

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, CROFT CHURCH, HEREFORD, HR6 9PW.

YOUR NAME

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

1 FONT

What is put into the font for baptism, when someone is made a member of the church?

W _ _ _ _

How many sides does the font have?

Is it a hexagon or an octagon?

7 CROFT TOMB (WEST SIDE)

This impressive monument is one of the finest parts of the church.
Draw arrows to...

St Anthony (bell, book and pig)
St Roche (small angel)
St Mary (dragon at her feet)
St Sitha with keys and book.



2 GALLERY AND ORGAN

The Gallery was built over 300 years ago.

It now holds the organ. The organ pipes create the sound when the keys and foot pedals are pressed.

How many pipes can you see?

3 GLASS ROUNDEL

Look up to the top of the window. This is one of the three pieces of really old medieval glass in the church.



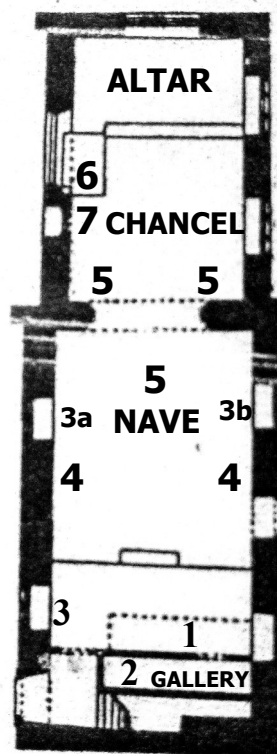
Can you tick what it shows?

A fan

A scallop shell

A plant

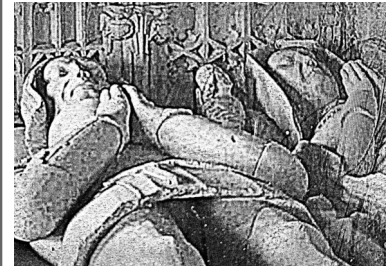
EAST



WEST

6 CROFT TOMB (ON TOP)

Sir Richard Croft and Dame Eleanor look old. Most tombs of the time would show the people looking young. Sir



Richard's feet are resting on the Croft Lion. **Circle what you think the lion stands for.**

Happiness

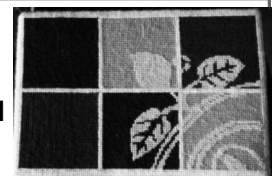
Wisdom

Bravery

Peacefulness

5 KNEELERS AND TILES

Find the old tiles in the Nave and try to match one to this kneeler.



one to this kneeler.

Draw the tile which you like best in this box.

4 PEWS

Sitting down in pews was only introduced in churches in 1569. Before that you were expected to stand!

Why do you think the pews have doors on them?

.....

.....

8 WINDOW

By the time World War1 began the Croft family had sold the castle, and the Kevill Davies family owned it.

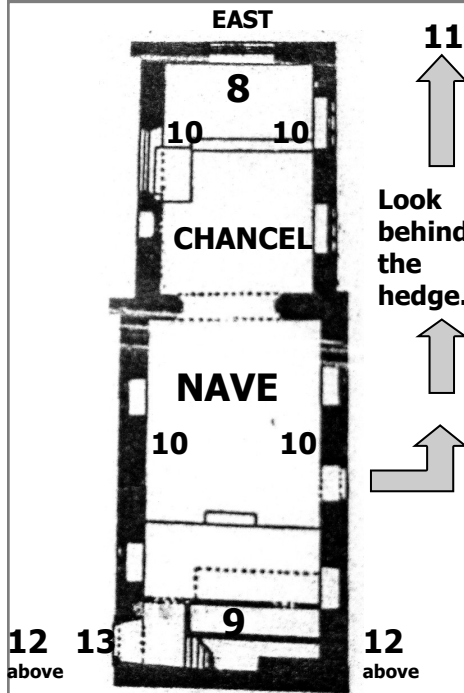
Herbert Kevill Davies died of his wounds in the first World War at the Battle of Ypres when he was 38 years old. He served with the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers.

His family paid for the window as a way of remembering him. The window was made in Birmingham by Hardman in 1916.

Look at the words on the window.

When did Herbert Kevill Davies die?

.....



9 WOODEN CROSS

Turn to face the West end of the church and talk about the wooden cross on the wall under the gallery.

This is the actual First World War grave marker which was placed on Herbert's grave in France. All soldiers who died would have had a grave marker like this on their grave in France.

Do you prefer the window or the cross to remember a

brave soldier who died in battle?

Talk about it and tick one.

10 CHERUBS

Look up to the ceiling in the Chancel and the Nave.

How many carved cherubs can you see in the church?



11 GRAVESTONE (OUTSIDE, BEHIND HEDGE)

Can you guess who Paddy was?

How long did he live?

.....years.



12 ONE HANDED CLOCK

The church clock has 2 faces, on the North and South sides of the Bell Turret. It is over 400 years old and is unusual because each face has only one hand.

Talk about why only one hand was needed on a clock so long ago...

Write these Roman numbers

3 7 11

13 OUTSIDE DOOR (NORTH)



Which special people used to enter the church through this door?

.....

WELL DONE, YOU HAVE FINISHED THE CHURCH TRAIL.

We hope you have enjoyed finding out about the tiny church of St Michael and All Angels in the grounds of Croft Castle and the people who have used it over the years.

Think about your favourite part of the church and why you found it interesting.



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

Welcome to the medieval church of St Michael and All Angels, built around 700 years ago and standing in the grounds of Croft Castle.

The Croft family have been important throughout history, often holding key government positions and working closely with the monarchy. They lived at Croft as early as the Domesday Book, completed in 1086 on the orders of William the Conqueror. The Domesday Book listed landowners & people living all over Britain. Back then Bernard de Croft would have lived in a house where Croft Castle is today, so the Crofts would have used the little church of St Michael and All Angels from when it was built over 700 years ago.

Today, some Croft family members still live in apartments in the castle, even though it is owned and run by the National Trust. The church is used regularly for worship as a parish church.

1. FONT

Water

8 sides

Octagon

At baptism water from the font is sprinkled on the forehead to signify the washing away of sins. The font is often near the entrance of a church because people being baptised are at the start of their spiritual journeys as members of the Christian church.

2. GALLERY AND ORGAN

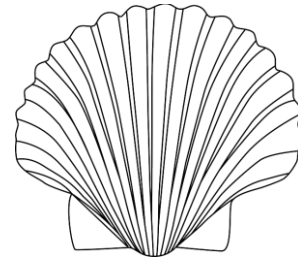
There are **13 pipes**.

The organ was put there over 150 years ago. This Bevington organ was unusual because it was a barrel organ. It had 2 cylinders which allowed 24 hymns to be played by just turning the handle. This was very useful at a time when organists were hard to find. It was rebuilt into a conventional organ later in the 19th century.

3. GLASS ROUNDSEL

Scallop shell

The scallop shell is one of the symbols of St James, the first of Jesus's disciples to go on a pilgrimage. Pilgrims are people who travel on a journey to a religious place. It is said that pilgrims carried scallop shells to scoop up drinking water from streams as they travelled.



You may like to look at the other old pieces of glass at **3a** and **3b** on the plan, which probably show the Sun of York, which indicate that Robert Croft was a follower of the Yorkists in the Wars of the Roses, nearly 600 years ago.

4. PEWS

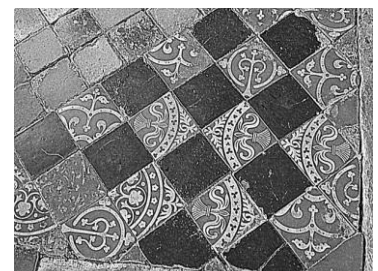
If a pew has a door it is a reminder of the days when people, who could afford it, paid to rent private seating for their family. Originally churches had no heating and would be freezing inside in the winter months. Box pews helped to reduce draughts and so try to keep the congregation warm.

5. KNEELERS AND TILES



Kneelers are used when people pray. The floor tiles were made over 700 years ago. If you look closely you can see they are decorated with heraldic symbols (Coats of Arms). Some clever local people have stitched the medieval tile designs onto the kneelers (hassocks).

The tiles were most likely made in Malvern. Malvern Priory has many similar tiles and is well worth visiting.



6. CROFT TOMB (ON TOP)



The lion is a symbol of **bravery**.

Sir Richard was Treasurer of the King's household for Henry VII. He fought in the Battle of Mortimer's Cross in 1461 during the Wars of the Roses on the side of the Yorkists.

Dame Eleanor was the widow of Sir Hugh Mortimer before she married Richard Croft. She was in charge of running the household for the Princes in the Tower (sons of Henry VII) when they were resident in Ludlow Castle.

The tomb is like Prince Arthur's tomb in Worcester Cathedral. Arthur was Henry VIII's brother. We do know that Sir Richard went to Prince Arthur's funeral and so may have copied his tomb.

7. CROFT TOMB (WEST SIDE)



St Anthony with a bell, book and pig.

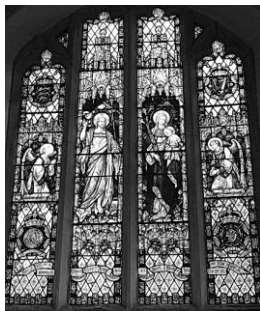
St Roche with a small angel.

St Mary with a dragon at her feet.

St Sitha with keys and book.

8. WINDOW

15th May 1915



9. WOODEN CROSS



Both the costly window and the simple wooden cross remind us of Herbert Kevill Davies losing his life fighting in WW1.

It is up to you which you prefer...

10. CHERUBS

4 ... 2 in the Nave, 2 in the Chancel.

The Chancel roof was rebuilt over 300 years ago when it was boarded and painted with sky, clouds and gilded stars. At the same time the painted and carved angel heads were added to the roof beams.

11. GRAVESTONE (OUTSIDE THE CHURCH)

Paddy was a much loved family **dog** owned by the Croft family. Since only people are allowed to be buried inside the churchyard Paddy's grave is just outside. Paddy lived for **16 years**.

12. ONE HANDED CLOCK

People were used to living their lives by the amount of daylight they had, which changed with the seasons. Accurate time was not so important long ago, so a clock that showed what time it was to the nearest quarter of an hour was perfectly adequate for their needs. It was easier to tell the time with only one hand. If you were not near enough to see the clock, you could still hear what time it was as the hours and minutes are struck on different bells.

3 = III

7 = VII

11 = XI

13. OUTSIDE DOOR (NORTH)

The owners of Croft Castle would have used the large door on the North wall so that they could have a private entrance from their house to their own seats in the church, which would have been in the Gallery where the organ now stands.

Thank you for visiting our lovely church.

