



# THE MARSH MOSAICS

## CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT, OLD ROMNEY TN29 0HP



Originally constructed in the mid 12th century with just nave and chancel, the aisles were added in the 13th century. The interior takes the visitor by surprise with its 18th century minstrels' gallery and box pews, all painted pink! The latter transformation was carried out by Walt Disney Productions when making a film in 1963 based on the smuggling adventure *Dr Syn*, written by Russell Thorndike and set on Romney Marsh. Film director Derek Jarman is buried in the churchyard.

Distant **storm clouds** reference the great storms of the 1200s, which changed the coastline of Romney Marsh. St. Clement's was damaged by **lightning** more recently, in 2020.

Close to this picturesque church are a **large yew tree** and a **duck pond**. The church, with its unusual tower, is heavily buttressed.

**Romney sheep** were exported all over the world. A **Looker's Hut** can be seen in the distance here. **Lookers** tended vast flocks of sheep on the marsh.

The grave of artist and film-maker **Derek Jarman** can be found in the churchyard.

Wild flowers such as **marsh woundwort**, **marsh thistle** and **red clover** provide important food for insects. The large, pink and green moth here is an **elephant hawk moth**.



**Pink** shades throughout acknowledge the church's unique pink interior. In the 1960s, the church was used as a location for Disney's *Dr Syn* series. Bright colours were required for filming in technicolour, so many features were painted pink!

**Pink Footed Geese** are a declining species. The fields and wetlands of Romney Marsh provide important habitat.

St. Clement's has a **minstrel's gallery**, one of only two on the marsh. The **music notes** here are from *The Seafarer* by Peter Avis, a local composer and conductor whose work has been performed at **JAM on the Marsh** festival.

**St. Clement** is the patron saint of mariners. The **anchor** symbols and **fishing net** are a nod to the village's maritime past, before the area became landlocked. The pattern in the fishing net is inspired by the design of the unusual **pink wooden chancel gates** inside the church.