

# ST GEORGE'S, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, WC1A 2HR Trail for children

(and accompanying adults) Explanatory notes and answers are available

# **YOUR NAME**

Start the trail at the grey arrow Follow the numbers from 1-14.

## 1 FONT

What is put into the font for baptism (when someone is made a member of the Christian Church)?

W \_ \_ \_ \_

How many sides does the top of the font

Is this an octagon or a hexagon? *Tick your answer* 

What does the font feel like?



## **2 CANDLESTICK**

Find the very big candlestick.
Mark it on your plan with a **C**.
[It will be near the font or the altar.]
Copy the pattern which is on the small shield on the base.



What does this remind you of?

# **3 WINDOW**

Look at the lower window.

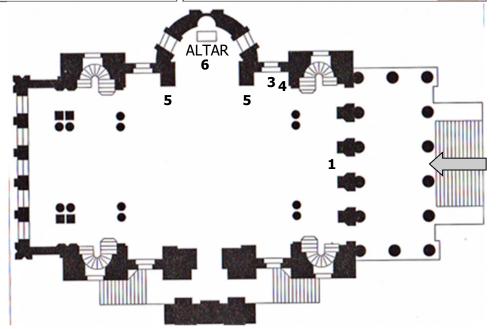
What animal can you see?



What makes this animal something special?

For which Saint is this animal a symbol?

Saint M \_ \_



# **4 STATUE**

What is the main colour Mary's cloak?

Fill in the halo behind the baby's head.



What is the baby's name?

J \_ \_ \_ \_

# **5 PAIR OF CHAIRS**

What is the name of the saint carved on each chair?

[Clue: What is the name of this church?]

Add what is missing from this picture.

[You may have to look at both chairs!]



# **6 ALTAR**

The altar is the Holy Table, in the holiest part of the church.

What colour is the cloth on it today?

What is on the shelf behind the Altar?

6 C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

1 C \_ U C \_ \_ \_ X

What is the main Christian symbol?

C \_ \_ \_ \_

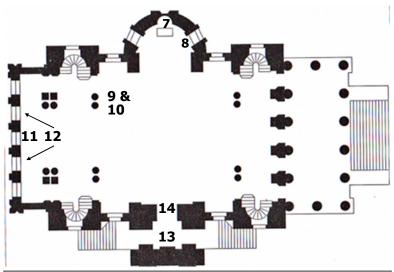
### **7 REREDOS**

Look up at the dome above the altar. How many cherubs (like little angels) are there?

Here is part of a Hebrew word, meaning **GOD**. Add the missing shapes.



Look at the carving on the left side. Draw some wheat and grapes.



## **8 LITTLE CHILDREN WINDOW**

This is a picture of Jesus Christ with a woman and some children. Complete what He is saying:

SUFFER LITTLE UNTO ME.

	I PTT

How many steps are there up to the pulpit?

Who uses it?

Why is it so high?



10 ICON (Picture)

Look at the icon by the pulpit. Who is at the bus stop?

What building is in the background on the right?

Find the letters **IHS** on the pulpit. What symbol can you see with these letters?

C \_ \_ \_ \_

Name two things in the picture starting with the letter S

# 11 CRUCIFIX

Look at the large cross with the figure of Jesus Christ on

Copy the letters carved on the banner at the top of the cross

\_ \_ \_ \_

# 12 LION AND UNICORN

Look on one of the windowsills.

Draw the symbol you can see between the two animals.

Is the Unicorn a real animal? Yes / No

# 13 MEMORIAL TO CHARLES GRANT

What is Charles Grant holding in his right hand?

How are his clothes different from clothes now? Write two ideas.

4						
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Look at the panel on the wall. When was the church consecrated?

Which century was this in?

Take a few moments here to think about all the people who have worshipped in this magnificent church over all these years.

What do you like most about this church?



# ST GEORGE'S, BLOOMSBURY LONDON, WC1A 2HR Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes for Parents and Teachers

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

This splendid church was built by Nicholas Hawskmoor between 1716 and 1731. It was the last of the 6 churches designed for "The 50 New Churches Act" of 1711. In the end only 12 were finished with 6 designed by Hawksmoor. The other 5 are St Alfege, Greenwich; St George-in-the-East, Wapping; Christchurch, Spitalfields; St Anne, Limehouse; and St Mary Woolnoth. This church has been the subject of a major restoration, finished in 2008, is a masterpiece of Late Baroque architecture and one of the finest 18th Century churches in England. It has an unusual stepped pyramid spire based on the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus topped with a statue of George I and supported four 10 feet (over 3m) creatures - two lions and two unicorns.



#### **FONT** 1

Water is put in the large bowl for use during Baptism. The top of the font has 8 sides. It is an octagon. The font feels **cold** and **hard**. That is because it is made of marble, a hard stone.

People are baptised as a sign that they have become members of the Church. (The priest dips his fingers into the blessed water and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of people being baptized while saying the words of baptism).

# **CANDLESTICK**

This very large candlestick is sometimes near the font and sometimes near the altar, depending on the season of the church's year. It is used to hold the large Paschal (=Easter) Candle which is lit on Easter Sunday. On it is a shield showing a red cross on a white background. This may have reminded you of the Flag of England. This is the sign of St George, patron saint of England. Little is known about him except that he was probably of Greek origin and an officer in the Roman army. He was martyred for his Christian faith. He is almost always shown killing a dragon (i.e. overcoming evil).



#### **WINDOW** 3



The animal is a **lion** and **it has wings**. The lion with wings is the emblem of Saint **Mark**. He wrote one of the four gospel books (Gospel = Good News) of the New Testament in the Bible. The authors of these 4 books are known as the evangelists (Evangelist = messenger). Each has a symbol: St Matthew - a man, St Mark - a lion, St Luke - an ox and St John - an eagle. The first three often have wings added. The evangelist windows are at the east and west ends of the church. Look at the other windows to see more saints. No one knows what the saints actually looked like. To help those people who could not read to recognise the saints shown in windows or statues, artists would show something that was associated with the story of the Saint (e.g. St Peter has keys).

### **STATUE**

Mary's cloak is mainly **blue** and her baby's name is **Jesus**. Mary is often shown wearing blue clothes. Blue represents purity. Blue and red were both expensive colours used for painting during the Middle Ages and therefore would be used for someone greatly revered. Mary, a young Palestinian woman, is also called the Madonna or the Virgin Mary.

The halo behind the baby's head should make your picture look like this:

A halo (also called a nimbus) is a roundel painted or carved behind the head of Christ and Saints to denote their special status. In windows the halo of Christ often has a red cross on it. In front of the statue is a votive candle stand. People light candles so that their prayer may continue as long as the candle burns, or as a form of blessing for a loved one.



### **PAIR OF CHAIRS**

The name of the Saint carved on the chair is Saint George. He is a soldier so he is wearing armour. In the Bible the dragon symbolizes Satan (the Devil). The name of this church is also **St George**. (St = Saint) because it is dedicated to him. The spear was left out of the picture. Perhaps the dragon has now been killed! On one chair the spear has been broken so you need to look at both chairs!

#### 6 **ALTAR**

In this church the cloth will be cream, purple, red or green. On the shelf behind are 6 candlesticks and 1 crucifix which is a cross with the figure of Jesus on it. At certain times of year this may be covered. The main Christian symbol is a cross but in the early days of Christianity it was a fish.

The seasons of the Church's year are marked by using different colours for the priest's vestments, altar frontals and other hangings:

White or cream for festivals, Christmas, Easter ,and patron saints, purple for Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas) and Lent (the 40 days before Easter), red for Pentecost, also called Whitsun (the coming of the Holy Spirit) and martyrs, and green for all other periods (known as Ordinary Time).

#### 7 REREDOS

There are **10** cherubs (angels), 3 carved under the book above (the Holy Bible) and 7 floating on clouds below heaven, watched over by the divine presence shown by the rays of light and the Hebrew letters. A reredos is an ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of an altar.



TETRAGRAMMATON This is the technical term for the four letter Hebrew word 'JHVH' - known to us as Yahweh or Jehovah This is translated in the Holy Bible as "Lord" or "God". This one is set in a sunburst indicating the divine presence. There are slight variations in how it is written. The small, pale grey dot is not part of the Hebrew letters. Unlike some other faiths Christians both write the name of God in their place of worship and have images.

The grapes and wheat together are symbols of the bread (made from wheat) and wine (made from grapes) used in the Eucharist, Holy Communion or Mass, which is the main service of the Christian church. The vine is a symbol for Jesus. Wheat represents God's goodness and the harvest. A parable in the Bible likens the sowing of grains of wheat to sowing God's word and in another parable a kernel of wheat appears to have died but comes to life bringing forth a harvest.

#### 8 LITTLE CHILDREN WINDOW

You will have added **children to come** to make the full text "SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME" which is from St Luke's Gospel chapter 18 verse 16. This is from the Authorised Version of the Holy Bible (1611 King James Bible translation). In the modern New Revised Standard Version Jesus says 'Let the little children come to me'.

## 9 PULPIT

There are **7** steps. The **priest** or a **preacher** uses it to give his/her sermon or talk. It is high so that **everyone can see and hear him/her easily.** The IHS symbol has a **cross** on top of the H

IHS is an abbreviation of the Greek word IESOUS (IH $\Sigma$ OY $\Sigma$ ) meaning JESUS. In Greek capitals it is IH $\Sigma$ . In Greek lower case it is  $\iota\eta\varsigma$ . Over many years the letters have been changed to our alphabet. IH $\Sigma$  is rendered as **IHS** and  $\iota\eta\varsigma$  is rendered as **ihc**. It is known as THE SACRED MONOGRAM and the letters are often superimposed. The letters in the Roman alphabet were thought to stand for Iesus Hominum Salvator – Jesus Saviour of mankind.



## 10 ICON



**St George** is at the bus stop. **This church**, St George Bloomsbury, is in the background. We found: **serpent** or **snake**, **saint**, **spear**, **steeple** (or **spire**), **sandal**, **saddle**, **stirrup**, **saddlecloth**, **steed** (instead of horse) **scarf** (instead of cloak). But you may have found some more!

### 11 CRUCIFIX

The crucifix has the letters **INRI** standing for Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, which is Latin meaning "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews", above the cross. This was the label which Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, ordered to be put on the cross of Christ.

## **12 LION AND UNICORN**

The symbol is a **crown**. **No**, the unicorn is not a real animal! The lion represents England, the unicorn Scotland.



### 13 MEMORIAL TO CHARLES GRANT



He is holding a **quill** or **feather pen** in his right hand. His clothes are quite different: he has **stockings** and **knee breeches** and lots of **buttons**. He has a **neckcloth** rather than a tie. His **coat has long tails** at the back.

The figure behind Charles Grant represents Faith and is holding a cross. She is one of the three Christian virtues, the others being Hope who is often seen holding an anchor and Charity (or Love) who is usually shown with children.

# **14 NEARLY FINISHED!**

The church was consecrated in 1731, in the  $18^{th}$  Century. There are lots more interesting things to look at in this church. For example, the magnificent chandelier ( $17^{th}/18^{th}$  c. Dutch), the carvings on the pilasters (flat pillars), the windows, the small Royal Arms high up on the wall on the west side of the church (the unicorn has a very short horn!).