

## **THREE SOLWAY CHURCHES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

### **Activity One: St Michael's Church quiz and photo quiz**

<b>Activity title</b>	St Michael's Church quiz and photo quiz
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>To become familiar with St Michael's Church</p> <p>To recognise features of a Church</p> <p>To identify features of St Michael's Church</p> <p>To learn about the history of St Michael's Church</p>
<b>Activity</b>	<p>Introduce the church to the children using the following information.</p> <p>Built of stones taken from Hadrian's Wall and the Roman Fort of Aballava -appropriately since its Border location has seen it used regularly for defence over the centuries - St. Michael's Church has unique features and a rich and absorbing history. The earliest Church building on this site is known to have been here in the early 12th century, so Christian worship has continued here for over 900 years. The exact date of its building is unknown. The foundation of the Church, the name of its first priest, who was called Swein, and its first endowment with an acre of land on the south side of Burgh, perhaps its ancient churchyard, were still remembered around 1200 AD, when the Church, with its lands and revenue, was given to Holm Cultram Abbey.</p> <p>There are few remains of the architecture of the first church -the main doorway, and the very interesting carved stones depicting animals, over the tower doorway, through which you have just passed. Some historians believe that the base of the west tower dates from the time of the first Church here. St. Michael's as it is now dates from the late 12th century. The north aisle was added in the 13th century, when the main doorway was moved to its present position. The west tower was added in the 14th century, as a belfry but also, importantly, as a place of refuge from cross-border raids and warfare, when villagers would have sheltered there. Called to safety by the same bells which are rung every Sunday today. In those days the tower would have had the existing ground floor and first floor, and either one or two other floors. The Church is unique in having both a west and an east tower, although the height of the main roof of the east tower was lowered to the level of the main roof in the 1700s. The existence of the east tower is the reason the Church has no east window; originally it was used as a fortified residence for the priest; later in more peaceful times it became a small schoolroom. It is now the Church vestry. The Church is one of only a very few with a fortified pele tower, and is probably the oldest of three such towers in Cumbria. Invasions from</p>

	<p>Scandinavia, as well as from Scotland, were frequent in the period following the departure of the Romans and the Viking heritage is still to be found in a number of words, including 'yett' which is the name of the heavy iron gate you would pass on your way into the tower. 'Yett' is still used for 'gate' in Cumbrian dialect today.</p> <p>Over many centuries the Church here has sheltered and protected, ministered to and cared for, its people - physically and spiritually - and they in turn have nurtured and protected it and brought it to the present time, for future generations to worship in, and to enjoy. Still at the heart of its community, the signatures in its visitors' book are evidence that the visitors it welcomes now come from every part of the world.</p> <p>The Church is the oldest and most significant building in the parish - still used for the purpose of Christian worship for which it was originally built.</p> <p>Show children the quiz sheets (available on line to be downloaded) and explain what they have to do. Children to complete the quiz with adult support if necessary.</p>
Plenary	Ask children to remember facts about St Michael's Church and ask them where they found the pictures on the quiz sheet



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