

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

### 1 CEILING

The ceiling looks like the underside of a ship called the **ship's keel**. The ceiling is over the nave, the main body of the church with benches, pews or chairs for the congregation/people. 'Navis' (pronounced 'narvis') is Latin for 'ship'. The ceiling portrays the church as a safe harbour or place of protection.

### 2 FLOOR TILES

The tiles on the floor show a fleur-de-lys or **lily flower** and a **grape vine**. The fleur de lys is the flower of the Virgin Mary and The Archangel Gabriel. Jesus used the grape vine as a symbol of himself and his message, with the disciples being the branches (John 15.1).

### 3 PEGS

The pegs are in the box pews in the nave. They were used for **hats**. Everyone wore a hat to church in Victorian times, especially the children. Benches with doors on make an enclosed space and are then known as pews.



### 4 WAR MEMORIAL

The memorial was made **to honour local people** who died in the wars and **to ensure that they were always remembered**. The War Memorial on the wall is made of **wood**.

### 5 LECTERN

The lectern (a bookstand) is made of **brass**. It was dedicated to St James' by the nephews of Mira Smith who died aged 74. The family name was **Cowlshaw**. The name Cowlshaw can also be found on the War Memorial. The lectern usually holds the Holy Bible or The Lectionary from which the lessons are read.

### 6 PULPIT

The Vicar or Rector used the pulpit **to preach to the congregation (the people)**. It was built high **so that they could all see him**, and **so that his voice carried to the back of the church**. There are **9** steps up to the pulpit. The canopy above the pulpit is called a tester.

### 7 FONT

The font is made of **stone**. It is used to **baptise** people as a Christian and a member of the worldwide Church. The font has **8** sides and is an **octagon** in shape. **Water** is used in the font for baptism. The font is original and was installed in 1837. The carved wooden canopy was made and added in 1903.



## 8 ALTAR

The sampler shows the story of **The Last Supper**. There are **12** disciples around the table. The altar is the focal point of a church, where the main Christian act of the Eucharist (Holy Communion or Mass) is performed.

Children might like to design a sampler from some part of St James' Church. It could depict a stained-glass window, a floor tile or the font.



## 9 ALTAR PLAQUES

**The Ten Commandments** are written on the red plaques on either side of the altar. The children could be asked to think of a 'commandment' which is relevant to today. e.g. about the environment, friendship, sharing or thinking of others less fortunate. Moses was given the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone by God while on Mount Sinai. They are the basic rules of honour and respect as laid down in Christian principles and scriptures.

## 10 STAINED GLASS WINDOW

In the bottom right hand corner of the window above the altar, the **harp** is being played by an **angel**.

## 11 REV JOHN EATON PLAQUE

The Rev. John Eaton was the first Rector of St James' Church and served as Rector for **45** years. He was **74** years old when he died. His wife's name was **Anne**.

## 12 ROYAL COAT OF ARMS

The Royal coat of arms shows a **lion** and a **unicorn** which are the 'supporters' of the royal arms of the monarch. **Queen Victoria** reigned at the time the church was built.

The children could design a coat of arms incorporating flags, oars or other connections with the inland port.

## 13 THE HAYWARD ROOM

The Hayward Room is for the use of **local people**. It is a very important room to have in a church as it can be used **for people to meet** and **socialise** here, where it is warm and welcoming.

## 14 ST JAMES' CHURCH, SHARDLOW

The church would be used by **local people** and also **visiting trades people** from the boats or other villages. Pilgrims are **people who travel to church to show their devotion to Christianity**. It is called making a pilgrimage. St James' church was built because of the port. People would mainly get to Shardlow **by boat, carriage or on foot** in Victorian times. They may have had jobs as **merchants** (people who bought and sold goods), **farmers, blacksmiths or shopkeepers**. Many new kinds of jobs would have been created by the inland port.



The Victorian church was built by Henry Isaac Stevens in 1837 and completed in 1839. It is a grade II listed building. The population of Shardlow in 1821 was 993 people and in 1831, just before the church was built, it was 1091. Shardlow was expanding as a very large and important inland port.

The Foundation Stone of the church was laid on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1837 by James Sutton Esq, a generous benefactor of the church. The stone was laid over a cavity containing several coins of the first year of Queen Victoria's reign and other items.

The inscription on the brass plaque covering the cavity reads as follows:

"The first stone of this church, erected by voluntary contribution and dedicated to St James' was laid on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August Anno Domini MDCCCXXXVII in the first year of the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria by James Sutton Esq to the Glory of Almighty God and for the Salvation for the Souls of men,"

The Rev. Nathaniel Palmer Johnson M.A. Rector of Aston on Trent. Henry Isaac Stevens Architect.

The location of the cavity and brass plaque in the church have yet to be discovered.