

Conversation pieces for a memory and sensory trail

INTRODUCTION

The history of Temple Balsall starts in the 12th century when the Old Hall was the local headquarters of the Knights Templar. The church of St Mary the Virgin was built by the Knights Hospitallers about 1340 and restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 1840s.

Today the Foundation is focused on the Care Home (the Court), the school, the church and the Leveson Centre for the study of ageing, spirituality and social policy. This follows the will of Lady Katherine Leveson who set up the foundation in 1674.

This trail looks at the court and the church.

1 THE COURT

As you stand by the gates, look around and share what you notice. Did you see these?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| SUNDIAL | Do you like the sun? |
| CLOCK | What is your favourite time of day? |
| CHIMNEYS | Do you like to see an open fire? |
| WEATHER VANE | What type of weather do you enjoy? |



2 BREAD WALK



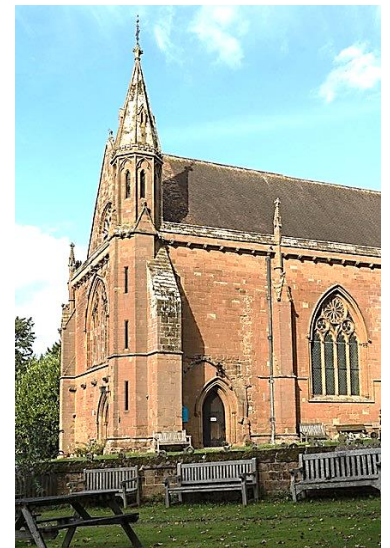
- Can you hear anything?
- Does it feel peaceful or busy?
- What can you see growing?
- What is your favourite tree or flower?

3 CHURCH EXTERIOR

Run your hands over the door.
What does it feel like?

When the door is opened, does it make a noise?

Does it feel and sound heavy or light?



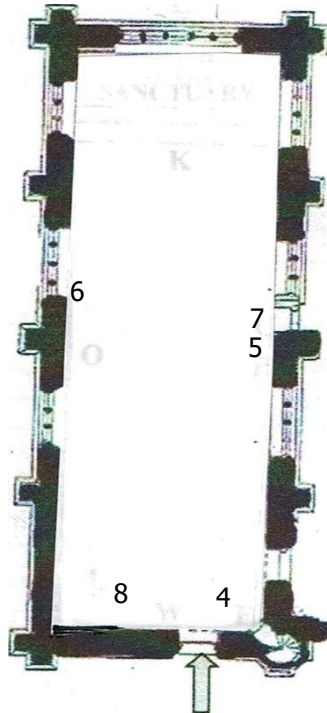
4 FONT



Spend a few moments here and share what you notice.

Do you have memories of family Christenings?

EAST



WEST

5 PULPIT



Share your thoughts on who would use this and what they would do from here.

Do you remember listening to very long talks from the person in the pulpit?

6 ORGAN



Do you have any favourite music that you have heard being played on an organ?

Do you enjoy singing?

What type of music do you like?

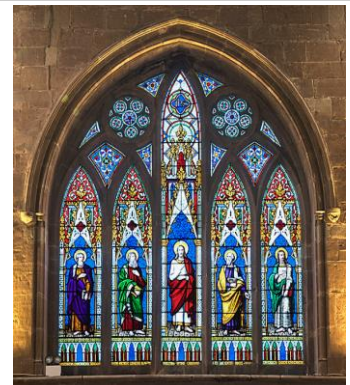
7 CRUCIFIX



Do you find this strange, or beautiful?

Does it make you feel sad?

8 WEST WINDOW



Look up at the West Window.

What thoughts come to your mind?

What colours can you see?

What do you notice about the clothing?

9 IMPRESSIONS

How do you feel inside this building? Is there a calm and peaceful atmosphere? Share your impressions and feelings.

Is there any smell? Is it damp and musty or is it pleasant?

Do you find the church beautiful?