

LET'S FIND OUT ABOUT ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD!

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD IS SMALL AND BURIALS HAD TO BE MADE IN THE SAME GROUND OVER AND OVER AGAIN. SO TREAD CAREFULLY – YOU WILL BE STEPPING ON SOMEONE'S GRAVE!

I'm a falcon and the badge of the St John family who lived here



THE ST JOHN COAT-OF-ARMS

THE KING FAMILY CHEST TOMBS

ST MARY'S CHURCH

FAMILY GATE TO LYDIARD HOUSE
The St Johns used this gate to come to church from the house.

Churchyards are good places for wild flowers. Lichen and wildlife because they have not been disturbed



GARGOYLES

VERNON HENRY ST JOHN'S GRAVESTONE

Look for gravestones covered in lichen which is food for many animals

REPAIRED PATH

CHILD'S GRAVE
Little Augustus William Thatcher was buried here when he died in 1871 aged 17 months.

YEW TREES

Spot three yew trees in the churchyard. The largest is 500 years old!

THE ODY FAMILY GRAVESTONE

EDWIN EDMOND'S GRAVESTONE

ST JOHN FAMILY VAULT

Many of the St John family are buried in a family vault beneath the church. When Henry Mildmay St John died in 1899 it was full up, so he is buried here.

MAIN GATE

Watch out!
Yew berries are very poisonous!



Answers: (Side 2) 1 Edwin Edmonds; 2 The drooping branches mean grief and sadness; 3 John Jeremiah; 4 Robin, Blackbird, Thrush; 5 Vernon collected butterflies.

THE ST JOHN FAMILY LIVED AT LYDIARD HOUSE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. SOME OF THE FAMILY ARE BURIED INSIDE THE CHURCH. OTHERS, TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE WHO LIVED NEARBY, ARE BURIED IN THE CHURCHYARD.



1 EDWIN EDMOND'S GRAVESTONE

Look for this gravestone. It belongs to a glazier who repaired windows in the church. What was his name? His name was _____

Answer on side 1.



7 VERNON ST JOHN'S GRAVESTONE

Vernon St John collected a special bug. Look for the clue on his gravestone to find out what it was. It was _____

Answer on side 1.



2 THE ODY FAMILY GRAVESTONE

This is the grave of Elizabeth and George Ody who were farmers. Look for the carving of a willow tree. It has a secret meaning. What do you think it means:

- Grief and sadness?
- A love of nature?

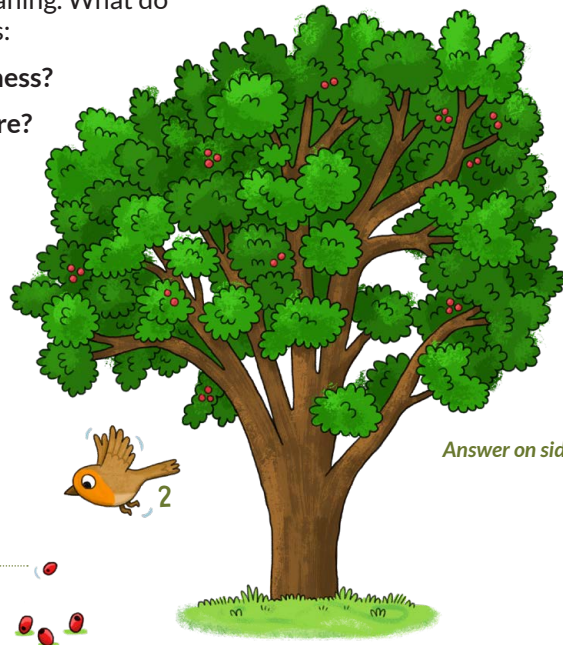
Answer on side 1.



3 REPAIRED PATH

The path has been repaired with broken gravestones. Who does the largest one belong to? It belongs to _____

Answer on side 1.



6 YEW TREE

People thought yew trees stood for 'everlasting life' and used it to decorate churches at Easter. These birds love the red berries. Can you identify them?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Answer on side 1.

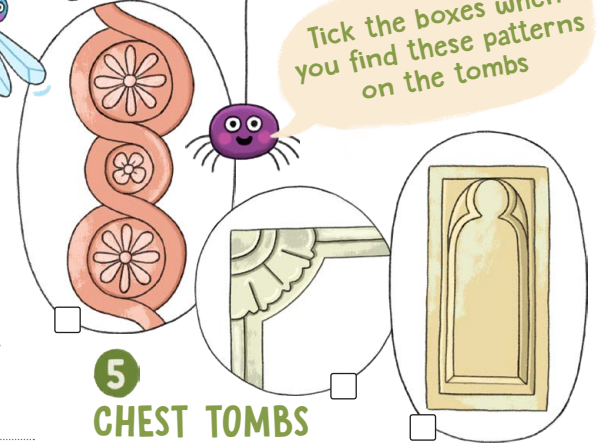


You can do this trail in any order



4 GARGOYLES

Gargoyles are rain water spouts. They are often decorated with scary faces because people believed they protected the church from harm. Draw a gargoyle here.



5 CHEST TOMBS

The wealthy King family lived in Swindon for hundreds of years. They are buried in these expensive chest tombs – perhaps to let everyone to know they were an important family!



Friends of Lydiard Park