



The Collegiate Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity

Trail answers and explanatory notes for parents and teachers

This church is called the **Holy and Undivided Trinity**. Its symbol is 3 entwined fish. It represents the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the Christian belief in the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as 3 persons in one Divine Being. You can see this symbol near the ceiling of the chandelier and elsewhere in the church.

1. FONT

- **Water** is put into the bowl when a person (or baby) is **baptised (christened)**. The font is normally put near the entrance of the church, because people being baptised are at the beginning of their spiritual journeys as members of the Christian Church. Unusually, this church has **2 fonts**.
- Near the altar there is the medieval font in which Shakespeare was baptised.

2. EAGLE LECTERN

- The lectern is made of **brass** and is designed to hold the **Bible** on its outstretched wings. Eagles are thought to be birds which can fly highest and so nearest to the heavens. The sphere on which it stands represents the world. It is symbolically carrying the Word of God across the world; *Matthew 28: v19*.
- Look out as well for the **Chained Bible** dating from 1611, which is to the right of the altar. Shakespeare would probably have used this during his lifetime.

3. CLOPTON CHAPEL

- **3 children** in this family died in infancy and are therefore depicted in their swaddling clothes. Newborn babies were wrapped tightly in strips of cloth to make them feel warm and safe.
- In the Nativity or Christmas story, Luke tells us Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger because there was no place for Mary and Joseph at the inn. *Luke 2: v7*
- A Coat of Arms is a heraldic design on a shield or escutcheon, unique to one family. When a man and a woman, both with Coats of Arms, unite in marriage **their two heraldic designs are "impaled" or amalgamated on the same shield**, with the husband's Coat of Arms on our left, and his wife's on our right.
- The front of the memorial shows the **cannons, cannonballs, flags and barrels of gunpowder** of his profession.

4. CHOIR STALLS

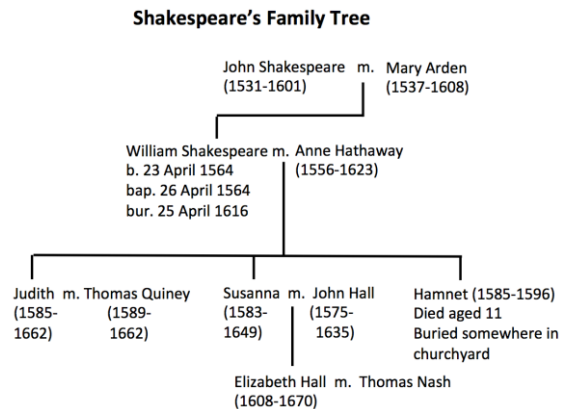
- This actual building was founded in **1210** (although there has been a church on this site since at least 713). These **cushions** were made in 2010 to celebrate the Church being 800 years old.
- The **dove** is often seen high up in the Church, and here it is on the chandelier. It is the most common way of representing the Holy Spirit.
- This dove has an olive branch in its beak reminding us of the story of Noah and the flood; *Genesis 6: v9*.

5. CHANCEL

- There are 26 carved wooden misericord seats dating from the 1400s.
- One of the panels in the middle is a series of three carvings showing a woman who was a scold and spoke ill of people, so was gagged by a bar in her mouth.

6. SHAKESPEARE'S GRAVE

- Shakespeare's bust (head and shoulders) shows him holding a **quill** (feather pen) for writing and **parchment** (paper).
- He was born on 23rd April 1564, baptised on 26th April, and was buried on 25th April 1616. You can see the copy of the entry for Baptisms written in the Latin script of the time, while his burial details are in English.
- The words on the gravestone are:
Good **Frend** for Jesus' sake, forbear
To **dig** the dust enclosed here
Blest be the man who spares these **stones**
And curst be he that **moves** my **bones**



- The precise number of plays written *solely* by Shakespeare is still debated by scholars. However we know he wrote at least thirty-five wonderful comedies, tragedies and history plays.

7. HIGH ALTAR

- This is one of the very few pre-Reformation stone altars in use in England today.

8. ST. PETERS CHAPEL

- Jesus said, "I am the **light** of the world"; *John 8: v12*.
- The plaque on the wall is dedicated to **Martha Mason**. The words are from *Acts 9: v36*.

9. PULPIT

- The pulpit is made from green marble; the **FIVE** Saints are in white alabaster, and each Saint is shown with his or her symbols.
- The pulpit is high up so that the priest or preacher can see everyone and **can be heard and seen** by the whole congregation.

10. WEST END

- St George is **killing a dragon**. St. George is the patron Saint of England. You will see his symbol (a red cross on white background) on flags and many other places including on peoples' faces at matches.
- There are at least five differences between the Victorian picture and the Church today. In the old painting there is **no central aisle and no organ, but in this picture there are pews at the back of the church, a high balcony on both sides and vertical pew ends sticking up**.

11. NORTH PORCH

- This door dates from the 1200s. Anyone touching the ring could claim sanctuary (safety) in the Church for 37 days.