

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



Christians have worshipped in Sherfield-on-Loddon for some 900 years. Little remains of an earlier fourteenth century church building because it was almost wholly restored in 1866. The east window in the Chancel dates partly from the fourteenth century (with three trefoils and net tracing) as do parts of the north and south walls just to the west of the transept. The Tower was built in 1872.

1 FONT

The Font has **8** sides, being an **octagon**. The last initial on each of the brass plaques is "B". The Font was donated in 1866 by the Rev Alfred G Barker, Rector of St Leonard's from 1863 to 1875.

Around the base are the initials of the names of the Barker family who were christened here. This Font was installed in 1872, the original Font having been wrecked when the Puritans came to Sherfield-on-Loddon during the Civil War.



2 CANDLES

There are **24** candles, which were needed **to light the pew area** so that people could read their bibles and hymn books. The rest of the church was lit by oil lamps or paraffin lamps until the church was entirely lit by electricity between **1949 and 1953**.

3 FLOWERS

Flowers are painted on walls surrounding **6** windows. The flowers are highly stylised and difficult to identify. They are, however, holly and berries, roses, climbing lilies, blue lilies, clematis, and strawberries.

4 MEMORIAL BRASS



The lady and children are dressed in **Tudor** clothes. It was customary at that time to show the number of children in the family. There are **3** shields at the top of the memorial showing (left to right) the arms of Hadnoll (a maunch, a fourteenth century detachable lady's sleeve), of Palmes (three fleur-de-lys below a chequer pattern) and of Corbet (a raven). The memorial is to Mary Palmes, a daughter of Sir Stephen Hadnoll of Shropshire who moved to Lancelevy in Wildmoor Lane just opposite the church. She married Francis Palmes, son of Sir Francis Palmes and Margaret (née Corbet). He was, for 1601 and 1602, Sheriff of Hampshire, in which capacity he received Queen Elizabeth the First at Silchester and escorted her to Basing House where he was knighted.

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5 PULPITS

The pulpit is used by the **vicar or priest** to address the people sitting in the pews below and is raised so that everyone can see who is speaking. There are **16** cherub faces. The creatures shown are a **lion** with wings, a **bull** with wings, an **eagle** and a **lamb**. The pulpit is Victorian and made of oak. There is also a biblical text (see right), namely "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty".

6 CHANCEL ARCH

The arch is **pointed** in shape and is in the gothic style. The inscription around the chancel arch is "I **HAVE HALLOWED THIS HOUSE** TO PUT MY NAME THERE FOR EVER AND MINE EYES AND MINE HEART SHALL BE THERE PERPETUALLY". Another word for perpetually is "**always**" (or forever).

7 CHANCEL ROOF AND BOSSES

The roof needed restoration in 1981 because the original roof was in a poor state and sagging **because of timber rotting**. **Wood** was used in its restoration. Another name for the gold rosettes is **bosses**. There are **35** whole ceiling rosettes. Ceiling bosses are decorations in stone or wood, placed where cross-members of a roof or ceiling intersect. They are decorative, not structural.

8 TILING

The tiles are made of **clay**, which is fired at a high temperature in a kiln. There are **3** different patterns on the tiles in the Sanctuary, one pattern of tile being set at the sides of the Altar.

9 ALTAR

A **cross** stands on or behind the altar. The cross is the symbol of Christianity. It reminds Christians of the cross on which Jesus gave up his own life to pay for the sins of the world. The empty cross also symbolises the risen Christ. The colour of the main cloth is **white (or white with gold), or purple, or red or green**. The seasons of the church year are marked by using different colours for the priest's vestments, altar frontals and other hangings, namely white for festivals, purple for Advent and Lent, red for Pentecost, also called Whitsun, and other martyrs and green for all other periods. If there is a flower on the frontal it will be **white**. It is the Loddon Lily or Summer/Giant Snowflake which takes its name from the nearby River Loddon on the banks of which it was reputedly first found and categorised.



10 MOSAICS



The four Evangelists are holding **pens and books**, signifying the gospels they wrote. In Christian art, they are often (and are here) shown with, and identified by, the symbols which accompany them (from left to right) – Matthew (**Winged Man**), Luke (**Ox or Bull**), John (**Eagle**) and Mark (**Lion**). The reredos is of stone and polished marble. The mosaics it contains, installed during the church restoration in the 19th century, were made by Salviati of Venice. The central mosaic depicts the moment when the resurrected but incognito Jesus, reveals himself to two of his followers (Cleopas and another) whilst they take supper together in the town of Emmaus, only afterwards to vanish from their sight.

11 LAST SUPPER

There are **13** people seated at the table. They are **eating** the last supper which Jesus and His disciples had together before Jesus was crucified. **Jesus** is sitting in the middle. The names of the disciples were Peter, Andrew, James (the Greater – the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the Less – the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon and Judas.

12 STAINED GLASS – COAT OF ARMS



The family arms shown in the window are those of the **Puttenham** family who held the Manor of Sherfield from 1375 until 1567. The centre of the top left shield is divided into **8** parts. The left-hand side of the shield contains the armorial bearings of the Puttenham family (including a stork) and of the Warbleton family into which it married (a gold and blue pattern of lozenges). The right-hand side represents connections with the Windsor (a saltire), Andrews (a diagonal stripe) and Stratten (a silver cross) families.



13 ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

There are **7** stained glass windows. Two windows show St George and the dragon: one is circular on the north wall and the other is high up above the door next to the altar on the south wall. The circular window contains a mixture of some coloured early 16th century glass. A knight with a red shield on a white horse can just be made out. At the top left-hand side there is a fortified castle or town and, on the right, a small female head with halo is visible. Otherwise, the glass has been fitted in at random at some point in the past.