

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

### 1 FONT

**Water** is put into the font for a baptism. People are baptised with water as a sign that they have become a member of the Christian church. There are **4** cherubs on the font. The cover is made of **wood**.  
The font dates from the seventeenth century.



### 2 DOOM PAINTING

**Jesus Christ** (with red hair), **angel**, **wheelbarrow**, **devil**, **rainbow**, **king with crown** can all be seen.

This painting shows the Day of Judgement, Last Judgement or Doom, when good souls go to Heaven and sinners go to Hell. It was thought to be painted in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and is considered to be one of the largest Doom paintings in the country. It was used as a Biblical teaching aid, in the days when most people were not able to read.



### 3 MELLISH MONUMENT

The Mellish coat of arms at the top of the monument has **5** swans on it. There are also **lions** on the coat of arms.

The monument originally stood in front of the Doom painting and caused some of the damage to the painting. It was moved in 1885 to its present position when the church was restored.

Edward Mellish died in 1703. The Mellish family owned Blyth Hall and later Hodsock Priory.



### 4 PULPIT

It is high up **so that the preacher can be seen and heard easily** by the congregation when a sermon is being delivered during a service. The pulpit is made from the church's old box pews.



### 5 CARVED LECTERN

The lectern, a bookstand, holds the large **Holy Bible**. There is another more modern lectern nearby.

### 6 CHANCEL

The chancel contains stalls for **the choir**. Originally this was the area reserved for the clergy at the east end of the church and often divided off by a screen or steps, as here. Notice the paintings of saints on the nave side of the wooden screen, defaced during the Reformation. There is a date on the wood panelling in the chancel of 1656. It is made from the old box pews.

### 7 KNIGHT EFFIGY

The knight is wearing a **coal scuttle** helmet. The effigy dates from around 1240 and is thought to be of a member of the Fitzwilliam family. It is made of Purbeck marble.

Although damaged, this military figure is wearing mail and a surcoat with the arms for Fitzwilliam, repeated on the shield.



## 8 ALTAR

The seasons of the Church's year are marked by using different colours for the altar frontals, priest's vestments and other hangings:

**Red** for Pentecost, also called Whitsun.

**Purple** for Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas) and Lent (the 40 days before Easter).

**White** for festivals, Christmas, Easter, patron saints.

**Green** for all other periods (known as Ordinary Time).

**2 brass candlesticks** and **a cross** stand on the shelf behind the altar.

The altar is the focal point of the church, where the main Christian act of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is performed.



## 9 LIST OF PRIORS AND VICARS

In 1306 the prior was **Nicholas de Bretteville**

In 1386 the vicar was **Richard White of Tykhill**

## 10 SOUTH AISLE WINDOW

The parents of Jesus are **Mary** and **Joseph**.

**Moses** was the baby found in the bullrushes. Pharaoh's daughter stands behind the bullrushes and her maid is kneeling in the bullrushes. Amongst the green trees is the sister of Moses.

In this window, dedicated to Canon Grey, Vicar of Blyth 1875–1896, 3 scenes from Christ's life are shown, with scenes from the Old Testament below them.



## 11 HATCHMENTS

Hatchments were hung outside the house when someone died and brought to the church at the time of the funeral. This is the hatchment for Anne Mellish (note the Mellish swans) who died in 1855. She was married to William Chambers (his arms are on the left side of the hatchment). The black background denotes that she was a widow when she died.



## 12 BENEFACTORS BOARDS

**James Ryalls** left £20 to poor widows of Blyth. There are two canvas panels from the 18<sup>th</sup> century listing in gold lettering on a black background the charitable donations of individuals towards the people of Blyth and the uses to which these were to be put.

## 13 POOR BOX

The wooden poor box (alms box) was used **to collect coins to help the poor of the village**. It has locks on it **to prevent the money being stolen**. It dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

## ENDPIECE

We hope you have enjoyed helping the children with this Trail. Perhaps you can use this time to congratulate the children on completing The Arts Society Children's Trail and discuss with them what they have learned about St Mary and St Martin's Church, Blyth.

If you would like to find out more about St Mary and St Martin's please visit the website of the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project – [www.southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk)