

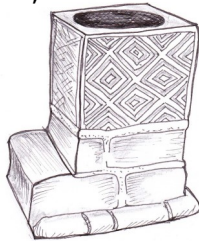
**YOUR NAME**

Start the trail at the grey arrow.  
Follow the numbers from 1-13

**1 FONT**

Find the font. A font is used for baptism, when someone is made a member of the church. What is put in it?

This font has a lid that used to be kept locked. Why?



**8 WALL PAINTING**

Look at the wall paintings at **8**. How many petals does each flower have?



Draw one of these flowers in this space.

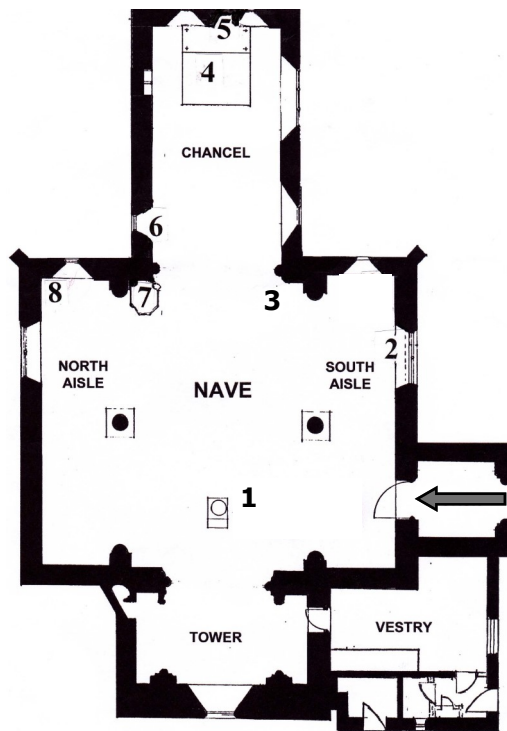


**2 TOMB**

Go to **2**. Look at the tomb. The figure's hair style shows that he was a priest or monk. What is unusual about this hair cut?

What is it called?

**EAST**



**7 PULPIT**

The pulpit (**7**) used to be painted. What colour do you think it was?

Above the pulpit is a canopy. What is it there for?

**6 STAINED GLASS**

Go to the stained glass window at **6**. What is Jesus holding?

Why?

In whose memory was the window made?

**WEST**

**3 LECTERN**

Find the wooden bookstand at **3**. This is called the lectern. Which book will be read from here during a service? Tick -

- a) Koran
- b) Torah
- c) Holy Bible

**4 ALTAR**

Now find the main altar (Holy Table) at **4**. What type of bird is shown on the front?

What is she doing?

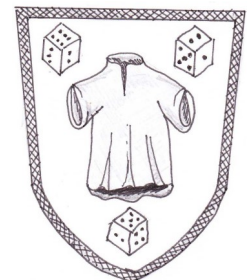


**5 REREDOS**

A panel behind the altar is called a reredos. (**5**) Look at the four shields here, showing symbols of the Crucifixion. The fourth shield shows a robe and three other objects.

What are these? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you know what part these played in the story of Jesus' Crucifixion?

(See answer sheet if "No")



### 9 PISCINA

Go to **9**. Just below the window is a small arch over a broken basin with a drain.  
 Why would such a basin be needed in a church?

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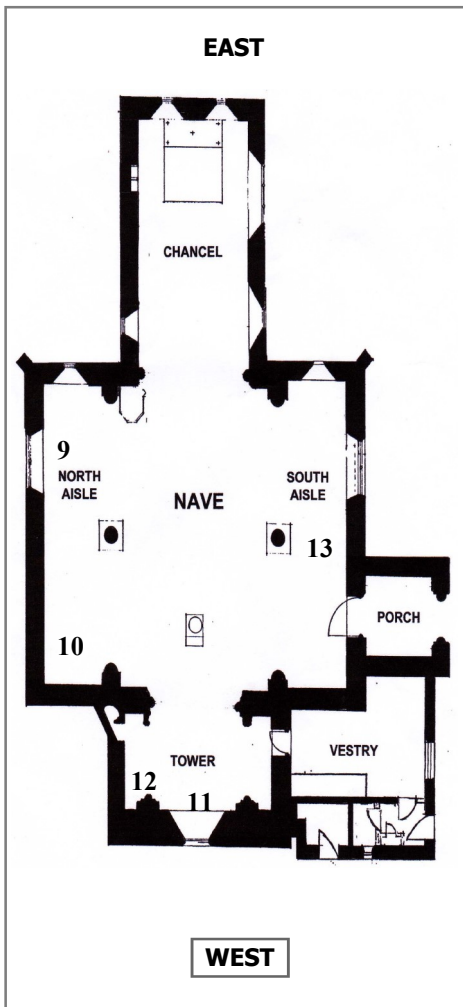
### 10 ORGAN

Find the organ at **10**. How many organ pipes can you see?

$$\frac{\text{Red}}{\quad} + \frac{\text{Green}}{\quad} = \frac{\text{Total}}{\quad}$$

Do you think that the longest pipe makes a higher or lower sound than the shortest?

\_\_\_\_\_



### 11 BELLS

Go to **11**. Find the five metal objects on a wooden plaque. What are these?

When were they first hung in the church?

Hanging from the roof of the Bell Tower are the bell ropes. Note the woolly grips on the ropes which are called "sallies". How many bells do you think that this church now has?

Why does a church have bells?

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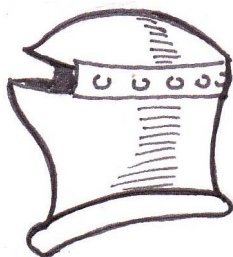
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### 12 HERALDRY

Stand in the Bell Tower at **12** and look up at the shields in each corner. Find the shield which has a helmet on top of it. On the helmet is an animal's head. This is the family crest. What animal is this?

On the helmet below draw the animal you would choose for your crest.



### 13 GROTESQUE



At the South door, turn around and look up to the top of the pillar, nearest the door, at **13**. Find the carved head. This is called a "grotesque", a strange and usually ugly carving found in churches and other old buildings. This head is sticking his tongue out at you! Any idea why?

.....

.....

On the other side of the pillar is another grotesque. What is he doing?

.....

### 14 ENDPIECE

Well done, you have now finished the Church trail; we hope you enjoyed it.

Which part did you find most interesting? ..... Perhaps you would like to come back with your family or friends to impress them with what you now know about this church?

**Children's Answers are in Bold.** Further information is for interest and discussion.

## INTRODUCTION

This church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Most of the church dates back to the 13th century, with the present nave replacing the original 12th century building.

### 1 FONT

**Water is put into the font for baptism.** The font is made of stone with a lead lining to stop the water leaking out. It is usually placed near the main entrance to the church because baptism marks the first stage in the Christian journey. This font is unusual in that it is square and carved with lozenges (diamond shapes).

**The font lid was locked to stop people stealing the water which has been blessed** (Holy Water). Some even believed that witches used this water to cast spells.

### 2 TOMB

**The top of the figure's head has been shaved.**

This hairstyle is called **a tonsure** and was a sign of humility and religious devotion in mediaeval times.

### 3 LECTERN

**The book read from the lectern is the Holy Bible.**

The Koran is the holy book of Islam. The Torah, written on scrolls, contains the teachings of the Jewish people.



### 4 ALTAR

The bird is **a pelican**. **She is pecking at her breast to draw blood to feed her chicks because other food cannot be found.** This grouping is called a "pelican in her piety", and has come to symbolise Christ's Passion and the Eucharist (Holy Communion). The Latin inscription is translated as "God so loved the World". The altar is the focal point of the church, where the main Christian act of the Eucharist takes place.

### 5 REREDOS

These four shields show some symbols of the Crucifixion, also known as the "Instruments of the Passion". The objects on the fourth shield are **dice**.

**The shirt represents Jesus' seamless robe.** In those days, soldiers were allowed to keep the possessions of the people they executed. This robe was of such good quality that

they all wanted it, so they gambled for it with dice. (John. 19: 23-24)

The other objects shown are:-

Shield 1 Hammer to knock in the nails and pincers to remove them.

Shield 2 Crown of Thorns and the three nails.

Shield 3 Sponge on stick used to give a drink to Jesus, spear used to pierce His side to verify death and ladder used to remove His body from the Cross.

### 6 STAINED GLASS

Jesus is holding **a lamb and a crook**. He is **shown here as a shepherd**.

The image of the Good Shepherd is the most common symbolic representation of Christ found in early Christian art (John 10:1-21; Psalm 23).

The window is dedicated to **Henry Herbert May**, son of Edmond and Mary Elizabeth.

He died on 8th May 1857 aged 3 months and 19 days.



### 7 PULPIT

The pulpit was painted **blue and gold**. There is a trace of the original paint on the right hand side of the backboard. The priest speaks from the pulpit which is raised above the congregation so s/he can see, be seen and be heard more easily. **The canopy is a sounding board to magnify the voice.**



## 8 WALL PAINTING

The flowers have **five** petals and as such are called "cinquefoils".

Church walls were often decorated with paintings of biblical stories or patterns. Unfortunately, many of these early wall paintings have been destroyed by damp or the walls have been replastered and painted over. Some pictures were also systematically destroyed or whitewashed during the Reformation in the 16th century. This pattern of flowers is a relatively rare survivor.



## 9 PISCINA

This arched niche with basin and drain is called a piscina. It was needed for rinsing the communion vessels – chalice (cup) and paten (plate) - "**holy washing up**".

## 10 ORGAN

There are **6 red organ pipes and 7 green, totalling 13**.

The organ has many more pipes than this but the rest are hidden from view. **The longest pipes make the lowest sounds** as with treble versus tenor recorders, and oboe versus bassoon.



## 11 BELLS

These are **the clappers from the original bells**. They were first hung in the church tower in **1718**. They were placed on the wall in 1990 when the bells were rehung. The church has **six bells**. **These are rung to summon people to worship and to give information**. A peal of bells can be used to tell people something joyous is happening like a wedding. A bell is tolled for a funeral and can indicate how old the deceased was. The bells can be sounded at times of danger as occurred in some places during the World Wars.

## 12 HERALDRY

This animal's head on the helmet above the shield in the North-West corner could be **a donkey** but nobody really knows. This is the crest of the Browe family who became lords of the manor of Great Casterton in 1394.

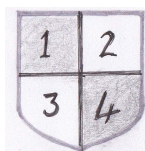
The shields are as follows:-

North-West corner – this is quartered. Browe family arms in 1 and 4 quarters, Warren in 2 and Folville in 3

North-East corner – Browe family arms

South-East corner – blank/faint carving?

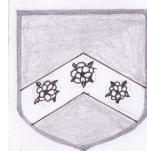
South-West corner – Browe family arms impaling Warren family arms. H = Husband's side W = Wife's side.



Quartered



Impaled



Browe



Folville



Warren

If you stand in the nave and look up towards the Bell Tower arch, you will see a black diamond shaped board painted with the Royal Arms of George II (1727-1760). Interesting fact – George II was the last king of England to lead his army in to battle.

## 13 GROTESQUE

Mediaeval masons often carved people's heads as decorations; these are called grotesques. They can have many meanings, part of a church's "sermon in stone", which could be "read" and understood by the illiterate congregation.

**This head may be sticking his tongue out to remind you to be quiet entering the church.** It is hard to speak properly with your tongue out!

(Try if you like).

**He could be a symbol of Satan, often shown with his tongue out; or a reference to the sin of gluttony; or a sign to scare off evil spirits, "a sacred scarecrow"; or a joke against someone the sculptor knew.**

The grotesque on the other side of this pillar seems to be **talking out of the side his mouth**. This could be to warn people to be careful what they say and not to gossip unkindly. You decide!

