

YOUR NAME:

Start the trail at the arrow
Follow the numbers from 1-13

1 OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Outside is a sign telling you the full name of the church.
What is the name of this church?
What is unusual about this name?

2 ENTRANCE HALL - STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Above the main door is a stained glass window.



Who can you see in this window? What is happening?

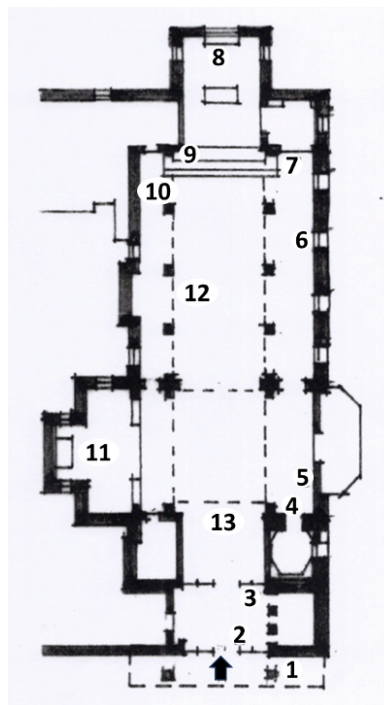
3 STOUP

There is a little bowl attached to the wall near the glass doors into the church. What was it used for?

What is it made from?



EAST



WEST

4 BAPTISTRY

As you go into the church, turn right. In a small room there is a stone basin which is called a font. What is a font used for?

When you lift up the wooden lid, what does the priest put inside the font?



5 WAR MEMORIAL

What is important about the men whose names are listed on this marble sign?

What are the names of the two brothers?

6 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Walk down the side aisle from the font to the window dedicated to a French saint. What is the saint's name in English?



7 LADY CHAPEL

At the end of the side aisle is a tiny chapel decorated with blue cloths. What are the names of the lady and her baby?

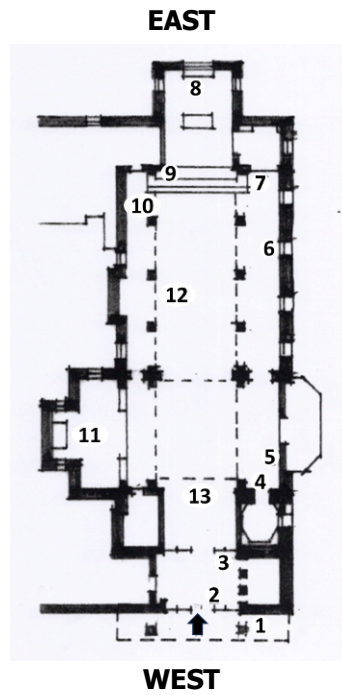
Why do you think it is called the Lady Chapel?

8 ALTAR

At the back of the church is the altar. This is a large table which is where the most important part of a church service takes place.

What image can you see in the stained glass window behind the altar?

Do you know why there is a red lamp shining near the cupboard (which is called a tabernacle) on the back wall of the altar space?



9 STATUES

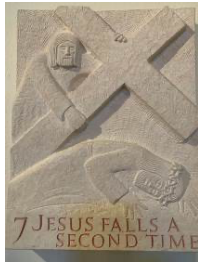
On the left of the altar is a large statue of a saint who is very special to this church. Do you know her name?

On the right side of the altar is another statue of a lady holding a baby. Can you remember who they are?



10 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There are stone carvings on the walls around the church.



What journey do they tell us about?

Why are there 14?

How many of them have a cross in them?

11 ENGLISH MARTYRS' CHAPEL

Describe what sort of room the English Martyrs' Chapel looks like?

What are the names of the two men whose statues you can see?

What are they wearing and holding?



12 STAINED GLASS WINDOW



In the centre aisle, look up high. You'll see a colourful window which is brighter than the others. What is different about this window?

13 TRANSEPT CROSSING

From the centre aisle, look up before you leave the church. What is the name of the musical instrument you can see?

14 WORD GAME

Jesus always welcomed children and we hope you have had fun exploring our church and finding our new facts. At the end of your visit, can you think of a word beginning with these letters connected with what you have seen today?

J
E
S
U
S

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

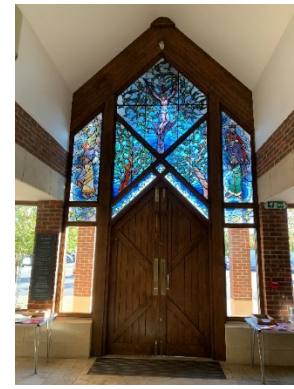
The church was built in 1926 (consecrated in 1927) the year after St. Thérèse of Lisieux was canonised, and so it was one of the first churches in England to be dedicated to her. It is built in the neo-Gothic style which gives it a traditional atmosphere. The initial church was designed by A.S.G. Butler, a pupil of Sir Edwin Lutyens. Further additions have been made, including the crossing bell tower and narthex (or entrance hall) which expanded the church to the size you see today. The most famous parishioner was G.K. Chesterton, the writer, philosopher, lay theologian and literary and art critic who was received into the Catholic Church in Beaconsfield in July 1922.



1927 Nave/original church - stage 1



Crossing - stage 2



2003 Entrance - stage 3

1 OUTSIDE. The sign to the right of the main entrance tells us that the church is called "**St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and Saints John Fisher and Thomas More**". St. Teresa is known by several names. She was born in France and is known there as St. Thérèse of Lisieux because that is where she lived in a convent when she was a nun. When she joined the convent, she chose the name "Teresa of the Child Jesus" to reflect her childlike trust in God. She is popularly known in English as "the Little Flower" because she thought of herself as a little flower in God's garden. The names of the English saints, St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, were added several years later. **The name of the church is unusual because it refers to three saints.**

2 ENTRANCE HALL STAINED GLASS WINDOW. Above the main door is a stained glass window of **Jesus being killed by men dressed as kings**. This is inspired by the 'Ballad of God-makers', a poem by G.K. Chesterton, which is inscribed on the slate to the left of the entrance doors.

3 ENTRANCE HALL STOUP. This was used for water that had been blessed by the priest to make it holy. **People dipped their fingers into the water and made the sign of the cross to bless themselves** and feel close to Jesus. It dates back to medieval times and originates from Buckfast Abbey. It is made from **Stone**.

4 BAPTISTRY. This is used for **baptisms** which is a ceremony when people become Christians and are named. **Holy Water**, which has been blessed by the priest, is put into the font and used to sprinkle onto the person being baptised when they become a member of God's Family.

5 WAR MEMORIAL. It is a War Memorial to remember 9 parishioners who **lost their lives in World War Two**. The names of the two brothers are **John and Robert Sawyer**.

6 STAINED GLASS WINDOW. Saint Joan of Arc.

7 LADY CHAPEL. This special chapel to the right of the main altar, is named in honour of the Mother of Jesus. **Her name is Mary and her baby is called Jesus. She is also known as Our Lady which is why it is called the Lady Chapel.** Mary is associated with the colour blue like a beautiful clear sky and represents her purity as the Mother of Jesus.

8 ALTAR – The Nativity. The red lamp shining over the tabernacle **shows us that Jesus is here.** He is welcoming us into His home. Jesus is often called “The Light of the World”. This part of the church, containing the altar and the tabernacle, is called the Sanctuary.

9 STATUES. St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Mary and baby Jesus. The statue of Mary and baby Jesus was given to the church by G.K. Chesterton. He chose it because he wanted to show Mary, the Mother of God, as an ordinary, young woman.

10 STATIONS OF THE CROSS. The stone carvings tell us about the journey Jesus took from Jerusalem to His death on the cross. Each carving helps to remind us that Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life for all of us. **There are 14 carvings to show the 14 stages of His brave journey.** There are **12** images showing the cross on which He died.

11 ENGLISH MARTYRS’ CHAPEL. It looks like a **dungeon or a prison cell.** Their names are **St. Thomas More** and **St. John Fisher.** St. Thomas More wears his **chain of office** because he was Lord High Chancellor of England (1529-1532). St. John Fisher was Bishop of Rochester from 1504 until his death in 1535 and he carries his **Bible.** King Henry VIII ordered them to be put to death in 1535 because they didn’t agree with his decision to break away from the Church in Rome so that he could become head of the Church in England.

12 STAINED GLASS WINDOW. It is unusual because it shows children’s faces which represent the Leonard Cheshire Children’s Home in Mongu, Zambia, which St. Teresa’s Church helps to support. The Home cares for children who need special medical care and schooling.

13 TRANSEPT CROSSING. An organ.

14 WORD GAME - an example answer might be as follows:

- J** Jesus
- E** Entrance
- S** Saint
- U** Understanding
- S** Stoup



This is the original gravestone of G.K. Chesterton, the well-known writer, philosopher and early parishioner, which is now mounted on a wall in the priest’s garden.