

Conversation Starters for a memory-friendly trail

The Parish Church of St Mary & St Nicholas, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8BD



Everyone is welcome here, for worship, community events or the exploration of this Grade II* listed building. Parts are 1,000 years old.

Architectural changes over the centuries, stained-glass windows, monuments and a collection of treasured artefacts, all bear witness to the people, who have left their mark on this church, the town of Leatherhead and beyond.

Before entering the church you may wish to look at the tower with the clock. When ready please enter the church via the North Porch.

The trail follows the coloured arrows on the plan: 

➤ FIRST IMPRESSIONS



Take a moment to look at the porch wooden door.

- **What do you notice about it?**
- **Is it smooth or rough?**

Run your hands over the decorative iron hinge and describe what it feels like.

- **Is it warm or cold?**

➤ THE TOWER

The tower was added to the church around 1480. In the past it has been used as a school room and even a place to house the town fire engine!

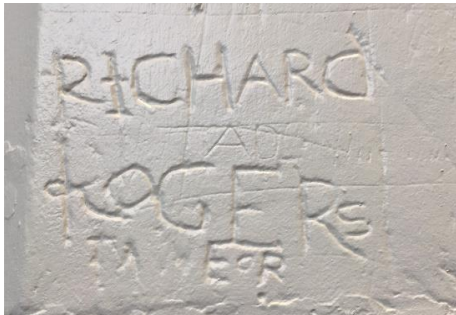
- **What do you notice here?**
- **Can you see the balcony with the British Legion flags?**
- **Have you ever been anywhere and seen flags?**

Take a look around the walls and talk about the other things you can see.



- **Can you see where people have written their names?**
- **Can you hear the clock ticking?**

If we listen very carefully, we might hear the clock strike the time.



► THE NAVE

Following re-ordering of the church in 2020, there are no longer Victorian pews in the nave. The church feels more spacious, as it would have been in the Medieval period.

Let's walk to the middle of the church. First of all, take a look to your right and then your left. Look at the pillars and say what you see.

- **Look up, what do you see in the roof?**

For example, wooden rafters, lights and the large golden cross.

- **Would you like to clap your hands and hear how it sounds?**



Now walk towards the front of the Church. Look up at the Arch.

- **Can you see the little shell on the corner?**
- **Do you have any memories of places with shells?**

If you are able touch the floor.

- **Is it warm or cold?**



➤ STAINED GLASS WINDOW

The colourful stained glass windows around this church create a beautiful atmosphere of light. Most of the windows show stories from the Bible.

Look up at the window.

- **What thoughts come to mind?**
- **What colours can you see?**
- **Do the figures remind you of a story?**
- **Which is your favourite part of this window?**



➤ THE FONT

The 15th century octagonal font is made of Reigate stone. The lid is Victorian and made of oak with iron decoration.

Spend a few minutes here and share what you notice.

- **What is it made of?**
- **Does it have carvings?**
- **Is it very worn and old?**

Feel the iron decoration on the wooden lid. The pattern is similar to the hinges on the porch door.

Talk about what would happen here and any thoughts on who would do what.

- **Do you have any memories of family Christenings?**

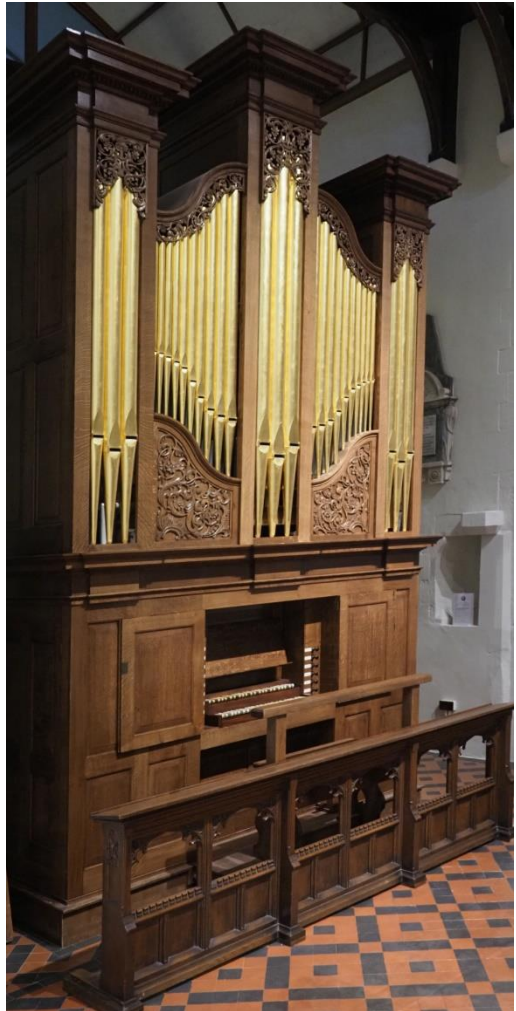
► THE ORGAN

There are two organs in this church. The digital Allen organ, and a much grander chamber organ in the Choir.

Walk up the ramp into the Choir Stalls. Sit down if you want to rest.

- **Have you ever played an organ or any other musical instrument?**
- **Do you have any favourite pieces of music that you remember?**
- **Were you ever in a choir?**
- **Do you remember any of the songs or hymns that you sang?**

A downloadable sample of organ music is available on the church web site.



► THE HIGH ALTAR & REREDOS

Behind the High Altar stands a highly decorated Victorian reredos made of stone and marble. It illustrates the Last Supper and features four angels.



- **Looking around what catches your eye?**
For example, a cloth or Cross on the Altar, or perhaps candles?
- **What happens here?**
For example, the Priest says prayers, celebrates communion.
- **What would the Priest be wearing and what would they be using?**
For example, a prayer or service book.



➤ CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE

This side chapel offers a place for reflection about things experienced during a visit to this church, or people, whom visitors might wish to remember.



- **Would you like to sit for a while and look around you?**
- **Do the angels remind you of a special time?**

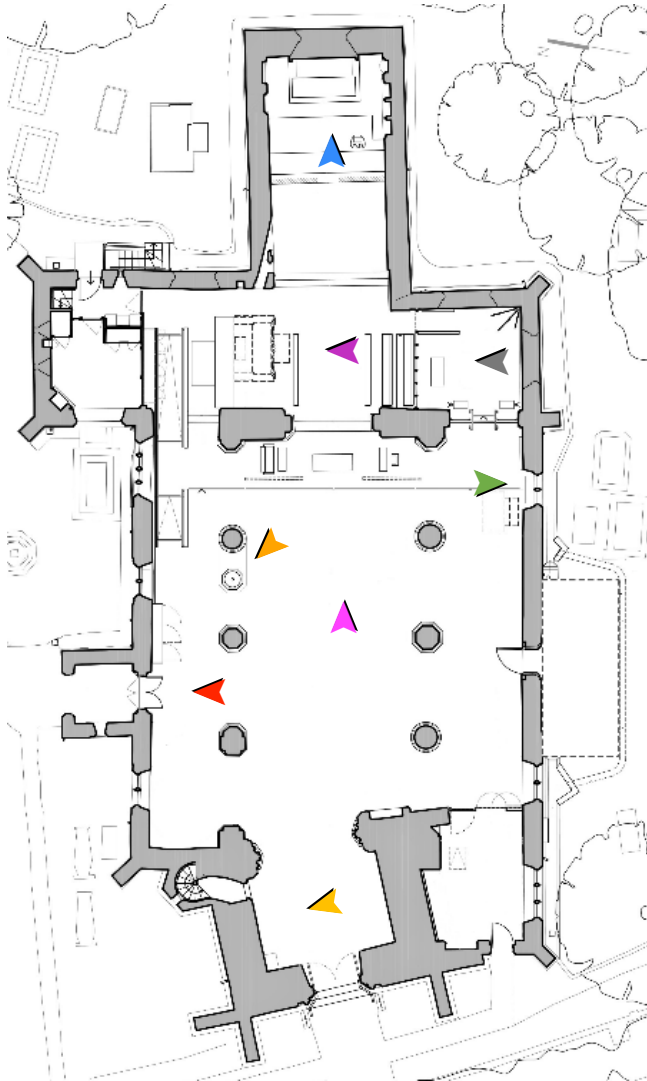
Look at the circle of candles. Take a deep breath through your nose. Hold it for a couple of seconds and then breath out.

- **What do you notice?**
- **Are there any smells or sensations that come to mind?**
- **What is your favourite thing you've seen today?**

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. Please sign the visitor book with any comments you would like to share.

PLAN OF LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH

The introduction to each section of this memory trail provides context. Questions are designed to encourage tactile and sensory activity.



Find out more about The Arts Society or Leatherhead Parish Church by visiting:
www.theartsocietyleatherhead.org.uk | www.leatherheadparish.com



Trail created by The Arts Society Leatherhead – September 2020