

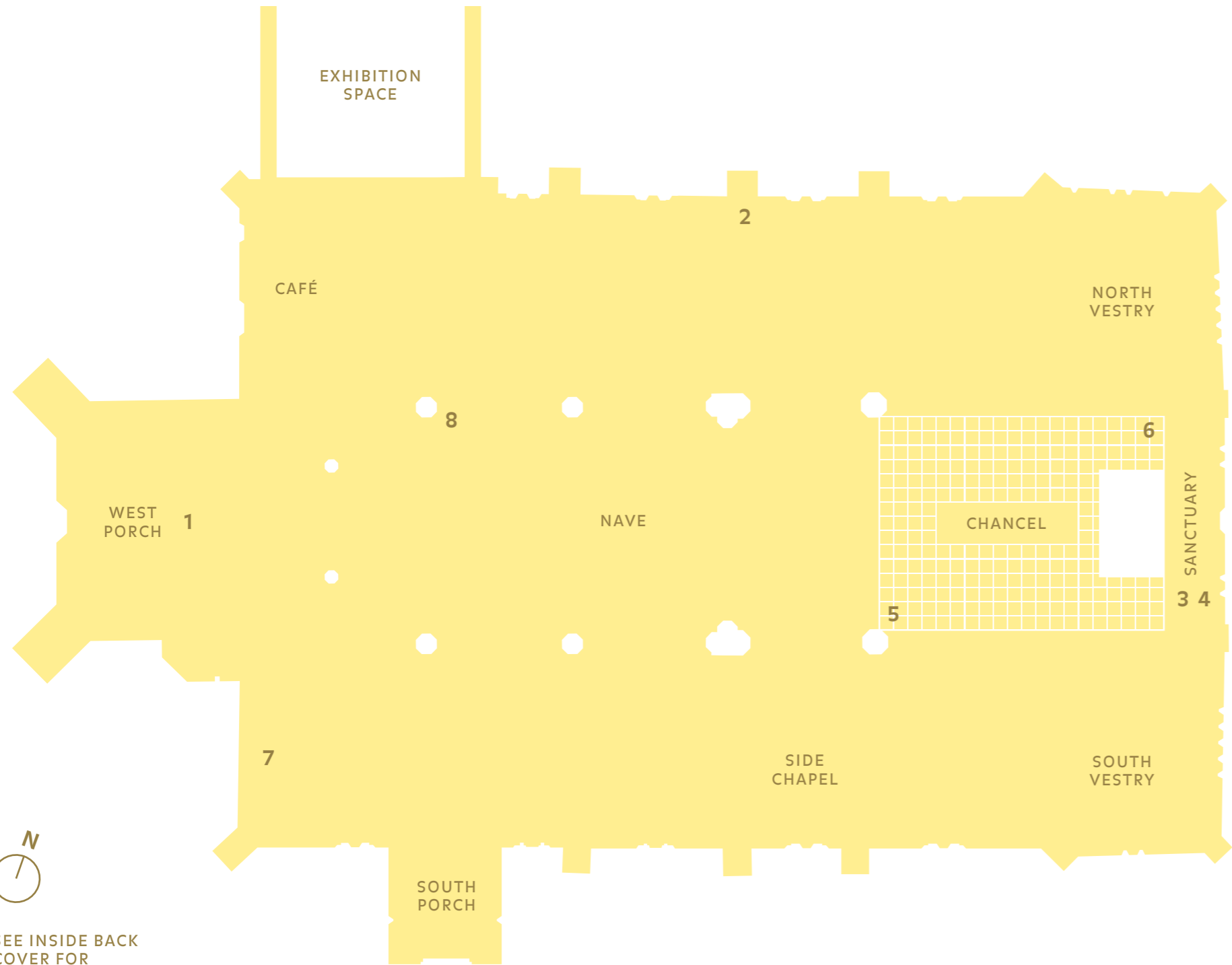


FAMILY  
TRAIL



ST MARY'S  
WALTHAMSTOW

MAP



SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR CHURCHYARD MAP

Welcome to St Mary's church, which was built in the early 1100s by Ralph de Toni. That's over 900 years of history! This trail guides you on a journey through the church and churchyard to learn about key people and features from the church's past. The maps on the front and back cover of this leaflet will help you find your way – the numbers on the map match with the numbers next to the information inside the leaflet. You can pick up a pencil if you'd like to spot and draw along the way.

### 1 HIDDEN STAIRWAY

Start in the entrance, or West Porch. If you look up, you'll see the wooden beams which support the weight of the tower above. These are Tudor, from the 1500s – they are made from oak and are still strong. Can you find the door to the tower? What do you notice about it? It is usually locked apart from when the bells are being rung. Behind the door are 67 stairs up to the top of the tower.

### 2 MYSTERY LADY

Walk along the north side to find this statue of a lady kneeling at prayer. This is Lady Lucy Stanley, second daughter of the Earl of Northumberland. In 1601, she was travelling through Walthamstow with four of her daughters. It's a mystery what happened next, but we know that they must have died on that journey because all five women are buried together here in the church. What do you notice about Lucy Stanley's clothes? The ruff around her neck and her dress show that she must have been very wealthy.





### 3 STAINED GLASS STORIES

As you look towards the east end of the church, you will see the biggest stained-glass window in St Mary's. This is the East Window and it was installed in the 1930s. It tells the story of a Christian hymn, or song, and you will be able to spot angels, saints and church leaders in the pictures. If you look very closely at the border of the bottom right-hand corner, you might also see a tiny white friar, or monk. This was placed there by the makers of the window, whose company was called 'Whitefriars'.



### 4 THE LAST SUPPER

Below the window is a wooden carving showing the Last Supper. This shows Jesus eating a meal with his friends – the disciples – before he was arrested by the Romans. What do you think they are eating? This carving is above the communion table, which is where bread and wine is placed before it is shared between Christians during a church service.

5  
**SOARING EAGLE**

Near the window and communion table, you will see a brass eagle. This is the lectern, where the Bible is placed to be read during a church service. You could draw the eagle, with its feathery wings and sharp talons, here:



6  
**MERRY COUPLE**

Can you find a statue of this gentleman, on the left hand wall near the window? This is Thomas Merry and his wife Mary, who lived during the early 1600s. Thomas Merry worked for King Charles I, before the Civil War. Can you see what Mary and Thomas are each holding in their hands? What do you think these objects mean? The skull shows that Mary had died when this monument was made, but Thomas was still alive. He died twelve years after his wife, in 1654.



## 7 STRIKE A POSE

Walk back towards the entrance now, along the south side. At the end of this, you will see a statue of a family dressed as if they were Romans. This is the Trafford family. The man in the statue is Sigismund Trafford (1643–1723), who worked as a Member of Parliament in government. They are dressed in this way to show their admiration for Ancient Rome and its customs. We believe that the studio of a famous sculptor called Grinling Gibbons may have made this monument. He often put a pea pod in his carvings – can you see one on this sculpture? Is it open or closed? You could draw it here once you find it:



## 8 ANGELS ABOVE

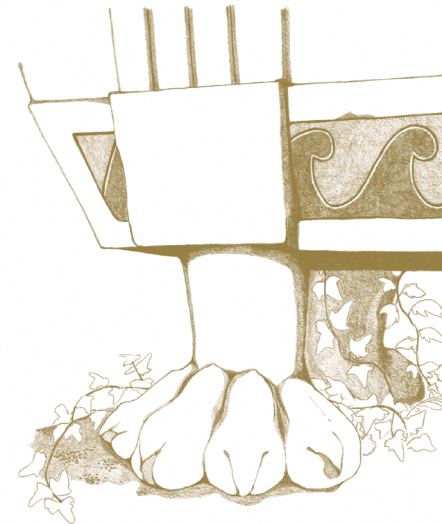
Before you leave the church, glance up to the ceiling to look for the angels above the columns. Angels are messengers in the Christian faith, so we often find them up high, bringing news from heaven. How many angels can you see?

## IN THE CHURCHYARD: HISTORY TRAIL

## 9 ANIMAL CARVINGS

Can you find a tomb with feet like these? What animal does this foot belong to? This is the resting place of Isaac Solly, his wife and at least six members of their family. Can you find his wife's name on the tomb? Isaac Solly was a merchant who worked in the City of London in the last part of the 1700s.

As you look around the churchyard, do you see any other animals on the graves? You can write or draw the animals that you find here:



As you leave the church, go through the gate which is opposite and slightly to the left of the West Porch door. This leads to the section of the churchyard with the biggest tombs. There is a map at the back of this leaflet to help you.

## 10 PROTECTIVE RAILINGS

There is only one tomb in this part of the churchyard with railings around it. Can you find it? Once, many of the other graves would have had railings like this. The railings were put there to protect the people buried within the tombs. During World War Two, almost all the railings were taken down to be used to help the war effort. However, the ones on Elizabeth Cass's grave had only just been renewed. The people who paid for these railings said that they couldn't be taken down again so quickly, so these were the only ones which were not removed!

As you look around, can you spot the marks which show where the railings would have been on other tombs?





### 11 AMAZING NANNY

A little further up the path from Elizabeth Cass's grave, you will find this small grave at the foot of a much bigger tomb, which has an urn on top. This is the grave of Ann, or 'Nanny', Pearce. The larger tomb next to hers is for the wealthy Robert Wigram and his family. Robert had 23 children and Ann looked after all of them when they were young. The Wigram family paid for her to be buried next to them to show their gratitude for her service.



### 12 CLUES AND SYMBOLS

Can you find a big tomb with this symbol on it? What animal do you think is making this strange circle? This snake with its head joined to its tail is called an *ouroboros* – it is meant to show the cycle of life going on forever. There may be 14 people buried in the Dobrée family vault! The family were bankers and you will find the name Bonamy Dobrée amongst them, who was the Governor of the Bank of England. There are lots of different pictures around the vault. On one end is a cup, book and plate – can you find them?



IN THE CHURCHYARD:  
NATURE TRAIL

Can you spot five of the items  
shown here?



Ivy leaf



Robin



Succulent



Lime leaf



Horse chestnut leaf



Y-shaped twig



Woodlouse



Squirrel

Which is your favourite flower or plant in the churchyard? You could sketch it here. If you meet one of our gardeners, they'd be very happy to tell you more about the churchyard plants.



A large, empty rectangular area defined by a dotted line, intended for sketching a favourite flower or plant.

Illustrations by Emily Robertson





Thank you for visiting St Mary's and we hope you'll come again soon. You can find out more about our tours and events for families by visiting: [stmaryswalthamstow.org](http://stmaryswalthamstow.org)