

Conversation pieces for a memory-friendly trail

INTRODUCTION

St George's Church was consecrated in 1731.

It is a masterpiece of Late Baroque architecture. And one of the finest 18th Century churches in England.

The spire is unusual, being a stepped pyramid shape topped by a statue of George I and supported by two lions and two unicorns,

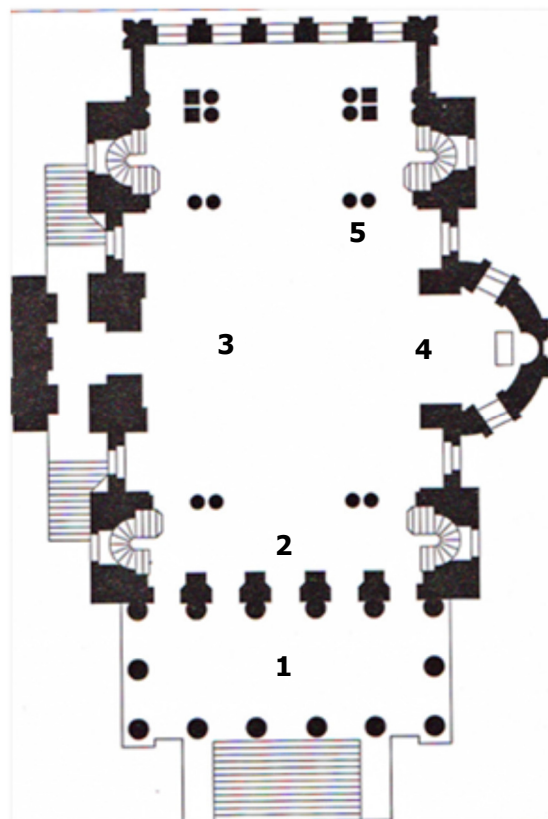


1 FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Stand here for a moment and look across the church. 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?

Look at the magnificent chandelier - have you been anywhere that had one so large; a stately home, perhaps?



2 FONT



Spend a few minutes here and share what you notice. For example, what is it made of, what does it feel like?

Talk about what would happen here and any thoughts on who would do what. Do you have memories of family christenings?

3 NAVE



Let's walk across the church and stop in the middle to have a look around. What do you notice most - the windows, perhaps, or the columns, the stone carvings and the plasterwork? Tell us what you can see from here.

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?

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



4 ALTAR

Look at this ornate altar, what catches your eye. Maybe the embroidered altar cloth. Have you ever done embroidery or crochet?

What happens here at the altar? For example, communion, wedding ceremonies. Do you have memories of these?

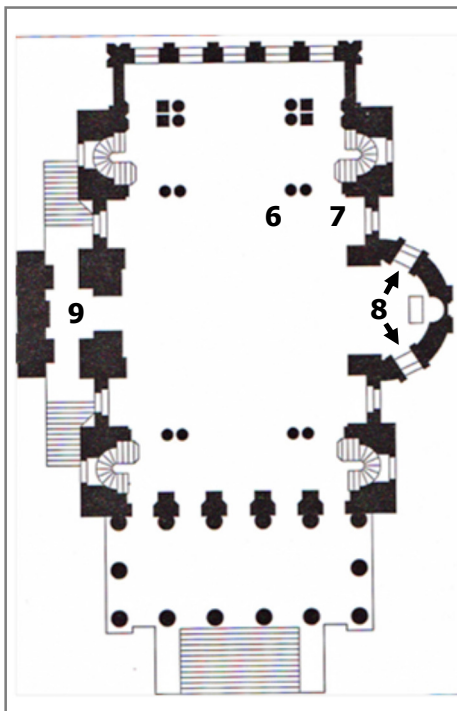


6 ICON

What looks strange about this picture? Maybe the modern-day setting for the religious figure. St George is riding a black horse — do you have memories of horse riding or perhaps going to the races?



The road is marked with a bus stop. Do you remember going on a bus or coach journey? Where did you go?



7 PIANO

Under this dustsheet in front of the window is a piano. Have you ever played the piano or any other musical instrument?



Do you have any favourite pieces of music that you remember being played on a piano?

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

8 WINDOWS



Look at the windows on this east side of the church. What thoughts come to mind?

Do any of the figures remind you of a story?

What sort of glass is this?

What is your favourite colour?

9 BELL ROPE

This church has a single bell but some churches have many. Have you ever rung bells using a rope like this?

Have you had bells rung for you? If so, when did this happen?

Do you have memories of hearing bells ring in a special place or on a special occasion?



10 DRAWING

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