

ST FAITH'S CHURCH, BACTON, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR2 0AR

Trail for Children (with accompanying adults)

Answers with explanatory notes are available



YOUR NAME

Start the trail at number 1 and follow the numbers from 1-12.

WELCOME TO ST FAITH'S CHURCH, BACTON.

For hundreds of years people have come here to pray, to meet together and to mark important events in their lives like christenings, weddings and funerals. The church is well known for its connection with Blanche Parry, who was the confidante of Queen Elizabeth I - in charge of the Queen's jewels, books, furs, and, for two years, the Great Seal of England. She accepted money for the Queen and was a channel for parliamentary bills. Everyone at court recognised her important position. This church is dedicated to St Faith and one of St Faith's functions was to aid the blind. At the end of her life, Blanche herself became blind.

6 ANGELS

Stand in the Chancel. How many angels can you see?

More than...

10 angels?

20 angels?

30 angels?

1 TABLET MEMORIAL



Why do you think the man in the monument is holding a skull?

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.....

.....

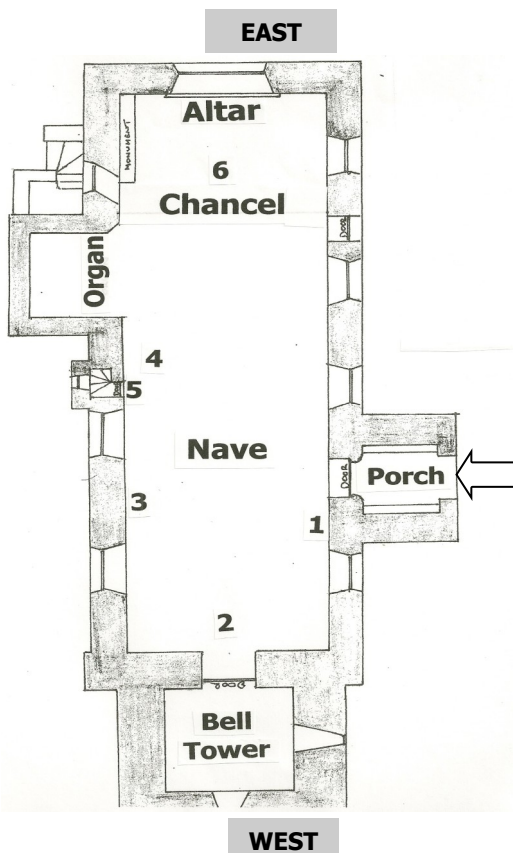
2 FONT

What do you think the font is used for?

.....

.....

.....



5 ROOD SCREEN

Near to the pulpit are two small doors. Open the lower door and have a quick peep inside.

Look for the stairs. Where do you think the steps lead?

.....

.....

Why would anyone need the top door?

.....

.....

.....

4 PULPIT

This is where the minister preaches the sermon and explains the Holy Bible.



Why do you think the pulpit is higher than the seating in the church?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 ALTAR CLOTH EMBROIDERY

This was embroidered by hand over 400 years ago. If you look really carefully you may see the real gold threads glittering in the embroidery.

Write down 6 creatures that you can see among the flowers.

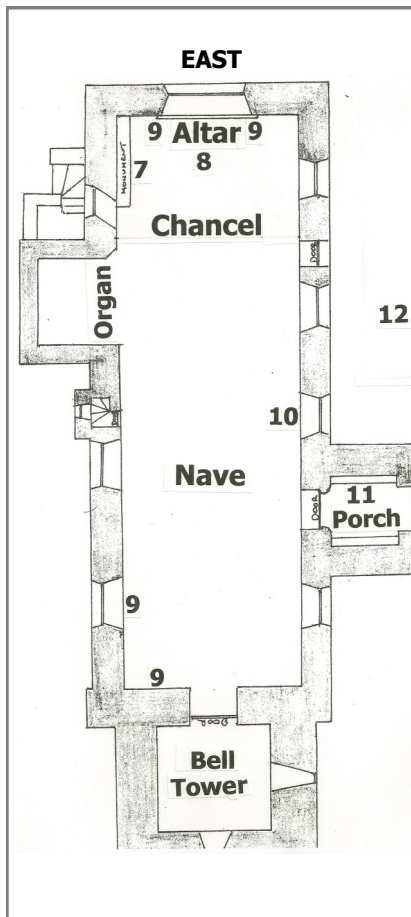
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

7 BLANCHE PARRY MEMORIAL

This monument is over 400 years old. It shows Queen Elizabeth I and Blanche Parry, her lady-in-waiting.

Find 3 clues which identify the Queen.

1.
2.
3.



8 ALTAR

Behind the altar is a carved **reredos**. It shows Jesus at the Last Supper.

What did they eat and drink?

Why is this scene placed behind the altar?

Who is the person sitting at the front of the table?

What might be in his bag?



9 PARTRIDGE FAMILY

In this parish the Partridge family seem to have been very important. Find 3 places where they are named. (Check the church plan for clues.)

1.
2.
3.

10 ST LAWRENCE & ST STEPHEN WINDOW

Long ago most people couldn't read. The pictures in church windows helped them to remember the important stories from the Bible.

Find St Lawrence holding a grid and St Stephen carrying stones.

Talk about why the grid and the stones are shown in the window.

11 BENEFACTIONS BOARD

Find the Benefactions Board in the porch.

What did Blanche Parry leave, each year, to the poor people who lived in the parish of Bacton?

.....

12 THE CHURCHYARD

Explore the churchyard. Look for Partridge family graves. Go to the Yew tree growing in the corner by the church gate. Stand inside and look up.

How old is this tree?

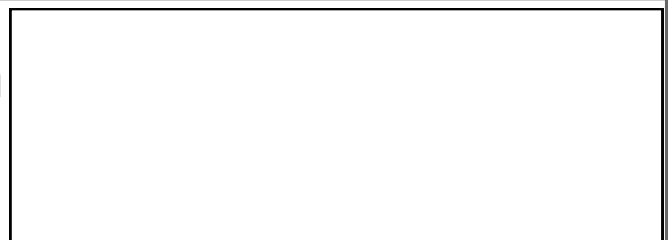
Over 200 years?

Over 500 years?

Over 1,000 years?

WELL DONE, YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE TRAIL.

We hope you have enjoyed discovering some of the history of St Faith's Church in Bacton, as well as learning about some of the important people from the past. If you have time, you may like to draw your favourite part of the trail to remind yourself of your visit.



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Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes
for Parents and Teachers



1. Tablet Memorial

The man is holding a skull because it shows he died before his wife. The Monument shows two kneeling figures facing each other. Alexander Stantar esq., died 5th July 1620, holds the skull and his widow, Rachel, clasps a book. Rachel died, aged 83 years, on 11th November 1663.

2. Font

The font is where baptisms (christenings) take place. Baptism is the way people become part of the church – the way in – so the font is usually near the entrance door to show that the person is at the beginning of their spiritual journey as a member of the Christian Church. Water is put into the bowl when a person is christened and, at baptism, water from the font is sprinkled on the forehead to signify the washing away of a person's sins.

3. Altar Cloth Embroidery

Birds, butterflies, caterpillars, fish, dogs, stags, frogs, squirrels, dragonflies. The Altar Cloth is made from an Elizabethan court dress which may possibly have belonged to Queen Elizabeth I. It was considered to be an honour to receive parts of dresses from her. This piece is also embroidered with flowers, including sprigs of columbine and vine, daffodils, roses, honeysuckle, oak leaves, acorns and mistletoe. Blanche Parry herself may have worked some of the motifs. It was framed in late 1909.

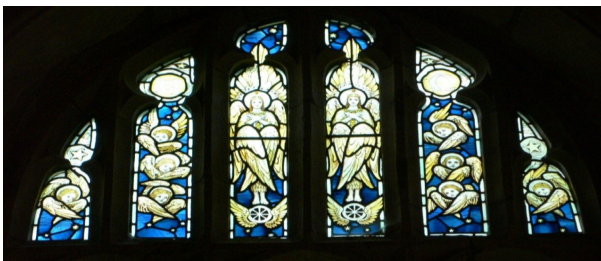
4. Pulpit

The pulpit is high up so that the preacher can see everyone and can also be heard and seen by everyone.

5. Rood Screen

The steps lead to the higher door. In the Middle Ages there was a wooden screen which divided the Church into Chancel and Nave. Look for evidence that it was once here - in the stonework, the change in the wooden flooring and the ceilings.

People were able to climb up to the screen using this staircase. The screen has been taken away. A rood screen divided the congregation from the priests and choir in old churches. It is called a rood screen because it was topped by a ROOD (old English "rod" meaning "cross") with a large carving of Christ on the cross with the figures of the Virgin Mary on one side and St John the Evangelist on the other. At the Reformation, (16th Century) churches were ordered to remove the cross and the figures. It may have been used as a singing gallery.



6. Angels

There are more than 30 angels. Look for angels made of stone, or wood, or painted glass.

7. Blanche Parry Memorial

Queen Elizabeth wears a crown, carries an orb and wears a Chain of Office. Her clothes are more elaborate than those of Blanche Parry, the lady-in-waiting, who is kneeling to the Queen. The lion shows valour or nobility. Blanche Parry intended her body to be buried in Bacton, but her tomb is in St Margaret's, Westminster. This monument must have been glorious when coloured. The Bacton monument is nationally important for it is the earliest known representation of Queen Elizabeth I as an icon, as Gloriana. You may like to find out more about Blanche Parry in Ruth Richardson's book *Mistress Blanche, Queen Elizabeth I's Confidante*, 2007 Logaston Press or www.blancheparry.com

8. Altar



The people ate bread and drank wine. Jesus Christ ate His last meal with His disciples, before He was crucified. He commanded His friends and followers to remember Him by eating bread and drinking wine as symbols of His body and blood. Holy Communion is a time of worship when we come together to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us during His life on earth.

The scene is placed behind the altar because this is where the bread and wine is blessed during the Communion Service. It links the Last Supper with the service which is held in church today.

The man in front of the table is Judas Iscariot.

The bag holds 30 pieces of silver. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, to those who had decided to have him killed, in exchange for the payment of 30 silver coins.

9. Partridge Family

- **Alabaster memorials to the right of the Bell Tower.**
- **References around the George and the Dragon stained glass window on the North wall towards the rear of the Nave.**
- **Plaques either side of the altar.**

Also

- **Gravestones in the churchyard.**

The Partridge family were rich landowners in Bacton in the late 19th, early 20th century. Some of their wealth came from an iron foundry in South Wales. Mrs Partridge served as a churchwarden and was a patron. She paid for many artefacts around the church.

10. St Lawrence & St Stephen Stained Glass Window

St Lawrence and St Stephen are well known for giving out food and charitable aid to poor people. They both hold palm leaves to show that they were martyred and endured suffering but refused to change their religious beliefs. St Lawrence stands by an iron grid, on which he was said to have been burned to death. St Stephen is holding stones showing that he was stoned to death. The Rector who paid for this window was the Revd. Charles Thomas Brothers, who was vicar of Bacton for 49 years. The parishioners placed a tablet to his memory on the wall by the pulpit.

11. Benefactions Board

Blanche Parry left the amount of land on which to grow "Seven Score Bushells of Wheat Corn Viz: Wheat and Rye" to the poor people of Bacton each year. A 'score' is 20 so 7 scores would be 140 Bushels. This corn would have been really important to the poor people of those times as it could be made into bread to feed their families.

Liquid Measure.	Dry Measure.
4 gills = 1 pint (pt.)	2 pints (pt.) = 1 quart (qt.)
2 pints = 1 quart (qt.)	8 quarts = 1 peck (pk.)
4 quarts = 1 gallon (gal.)	4 pecks = 1 bushel (bu.)
1 gallon = 231 cubic inches.	10 pecks, 2½ bushels = 1 barrel, (bbl.)
	1 bushel = 2150.42 cu. in.



12. The Churchyard

The Yew tree is over 1,000 years old.

It is a male tree with a girth of 6.40 metres, so it is about 1,350 years old! Yew trees are often found in churchyards marking a sacred site. Before a church was built a preacher often preached under a Yew tree. It was a sign of death, rebirth and immortality because branches touching the ground take root and sprout again. Yew trees are poisonous, so by planting them in enclosed churchyards cattle were safe from eating the berries. Yew wood is traditionally used for making longbows. By planting Yew trees in churchyards there was always wood available to make bows for use in war.

Thank you for taking part in this NADFAS Church Trail for Children. We hope you have enjoyed learning about our church in this way. Further information can be found in the Guide to Bacton Church.