

A trip around our Church

[see also the St Mary's web tour]

The doors open onto the **NAVE** of the church [from the latin Navis-ship] the main body of the church.

PEWS are the seats in Church. There may be chairs/ benches etc. The first churches did not have seats, people stood. Those who could not lean against the wall. Hence the saying, 'the weak go to the wall'.

We see the **BAPTISTRY** and the **FONT** . The **BAPTISTRY** is that part of the church where the **FONT** is situated. Here people are baptised and become members of the worldwide church and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven. Baptism is the first sacrament (see website for Sacraments/Signs) and the font is near the church front door to show that we receive Baptism as soon as possible. The word Baptism means 'plunging into water' which happens at baptism. In some churches there is a baptistry, a walled square underground where people actually walk through the waters.

Looking down the **NAVE** we see the **PULPIT** (to the right) the **LECTERN** (to the Left) The **SANCTUARY**. In the **SANCTUARY** is the **ALTAR** and the **BISHOP'S CHAIR**.

PULPIT - [latin pulpitum scaffold or stage] the place where the sermon is given.

LECTERN – [latin legere to read] The place where the scriptures are read from. Sometimes an eagle (representing S John) surmounts the lectern. The Bible is placed on it.

The **CHOIR** are a group of singers who sing different parts and lead the singing, as well as singing special settings of the service. They are assisted by an **ORGAN** and may be directed by a **CHOIRMASTER**. At St Mary's the Choir and organist are in the Gallery at the West end of the Church.

SANCTUARY - [latin Sanctus Holy] The place where the **ALTAR** is situated.

ALTAR [old English - a raised structure for offering sacrifice] The place upon which the **MASS** is celebrated. It has five crosses carved on it. One at each corner and one in the middle. These represent the five wounds of Christ.

BISHOP'S CHAIR The special seat for the Bishop, reminding us that he is our chief pastor and we are in communion with him. The bishop is our centre of unity in the diocese.

The **MASS** is celebrated on the **ALTAR**

The **CHALICE**, **PATEN** and **CIBORIUM** are placed on the **ALTAR**. The **CHALICE** etc may be covered by a veil in the colour of the season.

CHALICE – [latin calix cup] Used in the celebration of the **MASS** usually made of precious metal.

PATEN – a plate on which the sacred host is placed

CIBORIUM [latin cibus food] a vessel for holding a large number of Hosts.

The **CHALICE** **PATEN** and **CIBORIUM** are placed on a **CORPORAL** [latin corpus body] a square of fine material.

The **PURIFICATOR** is a strip of fine material used to cleanse the **CIBORIUM** when it is being used to distribute **HOLY COMMUNION**

When they are used the **VEIL** covers the **CHALICE** and **BURSE** which holds the **CORPORAL** sits on top of the **VEIL**.

The **VEIL** will be in the special colour of the church season.

WHITE /GOLD for Christmas, Easter and happy times in the church year

PURPLE for Advent and Lent times of preparation/ penance

RED for the Holy Spirit and Martyrs of the church

GREEN for times in between the above....times of growth

Prayer - Talking with God

Daily Prayer

- Our time with God Morning and Evening. Arrow prayers in the daytime.....informal ? or structured ?
- A regular time and a regular place discipline...there is always something more tempting and immediate.
- A [Adoration] C [Confession] T [Thanksgiving] S [Supplication/asking]
- Silence

Praying Together. The Prayer of the Church. Approved by the Church..... Dignity.. Mystery..Worship

- **The Mass** *'Do this in memory of me'*
Basic Structure In The Name..... Confession Absolution Gloria Collect
Readings Sermon Nicene Creed Intercessions The Peace Preparation of the
Altar The Preface The Eucharistic Prayer *during which the bread and wine on
the Altar become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. All that Jesus has
done and achieved for us comes before us. We enter into the mystery of Calvary
and of the Resurrection* The Lords Prayer The Distribution of the Sacrament
Thanksgiving after Holy Communion The Blessing
- **Morning Prayer** [Mattins] **Evening Prayer** [Vespers/ Evensong]

Canticles Psalms Scripture Reading Apostles Creed Intercessions Set Collects
- **Other Services**

Baptism Confirmation Marriage Burial Anointing. All are approved forms

Stocktake where I am with my daily prayers with the worship of the Church

How can I improve ? How can I enter into a deeper relationship with God through prayer?

I look at Him and He looks at me

St Mary's Church

Is a **parish** (a geographical area) which has a parish priest (Vicar). Together with other parishes they form a **deanery**. [Harrow] A deanery is presided over by an area (used to be called rural) dean who is one of the local clergy. There is also a lay chairman who together with the area dean carry out the administrative business of the deanery.

Each parish has churchwardens who are elected annually and who are legal officers of the bishop. They are sworn into office annually by the Archdeacon.

In the Deanery of Harrow

The deanery is the local 'administrative area' and the area dean and lay chairmen meet regularly with the archdeacon and bishop. The deanery is the first stage of representation for people who may sit on the deanery synod.

In the Archdeaconry of Northolt

An Archdeaconry is a collection of deaneries which come under an Archdeacon. The Archdeacon (called the bishop's eye!) has oversight of the deaneries and parishes within the Archdeaconry. He/She meets regularly with area deans, lay chairmen and of course parish priests. The Archdeacon is part of the bishop's senior staff team.

In the Diocese of London

A diocese is a geographical area made up of parishes, (deaneries, archdeaconries) presided over by a diocesan bishop. He may be assisted by other bishops usually called suffragan bishops. These bishops operate within the diocese under the diocesan. They may have geographical areas to look after. The Bishop's throne (cathedra) is in the mother church of the diocese the Cathedral. There may be other titles from ancient days such as Abbey as in St Albans Abbey or Minster as in York Minster.

There are 43 dioceses in England which together with the diocese of Europe makes 44 in total.

Clergy and lay people can be elected to the diocesan synod.

In the Province of Canterbury

A province is a collection of dioceses presided over by an Archbishop. In England there are two provinces Canterbury with Archbishop Rowan Williams and York with Archbishop John Sentamu.

In the Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is the collection of Provinces of the worldwide Anglican church. Given the history of the Anglican church (with Canterbury seen as the Mother Diocese) the Communion is presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We ought to pray daily for Rowan our Archbishop, Peter our Bishop, Richard Bishop of London, the clergy and all God's people.

Part of the One Holy catholic and Apostolic Church.

The largest group of Christians in the world. are the Roman Catholic Church, who have the same structures as ourselves, except that the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, is the successor of St Peter and has an authority within the Catholic Church that the Archbishop of Canterbury does not enjoy within the Anglican Communion.

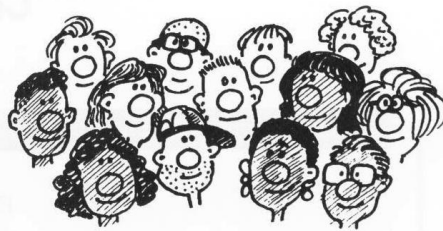
The other great grouping of Christians is the Orthodox Church.

‘Free Churches’ Baptist, Methodist etc make up a smaller group of Christians who have their own structures.

1 INTRODUCTIONS

Five interesting things about you...

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



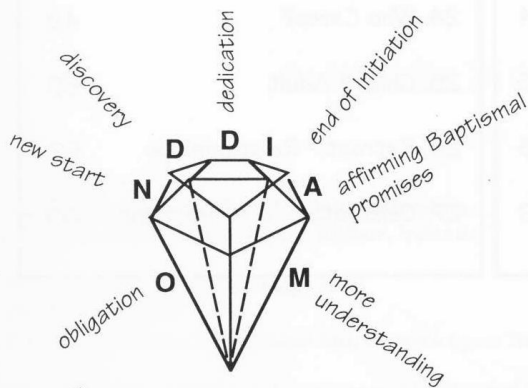
What are the qualities of a good candidate...

?

Baptism quiz

Answer: T - true; F - false or D - debatable

- B - only babies are baptised.
- A - all unbaptised people go to hell.
- P - only a priest can baptise.
- T - baptism is not a trivial decision.
- I - it is necessary to go to Church once you are baptised.
- S - in baptism you accept Jesus as Saviour.
- M - it doesn't matter if you believe in God.



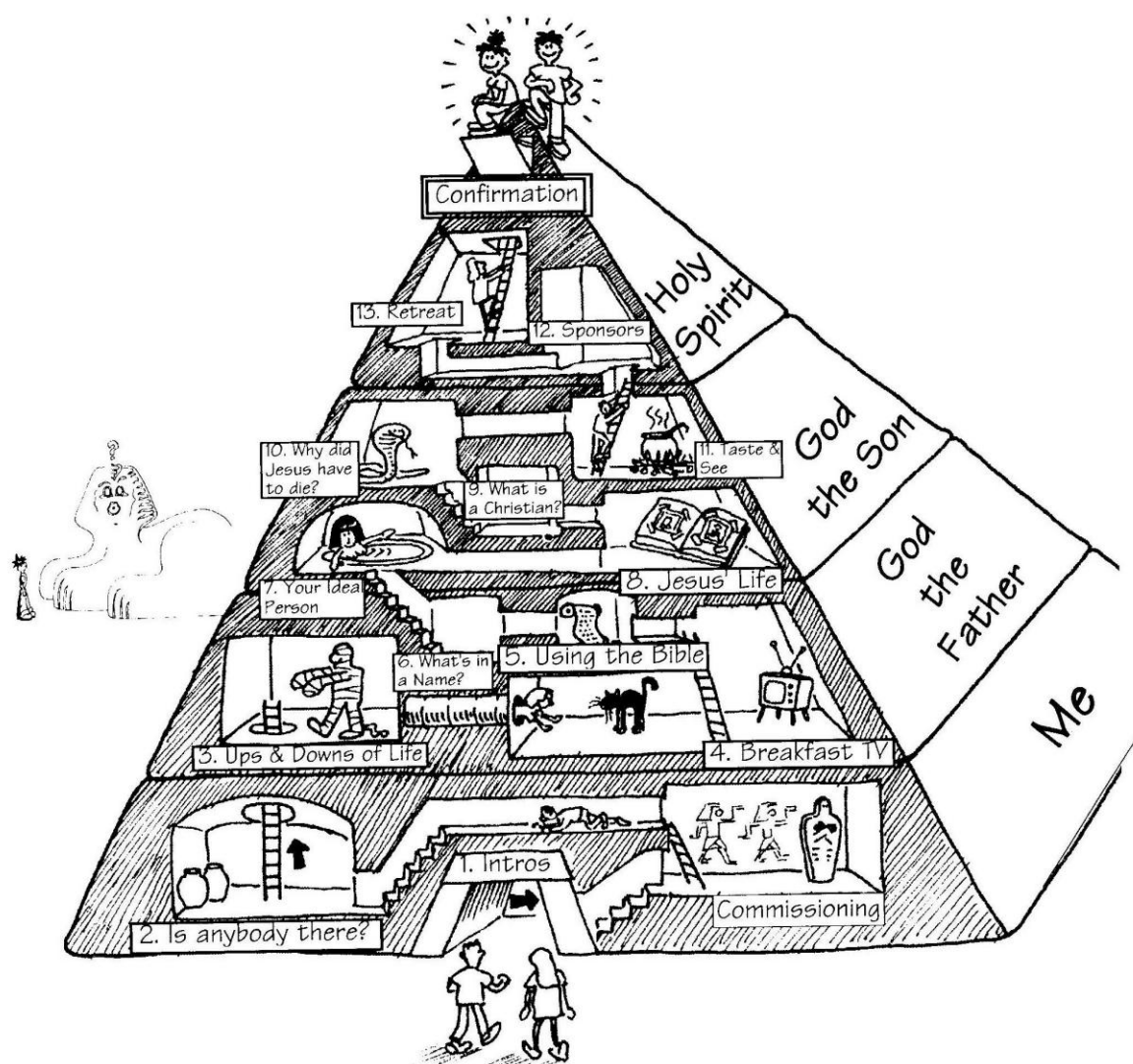
What is Confirmation?

The Church has always considered that baptism is really important. When adults are baptised they are confirmed at the same time because unlike babies, they are able to make a conscious decision to accept Jesus into their lives. When babies and children are baptised, they are baptised on the understanding that their parents and godparents will bring them up as Christians. The parents make the promise on behalf of their children. At Confirmation you take on the responsibility yourself and confirm the promises made for you. Confirmation is an outward sign of your personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

The Pyramid of Preparation

How did the ancient Egyptians go about building the great pyramids? No one knows for sure but they certainly put much effort and planning into them. As a result, the pyramids have stood the test of time and they are still admired to this day. The apex of the pyramid stands high only because of the firm and wide base below it, and from the top you get a much better view than from the ground.

Confirmation is the apex of this part of the programme. In order to get to the summit you need to prepare the foundations below. Everything that you will learn will help you appreciate the view from the top. Keep track of your progress through the programme by colouring or shading in the 'chambers' on the pyramid as you pass through them on the course.



Practice Makes Perfect - Words

- Be a person who keeps their word & promises.
- If you make an agreement - then stick to it. People will respect you and know where they stand with you.
- Do not enter into promises lightly, but consider your thoughts carefully.
- Do not let others make up your mind for you - but be open to other people's ideas.
- Be a person who keeps the Word of the Lord & lives by His teachings.