

Children's Church Trail



Welcome to our church. For hundreds of years people have come here to pray, to meet together, and to mark important events in their lives like weddings, baptisms and funerals. There is a lot to see in the church if you know what to look for.

Follow the trail and become a church detective ...



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In the Middle Ages there was a screen which went right across the front of the church. You could climb up onto the top of the screen using a staircase here. When the screen was taken away, they destroyed the staircase too, all except this bit. You couldn't climb up it now, though!

What can you find in the stained glass windows?



Long ago most people couldn't read. The pictures in church windows helped them to remember important stories from the Bible. How many of the stories in our windows do you know?

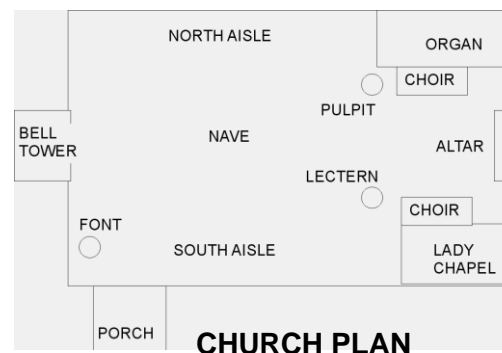
Walk around the church starting at the door where you came in, and see if you can find...

- Jesus with some sheep. He is reminding his friend Peter that he must look after Jesus' followers like a kind shepherd looks after his sheep.
- Jesus walking on the water. Peter is trying to walk on the water too, but he has just realised that he can't, and is sinking fast. Don't worry – Jesus rescues him!
- Jesus healing a sick woman. She is Peter's wife's mother.
- Jesus as a child standing in the Temple in Jerusalem teaching the people there. Mary and Joseph have just arrived to find him – they didn't know where he was and were very worried.

- Jesus dying on the cross.
- Jesus going back up into heaven. His followers are watching him.
- Jesus rising from the dead. Women come to the tomb, but angels tell them it is empty.
- Jesus welcoming children and their parents. His followers tried to keep them away, in case they disturbed him, but he wanted to see them.

Jesus welcomed children, and so do we! If you would like to know more about how children can get involved in our church, look at the noticeboards, or on our church website.

Answers. 1. Baptism is the way people become part of the church – the way in – so the font is by the door. 2. 13th Century. 3. The Lady Chapel, porch and tower (15th C) the North Aisle (19th C) 4. Box pews, no stained glass, no North Aisle, so pulpit by wall. 5. The clock 6. The Bible



THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Why is the font by the door?



The font, where baptisms (christenings) take place, stands by the entrance to the church. (See plan on back) That's where you'll find it in many old churches, but why? (Answer 1 at the end of sheet)

How old is the church?



Look for the plan at the back of the church, near the tower entrance. This tells you how old the various parts of the church are.

- Can you find out when the oldest parts of the church were built? A 2.
 - What has been added since then? A 3.
- A painting hung here shows how the church probably looked in about 1825.
- What differences can you see from the present church?
 - Do you like it better now or then?

What's in the tower?



The tower is locked because there are some dangerous things in it, but you can look through the glass at the back of the church to see it.

- How many bell ropes can you see?

- Do you know what else is in the tower, apart from the bells? (Clue – if you are here on the hour, you will hear it!) A 5.

THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH

What's the carved angel for?



Find the carved angel at the front of the church. This **lectern** (reading stand) holds a book special to Christians.

- What is it? A 6.
- You can climb up – carefully – if an adult is with you.

On the other side of the church steps is the **pulpit**. The preacher stands here to talk to the people. You can climb up into it too, but be careful and treat it gently, as it is very old.

Can you find the knight in armour?



Go up to the altar, the table where the priest stands to bless the bread and wine for communion services. Look on the left hand side of it, on the floor.



This brass monument is a picture of Sir William de Bryene, who was buried under this spot in 1395? He is the first person to be buried at Seal whose name we know. I don't know if he ever fought in

armour – it looks very heavy – but perhaps he liked people to think he did!

THE LADY CHAPEL



Go through the gate into the side chapel.

- Why is it called the Lady Chapel – who is the Lady it is called after? (Clue – look up at the wall on the right hand side of the altar – who is the woman holding the child in this picture?)

There are lots of memorials to local people in this chapel.

The sculpture of the little girl asleep between two angel's wings is a memorial to Elizabeth Mills, who was only six when she died in 1908. Her family were very sad, but wanted to remember that she was safe with God. She looks very peaceful in this sculpture.



Above the doorway at the side of the chapel is a memorial to Clemence Theobold, who had 7 sons and 9 daughters. They had children of their own, and when she died she had 115 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I wouldn't want to have to remember all those birthdays!

Can you see the mystery staircase?



As you leave the Lady Chapel to go down into the main part of the church, look to the right hand side of the archway.