

History



Find out about The Parish House's past...



St Dunstan's Church

The people of the **parish** (say *pah-rish*) voted for dad to become churchwarden because he's so responsible – I wonder if that's code for 'boring'! Don't tell him I said that!

He's very good at organising the **church ales** which take place at The Parish House. Dad says these used to happen in the **nave** of the church but by about 1500, people didn't think it was right to have parties there anymore. What do you think? They built church houses for partying instead.

To get into the party you have to pay a little bit of money and then there is food and drink for all.

William and I love climbing up the stone steps to the first floor to peek at the festivities during an 'ale' – the grown-ups all drink too much and end up singing and dancing!

Hello! Welcome to The Parish House, my name is Mary and I have lived in the village of Baltonsborough since I was a baby. I'm 10 years old now and the year is 1520.

My dad, Henry, is the churchwarden at St Dunstan's church – that's the church you can see from the window of The Parish House where you're staying now.



A scene from a medieval village party, otherwise known as an 'ale'. These were often held in parish church houses.

Facts:

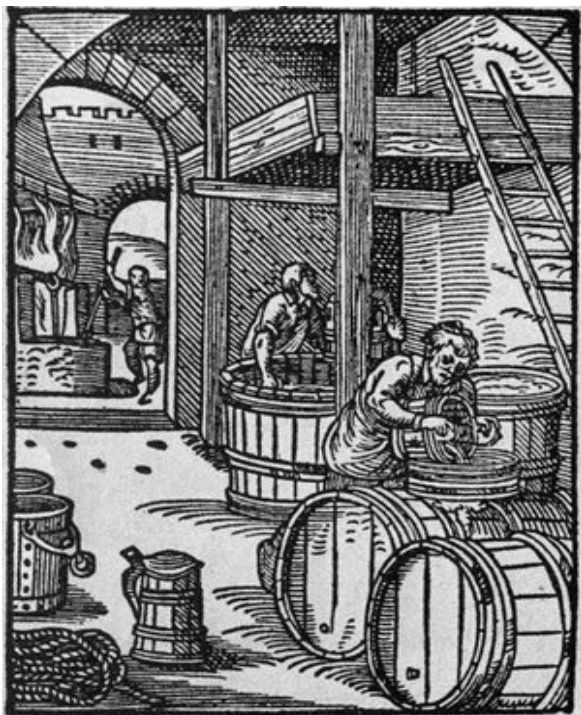
A **parish** is a village or part of a larger town which has its own church and priest.

A **church ale** (say *ay-all*) as well as being a drink, was also a party held in Church Houses to raise funds for the parish. Festivities included dancing, music and drinking. The money made went towards church repairs and feeding the poor.

A **nave** is the central part of the church where the congregation sit.



Myself and a few of my friends help mum and the other women from the village prepare the food for the feasts in the ground floor rooms of the Parish House. The food for each feast is different depending on the time of year. During Lent, we aren't allowed to serve up any animal products – that includes things like cheese and eggs – so we cook fish dishes instead. Mum makes a great fish pie dish with cod, figs and apples, yum!



We also brew all of the ale in the downstairs rooms at the Parish House. Dad says I'm not allowed to help with this anymore as the last time I did, I drank a full cup and had to go straight to bed because I felt so poorly. I think dad was just cross because I didn't get all more chores done that day!

Do you have to help your parents with chores?
Which one is your least favourite?

A drawing showing the ale brewing process in medieval times.

When the Parish House isn't being used for parties, it's used for feeding poor people from this and surrounding villages.

We also take in weary travellers. It isn't easy in these times, to travel and what might take you a few hours in a modern car, can take days by foot or on horseback.

People arrive tired and hungry and we give them a warm meal and a place to stay for the night. I love listening to the stories of the travellers; I've never left Baltonsborough so I find it amazing to hear stories of places such as Norwich and London – they sound so busy and crowded!

Where's the furthest place you've ever travelled?



The Parish House, Baltonsborough

Unruly Rulers

Who were the medieval (say 'med-ee-evil') kings?

Medieval means in the Middle Ages. This is roughly from when William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded England in 1066 until Henry VIII (that's the 8th) became king in 1509.



King William II Rufus

He was killed hunting.
People say that Henry I ordered it!

1066

William the Conqueror

He wasn't even English he came from France.



1087

King Henry I

He stole the throne from his older brother who was away on Crusade.



1100

King Stephen

Another king who stole the throne, it was meant to be his cousin Matilda's!



1135

King Henry II

Some of his knights heard that he was angry at Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. That was the end of poor Thomas, the knights killed him.



1154

King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



1189

King John

Bad King John, he was a cruel and horrible man. He died eating too many peaches!



1199

King Henry III

He was a good king who gave money to the poor and liked to pray.



1216

King Edward I

He invaded and conquered both Wales and Scotland ruling both of them!



1272

King Edward II

Another bad King, he only listened to his best friend Piers Gaveston and died a nasty death in a dungeon



1307

King Edward III

He was a good king, even if he did start the 100 years' war.



1327

King Richard II

He tried to rule without parliament, so the barons helped the next Henry become king.



1377

King Henry IV

He stole the throne from Richard when he was fighting in Ireland. Hard luck Richie!



1399

King Henry V

He wanted to be King of England and France. You guessed it, he started a war!



1413



1422 King Henry VI
He became king at 8 months old! He was weak and hated war. He never fought in any battles.



King Edward IV
He secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. Some say she was a witch!

1461

King Edward V
He was 10 when he became king for 86 days. Then uncle Richard put him and his brother in a tower.



1483

King Richard III

He was a bad king. People say he had his nephews murdered in the Tower of London so he could be king instead.



1483

1485 King Henry VII
He defeated bad King Richard and became the first Tudor king. Hooray!



Meet King Henry VII – who ruled when The Parish House was built.

Hi Henry!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 30 October 1485 when I was 28.

What are you most famous for?

I beat King Richard on the battlefield at Bosworth Field and became the first of the Tudor kings.

What is your favourite thing to do?

I love to read – I'm really very smart you know!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

You don't spend 24 years on the throne by being naughty! I was a good king – I ended the English civil war!





What does The Parish House 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.

Does The Parish House look similar to the buildings in the area?

Castle

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

The Parish House was built around 1500, that's over 500 years ago!

Church houses like these were built by the **parishioners** to hold fundraising events like church ales in order to pay for upkeep and repairs to the church. They act a little like the community centres or village halls that we have these days.

The house is built in the **vernacular** style and is timber framed with an infill of a local limestone called 'lias'.

When built, The Parish House was a long, plain barn-like building with a thatched roof.

The first floor room was reached by a stone staircase on the outside of the building.

Partitions were only added later when the house because two separate cottages.



A view of the arch-brace trusses.

Facts:

Vernacular means a building built using ordinary methods & local materials.

Many vernacular buildings were timber-framed. Large wooden beams were used to form the frame, which then supported the roof. At The Parish House the roof is formed of arch-brace trusses.

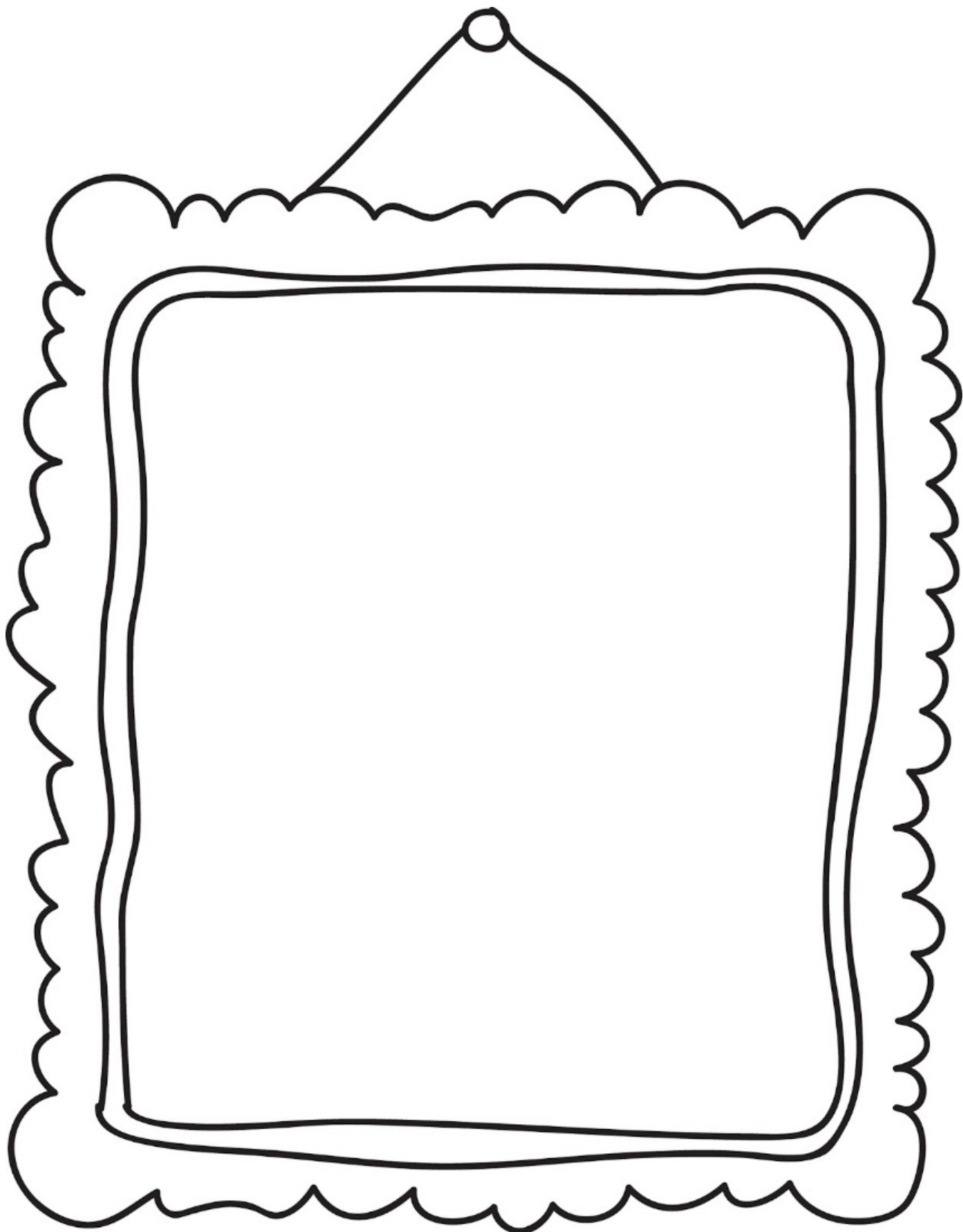


A **parishioner** is a person who lives in a particular church parish.



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

Have a go at drawing your favourite side of The Parish House in the box.





What is The Parish House built from?

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 dug out in a quarry 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 houses 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.

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. Today, a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! 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 big hammer called a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.

Mallet



Chisels





Sometimes stone masons carved faces and animals called gargoyles. You often find these in churches, up near the roof. Can you find any on the church next door? Here are some examples. Have a go at designing your own gargoyle. Make it as ugly as you like!



What other building materials can you find outside and inside The Parish House?

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Stone

Glass

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Flint

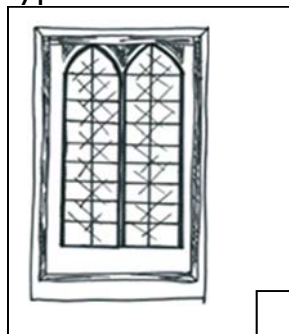
Concrete

Brick

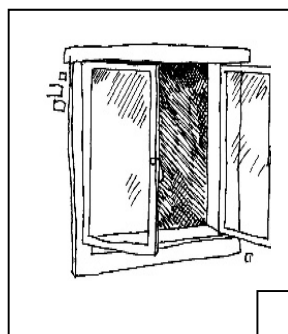
Ceramic



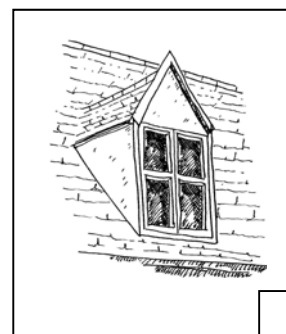
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does The Parish House have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

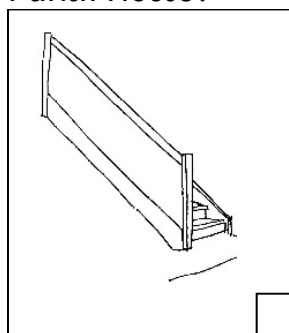


Dormer or attic

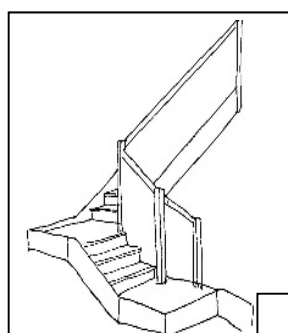
Fact:

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.

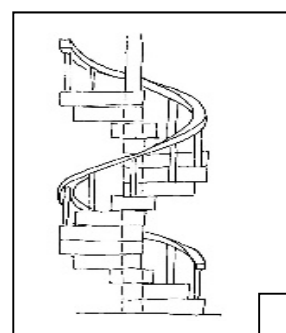
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at The Parish House?



Straight

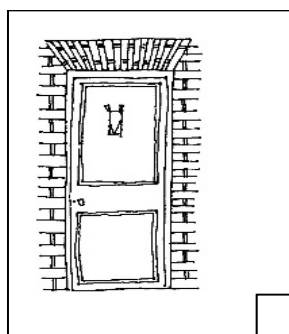


Quarter turn

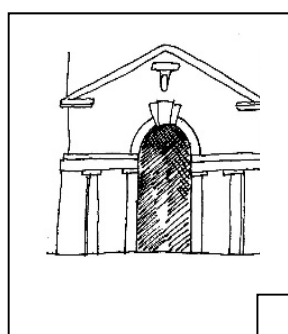


Spiral

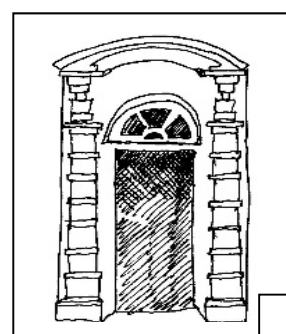
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at The Parish house?



Door frame



Porch



Canopy

Quest



Discover more about The Parish House

The Parish House has seen many changes since it was first built around 1500. That's about 500 years ago! During that time, things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Go outside and look up at the roof. What's it made from?

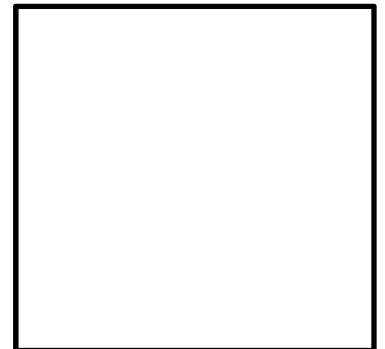
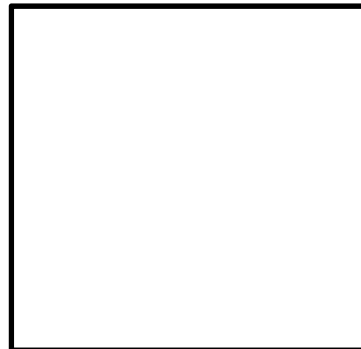
The roof tiles here are a type of concrete and are called 'Double Roman' tiles. However, the roof didn't always look this way. When it was built The Parish House actually had a roof made of thatch. Its chimneys weren't always brick either – the limestone ones crumbled and had to be replaced in brick.



Can you see the round disc next to the front door?

This is called an **anchor** (say *ank-or*) **plate** and it's attached to rod called a **tie**. It helps to strengthen the building. The rod connects two opposite walls and helps to stop the walls from spreading apart. Can you find the ones on the back of the building too?

You often see anchor plates on old buildings in the shape of an X or S. Sometimes they are the initials of the owner. They can be decorative as well as functional. Why not design your own anchor plates in the boxes to the right.

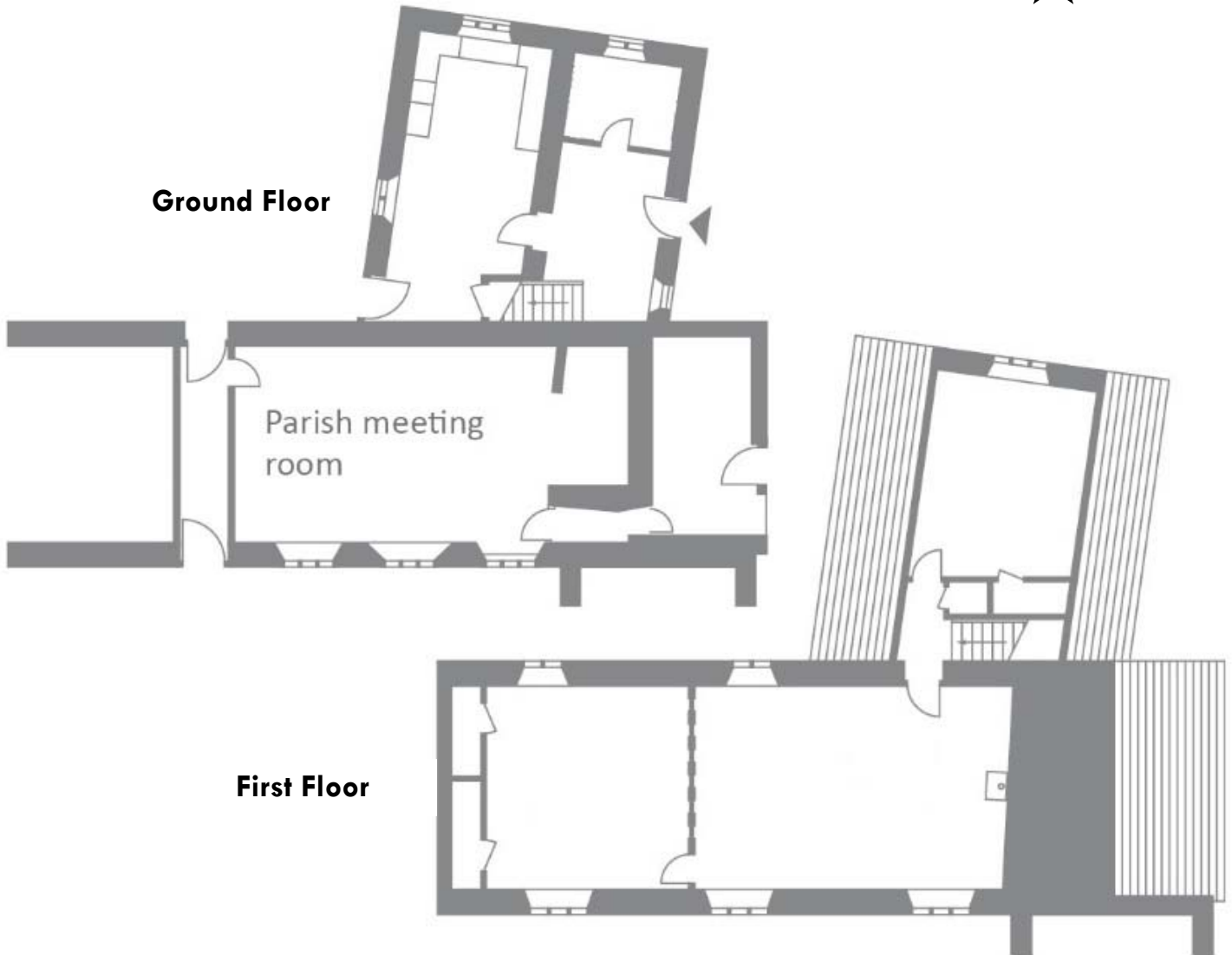


Have you noticed the partition between the double bedroom and the sitting room? Unlike our modern homes that have brick walls to separate rooms, medieval builders used wooden **plank and muntin** screens to divide areas. Would you prefer a partition like this one or your normal bedroom wall?

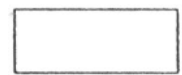
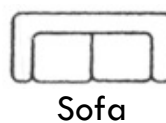
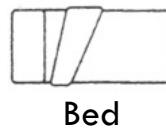


Living in The Priest's House

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The Priest's House has two floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plans what each room is used for. Mark the room you are sleeping in with a star. ★



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





Can you find an example of each of these things inside The Parish House. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

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

The pattern of a rug on the floor

In the box below, draw the view from your bedroom window. Can you see the church and church yard? Or perhaps you'd rather lay on the double bed and draw the pattern of the roof trusses?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a view from a bedroom window.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What does vernacular mean?

A building style

An infectious disease

A type of bird

A religious person

2. What county is The Parish House in?

Somerset

East Sussex

Devon

Dorset

3. What is The Parish House made from?

Stone

Bricks

Straw

Sticks

4. Around what year was The Parish House built?

1202

1313

1433

1500

5. What type of roof did The Parish House have originally?

Terracotta

Slate

Thatch

Glass

6. What is the name of the church next door?

St Dunstan's

All Saint's

St Joseph's

All Hallow's

7. What was a 'church ale'?

A book group

A party to raise funds

A prayer session

A graveyard

8. Who was on the throne when The Parish House was built?

(Psst... Check Unruly Rulers!)

Henry VII

Elizabeth I

James II

Victoria

To find the answers skip two pages...



The Parish House Word Search

Now have a go at the countryside word search. Think about things that would have been around when Mary was living in the village. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

ST DUNSTANS
 ALE
 CHARITY
 SOMERSET

FOOTPATH
 NAVE
 PARISH
 STONE

OAK
 THATCH
 FIELD
 VERNACULAR

PLANK AND MUNTIN
 ARCH TRUSSES
 CHURCH HOUSE
 ANCHOR PLATE

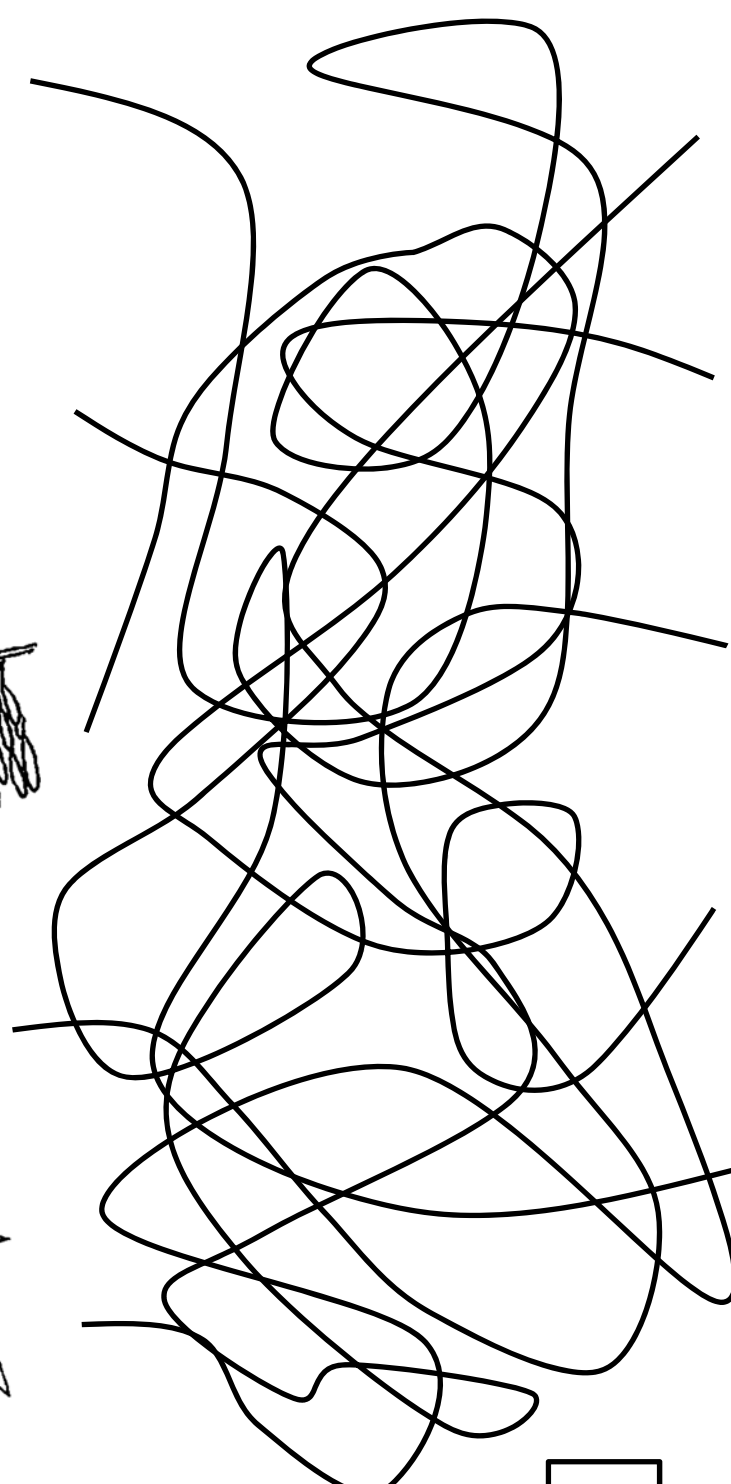
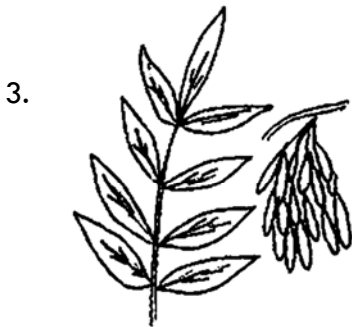
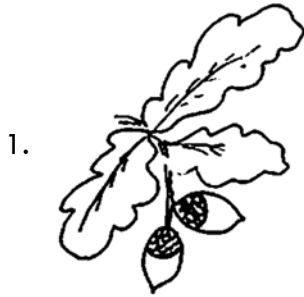
How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

16



Which leaf belongs to which tree?

Match the leaf to the correct tree.



Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

Did you match them correctly? Put your score in the box.

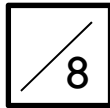


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. A building style
2. Somerset
3. Stone
4. 1500
5. Thatch
6. St Dunstan's
7. A party to raise funds
8. Henry VII

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 that you like. Why not challenge the grown ups to see if they can beat your score?

BALTONSBOROUGH

Can you make ten different words? Or more!



Bake a honey cake

In medieval times cakes were very simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make things sweeter as sugar came from the Middle East (and later Europe) and was very expensive.

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

250g clear honey, plus extra 2 tbsp to glaze	100g dark muscovado sugar
225g unsalted butter	3 large eggs, beaten
	300g self-raising flour

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Butter a 20cm round cake tin and line it with baking paper
- Cut the butter into pieces and drop them into a medium pan with the honey and the sugar, let it melt slowly
- When the mixture looks like liquid, turn up the heat under the pan and boil for about 1 minute
- Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes (important - this stops the eggs cooking when they are mixed in!)
- Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon
- Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture. Beat until you have a smooth, quite runny batter
- Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. You can tell it's ready as it will be golden brown and spring back when pressed. Push a skewer into the centre of the cake and it should come out clean.
- Turn the cake out on a wire rack
- Warm 2tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give it a sticky glaze, then leave it to cool.
- If you want, serve with vanilla ice cream! This is making me feel hungry...



Create a menu for your very own church ale...

What would you serve to your guests? Think about the time of year that the feast is to be held and remember that during lent people in medieval times were discouraged from eating meat.

You can either create a menu below or draw a picture of the food that you would serve. Don't forget the mug(s) of ale!