

YOUR NAME _____

Start the trail at the grey arrow.

1 FONT



What is put into it when someone is baptised (made a member of the church)?

W _____
Which famous person was baptised in St. Chad's in 1809?

C _____ D _____

The font is made of stone. What can you see in the stone?

F _____
Draw one for yourself.

2 LECTERN



(Bookstand) What bird is this?

E _____

Which book rests on its wings?

H _____ B _____

3 PULPIT

This is where the priest stands to give a talk, or sermon.



Find St. Luke's sign.
What animal is it?

There are 3 other signs.

What feature do they all share?

W _____

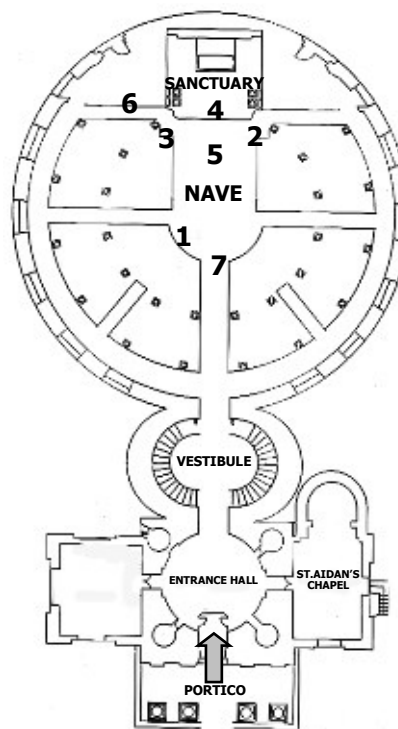
What are the 8 other imaginary creatures you can see?

D _____

Finish this drawing with your own ideas.



NORTH



SOUTH

4 SANCTUARY

Behind the Altar (Holy Table) is the Reredos (screen).

Write down the letters on the sign at the top of the Crucifix (Jesus Christ on the Cross).

The letters stand for:
Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum
This is Latin for: Jesus of Nazareth
King of the Jews
Which Latin word means king?

On either side are 4 saints.
Write down their names.

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

Circle the saint who is most important for this church.



Find the round carving of the Nativity.

Name the baby and his mother.

& _____
When is this event celebrated?

5 NAVE

What shape is this church?

Count the columns on the ground floor which support the balcony.



What do you think they are made of? Wood, stone, cast iron?
(The next question will give you a clue!)

.....

6 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

This plaque is in memory of William Hazledine who helped to build this church.

What was his profession (job)?

I _____

What were his three daughters called?

.....

.....

.....

7 ORGAN

Look up at the organ pipes on the balcony.

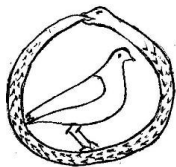
Do you think the longest pipe

makes the lowest sound

or the highest sound?

8 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

This plaque is in memory of the Pidgeon family.



What is this bird?

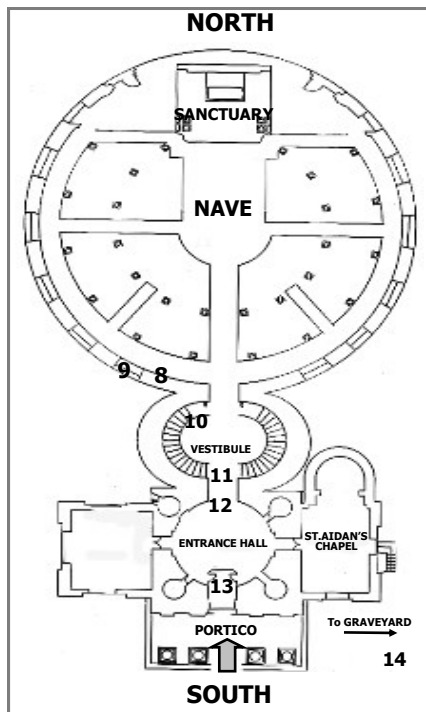
The family's name will give you a clue (different spelling).

The date when Henry was born is shown in Roman numerals: XXIII March MDCCCVI
 [M = 1000, D = 500, C = 100, L = 50, X = 10, V = 5, I = 1, IV = 4, VIII = 8]
 What date was he born?

_____ March _____

[Add up from the left e.g. MDC = 1000+500+100= 1600]

Write the year you were born in Roman numerals.



9 STAINED GLASS WINDOW



Jesus is talking to the children. He is shown by a special sign.

What is it?

H _ _ _

Draw the sandal on his foot.



10 VESTIBULE

Find the Board with the list of Vicars.



At the top you will see St. Chad's special cross. Look out for this as you go round the church.

This church was consecrated (opened) in 1792.

Who was the first vicar of this new church?

T _ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _

11 HATCHMENTS



These are boards painted with Coats of Arms.

Look at the bottom one.

Heraldry has its own language.

Colours: if blue is Azure and yellow/gold is Or,

what colour is Gules? _ _ _

12 WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE



Find this plaque in the Entrance Hall above the door.

What are the dates for the First World War?

_____ to _____

Which regiment is named? K _ _ _ _ ' _

S _ _ _ _ _

L _ _ _ _ I _ _ _ _ _

13 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Find St. Chad in the stained glass window above the door.

He wears a bishop's hat, called

a M _ _ _ _ _

What sign is on it?



14 TOMBSTONE



And finally in the churchyard (on the left as you go out) find the tombstone of Scrooge, a character in A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. What was his first name?

E _ _ _ _ _

Well done, you have finished!

We hope you have enjoyed your visit and will come back again soon.

ST. CHAD'S, SHREWSBURY,
SHROPSHIRE, SY1 1JX
Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes
for accompanying adults



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

St. Chad, trained by St. Aidan in Lindisfarne monastery on Holy Island, became the first Bishop of Lichfield in 669 AD. Until his death on 2nd March 672, he travelled and preached the gospel throughout his large diocese of Mercia. He was greatly loved for his gentleness and humility and was venerated as a saint.

St. Chad's was founded by Offa, King of Mercia in 780 AD and is the oldest Christian foundation in Shrewsbury. This Georgian church, which can seat 1300 people, was designed by George Steuart, (who gained his professional experience designing grand houses, including nearby Attingham Hall), and was built to replace the 13th century St. Chad's Church which collapsed in 1788. The remains of this old St. Chad's Church are still visible near College Hill in the centre of Shrewsbury.

1 FONT

Water is put in the font when someone is baptised.

Charles Darwin, the famous scientist, grew up in Shrewsbury and was baptised in St. Chad's. The original silver 'christening bowl' used when Charles Darwin was baptised here was replaced by this Silurian marble font, purchased for £10 from St. Oswald's Church, Malpas, Cheshire in 1843.

Fossils are visible in the marble.

2 LECTERN

The bird is an **eagle**, because eagles are thought to be the birds that can fly the highest and so nearest to the heavens, so closer to God. It stands on a sphere representing the world. It supports the **Holy Bible**, from which the lessons are read during services. The holy Bible is the inspired writing of all Christian churches, divided into the Old Testament, largely inherited from the Jewish scriptures, and the New Testament, written after the death of Christ.

3 PULPIT

Made of brass and copper in the Arts and Crafts style, this was designed by Birch and given to St. Chad's in 1892. It replaced a massive three decker pulpit with stairs each side, which stood in the middle of the nave. The animal is a winged **ox / bull**. The signs all have **wings**. The four signs represent the four evangelists (the four gospel writers):

St. Matthew – winged man/angel. St. Mark – winged lion. St. Luke – winged ox. St. John – eagle.

Eight **dragons** are incorporated in the design.

4 SANCTUARY

The Sanctuary is the focal point of the church. The altar, used for Holy Communion, is a reminder of the table used by Jesus and his disciples at their last supper together. At that meal Jesus told them to remember his coming crucifixion whenever they ate bread and drank wine together.

Reredos

The carved reredos was designed by Cecil Hare in 1923 as a war memorial.

The letters are **INRI**. This was the titulus/super-inscription put on the cross of Christ by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor.

The 4 saints are: **St Oswald, St Chad, St Martin** and **St Edmund**. The church is dedicated to **St Chad**.

The figures in the nativity are the baby **Jesus** and his mother **Mary**. The event is celebrated at **Christmas / 25th December**. The roundel on the right-hand side depicts the Ascension.

The superb stained glass window above is by David Evans, a local 19th century stained and enamelled glass artist. It is a reproduction of a triptych by Rubens which can be seen in Antwerp Cathedral. The central panel shows 'The Descent from the Cross'.

5 NAVE

The church is **round/circular**. This is a very unusual shape for a church. There are **26** columns. They are also very unusual as they are made of **cast iron**. This allows them to be much narrower than the usual stone pillars.



The tops of the columns have Ionic capitals.

6 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

William Hazledine was a pioneering **ironmaster**, who had a foundry in Shrewsbury and worked closely with Thomas Telford. His daughters were **Eleanor, Fanny** and **Elizabeth**.

On the corresponding wall on the other side of the sanctuary is a memorial plaque to John Simpson, who supervised the building of St. Chad's and who also later worked on several projects with Thomas Telford, including the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. (Another of their contemporaries, the architect Charles Bage, designer of the first ever iron framed building, the Ditherington Flax Mill in Shrewsbury, is buried in the churchyard).

7 ORGAN

The **longest** pipe makes the **lowest** sound

A very fine instrument, built in 1904 by Norman and Beard.

8 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The bird is a **pigeon**, presumably because the family name is Pidgeon.

It is shown encircled by a snake devouring its own tail. This is a very common religious and mythological symbol, which, in a Christian context, may represent the concept of eternal life.

The date of Henry's birth is **23rd March 1806**.

9 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Jesus has a **halo**, a circle or disc of light behind his head, which in Christian art denotes holiness and is usually shown on Jesus or the saints.

This window, like the East Window and three others in the church, was designed by David Evans of Salop and gifted by the then vicar, Revd Richard Scott in 1844. It depicts the scene in Matthew 19 v.14.

10 VESTIBULE

The first vicar of the new St. Chad's was **Thomas Stedman**. He was vicar from 1783 -1826. He comes in a long line of Deans and Vicars for both the old and the new St. Chad's.

11 HATCHMENTS

In heraldic language, Gules is **red**.

Funerary hatchments (the term may be derived from the word 'achievements') were lozenge-shaped painted boards, usually wooden with a black or dark background, showing the arms, crests and supporters of the individuals who had died. They were hung on the wall of the house of the deceased and then later taken to the local church for the funeral.

St. Chad's has a fine collection of 21 hatchments. 16 are hung on the walls behind the balcony in the main church. A separate leaflet describing them in greater detail is available.

The elegant staircase, like many features in the church, would be more usual in a grand country house.

12 WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The dates of the first world war are **1914- 1918**.

The regiment commemorated is the **King's Shropshire Light Infantry**.

St. Chad's is Shrewsbury's civic church and is used for many civic and military occasions.

The Rolls of Honour of World War I and World War II are displayed in the vestibule and

St. Aidan's Chapel is the memorial chapel of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and the Hereford Regiment.

13 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

St. Chad is shown dressed as a bishop, wearing a **mitre** and holding a crozier/crook and a bible. A mitre has two peaks which rise above the top of the headdress: these stand for the Old and the New Testaments in the Bible.

14 TOMBSTONE

Scrooge's first name was **Ebenezer**. The headstone was a prop used in the 1984 film 'A Christmas Carol', which was filmed in Shrewsbury.