



YOUR NAME

Start the trail at the grey arrow
Follow the numbers from 1-12.

1 FONT

What does the font hold at a baptism/christening when someone is made a member of the of the church?

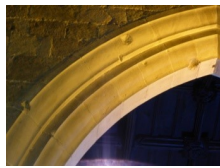
W _ _ _ _ _

On the carved wooden lid you will see a dove and a lamb. Copy the Latin words you can see above the lamb.

A _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _



2 ARCHES



Tick the correct boxes.

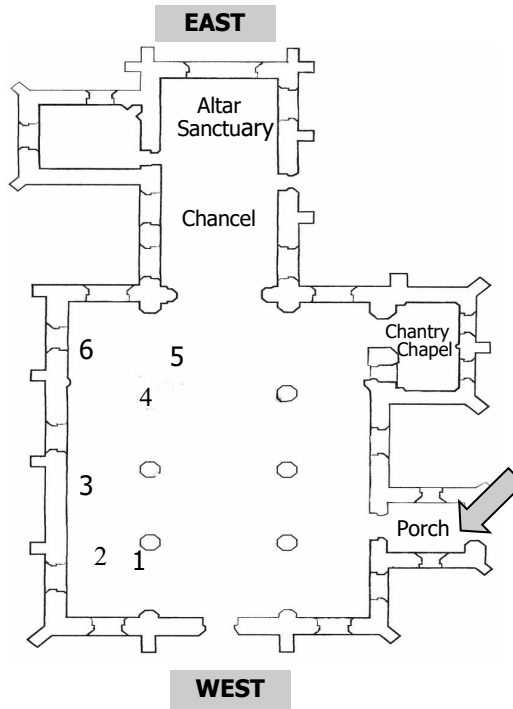
What shape is the stone arch

above you?

Round Pointed

What do you think caused the round marks in the stonework?

- a) Age making the stone crumble.
- b) Cannon balls, fired into the church during a war.
- c) A clumsy workman whilst shaping the stone arch.



3 ROYAL ARMS



Underline all the items you can see in the Royal Arms.

- TREE LION TIGER
- UNICORN SWORD
- SKULL CROWN CROSS

4 PULPIT

The pulpit is where the preacher stands to give his/her talk, which is called a sermon.

Why do you think it is raised above the rest of the church?

What date was it carved?

How many sides does it have?

What is this shape called?

H _ _ _ _ G _ _ _

5 THE PEMBRUGGE TOMB



This is the tomb of the founder of this Church, Lady Isabella de Pembrugge, and her husband.

What is around Isabella's head?

What are her husband's feet resting on?

6 THE GREAT BELL

This bell was made in 1518 making it 500 years old in 2018.

Find the notice on the wall explaining when the bell may be rung, and when it should be tolled. Give one example below.

RUNG _____

TOLLED _____

7 CHANCEL



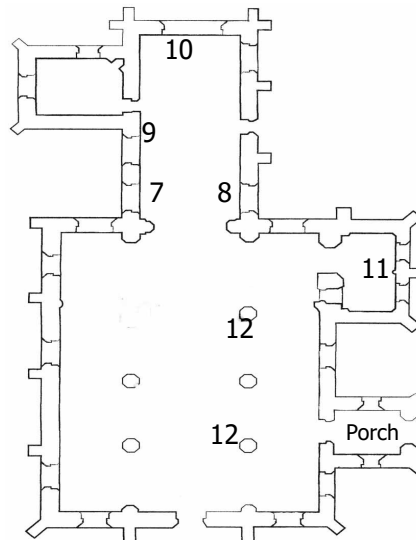
All around the Chancel there are beautiful wood carvings.

Look at the flowers above the choir stalls. Are they all the same?

YES / NO

What do you see?

EAST



WEST

8 CHOIR STALLS

How many are there?



Find this small seat.

What appears to be coming out of the figure's mouth?

What fruit hangs under his chin?

9 MEMORIAL SCULPTURE

Why do you think a skull and crossbones are shown?
(tick correct answer)

- The lady was a pirate
- The lady was a witch
- The lady died before the sculpture was carved



10 EAST WINDOW



This window forms a backdrop to the focal point of the church. The area around the holy table is known as the sanctuary. The holy table is called an altar, where the bread and wine are blessed before the Mass, Communion or Eucharist takes place.

Look at the big window.

Find the Saint holding the keys.

What else is he holding? _____

The window on the right has a bird at the top.

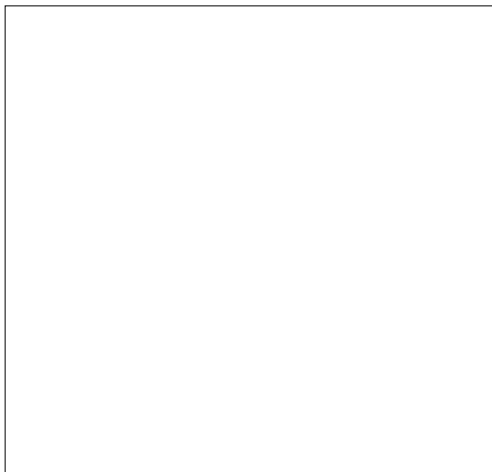
What is it? _____

(unscramble the letters *V E O D* for the answer)

11 CHANTRY CHAPEL or Golden Chapel

Look up.

Now draw one of the fan shapes in this box.



The walls and ceiling would have been decorated in medieval times. Some paint remains. Write down the colours you can see.

12 LECTERN

The lectern is a bookstand to hold the large Holy Bible from which the lessons are read. At the base there is a carving of St. Bartholomew. He is holding a piece of skin in his right hand.

What is he holding in his left hand?

Find the picture of St. Bartholomew on a nearby pillar. It shows he is the patron saint of various trades.

How many in total? _____

AS YOU LEAVE

Can you find the grave of Little Nell opposite the porch door? Ask about her story.

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

There has been a church on this site since before 1094. A record exists of Tong church being given to Shrewsbury Abbey in 1094. The building of the present church was started in 1409. In 1410 a Royal Licence was granted by Henry IV to Dame Isabella de Pembrugge to rebuild the church and found Tong College. The College was like a hospice to care and pray for the poor people and the dying, not a school. All this was done in memory of her husband Sir Fulke who was Lord of Tong Castle. Isabella wanted the priests to pray for her husband's soul. Tong Church was seized by the state in 1546 under orders from King Henry VIII when the monasteries were closed.

This church has one of the finest collections of alabaster tombs and effigies in the country.

1 Water is put into the font and then blessed for a baptism/christening. The words above the lamb are **Agnus Dei** which is Latin for Lamb of God. It is shown here as a lamb with a halo, a banner and cross. Jesus is described as the Lamb of God. The lamb is a symbol of sacrifice.

2 The arches are pointed. Pointed arches are known as Gothic arches. Round arches are usually earlier and known as Norman arches. The shape of the arches helps to confirm the age of the church.

(b) Cannon balls were fired into the church during the Civil Wars of 1642 to 1651. These were a series of armed conflicts between Parliamentarians (Roundheads) and Royalists (Cavaliers). Documentation exists in the form of a letter dated 1644 written to Prince Rupert (nephew of King Charles I and Commander of the Royalist Cavalry), stating the rebels (Parliamentary army) had been driven from Tong Church, the College and the Castle, and confirming the College had been burnt down.

3 Lion, Unicorn, Crown. Royal Arms were displayed in churches as a sign of loyalty to the Crown and obedience to the Sovereign as Supreme Head or Governor of the Church of England. The motto is in French. *Dieu et mon Droit* means God and my Right. It implies that the monarch has a divine right to rule. Churchwardens were first required to arrange the display of Royal Arms during the reign of Henry VIII following the Reformation in the sixteenth century. It is unusual to find Royal Arms displayed in churches nowadays because it is no longer a requirement.

4 The pulpit is **raised so that the preacher can easily be seen and heard** when he/she is giving a sermon. The date is **1629**. The pulpit has **six sides** and the shape is a **hexagon**.

5 A garland of roses. Until the Reformation, when all statues of the Virgin Mary were removed, flowers were placed annually on Midsummer's Day on the head of Our Lady. Thereafter villagers continued to place roses on the tomb of the "other" Lady of Tong Church, Lady Isabella de Pembrugge, the Foundress of Tong Church. This tradition still continues.

A **lion** signifies bravery in battle. Feet were often supported by stylised animals, usually either a lion, generally for men, or a dog, indicative of loyalty which was usually for women.

6 Ringing bells give a quick joyful sound. A bell **rung** swiftly is for happy occasions like weddings. A **toll** is a slow repetitive deep sound used for sadder times. Tolling a bell is associated with death. There are a number of choices for this answer which can be found when reading this notice.



7 The Chancel is the area reserved for the clergy at the east end of a church and often divided off by a screen or steps. The Chancel usually contains benches or stalls for the choir. The carvings are **not all the same**. **Faces** can be seen instead of flowers. The medieval woodcarvers enjoyed a joke and inserted these smiling faces which are the same size as the flowers. Most people would not even notice them!

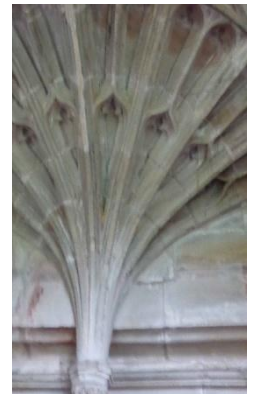
8 There are **16** separate stalls. Each one has a small seat called a Misericord or mercy seat. A Misericord has a small folding wooden seat to provide a degree of support for a person who has to stand during long periods of prayer. They were often skilfully carved and are usually found in the choir stalls of older churches. **Leaves and branches or vines** are coming from his mouth. The image is known as a Green Man and he has leaves above his eyebrows. There are also **bunches of grapes** hanging under his chin. This is an ancient decoration possibly of pagan origin although it appears in many churches. It is a symbol of rebirth and fertility.

9 The lady died before the sculpture was made. Skulls, skeletons and hour-glasses are all symbols of death. It was common in the 15th and 16th centuries in pictures and sculptures to add such a symbol as a Memento Mori – a reminder that death comes to us all.

10 The saint holding the keys is St. Peter. He is also holding **a book**. The book represents the Bible, symbolizing St. Peter's role in spreading the Gospel. He also holds keys because Jesus referred to this symbol when he gave St. Peter the responsibility of leading the Church (Matt 16: 13-19). They represent the Keys to Heaven. He was recognised by the early Christian church as the leader of Jesus' twelve disciples and he became the first Bishop of Rome. It is a **DOVE** which symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

11 There are **traces of gold** in the ceiling. The walls were originally decorated in distemper (an old type of paint) and traces of **red, green and brown** colouring are still visible on the walls, ceiling and the tomb. **Black** text, can be seen on the wall above the altar. There are no right or wrong answers to this question of colour. This is to encourage everyone to use their powers of observation.

Chantry Chapel is the name given to a small chapel, sometimes enclosed by a screen, having an altar and a tomb. Wealthy patrons left money for priests to say Masses for the repose of their souls. The practice was banned at the Reformation. The ceiling gave the chapel its other name of Golden Chapel because originally it was gilded. This style of vault, or curved ceiling, is called fan vaulting because the ribs look like an open fan. It is spectacular and rare in Shropshire but can be seen in Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel, Windsor and some cathedrals.



12 St. Bartholomew holds a **model of a Church** in his left hand. He lived in the first century AD and was one of the twelve disciples of Christ. St. Bartholomew was skinned alive because he would not renounce his faith in Christ. He is credited with many miracles. The flayed skin explains why he is patron saint of tanners (leather workers). As you can see from the picture on the pillar, he was also patron saint of 9 other trades as well as Tanners, making the answer **ten**.



Little Nell was a fictional character in the book by Charles Dickens called *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Charles Dickens knew Tong village well. The village in the book, where Nell Trent dies, is thought to be based on Tong. An enterprising Church Warden faked an entry in the official records suggesting that she was a real person and was buried here. He then charged visitors to see her grave, making himself money on the side. Even today visitors come from overseas asking to see the grave of Little Nell, but they are no longer charged!