

Geldart, Ernest 1848 - 1929



Ernest Geldart [commonly known as Rev. Ernest Geldart; Father Ernest Geldart; and as Rev. E. Geldart] was born in Holloway, Middlesex [now London] England on 2 May 1848 and was articled to [Alfred Waterhouse](#) (1830-1905) in London in 1864. He remained at Waterhouse's office until 1871 when he left to study theology at King's College London. He was ordained a deacon in 1873 and a priest in 1875. After various curacies, he was appointed rector of the Church of Saint Nicholas, Little Braxted, Essex in 1881.

Following his appointment Geldart set about decorating the church with a series of paintings and murals. He subsequently worked on the alteration, decoration or restoration of nine other churches in Essex and several others elsewhere in the country over the next two decades. He also designed the rood screen for St. Mary the Virgin in Kettlebaston, Suffolk in 1890

He was an authority on architecture and decoration, and the author of a number of books on the subject including *The Art of Garnishing Churches* (1882) and *A Manual of Church Decoration and Symbolism* (1899).

For reasons of ill-health Geldart retired from Little Braxted in 1900 and moved to Holmbury St. Mary, Surrey where he turned to design, working in stained glass and embroidery.

He died in Holmbury St. Mary, Surrey on 11 July 1929

Worked in

UK

Works

For Geldart's work on the restoration and decoration of Essex churches see the articles by James Bettley

See also:

[agefotostock](#)

Historic England [*links below*]

Bibliography

Armstrong, Barrie and Armstrong, Wendy. The Arts and Crafts movement in the North West of England: a handbook. Wetherby, England: Oblong Creative Ltd., 2006

Bettley, James. 'Ernest Geldart 1848-1929) Priest and Architect' in Twenty Priests for Twenty Years, edited by Michael Yelton. London: Anglo-Catholic History Society, 2020 pp. 37-48

Bettley, James. 'The master of Little Braxted in his prime: Ernest Geldart and Essex, 1873-1900'. Essex Archaeology and History vol. 31, 2000 pp. 169-194

Bettley, James. 'The Reverend Ernest Geldart (1848-1929): and late nineteenth-century church decoration. Ph.D. thesis, University of London (Courtauld Institute of Art), 1999.

Directory of British Architects 1834-1914. Compiled by Antonia Brodie, et al. Volume 1: A-K. London; New York: British Architectural Library, Royal Institute of British Architects/Continuum, 2001

Hamilton, Alec. Arts & Crafts Churches. London: Lund Humphries, 2020

Acknowledgements

James Bettley for additional information about Ernest Geldart

Links

- James Bettley. 'A month in the country: Revd. Ernest Geldart 1881'. Proceedings - Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History vol.42, part 4, 2012 pp.490-503

<http://suffolkinstitute.pdfsrv.co.uk/customers/Suffolk%20Institute/2014/01/10/Volume%20X>

- agefotostock

<https://www.agefotostock.com/age/en/Search.aspx?query=ernest%20geldart&perpage=20>

- Historic England - Chapel attached to Braxted Place, Little Braxted, Essex

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1111059>

- Historic England - Church of St. Andrew, Good Easter, Chelmsford, Essex
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1122143>
- Historic England - Church of St Cuthbert and St Matthias, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1266119>
- Historic England - Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1045032>
- Historic England - Church of St Michael and All Angels, Greenwich, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1218290>
- Friends of Essex Churches Trust - St. Peter, Great Totham. Malden. Essex
<https://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/our-projects/st-peter-great-totham-maldon>
- Internet Archive - books written by Ernest Geldart
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Ernest%20Geldart%22>
- Victoria & Albert Museum, London - embroidery design by Ernest M. Geldart
<http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1009078/embroidery-design-geldart-ernest-m/>
- BBC Essex - Church of Saint Nicholas, Little Braxted, Essex
http://www.bbc.co.uk/essex/content/articles/2008/09/03/sacred_spaces_little_braxted_feat
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York - Design for Ecclesiastical Embroidery by Ernest Geldart (1888)
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/363624>
- Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Ernest_Geldart
- The National Archives
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F247708>
- The Churches of Essex - St Nicholas, Little Braxted
<http://www.simonknott.co.uk/essexchurches/lbraxted.htm>
- Tile Gazetteer - Essex. Contains several references to decorative schemes by Ernest Geldart <https://tilesoc.org.uk/tile-gazetteer/essex.html>