

Church Builder - A Brief Illustrated Glossary

What is meant by...

The Nave

The nave is where traditionally the ordinary people of the congregation stood for services. It is the main body of the church and is sometimes referred to as the Western Arm of the church.

Here we can see the Nave with the chancel in the background



The Transept

If you think of the plan of a church as a cross then the Transept forms the arms or crosspiece. These were added to churches to accommodate more people in the congregation and usually creates a space between the Nave and the Chancel.

The Transept here is framed by a large Arch






The Tower

The Tower usually houses the church bells and can be of a variety of different forms such as a square tower. They can also have spires attached which add to the height and therefore the importance of the church. Often they are located at the crossing point of the Nave and Transept (crossing tower) or at the Western end of the Nave.




Here the Tower is Hexagonal with a Spire



Church Builder - A Brief Illustrated Glossary

| | |
|--|--|
| The Side-Aisle | These Side-Aisles are attached to the Nave |
| <p>Side-Aisles are extra spaces for the congregation built onto the main body of the church. They are most commonly added to the Nave but can be seen attached to the sides of transepts as well.</p> <p>Today these spaces are sometimes screened off and made into small chapels to save on heating costs.</p> |  A photograph showing the interior of a church. The view is from the side-aisles looking towards the nave. The side-aisles are separated from the nave by low wooden screens. The nave has high, pointed arches and a tiled floor. There are wooden pews in the side-aisles. |
| The Altar | Visit the church beforehand and make your own notes |
| <p>Here we can see the Altar with the steps up to it from the main body of the church.</p> <p>The Altar is the focal point of any services held in the church. In Medieval times only the Clergy were allowed onto the raised part of the Chancel.</p> |  A photograph of the altar area in a church. The altar is a raised platform with a checkered floor leading up to it. There are two large floral arrangements on either side of the altar. A banner with the name 'STAN JONNY' is hanging above the altar. There are tall candles in holders on either side. |
| The Porch | This Porch has been built on the South Transept and provides a covered doorway for the congregation |
| <p>The Porch is an external feature built to shelter the entrance to a church. It provides an interim space between the outside world and the interior of the church and also serves to conserve heat in the main body of the building.</p> |  A photograph of the exterior of a church. It shows a brick building with a dark door set under a small, gabled porch. The porch is built on the side of the building. There is a grassy area in front of the church. |

Church Builder - A Brief Illustrated Glossary

| | |
|---|--|
| The Pulpit | Here the Pulpit is an ornate lectern |
| <p>The Pulpit is a raised area often quite substantial where the Clergy can be seen addressing the congregation. In Medieval times, the congregation stood for the whole service so the priest would have had to stand on a raised platform in order to be seen. The Pulpit often has a Canopy over it, and is located at the end of the Nave, to the left hand side looking towards the chancel.</p> |  |
| Apse | This transept has a rounded Apse |
| <p>An Apse is a semi-circular projection radiating out usually from the Eastern end of the church (the Chancel). They can sometimes be found around the ends of Transepts.</p> |  |
| The Font | Here we see a marble font located in the Transept |
| <p>The Font is a receptacle for Holy Water used in the Baptismal Ceremony. Traditionally they were located just inside the entrance to the Nave so that children could be received into the congregation via the Service of baptism. Today many fonts have been relocated to the Transept.</p> |  |