



Find out about Church Cottage's past...

Croeso! (say *cress-oh* - that means welcome in Welsh).

My name is Ruth Davies. I'm nine years old, I'm Welsh and I've lived here in Church Cottage in Llandygwydd (say *Clan-tig-with*) all my life. It was built in 1857, it's 1866 now. My Dad is the caretaker and **sexton** of St. Tygwydd's church (say *Saint-Tig-with's* – see how in Welsh, letters are said differently from in English?)

Where is the church? You can see it in this old photo. It used to be just over the road from this cottage. But... in the year 2000, the church was **demolished!**

In my own time, my Dad looks after the church and the churchyard. Me and my sisters and brother play in the churchyard and around the village. Our school is here in the village and my teacher, Mr Jones is very strict!

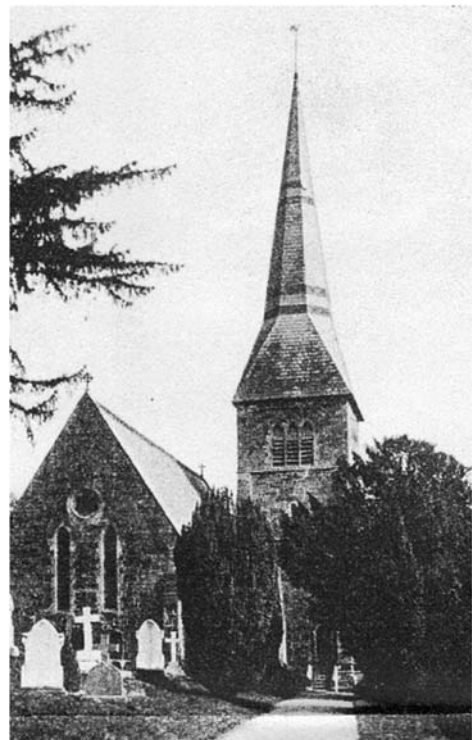
We're not allowed to speak any Welsh in school, only English. If Mr. Jones hears you speaking Welsh, then you have to wear a slate on a string around your neck. The slate says WELSH NOT. If you're wearing it at the end of the school day, then you have to wear it home. Then your Mam and Dad know all about it!

Today, all the schools round here teach Welsh. Have you seen the word ARAF painted on the road? That means SLOW in English.



In the photo below you can see the church before it was demolished.

Isn't the spire amazing? People say it's 130ft high.



Fact:

Sexton: A sexton is someone who used to look after a church & churchyard and usually dug graves & rang the bells too.

Demolished: Demolished means to 'pull or knock down' a building.



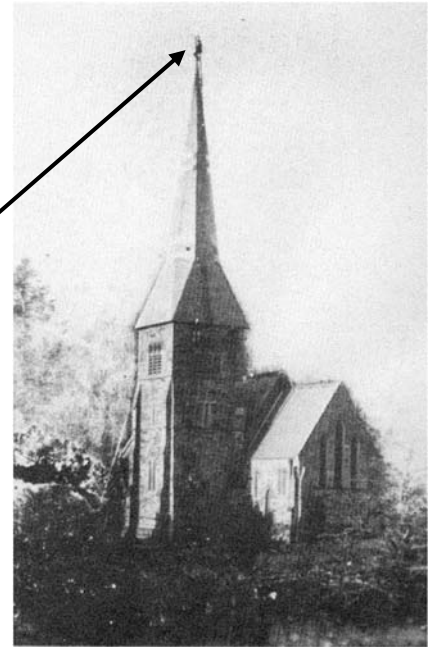
There have been churches on this spot for more than 1,000 years – imagine that! The bell in the picture on the right hung in at least four of the churches that have stood on this site.



The church I know was designed by an **architect** (say *ark-ee-tekt*) called Robert Jewell Withers. About 55 years after it was built, the amazing spire, which was over 130ft high, became wobbly that they had to take it down.

I thought you'd like to see this photo, though it's rather grainy, of a **steeplejack** right at the top of the spire.

He's right at the top of the spire on a ladder! Can you see him?



Imagine if the spire had fallen down when we were at school doing lessons! How exciting, that would be!

Though my Mum says it's a good thing they were able to get the spire down safely without anyone getting hurt.

This is a quiet and peaceful village now but when I lived here the church was very busy and we were right at the centre of things.

It's hard to believe because the church isn't even here.

After the spire was removed, a tower with crenellations was added. In the end even that wasn't safe; that's why the whole church was demolished in 2000.

During all that time when the church kept changing, Church Cottage stood here until Landmark bought it in 1965. It was in a bad state then, but Landmark repaired it. It's actually the first building that Landmark ever took on.

It was the first Landmark ever to be open! Now anyone can stay here, like you!

Facts:

An **architect** is a person who designs buildings.

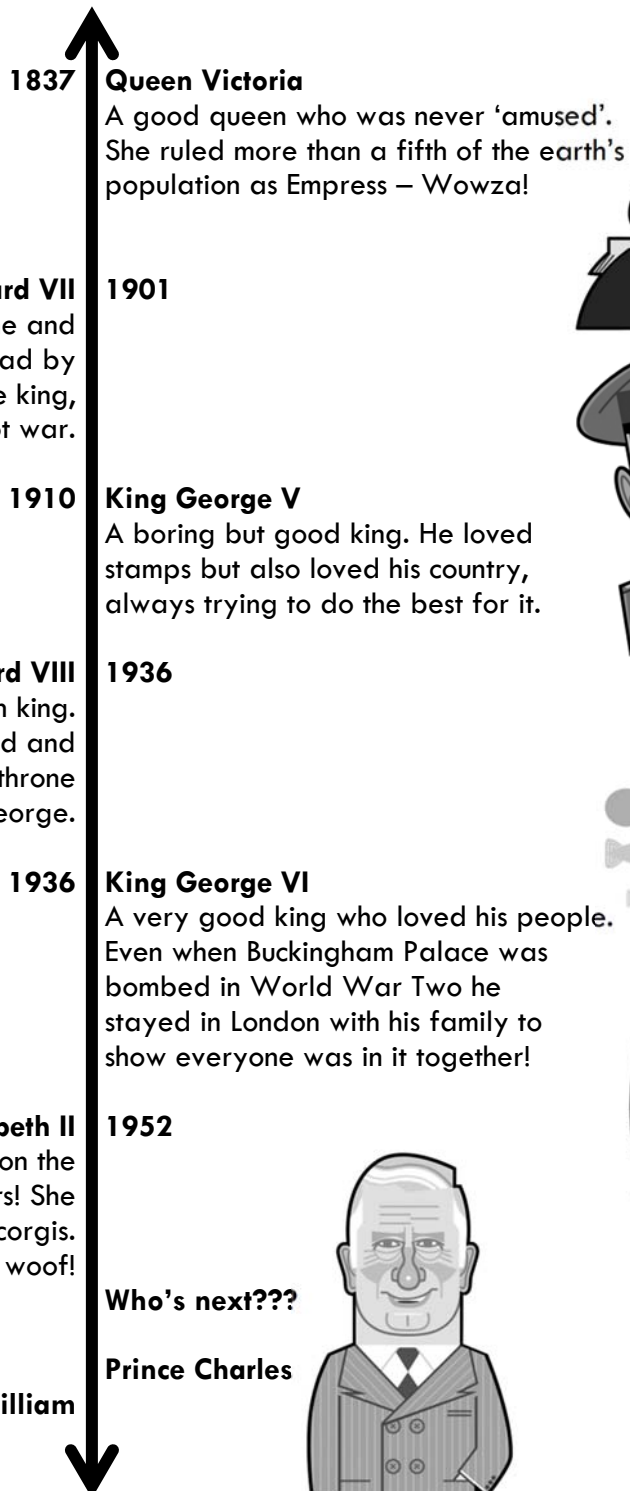
Steeplejack: A steeplejack is a person who climbs up tall structures, like chimneys & steeples to carry out repairs.

Crenellations: Crenellations are the up and down bits you often draw when you draw a castle. Sometimes they're called battlements.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Saxe-Coburgs and Windsors?

Saxe-Coburg was the surname of German Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband. When Victoria died **Saxe-Coburg** continued as the royal family surname. It changed to **Windsor** in 1917 because England was fighting against Germany in World War One and the King was worried British people wouldn't like a German royal family anymore - so he changed them to **Windsors**, after the castle.





Meet Queen Victoria **– who ruled when Church Cottage** **was built.**



Hi Vicky!

So when did you become queen?

I became queen on the 20 June 1837 when I was 18.

What's your nickname?

Some people call me The Grandmother of Europe. I had 9 children who married different European princes and princesses. I had 42 grandchildren in total!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved visiting Scotland. I even built a castle so that I could go all the time!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

How dare you, I am never naughty. Everyone must be well behaved at all times.

Design



What does Church Cottage look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building?

Draw a circle around the ones that do.

What do you like most about Church Cottage?

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Castle

Tall

Pretty

Folly

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Tower

Church Cottage was built in 1857, it was built to house the caretaker & sexton of St. Tygwydd's Church, which used to be just over the road and has now been demolished.

This kind of building is what we call a **vernacular** (say *ver-nak-u-lar*) building. The Cottage is typical of the kind of housing that was built in West Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Fact:

Vernacular means a building built using ordinary methods & local materials. It is a building for living in.

Gothic Revival - began in England in the 1740s. It "revived" bits of Gothic architecture that you find in very old cathedrals. Features such as arched or pointed windows, **pinnacles** (small spires) and decorative patterns were popular.

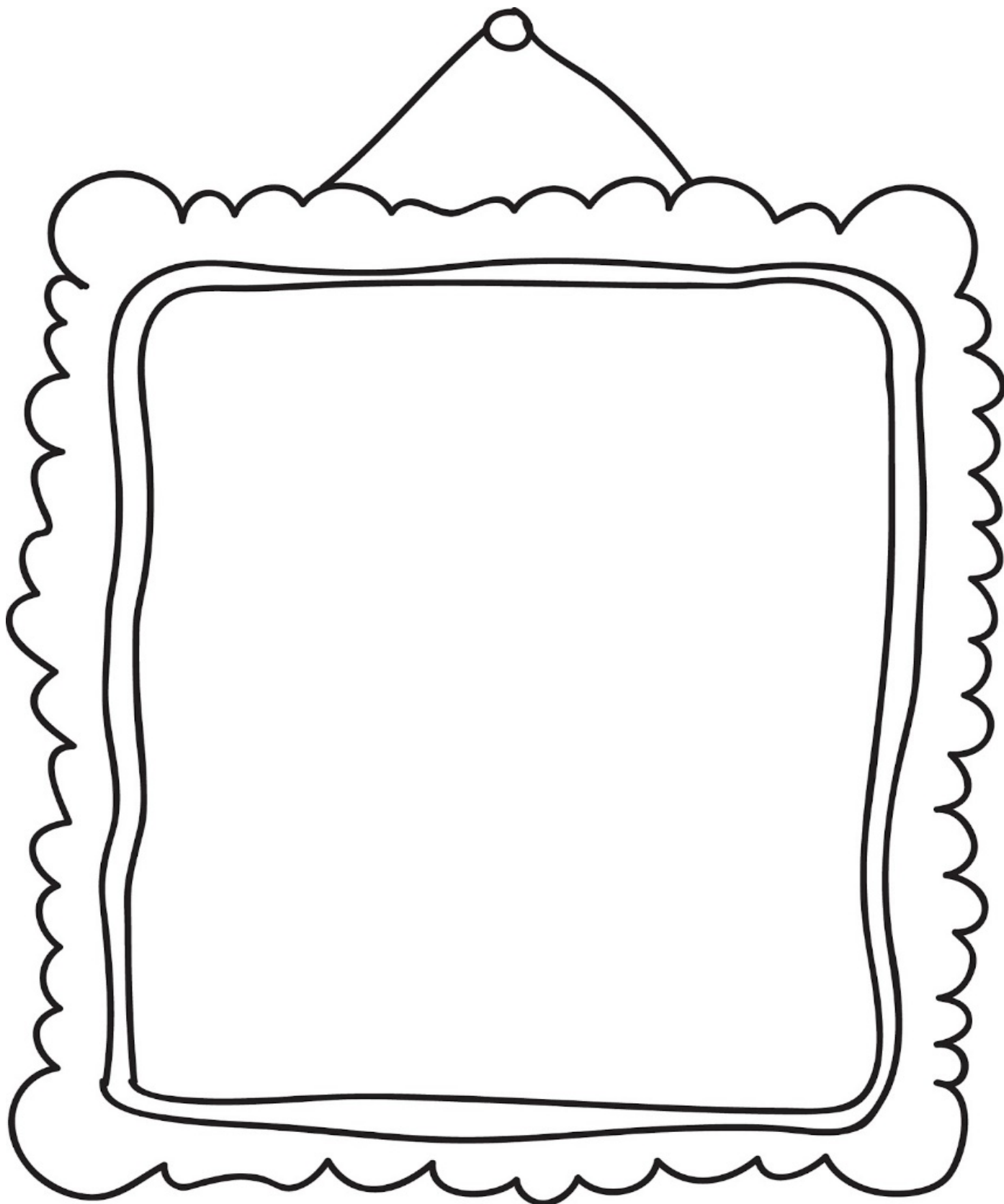
Can you see the arched windows? These are gothic (say *goth-ik*) arches and were popular during the **Gothic Revival** movement. Architects copied designs from real medieval buildings like cathedrals and put them onto ordinary buildings to make them look more fancy. Can you see that the design is also included on the front door?



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing Church Cottage.

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!





Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone buildings were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings become cheaper and more popular – but stone still looked smart!

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.



In medieval and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. By the time Church Cottage was built in the 1857, stone was blasted out of the ground with explosives - like it is today. The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone. The picture on the left shows a stonemason hard at work.

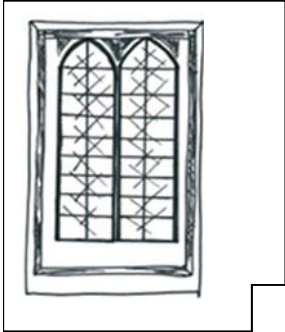
Mallet

Chisels

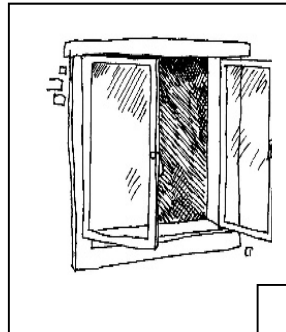




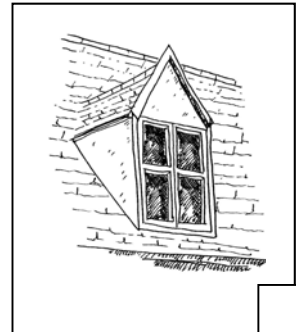
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Church Cottage have?



Pointed or Gothic



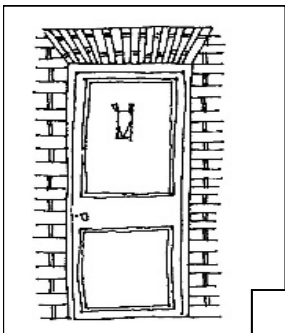
Casement (it opens)



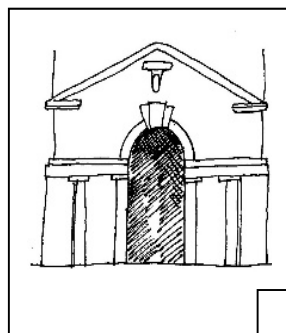
Dormer or attic (in the roof)

Have you seen that in some very old buildings the windows don't open? Imagine how hot it got in the summer! When the casement window was invented it was the first type of window to open.

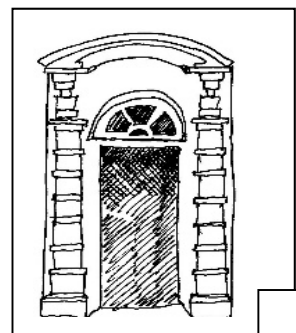
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Church Cottage like?



Doorframe

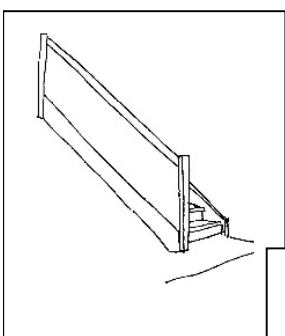


Porch

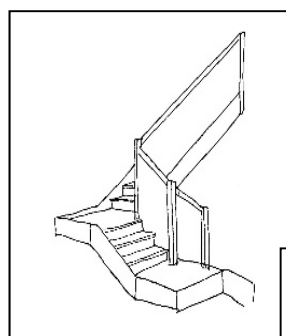


Canopy

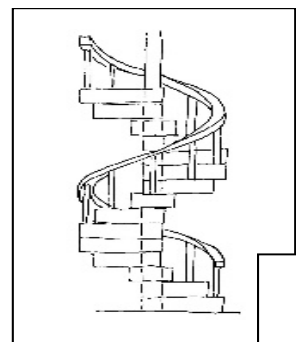
Here are a few different styles of staircases. Which style is like the staircase at Church Cottage?



Straight



Quarter-turn



Spiral

Quest



Discover more about Church Cottage

Church Cottage has seen a lot of changes since it was first built in 1857. That's over 160 years ago! During that time, things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this quest to discover more about it.

Can you find where this mirror is?



What shape is it?



Can you find these two upside hearts on a bedstead?

Can you draw an upside heart? Have a go here:



Hint: Try turning the paper upside down and draw it the right way up.

Hearts are tricky to draw the same on both sides aren't they?

Take a look at the roof?

It's made from local Welsh slate. Wales is famous for its slate and there are mines across the country. It's a great roofing material because the rain water just slides right off of it.

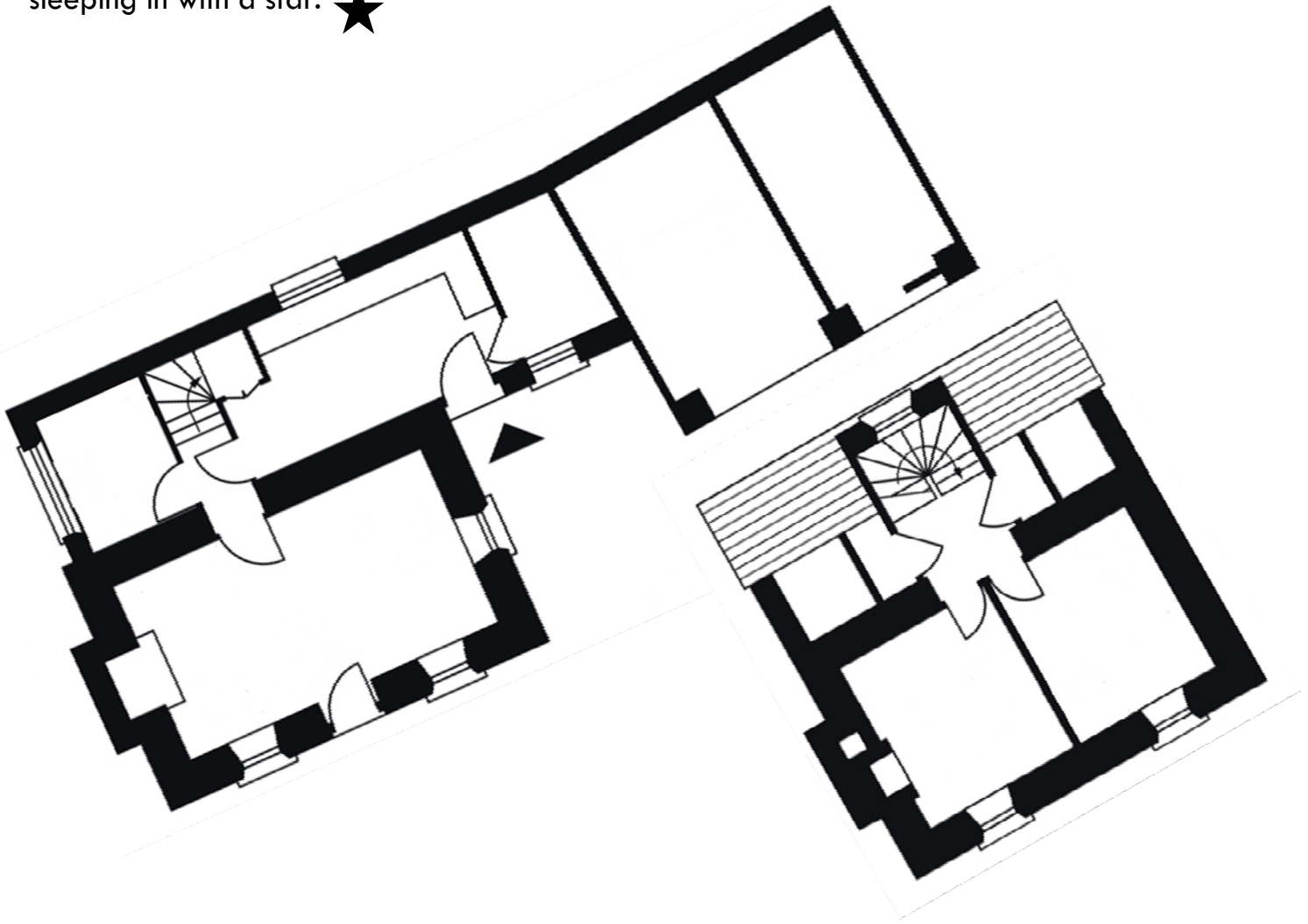
What's the roof of your house made from?





Living in Church Cottage

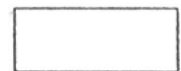
Church Cottage has got two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for. Mark the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star. ★



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table





Can you find an example of each of these things inside Church Cottage? Describe in words, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite piece of furniture

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

In the box below, draw the view from your bedroom window. Can you see any animals? Or interesting trees?



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. Why was Church Cottage built?

To house the caretaker of the church	To give the cottagers a good view	To use up some land	To house the church worshippers
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2. Which Saint was the church dedicated to?

St. David	St. Laurence	St. Tygwydd	St. Fagan
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3. When was Church Cottage built?

1990s	1840s	1950s	1850s
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4. What does a sexton do?

Looks after church buildings & graveyard	Looks after six tonnes of coal	Looks after school buildings	Looks after stray animals in a village
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5. Church Cottage was the first Landmark Trust property to have visitors. When did they come?

May 2007	March 1967	May 1976	May 1967
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6. How many ds are there in the name of this village?

One	Three	Two	None
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7. How tall was the spire of the church? Ft means foot, (1 foot=30.48 centimetres)

30f	130ft	100ft	113ft
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8. When was the church completely demolished?

2005	2000	1955	2015
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9. Who designed the church?

J.K. Rowling	L.P. Hartley	R.J. Withers	J.R. Ewing
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10. What was written on the slate hung round the neck of children heard speaking Welsh in the school?

English why	English only	No Welsh	Welsh not
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Church Cottage Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

C	A	R	E	T	A	K	E	R	R	S	G
O	H	E	G	D	Y	E	C	A	E	P	O
T	H	U	E	N	L	E	E	L	A	Q	T
T	F	L	R	E	L	D	A	R	L	U	D
A	I	A	G	C	I	W	R	E	V	I	R
G	R	N	D	A	H	O	A	A	W	E	A
E	S	D	D	O	R	O	E	L	T	T	Y
T	T	M	Y	N	L	D	I	B	K	L	H
T	T	A	W	L	G	F	E	O	U	S	C
N	L	R	G	R	I	A	R	N	W	O	R
O	E	K	Y	E	S	E	X	T	O	N	U
F	O	O	T	P	R	I	N	T	T	T	H
S	T	E	L	N	A	G	I	D	R	A	C

CHURCH

FIRST

CARDIGAN

FONT

COTTAGE

LANDMARK

RIVER

FOOTPRINT

CARETAKER

TYGWYDD

TEIFI

CHURCHYARD

SEXTON

WALES

PEACE

HILLY

GARDEN

WOOD

QUIET

WALKS

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

/
20

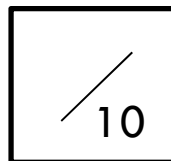


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. To house the church caretaker
2. St Tygwydd
3. 1840s
4. Looks after the church buildings & the graveyard
5. May 1967
6. Three
7. 130ft
8. 2000
9. R.J. Withers
10. Welsh not

How many did you get right?



Challenge: Making Words

How many words can you make using the letters from the village name?

You can use them in any order, watch out there's only one vowel!

LLANDYGWYDD

Can you make ten different words? Or more!



Design your own church!

Imagine that you're a church architect, just like R.J. Withers who designed the church that was demolished in Llandygwydd. In the space below design your very own church. You can be as creative or as crazy as you like! Don't forget to draw the background too.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a church design.



Make a traditional Welsh Rarebit (easy!)

The cheese needed for a good Welsh Rarebit uses a harder cheese than was made in Wales so the Welsh had to swap their sheep for hard Cheddar from England.

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You will probably need the help of an adult.

Ingredients:

4 slices of bread	2 tsp Worcestershire sauce, if you like
225g grated, hard cheese like Cheddar	1 level tsp mustard, if you like
1 tbsp butter	2 tsp flour
4 tbsp milk (or beer!)	Shake of pepper

Pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Put the cheese, butter, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, flour and pepper into a saucepan.
- Mix well and then add the milk or beer to moisten.
- Stir over a gentle heat until all is melted. Stop stirring when it becomes a thick paste.
- Leave to cool for a few minutes while you toast the bread on one side (if possible).
- Spread the rarebit paste over the untoasted side and put under a hot grill until it starts to bubble and go brown in places. Doesn't that smell good! Make sure you let it cool down a bit before you eat it.