

Conversation pieces for a memory-friendly trail

INTRODUCTION

St James' church is a Grade II listed building and replaced a much smaller church. It is not known exactly how old the original church was, but it was believed to have been built sometime between 666 and 1175. Since its consecration in 1848 St James' has been enlarged twice.

The new church was one of the earliest works of John Loughborough Pearson, the architect of Truro Cathedral (1880) and also nearby St Peter's in Hersham (1887). It has a wonderful range of Victorian and Edwardian stained glass windows, and many of the major stained glass makers are represented, including a much prized window by Edward Burne-Jones and Morris & Co.

1 FIRST IMPRESSIONS

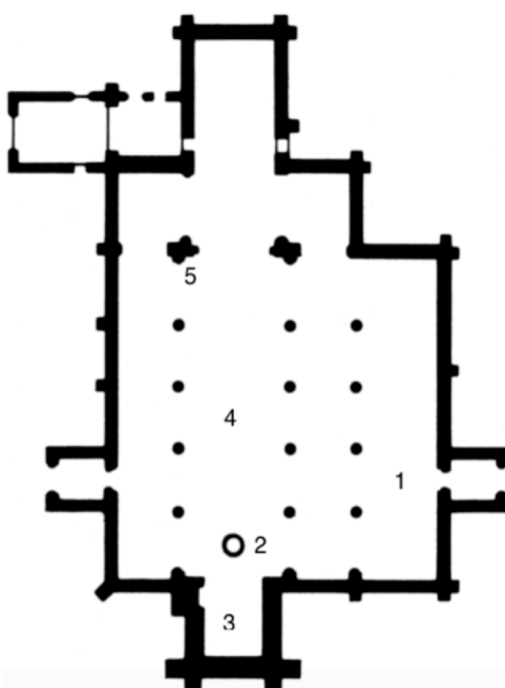
Stand here for a moment and take a deep breath through your nose. Hold it for a couple of seconds and then breath out. What do you notice?



Are there any smells or sensations that come to mind?

For example is it cold, damp, musty? Can you smell flowers?

EAST



2 FONT



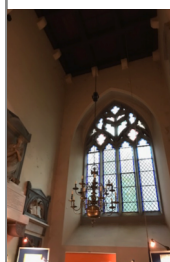
Spend a few minutes here and share what you notice.

For example what is it made of? Does it have carvings? Is it very old and worn?

Talk about what would happen here and any thoughts on who would do what.

Do you have memories of family Christenings?

3 BELL TOWER



What do you notice here – bell ropes? Look up. Do you have any stories about what happens when these are pulled?

Are there events in your life when you had bells rung for you? Take a look around the walls and talk about the things you can see.

WEST

5 PULPIT

Share your thoughts on who would use this and what they would do from here.



Touch the Pulpit. What is it made of and what does it feel like? Can you see carvings and what are they of?

Do you remember sitting and listening to very long talks from the person standing in a Pulpit?

4 NAVE



Let's walk down the Aisle and stop half way to look around.

First of all look up. What do you see in the roof?

Then take a look to your right and then your left and tell us what you see.

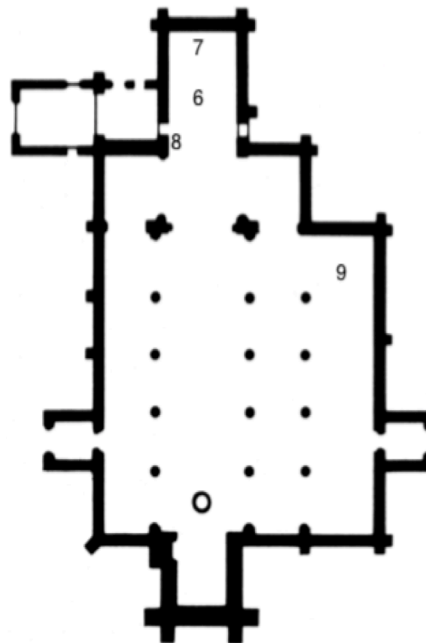
6 ALTAR



Looking around what catches your eye – for example the cloth on the Altar, Cross, candles? What happens here – for example Communion?

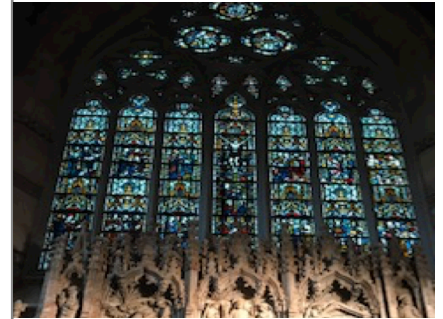
Who would lead this service? What would they be wearing and what would they be using – for example a Chalice?

EAST



7 EAST WINDOW

Look up at the window behind the Altar. What thoughts come to mind? What colours can you see? Do the figures remind you of a story? What sort of glass is this? Which is your favourite part of the window?

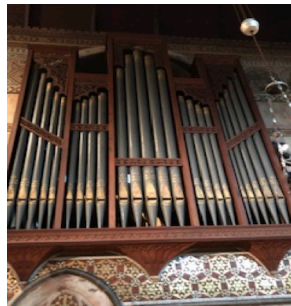


8 ORGAN

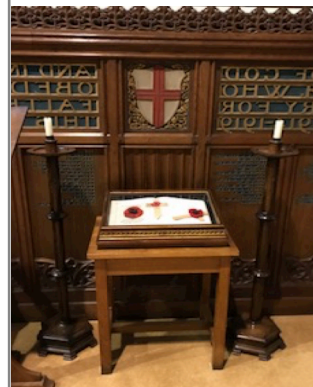
Have you ever played an organ or any other instrument?

Do you have any favourite pieces of music that you remember being played on an organ?

Were you ever in a church choir and do you remember any of the hymns that you sang?



9 ALL SOULS CHAPEL



Look around and up to the ceiling. Can you see a light burning?

The statues and windows depict soldier saints. Did you ever know a soldier?

Look at the book in the glass top cabinet and the poppies. Do you remember wearing a poppy and why.

10 DRAWING

Draw a picture of the best thing you have seen on your visit today