



Godshill Church has many interesting historical features

How many can you find, inside & out?

STUDENT TASK 1

- ▶ You have seen
- ▶ In the box on e

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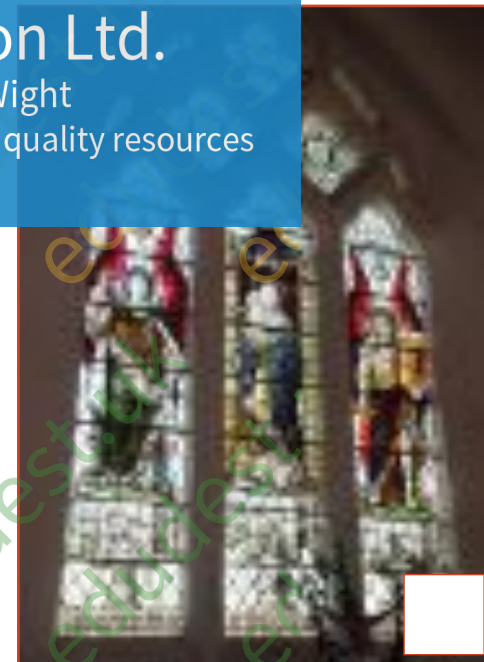
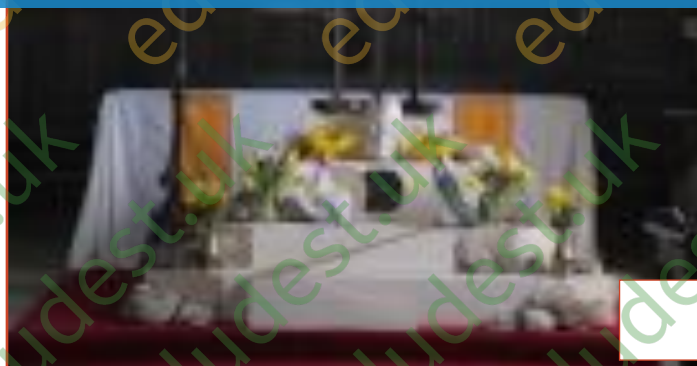
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Things to find inside Godshill Church

1. Organ

- Often these would be the only way of playing music in the village.
- Until 1900 when people were able to record music, almost the only way they would ever hear music was in church.

2. Effigies

- These are life size statues of the humans buried below.
- This one is of Sir John Leigh who died

3. Font

- Made of stone and has water that has been blessed by the priest.
- Not long after a baby has been born, a mother brings the child to the church to be made a member by being baptised which involved having water poured over their head three times.

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4. Mural

- Painting on a wall.
- People painted over these in the Sixteenth Century so they are very rare.
- The one at Godshill is even more special because it shows Jesus on a cross made of lilies.

5. Stained glass window

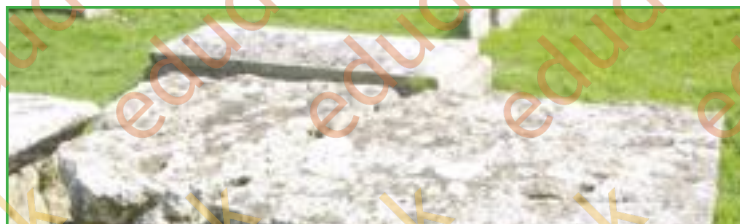
- Until 1900 very few people could read so pictures were used to tell the stories of the Bible.
- With light coming from outside they would have been one of the few colourful things people ever saw.

6. Altar

- The most sacred part of the church and usually at the east end.
- It is usually railed off and only the priest goes near the altar.
- On it stands the things the priest uses in the church service.

STUDENT TASK 2: OUTSIDE

- ▶ Find these features **outside** the church.
- ▶ In the box on each picture add the number that matches the description on the following page.



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Things to find outside Godshill Church

1. Grave stone

- This marks the place where someone was buried.
- On it is the name and the date the person died and a little about their life.
- Traditionally they are not allowed to have a photograph of the person on.

2. Mort safe

- In the nineteenth century people feared that their bodies would be stolen by body snatchers and sold to

3. Table tomb

- These are made of stone and are above the ground.
- They are like a table you cannot get into. They were for the rich and allowed more space for words about their life.

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4. Churchyard Cross

- These are usually very old and are not crosses.
- This was where the priest stood when preaching outdoors.
- At the time before most people could afford tombstones the churchyard cross was a memorial to all who had died.

5. Latin Cross

- The arms of the cross are the same width but the lowest arm is longer than the other three.
- This lifts the cross higher up so it looks like the one Jesus was nailed to.

6. Calvary Cross

- Like the Latin cross but it is standing on three steps.
- These are to represent Christian virtues.
- There is faith at the top, hope in the middle and charity below.

Now, identify where inside the church each of these features can be found!

In the middle is a plan of the inside of Godshill Church

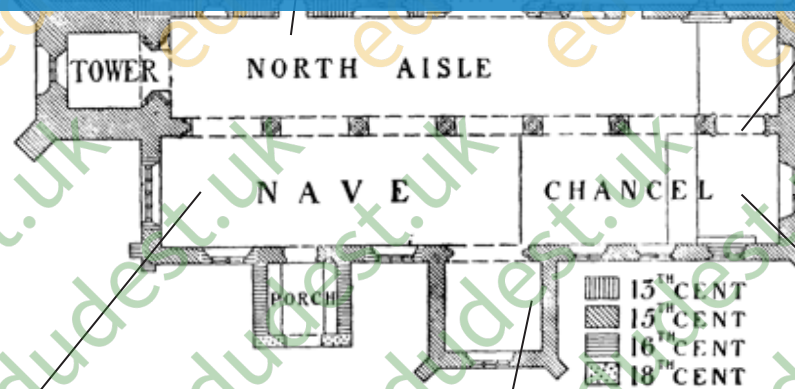
When you go round the church put the number of the feature next to the plan.

There are 6 for you to find

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Now, identify where outside the church each of these features can be found!

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Contextual Notes - A Short History of Godshill Church

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Godshill Church (All Saints') is very old and very special

- Godshill was one of the first places to have a church on the Isle of Wight.
- The first church was built during the reign of Edward the Confessor, this was from 1042 to 1066.
- It has many features that are not found in other churches.

The legend of the building of Godshill Church

- The legend is that men started to build the church on flat land about a mile from where the church is. Then when they went back next morning to start work again all the stones were missing but they found them on the top of the hill.
- So they carried them back and began building the church on flat land. Next morning when they wanted to start work again, they found the stones missing a second time and a second time they were on the top of the hill. The same thing happened a third time.

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- The Church is nearly 1000 years old.

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- In these years the building has been changed many times, so what we see today is not what it looked like when it was first built.
- However the church has also changed because in 1000 years the way people worship God has changed. This means that we can find in Godshill church features that cannot be seen in modern churches.
- We can explore the Church and find them.

The shape of the church

- Godshill church is the largest of the early churches on the Isle of Wight.
- It is 27m long and 18m wide. To us this seems an odd size, but at the time it was built people measured in feet and so it is 90 feet by 60 feet.
- It is in the shape of a cross. Most churches are this shape; it is to protect the congregation from the devil.

How to behave in a church

Churches are for the people and they welcome visitors.

- ✓ In Britain churches are where people go to worship the Christian God.
- ✓ This means that it is a place that is dedicated to God and should be respected for this.
- ✓ In the one thousand years there has been a church at Godshill, it has been used every day, so millions of prayers for help and thanks have been said. *Think about this for fifteen seconds.*
- ✓ When you are in a church you should talk quietly and not run around as you would in the playground. This is to respect the holiness of the church and because there could be other people using the church.
- ✓ People often come to church to find peace and to have time to think and pray. It is always good to be aware of other people wherever you are.

