

# SAVE OUR STEEPLE



**St James Church Syresham** is a beautiful church situated in rural Northamptonshire. The architecture suggests a date of around 1200 midway in the transition of style from Norman to the full Early English.

### **Internal Features**

- 12th century tub font with rope moulding around the rim (brought from the church at Turweston, Bucks).
- 14th century ogee-headed piscine with remnants of red and yellow ochre colouring within.
- Extensive remnants of wall painting above the chancel and on the walls of the aisles, some medieval, including an ochre cross at the extreme east end of the north aisle by the organ (possibly where and altar to St Thomas stood; others are 17th century, one vestige of which, in the north aisle, has the date 1633. There is also some Victorian coloured lettering on a wooden panel above the southwest door.
- Consecration cross inscribed in a pillar of the south aisle, together with an inscription and masons' practice work showing various designs on the adjacent pillars.
- Decalogue board in the nave.
- Perpendicular-era charity board in the vestry.
- In the chancel, alabaster wall monument to a lord of the manor, Peter Andrews(d1612), and his wife, Jane.
- Another alabaster wall monument, 1718, to the five sons of Robert Style who died prematurely within nine years of each other.
- The original bell frame is on display at the west end of the nave opposite the entrance.

### **Bells**

There are five bells, three dating from 1624, the others from 1687 and 1867. We hope to celebrate the 400 year anniversary of the oldest bells in 2024.

## Keeping the church up and running

### *Open for worship*

The small congregation works hard to pay for the church to be open for worship including weddings funerals and baptisms. We are asked to pay £17,374 per annum towards a rector, rectory and other support from the diocese. In 2022 we managed £13,100.

### *The Friends of the Church*

Support us by raising money to enhance the church for visitors, e.g. cushions on pews a new media play for use at weddings and funerals. They also organize social functions.

### *Buildings and churchyards*

We are forever grateful to the large group of volunteers who help with maintenance work in the church and churchyard, freely giving their time & hard work.

Every five years our church architect reviews the state of the buildings and produces a list of work to be done. We are currently working through 158 items of repair and maintenance. We are indebted to the Payne Trust Funds, which help us with general maintenance and usually covers all the works set out in the five-year report. The Trustees, who maintain the value of the trust for future generations and draw down moneys annually, drew down £20,000 for current repair works.

However, an innocuous looking line in the current report said we needed to have the shingles on the steeple assessed. The result is that we need to replace all the shingles at a cost of at least **£64,000**. It is hoped that money from our bank account the trust fund and the Friends of St James will raise around £30,000. The rest, dear reader, will need to be found – any amount would help. Would you be able to help us **SAVE OUR STEEPLE?**

If you are able to help us, please use the payment methods below, we would be most grateful for any donation, however small.

BACS DETAILS:

Name: Syresham Church Council  
Sort code: 20 03 84  
Account: 00052094  
Reference: Steeple

Cheques payable to Syresham Church Council

Please pass to

Alice Palmer  
8 Broad Street  
Syresham NN13 5HS

or

Brenda Faragher  
30 The Pound  
Syresham

and mark the back of the cheque "Steeple"

*THANK YOU for reading this far!*