

## A warm welcome to the church St. Jakobi!

How nice of you to enter, to take a moment to allow the space of the church have an effect on you as well as permitting us to pass on some information about the building and its works of art.

You are standing in the ,new' **Jakobikirche** which was built from 1890-1892, by master builder Thomas Quentin. He erected a hall church with 3 naves in neo-gothic style. The spire is 57m high, and **the inner space of the church** is also determined by the slender shapes of neo-gothic. The arcs and ribs were created from red bricks. The middle nave of the church has a ribbed vault which is supported by columns, decorated with stylised foliage.

The painting of tendrils is understood to be close to the original intentions of the master builder. During the restoration in the year 2010 they were painted again after they had been overpainted in white many times before.

The painted decoration contributes considerably to the liveliness and beauty of the room, and is supposed to remind us, with its individually designed flowers, of a heavenly paradise, and also to create a longing for such. From all the 400 to 500 seats (including the rows of chairs), one has unrestricted view to the altar space.

The **old St. Jakobikirche** had been the oldest church of the town, built around 1160 on the site Talstraße/corner of Pfarrgasse. As the church of the village ,Christiansdorf' it therefore existed before the founding of Freiberg itself.

After the need for restoration was acknowledged in the year 1887, and the grounds were needed for a school building, the new ,Jakobikirche' was erected on the present site.

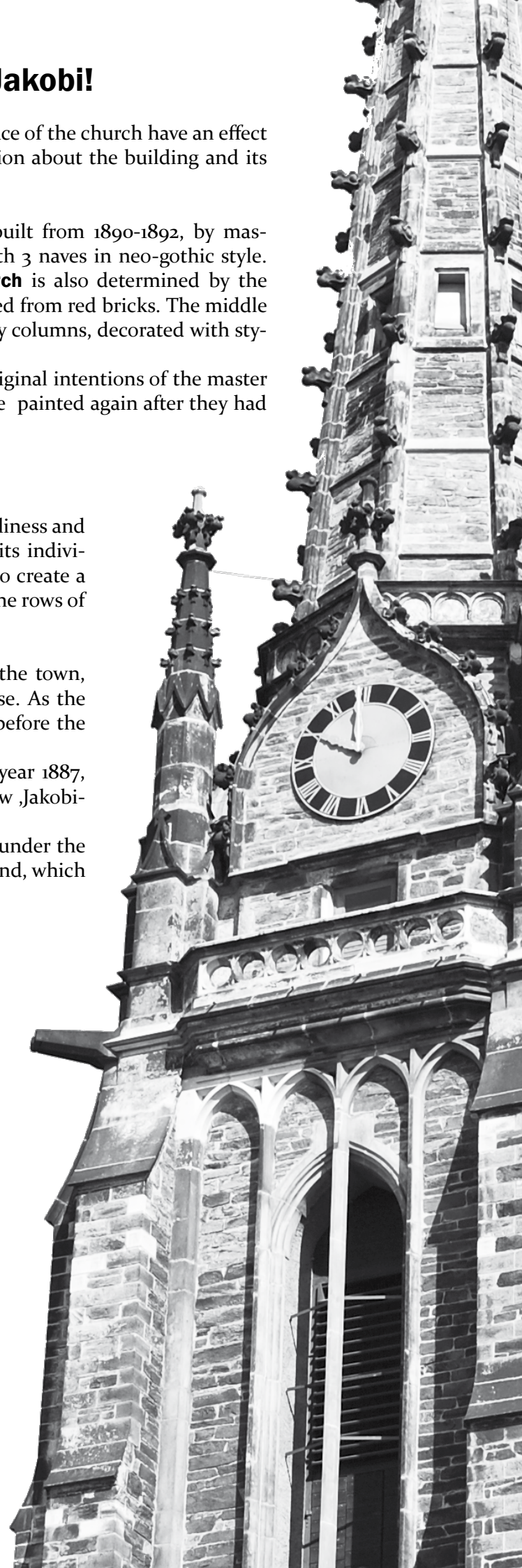
However, this territory is an old mining area. (Diagonally under the church runs a mining shaft.) Hence the sagging in the ground, which made the restoration of it a necessity in 2001/02.

Essentially, all the items of decoration stem from the old Jakobikirche.



At first, please have a look at the **altar**. It is a wood carving by the artists Bernhard Dietrich and Sebastian Grösgen, created in 1610 (transition from Renaissance to Baroque). It is a donation by Christian the Second, Elector of Saxony, and Hedwig of Dänemark, Electress of Denmark, hence the crests of the donors.

The altar is displaying a three-storey structure and decorative wood carvings, its presentation of statues is of extraordinarily high quality.



The ‚Predella‘, the base above the altar table, shows the scene of the Last Supper, the middle part the crucifixion and the upper part of the structure the burial of Jesus.

The altar is being ‚crowned‘ by statue of the risen Jesus. He stands on top of the globe, as the conqueror of death and hell, and as Lord to whom all power in heaven and on earth is given, with the banner of victory in His hand.



The altar is flanked by the four apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, thus edifying, that the essential truth of the Good News of Jesus the Christ is being proclaimed.

The **Baptismal** font to the left is a work of art, made of sand stone, created by the sculptor Hans Walther from Dresden, in the year 1555. It is the oldest precious work of this church, and also a donation of the Saxonian-Danish foundation (Elector August the First and Electress Anna of Denmark), recognisable in the relief of the crest .

The reliefs show the lively presentation of the march of people of The Israelites through the the Red Sea, and with that the liberation from slavery in Egypt, whilst the Egyptian persecutors are drowning. That is a symbol of baptism : we are saved, passing through the waters.

On the right hand side, the **pulpit** is situated, which equally is made from sandstone, presumably created by Freiberg stone mason Andrea Lorenz.

The cross of Jesus separates the relief in two, of which the left side shows the proclamation of the 10 commandments on the mount Sinai, whereas on the right side the sermon on the mount can be seen. By this it becomes clear: true life is only available when the grace of god is added to the law of god, and to the Commandments - the faith in Christ Jesus.



The ‚Jakobikirche‘ has one of **four Silbermann organs** in Freiberg, which is with its two manuales and twenty organ stops an organ of medium size , and, built in 1716, an early work of Gottfried Silbermann. The organ front show (pipes), created by the artist and carpenter Elias Lindner in 1718, are displaying the Saxonian and the Freiberg crest. Even though other instruments are being used during services, the Organ is the most used musical instrument in the church.

Matha on the other (artist: Peter Pöppelmann, Dresden). Those figures are standing symbolically for the statement, that faith and action belong together.

James, who gives the church it's name, is also known to be the pilgrims patron and travel patron of all people on their journey. The pelican above the door, symbolises the sacrificial love of god for human beings, which finds its true expression in Jesus' suffering and death at the cross. (Legend has it that pelicans sacrifice their life in order to feed their young.).

Perhaps, before leaving, you might look at the **entrance portal** with the biblical figures of Paul and James on one side, and Mary and



Information:

[www.jakobi-christophorus.de](http://www.jakobi-christophorus.de)

Please feel free to take the leaflet about the congregation

„ Gemeinde Aktuell“ with you.

Good bye and see you soon at the Jakobikirche!