

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

Introduction

The history of Wickhambreaux can be traced back over 1600 years with a wooden Saxon church standing on the present site. This was probably replaced by a Norman building of which no trace remains in the current building. The present church was rebuilt in the 14th c. but all the windows and their surrounds appear to have been renewed in the 15th c. There were further works in 1877 when a new organ gallery was built and the chancel refurbished with a new roof over it. The East window (1896) is particularly fine and of national importance being the first commission for a European church made by an American glass studio.

1 FONT

Water is put in the font and blessed by the priest when a person is baptised (christened). This sacrament signifies a washing clean the sins of the participant who then becomes a member of the church. The font is usually positioned near the entrance door of a church to signify the entry into the Christian faith. A circle, the perfect shape, is the symbol of God, a square or cube is the symbol for the earth – the **Octagon (8 sides)** – 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 touched.

The Tudor Rose symbolises the joining together of the House of Lancaster and the House of York after the War of the Roses 1455-1485 The outer petals are always **red** (Lancaster) and the inner petals **white** (York).



2 GOSPEL WRITERS

The four evangelists wrote the Gospels (the first four books of the New Testament). Mathew and John were disciples (followers) of Jesus. Mark was a follower of St Paul and Luke was a follower of St Peter. Their symbols are: Matthew - **winged man**; Mark – **lion**; Luke – **ox (bull)**; John – **eagle**.
Ref: Ezekiel Ch 1 v.5-11 and Revelations Ch 4 v.6-8.

3 GROTESQUE

The stone corbels **support the roof timbers** of the aisle. They were often decorated with strange faces or foliage. Sometimes the face will be a 'Green Man'. There are a number of these carvings in churches and old buildings throughout the country, often carved by the masons for fun. Some are known as 'Green Men' which is a potent symbol of pagan mythology. They are carved in the form of a face with foliage coming from the mouth and sometimes from the ears, eyes and nostrils. You will find examples of 'Green Men' in the roof of the cloister at Canterbury Cathedral.



4 BANNER

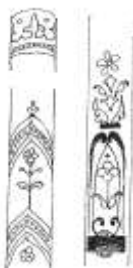
This saltire (cross) represents St. Andrew who is the patron saint of Scotland and is used on the Scottish flag. Tradition says St. Andrew was crucified on an X shaped cross which is called a SALTIRE. Heraldry has a special language, other heraldic colours are: Gules – red; Vert – green; Or – gold; Purpure – purple.

5 PULPIT

As the pulpit already stands three steps higher than the nave there is only **one** step to the pulpit. The **Vicar** or **preacher** uses the pulpit to talk to the congregation. The pulpit is raised **so everyone can see and hear the preacher**.

6 LECTERN

The book is the **HOLY BIBLE**. Charles Harmsworth was a Captain in the **Welsh Guards**. He was killed on the **9th April 1943**. He was a churchwarden for 1938-1942. His wife's name was **Nancy**, she died in 1973. A lectern or book rest is often supported by an eagle which signifies the carrying of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth. The eagle was considered to be the bird that flew the highest and therefore came closest to heaven.



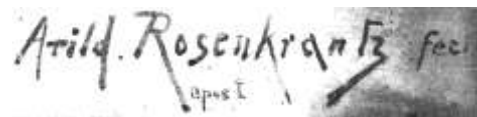
7 ORGAN

There are **28 pipes**. The longest fattest pipes make the deepest sounds.

The wooden handle would be **pumped up and down**. It would have **made the organ play**. This handle works the original manual bellows which produced air to make the sound. The organ is now powered by an electric motor.

8 EAST WINDOW ANNUNCIATION

GABRIEL is the angel. He is giving Mary a **Lily**. He is telling her **she will have a son and his name will be Jesus**. (Luke Ch 1 v. 30) The date of the window is **June 1896**. This window is of national and international importance. The designer Arild Rosenkrantz was born in Denmark. The window was made by the Decorative Stained Glass Company of New York, in the Art Nouveau style, and exhibited there in 1896. It was the first commission for a European church by an American glass studio. The story behind the window is intriguing and mysterious. Harriette Duer de Gallatin was of a Savoy/Swiss/American family and is buried in the churchyard. A local paper at the time of her death said that she was well known in the village but that is the only clue we have as to why she came to be here. The window was donated by her son Count James de Gallatin.



9 ALTAR/WALL TILES

There are **3** crosses on the wall, two on the right and one on the left. **INRI** means Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews in Greek the initial letters of Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). **IHS** is known as a sacred monogram and an abbreviation of Iesous, the first 3 letters of the name Jesus in Greek. This was a label put on the cross of Jesus by Pilate at the Crucifixion. The Processional cross is made of **brass**. The altar, situated in an area known as the sanctuary, is the focal point of the church representing the table at the Last Supper (Matthew Ch 26 v. 26-30; Mark Ch 14 v. 22-26; Luke Ch 22 v. 14-20) It is separated from the rest of the church by the altar rail where the congregation come to receive the bread and wine from the priest.

10 FLOOR TILES



The bird is a **Pelican**. The bird is plucking at her breast to **feed her young**. This is usually known as the 'Pelican in her Piety'. The pelican was believed to pierce her breast to feed her young with her own blood and is a symbol of Jesus dying on the cross and giving his blood for us.



11 PISCINA



The piscina was used by the priest to **wash the cups after communion**.

The hole **lets the water drain straight into the ground** so the devil can't get his hands on it.

As you go out of the church, look to the right and you will see another niche. This is not a piscina but a holy water stoup where people coming into the church would dip their hand in the holy water and make the sign of a cross.



12 CEILING PAINTINGS

There are **8** angels in the nave and **6** in the chancel. In medieval times churches would have had highly coloured walls and ceilings. During the Commonwealth (Oliver Cromwell 1649-1660) many of the paintings were covered with whitewash and much stained glass and statuary was smashed. According to an earlier history of the church some of

these paintings in the nave and chancel were discovered under several layers of plaster. The areas over the chancel arch and tower doorway are thought to be medieval, although heavily restored.

A late 19th c. photograph shows that the aisle walls were painted in a similar manner to the west end of the nave. When the organ was removed for restoration in 2003 this 19th scheme was found to be still in place on the north wall. The remaining areas over the east window and over the nave arches are assumed to have been done at the time of the alterations in 1870.

Canterbury Cathedral has many examples of desecration.



13 GRAFFITI

These are examples of early graffiti. These could possibly be marks put there by the builder or Mason to show how much work he had done and then he would be paid accordingly.



14 REVIEW

I hope you have enjoyed helping the children to complete the Church trail. Please talk to the children about what they have discovered on the trail and congratulate them.

YOUR NAME

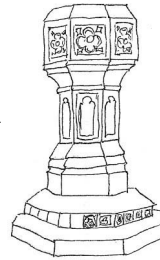
Start the trail at No 1 and
Follow the numbers from 1-14

1 FONT

Find the font. What is put in the font when a person is baptised and becomes a member of the church?
How many sides are there?

Is it a Hexagon?  or an Octagon? 

Look for the Tudor Rose on the side of the font. If this was still painted, do you know which colours would be used?
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2 GOSPEL WRITERS

Look at the wall tiles Matthew, Mark, Luke & John are the four Evangelists who wrote the Gospels. Each one has a symbol - what are they?

Matthew:
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Mark:
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Luke:
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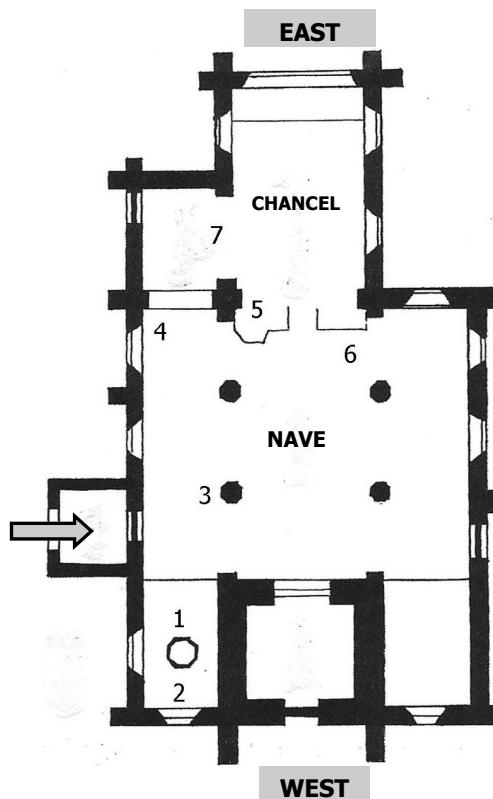
John:
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3 GROTESQUE

Look up, find the grinning face on stone bracket and draw it

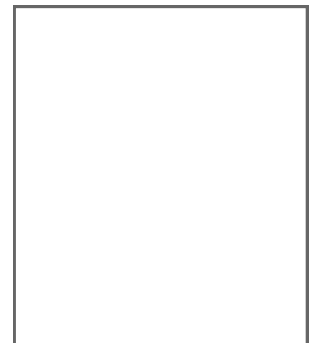


Why is the bracket (corbel) there?
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4 BANNER

Find the banner with the heraldic shield of St. Andrew. This shield is called a Saltire. Heraldry has different names for colours. Argent - Silver; Azure - Blue, Sable - Black. Draw the shield and colour it.



5 PULPIT

Go to the pulpit.
How many steps are there?

Who uses the pulpit?
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Why do you think it is raised up?
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6 LECTERN

What is the name of the book on the stand?
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The Lectern is in memory of Charles Harmsworth. He was a Captain in which Regiment?
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When was he killed?
.....

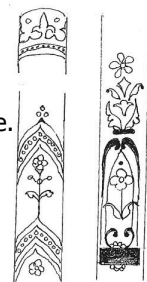
What was the name of his wife?
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7 ORGAN

The organ has some painted pipes
How many are there at the front?

There is a wooden handle at the side.
How would it have been used?
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What happened when it was used?
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8 EAST WINDOW ANNUNCIATION

Who is the angel bringing a flower to Mary is it:

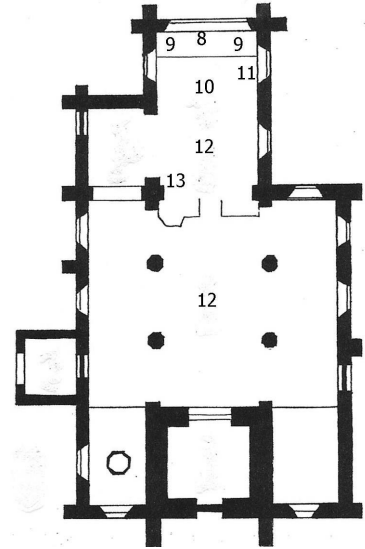
Raphael, Ariel, Gabriel or Adoniel ?

What is the flower?

What is the angel telling Mary?

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What is the date of the window ?



9 ALTAR/ WALL TILES

During a service there is usually a cross on an altar. How many crosses can you see on the wall behind?

Below each cross is a scroll with the SACRED MONOGRAM - INRI. (Greek) The letters stand for JESUS OF NAZARETH KING OF THE JEWS. IHS is an abbreviation of Iesous (Jesus in Greek) Find IHS on another cross nearby.

What is this cross made of?

10 FLOOR TILES

In front of the altar there are 5 blue and white tiles. Find the bird. Is it a Blackbird, Duck, Heron or Pelican?

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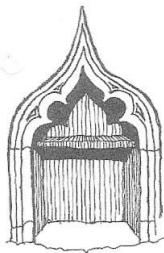
What is the bird doing?

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11 PISCINA

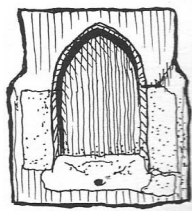
Look for a niche in the south wall of the chancel. It is called a piscina. The top shape is called an ogee arch. What was the piscina used for?

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There is a second piscina close to the lectern. There is a hole in the base. Why?

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12 CEILING PAINTINGS

Look up at the painted ceiling. How many angels are there:

In the Nave?

In the Chancel?

13 GRAFFITI

Look for marks carved into the base of the pillar beside the chancel arch near the pulpit. Draw what you find.

14 REVIEW

Which items in the church have you enjoyed most and why?

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