

SELF GUIDED TOUR

Please See Overleaf for Plan

You are most welcome to visit this early Victorian church, decorated with Sussex flint, which was opened in 1840.

Including its “Byzantine Romanesque” frontage, the total cost of the building, fully furnished, was £1900, and it was built to replace the small St Peter’s Chapel in the Square.



At that stage the building consisted only of what is now the central section of the Nave and the two Transepts (the two arms of a cross-shaped church projecting out at right angles to the nave). This was changed to its current rectangular shape

when the south aisle (and Gallery) were added in 1855, followed by the north aisle in 1863.

At that stage the church was wider than its length, and the then Bishop described it as “the ugliest church in the diocese”. However, in 1891 this was remedied by the addition of the Chancel to give us the “rather pleasing” shape that we have today.

The church of St James’ is part of the Parish of Warblington with Emsworth. Details of our activities can be found in the Welcome Booklets, or on our website: www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org.

1 The NAVE was designed to seat one third of the town’s population, which in 1840 totalled about 1800 people. Of the seats, 242 nearer to the front were available for rent with 324 free bench sittings towards the back. However, within two years of the church building being opened, a notice was displayed on the doors insisting that, among the free seats, all the men must sit on the left and all the women on the right in order to “put an end to those unholy scenes of which the complaints are so frequent”!

2 Originally placed near the door of the church to symbolise entrance into faith, this fine early Victorian FONT was moved to its present location in 1980. It is used at Christian baptism to invite God’s blessing on all who desire to be part of His Church family. The water of baptism symbolises God’s cleansing or forgiveness when we do wrong, and the new life we discover when God’s Spirit lives within us.

3 The Alabaster PULPIT is in memory of a former Rector, Revd Shepherd and replaced the previous two-tier wooden pulpit. The purpose is to enable preachers be more visible and audible to the congregation as they seek to help people think more deeply about their faith.



4 You are now standing on the Dais near the HOLY COMMUNION TABLE. During Holy Communion services, bread and wine are prepared here for sharing among all those who have a living faith in Jesus Christ. This 2000 year old ceremony recalls the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His friends on the night before His crucifixion. Christians believe that

Jesus sacrificed His life in our place to deal with the problem of sin which separates us from God, so that as we put our trust in Him, we can find forgiveness and new life. The Sanctuary is marked off by a rail at which people kneel to receive bread and wine or a blessing. (Such rails were originally installed in churches to protect the Sanctuary from animals at a time when churches also doubled as market-places!)

5 The current ORGAN was constructed by Norman & Beard Ltd and replaced its predecessor (installed in 1877) which was sold for £150 and shipped to a parish in Victoria, British Columbia, where it is still in use today.

6 The town’s official WAR MEMORIAL was dedicated in 1921 and takes the form of a reredos behind the high altar comprising a carved oak triptych portraying the martyrdom of St James, and panels bearing the names of the fallen in the First World War. Names in respect of the Second World War were added in 1948, and those of more recent conflicts have been added since.

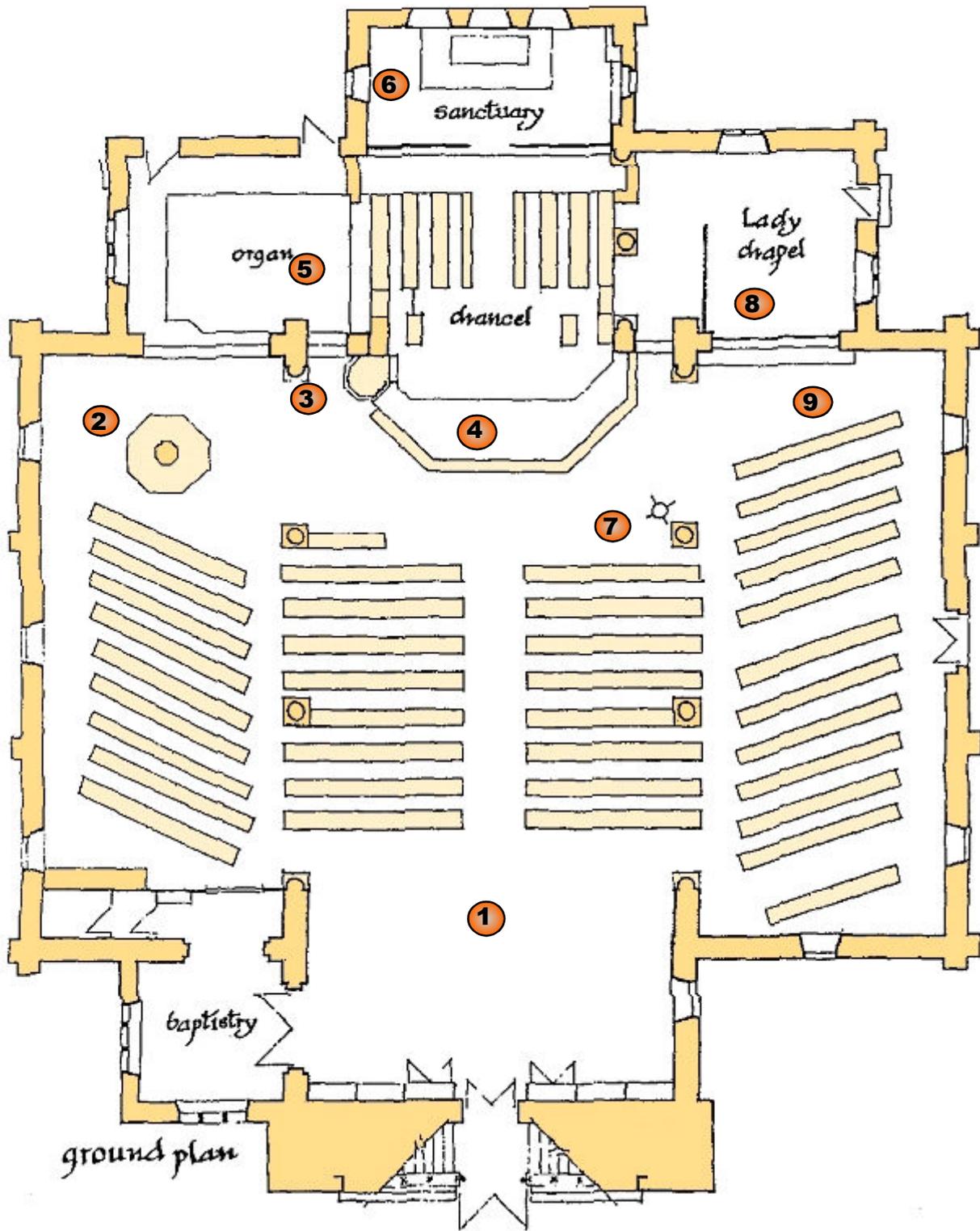
7 This fine brass EAGLE LECTERN is typical of the Victorian era and was given in memory of another former Rector of the parish, Revd Napier.

8 The SIDE CHAPEL was built in 1894, originally as the Vestry but became a chapel two years later when the current Vestry was built on the north east corner of the church.

9 This corner of the church is available for you to use for a moment of QUIET PRAYER. Perhaps you may like to remember a loved one, or bring to God something about which you are concerned.

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CHURCH OF ST. JAMES
EMSWORTH HAMPSHIRE

scale feet