



Young Heritage Hunters

Dragons and Saints



Students perform a 'Mummers' play based on the legend of George and the Dragon

Year 3: Visit to St Lawrence's Church, Broughton Village

St Lawrence's Church is a hidden gem in the Broughton area. The church has been decommissioned and is looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust. It is a medieval church and has a series of stunning medieval wall paintings. They were hidden behind plaster for 300 years before being rediscovered during a restoration in 1849. One painting called 'Pieta' is a picture of the Virgin Mary cradling the body of Christ. Another is a painting called 'Doom'. There are also paintings called 'St Helena and St Eligius' and one of only two surviving 'Warning to Swearers' in the country.

Church wall paintings were an important way of teaching people about Christian morality before people could read or write. However, the paintings were covered in the reformation as they were considered 'popish' and blasphemous.

There is also a wall painting of St George killing the dragon although he lost his head when the ceiling was restored. He was considered particularly important to Britain in the medieval era. It is believed that he appeared to the English before the Battle of Agincourt in order to give the army the strength to defeat the French. Many traditional folk plays (Mummers) were performed re-enacting George's defeat of the dragon.

To find out more about The Churches Conservation Trust:
www.visitchurches.org.uk

