

R.E: CHURCHES AND WHAT HAPPENS IN THEM KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Overview

- A church is a building used for Christian religious worship. A church is a sacred place for Christians.
- The word 'church' can also mean 'a group of Christian people.'
- Churches contain many objects and features – each of which have a special job.
- Churches also have many Christian symbols, representing different ideas and beliefs.
- There are several different denominations of Christian churches, each with their own features.



Features of Anglican Churches

Outside the Church



- Yew Trees: Evergreen trees that can live for 4,000 years. They are associated with the everlasting life of God.
- Graveyard: Where bodies or ashes of the dead are buried. Graves are marked with a headstone.
- Lychgate: A shelter at the entrance to the church where pallbearers would rest.
- Steeple, spire and tower: These features draw our eyes upwards towards the heavens.
- Crucifix Shape: From above, many churches form the shape of a cross.
- Stained Glass Windows: Beautiful windows that show Christians stories and beliefs.

Inside the Church

- Font: A raised basin used for baptisms. Placed near the entrance to the church as it welcomes people into Christianity.
- Nave: The main body of the church, with rows of pews or chairs.
- Altar: A table covered in cloth at the front of the church. It has candles on it, and is where the worshippers receive the bread and wine during Holy Communion.
- Lectern: The Bible rests on the lectern, which is often the shape of an eagle.
- Pulpit: A raised platform with high sides, from the sermon is delivered.



Churches of Different Christian Denominations

Catholic

- Catholics believe that the Pope, based in Rome, is the chosen leader of their faith on earth.
- Catholic churches usually contain all of the features of Anglican Churches. However, they are normally more colourfully decorated and have devotional statues.
- There is also a stoup, located just inside the entrance. Here, worshippers can dip their fingers into holy water and make a cross on their chests.
- There is often a 'Lady Chapel', which is an a side chapel devoted to the Virgin Mary (Jesus' mother).
- There is also a confessional box, where people can make confessions!



Protestant

- 'Protestant' comes from the word 'protest.' This was a group of Christians who 'protested' against the Catholic church.
- There are many, many different types of protestants, including Anglicans.
- Anglican churches are normally more barely dressed than catholic churches.
- Protestant churches do not follow the Pope. They believe that every person is equal underneath God.

Orthodox

- The word 'Orthodox' means 'right belief.' This group of Christians separated from Catholics a long time ago.
- There is usually a large dome above the main part of the Orthodox church.
- The east part of the church is sectioned off by something called an 'iconostasis.'
- There are very few seats in Orthodox churches. Everyone stands (except for those who really need to sit)



Key Vocabulary

- Church
- Worship
- Sacred
- Catholic
- Protestant
- Anglican
- Orthodox
- Font
- Nave
- Lecturn
- Altar Table
- Pulpit
- Alpha-Omega
- Cross

Symbols in Churches

Alpha Omega

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and omega is the last. It shows God is at the start and end of everything.



Cross - The cross is found in many places in the church, and reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice – dying on the cross to atone for human sins.



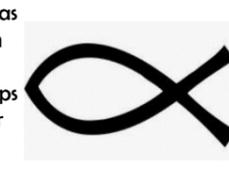
Holy Trinity -The triangle symbolises the Trinity (father, son, holy spirit) and the circle symbolises the everlasting life of God.



The Four Saints -The four Gospel writers: Matthew is represented by a man or an angel, Mark by a lion, Luke by an ox and John by an eagle.



The Fish -This has several Christian meanings, but one is that it helps them remember when Jesus fed the 5,000.



The Dove - This is the universal symbol of peace, but also a Christian symbol for the Holy Spirit.



Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

What communities are you a part of?

Why is it important to be in communities?

Are any places sacred to you? Describe them.

How should people behave in churches? Why?

Which symbols do you use in your life?

Which objects/ ideas are important to you?

What key events have happened in your life?

How do you mark key moments in your life/ others' lives?

What experiences have you had in churches?