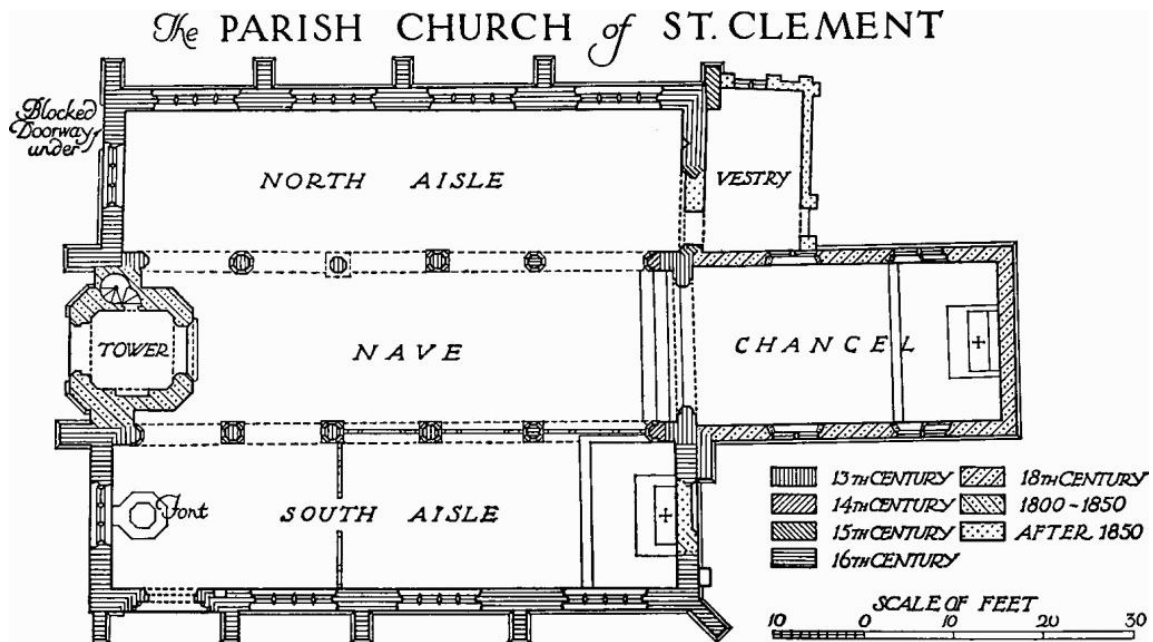


## St Clement's Church: A Visual Guide

*This guide starts at the exterior of the south door, enters the church at the west door, and then goes clockwise.*

### Background

- St Clement's is one of the oldest church sites in Cambridge; a Viking church was built here around 900 AD, after the conversion of the Viking leader, Guthrum.
- The first church was probably wooden, and nothing remains.
- A stone church was built around 1250.



## Doorway

- The south doorway dates from around 1250.
- On the outside it has a man's and a woman's head, both 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### Note:

On the right of the carved man's face here is a facial reconstruction of a 13<sup>th</sup> century man buried 200 metres from St Clement's and found in an archaeological dig in 2010. From bone analysis, he probably worked in the building trade, and thus he could have been one of those re-building St Clement's church in stone, and could have been in the right place at the right time to be the model for the carved head on the South Door. His reconstructed face looks remarkably similar.



*Information and photos about the dig are on our website under 'Archives'*

## Tower

- The tower, with a spire, was built of stone and Roman cement, in 1821.
- Its style is early Gothic revival.



- The 1821 spire became unsafe and was demolished in 1928 (by order of the City Council.)



- A peal of six bells was installed in 2022.
- 'The Bells of St Clement's, Cambridge' is a centre for teaching people the skill of ringing.



*Further information and photos of the tower & spire are on our website under 'Archives'*

*Further information about the bells are on Bells of St Clement's Cambridge website*

### **16<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction**

- The nave and aisles were substantially rebuilt in the 1530s, enabling the church to be used as a Protestant lecture hall.
- The purpose seems to have been to let in more natural light, which involved raising the church to allow larger windows.



- The old bases were retained, with new tall chalk pillars resting on them. The arches of the old arcade were re-used, but at a higher level.



### Aisle and clerestory windows

- The aisle windows are especially large, maximizing light. The simplicity of the stone work tends to confirm their post-Reformation origin.
- When the aisles were raised, a clerestory was added, further increasing light. The simple style is similar to that of the aisle windows.
- The clerestory windows are opened and closed by levers operated from the back of the nave. The system, which still works, appears to date from c19.
- *Rev William Cole, antiquarian.*  
1742 “ *St Clement’s is “the lightest and most airy church, and in the best repair that I ever saw for an old one.”*



### Font

- The bowl is 19<sup>th</sup> century
- The pedestal is older, with medieval carved heads of people and mythical animals.



## Stone skeleton

- The stone coffin lid dates probably from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- The skeleton holds an hour-glass and a spear, both symbolise death.
- The skeleton is standing on the feet of a person below, who holds a hand up, seemingly pushing the spear away.
- The inhabitant of the coffin was probably wealthy – although it may be for someone of exceptional sanctity.



## N.W window

- 1870s. An early Arts and Crafts window made when the artists were experimenting in pigments. The faces in this window have bleached out.
- The window on the S.W corner of the church (seen from the stairs to the Upper Room) was made a few years later, and the colours have remained true.



*Information about the Arts and Crafts movement and St Clement's is on our website under 'Archives'*

## Icon of Mary and Jesus

- The church is now shared by a Church of England and a Russian Orthodox congregation.
- Installed in the north aisle by the Russian Orthodox congregation, this icon was painted quite recently by a monk on Mount Athos, the Greek holy mountain.



## Stations of the cross

- These are pressed tin and were restored in 2020, by Peter Hilkin, a retired civil servant.



*More information on our website: 'Archives'*

## Lady Chapel

- Created in 2022, from the screens taken from the South Aisle when the kitchen was installed.
- 'Ora Pro Nobis'  
'Pray for us'



## Thomas Brakyn beam 1538

- Supporting the South Aisle ceiling at east end
- Thomas Brakyn was the official fishmonger to the town and to the King Henry VIII. He was Mayor of Cambridge 3 times, died in 1545, and was buried in St Clement's churchyard



*"Orate p bono state Thomas Brakin Armigere et Luce 1538"*

*More information on our website: 'Archives'*

## Pulpit

- A standard late 19<sup>th</sup> century pulpit.



### Rood screen cross

- Installed in the 1870s
- ‘Via Crucis Via Lucis’  
‘The way of the cross is the way of Light’



### Chancel screen

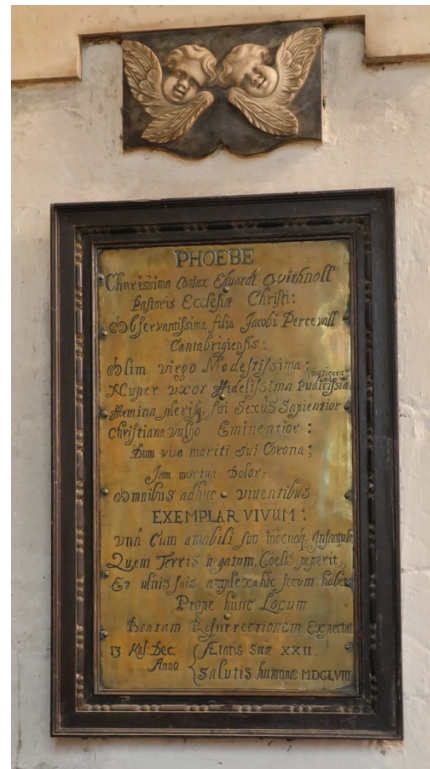
- Installed in the 1870s
- In the Arts and Crafts style



### Memorial to Phoebe

- Phoebe was born in Cambridge in 1636 and married a theological student.
- When she was 22, she died in childbirth, and her second child died with her.

*When alive, she was her husband's  
Crown,  
Now she is dead, his Sorrow;  
For all those still alive,  
A LIVING EXAMPLE  
With her dear, innocent, little infant,  
unborn on earth- which she brought  
forth in heaven,  
Together with her, embraced in her  
arms,  
Near this place  
she awaits her blessed resurrection.*



*More information on our website: ‘Archives’*

## Chancel

- The chancel was rebuilt in 1726. While the rest of the church is stone, the chancel is brick.
- The chancel and sanctuary were probably raised in the 1870s, in tune with the medievalists' emphasis on the altar as the focus of worship.
- The exterior of the chancel windows is early Georgian: part of the 1726 rebuilding.
- Influenced by the medievalist Anglo-Catholic revival, Gothic-style windows were installed on the inside in the 1870s.



## Iconostasis

- The Russian Orthodox congregation has installed a retractable iconostasis.
- The icons are painted by an eminent English icon painter, Aidan Hart.

*NB: only trained people are allowed to move the iconostasis*



*More information on our website: 'Archives'*



## Organ

- Installed in the 1890s by Bryce of London, with one manual.
- A pedal board and pedals were added in the 1950s by a local organ builder, William Johnson.
- It has a mixture of wooden and metal pipes.



## West window and the clock

- The exceptional stained glass of the tower is best seen from the top of the chancel steps.
- The clock was made by 'Smith of Cambridge' in 1888
- By 1988 it had stopped working and a painting hung in its place.
- Robin Edwards, a locksmith who attends St Clement's, put the clock in his workshop. In 2022 he restored and rehung it.



## South aisle screen

- *This chapel was erected by friends and parishioners in loving memory of Edmund Gough de Salis Wood, who laboured in this church and parish for 65 years."*
- *From 1865 to 1880 as assistant curate*
- *From 1880 to 1930 as incumbent.*
- *He died 22 December 1932*

RIP



*More information on our website: 'Archives'*

## Greek Orthodox Icon

### St Clement and St Athanasius

- The Greek Orthodox Parish of St Athanasius worshipped at St Clement's for nearly 30 years.
- In 2015, they moved to their own church (on Cherry Hinton Road), and gave us this icon, as a farewell gift.



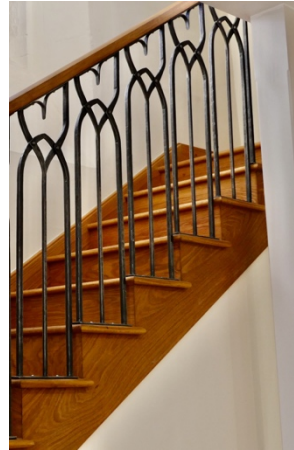
## Pews

- The pews, which date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are moveable. Thus, for Russian Orthodox worship they are moved into the north aisle for storage, leaving the nave clear.

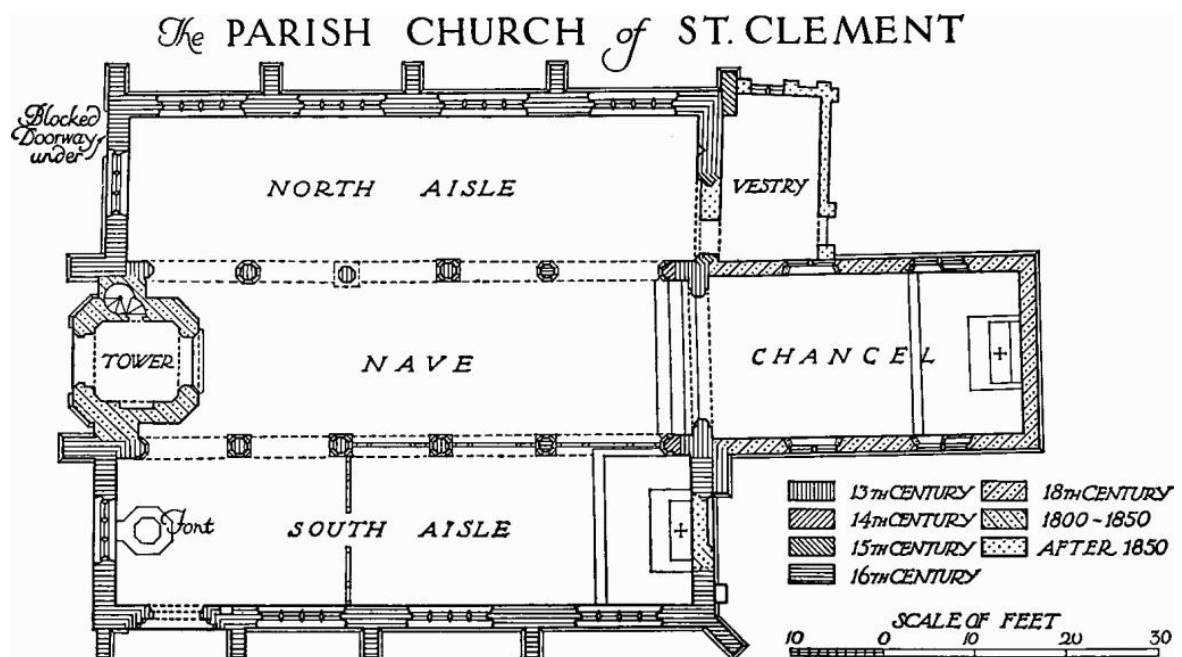


## Wrought iron

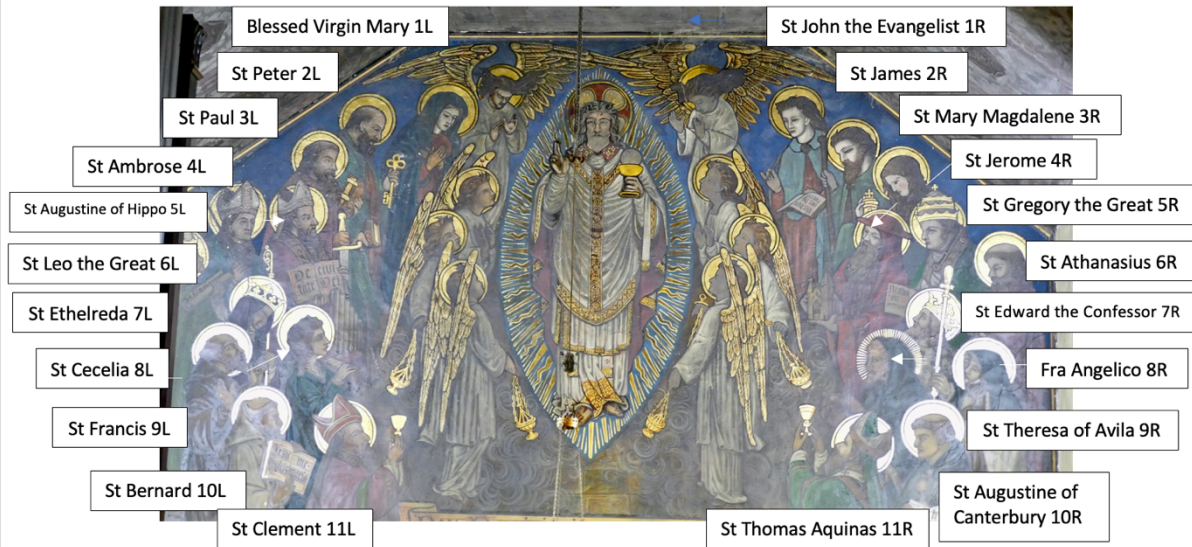
- The following were all made by a traditional ironworker, Richard Hillam, between 2019 and 2022.
- Stair rail
- Bridge from the stairs to the balcony
- Upper Room railing
- Rails round the entrance lift
- Candle holders round the pillars
- Handrails and rope guides in the bell ringing chamber



*More information on our website: 'Archives'*



## The Mural



### Background

- The mural was painted by Frederick Leach, a local church decorator with a national reputation.
- It is a vision of heaven
- Leach was a close associate of William Morris; and the mural is in the 'Arts and Crafts' style
- He painted the mural in 1872.
- It has been much blackened by the air pollution in the city and by candle smoke. Around £200,000 is needed to restore it.
- The mural is painted onto the plaster.
- The order given here, starting at the bottom left, reflects a convenient order for guiding visitors.



### Christ

- See the wounds in this right foot and hand: he is the crucified Christ.
- He is surrounded by an 'all-body halo' – his whole body is holy, as he has been resurrected.
- Angels are censuring him and the saints are all around him, as in Revelations 8.3 – he has ascended to heaven.
- His face is old, signifying Christ as 'The Ancient of Days', the eternal Son – see Daniel 7:9, 13, 22).
- He is dressed as a priest, and hence as mediator between the God and humanity

**Depicted on the left**

**St Clement**

**11 L**

- He is our patron.
- He was bishop of Rome, and hence for Roman Catholics the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> pope.
- He was banished from Rome to Crimea where he was martyred by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea.



**St Francis**

**9 L**

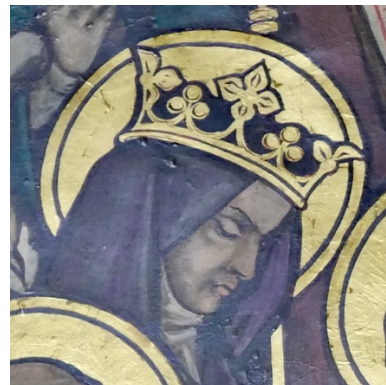
- He received the stigmata (Christ's wounds) miraculously while praying.



**St Etheldreda**

**7 L**

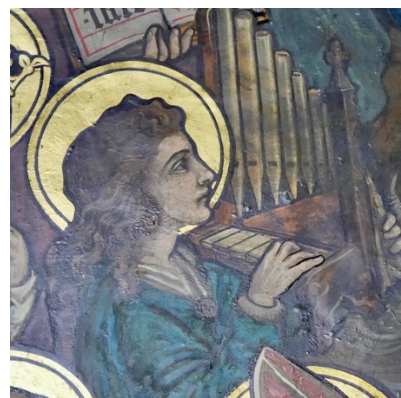
- She was queen of Ely and founded a double monastery (with men and women) there around 670.
- Its legacy is Ely Cathedral.



**St Cecilia**

**8 L**

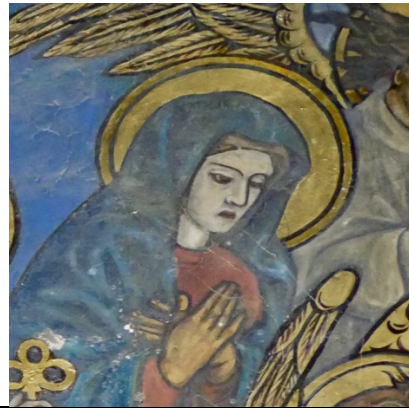
- When she was married against her will (she wanted to remain a virgin), St Cecilia sang to God in her heart.
- She is the patron saint of music.



### The Virgin Mary

1 L

- She is on one side of Christ, as at the crucifixion.



### St Peter

2 L

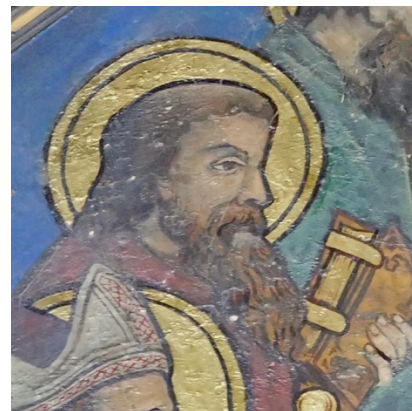
- He is holding the keys of heaven (Matthew 16.19).



### St Paul

3 L

- He is holding the sword of God's truth (Ephesians 6.17).



### Bernard of Clairvaux

10 L

- He founded the Cistercian Order of monks



### Trio of theologians

- **St Augustine of Hippo** is holding *The City of God*, his most famous work.

5 L



- **St Ambrose of Milan** is 4 L sometimes regarded as the 'father of Christian hymnody.'



- **St Leo the Great** wrote the 'tome', which he is holding, defining Christian teaching on the nature of Christ.

6 L



### *Depicted on the right*

### St Teresa of Avila

9 R

- She was a mystic, who is said sometimes to have levitated as she prayed.



### Frederick Leach

8 R

- The artist painted a self-portrait, with a palette and brushes.
- He is representing **Fra Angelico**



### Edward the Confessor

7 R

- He founded Westminster Abbey.



### Pope Gregory the Great

5 R

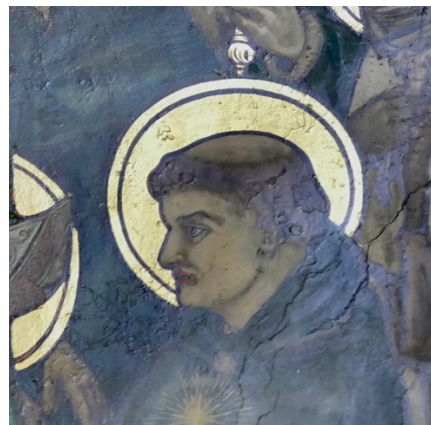
- He described the English as 'not angles, but angels'.



### St Augustine of Canterbury

10 R

- Pope Gregory sent him to England in 597, where he settled in Canterbury.
- Was his purpose evangelism and/or bringing the English church under Roman jurisdiction?





### Mary Magdalene

3 R

- She is holding a jar of perfume, with which she anointed the feet of Christ.



### St James

2 R

- He was the first leader of the church in Jerusalem.



### St John the Evangelist

1 R

- As usual, he is portrayed as young and clean shaven.
- He is holding his Gospel and a pen.
- He is on one side of Christ, as at the crucifixion.



### St Jerome

4 R

- He translated the Bible from Greek to Latin.
- He brought the Gospel to Dalmatia, so is portrayed holding a Dalmatian church.



## Duo of theologians

- **St Athanasius of Alexandria** wrote a creed that appears in the BCP, and promoted the Desert Father movement.

**6 R**



- **St Thomas Aquinas** greatly influenced Roman Catholic teaching.

**11 R**

