

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

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Grafton Regis is listed as a 12th century church, however the Nave area of the church is probably much older. The family home of Elizabeth Woodville, the Queen of Edward IV sits alongside the church site. The first Duke of Grafton was created during the reign of Charles II and the church and much of the village belonged to the Grafton estate until fairly recent years.

1 FONT Water is put in the font for a baptism (Christening).

A font is a large bowl, usually stone, at which people are baptised with water as a sign that they have become a Christian and a member of a worldwide church.

2 PULPIT There are **3** steps up to the pulpit.

A Pulpit is an elevated and enclosed platform from which a sermon (talk) is delivered during a service. It is raised so that the preacher can be seen and heard easily. Pulpits are made from any building material e.g. wood, stone or metal, and are sometimes highly decorated. (*From the Latin Pulpitum meaning platform or staging*)

3 BRASS WALL PLAQUE John Colgrove is named on the plaque. He was churchwarden for **32** years.

John Colgrove was a local sheep farmer and was churchwarden from 1964-1996.

4 SEDILIA Those assisting in the service would sit in the archway. Sedilia are the low seats in the wall to the south of the altar.

An Ogee arch consists of two opposing 'S' Curves meeting in a point at the apex.



5 MEDIEVAL PANEL

Jesus and his disciples are the people in the painting.

Kiss of Judas is the name of the picture.

The wooden panel was originally part of a rood screen, the wooden screen dividing the congregation from the priests and choir in old churches. It is so called because originally it was topped by a Rood [Olde English 'Rod' = cross], a large carving of Christ on the cross with the figures of the Virgin Mary on one side and St John on the other. At the Reformation churches were ordered to remove the cross and figures.

6 PISCINA It is used for **rinsing vessels**.

A piscina is an arched niche near the altar with a basin and a drain going straight into the ground for rinsing communion vessels.

7 CHANCEL TABLE The Seasonal colours are **White/Gold** or **Purple** or **Red** or **Green**.

The seasons of the Church's year are marked by using different colours for the priest's vestments, altar frontals and other hangings. **White** for festivals, Christmas, Easter, and Saints who were not martyred. **Purple** for Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas) and Lent (the 40 days before Easter) **Red** for Pentecost, also called Whitsun (the coming of the Holy Spirit), Holy Week and martyrs. **Green** for all other periods (known as Ordinary Time).

The chancel table is the focal point of a church, where the main Christian act of the Eucharist (Holy Communion or Mass) is performed. It is also called "The Altar", "The Lord's Table", "The Holy Table" or "The Communion Table".



8 BISHOP'S CHAIR A **Crucifix** is on the back of the chair. It is a cross with the figure of the crucified Lord hanging upon it, as distinct from a bare cross. (The representation of the body of Jesus on a crucifix is called the "corpus".)

The Bishop's Chair is a chair generally left vacant unless a bishop is in attendance. He will sit in the Bishop's Chair while the priest officiates.

9 TUDOR WINDOW The marks were made by **musket shot**.

The house of Grafton Manor was besieged by Roundhead troops during the Civil War; it was burnt down on Christmas Day 1643.

10 VICE ADMIRAL FITZROY

He was captain of the **Beagle**.

The famous scientist was Charles **Darwin**.

Robert, Vice-Admiral FitzRoy joined the Royal Navy in February 1818, when he was nearly 13 years of age.



11 POPPYHEADS There are **4** different poppyheads.

A poppyhead is an ornamental finial used to decorate bench ends in a form somewhat resembling a fleur-de-lis. It is not known where the word has come from, possibly from the Latin "puppis" meaning the stern or poop of a ship or French "poupée" meaning a figurehead or puppet.

12 ANGEL WINDOW

They are **Cherubs**.

The number of Angels in the windows is **2**.

Angels (from the Greek for "messenger") are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as spiritual beings. There are nine groups: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels and Angels. Angels and Archangels are often shown in art wearing halos (nimbus) and with wings.

Archangels are the chief angels. In the Christian tradition Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are normally reckoned as Archangels with Uriel sometimes added as the fourth.

13 ELIZABETH WOODVILLE

Elizabeth Woodville married **EDWARD IV**.

She was the **grandmother** of HENRY VIII.

The Woodville family lived in the village from the 11th century. Grafton Regis is named as Grastone in the Domesday book and was changed to Grafton Wydevil (the old English spelling of Woodville). The village name was changed again by Henry VIII to Grafton Regis (Regis is Latin for 'of the King') in honour of his grandmother, Elizabeth Woodville.



14 JOHN WOODVILLE MONUMENT

It is a **Knight in Armour**.

A Lion is at his feet.

John Woodville was the great grandfather of Elizabeth Woodville, who died c.1401. John Woodville added the Tower onto the church.

Carvings on the top of the front panel of the tomb show 4 Green Men and 4 Marian Roses.

GREEN MAN - This is a carved face with foliage coming from its mouth (and sometimes ears, eyes and/or nostrils). This is an ancient decoration. No-one really knows what it means. Explanations range from specifically Christian to specifically pagan. Like many grotesque carvings it is always enjoyable!

MARIAN ROSE - The rose and the lily were symbols of the Virgin Mary.