

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

St Margaret of Antioch

This impressive church reflects the importance and wealth of Cley in earlier times. Cley was a busy medieval port with its own weekly market and annual fair and had strong links with Hanseatic traders. The church we see today was largely rebuilt in the 14th Century. The roofless building at the eastern end of the church was planned to be a south chapel but never completed probably because of The Black Death.



1 SOUTH DOOR (outside)



Above the entrance to the church St Margaret is standing on a **dragon**. She was one of the most venerated saints during the Middle Ages and was said to have been martyred in AD 304. The apocryphal story goes that Satan, in the disguise of the dragon, swallowed Margaret but miraculously his stomach opened to release her unharmed. In one version of the story this was caused by the cross she was holding. Margaret is usually depicted escaping from or, as here, standing on a dragon. The door to the church is made of **wood** (oak)

2 FONT

The font has **eight** sides – it is an **octagon**. **Water** is put into the font for a Baptism. The font is used for Baptism or Christening. This stone Seven sacrament font dates from the mid 15th century. Starting from the blank (8th side) of the font, which may have had an image of the Crucifixion, and walking round to the left, the Seven sacraments are: Extreme 'unction/death (notice the priest above the dying person with assistants carrying a book (bible) and vase of holy oil; Marriage; Penance; Confirmation; Baptism (a similar font); Ordination (the person with shaved head being admitted into the priesthood); Mass or Holy Communion.

3 LEDGER SLABS

Robert Beales was buried here nearly 400 years ago in **1624**. The floor around the font is paved with squares or slabs of black Tournai marble, brought across the North Sea as ships' ballast. These slabs were used to mark the burial place of important people who died.

4 WEST WINDOW

The West Window was repaired in 2010 and the image of the bird included. One of the diagonals on the lower right-hand side has a picture of a rare American White Crowned Sparrow which appeared in a garden in Cley village in January 2008 and stayed for 10 weeks. It attracted thousands of bird watchers from all over the UK. Many people who saw the bird contributed to a collection which raised £6,378 and which the Church used to repair the window and include the bird.



5 ARCHES

The rounded arches are over **1000 years old** and took a long time to build. The shape is based on Roman arches and the design came from France with William the Conqueror when he conquered Britain in 1066.

6 BENCHES

The congregation sits in the 15th Century pews during church services. The benches here are known as Poppy Head Pews because their tops at one end are carved into various faces and images. The name is derived from the French word Poupee meaning 'a figurehead' like a 'doll'.



7 CORBEL

Here there are **5** large figures. The lion has a **bone** in its mouth. The others are a strolling player with pipe and tabor; a viol player; St George and the Dragon; an imp with glass eyes.

Corbels, at the top of the pillars, support the roof structure and are sometimes carved. Originally, they would have been brightly painted and you may still see traces of the original colours.



8 ORGAN

The bigger the pipe the deeper the sound so the **longest** pipes make the lowest sound.

The organ works by blowing air through the flue pipes and the musical sound is made by the vibration of the air as it passes over the small rectangular hole at the bottom of the pipe.

9 PULPIT

The pulpit is higher than the pews so that **the congregation can see and hear the preacher.**

The vicar stands in the pulpit when giving the Sermon which explains a reading from the Bible. This is an important part of the church service.

10 ALTAR



The tapestry kneelers in front of the altar show five **Fishermen**, reflecting the history of Cley. The kneelers in front of the altar rail, used during Holy Communion, show **6** local birds 2 **geese**, 2 **waders**, 1 **gull** and 1 **lapwing**. The Altar is the most holy place in the church. It is where the Holy Sacraments, the bread and wine, are consecrated at Holy Communion/Mass. The High Altar is placed at the East End of the Church in the Chancel.

11 EAST END OF NORTH AISLE

The local landmark below St Michael is **Cley Windmill**. The windmill at Cley stands alongside the old town quay. It was built in the early 1800's with 5 storeys and 4 sails for grinding corn. The corn could be brought into the busy port by boat. As the sails turned, they caused a cast iron windshaft to rotate and this turned up to 3 very heavy millstones which ground the corn to flour.

The two stained glass windows with the four saints are memorials to the men who were killed in World War 1, 1914- 1918 (also known as the Great War) and World War 2, 1939 -1945. Descriptions of the windows are in the frames but that for WW1 is in a difficult position for children to be able to read. As well as St Michael there are three other saints: **St George**, **St Francis** and **St Hubert**. In the WW2 window we have St Hubert - patron saint of hunters-and St Francis - patron saint of animals. Point out the various birds that can be seen in the window and if you are able to visit the local Cley bird reserve you may spot some of them. You can see St Michael and St George depicted in the World War 1 memorial window. They represent the soldiers and their bravery. St. Michael is the patron saint of soldiers and artists. St George, who is reputed to have saved a princess from a dragon(!) is the patron saint of England. St George's Day is 23rd April and England's St George's flag has a red cross on a white background. Note the shield in the window.

12 WAR MEMORIAL

The war remembered is **World War 2**. There are **10** soldiers' names on the village memorial list. War memorials remember the people who took part or were killed in wars.

13 NORTH WALL

The unusual silver cross is known as a Russian Crucifix. It is called a crucifix because it shows Christ's body on the cross. Discuss the shape and style before drawing.

The cross has three horizontal cross bars and the lower one is slanted.

See further the information in the frame.



14 RECTORS

The first rector served in the church in **1319**. **Hubert de Stanham** is the first to be recorded here. Cley church has had a rector for more than 900 years. In medieval times the rector was responsible for maintaining the chancel, repairing or even rebuilding it when necessary. The patrons and church wardens were responsible for the upkeep of the rest of the church and the bell tower. The shields of patrons can be seen round the porch entrance.

WELL DONE! You have finished The Arts Society Trail of Discovery. Have you enjoyed the Trail? Tell us what you think at The Arts Society Glaven Valley.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit today and will want to bring your family and friends to St Margaret of Antioch