

BRINGETOFTA CHURCH AND GRAVE FIELD

In 1923, Bringetofta Church was teeming with activity. The cathedral architect Theodor Wählin from Lund wanted to restore the original Early Medieval church. The interior was repainted and the conservator was fully occupied uncovering wall paintings from the 13th century.

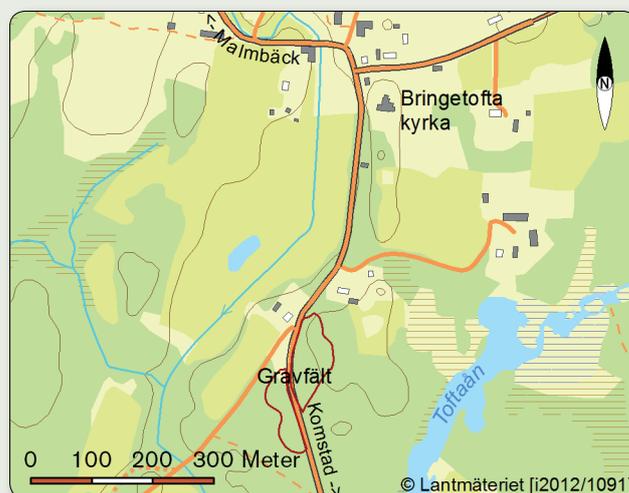
The stone church, dating back to the 12th century, has gradually been extended, both to the west and to the north in pace with a growing congregation. From the original church building, the chancel arch and the southern nave wall remain, as well as the square chancel with its semi-circular apse. When the wall paintings were discovered in 1923, there were loud protests from parishioners as there were fears that obscene pictures of Satan would be uncovered, frightening children and old people in the congregation. The national antiquarian Otto Janse visited the parish several times and finally, with every means of persuasion and threats, managed to secure an agreement for the uncovering.

Today, the pictorial suite showing the weighing of souls and the Last Judgment, the Adoration of the Kings, and the Presentation in the Temple highly contribute to the attraction and richness of the church. Parts of the paintings still remain completely intact above the arched roof, only visible from the church loft. Runic inscriptions including the name Magnus also appeared, both on the apse wall and on the chancel arch above the pulpit stairs. The environment around the church includes the bell tower, probably from the early 18th century, and several other buildings of varying ages that are linked to the church and the area's function as a parish centre.

An Iron Age burial cairn field with more than 150 graves is found in the sparse forest on both sides of the road at the crossroads towards Ase, when you approach the church from the south. There are both mounds and stone settings. In the surroundings you can also find old routes, also called holloways, probably from the Viking Age. The well-preserved church village Bringetofta with its surrounding environment of ancient monuments could be said to be part of the core settlement of the medieval independent "land" of Njudung.



The medieval church was built in stone. In the 18th century, when the congregation no longer fitted into the building, a wooden extension to the north was added. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 26



HOW TO GET HERE

Bringetofta is situated approx. 6 km north-west of Sävsjö (as the crow flies). The church is located in Bringetofta, and the grave field is around 400 m south of the village.

Coordinates:
Bringetofta Church:
N6366976 / E 477124
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
26' 41.64", E 14° 37' 7.94"
(WGS84)



Along the road, around 400 metres south of Bringetofta Church, is a Viking Age grave field with more than 150 graves by way of mounds and stone settings. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

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