

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

1 FONT

The 15th century font is an **octagon** i.e. eight-sided. **Water** is put in the bowl for Baptism when people are given their Christian names and made members of the Church.

This is a common type of East Anglian font. There are alternating shields and flowers around the bowl. Three **lions** and a **dog** sit below on the stem. The lion on the south has a mediaeval cape instead of a mane. The dog is on the north with a bell collar.

2 NAVE & ROOFS

The **nave** is on the left, the **chancel** on the right. The roofs are of different shapes and materials. The wooden roof of this nave is called a wagon roof because it looks like an old fashioned wagon. The chancel roof, in wood and painted plaster, is pitched or pointed with very short hammerbeams and king posts.

It is not known where the word poppyhead has come from, possibly from the Latin 'puppis' meaning the stern or poop of a ship, or French 'poupee' meaning figurehead or puppet.



3 PULPIT

The pulpit is high so that the vicar can **see** and **be seen** and **heard** by the congregation.

1614 is the date. James I was King of England from 1603 to 1625. The blind arch style of the decoration on the pulpit is known as Jacobean. Jacobus is James in Latin.

4 PISCINA

A piscina is a basin with a drain running straight into the ground. The water used **for washing** the communion vessels became holy because of that, and went directly to the consecrated ground of the churchyard. 'Holy washing up' !

The presence of a piscina indicates there was an altar nearby. There is another piscina on the other side of the church and a much bigger one on the right of the main altar at 5 . The small altars in the nave have long since gone.

5 EAST WINDOW

The dramatic scene on the right of the window is of the city of Jerusalem with **fire and smoke under a dark and gloomy sky**. It partly represents what was said, in St Matthew's gospel, to have happened at the moment Christ died. Chapter 27 verses 45-53

The crucifixion, ordered by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Jerusalem, shows Christ on the Cross. This is why the Cross is such an important symbol for Christians. Holy Communion, the main service of the Church, is celebrated at the Altar beneath the window.

6 HATCHMENT

Special names are used for the colours called tinctures in heraldry. Here we see **Red** = Gules; **Yellow/Gold** = Or; **Black** = Sable; **White/Silver** = Argent; **Blue** = Azure. The **skull** is missing from the picture.

Hatchments are painted boards with a coat of arms using heraldry. When an important person died, these were hung outside their house and brought to the church for the funeral. They have signs for death, such as the skull & crossbones; and, for resurrection or new life as in the words MORS JANUA VITAE in the scroll, Latin for 'Death is the Gate to Life'. This hatchment was for Mary Goodwin who died in 1769.



7 CENTURION

This window shows the Roman Centurion who was in charge of the Crucifixion. He is wearing a **helmet, cloak, tunic** and **sandals**. His weapons are a **spear** and a **sword**.

He looks **sad** or **unhappy**. The words 'TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD' at the bottom of the picture suggest that he realises what a dreadful thing he has had to do.



8 CHANCEL SHIELDS

There are **6** weapons, **swords, saw, knives, club, halberd** or **hooked pike, spear**.

The **3** items of food are **loaves** or **bread, fish, scallops**.



St Andrew
Saltire Cross



St James
Three Fish



St James
Three Scallop Shells



St Peter
Keys



St Matthew
Book



St Jude
Halberd & Club

The images on the shields are logos for each of the apostles, the first followers of Jesus. 'His team' ! Judas the betrayer is replaced by St Paul. Several were fishermen or carpenters. The weapons are those used to martyr them. St Peter, the first pope, has the keys to the gates of Heaven. Matthew was one of the four writers of the Gospels; he, together with Mark, Luke & John, are called the Evangelists.



St Paul
Swords



St Simon Zealot
Saw



St Thomas
Set Square & Pike



St John
Chalice & Snake



St Philip
Loaves & Fishes



St Bartholomew
Knives

9 NAVE WINDOWS

Looking at each window going anti clockwise from the pulpit you will see The Sower & Seed – **crows**; The Pharisee & the Publican; The Prodigal Son – **oxen**; The Good Samaritan – **donkey**; The Good Shepherd - **wolf & sheep**. These windows are in the Arts & Crafts style and were made by Walter J. Pearce in 1903. The stories they tell are known as parables and are about the difference between behaving well and badly.

10 ROYAL ARMS

These Royal Arms are for **Charles II**. The two big animals are the **Lion** for England and the **Unicorn** for Scotland. Royal Arms are displayed in churches to show loyalty to the monarch as head of the Church of England. The custom began in Henry VIII's time and was made compulsory by law when Charles II became king in 1660. They no longer have to be shown but churches continue to do so for their historic and artistic interest.

11 CHURCH CHEST

Before the days of safes and banks **important church documents** and **valuable objects** would be **kept safe** in a chest like this. It has a big lock and metal straps to make it strong. Most churches had one in mediaeval times. This 15th century wagon chest was made of imported pine with the dug-out lid from a poplar tree. In 1829 it was known to be within the communion rails but in 1859 was found in the rectory stables storing corn ! It was returned to the church.

12 ST CHRISTOPHER

This painting is dated to about 1400 and was covered over, probably at the Reformation, and only found again in 1902. The Christ child is being carried across the river by St Christopher, the Patron Saint of Travellers. He becomes increasingly heavy because he is holding the whole world in his hand. Such paintings are found on the wall opposite the main entrance of a church to make it easy to see. People believed that if they saw his image no harm would come to them that day, especially those travelling.

13 SACRED MONOGRAMS

The IS with a crown stands for the first and last letters of Jesus in Greek. The first three letters, IHS or ihc, are often shown instead. The M with a crown above is for Mary his mother to whom this church is dedicated. The M combines all the letters of MARIA, the Latin for Mary. See if you can work them out. These are known as Sacred Monograms.

As you leave, spot them again outside at the base of the Tower, where you will see them made with knapped or worked flint stones. This form of decoration is called flushwork and is common in East Anglia where there is no stone suitable for building.

14 VISIT

We hope you enjoyed your visit and will look at other churches to see what amazing things you can find there.