

ST.JAMES, WEST LITTLETON

Trail for children (of all ages!)

We start the trail at the entrance to the graveyard – follow the numbers – you could mark everything on your map of the church if you would like to.

1. You will see several chest tombs on either side of the church path which leads to the church entrance. On some of these tombs are written the names of those people they remember. Can you find one surname which is on several tombs but spelt slightly differently on one tomb near the church – what is the name and the difference?

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2. On the other side of the church there is a simple white headstone (one only) which was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to commemorate the death of someone in the 1st World War. a. What is the crest on this headstone and the date?
b. Do you know the dates of the 1st World War?

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3. **Enter the church porch** – what can you see above the door? What is it missing from the figure and do you know who it is meant to be?

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4 Find the font **in the church** and mark it on the plan. The font is where parents bring their children to be baptised and join the church.

4a. What is put in the font for a baptism?

4b Count the sides of the font – what do we call this shape? Tick the one you think it is.
hexagon.....octagon.....pentagon

5. In front of you is a beautiful stained glass window – who is pictured in it? Try to tell the story of it.

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6a. Look towards the altar beyond the arch (chancel) – on the right hand side of the nave is a large memorial to several members of what family?

What is their name?.....

What is the lady leaning on? It's a ship'sIt stands for "hope".

7. Opposite the “hope” memorial is another family memorial to the Osbornes and Frankoms – this lady wished something to be given to the poor women of the parish. What was it?

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8a. Mark on your plan the pulpit (P), the organ (O) the lectern (L) and the choir stalls (C)

8b If you climb up to the pulpit you will see a brass stand. a. Whose name is on it and when was it presented? b. As this man was a vicar of West Littleton why do you think vicars stand in the pulpit?

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9a Look at the window behind the altar (the East window). At the very top you will see a lamb with a flag or banner. This is called the Agnus Dei in Latin. What is it in English?

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9b Beneath the lamb are 2 small trees with just one leaf at the top and some berries on one side. Do you know what these trees are called?

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9c Half way down each side of the window are some intertwined letters (sacred monogram). Can you make them out and draw them? The capital letters stand for Jesus in Greek.

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10 In the little room to the left of the altar (the vestry) there is a rope hanging from the ceiling. Do you know what it is there for?

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12. Above the choir stalls there is a memorial. Whose name is on it and where was he the rector and the vicar?

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13. As you walk back up the aisle to leave the church there are some words written on the wall above the west window. What are they?

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14. As you turn to leave the church look above the door. There is a rather dirty painting up there. Do you know what it is? Tell us what you can see on it.

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Church Trail of St. James's, West Littleton

Trail Answers and Explanatory Notes

Welcome to the Grade II listed church of St. James, West Littleton, with its particularly fine 13th century turret and bellcote (in which hangs the original bell). It is thought that the chancel and bellcote are the only parts of the original structure which survived a fire in the 19th century, although a beautiful canopied niche above the doorway is certainly from the 13th or 14th century.

The church was largely rebuilt, including a new porch and vestry, in 1855 under the supervision of Thomas Wyatt, architect of the Salisbury diocese. There are 9 Grade II listed chest tombs flanking the path to the church, which were conserved in July and August 2010, together with 4 listed memorials in the church.

1. The name you are looking for is Osborne on tombs near the holly tree and also on the 1st listed tomb near the church where it is spelt Osborn.
2. The crest is of the Royal Air Force. The airman commemorated is Private TW Mathlin, who died 31 October 1918. The dates of the 1st World War are 1914 -1918.
3. The canopied niche above the door represents Mary, Queen of Heaven. She wears a crown and holds the infant Jesus in her left hand and a sceptre in her right. The figure's face, crown, sceptre and the infant Jesus have been deliberately broken off - which will probably have occurred during the reign of Henry VIII when the King denounced the Catholic faith and declared himself leader of the church of England..
- 4a. Water is put in the font when a person is baptised (christened). People (mostly babies) are baptised with water as a sign that they have become members of the Christian Church. Baptism is one of the Sacraments and signifies a washing away of sins. The font is often found near the entrance of the church because people being baptised are at the start of their spiritual journeys as members of the Christian church.

4b. The font shape is octagonal – 8 sided. A circle, the perfect shape, is the symbol of God, a square or a cube is the symbol for the earth and the octagon is halfway between a circle and a square and is the symbol of Jesus unifying God and earth. At the baptism of a person heaven and earth are considered to have been touched.

5. The window shows Joseph, Mary and Jesus with the 3 wise men bringing their gifts.

6a The family name is Hillier

6b The lady is the Christian virtue “Hope” because she is leaning on a ship’s ANCHOR.

7. She wishes “wearing apparel to be given on St Thomas’s Day to the poor women of the parish who are not receiving alms”.

8a The Rev. Richard Brent Neville, presented in his memory by the village in 1904.

8b The vicar stand in the pulpit to give his sermon or talk because he can be seen by everyone in the church, he can be heard easily and he can see everyone too!

9a The Lamb of God. The symbol of Jesus as the Lamb of God stems from the saying of John the Baptist “Behold the Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world”. The death of Jesus on the cross was seen as the sacrificial lamb; the lamb bearing the cross emblazoned banner was a sign of victory and resurrection and the flag of the red cross on the white ground is the flag of St George and therefore the flag of England, known to everyone who watches football!

9b Jesse’s tree of life. Jesse was the father of of King David (of David and Goliath fame) and is always shown as the roots of the tree, which has the kings as branches and finishes with Jesus at the top. The idea comes from the book of Isaiah “a shoot will come from the stump of Jesse, from his roots will bear fruit”.

9c The letters are HIS, a diminution of the Greek word meaning Jesus.

10. The bell.

11/12. The Rev. William Alsop, rector of Langridge and vicar of Stanton St. Quintin.

13. Glory to God in the Highest. This church was rebuilt (with the exception of the chancel) and a new porch and vestry room built in the year of our Lord 1856.

14. This is the Victorian version of the Royal Coat of Arms. It is just possible to make out the lion and the unicorn and smaller lions on the shield in the centre, with the French mottos of “Honi y soit qui mal y pense” and Dieu est mon Droit”..

