

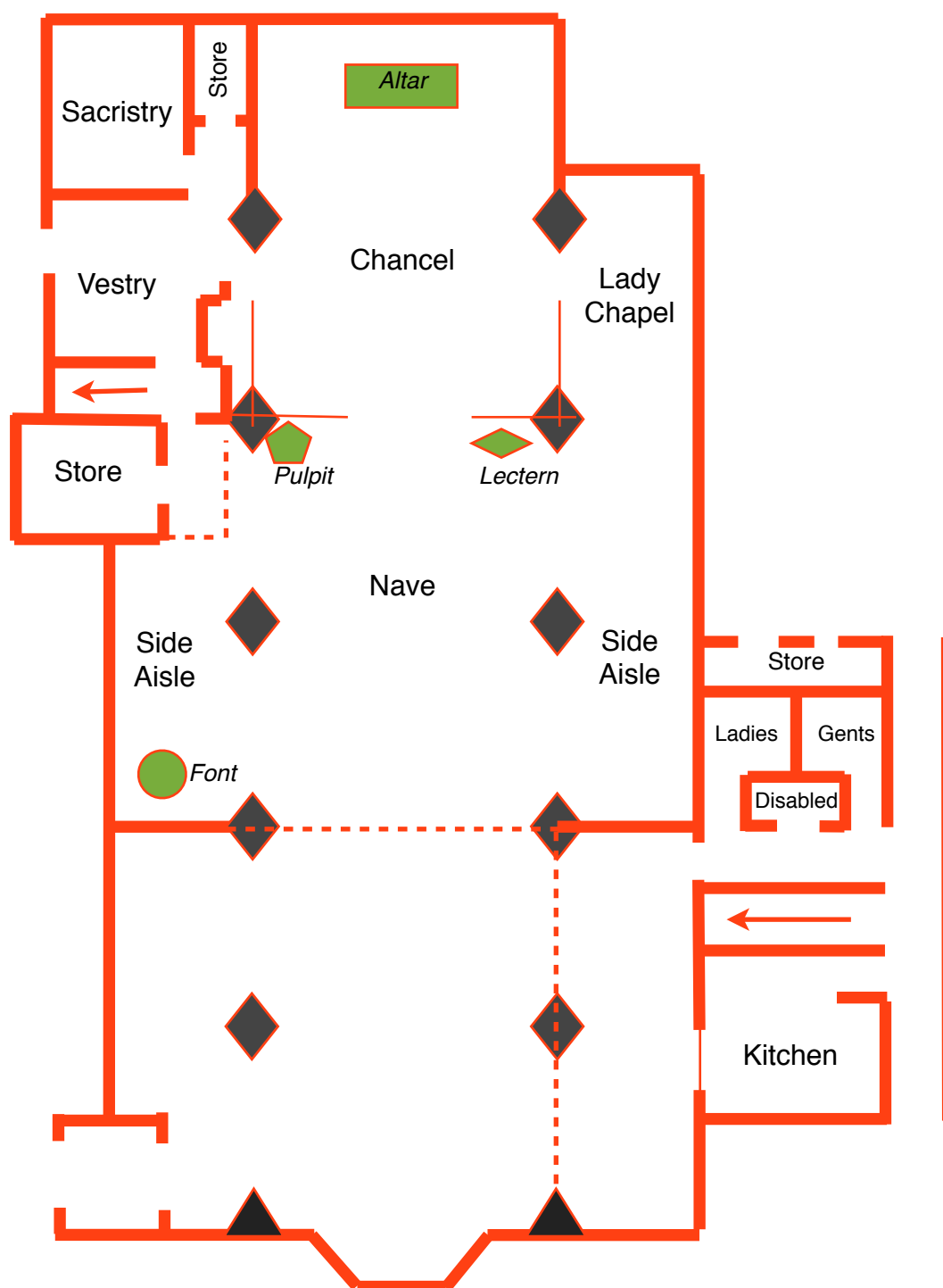
# **The Ecumenical Parish of St Andrew's, West Bromwich**

## **Resources for schools visiting St Andrew's**



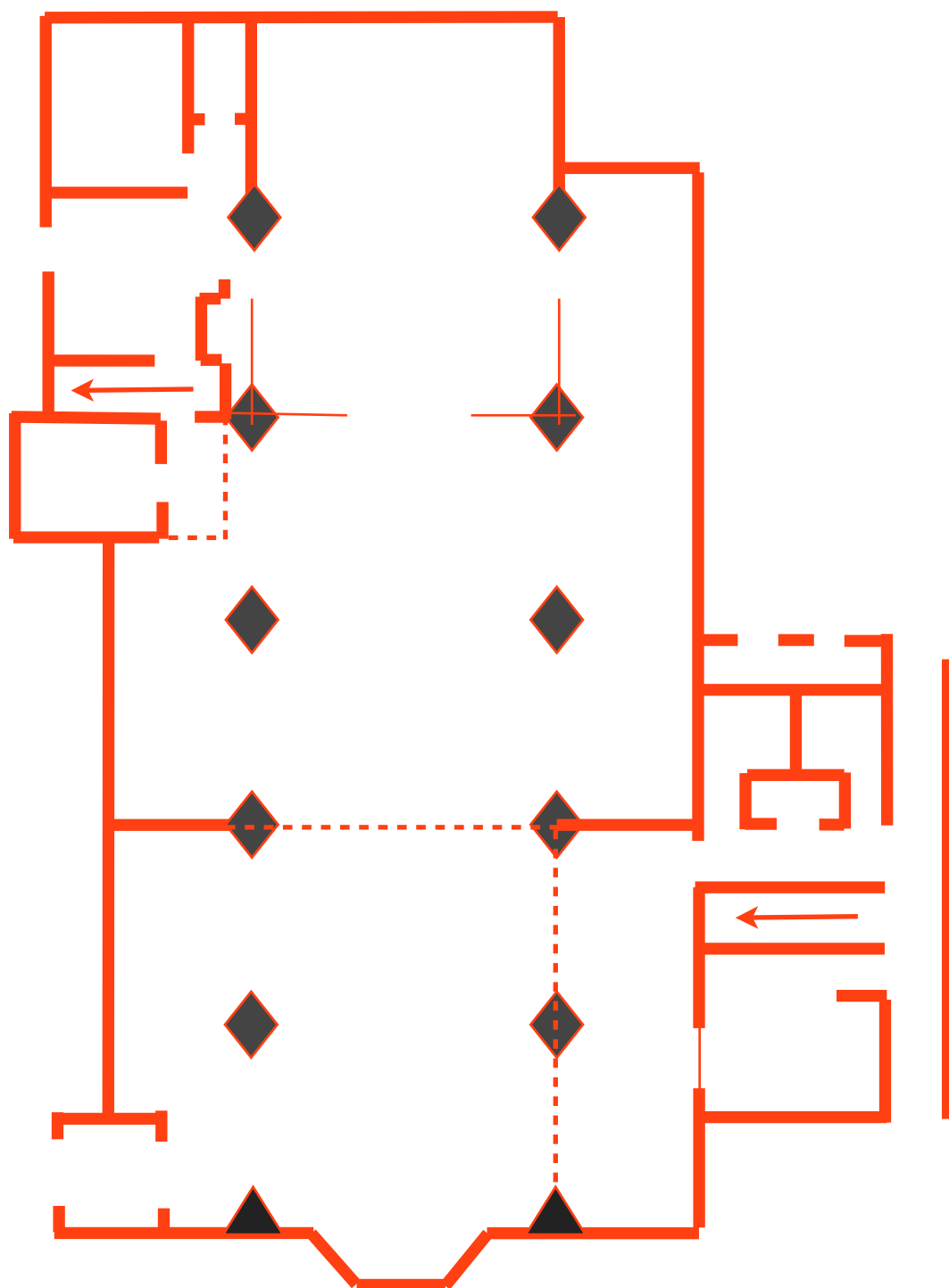
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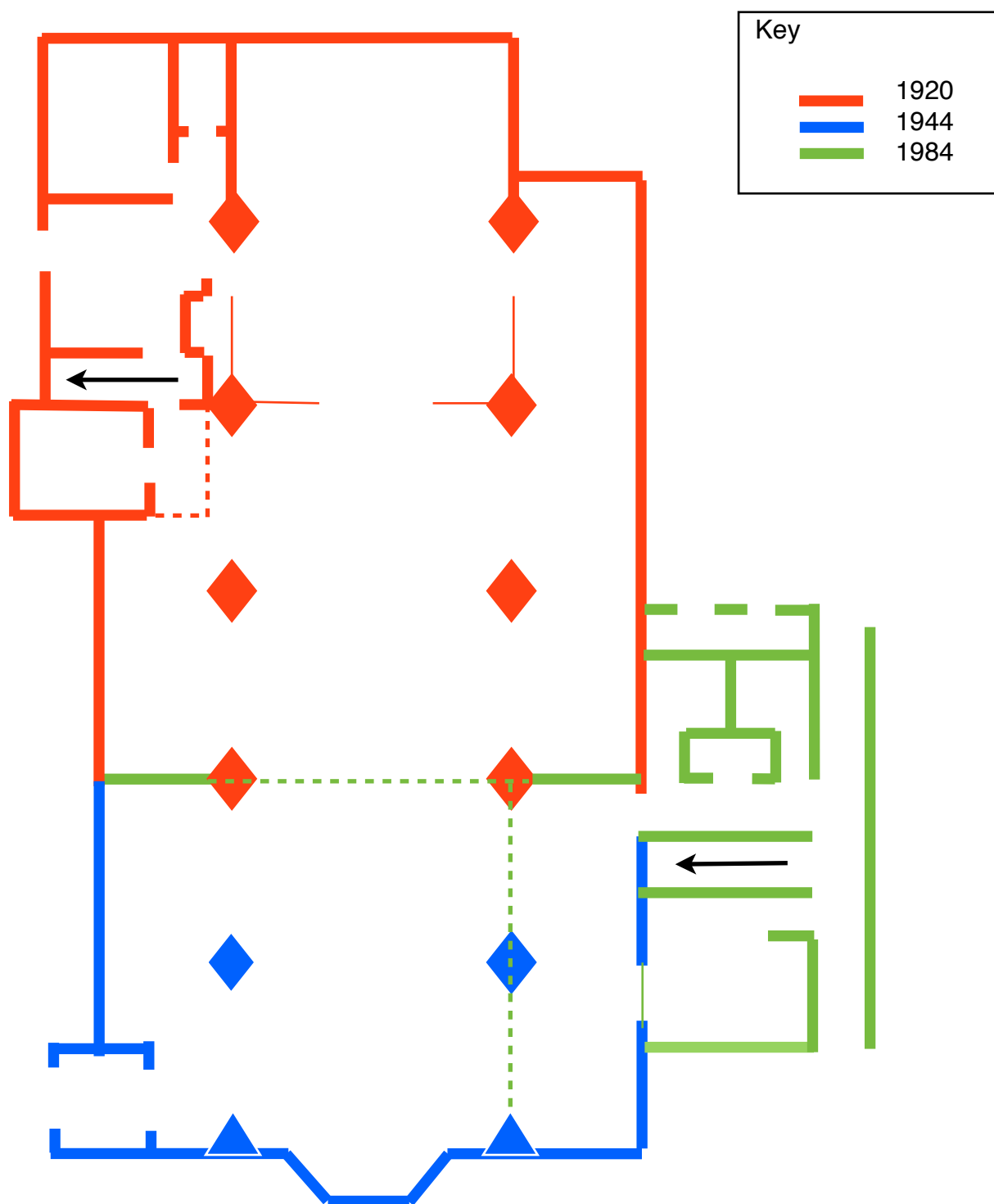
## St Andrew's Church, Carters Green, West Bromwich

Figure A: Floor Plan (Labelled)



## St Andrew's Church, Carters Green, West Bromwich

Figure B: Floor Plan (Blank)



## St Andrew's Church, Carters Green, West Bromwich

Figure C: How the building developed.

## Features found in a Church Building (1)

There are four features that will be found in almost every church building.

At St Andrew's these are marked in green on Figure A and are:

### The Altar or Communion Table

At the Last Supper Jesus took bread and wine and shared it with his disciples saying "Do this in remembrance of me". The breaking of bread and sharing of wine has become central to the worship of the church over the years and the Altar (or Communion Table) is where this happens. At the Last Supper Jesus used the bread and wine as symbols of his body and blood. It can be interpreted as Jesus Christ saying that he was giving himself to set us free from all that is bad and wrong.



### The Font



This is where new Christians are Baptised or Christened. The two words refer to the same event. Baptism comes from Greek and means "being dipped" whereas Christened is an old English word meaning "being made like Christ". The meaning of both is that the new Christian becomes part of Christ's Body, the Church, dying to the old life and rising to the new.

Fonts in some ancient church buildings are very large because the baby being baptised would be completely immersed (dipped) in the water. In some churches, instead of a font, there will be a Baptistry (or Baptism Pool) allowing adults to be totally immersed for Baptism. Fonts may also be very small and there is a portable font, originally from Swan Village Methodist Church, alongside the main font.

### The Lectern (right)

This is where God's word is read from the Bible. The lectern is often in the form of an eagle, a symbol of strength.



### The Pulpit (left)

This is where the preacher traditionally delivers the sermon, a talk interpreting the message of the Christian faith for our lives. In former times the height of the Pulpit helped the preacher be audible. These days, helped by microphones, many preachers deliver the sermon from floor level instead of the Pulpit.



Note: At some churches the Lectern and the Pulpit are combined.

## Features found in a Church Building (2)

The following are the special names given to parts of a church building (Figure A)

### The Nave

The NAVE is the main part of the church building where the congregation sit.

### The Aisles

The AISLES of a church are the main walkways in the church building. Churches usually have a CENTRE AISLE and sometimes, as at St Andrew's SIDE AISLES. The term AISLE is also used for the sections of the NAVE that are separated by pillars

### The Chancel

The CHANCEL is the area towards the ALTAR. There are often two separate areas; the CHOIR and the SANCTUARY divided by the ALTAR RAIL.

### The Transepts (not at St Andrew's)

Many old churches were built with a floor plan in the shape of a cross. The side arms of those buildings are known as TRANSEPTS.

### The Lady Chapel

Many churches have a small chapel either to one side of the building, as at St Andrew's, or in older churches behind the main ALTAR. Traditionally these side chapels were dedicated to Mary, Mother of Jesus, who is sometimes referred to as "Our Lady" hence LADY CHAPEL.

### The Baptistry

This is the name for the area of the church where the FONT is situated

### The Sacristy

This is where the "sacred items" are kept, for example the bread and wine for COMMUNION and the CHALICE and PATEN to put them in.

### The Vestry

This is where the VESTMENTS or special clothes worn by the clergy and choir are kept.

### *Facing East*

Traditionally churches have been built with the ALTAR is at the east end of the building. This isn't the case with many modern buildings and at St Andrew's the ALTAR is at the south-west.

It is often said that churches face east to look towards Jerusalem and the Holy Land. This is not true, otherwise churches located east of Jerusalem would have to face west. The real reason is that it became tradition to face east for pray because that is where the sun rises. Each new day reminds us of Christ's resurrection and our new life.

*"The east is an image of the day of birth" - Clement of Alexandria*



## Features found in a Church Building (3a) - Signs & Symbols

See also worksheet.



### The Cross

There are many kinds of CROSS. Those with a figure of Jesus on them are known as CRUCIFIX. The figure of Jesus reminds us that God shares in the suffering of humanity. An empty CROSS reminds us that after Jesus died he was Resurrected. Christians believe that the Resurrection speaks of God's love being stronger even than death itself.

### The Sacred Monogram IHS

This is a shortened form of the word Jesus in Greek capital letters.

ΙΗΣΟΥΣ

The H is the Greek capital η and is equivalent to an "e" in English.

In lower case the word is ιησους



*The following two symbols may be found either separately or together (as pictured)*



### Alpha and Omega ΑΩ

The Greek letters Α Ω (or α ω) are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

In the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, the writer tells us that Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last". Christians believe this refers to Jesus being here for us at all times, from the beginning of time to the end.

### CHI RHO ΧΡ

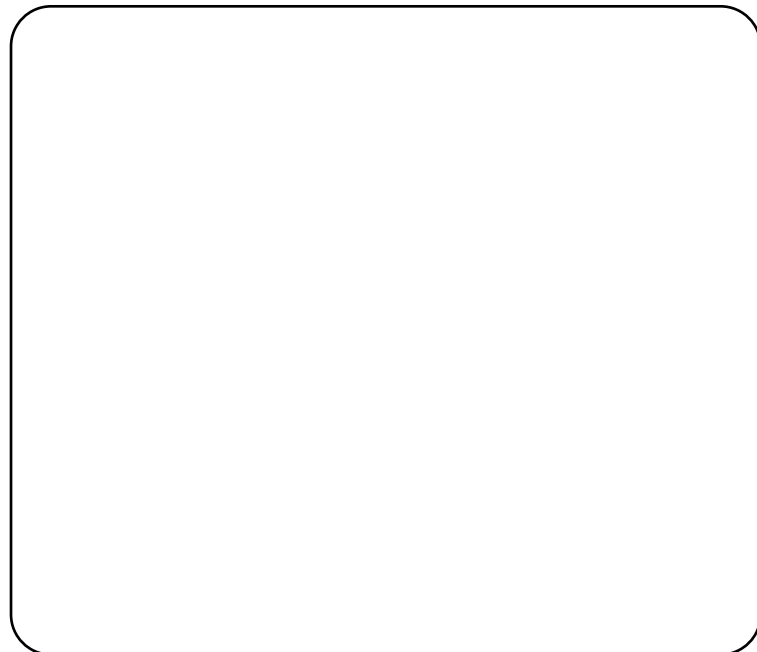
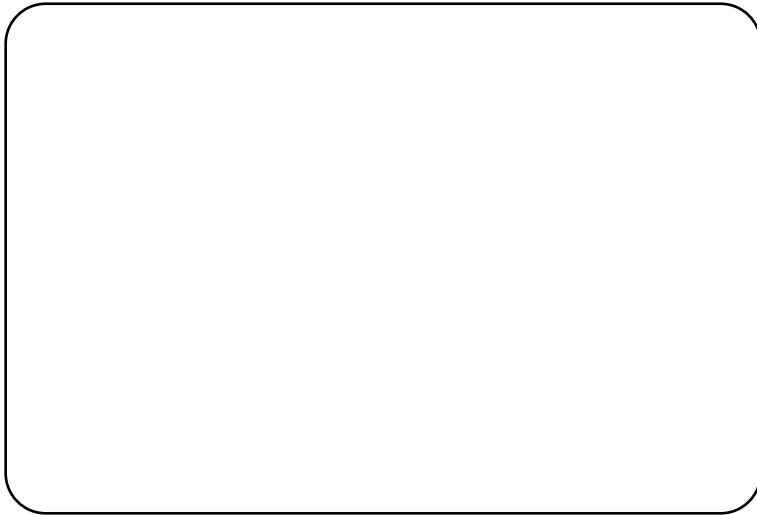
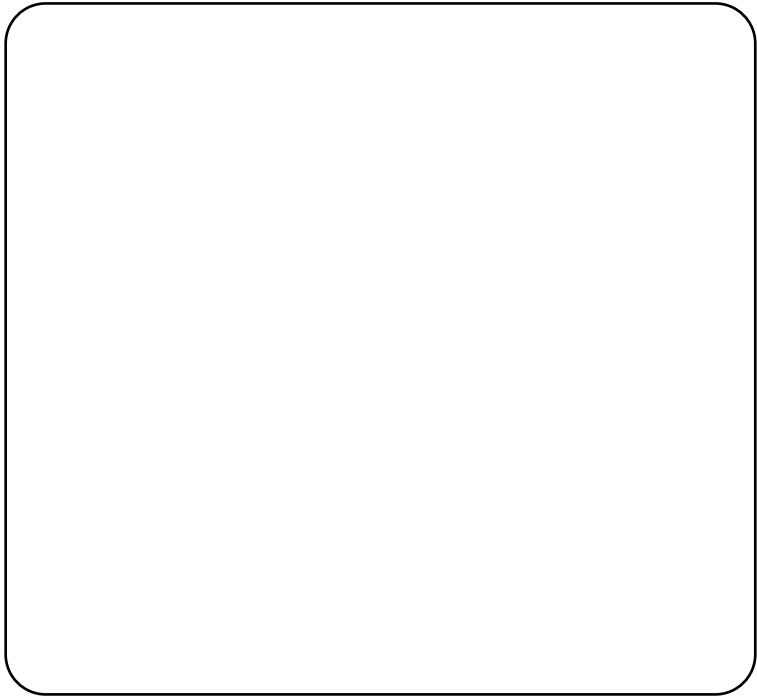
The Chi-Rho symbol (ΧΡ) uses the first two letters in the Greek word

χριστος or Christos.

In Greek this means "anointed" and Christian understanding is that Jesus is the "anointed one" or "Messiah". From this comes the name Jesus Christ. Jesus incidentally is still a common name in parts of the

world and is the equivalent of Joshua.

## Signs & Symbols - Worksheet A





## Features found in a Church Building (3b) - Signs & Symbols

See also worksheet

### Wheat and Grapes, Bread and Wine

Representations of wheat or grapes or bread and wine are often found in churches. These refer to the act of sharing bread and wine which is at the heart of Christian worship in the service of Holy Communion.

### Fish

Fish are often used as Christian symbols or badges. Early Christians used them instead of the cross, as a secret sign when it was dangerous to be a Christian.

Fish were used because, in the Greek language, the first letters of the phrase JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SAVIOUR are

ΙΧΘΥΣ meaning fish.



### The Lamb of God

This recalls imagery in John's Gospel where Jesus is referred to as Lamb of God. In the Jewish religion at the time of Jesus (but not now) lambs were slaughtered in the Temple in the belief that the blood took away people's sins. John sees the death of Jesus in the same way - The Lamb of God or, in Latin, Agnus Dei.

Often the Lamb of God is pictured carrying a flag with the emblem of the church, in this case St Andrew.

### The Reredos

Behind the altar is The Reredos, a panel depicting images from the Christian faith.

At St Andrew's it includes Alpha and Omega and the Chi-Rho (see 3a). Also the word Sanctus, which is Latin for Holy.

The figures are those of (left to right):

George (Patron of England)

Andrew (Patron of this Church)

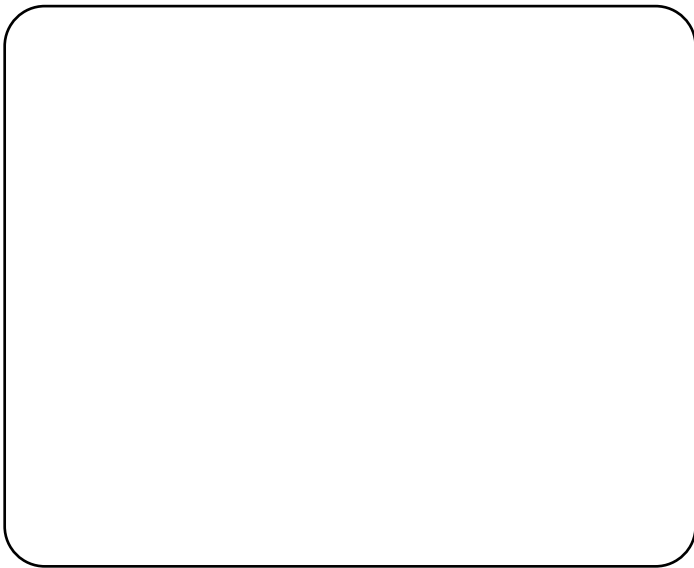
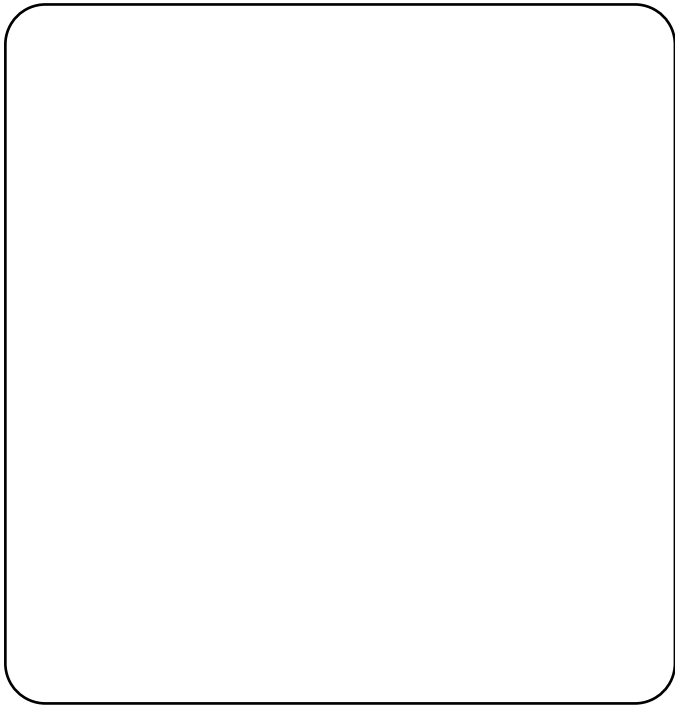
Jesus

Michael (Patron of a small church that used to be located, as part of this parish, in Bull lane) and

Chad (Patron of the Diocese of Lichfield and the first Bishop of Lichfield (died 672))



## Signs and Symbols - Worksheet B



## Features found in a Church Building (3c) - Signs & Symbols

See also worksheet



### The Paschal Candle

This candle, first lit either on Easter Eve or early on Easter Day, is a symbol of Christ's light overcoming the darkness of life. It carries the Alpha and Omega symbols and also five "nails" representing the five wounds of Christ on the cross. Sometimes Pascal Candles also carry the year eg 2010.

The lighting of the Paschal Candle at Easter may be accompanied with the words:

"Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power through every age and for ever.

*Nails or incense studs may be inserted into the Easter Candle.*

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

*The Easter Candle is lit.*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds".

The Paschal Candle is often lit at Baptisms (Christenings) and Funerals as a sign of new life in Christ.

### Stations of the Cross

Around the walls of the Nave you will see "Stations of the Cross". These are depictions of the journey of Jesus to the Cross, starting with the Trial before Pontius Pilate and ending with the Burial in the Tomb. Sometimes there is also a fifteenth station depicting the Resurrection.

In some churches a service, also called Stations of the Cross, is held on most Friday's. At other churches, including St Andrew's, the service is only held on Good Friday - the day that Christians remember the death of Jesus on the cross.

Good Friday - "Good" because of what happened next. The death of Jesus was followed by his Resurrection. The defeat of death means that our sins are forgiven, and that is very good news indeed.

The picture opposite is of the Fourteenth Station "Jesus dies on the Cross".





## Signs and Symbols - Worksheet C



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for a student to draw or write their response to the image of the candle.



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for a student to draw or write their response to the image of the wooden plaque.

## Features found in a Church Building (3d) - Signs & Symbols

### Statues



#### St Andrew

This is a statue of the Patron Saint of our church, St Andrew.

Andrew was one of the first of Jesus' disciples. Like all of Jesus' disciples Andrew was an ordinary working man, not particularly religious or educated. Andrew was a fisherman on Lake Galilee and was the brother of Simon (also called Peter) who was also one of the disciples.

Andrew is often, as here, depicted carrying a diagonal cross. The tradition of the church is that Andrew was crucified on a diagonal cross.

Gospel accounts of Andrew being called as a disciple.

Matthew 4 .18 - 22

Mark 1 .16 - 20

John 1 .35 - 42



#### Madonna and Child

The "Madonna and Child" is the traditional term for a statue of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, carrying her infant son. "Madonna" comes from "Our Lady".

Often the statue of Mary is located in the Lady Chapel although here at St Andrew's it is on the opposite side of the Nave.



## Signs & Symbols - Worksheet D

### Statues



