

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

Welcome to St Margaret's Church: This church is dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, who was very popular in the Middle Ages. She miraculously escaped after being swallowed by a dragon! The church is an ancient stone building dating back to between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The building was restored in 1874-5, and the chancel was rebuilt at this time. A large grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund allowed urgent repairs to be completed in 2016, together with improvements such as new heating.

### 1 FONT

The font is a large carved stone bowl used for **baptism**. People are baptised with water as a sign that they have become members of the Christian church. The font here is octagonal, having **8** sides, and it dates back to medieval times. It was moved to its current position standing on a raised platform during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### 2 NAVE ROOF

A corbel is a carved stone bracket that supports the roof timbers. We have eight corbels in the nave roof, some are medieval and others date from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The corbels are carved into different shapes:

- **A Lion's head** – this is a medieval carving. The image of a lion represents St Mark
- **A Pig's head** – this is a medieval carving. The image of a pig represents St Anthony.
- **Angels** – there is one medieval angel and three angels from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- **A bearded man** – this is a medieval carving.
- **An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Parson** – he may possibly have been the Rector of the parish.

There are eight more corbels in the roof of the south aisle. These are all medieval carvings of angels.

### 3 WOODEN CHEST



In the Middle-Ages, the wooden chest was the most common item of furniture and would have been used to store **fabrics**, items of **clothing**, or **church valuables**. Our chest is made from oak, and it is called a boarded or plank chest, as it is simply 6 planks of oak nailed together. It has been dated back to the very early 1500s, so it is now over 500 years old.

### 4 BENCH ENDS

Linenfold pattern is so-called because **it looks like folded linen fabric**. This popular panel pattern dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, but most of the bench ends here were made by machine in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. If you look very carefully, some circular machine marks can be seen on some of the panels.

### 5 PULPIT

The pulpit is a platform from which a sermon (talk) is delivered during a service. The sermon is given by the



**preacher** who is often the **priest**. The pulpit is raised **so that the speaker can be seen and heard easily**.

The word pulpit comes from the Latin word '*Pulpitum*' meaning platform or staging. It has two brass candleholders and a brass book-stand for the preacher to rest his or her bible, notes or texts upon. The brass book-stand is decorated with **ivy** leaves.

### 6 CARVED WALL PANEL



The carved pattern on the wall appears to be of **a flower with eight petals**. It dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and was set in the wall when the chancel was rebuilt in Victorian times. The carved X-mark on the window surround is more of a mystery. It may be a stonemason's mark, or it may be historic graffiti! The stone window surround is medieval, so the mark could be very old – maybe even 800 years old.

### 7 ALTAR REREDOS

There is a very decorative set of wall paintings directly behind the altar. This is called the altar reredos, which literally means the *rear back* of the altar. The pictures show the seated figure of Christ, with St Margaret on the left-hand side, and St Peter on the right hand side. St Peter is holding **a set of keys**. These are the keys to heaven. There are also four angels holding banners with the words "Holy, Holy, Holy; Lord God of Hosts; Heaven and Earth; Are Full of Thy Glory".



## 8 PISCINA

The piscina is an arched niche or alcove near the altar with a basin carved into it. The basin is **used for holy washing up** – rinsing the communion vessels. The hole goes through the wall straight into the ground, and **drains the water away**.

There is also a second piscina in the south aisle of the church. See if you can spot it on your way around the church.

## 9 FIND THIS OBJECT

This is a **candle snuffer used for putting out candles** at the end of a church service. The brass cap is held over the lit candle flame which puts it out. The candle snuffer is mounted on the end of a long pole **so that you can reach up to the top of tall candles**.

## 10 LECTERN



The lectern is a large bookstand that holds the church bible from which the lessons are read. The wooden one here is made from oak and it is shaped like an **eagle** with outspread wings. This is because eagles are thought to be the birds that can fly the highest and so nearer to the heavens. The eagle stands on a sphere which represents the world. The lectern was dedicated in memory of a man called **William Bricheno** in **1872**.

## 11 STAINED GLASS

Fragments of medieval stained glass remain in four panels at the very top of two windows; one window in the south aisle and one window in the nave. There are pieces in **blue, orange, purple, red, and yellow**, and if you look closely you can see that some pieces have elaborate pictures or patterns painted on them.



500 years ago, in the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, this church would have had highly decorated stained-glass windows. But then the Church of England broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. This was known as the Reformation, and occurred during the reign of King Henry VIII. During the Reformation, large numbers of stained glass windows were smashed and replaced with plain glass. The pieces you see are the only fragments of glass remaining from when the old stained-glass windows were destroyed 500 years ago.

## 12 BIER

The bier was used **to carry the coffin** at funeral services, and the one in the church dates to between 1780 and 1800. It is no longer in use at this church. It has also been used as a carpenter's bench at some point in the past as there are quite a few saw marks on it!

## 13 HASSOCKS

Hassocks are cushions used for **kneeling on**. They are sometimes called kneelers. They are not to be confused with Cassocks, which are garments sometimes worn by clergy and choir members, or a Haddock, which is a fish! The ones in this church were made by members of the church congregation in the 1980s and 1990s.



## ENDPIECE

We hope you have enjoyed completing our Children's Trail and have learned a lot about the history and workings of our church. It is a much-loved building and is a focal point for our small village community.

