



## GCSE Religion Philosophy and Ethics The Nature of Belief Walsingham Notes

We visited **The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham** on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. These notes and photos are meant to help you to remember the visit, and some of the things that were discussed while we were there.

### Faces of Jesus

We arrived at the Shrine, and went straight into the Medieval *Pilgrims' Hall*. We began by looking at some pictures of Jesus. The aim was to



find the pictures that helped people to think about Jesus, and the pictures that didn't.

### The Russian Orthodox Church

We walked up to the old Railway Station to see the Orthodox Church of St Seraphim of Sarov.

We sat in the Church and heard about the way that Russian Orthodox people worship using the



icons on the Iconostasis. We also looked at the dome in the roof of the Church, and at the Icon of Jesus



Looking down on the worshippers.

### Music

We went into the Shrine Church for the first time, and listened to some music – we were trying to decide which music would help worshippers best.

### The Shrine

We returned to the Shrine Church to see the Holy House and to sample the atmosphere in the Church itself. We spent some time looking at the statues, candles and decorations in the Church, and tried to see how they help worshippers in their



reflection and meditation.

### The Icon Lady

Becky is an Icon Painter. She



explained how icons help people to "tune in" to their Spiritual Lives, and then demonstrated icon painting. She made up some paint using egg yolk and mineral powders, and showed us how an icon painter would "put God into an icon" with Gold Leaf.

## Walsingham Notes

### The Holy House

This is a tiny chapel inside the Shrine Church itself. The walls are blackened by the soot from the Candles lit by pilgrims. The golden



altar has a statue above it which is a replica of the original statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. Pilgrims visit the Holy House for silent prayer, and to ask for Our Lady's prayers. They leave candles to represent their prayers.



### The Shrine Gardens

The Gardens were superb (a beautiful day helped!). Pilgrims often spend time in the gardens to reflect and pray – you don't always need to go to a church to pray!



### Stained Glass

Glass has been used to decorate churches for centuries. The glass casts interesting patterns on the floor, and the picture represents

Jesus with his right hand raised in blessing.

### Statues

There were an incredible number of statues in the Shrine Church – the most obvious one was of Our Lady. There were often candles burning in front of the statues, representing prayers offered



up in front of the statue itself.

### The Intercession Box

In front of this large carved wooden plaque was a box. Pilgrims could write their prayers on slips



of paper and the Sisters would repeat the prayers at services throughout the following week.

You can download some pictures of Walsingham for use in your coursework. Go to [www.tsas-re.freemove.co.uk/walsingham.html](http://www.tsas-re.freemove.co.uk/walsingham.html) to see what's available!