



1 FONT

The 15th century octagonal or 8 sided carved font is made of **stone** and the inside bowl is made of **lead**. The bowl is used for the water in the sacrament of Baptism or Christening when people become members of the worldwide Church. The font is usually near the main entrance to a church. The cover is made of **wood**.



2 FONT COVER

One statue remains in the large niches. **Two** statues are missing from the small niches.

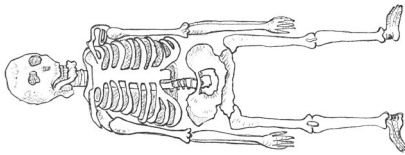
The font cover in this church is exceptional. It dates from about 1450, shows numerous tiers of carving, the bottom tier is telescopic, counterweighted, rising and appearing suspended, over the bowl. Nowadays strong metal uprights are used to support it when in use. At the top, 18 ft or 6m high, a 'pelican in her piety' can be seen. The pelican is pecking its breast and feeding the young on the blood. It is a symbol of the shedding of Christ's blood for mankind. Note the colours remaining and imagine how it would have looked when new.

3 BENCH ENDS

The benches are 15th century and have wonderful carvings of **flowers, birds, animals, men, women** and **shields**. Here you can find a pelican in her piety easier to see, also some realistic and mythical figures. One lady has a butterfly headdress which was fashionable between 1450 and 1485 so helps with dating. A bearded gentleman has a splendid hat.



4 BRASS PLAQUE



A **skeleton** is pictured lying on its side. Richard Ballett was a **Goldsmith** who died in **1598**. The plaque is in his memory. The engraving is very elaborate, an architectural fantasy. The shield displayed within the triangular pediment is that of the Goldsmith's Company, above which are two dragons. There are inscriptions in English and Latin as well as a rhyme, in various kinds of lettering.

5 MISERICORDS

There are three misericords, mercy seats, two on the south and one on the north side of the church. They are ancient stalls with hinged seats which tip up to allow the standing user some support during a long service, hence the name from the Latin *misericordia* meaning pity. The woodcarvers were free to choose their subjects and one of these shows a shield while the other two have cheerful clownish faces – one rather rudely having his tongue out.

6 ROOD SCREEN

Cecilia, the patron saint of music, is in the **second panel** of the south part of the screen. The rood, from Olde English rod = cross, refers to the carved figure of Christ on the cross which would have been there. Before the Reformation all churches had a tall screen, usually wooden, carved and painted, dividing the chancel for the clergy, from the nave for the people. Above the screen stood the Rood with Mary, Christ's mother, and St John on either side. At the Reformation churches were ordered to remove the cross and figures.

7 ALTAR

The Sanctuary lamp is lit to indicate that there are consecrated bread and wine nearby. These are kept in a special cupboard called an Aumbry which is behind the curtain you can see. They are ready to take Holy Communion to the sick or the dying.

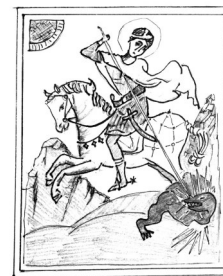
The Altar is where the service of Holy Communion takes place and is the focal point of a church.

In the East window is St Salome who is the mother of two of the apostles of Jesus, James & John, also known as the sons of Zebedee. James is standing by her side and John wearing **red** is in her arms.

St Anne is the mother of Mary, wearing **blue** and **gold**, who would become the mother of Jesus. Here Mary is being taught to read. These are C19th copies of C15th figures found in the windows of All Souls, Oxford.

8 ICON

St George is **killing** the dragon. This is a colourful and dramatic representation of St George on horseback, thrusting a long spear through the dragon's mouth. It is one of 3 icons in the church, the other 2 are on the East wall. These are both unusually encased in metal, only the faces and hands are painted – one is of the Madonna and Child, the other of Christ in an attitude of blessing. Icons are more often seen in Greek or Russian orthodox churches and are included in their services. They are regarded as devotional aids to prayer and communication with God.



9 CHAPEL WINDOW

The **Navy** and **Army** are represented, unusual because they are in modern dress. The **Royal Air Force** is missing. Although the Royal Flying Corps were very active during WW1, later becoming the Royal Air Force, it was not a separately recognised arm of the armed forces at the time the window was put in. There is a strawberry with leaves in the lower right border of the window, difficult to see. It was Sir Ninian Comper's maker's mark.



10 PISCINA

A piscina was used for **washing communion vessels** used in the service of Holy Communion. There are 2, both angled piscinae, in this church. This one, indicating there must have been an altar here in the past long before the current one, and one by the high altar. The hole leads directly into the ground to prevent the holy water being used for any other reason.



11 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mary the mother of Christ is the woman in blue.

These are multi-coloured sculptures telling the story of Christ's journey, carrying his cross through Jerusalem from Pontius Pilate's court to the place of Crucifixion then finally to the Sepulchre where his body was laid. The route is known as the Via Dolorosa meaning Way of Sorrow. The sculptures were made in Italy and were a gift from the Duchess of Santo Teodoro to her friend the Rector in 1894.

12 ROOFS

The roof of the **Aisle** is sloping. There are **12** shields in the **Chancel** roof. The **Nave** roof has beams with cherubs and angels.

A good way to see these is to lie on the benches and look up. Most of the Nave roof is about 550 years old. Five tie beams alternate with hammerbeams. The angels and cherubim were carved in the 1890s, in Oberammergau, replacing those destroyed by the Puritans in 1644 under the direction of William Dowsing. Notice the colours and also the sacred monograms IHS and MR for Jesus and Mary here and on the Chancel roof. Some of the shields in the Chancel roof are carried by demi angels. Some have instruments of the passion on them – crown of thorns, scourge, hammer and pincers, pillar, dice, robe, ladder, sponge on stick -all mentioned in the gospel accounts of the Crucifixion.

13 HATCHMENTS

The colours that can be seen are **black, red, white** and **gold**. These diamond shaped boards were hung outside the house when an important person died. They were taken on the funeral procession to the church. They use the language and imagery of Heraldry to tell you about the deceased. The family information and their position in society can be seen.

French was in common use when heraldry was first used so the colours or tinctures reflect this. Black = sable, red = gules, white and silver= argent, yellow and gold = or, and green = vert.

There are **3** lions to be seen.

14 BELLS

The ninth bell is **on the floor next to the tomb of Sir Henry Wood** at the West end of the South Aisle. The Ox heads decorate the large tombchest and are garlanded as in the ancient Roman funeral rites. A wall mounted coat of arms plays on the name Wood by displaying 3 woodwoses, wild men from folklore dressed in green leaves holding clubs. In his time Henry Wood was a courtier, landowner and Lord of the Manor.