

About St Clement's Church

The oldest part of the present building dates from the 13th century and comprises the lower stages of the tower. A church was erected at the same time but that building was completely replaced at later periods. Most of the present church was built at various times during the Perpendicular Period of architecture between about 1350 and 1500.

Inside and out the carving in stone and wood is exceptional; extraordinary, grotesque gargoyles outside, and, in the nave, flights of angels alternating with unique pairs of apostles and "demons" – some of these carvings may be representations of contemporary figures in the local community. In the south aisle there are more angels, including some with musical instruments.

Three windows at the east end of the church have medieval painted glass, much of which is unusual. The earliest, from about 1420–1440, is in the tracery of the east chancel window. The most interesting glass, however, dates from the 16th century and is in the Fincham Chapel and in the east window of the south aisle in the Lady (or Beaupré) Chapel.



The church is open every Tuesday and at other times as announced; a key may be obtained from the local post office.

Conservation work supported by



Friends of St Clement's Church Outwell

are dedicated to raising funds to assist the conservation of the mediaeval carvings, and to provide information about this remarkable artistic heritage for visitors.

Annual or Life membership is open to everyone who shares concern for the preservation of the church's artistic heritage.

For membership details, please contact

FRIENDS OF ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH
OUTWELL

c/o Tippitiwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, Outwell PE14 8PE
or go to

www.stclementsoutwell.org.uk

Photographs by courtesy of Mike Dixon, except for the altar frontal (left) by Charles Nelson.
An anchor is the symbol of St Clement, who is the patron saint of seafarers.

Church of St Clement Outwell



6

Friends of St Clement's Church Outwell



Treasures of St Clement's Church

10 things to see before you leave ...

1 The now-famous **Apostles & Demons** carvings are not easy to see due to their position and blackness. There are six on each side of the nave. A few, such as a woman with the elaborate head-dress, may represent prominent figures in the community. This beak-nosed demon with **St John** is on the north side (third from left).

2 In the **Lynne Chapel** there are some beautiful angels including this one holding a papal tiara, possibly an allusion to **St Clement** who was a successor of **St Peter** as Bishop of Rome and Pope.

3 The chapel at the east end of the north aisle contains carvings representing the coats of arms of the Fincham family (as well as their relatives, the Haultoft and Derham families) and so it is generally known as the **Fincham Chapel**.

4 The brass on the wall at the entrance to the Lynne Chapel commemorates **Richard Quadryng** who died on 29 September 1511. The Quadryng family came from a neighbouring part of south Lincolnshire. Also in the north aisle are two massive 15th-century chests used for keeping documents such as property deeds and wills.

5 St Clement's Church possesses some fine painted glass. This figure of one of the Magi, **Balthazar**, is in the **Fincham Chapel**. The great east window of the Chancel, which is mainly filled with 19th-century yellow glass, has fragments of earlier painted glass in the upper tracery.

6 In the tracery lights of the east window of the **Lady (or Beaupré) Chapel** there are more figures including **God the Father** (leaflet cover) and a unique representation of a virgin martyr, St Martina or St Agatha, holding her exposed breast.

7 The finely carved plaque in the **Lady Chapel** commemorates Nycholas de Beaupré (died 1513) and his wife, Margaret Ffodringaye. The upper plaque commemorates Edmund de Beaupré (died 1567).

8 The **South Aisle** contains some fascinating carvings including angels with musical instruments. On the north side, the beams have 17th-century decorations: note the shield dated 1624.

9 The wooden 17th-century **Alms Box** in the southwest corner was made to receive offerings, through the appropriate opening, from women at their churching: one face represents a boy, another a girl and the third, with two slots, twins. Close by is the 14th-century **font**.

10 Now, please take a seat in the **Nave** and look up – there are flights of angels overhead: red and gold ones on the tie-beams, and ten tall angels, one above each arch.

