Exploring All Saints Church

Nettleham, Lincolnshire

For the young and young at heart

"I love the flowers and how the Church is decorated at Easter and Christmas"
Emily: Aged 14

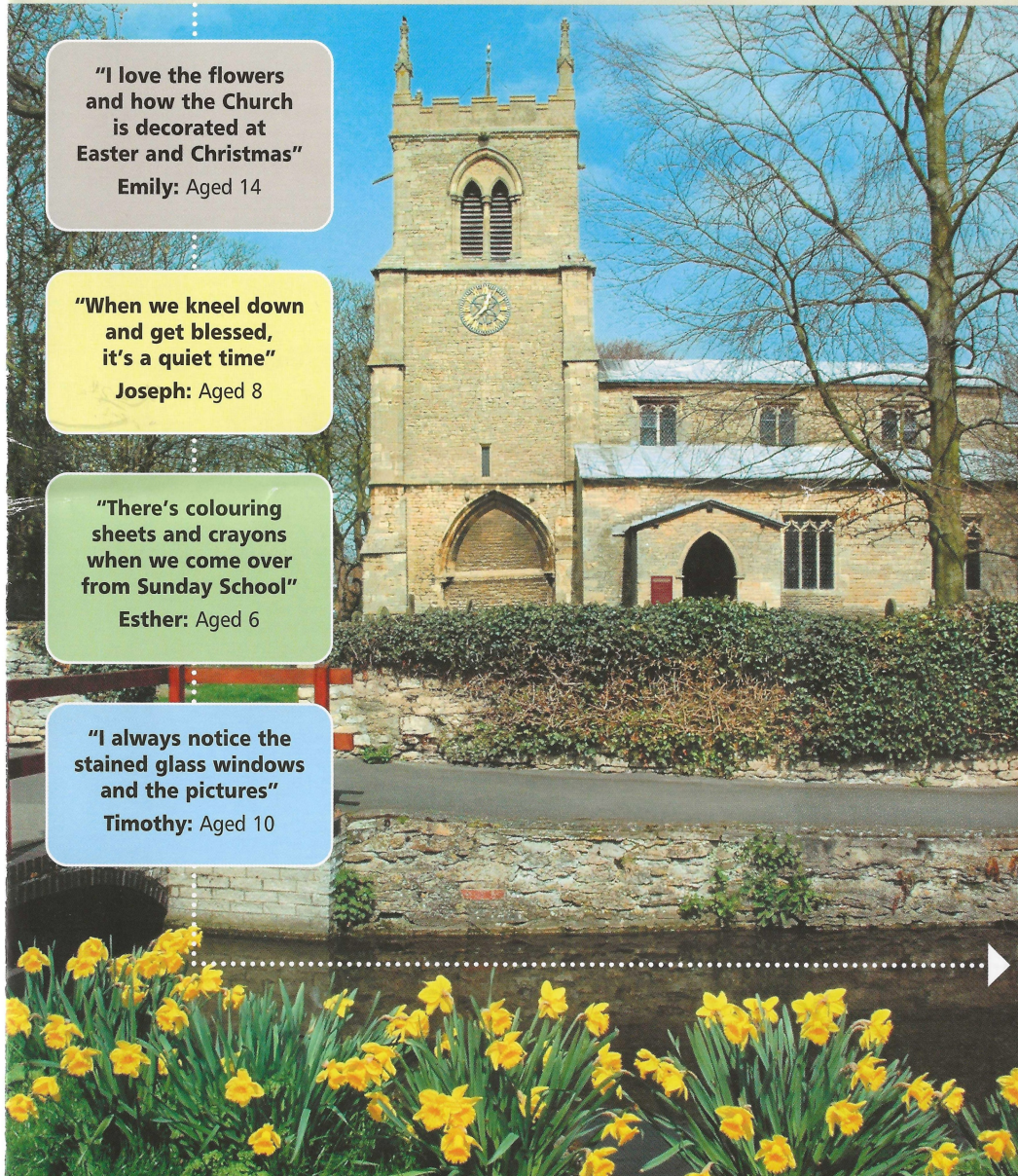"When we kneel down and get blessed, it's a quiet time"
Joseph: Aged 8

"There's colouring sheets and crayons when we come over from Sunday School"
Esther: Aged 6

"I always notice the stained glass windows and the pictures"
Timothy: Aged 10

Can you find these in the Church?

When you find one of the features below, write the question number into the right box on the plan of the Church

1: A picture of Jesus blessing the children
Do you know why this picture is in the Church?

2: The font
What is a font and why is it near the entrance of the Church?

3: The Millennium Tapestry
In which year was this made?
Each shield was made by a local group - can you count them?
Which is your favourite?

4: Mason's head
What is a mason and can you spot a carving of his head?

5: Wall paintings
Can you spot the wall paintings - how old do you think they are?

6: The altar
How old is the altar stone and what is an altar used for?

7: The big window at the end of the Church
The window shows Jesus risen from the dead.
Can you spot the dove and fire in this beautiful window?
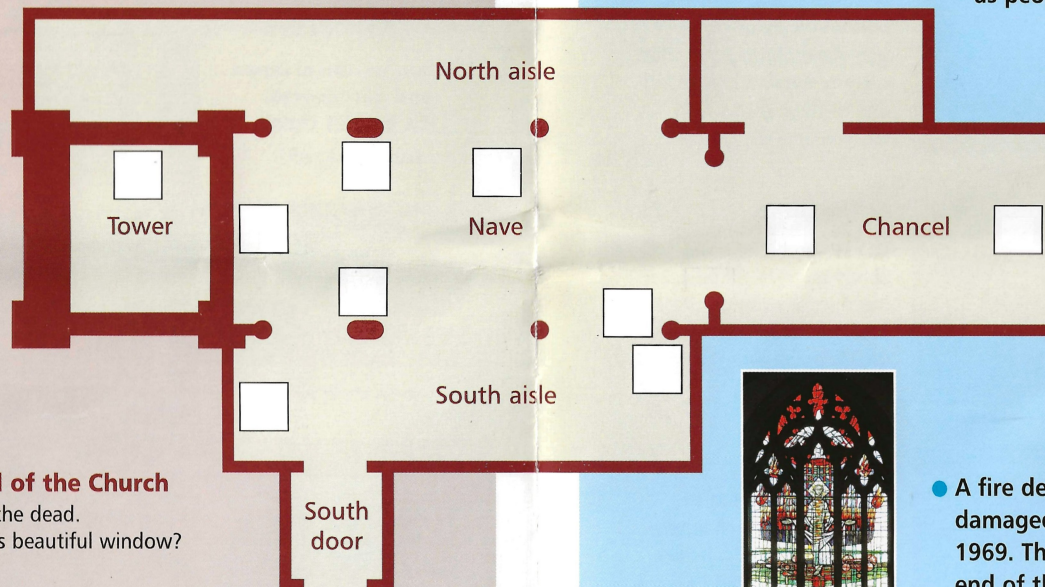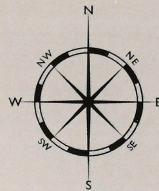Why are they there?

8: Lectern
What is a lectern?

9: The aumbry
Do you know what is behind the picture?

10: Gargoyle
What is a gargoyle? Can you find one?

Answers on the back page

Plan of the Church

Tower

North aisle

Nave

Chancel

South aisle
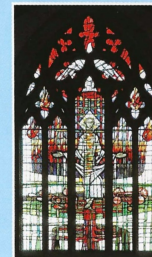
South door

Did you know that...

- In mediaeval times around 700 years ago, the inside of the Church would have been much more colourful. There are still some decorative paintings on the walls from this time.

- Weddings would often take place in the porch on a Sunday, as this was the only day people were not at work. There would be no honeymoon, as people had to get back to work again!

- The oldest part of the Church (the nave) was built around 1055 and so it is almost 1,000 years old!

- In the 13th century, the Church was extended to include the tower and the aisles. They used craftsmen who were also working on Lincoln Cathedral around the same time.
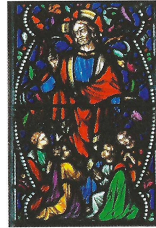
- A fire destroyed the organ and damaged parts of the Church in 1969. The big window at the east end of the Church was designed as a result.

- The woodland next to the Church (Vicar's Wood) was bought as a site for a new vicarage, but in 1969 the Vicar gave the land for a path from All Saints Lane to the High Street and it is used by children going to and from the Infants School.
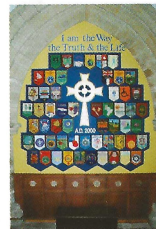
Answers to the Questions

1: A picture of Jesus blessing the children

It is in memory of a boy who was only 14 years old when he died. It reminds us that Jesus loves and accepts everyone.

2: The font

It is a bowl with water used for baptisms (christenings). It is near the entrance to the Church as baptism is seen as a person's entry into the Christian faith.

3: The Millennium Tapestry

It was made to mark the start of a new millennium (the year 2000) and there are 57 different local groups represented.

4: Mason's head

A mason is a worker who builds in brick or stone. Just like a photograph, this carving shows a likeness of one of the masons who worked on this Church.
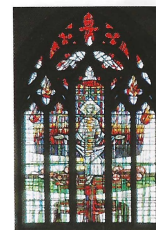
5: Wall paintings

Originally done in the late 13th century, they were hidden by whitewash for many years before being rediscovered. They are nearly 800 years old!

6: The altar

The stone is mediaeval - about seven hundred years old. People come to the altar to share bread and wine (Holy Communion) or to receive a blessing.

7: The big window at the end of the Church

This window was made after a fire in the Church in 1969. Fire and the dove are symbols of God's Holy Spirit.

8: Lectern

It is a book stand at the front of the Church where the Bible is kept. A reader stands here to read parts of the Bible to the rest of the congregation.

9: The aumbry

A secret cupboard hidden behind a picture where both the bread and wine for Holy Communion are kept. This reminds us that Jesus is always with us.

10: Gargoyle

You can see from the shape of its mouth that a gargoyle is a water spout. It used to be outside the Church, but now stands at the base of one of the pillars inside.