

YOUR NAME

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

1 NAVE

Stand at the top of the steps marked 1 on your plan. On your left is the North Aisle and on your right is the South Aisle. Look ahead. This is the Nave, which is the oldest part of the church, and beyond is the Chancel. How old do you think the Nave is? Draw a circle around your answer.

500 years 1,000 years 1,500 years

2 LAST SUPPER

Find the painting of Jesus having a meal with his friends.

How many people are sitting down for the meal? _____

Why do you think this is called The Last Supper?

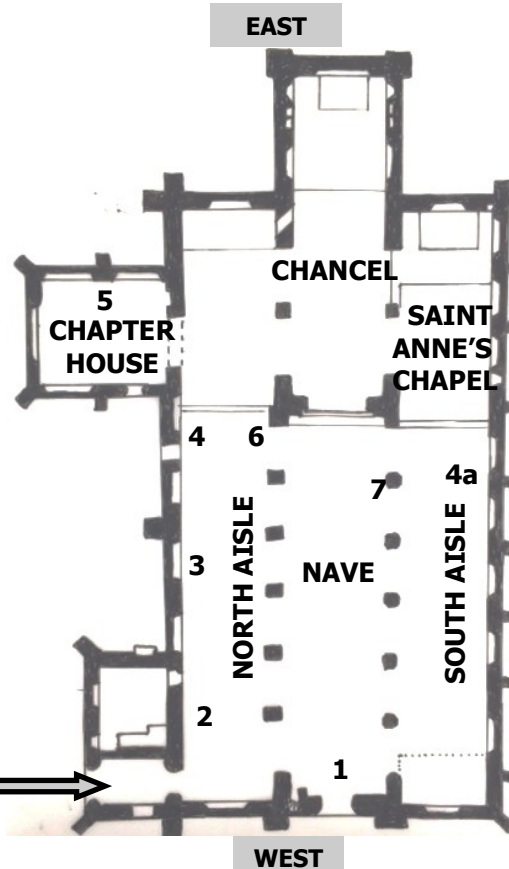
3 HEATON WINDOW

Step inside the large pew once used only by the wealthy Biddulph family when they came to church.



Look up to the right side of the modern window.

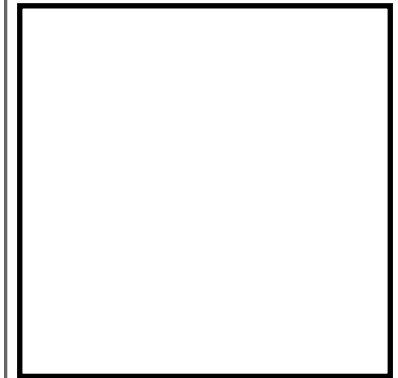
What do you think was Arthur Heaton's favourite sport?



4 FONT

This is where Baptism takes place (when someone wants to become a member of the church). The font is filled with water to signify the washing away of sins.

Draw the ewer (jug) which is used to carry the water to the font.



5 CHAPTER HOUSE

Look up at the roof.



How many angels can you see?

What precious metal are they covered in?

Take a look at the stone carving of a monk and the ball-flowers on the windows.

6 PULPIT

You may climb up into the pulpit where the preacher stands. Why do you think it is so high up?

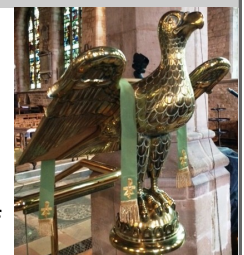
It is decorated with carvings. Tick when you have found carvings of:-

flowers fruit sword pen

book man with a beard

7 LECTERN

The lectern is where someone reads out loud during the services. It is made of brass and looks like a bird.



What kind of bird is it?

E _____
What would rest on its wings?

B _____

8 CHOIR STALLS

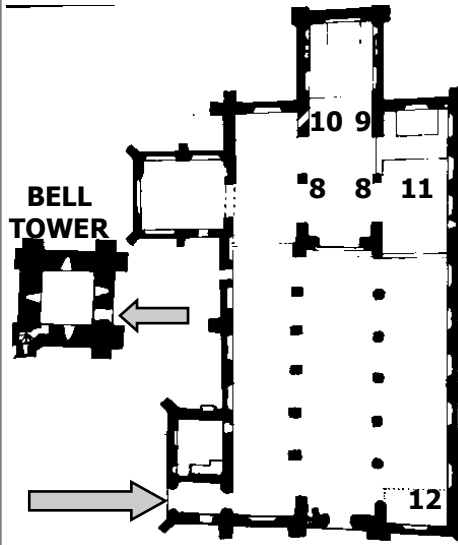
The choir sit in these seats. Walk past and look at the embroidered cushions.

Find the green tank engine and a paint box.

Draw your favourite cushion.



EAST



9 SKYNNER TOMB

The Skynner tomb shows 2 kneeling figures in Elizabethan costume. Talk about their fine clothes and how different they are from the clothes we wear today.



How many sons and daughters are there?

_____ sons _____ daughters

10 SQUINT

Turn round to find the opening in the wall behind you.



Imagine you were on the other side of the wall. What would you be seeing here, in the main part of the church?

_____ and _____

11 ST ANNE'S CHAPEL

Look for crosses on the table, the wall and the window.

Tick how many crosses you can see.

3 5 more than 7

What are they are made of?

l g s s a o d o w s a b r s
 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

12 BIDDULPH TOMBS

This corner is the Biddulph family crypt (which is a tomb under the floor). Look through the railings and up at all the plaques in this corner. Talk about why this woman is crying.



Who else might be sad? _____

WELL DONE!

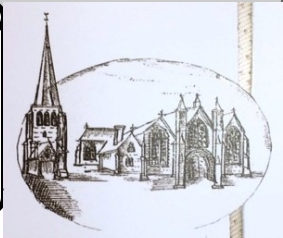
We hope you have enjoyed discovering interesting things about our church.

What was your most favourite part?

Sit quietly for a while and think of all the happy and sad times when this church has been used and how it may be used in the future...

THE BELL TOWER

Before you leave you may like to go into the separate Bell Tower which has had a lot of money spent on it recently. It contains 10 bells, the oldest dating from 1690. Although detached belfries are very unusual in the UK, Herefordshire is lucky to have 7 altogether!





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

Welcome to St Michaels & All Angels Church, a grade 1 listed building dating back to Norman times. Over 1,000 years ago Ledbury used to be called Liedeburge when the Bishop of Hereford chose this site to build a Minster church. The original church would have been built of wood but in the 12th century the first stone church was built. Ledbury had developed from a village to a bustling market town, and by the middle of the 12th century the church had become a 'portionist' church, responsible for the town and surrounding villages. Two dignitaries from the cathedral could receive money from the church to appoint, and pay, a Vicar to be the Parish Priest.

1. THE NAVE

The Nave is **1,000** years old. The picture on the stone pillar to your left shows how the Norman Church looked. The map below shows the church still retains Norman features.



2. THE LAST SUPPER

There are **13** people sitting down. Jesus is in the middle and his disciples on either side.

It was their last meal together before Jesus died. Art historian, Ronald Moore, believes that the picture was begun about 1560 in the workshop of Titian, who died before it was finished, so several artists in his workshop completed the work. Titian's signature has been found in the painting, using ultra-violet light, and one of the apostles has been matched to a self-portrait of Titian. Other figures resemble Titian's sons, which suggest that the work may have been finished by one of Titian's sons as a form of family portrait, together with other artists, including Tintoretto. Titian was the greatest painter of the Venetian school and one of Italy's most important High Renaissance artists.



3. HEATON WINDOW

Cricket was Arthur Heaton's favourite sport, as shown by the cricket stumps, bails and ball. The Heaton Memorial window is by John H. Clark. It was installed in 1991. The stained glass includes items of particular interest to Arthur Heaton and his wife, Bidy.

4. FONT



This Victorian font, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1850, is the one used today for Baptisms. When it was moved from The Chapter House in 1985, another font (dating from 1670) was found buried in the base, shown at 4a on the plan. He also designed the Albert Memorial in London.

5. THE CHAPTER HOUSE

There are **4** angels in the roof, covered with **gold** leaf. They are not made of solid gold, which would be too heavy and too expensive. Gold leaf is a very thin layer of gold. Gold does not tarnish and it shows that people wanted to have something valuable to glorify God. The ball-flower carvings on the windows and the figure of the Benedictine monk (originally a coffin lid) show the importance and wealth of the church.

6. PULPIT

The pulpit is high up **so that the sermon could be heard by the people** in the days before microphones were invented, **and the preacher could be easily seen.** It was carved over 100 years ago by the Reverend Jackson, Rector of Ledbury. It took him about 6 years.

7. LECTERN

The bird is an **eagle**. The **Bible** is placed on the wings of the bird, which is also traditionally thought of as the bird which flies nearest to heaven.

8. CHOIR STALLS

The embroidery of the cushions (and kneelers which you will find in the pews) were stitched by Mary Knibb and her band of helpers in the 1990's. Each fine embroidery is dedicated to a particular person or a group.

9. SKYNNER TOMB

There are **5 sons** and **5 daughters** on the monument. This splendid monument was commissioned by William and Richard Skynner for their parents, Edward and Elizabeth, who had made money from the wool trade. They built the large black and white timbered building known as Ledbury Park. Lying between the parents, is a baby girl. Legend has it that the baby was killed by the last wolf in the district. One of the daughters holds a skull, showing that she died before her parents. The middle son, William, is wearing a long robe, telling us that he was a Chancellor of the Diocese.



10. SQUINT

You would see the **altar table** and **the large painting** behind it. A squint is a hole in a wall to allow people to see the altar and the priest leading the service from parts of the church where it is not visible. It was important to see through to the altar and watch the moment when the bread and wine were blessed and are held up. In some churches a squint was used by parishioners who were suffering from diseases and other 'non-desirable' people to watch the service without coming into contact with the rest of the congregation. The painting behind the altar is a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's work, The Last Supper. It was painted by a local artist, Thomas Ballard, about 200 years ago.



11. ST ANNE'S CHAPEL



There are **more than 7** crosses made of **glass, wood and brass**. On the Altar table is a cross made of brass. On the wall there is a memorial plate of a different metal which has a cross as part of it. In the scene in the window you can see Jesus on a wooden cross and two crosses of the thieves on either side of him. In the lower part of the window there are crosses being held by the procession. The top part of the window shows Jesus on the cross being crucified while the other crosses are empty to remind us that Jesus rose from the dead.

12. BIDDULPH TOMBS

The woman is crying because her husband, Michael, has died. Her three children are also sad. Only rich people would be buried in church. The rest were buried outside in the churchyard. Encourage the children to look through the railings and up at all the plaques in this corner to see what a large and important family the Biddulphs were.

If you have time you may like to visit our newly renovated separate Bell Tower.

Thank you for visiting our church.
We hope you have enjoyed our
Discovery Trail.



