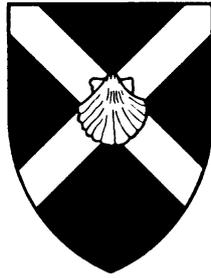
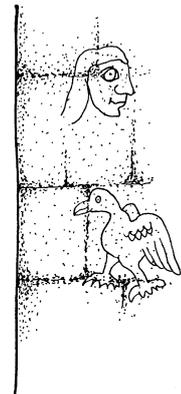
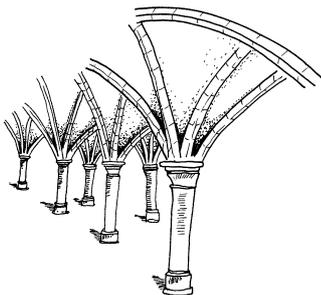
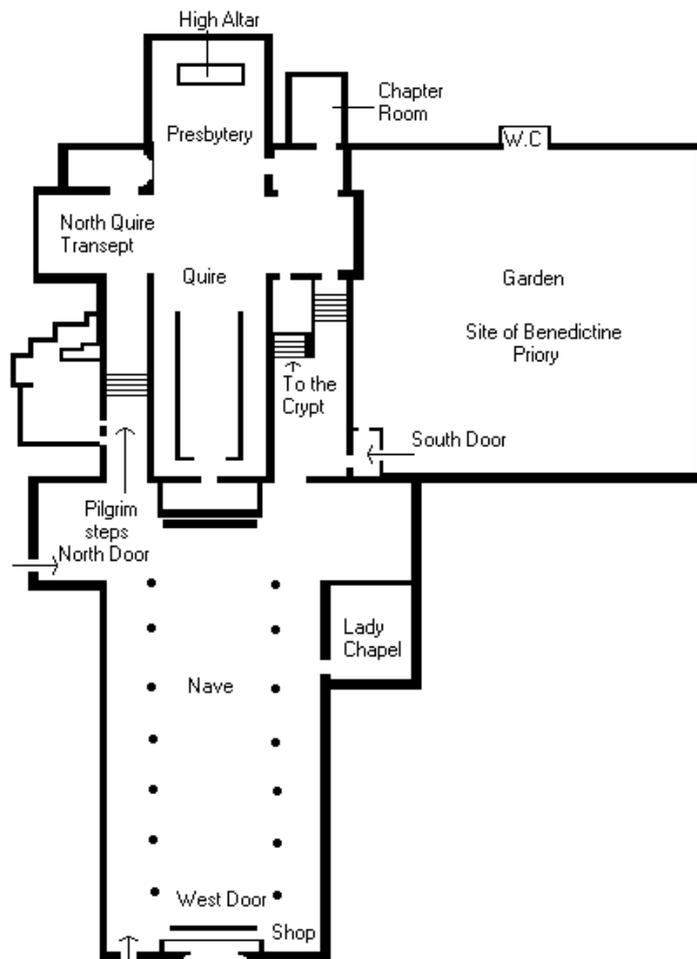


# In God's House



**Rochester Cathedral** is a church. A **church** is a place where Christians come together to worship God. They sing hymns and songs. They talk and listen to God in prayer. They learn more about God by listening to readings from the Bible.

Inside Rochester Cathedral there are different rooms, just like in a house. A church is sometimes called the **House of God**. Which room will you visit first? Use this plan to help you decide.



# Word List

## **Altar**

An **altar** is a table covered with a coloured cloth. It is used when Christians celebrate the special meal of Holy Communion.

## **Baptism**

At **baptism** holy water is poured over a person to welcome them into God's family. Our **fresco** (see below) shows a picture of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan.

## **Bible**

The **Bible** is the Christian's Holy Book. It tells us about God and his son, Jesus Christ. It helps Christians to understand how they should live their lives.

## **Bishop**

The **Bishop** is the priest who looks after a large group of churches called a diocese. His special chair, the Cathedra (the Greek name for chair), gives the cathedral its name.

## **Canon**

A **Canon** is a priest who works in the cathedral.

## **Choir**

A **Choir** is a group of people who sing together. The **Quire** (said the same, although spelt differently) is also the name for the part of the cathedral where the choir sits.

## **Christian**

A **Christian** is someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God.

## **Font**

A **Font** is a basin which holds special holy water used during baptism.

## **Fresco**

A **fresco** is a picture painted on wet plaster.

## **Hymns**

**Hymns** are songs about God.

## **Lectern**

A **Lectern** is a book-stand. It usually holds a copy of the Bible.

## **Monks**

**Monks** are men who have made special religious promises. They live together in monasteries and dedicate their lives to God.

## **Nave**

The **Nave** is the largest part of the cathedral. The word comes from Navis, the Latin word for ship, because of the shape of the nave.

## **Prayer**

**Prayer** is the word we use for talking and listening to God.

## **Priest**

A **Priest** is someone who has been given special responsibility to care for Christians and tell people the good news about Jesus, usually in a church.

## **Pulpit**

The **pulpit** is a raised tower. People stand in it to preach sermons which tell others about God.

## **Saints**

**Saints** are holy people whose lives show us how we should live to please God.

## The Nave

The **Nave** is the biggest room in the Cathedral. Find somewhere to sit down. Think of some words to describe this room.

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.....

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.....

Look around. Write down or draw some of the things you can see.

Find the large stone basin on short pillars. It has a wooden cover. This is the **Font**. Look carefully at the carvings. Try and draw one on this Font.

The **Font** holds holy water. It is used when Christians welcome people into the family of God at baptism. This is a picture of an baby being baptised.



Find the **Pulpit**. It is like a wooden tower, near the front of the Nave. People stand in the pulpit to teach others about God and His Son, Jesus. Why do you think the pulpit is so high?

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Look up at the **organ pipes** at the front of the Nave. The organ is the main musical instrument in the Cathedral. It has almost 4,000 pipes. When it is played it helps the choir and congregation to sing joyful songs to God.

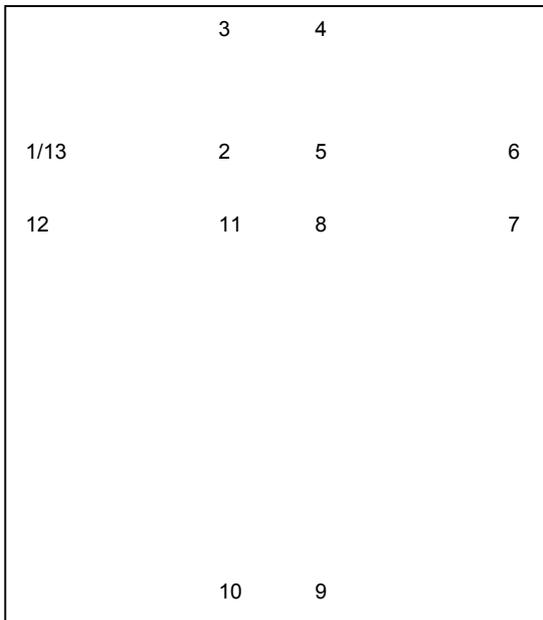
## The Lady Chapel

This is a small room. Look around. What furniture can you see?

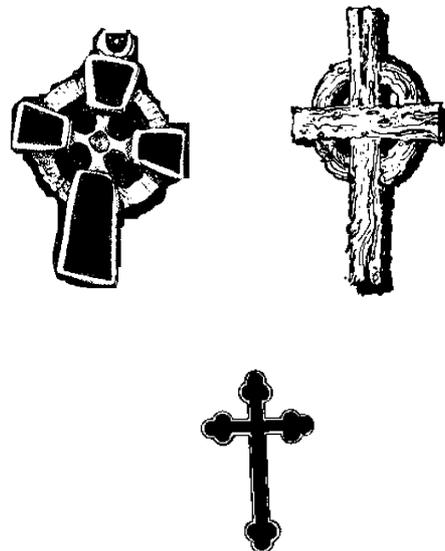
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Join the numbers, then write Jesus' name on this cross.



The Lady Chapel has a stained-glass window which shows Jesus on the cross. At Easter time Christians remember that Jesus died on the cross and then rose to life again. The wooden and metal crosses in churches and cathedrals remind us of Jesus.



Look at the floor. Find a carved picture covered by a small rubber mat. What is happening in the picture?

.....

The picture shows part of a story that Jesus told called 'The Good Samaritan'. You can read it in the Bible, in the Gospel written by Luke, chapter 10, beginning at verse 25.

Circle those words below that you might use to describe the Lady Chapel. Add some more of your own.

*quiet*

*interesting*

*dull*

*colourful*

*scary*

Find the **candle stand** in the Lady Chapel. Sometimes people light candles when they have prayed in the Cathedral. Jesus called himself the Light of the World. Candles give us light and are another way of remembering God's Son, Jesus.

You could use this space to write a prayer or draw a candle.

*Dear God,*

## The Quire and Presbytery

If you know a song or hymn about God write part of it here.

This is the place where the Cathedral choir



sing praises to God. Can you see the special wooden seats (called 'stalls') which they use?

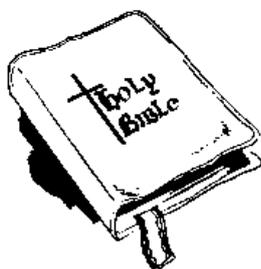
Find another large wooden seat with a wooden canopy over the top. It is called a **Cathedra**. It is where the **Bishop** of Rochester sits. What is in the glass case next to the Cathedra?

.....

This **crozier** (like a shepherd's crook) reminds the Bishop that God wants him to be like a shepherd, but taking care of people instead of sheep. Why do you think the top of the crozier is shaped like the letter R?

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Can you see a large golden eagle, perching on a globe? This is the **Lectern**. It holds a special book.

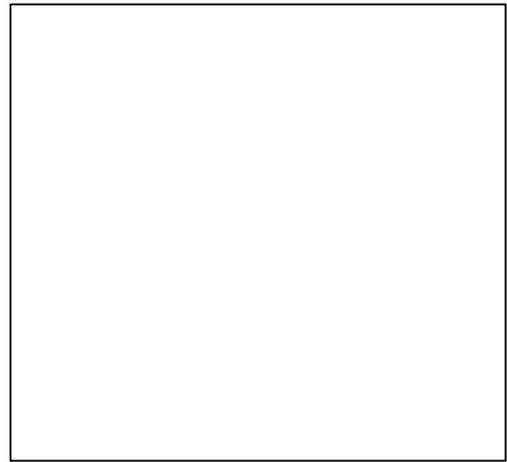


What is the name of this book?

## The High Altar

Now find a table covered with a coloured cloth. It is called an **altar**. What can you see on the altar? Draw them here.

The altar is where Christians celebrate a special meal called **Holy Communion**. They eat bread and wine which has been blessed, and remember Jesus' last meal with his friends (the Last Supper).



This is one of the floor tiles. Can you see any that are upside down? They were laid upside down to remind us that we sometimes make mistakes, but God doesn't.



If you told a friend about this part of the cathedral, what would you say?



## The Crypt

Go down the stairs to the **Crypt**. *Please be quiet down here.*

Can you find:

A very old basin called a **piscena**?



This was used for washing the cup and plate used during Holy Communion.

Some pictures carved on the wall?



These are pictures of Jesus and His disciples. They were carved hundreds of years ago.

The Crypt Chapel is also down here – it is a quiet place for people to talk to God.



## The Garden

Go outside to the garden. Many years ago there were monks at Rochester Cathedral. The ruins of the buildings in which the monks lived (the **monastery**) can be seen round the edge of the garden. This picture shows the ruins of the **Chapter House**, where the monks had meetings.

Draw a picture of, or write about some of the other things you can see.



## Before you leave

Go back to your favourite room in the Cathedral. Find somewhere to sit and think.

What did you like best about your visit?

What did you discover about God?

What would you like to find out more about?

***We hope you will come back to Rochester Cathedral again – there's lots more for you to explore and discover!***