

**YOUR NAME:**

Start the trail as you enter the Church through the porch. **HAVE FUN!**

### 1 FONT

A font is used for Baptism at a Christening. What is put in a font for a Baptism?



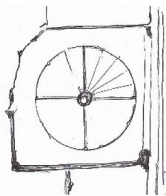
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What is the font made from?

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### 3 MEDIEVAL DIAL

Find the circle with lines and a small hole etched in the stone wall. How was this dial (often on an outside wall) used?



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*Clue: Sunshine and a stick in the hole would make it work!*

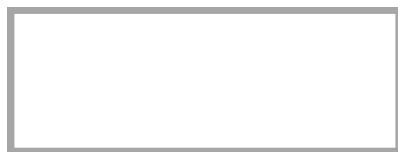
### 5 WALL PAINTING: ST. CHRISTOPHER

St. Christopher keeps people safe.

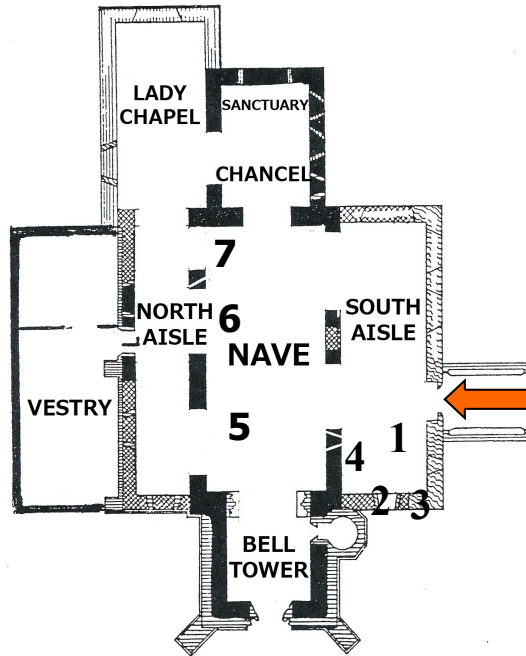


He stands in water. Can you see the fish?

Draw what you can see in the water.



EAST



WEST

### 2 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST WINDOW



St. John is wearing an animal skin.

What kind of skin do you think it might be?

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### 4 VICARS AND RECTORS BOARD

Find a board hanging on the wall in this area.

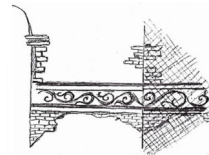
When was:

- (a) the first Rector appointed?
- (b) the first Vicar appointed?
- (c) today's Vicar appointed?

- (a) -----
- (b) -----
- (c) -----

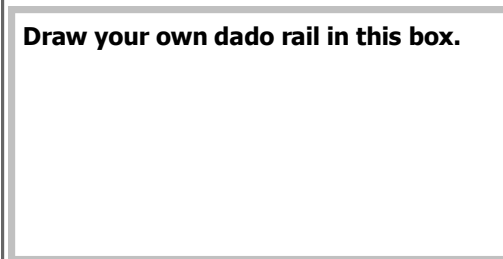
### 6 DADO RAIL

This is a dado rail decoration painted around the walls of the inner Saxon church. Why do Christians want to make churches beautiful?



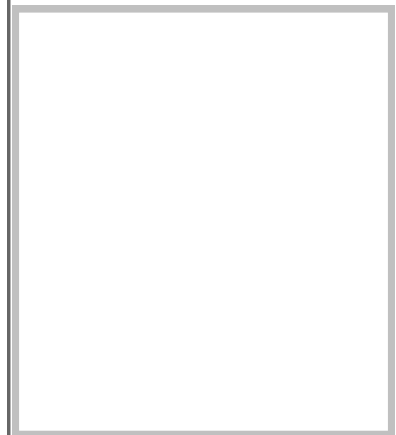
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Draw your own dado rail in this box.



### 7 WOODEN STATUE: ST. CATHERINE

Can you see further along the wall a wooden statue? Draw the statue in this box.



### 8 PULPIT

How many steps are there up to the pulpit?

Why is it so high?

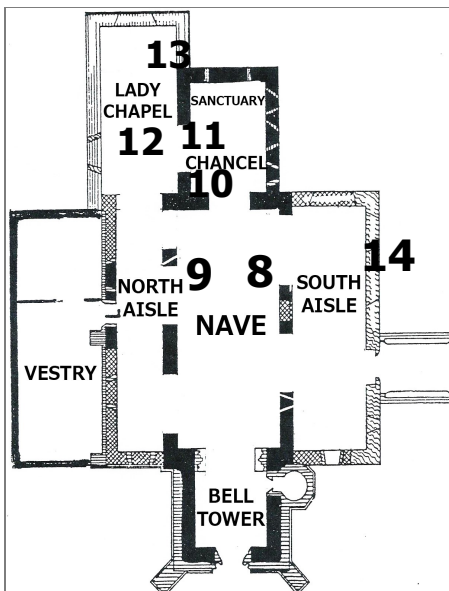
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Who might speak from the Pulpit?

V \_ \_ \_ \_



EAST



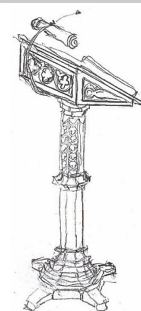
WEST

### 9 LECTERN

Find the lectern or reading desk. Is its wooden stem an octagon or a hexagon?

What book is often placed on the lectern?

H \_ \_ \_ B \_ \_ \_



### 10 CROSSES

If you look very carefully you will find crosses (covered by clear plastic) which were scratched in the wall very many centuries ago. Draw some crosses in the box.



Crosses of this kind were left by travellers passing through churches. Why did they scratch these crosses in the wall?

\_\_\_\_\_

### 12 MAP

Please take a few minutes to look carefully at this very old map. What is the date of the map?

\_ \_ \_ \_

Tick the boxes below when you find:

The Church

The long river

One of two watermills

Why are the watermills on the river?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 11 MEMORIAL BOARDS

Find two wooden boards with lists of names hanging from two different walls.

On one board are the letters R.I.P. What do they stand for?

R \_ \_ \_ I \_ P \_ \_ \_

Write the 3 letters you find on the head of the other board.

\_ \_ \_

### 14 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

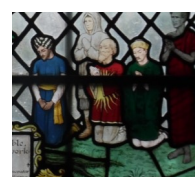
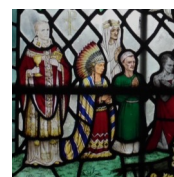
Go back past the Pulpit. Who is the person shown at the top of the right hand window?

ST. C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

List 3 things you can see in the image of this person that you can also see in the Wall Painting at 5.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

How many different nationalities can you see? \_\_\_\_\_



### 13 BANNER AND ALTAR

Find the woven banner near the Lady Chapel Altar.

What colour is the cloth on this Altar?

\_\_\_\_\_

When was the banner made?

\_ \_ \_ \_

When was the Church founded?

\_ \_ \_

### 15 THINKING TIME

Well done!

Sit quietly and think about what you liked best in the Church. Write down what it is and why you liked it.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, LITTLE MISSENDEN**  
**Trail for Children (and Adults!)**




**Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes for Parents, Teachers and accompanying Adults**



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

Welcome to The Church of St. John the Baptist. We hope that you enjoy learning more about this historic church through this Trail. This beautiful church is of special interest because of its antiquity (dating from AD 975), its large and ancient wall paintings and its Saxon and Norman features (a Saxon church within a Norman church). Despite its age the Church has been fortunate, unlike many other churches, in surviving with its historic features almost completely intact. The timeline below may help you to place the Church and its historic features in context.

**Mark the Saxon Church in the Church Plan in the Questions by shading in the 3 parts of that church.**

ANGLO-SAXON I & II	NORMAN	MEDIEVAL	TUDOR	WORLD WARS	PRESENT DAY
					
975: Edgar King of England	1066: William the Conqueror Battle of Hastings	1300: Wall Paintings	Henry VIII 1509 King of England	1914-1918 & 1939- 1945 War Memorial	Elizabeth II 2000 New Millennium

**1 FONT- Water is put into the font for Baptism.** At a Baptism (Christening) holy water (water which has been blessed) is sprinkled over the baby's head to signify the washing away of sins. The Vicar then makes a sign of the cross on the baby's forehead in making the baby a member of God's Church. **The font is made of Stone.** The font is an "Aylesbury" lead lined circular font of the Norman period, some 900 years old. The bowl of the font is covered by a wooden lid with a carving of St. Christopher who appears in both the Wall Painting at 5 and the Stained Glass Window at 14. Lids were compulsory from 1236 as water was kept in them after it was blessed at Easter and needed protecting from theft as it could be used in charms and magical rituals. The font is often found near the entrance to churches because people being baptised are at the beginning of their spiritual journey as members of the Christian Church. The font symbolises the River Jordan in which St. John the Baptist baptised Jesus.

**2 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WINDOW - Goat skin; deer skin; bear skin; sheep skin & camel skin** are all possible answers. You may have chosen a different skin which could also be correct. St. John is wearing a hair shirt; this is his "attribute" as this helps us identify him in paintings, stained glass, tapestries and sculptures. St. John is holding a shell (another attribute), to baptise Jesus.

**3 MEDIEVAL DIAL - To tell the time.** This is a simple form of sun dial with rays and a central hole, in which a stick (gnomon) could be placed. The shadow falling on a ray showed the time of the service before people had clocks. They are normally found on the outside of south facing doorways and buttresses. Here it is outside the Saxon part of the Church – look at the Church Plan. Any adult present can show how the dial works by casting a shadow over one of the lines by very carefully inserting the thin wooden rod in the gnomon box on the shelf below the St. John the Baptist window.

**4 VICARS AND RECTORS - (a) 1182 (b) 1267 (c) 2005** - In Anglican (Church of England) parishes Vicars and Rectors are both parish priests. The only difference is that a Vicar acts as a priest for only one parish. A Rector is responsible for more than one parish where a team ministry has been set up and acts as the leader of the team.

**5 WALL PAINTING: ST CHRISTOPHER** - The painting of St. Christopher dates from about 1300 in the oldest (c13th Saxon) part of the Church. It is a rarity in that paintings of St. Christopher did not become fairly common until the c15th. In the c13th there were no paints in tubes. Paint brushes were made from squirrel tails. The paints used in making the paintings were made from vegetable juices and ground-up materials, for example, bark from trees; grasses and roots; dark red earth and soot. St. Christopher (meaning the Christ bearer) is the patron saint of travellers and pilgrims. He is painted on the North wall opposite the South Porch so that labourers passing on their way to the fields might peer in to see the very tall image of St. Christopher, make the sign of the cross and ask for the Saint's protection. St. Christopher is carrying the infant Jesus, shown with a nimbus (a halo) around his head, to safety across water. Jesus blesses with his right hand; notice his fingers. In his left hand Jesus carries an orb, a rounded shape representing the Universe. The fish at St. Christopher's feet are symbolic for Christians. The first sign or symbol for early Christians was a fish; later the sign was the Cross.

**6. DADO RAIL** - Christians want to make churches beautiful **to revere God** and because beauty is eternal. Dating from the early c13th the dado rail is a band of running foliated scroll ornament in yellow ochre, with buds and trefoils in red springing from the joints. It encircled the walls of the Saxon Church about 5 feet above the floor level. The portions of the rail which remain occur principally at the feet of St. Christopher; on the Chancel arch, where it is surmounted by a pattern consisting of large leaves and buds, also in red yellow ochre; and at the West end of the South wall, where the scroll is in black and slightly different in character.

**7 WOODEN STATUE: ST CATHERINE** - The original of the very old wooden statue was stolen. The author Roald Dahl (who lived at nearby Great Missenden) gave a replica in memory of his daughter but this was also stolen. The current replica was made by the daughter of a member of the congregation. St. Catherine is the patron saint of spinsters, unmarried women who in order to support themselves would spin or make lace. The Emperor Maxentius intended that St. Catherine should be killed by being tied to a spiked wheel. She was saved by the hand of God striking the wheel with a sword. The wheel is an attribute of St. Catherine and the Catherine Wheel firework is named after her. If you move back along the aisle and look up you will see a rather faded wall painting of St. Catherine illustrating the breaking of the wheel. St. Catherine stands with a nimbus (a halo) around her head. To the right of the figure is the upright shaft that supported the wheel; one of its spokes and part of the rim are attached to it. To the left of the figure the Emperor appears, crowned, seated on a throne and carrying a sword. At the base of the painting are the heads and shoulders of dead spectators who have been struck by flying portions of the broken wheel. Look at the difference between the two images of St. Catherine.

**8 PULPIT** - There are **4** steps up to the Pulpit that tells you it is used for speaking from. A Pulpit is high **so that all can see and hear the Vicar** as he preaches a sermon explaining the Bible and he can see everyone too! The person who speaks from the Pulpit is the **Vicar**. The Pulpit is made of oak and was given to the Church at Easter 1930 by the people who lived in nearby Missenden House. In medieval churches the Pulpit would have been hidden behind the Rood Screen but after the Reformation in the c16th greater emphasis was placed on direct communication between the Vicar and the congregation and the Pulpit acquired a more central role in worship. In 1537 Edward VI ordered each parish should provide "a comely and honest pulpit".

**9 LECTERN** - The wooden stem is an **octagon** because it has 8 sides, and not 6 sides, like a hexagon. Octagon is from the Greek "eight angles". The book which is usually found on the lectern is the **Holy Bible** from which the Bible's lessons are read. This lectern is a reading desk.

**10 CROSSES** - Crosses of this kind were scratched in the wall by travellers to show that they had **visited** the Church. These crosses are known as pilgrim marks or crosses and probably signify that the person making the cross had taken a vow, namely, a solemn oath to God or a saint.

**11 MEMORIAL BOARDS** - The letters R I P stand for **Rest In Peace**. The 3 letters are **i h s**. The letters are an abbreviation of the Greek word Iesous meaning Jesus. These letters also appear in the Stained Glass Window at 14. The 37 names listed are in memory of men from Little Missenden parish who died for their country in World War I. The War came to an end at 11 a.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The red flower we associate with the loss of life in war is the poppy.

**12 MAP** - The date of the Map is **1845**. The map is a Tithe Map showing the Parish of Little Missenden. Tithe Maps were maps of English or Welsh parishes or townships prepared following the Tithe Commutation Act 1836. This Act allowed tithes (payments of one tenth of local produce to the church, dating back to Anglo-Saxon England before the Norman Conquest of 1066) to be paid in cash rather than goods. Tithe Maps gave the names of all owners and occupiers of land in the parish. The river produces the power for the watermills **to grind corn** to make flour for making bread.

**13 BANNER** - The Lady Chapel Altar cloth is **white**. The main Altar is in the Chancel. The Banner was made in **2000** by members of the parish which is made up of the three villages of Little Missenden, Little Kingshill and Hyde Heath. The organisations depicted include Schools, Scouts, Brownies, W.I's and the Little Missenden Music Festival which started over 55 years ago. The Church was founded in **975**.

**14 STAINED GLASS WINDOW** - The person in the window is **St. Christopher**. The following appear in the image of St. Christopher in both the window and the Wall Painting at 5: **baby Jesus**; the **halo** round the head of Jesus; the **orb** in the shape of a **ball** held by Jesus; the strong **staff** or **stick** held by St. Christopher to help him cross the water; the **water** St. Christopher is crossing. There are **10** different nationalities in the window although **9** is also a correct answer as there are 9 in their native costumes plus 1 priest. Whilst it is difficult to be certain of the nationalities of all those shown in their native costumes, reading from left to right, it is thought that the nationalities portrayed may well be: Native American; Arab; Far Eastern; African; Indian; Inuit (formerly Eskimo); Japanese; Chinese and Antipodean. Note the letters **i h s** which you saw on a Memorial Board at 11. Compare the Wall Painting at 5 with the window. The stained glass is pieced together in segments like a jigsaw. Notice how the light shining through from outside lights up the colours.

**15 THINKING TIME** - Thank you for spending time looking at our Church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. We hope you have enjoyed it. If so, do return soon and also enjoy the NADFAS Church Trail at the nearby Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Great Missenden, HP16 0BA.

*This Trail was designed and produced by The Chiltern Decorative & Fine Arts Society (Founder Society of NADFAS) and has been sponsored by NADFAS.*