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# St Mary's Church

LYDIARD TREGOZE

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## Sacred Space, Historic Place

Suitable for upper KS2 & lower KS3



Explore St Mary's and  
discover what makes it special

Christians have been worshipping here for over 1000 years.  
This Medieval church is 800 years old.

- 1 When you enter the church, you are entering from the west side.

## Activity

Here is a plan of the church. Find the door where you came in and label it **WEST**. Now add **NORTH, SOUTH, EAST**.

As you go round, mark on this same map each of the key features which are marked in bold type.

We have done the first one for you...

## Did you know?

Most churches are set out in the same direction with the holiest part of the building, the altar, at the east end.



**2** When people are welcomed into the family of God they are baptised in holy water from the font.

## Activity

Count the number of sides the font has.

Fonts are usually eight-sided, an octagon. That is 'half way' between a square (earth) and a circle (heaven).

Draw a square here...

...and a circle

...now an octagon

## Did you know?

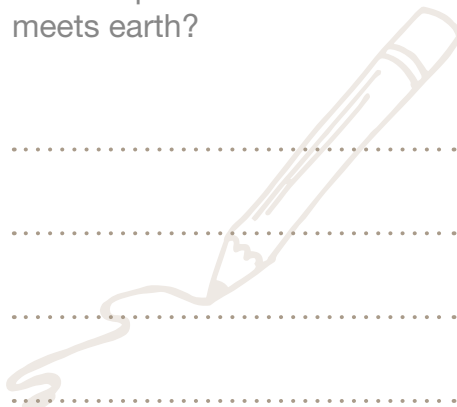
The font is usually at the west end of the church by the door as it is the first step on the Christian journey through life.

## Think & discuss...

Baptisms are often public events not private, why might this be so?

## Write...

Why might people say that the font is a place where heaven meets earth?



3 The **aisle** leads up the centre of the **nave** which is the main body of the church. Imagine walking down as people do when they get married here.

## Activity

Apart from marriages, many other special things also happen in this church. Join them up.

Remembering people who have died	to talk to God
Sharing bread and wine	in funerals
Singing hymns	through baptism
Saying prayers	to praise and worship God
Hearing readings	with other Christians
Meeting and enjoying time	to remember Jesus
Celebrating new life	from the Bible

## Did you know?

**Nave** comes from the word 'navis', the Latin for ship. Some say the roof looks like an upturned boat.

## Think & discuss...

Most of these things can be done in other buildings so why do people feel it is important to do these things in a church?

4 The **lectern** is the stand from where someone reads the Bible and is shaped as an eagle.

## Activity

There are many different views about why this is an eagle. Tick which you think is the best reason.



- The eagle is the symbol of John who wrote one of the most famous books of the Bible and described best the God-like nature of Jesus.
- The eagle can fly God's messages in the Bible to all corners of the earth.
- The eagle can fly the highest of all birds, and so get the closest to heaven.
- Eagles, as believed by ancient people, could look directly at the sun without flinching, so Christians should face the Word of God and not flinch.

## Did you know?

During a service the priest or minister may go up in the **pulpit** to give their sermon (a special talk) which is why it is at the front and high up, so everyone can see and hear.

## Write...

Why do Christians see the Bible as so important?



- 5 To the right of the Golden Cavalier monument find the 600 year old window of St Mary. She is the mother of Jesus and the person to whom this church is dedicated.

## Activity

Draw her crown below with its beautiful detailing.



### Did you know?

Mary is sometimes called the Queen of Heaven.

### Think & discuss...

Why do you think people might choose to create such pieces of art (beyond being paid for it!)?

- 6 Kneel at the **altar rail**. This is the rail that separates the main body of the church from the special area known as the **chancel** where the **altar** is.

Look at the writing on the panel to the right behind the altar, the Lord's Prayer.

### Write...

... what do you think is the most important line in the Lord's Prayer?



### Did you know?

The altar is the table where Holy Communion is celebrated as a re-enactment of Jesus's Last Supper. Christians remember Jesus and think of God's love and forgiveness by eating bread and drinking wine together.

### Think & discuss...

Why are these words so important to Christians?

7 Throughout the church there are many different examples of crosses.

## Activity

Look at the cross that is on the kneelers at the altar rail. Draw this cross below and in each arm write a word that the cross represents.



## Write...

Why is the cross at the centre of the Christian faith? How is it linked to salvation?



## Think & discuss...

Why have prayers traditionally been offered on one's knees?



8 See all the different colours and pictures in the **stained** and **painted glass**. Look at the window at the west end of the church which shows Jesus being taken up into heaven.

## Activity

Lots of skilful people helped to make these windows and make this building special for use as a church. What materials do they use?



Glaziers use **g** \_\_\_\_\_

Stonemasons use **s** \_\_\_\_\_

Blacksmiths use **i** \_\_\_\_\_

Carpenters use **w** \_\_\_\_\_

## Did you know?

In olden times when people couldn't necessarily read, these windows showed pictures to remind people of Bible stories and of saints.

## Think & discuss...

What does the art here tell you about what Christians think God is like?

9 At the back of the church is the **organ** which you would hear played if you came to one of the services which happen every week here. Singing hymns together is an important part of Christian worship.

## Activity

What makes churches sacred spaces and therefore different from other large buildings?

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

## Write...

What might Christians gain from coming here regularly as a member?



## Did you know?

Church organists use both hands to play the notes and both their feet too on a special keyboard on the floor!

10 The church is always here through happy times and through sad. Many people visit churches to remember people they have loved who have died.

Go and have a look at the book of remembrance and read some of the names. What do you notice?

## Did you know?

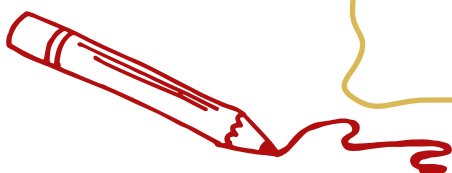
The book at the back of the church records those who lived near here who died in the First World War.

## Think...

About someone you want to remember

Have you added all the features that you can to your map on page 1?

Draw some details that have caught your eye today or write down your impression of this place.



Write down three things you have learnt...

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....



Write down three questions you have...

Question 1

.....  
.....

Question 2

.....  
.....

Question 3

.....  
.....



Do come back one day,  
bring your families.

You are all welcome to  
share in this sacred and  
historic space.

For further schools trails leaflets, and to make any  
school appointments you can contact us here:

volunteers@stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk  
or [www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk/contact](http://www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk/contact)