligger begravet her, men hans efterkommere. Jeg tror, det er og har været de færreste, der selv havde valgt deres sten og måske endog havde den stående på gården, indtil den skulle komme i brug. Dekorationen er og var i de fleste tilfælde en hyldest til den afdøde fra efterkommerne.

Det er interessant at gå her mellem gravene. Når jeg kommer forbi kirken og kirkegården der højt oppe over landsbyen, så tager jeg mig ofte tid til lige at gå en runde. Jeg føler ikke, at det er trist at gå her blandt gravene. Der er noget specielt i, at man her har valgt at fortælle om livet med forskellige symboler: En olielampe, en plov, en hest, de religiøse symboler.

Ugens fotografier er fra besøg på Komdrup Kirkegård i foråret 2020. Jeg har skåret udsmykningen ud og givet den en ny baggrund for at fremhæve detaljerne i de små kunstværker.

The Picture Book of the Cemetery

I had not intended to read the names. It was the ornamentation that drew me around among the gravestones in the cemetery at Komdrup. After a while, it dawned on me that it was like leafing through a book.

It is a picture book that has taken shape over more than a hundred years. Each page was an ornament or a figure chosen at different times by the residents of the small village.

On the first gravestone I stood in front of for a long time, there was an oil lamp. Bluish and greenish in colour, it had been cast in bronze. It belongs to the kind of object one rarely sees in everyday life today, but in the Christian tradition, the oil lamp once symbolised the Word of God, faith, and the hope of resurrection.

Komdrup was once a village of farms. It is therefore only natural that several gravestones are adorned with reliefs or carvings in granite depicting a farmer. He walks behind the plough, with a horse pulling it in front of him.

Many of the ornaments may have been chosen because they were intended to serve as symbols relevant to the deceased and their

life. But many may also simply be decorations chosen because some people thought they were beautiful.

After all, the ornamentation is usually not chosen by the person buried here, but by their descendants. I believe that only a few people have ever chosen their own gravestone and perhaps even kept it standing on the farm until it was needed. In most cases, both then and now, the decoration is a tribute to the deceased from their descendants.

It is fascinating to walk among the graves here. Whenever I pass the church and cemetery, perched high above the village, I often take the time to have a little wander around. I do not find it sad to walk among the graves. There is something special about the way people here have chosen to tell stories of life through different symbols: an oil lamp, a plough, a horse, and religious symbols.

This photographs of the week are from a visit to Komdrup Cemetery in the spring of 2020. I have cut out the ornamentation and given it a new background to highlight the details of these small works of art.



Komdrup Kirkegård, april 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, April 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, april 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, April 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

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Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård,
juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup,
June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, april 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, April 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård, juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup, June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård,
juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup,
June 2020



Komdrup Kirkegård,
juni 2020

The Cemetery of Komdrup,
June 2020

KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Kirkegårdens billedbog
Af Keld Jensen

PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret oktober 2026

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: The Picture Book of the Cemetery
By Keld Jensen

PDF Version 1
Originally Published October 2026

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