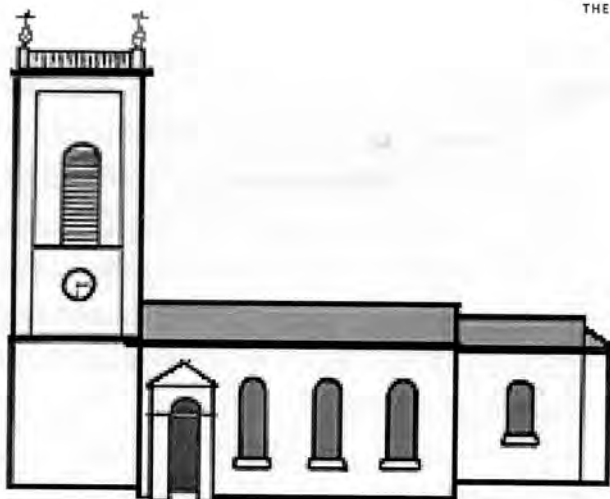


# 20 Minutes of Discovery Around St Marcella's Church Marchwiell



## Discover the Outside

St Marcella's Church was built in 1773 in the style inspired by Sir Christopher Wren, when Philip Yorke I of Erddig was churchwarden. It has the delightful proportions and pleasing simplicity of a neo-classical building. It is built of smooth sandstone, with a pediment over the south door. The ~~house with its~~ Joyce clock was added in 1892. It is surmounted by a balustrade with a classical urn at each corner

*Enter this building with reverence for it is precious to those who express their faith in God here.*

### **Discover the Inside**

The interior is light and elegant having been replastered in the original style in the 1980s. Wide rounded arches lead to the chancel and a north transept. On a sunny day the rounded windows fill the church with coloured light.

### **Discover The Yorke and Erddig Connection**

The 1778 centre window in the south wall has heraldic references to the families of Erddig House. It is aligned with the Yorke family vault outside the church. There are 18 shields and four crests relating to the Yorkes, Edisburys and Custs of Erddig. Discover a cockerel like figure known as a cockatrice or basilisk and some unicorns. The owners of each shield are identified on the window, which makes it a useful introduction to the art of heraldry.

### **Discover the Yorke Memorials**

Typically of the period, the memorials are highly ornate and secular. The entire south wall is devoted to the Yorke family of Erddig House. Discover the information under the westernmost memorial on the south wall: Philip Yorke's Orders for John Caesar Concerning the Funeral of Mrs York (1779). It gives a fascinating insight into 18th century funeral arrangements and upstairs/downstairs relationship.

### **Discover The Good Samaritan**

Discover in the window at the east end of south wall the story of the Good Samaritan. Start from the bottom and read up to Jesus with a cruciform halo. Various lilies, vines and roses decorate the windows.

### **Discover Font, Lectern and Pulpit**

Walk up the nave to the eight-sided font in the northeast corner of the nave. Discover on it the IHS (Jesus). Nearby is the wooden eagle lectern carved with flowers and leaves and around its base a record of how it came to be given. Discover more flowers and leaves carved on the wooden pulpit across the nave.

### **Discover the Chancel and Altar**

Choir stalls line the chancel. Again they are carved with flowers and leaves. The altar is in a three-sided apse at the east end. Discover carved symbols of the crucifixion, ladder, sponge, spear, nails, hammer, dice and crown of thorns. The side panels contain the alpha and omega (God is first and last). The Lamb of God (Jesus) is depicted on a floor-tile in front of the altar.



*Agnus Dei*  
*The Lamb of God*

### **Discover Around the Chancel**

On the sides of the chancel are brasses of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. Altar frontals, beautifully embroidered with Christian symbols change with the seasons.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

## **Discover Around the North Transept**

Return from the chancel and turn right into the transept. A painting of a 'Dispute over the Sacraments' hangs on this wall of the transept. In the window nearby Jesus heals a blind man. Symbols include a snake on a stake (evil conquered), XP (Christ Jesus) and a cruciform halo (Risen Jesus). The window in the facing wall of transept is a decorative arrangement of the letters IHC (Jesus), *fleurs-de-lis* (Holy Trinity), lilies and other flowers (Mary).



*Fleur-de-lis  
Holy Trinity*

## **Discover Christian Symbols in the Kneelers**

Each kneeler has a design or symbol lovingly worked into it by church members. Discover the signs of the evangelists (the winged man of St. Matthew, winged lion of St. Mark, winged ox of St. Luke, and eagle of St. John).

## **Discover About the Church Bells**

Returning towards the exit door, the organ gallery is at the west end of the nave. Ahead of you is the tower with its peal of eight bells installed in 1930 to replace the original single bell. Discover a framed description of the bells hanging on the west end of the south row of pews.

*Leave this building with the blessing of those who express their faith in God here*