

Dale Church

History

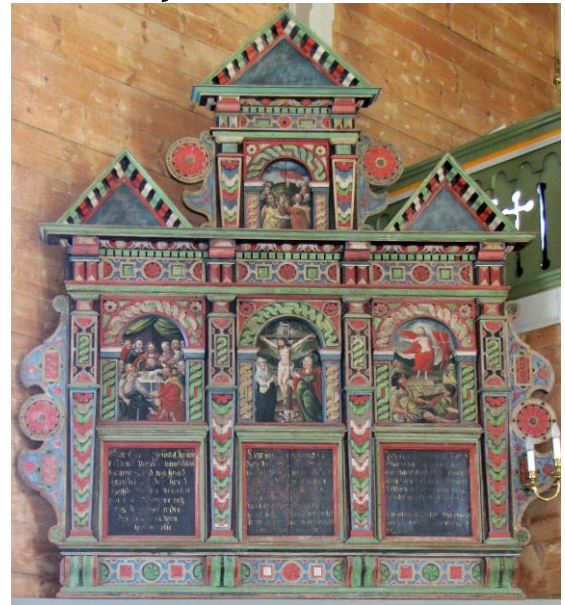
The present church building dates from 1864. It is built of timber in neo-gothic style, like many other Norwegian churches from the second half of the 19th century. The builder was Mr Øvrehus from Hosanger and the cost, 5000 “spesiedalar”. The church seats up to 550 and has been the main church in Fjaler district since 1894.

It is not known exactly when the first church was built here in Dale after Christianity arrived in Norway about 1000 years ago. The first building was probably a stave church, of which many were built in this part of the country from the 12th century onwards.

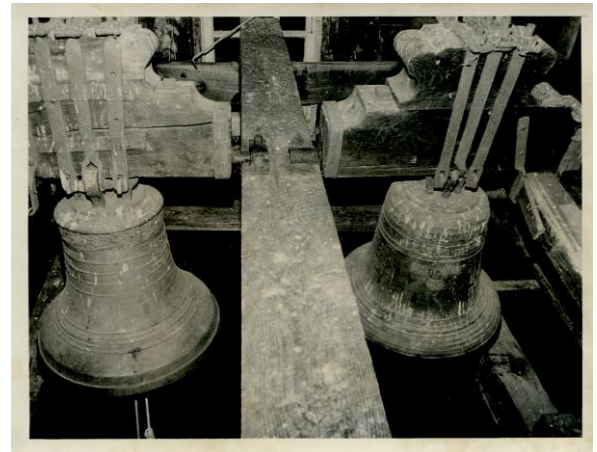
“Dalskirkue” is mentioned in a historical document from 1350. This was probably the second church to be built in Fjaler. It was demolished in 1593 to make room for a new timber church which stood until 1863. We have pictures of this church. The famous landscape artist Anders Askevold included it in an oil painting of Dale village in 1853.

In 1772 all the churches in the parish were sold by auction into private ownership. But in 1860 consul Jansen gave the church back to the congregation free of charge. Because the building was too small and in bad condition it was demolished in 1863 and the new church was completed the following year.

Inventory



This altarpiece from the old church dates from 1620 and is now placed in the front left hand side of the nave. It shows the Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection with the Ascension at the top.



The belfry contains two bells. The one on the right dates from 1593, the year the previous church was built. The other bell was cast in 1750.

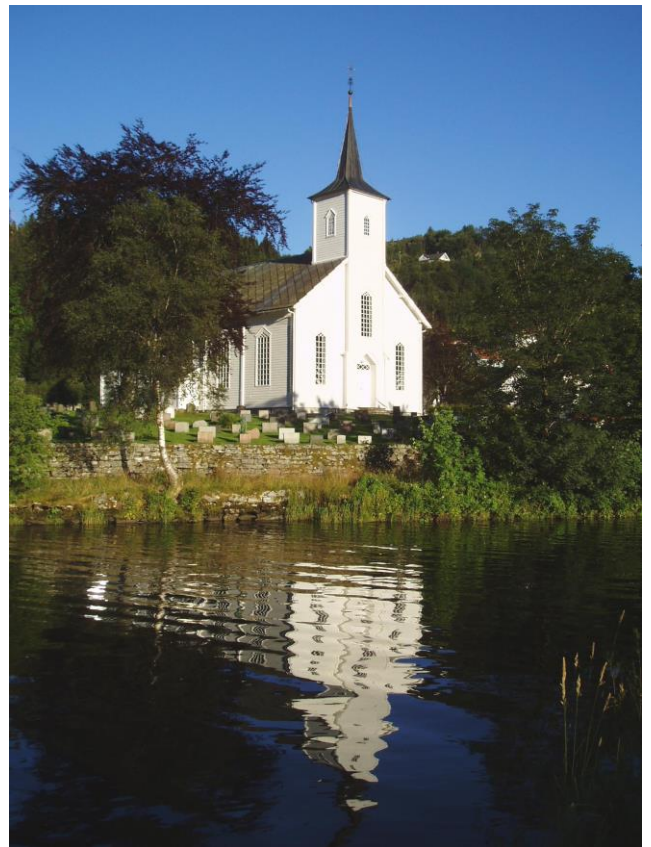


The font once stood in the medieval church, but the original stone base has been replaced by a wooden pedestal. A hollow centre allows the holy water to drain away under the church.

Dale Church



The altarpiece commissioned for the new church was painted by Anders Askevold in Paris in 1864. It shows Jesus' Resurrection and the text is *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies."* (John 11,25)



The new organ was installed in 1983. It has 22 stops and was built by the Danish organ-builder Bruno Christensen.

General

Dale Church is not of particular architectural interest but it is attractive and practical with an excellent acoustic. The church is especially suitable for music and we have many concerts here. We have about 40 services a year, and the average attendance is about 80.

1864

English language