

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

Name :

1 FONT

What is the font made from?

What is put into the font at
Baptism, when people
become members of the
church?



7 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

The window to the left of the altar shows
the Lamb of God.
The middle window shows King David.
Look at the window on the right.
What is the young King David
holding?



2 GALLERY

Make sure you have an adult
with you. Climb the steps.
What do you think this
gallery was used for?

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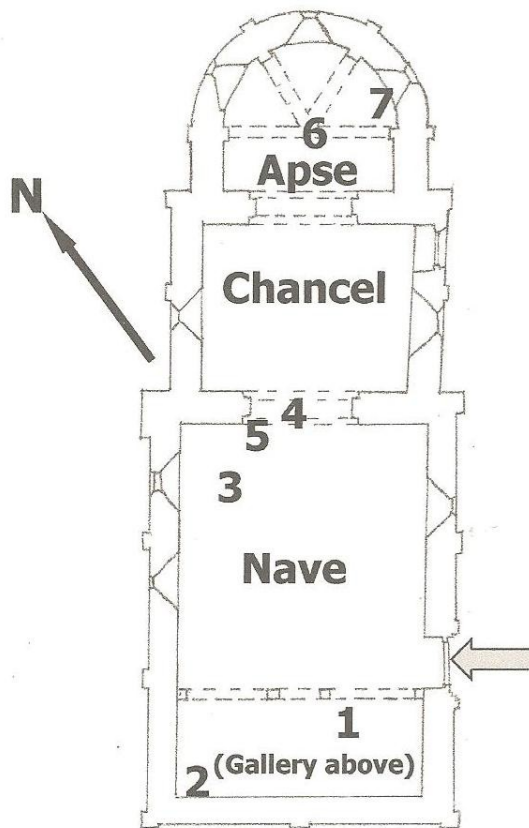
3 PULPIT & LECTERN

The pulpit is the place where
the minister speaks to the
people during a service.
Why is it so high up?



What is the book on the
lectern (book stand)?

.....



6 APSE ROOF

Look up at the ribbed vaulting
on the Apse Roof. This part of
the church is more decorative
as it near the Altar (the most
Holy part of the church). Some
people think the ribs look like
water.

How many faces can you
see where the ribs join?



Draw one of
them here.

5 CHANCEL ARCH

Find the figure holding the key,
on the Chancel Arch, near the
pulpit.

Why do you
think he is
holding a key?



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.....
.....

4 ARCHES

Stand at 4 on the plan. Look at the Norman
arches. You may like to count how many
you can see.

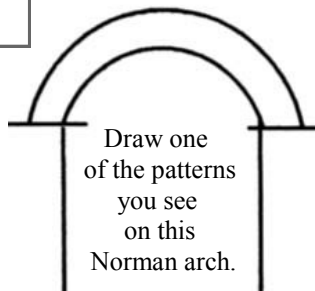
(Don't forget



the windows.)
How old do you
think they are?

Tick the correct
answer.

- 100 years
- 400 years
- Or over 800



8 DOOR ARCH

Go outside.

Look at the Norman arch above the door. The semi-circular space is called a tympanum. It shows a Tree of Life.

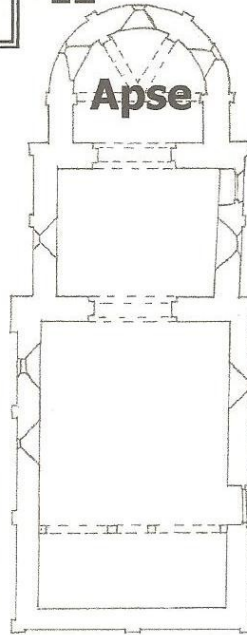


What fruit is growing here?

.....

Outside Church.

12



11 All round the church

13 To the castle.



9
8
10

9 GREEN MAN

Look at the carvings round the door to find this one.



Talk about what is coming from the mouth of the Green Man.

10 WARRIORS



Look at the warriors on the left side of the pillar by the door. How can you tell they are fighting men?

.....
.....
.....

11 CARVINGS WHICH SUPPORT THE ROOF

Walk all round the outside of the church, looking up to see the figures on the corbel table which runs round the top of the church walls. Choose your favourite corbel.

Draw it here.

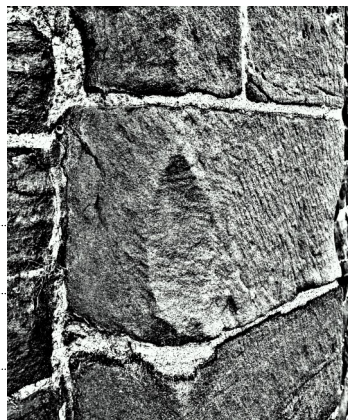


12 MYSTERY STONE

Follow the church plan to find this stone to the rear of the Apse.

How do you think these marks were made?

.....
.....
.....



13 CASTLE

Climb to the top of the castle mound. Tick the boxes when you have seen:

The moat

The fireplace in the castle wall

A round drainage hole in the wall

WELL DONE!

You have reached the end of the trail. We hope you have enjoyed discovering some of the history of St Mary and St David's Church in Kilpeck.

Please tell others about this lovely church and come again yourself when you are older.

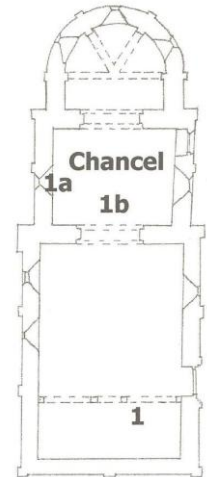
Children's Answers are in Bold. Further information is for interest and discussion.

Welcome to Kilpeck Church and to the magical world of **The Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture**. The sculptors produced their work between 1134 and 1155, having been trained at Hereford Cathedral, and working for the local landholders. The Norman church, castle and ancient walled town (buried in the field next to the church) show that Kilpeck was a typical medieval settlement. It was built by William fitz Norman and his son, Hugh de Kilpeck around the 12th century. This was all part of an important border town, linking England and Wales, which held regular markets and fairs. Kilpeck Church doesn't lie on an exact East/West axis. The Apse, Chancel and Nave are built on the line of an underground stream which was considered sacred.

1 FONT

- This exceptionally large font is made from **stone** (Breccia, a type of limestone), which probably came from near Hay-on-Wye, just over 20 miles from here. It is thought to be around 800 years old.
- **Water**, which has been blessed, is sprinkled on the forehead of a person being baptised to signify the washing away of sins when they become members of the Christian Church.

When you are in the Chancel point out a highly decorated font stopper **1a on your plan**. It has patterns which are similar to other decorations in the church.
At 1b point out the square tile on the floor where the font used to be.



2 GALLERY

- **A small orchestra or choir** may have used this space before there were organs in churches.
- **Extra seating** when the church is full.
- **The bells are rung from here.** Bells call people to come together – to a church service, to tell the time when few people had watches, to begin work, to start a war. They ring joyfully in celebration, toll sadly in times of grief and urgently when there is a community disaster.

3 PULPIT & LECTERN

- **It is high so that the minister can be seen and heard.**
- **The Holy Bible** is read aloud from the lectern (bookstand)
This one is unusual as it has two sides for resting books.

4 ARCHES

- There are **more than 12 Norman arches** in the church. The Normans, led by William the Conqueror, came from northern France. They conquered England at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and William became King of England. After the battle, King William gave the land at Kilpeck to a friend, William fitz Norman. His son, Hugh de Kilpeck, built the church in about 1140. When you see arches this shape it shows they were built after the Battle of Hastings.
- Norman arches are **over 800 years old**.

5 CHANCEL ARCH

This is probably **St Peter, who is always shown holding a key to the Gates of Heaven**.

Have a good look at the Chancel Arch as it is covered with other figures. Imagine how bright the carvings would have looked in the days when they were painted.

6 APSE ROOF

There are **4 faces**. Heads similar to these are to be found in Durham Cathedral and Elkstone Church in Gloucestershire.

Some people call them Cats' masks – look for their ears!



7 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

David is holding **the head of the giant, Goliath**.

David, the shepherd boy, killed Goliath with his sling and a stone. He cut off the giant's head to show everyone that Goliath was dead. (1 Samuel, chapter 17)



These small windows in the Apse were designed by Augustus Pugin (1812 – 1852). Pugin was a famous Victorian architect and designer who used the Gothic style for hundreds of churches, village schools, railway stations and family homes – as well as designing the Houses of Parliament.

8 DOOR ARCH

The fruit growing on the Tree of Life is **grapes**. The tree of Life is sometimes known as the Tree of Good and Evil. Look out for similar leaves carved in other places in the church.

9 GREEN MAN

A Green Man is a carved face **with foliage coming from his mouth**. The origin of the Green Man remains a mystery, but the oldest Green Man carvings are almost always found in churches. No one really knows what they mean.

10 WARRIORS

- The warriors carry **a lance and a sword**.
- They are wearing **protective clothing**.

Some people think the warriors look foreign. This might be because one of the nearby landlords, Oliver de Merlimond, had been on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain and seen similar carvings.

11 CARVINGS WHICH SUPPORT THE ROOF



A corbel is a projection from the wall, which supports the roof. There are more than 80 carved corbels supporting Kilpeck's church roof. These Norman corbels are carved with heads of humans, animals and imaginary beasts. You may be able to find a lamb with a cross; two wrestlers; a dog and a rabbit; a crocodile and even an elephant. Kilpeck has some of the best examples of corbels in the country. They represent things that people would have been familiar with in Norman times e.g. the annual fair and knights in the castle.

12 MYSTERY STONE

Some people think that the knights from the castle may have used this red sandstone wall **to sharpen their swords** by rubbing the blades against the stone.

To the Northern side of the churchyard is a notice board with further information about Kilpeck.

13 CASTLE

The Domesday Book (1086) records that Kilpeck was given by William the Conqueror to William fitz Norman. By 1090 he had built a timber castle, showing his military power. This was later replaced by a stone castle. For more information read the English Heritage sign on the gate near the Car Park.

Thank you for taking part in this NADFAS Church Trail for Children. We hope you have enjoyed helping the children to discover some of the history of the beautiful church of St Mary and St David, Kilpeck.



For further information you may like to refer to:-

"The Parish Church of St Mary and St David at Kilpeck" by James Bailey published by the Berrington Press & "The Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture" by Malcolm Thurlby published by Logaston Press

