



Welcome to St Leonard's Church: The present church was probably rebuilt in 1485, although there is evidence of a 12th century voussoir (wedge shaped arch stone with chevron ornament), which can be seen externally near a window on the north aisle. The tower was built in 1633, the chancel arch in about 1480 and the pulpit in 1736.

1 CLOCK

The two events celebrated are **the Diamond Jubilees of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II.** Diamond Jubilees mark sixty years. In these cases, sixty years from when each became queen. The clock was made in 1704 by John Watts, who lived in Stamford. It is a very early example of a pendulum clock.

2 PORCH

The wire mesh is **to keep out the birds.** If they are not kept out, they could be shut in the church when it is locked up at night. You might have noticed an outer set of porch gates. Traditionally churchyards were grazed by sheep and these outer gates might well have been put there to keep the sheep out of the church!

3 FONT

It is used to contain water for **baptism** (or Christenings). There are **22** carved flowers around the top of the font. Fonts are usually made of stone with a lead lining. Baptism is when the priest marks the candidate, who is often a baby, with a sign of the cross on the forehead in order to welcome them into the worldwide Christian family. Traditionally the font was placed near to the church door to symbolise the beginning of the Christian life. This one is made of stone alabaster with a marble bowl. It dates from the early 18th century.

4 SAINT LEONARD

These representations of St Leonard have **chains** or **shackles** around their wrists. No one knows what the saints looked like so to help people who could not read to recognise them, artists would show something that was associated with the story of the saint in question. St Leonard is always shown with chains as he worked to free prisoners. There were two St Leonards and each window depicts one. Leonard of Limoges was a French nobleman who became a monk. The other Leonard was an English crusader who was held captive by the Saracens for seven years. The windows were given by the Brassey family, who live in the Manor House, in memory of Harold and Gerard Brassey who were killed in the First World War.

5 MONUMENT

Sir Anthony Mildmay, together with **his wife Lady Grace** are buried in the tomb. This exceptionally important monument was built by Sir Francis Fane, who lived in Apethorpe Hall. It houses the tomb of his parents in law and the money to build it - £1000 (a fortune in 1617) – was left by Sir Anthony Mildmay for the purpose. In each corner is a standing female figure representing Piety, Charity, Wisdom and Justice, the four virtues. Nearby is the tomb of Sir Richard Dalton and a memorial to a child.

6 ANIMALS WINDOW

The elephant is **on the left panel of the window** behind the Mildmay tomb. There are lots of other animals including **a tiger, a deer and a crab.** This remarkable window is dated 1621. The four panels represent the Garden of Eden, Christ on the Cross, the Ascension of Christ and Christ in Heaven. Looking at the animals one can see that they were figments of the artist's imagination. The elephant and the tiger have human ears!



7 LOOK UP!

They are **helmets** from a suit of armour. Open-visored or barred helmets are typically reserved for the highest ranks of nobility. In the south aisle you can see a framed tabard, which is worn over armour. This may well have been used in the funeral procession of Sir Francis Fane in 1629.

8 ALTAR

Behind the altar stand **a cross** and **two candlesticks**. The altar is where the main Christian act of the Eucharist (Holy Communion or Mass) is performed. It is also called "The Lord's Table", "The Holy Table" or "The Communion Table".

9 EAST WINDOW

This window shows **Jesus and his friends**. They are **eating a meal** together the night before Jesus died. We call this The Last Supper. One of his friends, Judas, betrays him and is paid for doing so. You can see him carrying his bag of money. This is a painted glass window by John Rowell and it is dated 1732. Unfortunately, the art of 'fixing' the colour had not been mastered then and the window faded. In 1994 it was taken out and restored at a huge cost. It is a very rare example of painted glass from this period.

10 BISHOP'S SEAT

The Bishop would rest his hands on **rams'** heads. They have beautiful curly horns. They were carved by Glyn Mould of Sacrewell. Notice the oak leaves at the top of the armrests and the two heads at the top of the uprights.



11 PULPIT

There are **three** steps up to the pulpit, sometimes thought to represent The Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit or Ghost). It is up high **to help people hear the preacher**. The preacher uses it to give a sermon or talk, which is an important part of a service.



12 HASSOCKS

Hassocks, which are kneelers, should not be confused with cassocks, which are garments sometimes worn by clergy and choir members. Neither should they be confused with haddock which is a fish.



13 CHURCH

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are 3 events that bring people to this church.

14 VISITORS' BOOK

Did you find **Charles** and **Camilla**? His Majesty King Charles III and the Queen Consort paid a visit to the church when they came to Apethorpe to look at Apethorpe Hall. They signed their names in the Visitors' Book. This is actually a photocopy as the original is kept safe elsewhere!

ENDPIECE

We hope you have enjoyed helping the children with this Trail. Perhaps you can use this time to congratulate the children on completing The Arts Society Trail and discuss with them what they have discovered about St Leonard's Church, Apethorpe.