

# Welcome to Fowey Church (St Fimbarrus)



Whether you're here on holiday or in Fowey for another reason, please feel free to look round.

Further below and overleaf we've highlighted a few features and snippets from the history of this Grade I listed building that might be of interest.

Perhaps you've popped in to spend some time in prayer and quiet reflection. Do sit for a while in these peaceful

surroundings and make use of the Bibles in the pews if you'd like to.

As you leave, you're welcome to take away a free Gospel from the table to read at your leisure. It comes with our blessing.

Enjoy your visit!



## About us

A church is not just a building – it's a community of Christian believers. And like those who've worshipped on this spot over many centuries, today's Christian family at Fowey Church meets regularly for prayer and praise and to learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ from his Word, the Bible.

We are part of the Church of England within the Diocese of Truro.

If you're in town on a Sunday and able to make it to one of our services we would be delighted to see you.

Currently there's a short traditional service following the *Book of Common Prayer* on the first Sunday of the month and a weekly Service of the Word at 10.30am to suit all ages. We serve some rather nice fairtrade coffee (and often cake) afterwards if you've time to stay on for a chat.

For further info and the latest updates please visit [www.foweyparishchurch.org](http://www.foweyparishchurch.org)

Discover more about the Christian faith at [www.christianityexplored.org](http://www.christianityexplored.org)

## Hello to our younger visitors

Children -- check out the comfy sofa, books and toys in the back corner of the church. They've been put there especially for you. (Any well-behaved grown-ups you've come in with are of course very welcome too!)

## So who's St Fimbarrus?

We have the Irish to thank for the dedication of this church after St Finn Barr. He's believed to have been the Bishop of Cork from 610 to 630 who stopped off in Fowey during a pilgrimage to Rome.

The church would have looked rather like a thatched hut originally and may have been built on or near the spot where, earlier, St Goran established a monastic cell.

## Wagon roof

Note the angels supporting shields and carved timber bosses.

According to the historian I D Spreadbury, the heraldic shields were painted by Dr Drake in 1876 and depict the armorial bearings of the families he considered to be the founders of the church.

You can find a list at the end of his booklet *The Church of St Fimbarrus, Fowey* (see separate folder).

Recent work to repair the distinctive plaster ceiling was completed in 2009.



## Photographs

You're welcome to take pics as long as they're just for your personal use. If you intend to publish them please contact the church office:  
[foweyparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:foweyparishchurch@gmail.com) Thank you.

## The Rashleighs and Treffrys

Around the church there are a number of monuments, brasses and other features placed in memory of these two prominent local families.

## Literary connections

Kenneth Grahame, author of *The Wind in the Willows*, married Elspeth Thompson here in 1899. His friend, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (Q), co-ordinated a 1928 appeal to repair the roof.

## Stained glass windows



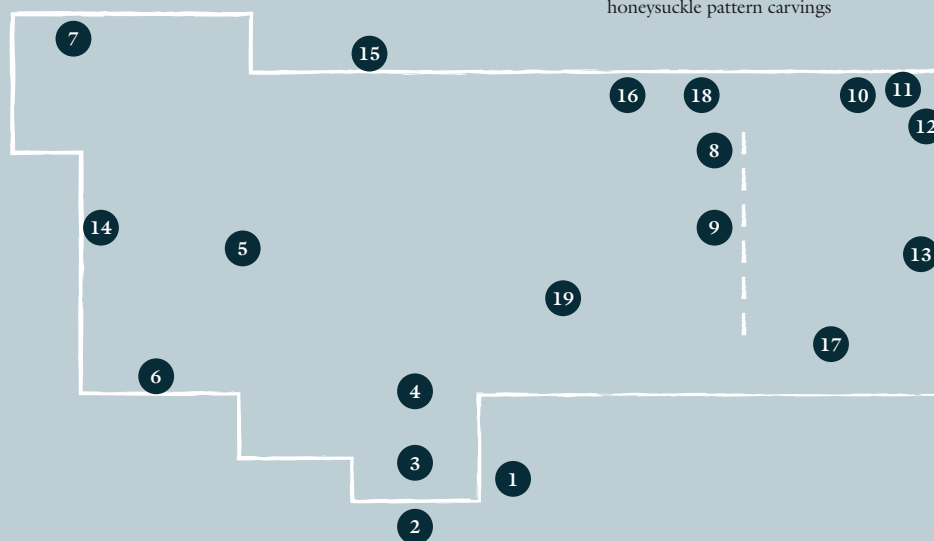
East window detail showing scenes in the life of Christ

## Loose cannon balls!

Cannon balls found embedded in the cliffs below St Catherine's Castle in the 1870s were later deposited in the church vestry, but some say they were actually found in the fabric during restoration.

## Inside Fowey Church

Floorplan (not to scale)



### Key

1. Porch added around 1506
2. Upper chamber probably used by monks from Tywardreath Priory, later used as a muniments room
3. Inner door given around 1900 in thanksgiving for being saved from shipwreck
4. Board over south door containing the 1643 letter of thanks from Charles I to the Cornish
5. Norman font of Catacleuse stone featuring honeysuckle pattern carvings
6. Bell ringers' board with poem (18th century)
7. Choir vestry
8. Pulpit dated 1601, thought to have been built from timbers salvaged from a Spanish galleon, moved from the chancel to this position in 1907
9. Screen erected to celebrate Canon Purcell's 50 years of service
10. Three-manual organ rebuilt in 1892 by Hele and Co, Plymouth, replacing earlier instrument
11. Vicar's vestry
12. Ten Commandments erected in 1955 in memory of Canon W R Guest
13. East window showing scenes in the life of Christ
14. West window depicting sea stories in the life of Christ, given in memory of William Rashleigh
15. Stained glass clerestory windows (four on the north side and five on the south) depicting the saints of Cornwall, placed by the people of Fowey in memory of Dr Treffry, a former vicar
16. Rococco style monument to John Goodall and his son William, the first Mayor of Fowey
17. Treffry chapel
18. The Rashleigh monument and two brasses set in the floor
19. List of the vicars of Fowey

[www.foweyparishchurch.org](http://www.foweyparishchurch.org)

Sources: *The Church of St Fimbarrus, Fowey* by I D Spreadbury; parish archives

Photos: Tom Hughes

Design: Tom Barnard | [www.tom-barnard.co.uk](http://www.tom-barnard.co.uk)

