

St Paul's Church Heritage Trail

Start the trail inside the church

1 The Chancel – The East window 'trptych' was the first stained glass window to be installed in the church in 1880. It tells the story of Christ's burial and resurrection, beginning with Joseph of Arimathaea begging Pilate for Jesus' body. Tell the story in the correct order and find the twelve Apostles in smaller panels.

Also in the chancel are '**Faith**' and '**Charity**' windows by Leicester-born artist Theodora Salusbury, a craftsperson who designed, painted and cut them herself. They were installed in 1924. The older '**Hope**' window was re-installed in 2018 after many years in storage due to movement in the chancel walls. Look above the window to see how the arch has been repaired.



The inlaid floor tiles were made by W Whetstone of Coalville, the patterns echoing medieval designs - roundels, crosses and fleur-de-lis (a symbol of the Virgin Mary). Alterations to the floor, steps and ramp during the chancel repairs involved around 1500 tiles being rescued from under the carpet, cleaned, restored and re-laid and some new matching tiles laid. Can you spot them?

On the floor is the '**Chell Diamond**' a brass plaque showing where some of the Chell family were buried in the churchyard before the chancel was enlarged in 1871.

2. The South Transept – A brass plaque inscribed and dated 13th October 1880, shows that Sir William Henry Salt, (son of Titus, the visionary wool merchant who built the Saltaire 'model village' in Bradford) funded the building of the **South transept** and donated the **organ**



and the **lectern** you can see in the nave near the ramp. He owned Maplewell Estate from 1875-1892 and both he and his wife Emma are buried in the churchyard by the south transept walls. What kind of bird is at the top of the lectern?

3. St George's Chapel - Cross the nave to the chapel. You will find four stained glass windows dedicated by their friends to the **Herrick family of Beaumanor Hall**.

4. The Nave – On the walls of the nave are many **memorials** to those who have supported and worshipped at St Paul's. Find memorials made from different materials including brass, black marble, limestone and pink granite. Many commemorate prominent local families such as the Heygates, Martins and Salts and two vicars, Robert William Close and Arnold James Hiley.

A brass plaque celebrates the new **peal of six bells** installed in 1904 in memory of Queen Victoria.

Look above the entrance porch in the tower and you will see the **ringing room** with its bell ropes. The **bells** were cast at the John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough, and cost around £245, (including this inscription on the tenor bell), and £141 for fixtures and fittings.



As you walk down the nave look at the **stained glass** windows. You may find three windows made by the



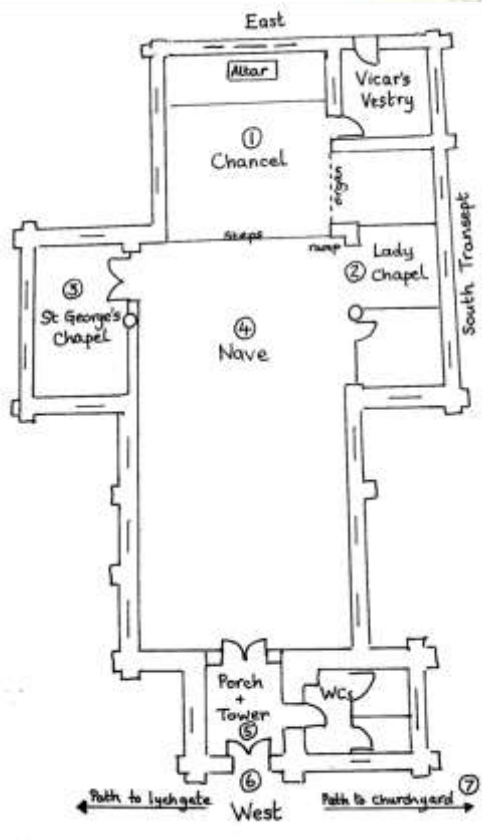
company CE Kempe & Co, 'Christ Child in the Temple', 'The Visitation' and 'Adoration of the Magi'. Find the small **golden wheat sheaf with a black tower** in the lower left corner of one of these, their maker's mark.

5. The Porch and Tower – When St Paul's was built in 1837, there was only one bell. Look to your right as you go through the doors into the porch. The live webcam screen shows one of the bells above you. The **tower** had to be raised and strengthened before the six bells weighing 1.8 tons were installed. Spot the difference between these two photographs to see how it was done!



In the **porch** you can see the **clock winding mechanism**. At first it had to be wound by hand by climbing up into the tower, (you can still see the steel ladder) but in 1998 this was changed to an electric system seen in the recently glass-fronted cupboards. The 'Westminster' chiming **clock** was made by John Smith and Sons of Derby (who still maintain it) and installed in 1904 along with the bells and cost £139 10s. If you stay here for a while you may hear the clock strike! Step outside the tower to see the clock face.





6. The church building – Look at the **door sill** under your feet. It's made from Swithland Slate, a very hard, durable, local rock. Handmade **roof slates** of the same stone were attached with wooden pegs or copper nails to form an overlapping pattern, the smallest tiles at the top, larger ones towards the bottom. The **church walls** are made of 'Forest Rock' from an adjacent quarry). **The architect, William Railton** insisted that the church



should be made from the best materials. Look closely at the many different colours of the rock and the shapes of the stones. The **window and door arches** are of sandstone which is more easily carved. Look for oak and ivy carved above one



'Stone Hole Quarry' reproduced by permission of British Geological Survey

window nearby. The **chancel repairs** of 2017 can be seen outside where cracks have been filled and large, circular, metal discs show where tie rods were fitted in the walls.

7. The churchyard – There are many interesting **gravestones** to be seen here. Explore the churchyard to find the **Salts graves** near the South transept and look for gravestones made from slate. They do not erode like softer stones and have no lichen or moss growing on them. This quiet sanctuary for the dead is also thriving with life. St Paul's churchyard is a haven for many species of **plants and animals** What can you see today?



Before the chancel repairs could begin, a bat survey showed that **pipistrelle bats** were roosting in the chancel roof. They can squeeze through tiny gaps under the tiles, emerging at dusk to feed on insects. The tiles had to be removed during the colder months when the bats were hibernating elsewhere and replaced exactly as before. Can you see any small gaps under the tiles where they could crawl in?



St Paul's **churchyard trees** include lime, oak, holly, privet, pine and yew. Traditionally a symbol of immortality,



resurrection and protection from evil, yews were commonly planted by the lych-gate, priests meeting the coffins by the yew tree.

The **yew avenue** at St Paul's protects visitors both literally and symbolically. Walk down through the lych gate, the village war memorial is on your left. Cross the road very carefully into the **churchyard extension** opened in 1910. The large '**Runic**' or '**Celtic**' cross opposite the gate commemorates this date. Can you follow the interlaced patterns? There are also 5 **Commonwealth War Graves**, 3 marked with Portland Stone, commemorating local soldiers who died in two World Wars. Other **headstones** mark the burials of local people. Enjoy the views, wildlife and tranquillity of this lovely acre as you wander through, and remember those who are buried here. We hope you have enjoyed your visit to St Paul's today and may your God go with you.



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