

St Clement's Parish Church, Outwell, is a treasure-house of mediaeval sculptures and beautiful stained glass. Twelve pairs of finely carved wooden figures on the buttresses of the roof are unique ... but they are damaged and need to be conserved and restored urgently.

The Friends of St Clement's Church, Outwell – REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND NO. 1153335 – is dedicated to raising funds to assist the conservation programme, and to provide information about this remarkable artistic heritage for visitors.

Membership is open to everyone who supports these aims.

Annual member £10; couples £18
Life member £100; couples £180
Patron £1,000

To become a Friend, please complete the form overleaf and send your subscription to

Membership Secretary
Friends of St Clement's Church, Outwell
c/o Tippitiwiche Cottage, Hall Road, OUTWELL PE14 8PE

Parish church

St Clement's is an ancient Fenland parish church in the far west of Norfolk on the Cambridgeshire border, within the Diocese of Ely. We are a small, friendly Anglican congregation offering a warm welcome to visitors.

St Clement's Church

The present building was started in the late 12th or early 13th century, and was expanded in the 14th and early 15th centuries when the roof of the nave was raised and the extraordinary pairs of "demons" and apostles, with a procession of acolytes and flights of angels above, were carved and installed.



Visiting St Clement's

For information about services (which are sometimes shared with St Peter's Church, Upwell), see www.stclementoutwell.org.uk

Tuesday Coffee Shop

Since April 2012, a Coffee Shop, serving teas, coffees and light lunches (homemade soups, cakes, etc.) is open on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Villagers and visitors alike are very welcome

Other times

The key may be obtained at the Post Office beside the church or from Costcutters opposite

Acknowledgements: photographs © John Salmon (angel from south aisle), Mike Dixon (demon & apostle, St Wolstan), Stuart Davidson and Hugh Harrison (nave angels and acolytes).

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Friends of St Clement's Church, Outwell

www.stclementsoutwell.org.uk



REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND NO. 1153335

"... overhead ... soared the ranked angels, cherubim and seraphim, choir over choir, from corbel to hammer-beam ..."

Dorothy L. Sayers, *Nine tailors*



The stained glass

The surviving glass is from the late Middle Ages. The window in the Lady (or Beaupré) Chapel at the east end of the south aisle contains beautiful figures including God the Father, martyrs and royal saints like St Wolstan, associated with East Anglia.



An acolyte, one of a "procession" of large figures attached to the hammer-beams.

The carvings in the nave were covered with a dark creosote-like coating during "restoration" in the 1860s and are almost invisible now. Only the red-and-gold painted angels stand out. All these carvings urgently need to be cleaned and conserved.

The apostles and demons in the nave of St Clement's Church were "re-discovered" in 2012. Urgent work to seal the roof of the nave is a priority of the restoration programme. Only after it is completed will the carvings be removed for conservation and restoration.

The carvings

The "unknown" glories of St Clement's Church are the carved buttresses of the nave, while in between and overhead are angels and acolytes in procession. Yet other carvings of angels are in the south aisle and the Lynne Chapel off the north aisle.



St John, holding a chalice, with a grinning, bat-winged and beak-nosed devil behind.

One of the sharpest of the Outwell figures, with a winged devil symbolizing evil or temptation, in general, and St John, the youngest of the apostles, hence boy-like, standing firm against it.

The carvings in the nave may be absent from the church for several years, because conservation work can only take place in special workshops. Meanwhile, angels will continue to soar above you in the nave, the south aisle and in the Lynne Chapel

We* / I* wish to be enrolled in the Friends of St Clement's Church, Outwell, for the year 20 ____ (*delete as applicable; see overleaf for rates)

We* / I* wish to be enrolled as LIFE MEMBER(S)* / PATRON(S)* the Friends of St Clement Church, Outwell.

Name(s) [please PRINT clearly]

Address

.....

..... Postcode

tel: email@..... [please PRINT clearly]

Please return to Membership Secretary, Friends of St Clement's Church, c/o Tippitwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, OUTWELL PE14 8PE, Norfolk.

Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of St Clement's Church, Outwell"

If you are a UK taxpayer please tick the box below so we can claim up to 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you.

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Friends of St Clement's Church, Outwell to reclaim the tax on this donation and any future donations I may make. Date ____/____/20____. [To qualify for GiftAid you must pay an amount of UK income tax at least equal to the tax that will be reclaimed in the appropriate year.]

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