

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

There has been a church on the site since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The present church originated about 1430 as a timber-framed building with a sandstone tower. The nave and chancel were encased in brick in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Shortly afterwards the gallery was installed as a gift from Thomas Hall. Renovations have taken place in 1839, 1931 and 1950.

## 1 Font



**Water** is put in the font for baptising people. The font has **8 sides** (an octagon) and was presented to the church by **William Joseph Stanier** in memory of his mother.

People can be baptised when they are older, they don't have to be babies. The vicar uses the water in the font to baptise because St John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the river Jordan. Eight sided fonts refer to the eighth day, the first day of resurrection.

## 2 Picton Memorial Window

The wording is "Suffer the **little children** to come unto me", which is a quote by Jesus from the Bible, Matthew 19-14. The window was given by the people of Holmes Chapel in memory of **Dr Lionel Picton**, who was the doctor in Holmes Chapel from 1903 to 1948. Picton Square in Holmes Chapel is named after Dr Picton.



## 3 Pulpit



There are **4 steps** up to the pulpit. It is high up so that **the speaker can be seen and heard easily**.

The first pulpit was installed in 1723 but was replaced with the present Victorian oak pulpit in 1853. The pulpit has occupied several different positions in the church over the years but was moved to its present position in 1971.

## 4 Altar

The altar cloth (frontal) is a different colour at different times of the year:

- 1) **Purple** – at Advent (4 weeks before Christmas) and Lent (40 days before Easter).
- 2) **White** – for festivals associated with Jesus, e.g. Christmas and Easter.
- 3) **Red** – is for Palm Sunday, Pentecost (also Saints' Days, if martyred).
- 4) **Green** – at all other times, known as ordinary times.



The altar represents the Last Supper.

## 5 East Window



The Archangel Michael is wearing **armour**, a **helmet** and a **cloak**. You can tell he is an angel because **he has wings**. The animal he is resting his sword on is a **snake**.

In the Book of Revelation in the Holy Bible, there was a war in heaven; the Archangel Michael leads God's armies in a battle against Satan the devil and defeats him. The snake represents Satan (sometimes Satan is shown as a dragon).

The window was erected in memory of the men from the Holmes Chapel area who lost their lives in the First World War 1914-1918 and the wooden plaque on the right-hand side of the window lists the names of the men who died in the war.

## 6 Lady Chapel Window

**Three** angels are shown in the window. **Adam and Eve** are shown in the roundel held by the angel on the right-hand side. The central angel and the one on the left-hand side hold roundels showing scenes from the first creation myth (parable) in Genesis (Gen 1 – 2:4a). The angel on the right-hand side holds a roundel showing Adam and Eve outside the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:23-4).



## 7 Gallery

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Children must always be accompanied by an adult.**



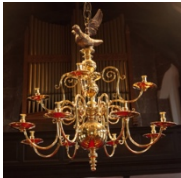
The letters in the gallery monogram are **T HALL**. The Gallery was the gift of Thomas Hall, a local iron master. His monogram is carved on several panels.

## 8 Roof of the Nave

The medieval roof is made of **wood (oak)**. It is an example of **scalloped** work and was originally made in 1425. In 1702 a lower plaster ceiling was made to retain warmth in the unheated church. This plaster ceiling hid the beams completely, and it wasn't until 1935 that the plaster was removed when the beautiful oak beams could be seen again.



## 9 Chandelier



There are **twelve** candle holders on the chandelier and there is a **bird (dove)** on top. The bird is made of wood and can represent **peace**. Noah released a dove from the ark to find land; the dove brought back an olive branch.

The brass chandelier was given to the church in 1708 by Thomas Hall, who was an iron master. It was made by Cheshire craftsmen.

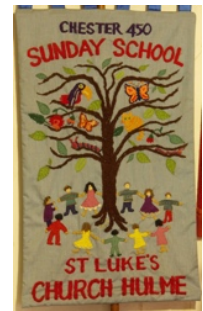
## 10 Sunday School Banner



There are **between 25 and 30** animals on the Sunday School banner (see left). The caterpillar and butterfly are there to show how life changes and blossoms with the love of God. The banner was embroidered in the late 1970s by Joan Oarton. She was a member of the congregation.

There is another Sunday School banner which you will find in the Lady Chapel, and this was embroidered by Trisha Litchfield (see right). Each parish church was asked to make a banner to take to Chester to celebrate 450 years of the Diocese of Chester. Trisha used fabrics provided by some of the children in Sunday School at the time to dress

the children dancing around the base of the tree. The banner was used for a number of years at the Rose Queen fetes held at the Hermitage and later at the Hermitage School in Holmes Chapel.



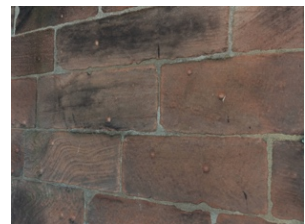
## 11 Porch



The vicar used to put his horse's saddle **on the peg** high up on the right-hand wall as you stand facing the outer door of the Church. Before cars were invented, people either **walked** to church or came on **horseback**.

## 12 Musket-ball Indentations

The indentations that can be seen on the North wall of the sandstone tower are believed to be impact scars from musket-balls fired in December 1643 during the English Civil War, when a Parliamentary force marched to relieve Nantwich which was then besieged by Royalists. A musket is a type of gun used at this time.



### **Additional task if you finish early**

In the space below, write down who you would dedicate a memorial window to, and why? Design a window and draw it below.