

In 2020 St Alphege Church marks 800 years since its founding, marking 800 years of Christianity in Solihull. Soon after this time, King Henry III granted a market charter. This allowed for a weekly market and an annual fair around the feast of St Alphege in April. Alphege is a martyred Archbishop; an event illustrated on a stained-glass window inside the church.

The market town of Solihull benefitted from its location on the meeting place of two trade routes; one between Coventry and Worcester and another between Warwick and Birmingham. It is thought that Solihull got its name from its position on a “soily hill”. The local earth is a sticky red marl.

Building of the present church began in the 13th century and was not complete until the mid 16th. It has a chancel with a two storey chapel, a nave, a spire that reaches over 50m above sea level, and 13 bells.

The town grew very gradually with most of the locality given over to farms. Change came with the arrival of the Great Western Railway line in the 1850s. More homes were built for people who were able to live in Solihull and work in Birmingham. More recently, the town centre has been developed; the High Street was closed to cars in 1993 and Touchwood Shopping Centre was opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 2002.

This short trail is written to guide people on an enjoyable walk from St Alphege Church to Brueton Park. These small snippets of local history are selected to inspire people of all ages to find out more about the rich heritage of the area and town.

To learn more you can read the information panels in the park and access a range of services offered by Solihull Library and available at The Core and online at www.solihull.gov.uk/heritage



The making of this trail is just one act of kindness marking 800 years of Christianity in Solihull throughout 2020. Produced by Mrs History.

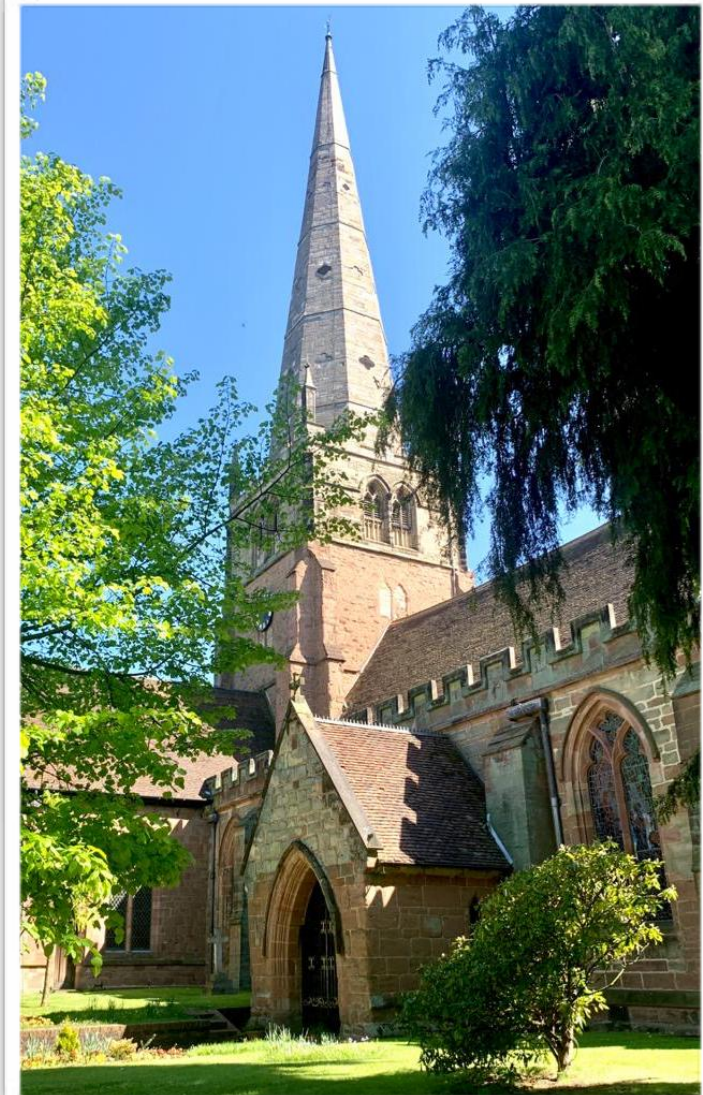
Answers: 1. Possibly made by sharpening arrows 2. Tea room 3. Nurse, pilot, soldier sailor 4. Custard 8. Town gaol and VR Victoria Regina

Find out more: www.solihullparish.org.uk



St Alphege, Solihull Family Walking Trail

Use this family trail to discover local history around St Alphege Church and Malvern Park in Solihull.



1. St Alphege Church is built from red sandstone. The stones were cut and laid by generations of skilled stonemasons.

Look out for these unusual markings. What do you think they were made by and why?



2. Along the High Street is a timber framed house built in 1495, known as The Manor House. Homes built from wood and infilled with panels of plaster were a familiar sight in medieval times.

What is the building used for today?



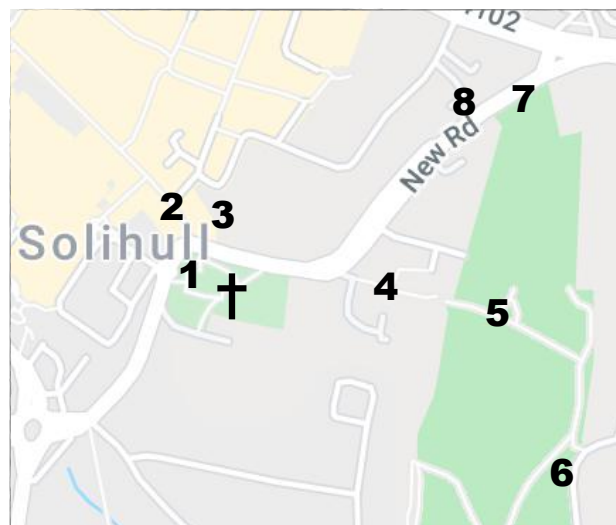
3. This war memorial recognises those involved in World War I & II and the Korean War conflicts. It was originally located where the zebra crossing is today.

What important jobs are shown on the carved stone panels on each side of the memorial?



8. Look at the name of this house behind the post box. It's the Old Lock Up. What do you think it was used for? Look for the initials ER II on the letterbox.

Do you know what they stand for?



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4. Look for Malvern House. This was the location of Solihull School until 1882, when the school moved to a bigger site up the road.

Can you challenge yourself to say your alphabet backwards before you reach the park?!



7. These gates to Malvern Park were added in 1955. The

park once had a Lido - an open air swimming pool. Today the park has a GreenFlag award given to outstanding parks. Can you see the flag nearby?



6. This is the old coach house and stable yard that belonged to Malvern Hall. It is now part of St Martin's School.

Can you recreate the sounds made by horses and carriages belonging to visitors to the hall?



5. Oliver Bird presented this "Horse and his Master" sculpture in memory of his father Alfred Bird. Alfred lived at Tudor Grange and was famous

for inventing a sweet, yellow-coloured sauce. Very tasty with apple pie, do you know what it is called?

