

Cartoons and Comic strips

We may think of comic books and cartoon strips as a fairly modern idea. In the printed form they have developed particularly since the mid C19. However the idea of using a series of pictures with a few words to tell a story goes back a lot further in history.

The Bayeux Tapestry is a notable example of this in textile form as it tells the story of the Norman Conquest.



There are many paintings where a whole series of scenes are included in the same painting, inviting the viewer to follow the story that the painter is illustrating.

In this painting 'Passion of Christ' the artist Hans Memling includes scenes telling the story of Holy Week as Jesus enters Jerusalem, shares the Last Supper with his disciples, is betrayed, condemned and crucified, then the resurrection and appearance to the disciples by the lake in Galilee.



The stories of Asterix written by Rene Goscinny began in a French comic in 1959 and have become popular all over Europe and beyond, having been translated into more than 100 languages. As the pictures can be followed without necessarily knowing the language, these books have often been used to support learning a foreign language.

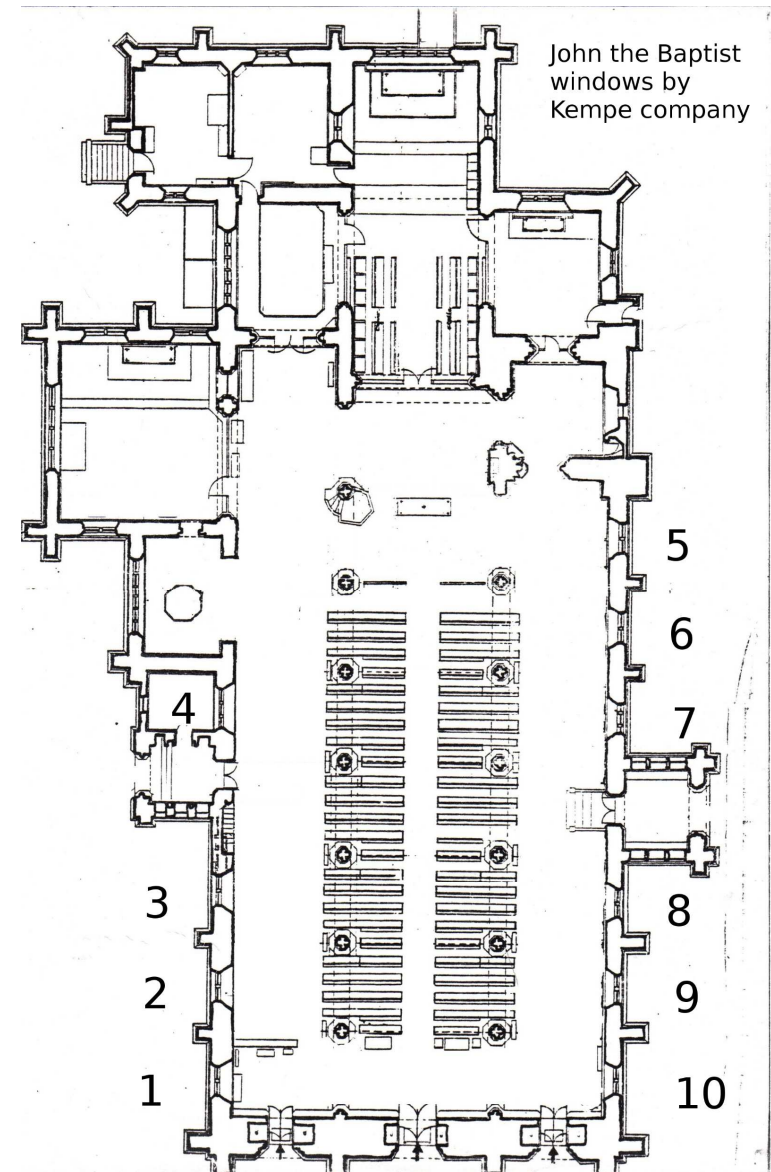


The story of St John the Baptist in stained glass

Amongst the stained glass introduced into the parish church of St John the Baptist in the 1860's was a series of windows made by Hardman's of Birmingham.

These windows were replaced in the 1920's with glass made by the Kempe company but following closely the designs of the 1860's Hardman windows.

Starting by the entrance at the North West corner of the church, there are ten windows in the sequence - four along the North wall and then a further six returning along the South Wall of the church.



Like comic strips or cartoons, the sequence of images taken together with the words included in them, tell the story of John the Baptist's life.

The scene to the right represents the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, her cousin, just as the medieval wall painting at St Thomas' church in Salisbury does.

