

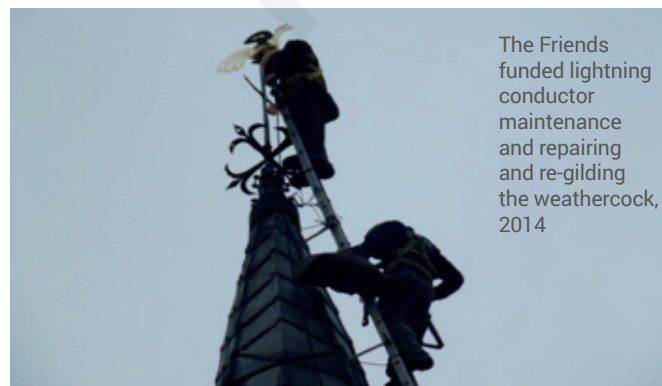


Above: Font casing detail, dating from the 16th century

St James church is a gem set in the centre of the delightful village of Swimbridge. It appears in the book *England's Thousand Best Churches* by Simon Jenkins and in Dr Todd Gray's *Devon's Fifty Best Churches*. Our famous Victorian rector, the Rev. John Russell ('Parson Jack'), bred and gave his name to the much-loved terrier dog. He also founded our much-admired primary school. The church is open every day for quiet prayer and meditation from approximately 10.30am until 4.00pm (though please note that funerals and weddings take place from time to time and that Sunday services sometimes continue until 11.00 am). This beautiful church attracts visitors world-wide due to its wealth of interesting historical items.

The church tower probably dates from the 13th century and the spire from c. 1310, while the church itself was rebuilt in the 15th and 16th centuries. The interior contains exceptional features such as a 44 foot long, intricately carved, Gothic rood screen. It has been described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as 'One of the most glorious of Devon screens'. There is also an extraordinary font with wooden folding doors carved with 16th century Gothic and Renaissance decorative figures. These treasures are shown in detail in the 'Pictures' section of the church website.

There are regular services every week, with a fine organist and choir – service details on the website. The church is also popular for weddings and baptisms. The bells are rung on special occasions such as weddings.



The Friends funded lightning conductor maintenance and repairing and re-gilding the weathercock, 2014



The Friends of **ST JAMES CHURCH** **SWIMBRIDGE**

www.swimbridgeparishchurch.org



Opening of the Streamside Garden in part of the churchyard, 2012

The Friends of St James Church was formed in 2013, with Lady Arran as Patron, *to preserve, maintain and enhance for the public benefit the church of St James, its churchyard and its Streamside Garden.*

The annual subscription is anything you are happy to give, from a minimum of £10.00 p.a. Membership brings free or reduced entry to Friends' events through the year – our lively talks by distinguished guest speakers have thrown new light on the history of this lovely village and its remarkable church, and also its wider setting of North Devon and Exmoor. We also have concerts and visits to notable houses and gardens. However, the real point of becoming a Friend is to help keep the church and churchyard as well looked-after parts of the village community.



Detail of the Gothic rood screen, c.1500

Even though many maintenance tasks are carried out by members of the congregation, supporters and Swimbridge Parish Green Team volunteers – including regular strimming, mowing, and church cleaning – the costs of maintaining a Grade 1 Listed Building are high. They include insurance, regular inspections of the fabric and artisanal building work when required. The loyal church congregation can no longer manage this on its own and seeks the support of wellwishers. We also wish to support building improvements to ensure the church continues to function as an important community resource playing its part in village life. The Friends are HMRC registered charity no. 01606480669.

If you would like to help, please complete the form opposite.

Please complete the forms below in ballpoint and send to:
Mark Haworth-Booth, Secretary, Friends of St James Church, Barn Cottage, Swimbridge, Devon EX32 0QH

STANDING ORDER

To: The Manager Bank

Sort Code A/C Number:

Address

Post Code

Until further notice please pay to The Cooperative Bank,
PO Box 250, Delf House, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT for the credit
of The Friends of St James Church, Swimbridge,
Account no: 65644485, Sort code 08-92-99

the sum of pounds annually beginning on

Signed

Date

Name

To receive Friends' e-newsletter put your email address here:

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I should like the Friends of St James Church, Swimbridge to treat as Gift Aid donations all subscriptions and donations I may make to the Friends from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise.

Name *(taxpayer's name only)*

Address

Post Code

I am a U.K. Taxpayer, paying an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax reclaimable by the Friends on my donations: I shall notify you if these circumstances change.

Signed: Date:

NOTE: If you pay no tax, you should not complete the Declaration.