



Algernon Charles Swinburne

Swinburne grew up at East Dene, a large stone mansion in the village of Bonchurch, which his father bought as a holiday home in 1841. At the age of five, he was baptised in the old church in 1843.

Swinburne was a poet and novelist and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature each year from 1903 – 1909 (with the exception of 1908). Despite dying in Putney in 1909, Swinburne was later buried in Bonchurch (according to his will) where his grave can be found. He was very small in stature, little more than 5ft. He was an excellent swimmer and was reported to be the first person ever to climb Culver Cliff, on the Isle of Wight.



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Look at the following poem:

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A Baby's Feet by Algernon Charles Swinburne

A baby's feet, like sea shells pink,
Might tempt, should heaven see meet
An angel's lips to kiss, we think,
A baby's feet.

Like rose-hued sea flowers toward the heat
They stretch and spread and wink
Their ten soft buds that part and meet.

No flower bells that expand and shrink
Gleam half so heavenly sweet,
As shine on life's untrodden brink
A baby's feet.

2. Why do you think that he has made the reference to angels kissing a baby's feet?
3. What movement of a baby's feet do you think that 'wink' refers to?

4. What rhyme scheme is used in the poem?

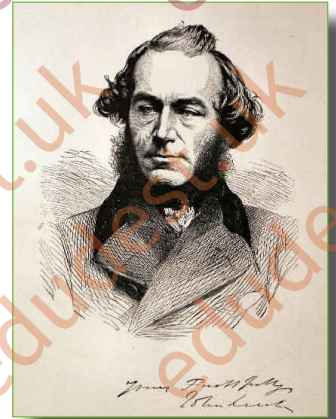


Charles Dickens & John Leech



One of the most famous visitors to Bonchurch was Charles Dickens, who stayed at Winterbourne House during the summer months of 1849, where he wrote chapters twelve to eighteen of *David Copperfield*.

One of his friends, John Leech (an illustrator, right), socialised with Dickens in Bonchurch; these two men were great friends and Leech illustrated some of the scenes in Dickens' novels (more notably *A Christmas Carol*). Examples of Leech's illustrations can be seen below and on page 3.

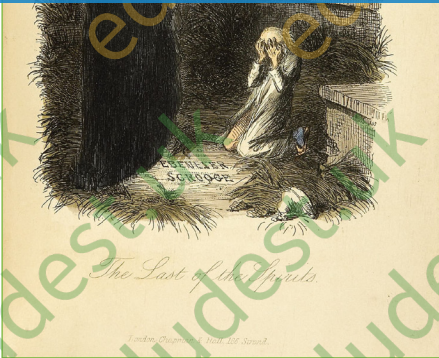


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ART ACTIVITY

Victorians would have sketched many things around them as they did not have photography like we do today.

- ▶ Look at how John Leech uses lines to create his images.
- ▶ Whilst in Bonchurch, sit down somewhere and have a go at re-creating his images before drawing some of the people/scenes around you in his style.



- ▶ You could draw one of your class mates or some of the

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characters in the style of John Leech.

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- ✓ Compare these to the drawings created by your class mates and discuss why you may see these characters differently.

HISTORY & ART ACTIVITIES

Bonchurch is steeped in history and is believed to be one of the oldest settlements on the Isle of Wight.

Old St Boniface Church has a nave and chancel which dates back to the eleventh century and has been a popular place for tourists to visit on their travels.

Sketching Bonchurch!

- ▶ Sketch both churches on your walk around Bonchurch.
- ▶ Upon your return to school, you could reproduce one of the images using different media. It may, therefore, be wise to photograph the outside of the buildings.
- ▶ You could also sketch any images which you find interesting inside the church or church grounds (such as stained glass windows, different grave stones etc.)



R.E. Activity

Can you spot the features of the churches?

Both churches in Bonchurch have interesting features.

Visit Old St Boniface Church, and tick when you spot the following:



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Piscina

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Wall painting of Last

local design

Supper



Double headed window



Sunday School seat



Tomb for a married couple



HISTORY ACTIVITY: LOCAL MYTHS & LEGENDS

Read through these Bonchurch myths and legends, and then have a go at writing your own below!

St Boniface Down

From the old Ventnor Station, the spring was three quarters of the way to the top of St Boniface Down. It was the most revered of the three springs on the Island. On the Saint's Day in June, young people from Bonchurch would climb to the spring and decorate it with flowers. It was believed that if they climbed without stopping or looking back their one wish would be granted. In more recent times land movement has caused the spring to dry up and it is now only a damp patch on the hillside.



Hobby Hobson (Hopsonn): Orphan of Bonchurch

After 1650, 'Hobby', an orphan of Bonchurch, was apprenticed to a tailor in the village of Niton. One day a squadron of the Royal Navy was passing and the villagers ran down to the beach to watch the spectacle. Hobby's enthusiasm took him to row out and offer himself as a volunteer

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Hobby's successes in the Navy continued and he was knighted by Queen Anne in 1702. When off duty he returned to his village with some of his fellow officers and asked the tailor to accommodate them. The tailor's wife provided what food and wine she could and was over-whelmed with joy when she found out who the great man was.

MY MYTH / LEGEND



