

## Days Out with a religious theme

### St John the Baptist, Kinlet



The south elevation of St John the Baptist, Kinlet.

In our continuing series on **Days Out** within easy reach of Sedgley, Martin and Magda visited the church of **St John the Baptist in Kinlet**. It's got everything you'd expect from a **Grade I listed, 12th century Shropshire church**, together with stone effigies of some of its patrons over the years.



**Kinlet is located due south of Bridgnorth, north-west of Bewdley.**





**The churchyard has a very unusual access, tunnelled though and bricked – a disused wooden bridge sits on top. On either side of the walls are ledges – possibly where coffins may have been rested while awaiting entry to church.**



**A wrought iron style marks the entrance to the churchyard; the churchyard cross dates from 1290-1300. It was rededicated - and the cross on top added - in 1921 to the Kinlet men who died in the Great War.**





**The church organ was brought to Kinlet in 1894 having been in the Music Room at Millchope Park once owned by the Childe-Pembertons; the font at the back of church.**



**The tie-beamed roof to the nave; stone heads carved into the tops of columns at the rear of the nave.**





Within the Blount Chapel is an extraordinary monument to Sir George Blount 1513-81 and his family. His young son John is depicted with a skull – denoting his death at an early age by choking on an apple core.

**Sir George Blount (1513-81)** was an illustrious man who was a member of **Henry VIII's bodyguard** and his children were brought up at court. He was knighted at Leith during a Scottish campaign; he also served in France. He married Constantia, daughter of Sir John Talbot of Grafton Manor, the Earl of Shrewsbury, England's premier earl.



**A beautiful flower arrangement adorns the sill of the windows in the south aisle.**





**The effigies of Sir John Blount of Kinlet (died 1531) and his wife Catherine, daughter of Sir Hugh Peshall, who had been knighted by Henry VII after the Battle of Bosworth. He was father of Sir George Blount.**



The gorgeous colours of the altar at Kinlet. The alabaster reredos was placed on the altar in 1901 to the memory of Major Charles Baldwyn Childe-Pemberton who was killed at Spion Kop in the Boer War.





**St Catherine's Chapel is a medieval chantry chapel. There is a large double aumbry, and a piscina.**



**The tomb of Isobel Cornwall, St Catherine's Chapel, who died before 1430, and was married to Sir William Lychfield. The baby beside her indicates she died in childbirth.**





**A peek inside the vicar's vestry reveals some wonderful portraits of past vicars of Kinlet.**





**A reminder of times past – a wheeled funeral bier for transporting coffins.**





**Above the south door is a tympanum with dogtooth moulding below – it dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the early Norman church was built , and is incorporated into the porch.**



**The elegant porch has been restored with contemporary stone - and the carved faces have also been renewed.**





The distinctive half-timbered clerestory (the upper part of the nave). The timber studding was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.





**The churchyard at Kinlet, which was bedecked with snowdrops.**





We ended our visit with a meal and drinks at the Eagle and Serpent in the village of Kinlet.

**Information source:**

**Kinlet Church - illustrated church booklet.**

## **Martin and Magda Jones**

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**A tour of churches south of Bridgnorth, which could be visited in conjunction with Kinlet, can be found here:**

**<http://gornalandsedgley.org.uk/content/pages/documents/1459782342.pdf>**