

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL

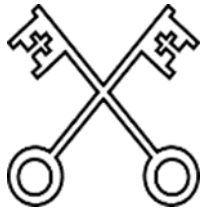
Education Department

Features of a Christian Place of Worship-

GLOSSARY

KS2/KS3





Features of a Christian Place of Worship



Aisle

The pathway left between chairs for people to pass through.

Altar

The altar is a table, and in a communion service Christians remember the last meal that Jesus had with his friends, in which he shared bread and wine with them.

The altar is the holiest part of the church and during a communion service the worshippers look towards this place.

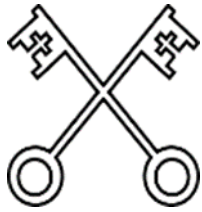
The bread symbolises Jesus' body and the wine symbolises Jesus' blood. During communion, members of the Church come to the altar to eat a small piece of bread and take a sip of wine, to remember Jesus.

The altar table is covered with a coloured cloth. The colour of the cloth changes depending on the time of year.

Bells

The bells are hung in the Cathedral tower, which is at the back of the Cathedral. Ropes inside the bell tower are attached to each bell so that when each rope is pulled, the bells ring. The people who ring the bells are known as bell ringers. The bells are rung on special occasions.





Choir Stalls

This is where the people who sing during the service may sit. Choir stalls are located between the nave and the altar and members of the choir sit facing each other. Music is an important form of prayer in the Christian tradition.

Font

The font is a stone container that holds the water used by the clergy (the priests) to baptise, or christen, someone. A person becomes part of the church when they are baptised as it shows to others that they want to follow Jesus. This is why the font is usually near the main entrance. It symbolises a person entering Christianity.

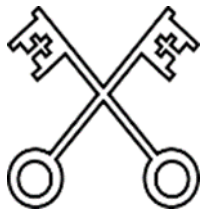
Lectern

The lectern is where members of the congregation stand to read passages from the Bible, to lead the congregation in prayer or to make announcements. Many lecterns are carved in the shape of an eagle, which is the symbol of Saint John, who wrote one of the gospels (books) of the Bible. An eagle is also symbolic of the word of God “flying” or reaching out across the world.

Nave

This is the area where the worshippers– the congregation– sit.





Organ

This is the musical instrument that is played during services and accompanies hymns (songs to God).

Pulpit

The pulpit is a raised platform where a member of the clergy may stand to preach his or her sermon. A sermon is a talk given to the worshippers during a service, usually based on a passage from the Bible.

The pulpit is raised to make sure that everyone can see the person who is preaching.

Stained Glass Windows

These often show stories from the Bible, they inspire people with their images of holy men and women (saints) and they also add colour and beauty to the place of worship. There are some stained glass windows in Bradford Cathedral that were designed by a famous man called William Morris and made by his company.

