

Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes
for Parents and Teachers
Children's Answers are in Bold. Further Information is for Discussion

1 FONT

The Font is used for the **baptism** (christening) of babies or others, to welcome them as a new member of the Church family. Water that has been blessed (holy water) is put into the bowl of the font then sprinkled onto the forehead where the priest will also make a sign of the cross with the water to signify the washing away of sins. The Font is usually near the entrance of the church as baptism signifies the start of the Christian journey through life.

This font, which is from the early 1400's follows the traditional East Anglian pattern. There are carvings of lions & wodewoses (wild hairy men with clubs). Angels with outstretched wings support the bowl. The carvings around the font are of Our Lady of Pity & her dead Son, the emblems of the evangelists, the Ox of St Luke, the Eagle of St John, the Angel of St Matthew, and the Lion of St Mark, the emblem of the Trinity, with God the Father holding his Son on a cross between His knees, and the Instruments of the Passion.



2 NOAH

- God decided to destroy humanity because of its wickedness, but spared Noah who was a good man. God told Noah to build an ark to save himself his family and all the animals and birds. Noah took them into the ark in male and female pairs. Then it rained for 40 days and 40 nights causing floods which lasted for 150 days.
- The dove is carrying **an olive branch** in his beak. The dove had been sent out from the ark by Noah when the floods receded, and the olive branch in the dove's beak was a sign that there was dry land nearby.

3 CIRCULAR STONE

- This is a memorial to **Benjamin Britten** the composer who used this Church for concerts of his music and for the first performances of the three church parables, Curlew River, the Burning Fiery Furnace and the Prodigal Son as well as his famous children's work, Noye's Fludde.

4 ST BARTHOLOMEW

- St Bartholomew is carrying a **model of a Church** on his shoulder.
- He is holding a **flaying knife**, which is used for skinning animals. Legend says that St. Bartholomew undertook missionary works in India and Armenia. His body, which had been skinned, was found in Derbend, the most Southern city in Russia on the west bank of the Caspian Sea.

5 LECTERN

- The lectern is a **bookstand**. The word lectern comes from the Latin word meaning 'reading'.
- The **Holy Bible** rests on the lectern. This lectern was made in 1891 and is an excellent example of Victorian metal work.
- The bird is an **Eagle** with outstretched wings; the eagle is the symbol of St. John whose gospel begins 'In the Beginning was the Word'. The Eagle was thought to be the bird that can fly the highest and nearest to the heavens, thus spreading the word of the Gospels.

6 PULPIT

- The Pulpit is made from the wood of an **oak tree** and is on a **stone base**. It is dated 1899.
- The Priest stands in the pulpit to give his **sermon** (a talk) to the congregation (people who come to services in the church). It is raised above the congregation so that the priest can be seen and heard.

7 ROOD SCREEN

- On top of the Screen you can see the crucified **Christ** flanked on one side by His mother, Mary, and on the other side St John. They were both with Jesus when he died.
The wooden Rood Screen stretches across the church from North to South; it was historically used to separate the Congregation from the Priests and the Choir. 'Rod' pronounced rood is the old English word for cross. During the Reformation, in the sixteenth century, churches were ordered to remove the Cross and figures from the screens. This one was replaced in 1921 and was carved by Lawrence Turner to the Designs of Sidney Tugwell of Bournemouth.

8 ORGAN

- The organ is played **to provide music** within the Church. There are many more pipes to the organ than those we can actually see.
- The **longest pipes** make the low deep sounds. The shortest the high notes.

9 ALTAR RAIL

- There are **flaying knives** on the kneelers (remember what St Bartholomew was carrying in his hand in the drawing at the back of the Church). These kneelers were embroidered by members and friends of the congregation in 1991.

10 HIGH ALTAR

- There is a **cross and two candlesticks** on the Altar. The Altar is covered by a decorated cloth, which is changed, depending on the time in the church calendar.
- Baby Jesus**, his mother **Mary** and **St. John**. The painting is by the Italian artist Bernardino Luini from the early 16th century. It was given to the church in 1950.

11 FLOOR BRASSES

- There are **10 children** (7 girls and 3 boys). The brass memorial to the Buckle family, thought to be from 1490, is on the floor, to the left hand side of the high altar. There is an image of a buckle as well as the mother and her children (some have been worn away).



12 LADY CHAPEL

- The Statue of the **Virgin Mary** is sitting in a recess in the wall to the left of the Altar, beside the Piscina.
- She is carrying the **Baby Jesus**. The beautiful Norman arch at the eastern end originally led into the north transept of the earlier Church. In the corner there is part of a staircase inserted in the 15th century. This once led to the original rood loft, the mediaeval screen which divided the original nave and chancel. There are some brass family memorials on the floor of the chapel.

13 ST NICHOLAS CHAPEL

- It is used to by the priest **to wash** his hands and the communion cup and plate.
A Piscina is an arched niche near an altar with a basin and drain going straight into the ground used for rinsing communion vessels – Holy washing up.
- St. Nicholas is the patron Saint of **Children and Fishermen**. Legend says St. Nicholas, who was a Bishop of Myra in Turkey, threw 3 bags of gold through a poor man's window to pay for dowries for his three daughters. Interestingly, pawn brokers still use a sign of three hanging, golden balls representing the three bags of gold. St Nicholas was also known for saving sailors in peril at sea.

14 CHURCH CHEST

- The wooden chest has **5** locks. The priest and 4 other members of the Church would each hold a different key so that the chest could only be opened when those 5 people were present.
- The chest would have contained the **Communion vessels** and church **valuables**, as well as the **registers for Births, Marriages and Deaths**. The Church valuables are now usually stored in a safe, in the vestry and the registers are kept in County Record Offices.