




The Parish of Cardiff St Mary the Virgin

The Mystery of the Stone Head

**Step through time
and Enter the
Mystery of
St Mary's Church**



**The first of a series of
interactive resources
for children**

Welcome to the Mystery of the Stone Head!

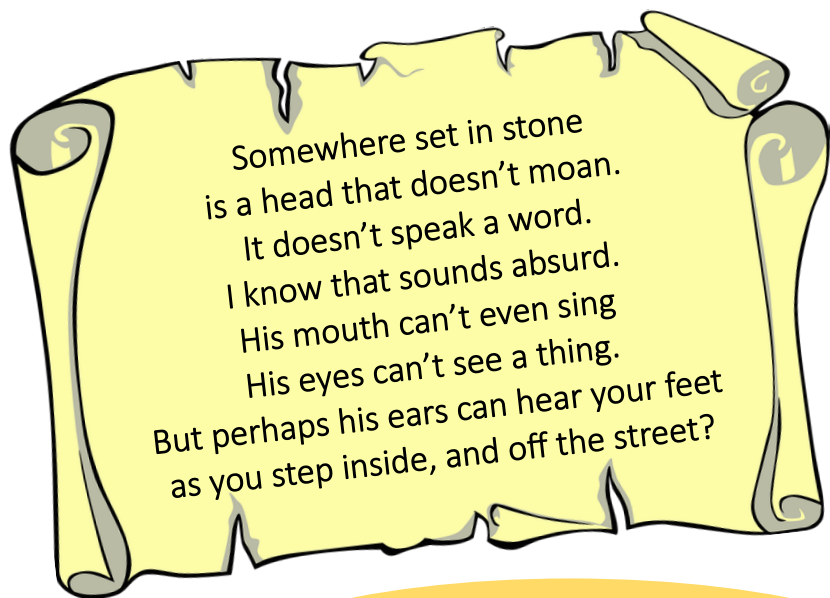
We'll be looking for clues all around the church building.
There are so many things to see and discover.

By the end of your adventure, we hope that you will discover something amazing about this church and our community!



This is how St Mary's Church looked when it was first built.
Before we start our adventure what differences can you find?

The Mystery of the Stone Head



Somewhere set in stone
is a head that doesn't moan.
It doesn't speak a word.
I know that sounds absurd.
His mouth can't even sing
His eyes can't see a thing.
But perhaps his ears can hear your feet
as you step inside, and off the street?

Let's get moving! Can you find a stone head? **Clue:** it's just above one of the doors inside the church

Discover

St Mary's Church was built in **1843** but this stone head came from the first St Mary's Church which was built around the year **1100**. That church was destroyed by a great flood and eventually collapsed about 250 years ago.

This stone head is all that's left of it!

Can you see where the eyes and mouth and other features once were? Why do you think it looks like this now?

Turn over the page to find out what it used to look like!



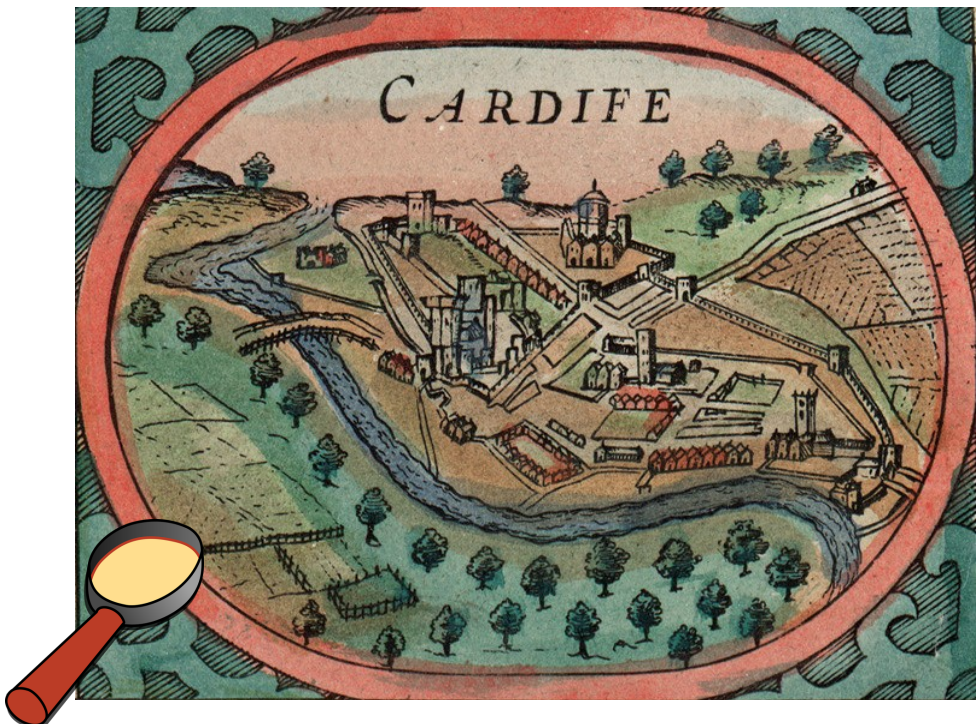
Can you work out how old is the present St Mary's Church?

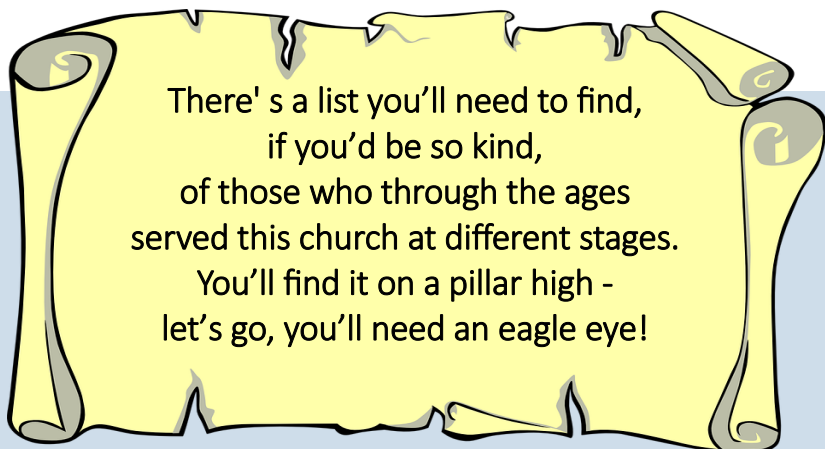
How old is this stone head?

This is a map of Cardiff from the 1600s—that's about 400 years ago! Then, Cardiff was just a town and not the city it is today.

Can you see the original St Mary's Church?

Clue: remember it was flooded!





There' s a list you'll need to find,
if you'd be so kind,
of those who through the ages
served this church at different stages.
You'll find it on a pillar high -
let's go, you'll need an eagle eye!

We're looking for the list of 'Priors and Incumbents' (Priests) of the Church. **Clue:** it's at the back of church, near the font.

What was the name of the first Prior?

Write the first letter of his name in the box

What was the name of the priest who arrived in 1872?

Move across the back of the church where you'll discover three brass plaques. Can you find the plaque in memory of him? What does it say about him? Fill in the gaps below.

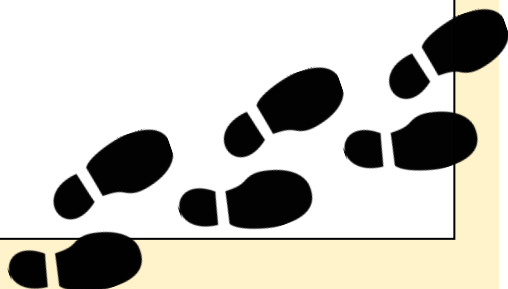
"By his

nature he won the hearts of all"

Write the first letter of his name here in the box.



Let's move on! Stand at the top of the aisle and look through the church. What things do you like or find interesting?





Where angels fly high
We look to the sky
and see all around
that beauty abounds.
So swiftly move there -
There are clues everywhere!

Let's move on! Straight ahead, past the altar in the middle of the church, and through the choir stalls until you get to the apse with its rounded walls. Look up and around you.

How many angels can you count here?
(You'll have to look very carefully!)

Can you see twelve life size statues of the Apostles?
Who is the fourth one from the left?
Write the initial of his name here in the box.

Beneath the painting of the shepherds visiting Jesus,
and above the altar, you'll three special letters in
gold. Write the first letter in the box.

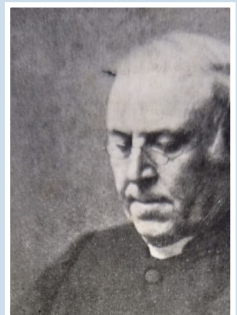


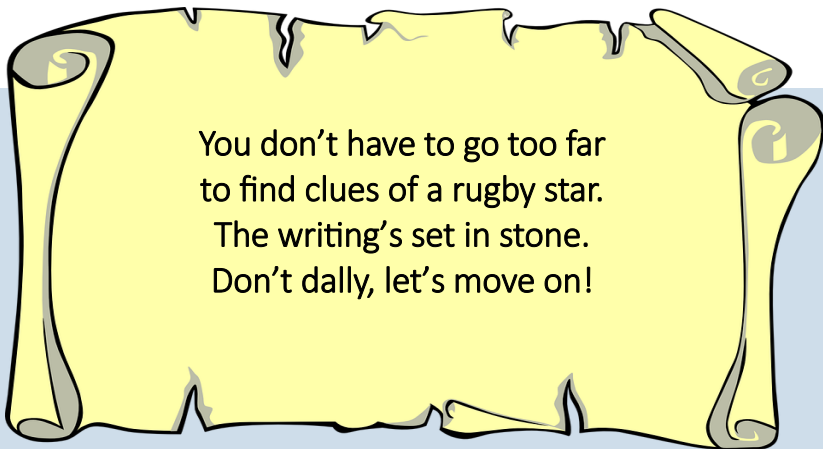
Can you remember when St Mary's Church was built? In the year 1800, only 1,870 people lived in Cardiff. In 1839, it had grown to 10,000. A new church was needed! Can you see St Mary's in the picture below, surrounded by docks and warehouses, ships and shops, hustle and bustle? Imagine what it sounded and smelled like!



Remember how, at the beginning of this adventure, you noted some differences in the building from when it was first built? When Fr Jones came here in 1872, he set about making lots of those changes.

Some people didn't like what he was doing and they give him a very difficult time. But by the time he died in 1906, people across Cardiff loved him!





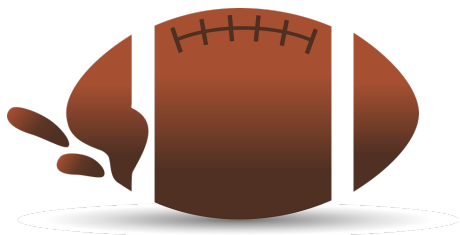
You don't have to go too far
to find clues of a rugby star.
The writing's set in stone.
Don't dally, let's move on!

Are you ready to discover more? Let's explore the memorial plaques on the left hand side of the church. They are high above you on the wall.

Who is the first plaque on the left in memory of?
Write their initial here. It's another important clue!



Eliza and John were great grandparents of some sports superstars from many years ago. One of their great grandsons was **Norman Biggs**, a member of the Welsh Rugby Team who won the Triple Crown in 1893. Norman was the youngest person to play for Wales, a record he held for over a hundred years!



By now, you should have collected five letters along the way.
Write a letter in each box.

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Using the letters can you create a word?

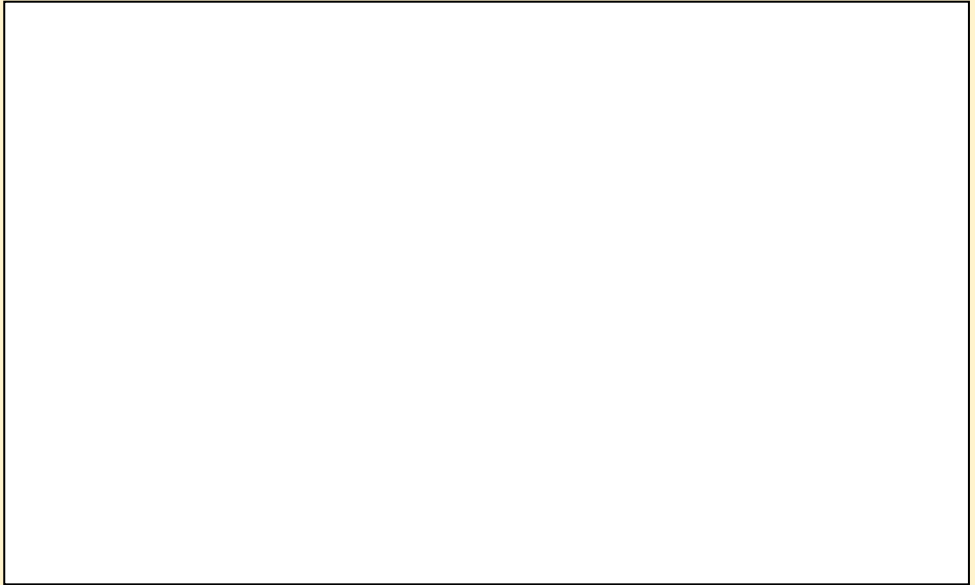
Clue: perhaps you can make it roar!

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Yes, this part of Cardiff became known as Tiger Bay! Sailors came from all over the world and many stayed here and made Cardiff their home. They helped to make Cardiff the brilliant city it is today! Can you find Wales on this map?



There are many clues in St Mary's about the sea-faring history of Cardiff. Can you find some? You'll have to look around you and above you! Write them here or maybe draw a picture!



Cardiff became a city in 1905. Its first mayor was this fine fellow, Robert Hughes! Fr Jones had known him since he was a boy, and arranged a job for him in Cardiff when he was 15 years old. If you have time, look for the brass Lectern in the shape of a grand eagle, and see if you can read the inscription on the globe on which the bird is standing. The Lectern was a gift from Mr Hughes to celebrate the time that Fr Jones spent here as parish priest.

By the time St Mary's Church was built, Cardiff was growing really fast. People from all over the world brought their culture, language and religion with them.

There were Christians of all kinds, along with many Jewish and Muslim people. There are still two Mosques in the local Community, and a Greek Orthodox Church next door. Lots of different languages are spoken here, as well as English and Welsh!



We love living in Butetown (or Tiger Bay as it was known throughout the world!) We have many similarities and many differences but we are friends and neighbours living alongside each other

If that mysterious stone head could talk, imagine what stories it could tell...

We hope you enjoyed
The Mystery of the Stone Head,
and discovered some of the treasures
of St Mary's Church, Tiger Bay and Cardiff.
There's lots more to discover!

