

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MARDEN, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR1 3EN

Trail for children (with accompanying adults)

Answers and explanatory notes are available

YOUR NAME

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

1 ST ETHELBERT'S WELL



Carefully lift the lid and look inside.

What has been in this well?

W _ _ _ _

7 PISCINA

This is the stone washing-up bowl with a drainage hole used by the minister during the Communion service.



What do you think was being washed up?

.....

2 ENTRANCE PORCH

Find the 2 stone heads outside the porch.

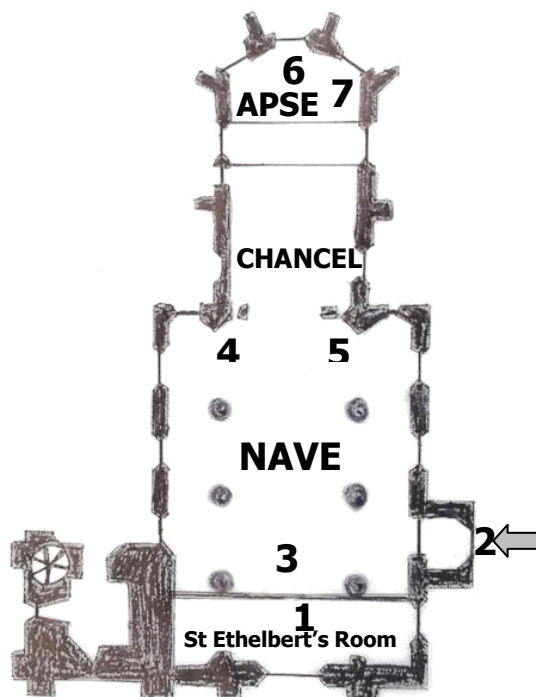
Finish the picture of King Ethelbert and Pope Adrian.



.....
is on the left.

.....
is on the right.

EAST

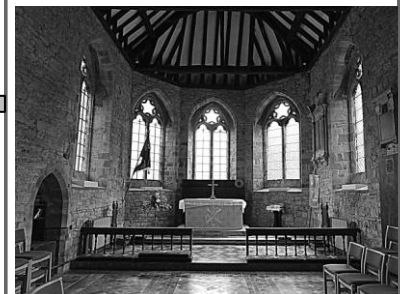


WEST

6 APSE

Look carefully at the shape of the walls of the Apse behind the altar. The Apse has 3 sides, with a window in each.

Are the sides of the Apse matching?



3 FONT

The font is where people are baptised as a sign they have become members of the church.

What is put into the font at baptism?

_ _ _ _ _

How many sides does the bowl have?



4 PULPIT

The pulpit 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?

.....

.....

5 SQUINT

This is the opening in the wall behind the lectern, or book stand, where the Holy Bible is read.

This opening is called a squint.

What can you see if you look through the squint behind the lectern?

.....

8 BRASS PLAQUE



This is the memorial to Dame Margaret Chute who died on 9th June 1614.
Her clothes show us that she was a rich lady.

How many children did she have?

Draw arrows to show these items of clothing:-

- 1 A peaked stomacher (V shaped panel of stiff material)
- 2 A wheeled farthingale (the wheel is formed by a flounce round the waist and stiffened by wire)
- 3 A starched lace collar
- 4 Hair brushed up to a lace crown (which also must have had wirework support)

9 BENEFACTORS BOARD

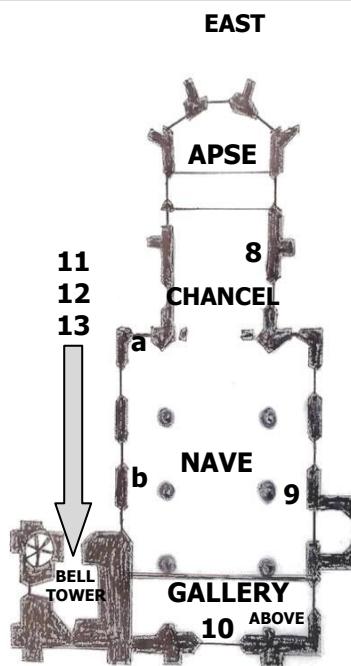
A benefactor is someone who gives money to a church or parish. This Benefactors Board is very old. Mrs Jane Shelley, a wealthy widow, is the first benefactor on the Board.

How much was the school master paid for a year's work?

£

Jane Shelley also gave the school master a house with a garden, a meadow and a

L _ _ _ of W _ _ _



10 WINDOW

Climb the stairs to the gallery.

The window has 3 main sections (lights) showing scenes after Jesus had risen from the dead.

How do you know that these pictures show the time after he had been crucified on the cross?

How many angels can you see in the window?

11 BELL TOWER

Go outside the church to enter the Bell Tower.

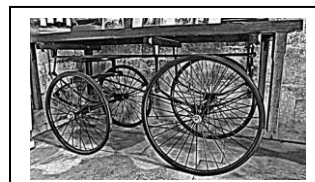
The Bell Tower was built over 700 years ago and has very thick walls.

Spend some time looking at the objects on display on the Ground Floor.

Guess how many bells hang in this tower?

12 BIER

Talk about what you think this 4 wheeled cart was used for...



13 ANOTHER CHALLENGE?

*You may also wish to explore the first floor museum area of the Bell Tower. **Go slowly and take care!***

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to our church. You may have time to explore the churchyard. If you are very quiet, and lucky, you may even see some of the shy creatures that live here among these lovely surroundings.

Welcome to our peaceful church in Marden, built next to the River Lugg and enjoying a wealth of local wildlife in our churchyard. It is designated as one of Herefordshire Wildlife Trusts' living landscapes.

1 ST ETHELBERT'S WELL

Water - from a spring (now capped to prevent flooding). It is said that this spring began to flow from the very place where King Ethelbert's beheaded body lay!

In 794 Ethelbert came to visit powerful King Offa, who lived in his palace near Marden. Ethelbert wanted to marry Offa's daughter to join together their kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia. Instead, Ethelbert was killed by the orders of King Offa. After the murder, Offa began to feel so guilty that he sent messengers to Rome to ask Pope Adrian how he could be forgiven. Pope Adrian told Offa to have a church built around the sacred place where Ethelbert had been killed. He also told him to have a stone church built in Hereford (the Cathedral) where Ethelbert's body was eventually buried.

If Ethelbert had married Offa's daughter then peace would join the two kingdoms, but Offa would not have been able to achieve his dream of becoming ruler of all England.



Saxon Britain 600-900 AD

2 ENTRANCE PORCH

King Ethelbert is on the left side of the door.



Pope Adrian is on the right side of the door.



3 FONT

Water is put in the font for Baptism.

During the service, the minister uses water to make the sign of the cross on the forehead, to symbolise being washed clean, ready to start a new Christian life. Baptism means being a follower of Jesus and a member of the world-wide family of the Church. Many are baptised as infants but you can choose to be baptised at any age.

The bowl of the font has **12** sides. The stone bowl of the font is about 600 years old. The panels on each face may have shown painted figures of Jesus and the 11 faithful disciples.

4 PULPIT

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

This pulpit was put into the church in the 1860's by the church restorer Thomas Nicolson.

5 SQUINT

The **Altar table** can be seen through the squint. This is a special table where bread and wine are blessed and shared to remind us of the life of Jesus. When the stone church was first built 700 years ago, (replacing the original wood and wattle church), the chancel would have been screened off from the nave where the congregation sat. The squints provide a place to see through to the altar and watch the moment when the bread and wine have been blessed and are held up.

Notice also the holes in the Chancel arch where the rood screen would have been. The rood screen would have stopped people from seeing in to the Chancel.

6 APSE

No, the sides do not match. The stone to build the apse would have been brought by boat along the River Lugg, but the builders did not manage to make the walls equal in shape, size or angle. Today, modern technology would mean that the apse would be more accurately built. People improved their churches when they had enough money. Marden Church is larger than most village churches. The apse (a rare feature) was added 700 years ago, as Marden became a

pilgrimage church. Pilgrims, such as those in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, were like tourists bringing wealth to the area. After his death, Ethelbert was made a saint because of various miraculous happenings suggesting his holiness. Pilgrims came to visit Ethelbert's sacred well and other places relating to the stories which surrounded his murder. Pilgrims spent a lot of their money on places to stay, food and souvenirs. St Ethelbert's tomb, in what became Hereford Cathedral, was a place of pilgrimage and healing until the 14th century. It was second only to Canterbury in importance. Pilgrims also went to Westminster Abbey where Ethelbert's head was enshrined!

7 PISCINA

The minister would have washed up the **communion vessels** which he had used during the Communion Service. This piscina seems very low down. This is because the level of the floor of the Chancel has been raised over the years due to flooding, as the church is so near the River Lugg.

8 BRASS PLAQUE

Dame Margaret Chute had **2** daughters. She died the day after she gave birth to her second daughter. It is a very sad story as the baby, Frances, died on the day of her birth and her older sister, Anne, was left without a mother.

9 BENEFACTORS BOARD

The school master was paid **£10** a year.

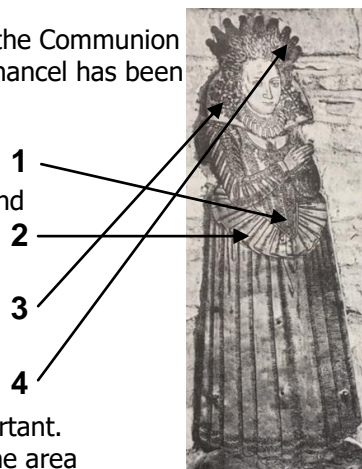
Jane Shelley gave the school master a **Load of Wood** to keep him warm.

In 1610 she started a free school in Marden because she thought that education was important.

This was 260 years before all children in England had to go to school. Students living in the area today still benefit from the money left in her trust fund.

In more recent times benefactors continue to give money to help look after our church and preserve it for future generations.

You can read their names if you go to a and b on the plan.



10 WINDOW



Each picture of Jesus shows **nail marks, either in his hands or his feet**, showing where he was nailed to the cross. They are called stigmata.

The first light shows Mary Magdalene recognising Jesus in the garden near his tomb. The second light shows Jesus' followers on the road to Emmaus with Jesus, but they do not know him. The third light shows Jesus blessing bread and being recognised by his disciples.

There are **17** angels in the window.

11 BELL TOWER

There are **6** bells in the tower, dating from 1622 – 1774.

In 1847 a Celtic handbell (The Marden Bell) was found, buried 6 metres down, near to the church. This is a very precious object, regarded as a holy relic, and associated with churches where a Saint is buried. It was used by a Priest or Holy Man to announce their arrival at a place and was also used in healing. The Marden Bell was thought to have miraculous powers. (The Marden Bell is now in the care of Hereford Museum.)

The Marden Bell



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Another bell, belonging to Marden Church, is linked to an old myth which pre-dates the rediscovery of the Celtic bell.

The Legend of the Mermaid of Marden...

One day the bell fell into the River Lugg and was seized by a mermaid, who dragged it to the bottom of the river and kept it there. A wise man told the villagers how to get their bell back. A team of 12 white heifers had to be attached to the bell in a special way, BUT the bell had to be drawn out in absolute silence. The bell was raised to the edge of the river with the mermaid fast asleep inside. One man was so excited that he shouted out. This woke the mermaid who darted back into the river, taking the bell with her...

12 BIER

The 4 wheeled cart is called a bier. Today, when a person dies, their coffin is carried to church for the funeral in a special car called a hearse. Before cars were invented coffins were placed on biers like this one in Marden Church. It was then wheeled from the person's home to the church.

One legend says that while St Ethelbert's remains were being moved to Hereford for burial, the head fell from the cart carrying them. Miraculously a blind man is said to have stumbled upon it and his sight was immediately restored. Perhaps the body was moved on a bier, or something similar, or a simple horse drawn cart?

13 ANOTHER CHALLENGE?

Attend an official Bell Tower Open Day to see the higher levels of the bell tower.

To find out more about King Ethelbert and King Offa you may like to visit Hereford Cathedral.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH AT MARDEN.