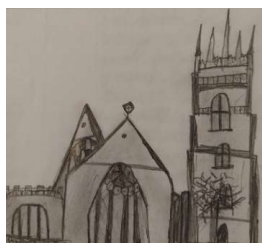


Welcome to  
St. Peter and St. Paul's Church,  
Wisbech



Written and photographed by children from  
Orchards Church of England Academy  
and  
Nene and Ramnoth School



## Welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church.

As you may have noticed on your way into the building, it is in the centre of Wisbech. Whilst entering the church you might also have taken a glance at all the minor details surrounding it. Every single detail has its own noble history. Now, let me take you back to where it all started...

As you have all seen, this building was built in the centre of Wisbech 900 years ago. An amazingly long time ago in 1111, before the church was built, there was a wooden castle next to the swampy, marshy beach. Later, the Normans decided to build a stone church and a castle, replacing the wooden castle. They couldn't construct it any bigger because of the lack of dry land at the time.

Over the years, a large tower and small chapels were added, to extend the church.



Who are these men?

They are holding clues made of gold.

Can you find them anywhere else in the church?

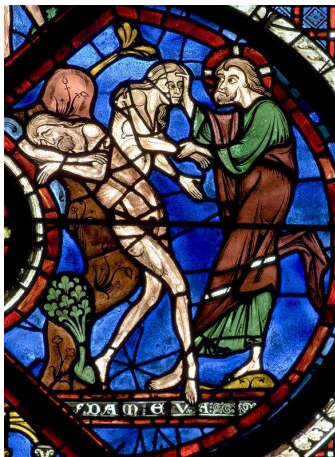


## Stained Glass Windows

As you walk through the church, you can't help but admire the gorgeous stained glass windows; each one of them represents an amazing story. The windows are there to show wealth, beauty and to tell stories to those who are not able to read.

### Good Samaritan Window

The first window you come to represents the story of the Good Samaritan. When you walk in it is on the left. Look at the window, you can see the different parts of the story.



### St. Peter and St. Paul Window

One of the most important windows is the St. Peter and St. Paul's window. Look closer, can you see the window with two people on it, each holding a book? This outstanding piece of art shows the depth of who St. Peter and St. Paul are. Like the great statues, Peter holds the keys to heaven, Paul holds a

sword proudly. They also each hold a book – The Bible – representing the fact that they wrote in the New Testament.

### North Chapel Window

The North Chapel window tells you the story of when Jesus having breakfast on the beach with his disciples.

The disciples spent all night fishing but did not catch any fish at all. They were extremely fed up after a long night of trying to catch some fish! But then, they noticed a man walking down the beach who told them to fish the other side of their boat. Suddenly they realised who it was, Jesus. He had risen from the dead. The net (which they had tossed to the other side of the boat) was surprisingly filled with dozens of fish, the disciples and Jesus happily sat down and ate.



## Sanctuary

In one of the parts of the church that was added later, you will find the Sanctuary. This was added in 1250 and is like the heart of the church. The Sanctuary is the most sacred (holy) part of the church. It is where Father Matthew takes Holy Communion. He wears a chalice (cloak) and stole. During the service a patten holds the bread and a chalice holds the wine which represent Jesus' body and blood.

Behind the Altar, there is the Reredos. There are statues of two people - St. Paul and St. Peter. St. Paul has a sword because his head was cut off and St. Peter has some keys that are the keys to Heaven. Between them you will see the mosaic which is a painting, made from small pieces of marble, showing The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci.



This was the night before Jesus died, when he was having the last supper with his 12 disciples. Jesus had his supper with his friends. He picked up some pieces of bread and said, "This is my body that is going to be broken for you, do this after I have died to really remember me." He took the cup of red wine and blessed it and passed it round to everyone and



said, "Drink this, because it is my blood which will be shed for you, do this after I have died to remember who I am." If you touch the Reredos, it will feel rough.

If you look closely in the picture, can you see the disciple who does not have a halo on his head? He is the person who betrayed Jesus and told the guards where he was. His name is Judas Iscariot. He went up to Jesus and gave him a kiss on the cheek so the guards knew which one was Jesus.



### Sir Thomas de Braunstone Brass

In the Chancel is a rectangular piece of metal with a knight cast into it. The soldier in armour was called Sir Thomas de Braunstone and he was the constable of the castle. The rectangular piece was made as a beautiful brass memorial dedicated to Sir Thomas. Sadly, Sir Thomas died in 1401 and was buried in the chancel. The memorial is covered with a red carpet to keep the 210cm by 65cm monument safe. A great deal of you must be thinking why does it need to be covered? Surely they're crackers putting a carpet over such a beautiful memorial! The red carpet is to cover the metal

because of the number of people that have walked on the memorial over the years and have ruined the metal plate.



### The Organ

If you walk further down from the Sanctuary, you will find the organ console (a musical instrument a bit like a piano). It has pipes and when the person plays the organ it creates a sound from the pipe. Big pipes make lower and deep sounds and are up to 10 metres long. The small pipes create a high pitch and the smallest is about 3-4 centimetres long. The organ can be played very loudly or very quietly. People play it with their hands (like a piano) and their feet!



## Where is the Royal Coat of Arms?

Close to the South door, there is a large Royal Coat of Arms. The coat of arms the coat of arms of Charles II. The law stated that every church had to have one but it is way too **big**! As it was so big, that told us that when it was first hung in the 1660s, Wisbech must have been a really important town!



## The Pulpit

The pulpit is an important place in the church, because it's the place where Father Matthew can stand and talk and teach. In the pulpit, he can see everyone and everyone can see him. Also he stands up there, so that people who go to church don't nod off to sleep!



The pulpit is made of pink marble and was put in church in 1904, just after the Victorian brass lectern which is used as a bookstand.

Lectern



Pulpit



### The Singapore Memorial and Remembrance Chapel

Singapore is in a really important position in the Pacific Ocean and at the start of World War 2 it was part of the British Empire. Japanese forces fought their way through Burma, Malaysia and Thailand in order to capture Singapore.



## Russian Orthodox Chapel

When people began to move to Wisbech from Eastern Europe, they really did miss having a church to visit and pray at. Many of the people were Roman Catholic but some were part of the Russian Orthodox Church. It was soon determined that they were going to build a small area inside the St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, and that is exactly what they did.



## Memorial

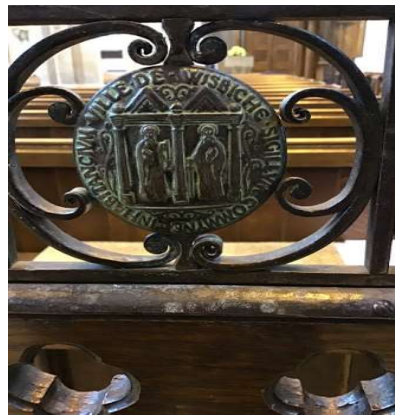
On the north side of the chancel, there are two very important memorials. The first, is of Matthias and Jane Taylor. It was carved in 1633. Matthias was a Constable of the castle and they are wearing clothing of that time (you can tell from the neck ruffs).

The second memorial is of Thomas Parke and his wife. Once again, you can tell their clothes are from that time! Thomas gave a large amount of money to help Wisbech Grammar School - how nice!

## Little Details

Watch out for little details all around the church - maybe you could be the first person in your class to find something small and incredible!

Do you think you could find a tiny lion engraved into stone or perhaps a little pattern on a wall or ornament?



Little details aren't often noticed around the church, you've probably never seen these:



Here are some more of the photos we have taken.  
Can you find these things inside or outside the church?



As you have discovered the various parts of the church, hopefully this guidebook helped you learn more about this historical building. We hope you enjoyed your visit to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church. We hope you will tell your friends and family. Please come back soon!