

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, NATELY SCURES HAMPSHIRE RG27 9PH

Trail for children (and accompanying adults)

Answers and Explanatory Notes are also available

YOUR NAME

Start the trail at the grey arrow.
Follow the numbers from 1-15.

1 DOORWAY

Stand outside the door and look at the round arched Norman doorway.

Tick how many years old you think the arch is.

About 100 ☐ About 500 ☐ About 800 ☐

The arch is curved and beautifully decorated.

Draw one of the patterns in this box:



6 APSE

Find the altar table at the EAST end of the church.

What is the main Christian symbol at the back of the Altar ?



What is the main colour of the cloth on the front of the Altar today?

Now look down. Draw your favourite tile here ↑

2 CARVING AT ENTRANCE

Look at the column on the left of the doorway.

At the top of it (the capital) is a carving.



Find a strange sea creature here.

It is a mythical creature, half lady, half fish.

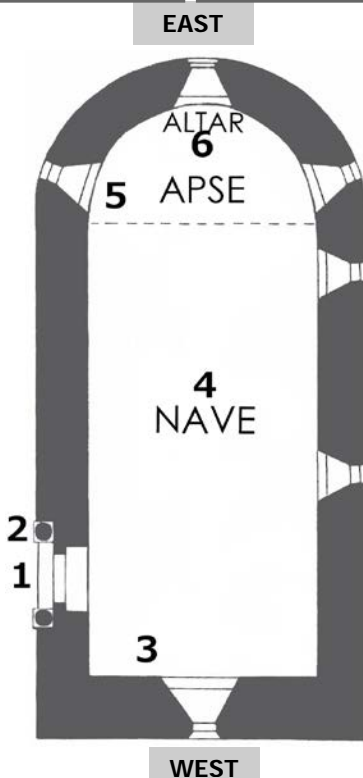
It is a m _ _ _ _ _ .

Now go into the church.

The carving outside is a copy. The original carving is worn by the weather and is inside now to protect it. Find it at the back of the church in a corner.

Mark where it is on the plan with an M.

Then ask your guide to tell you about the legend of Nately Scures.

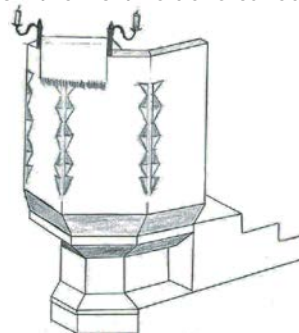


5 PULPIT

Near the EAST end of the church are three stone desks

The highest on the north side is called the pulpit.

This is where the preacher speaks to the people. Why do you think it is so high?

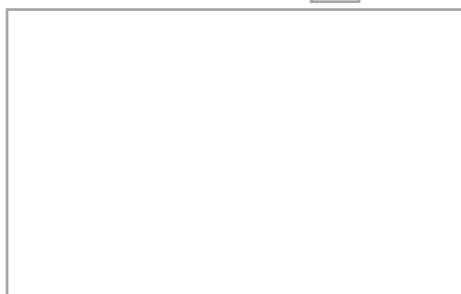


Prayers and announcements are made from the other 2 reading desks. What book is read from the brass lectern?

3 FONT

Find the font. What is put into the font for a baptism when someone is made a member of the Church?

Is the top of the font a circle ☐ or a hexagon (6 sided)? ☐



In this box, draw part of the pattern from the outside of the font.

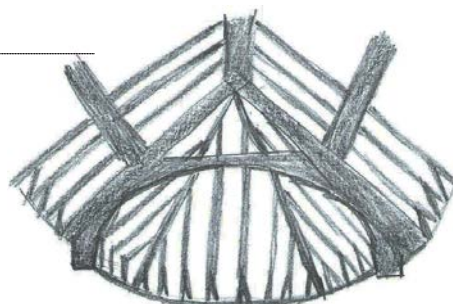
4 NAVE

Sit down in the middle of the church.

You are in part of the church called the NAVE.

Look up at the roof. What does it remind you of?

Clue:
Nave comes from NAVIS.
NAVIS is Latin for ship.



7 AUMBRY

To the left (north) side of the altar, behind the Pulpit, is a little wooden door.

This is a special secure cupboard, called an 'AUMBRY'.

Mark it with an **A** on the plan here.

What do you think might be kept behind this locked door? It is

B _ _ _ d and W _ _ _

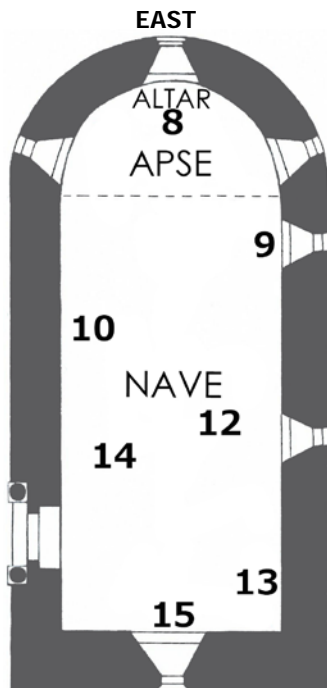
8 EAST WINDOW

As you stand in front of the Altar, look up at the East window.

This shows Christ on the cross.

Write down the letters on the scroll above Jesus' head:- I _ _ I

This stands for 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.'



9 OTHER WINDOWS

Find the other three stained glass windows.

Around the head of Christ, in each window, there is a halo or nimbus to show the glow of heavenly light.



The halo around Christ often has a cross in it.

What is the colour of the cross?

Find a window with two animals shown in it.

What are they?

10 STONE MEMORIALS

Turn towards the door and then look at the north wall on the right of it.

Look at the memorials made of pale marble edged with black.

What does the shape of four of them remind you of?



11 BRASS MEMORIALS

Find a memorial with the name

General Thomas Carleton

Mark its position with a **T** on the plan.

What can you see on top of the shield?

Who erected (put in place) this memorial?

Where do you think New Brunswick is?

12 HASSOCKS (KNEELERS)

Look at the needlework hassocks (kneelers).

Find a kneeler with the Greek symbols **Α** (Alpha) and **Ω** (Omega).

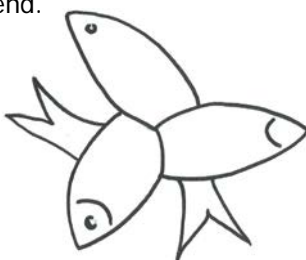
What is the symbol in between **Α** and **Ω**?

Alpha means beginning and Omega means end.

There are two kneelers showing three fish linked together, like this:-

A fish was one of the first Christian symbols.

Complete the drawing of the fishes.



13 WAR MEMORIAL

Look for the memorial dedicated to the men of Nately Scures who were killed in the Great War.

How many names are on the memorial?



What are the dates of the Great War?

_____ to _____

14 ST SWITHUN

Sit down quietly in the Nave and write down what you liked best in this church and why.

Now, ask your guide to tell you about another legend, the legend of St Swithun. The story is in the Answers.

15 BELFRY

Before you leave the church, look for the bell ropes. The fluffy bit is called a SALLY. **Don't touch them!** Count them and then go outside.

Now look up at the belfry (the little house on the roof). How many bells can you see?



Is this the same as the number of sallies? Yes/No
If it's not raining, walk around the outside of the church. How many doors are there into it?



ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, NATELY SCURES, HAMPSHIRE, RG27 9PH

Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes
for accompanying adults

Children's Answers are in Bold.

Further information is for interest and discussion.

St. Swithun's Church is possibly the most perfect example of a single cell Norman church with an apse in England. It looks substantially as it did when built in the third quarter of the 12th century. A gallery was built in 1591 and rebuilt, with the roof, in 1786. The church was restored in the 19th century.

1. DOORWAY

The arch is over **800** years old. The Normans arrived in England in 1066 and built many churches and castles in the 11th and 12th centuries. This church was built around 1150 – 1175 in the Norman or Romanesque style of architecture. The outer semicircle of the arch has a zig-zag moulding in 2 planes edged with a bead and reel pattern. The inner part of the arch is square with a trefoil-shaped head and rolled cusps.

2. CARVING AT ENTRANCE

The mythical sea creature is a **Mermaid**. The mermaid capital by the entrance was re-carved in 1968 in memory of Georgina Berry Black (née Gorden). The original was placed inside the church in the west corner of the south wall.

According to the *Legend of Nately Scures*, a young sailor met a mermaid somewhere in the great oceans. He flirted with her, but then left her and returned to England. Soon after his return, he fell in love with a girl from Nately Scures. Their wedding day came but as the bridal party approached the church door, there, sitting outside, was the mermaid. She seized the sailor and carried him off. She plunged with him into the nearby stream at Water End. Swimming down the rivers Lyde, Loddon and into the Thames she took him out to sea. The capital on the doorway of the church was carved as a warning to flirtatious youths! If you look carefully you can see the small figure of the sailor on the mermaid's back.

3. FONT

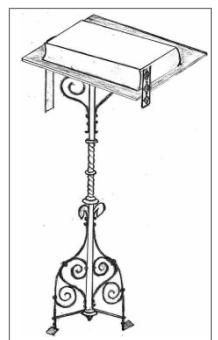
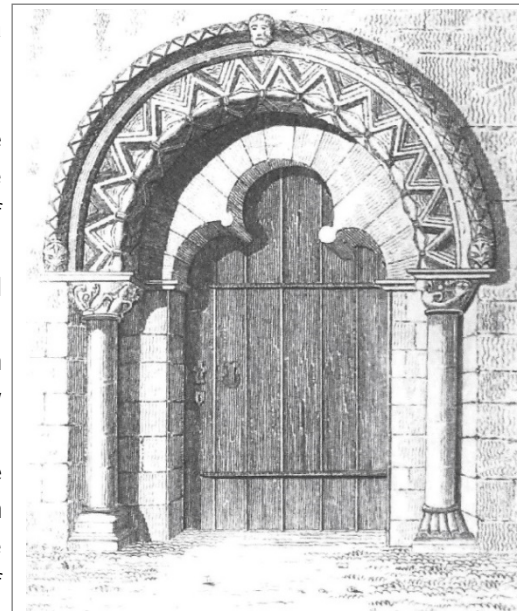
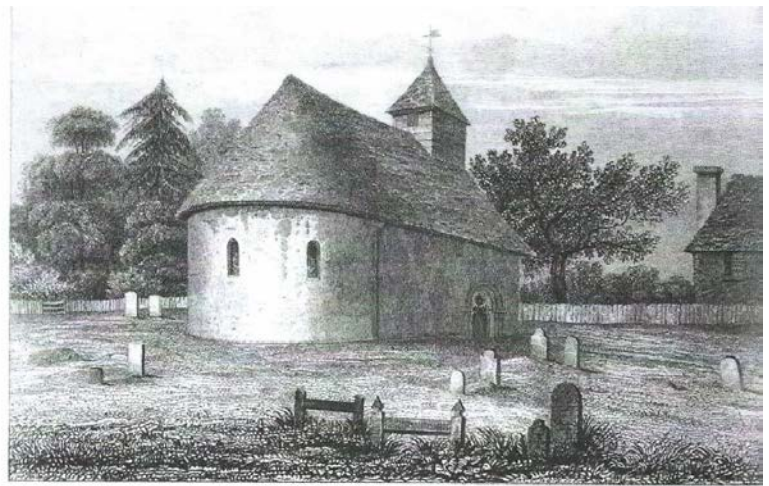
Water that has been blessed (holy water) is put into the font at a baptism to signify the washing away of sins. The priest traces a sign of the cross with water from the font on the forehead of those being baptised. The font is near the entrance to the church to represent the Christian belief that those being baptised are at the start of their spiritual journey through life as members of the Christian Church. The font is round (a **circle**) with a flat wooden lid. It has a pattern of 16 interlaced round arches supported on round columns.

4. NAVE

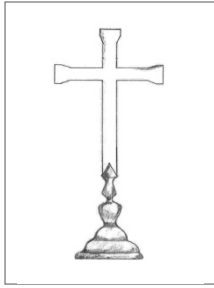
The roof of the nave resembles the keel of an upturned wooden sailing **ship** or **boat** and would have been constructed in a similar way to the keels of such ships.

5. PULPIT

The pulpit is high so that **the priest can be seen and heard by the congregation**. Churches often had three-decker pulpits, a top level from which a priest can give his sermon, a middle level reading desk from which portions of the Bible can be read and the lowest level which was the clerk's desk. The Parish Clerk was someone who could read, in the days when most people could not: he would say the responses in services on behalf of the congregation. In St Swithun's the three "desks" are separate. The **Holy Bible** is read from the brass lectern which is shown here.



6. APSE

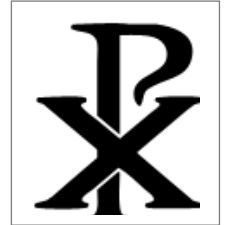


The Apse in this church is known as the CHANCEL. The **cross** is the main Christian symbol at the back of the altar. The altar is where the priest prepares the bread and wine to be used in the celebration of Holy Communion (also known as the Mass, the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist).

The colour of the main cloth is **white (or white with gold), purple, red or green**. The seasons of the church year are marked by using different colours for the priest's vestments, altar frontals and other hangings, namely white for festivals, Christmas, Easter and Patronal Saint's Days, purple for Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) and Lent (the forty days before Easter), red for Pentecost, also called Whitsun (the coming of the Holy Spirit) and other martyrs and green for all

other periods (known as Ordinary Time).

The **tiles** are encaustic tiles, made using different coloured clays. The design is impressed into the terracotta clay and the indentation is filled with the liquid lighter coloured clay. The tile is then fired at a very high temperature. The symbols on the tiles are the Chi Rho (right), the Chi Rho with Alpha and Omega, a symbolic Crown of Thorns with nails, symbolising the Crucifixion, and two different crosses. Chi Rho is a monogram of the Greek letters Chi and Rho, X and P, which are the first two letters of the name of Christ in Greek.



7. AUMBRY

Bread and wine that has been blessed for use in a service of Holy Communion is kept behind the locked door. The aumbry is used for keeping sacred vessels and the reserved sacrament (the blessed bread and wine). Christians believe that the reserved sacrament represents the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

8. EAST WINDOW

The letters are **I N R I**. When a criminal was crucified, it was usual for a placard to be put on the cross with their name and misdeed. This label was put on the cross of Christ by Pontius Pilate. The letters stand for **I**esus **N**azerenus **R**ex **I**udaeorum. This is Latin for Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews. (The letter J did not exist in the Latin alphabet.)

9. OTHER WINDOWS

The colour of the cross in each nimbus or halo is **red** and the two animals are **sheep**

10. STONE MEMORIALS

The four marble memorials are in **the shapes of the symbols on playing cards** (a diamond, heart, spade and club) – it is not known why. There are many memorials to members of the Carleton family. The Manor of Nately Scures was sold to Guy Carleton in 1786.

11. BRASS MEMORIALS

On top of the shield you can see a **crown**. The memorial was erected by **the Legislature of New Brunswick**. New Brunswick is in **Canada**. Thomas Carleton (1735-1817) was the younger brother of Guy (Lord Dorchester) whose memorial is on the north wall of the church. In 1776, he became Quarter Master General to British forces in Quebec and in 1784 was appointed Governor of the newly created colony of New Brunswick.

12. HASSOCKS (KNEELERS)

Between the Alpha and the Omega is the symbol of the **cross**. Alpha and Omega (**Α** and **Ω**) are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation Ch 1 verse 11).

The three entwined fish are used to represent the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the Christian belief in the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three persons in one divine being. The letters of the Greek word for fish (Ichthus) stood for Jesus Christ God's Son (our) Saviour. (In Greek this is Iesus Christos theou huios soter).

13. WAR MEMORIAL

There are **13** names on the War Memorial. The dates of the Great War (also known as the First World War) were **1914-1918**. The Armistice (when the fighting stopped) took effect at 11.00am on 11th November 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles, the Peace Treaty with Germany, was signed on 28th June 1919. The British Empire mobilised some 9,000,000 personnel during that War, of which some 2,000,000 were wounded and 900,000 killed.

14. ST SWITHUN

St Swithun was Bishop of Winchester from 852 until 862. St. Swithun's Day is 15 July, a day on which people watch the weather because tradition says that whatever the weather is like on St. Swithun's Day, it will continue the same for the next forty days. There is a weather-rhyme well known throughout the British Isles:-

'St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain,

For forty days it will remain,

St. Swithun's day if thou be fair,

For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.'

15. BELFRY

There are **2** bell ropes and **Yes**, there are 2 bells in the belfry. The belfry dates from the time of the 19th century restoration of the church when it replaced the wooden bell-cot in the first picture.

There is **one** door into the church, on the north side. This is very unusual for churches in England, but there are two other examples close by, at Greywell and Up Nately.