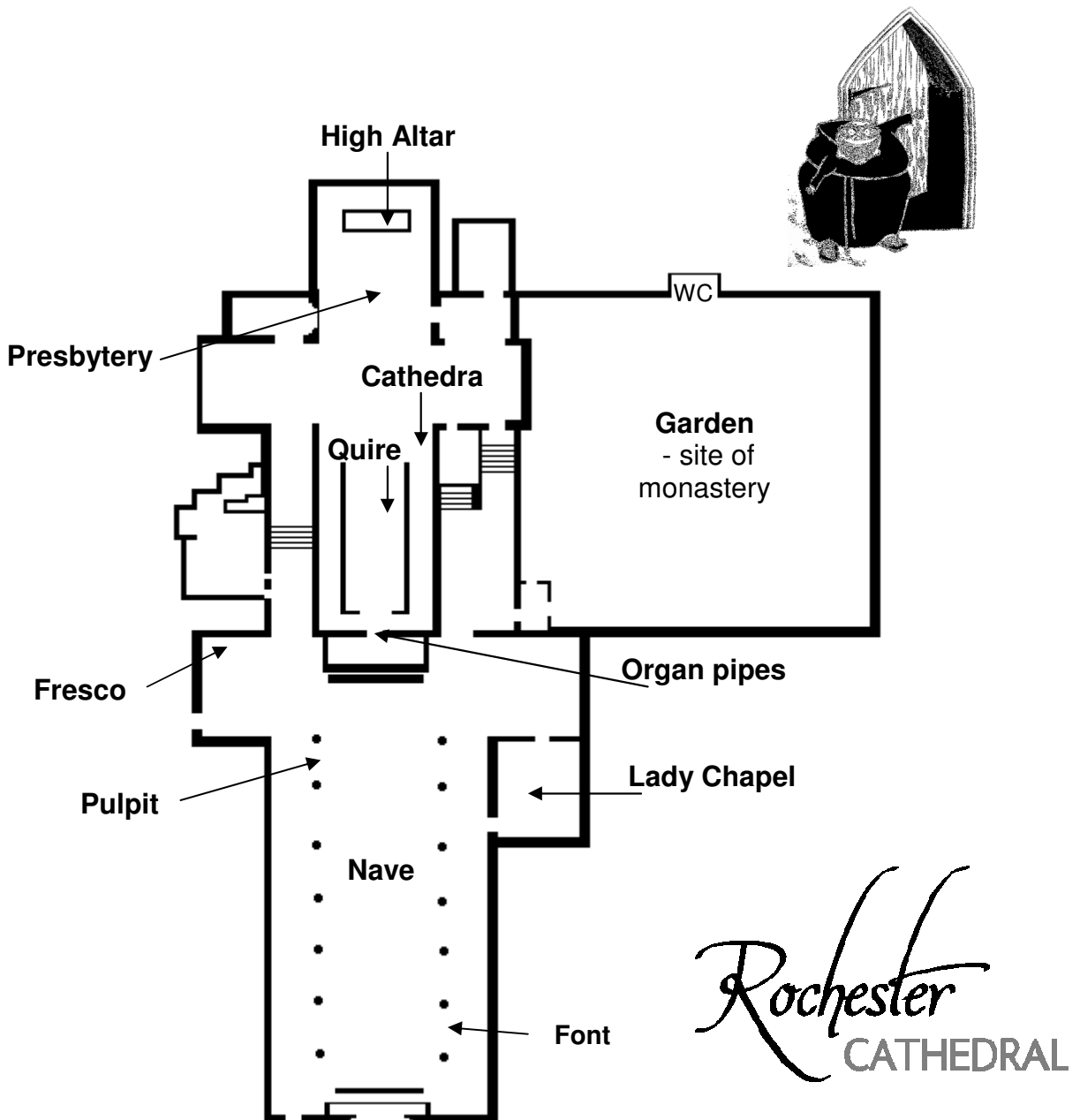


Name.....

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 about God by listening to readings from the Bible.

Inside Rochester Cathedral there are many 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 sometimes 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.
Cathedra	The cathedra is the Bishop's special chair. The word is the Greek name for chair. It gives the cathedral its name .
Choir	A choir is a group of people who sing together. The quire is the name for the part of the cathedral where the choir sit.
Christian	A Christian is someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God.
Font	The font is the 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. The nave looks like a big boat.
Organ	The organ is a musical instrument often used in churches.
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 platform. 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.
Stoup	A stoup is a bowl containing holy water which can usually be found near the entrance to a church.

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

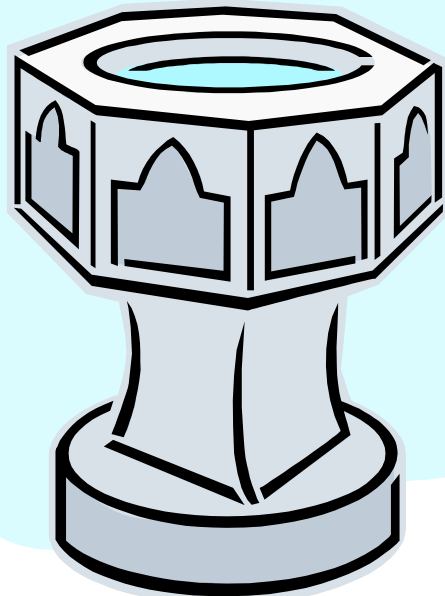
The Font

Find the large stone basin near the big doors. This is the **font**.



The **font** holds holy water. It is used when someone gets baptised. Baptism is a special service where people are welcomed into the church family.

Look at the carvings around the basin. Draw some on this **font**.



The Pulpit

Can you see a large wooden tower near the front of the nave? This is the **pulpit**. The priest stands in the **pulpit** to give talks about God and Jesus, this talk is called a sermon. Why do you think that the **pulpit** is so high?

The Organ

Can you see the **organ pipes** high up at the front of the nave? The **organ** is the main musical instrument in the cathedral. Can you guess how many pipes it has?

The answer can be found at the bottom of the last page of this booklet.

When it is played it helps the choir and congregation sing joyful songs to God. What is your favourite hymn or song?

The Lady Chapel

The **Lady Chapel** is a small room. It is called the **Lady Chapel** because it is dedicated to (named after) a special lady, you can see her in lots of the windows. Can you guess who she is?

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Look up at the windows. They are made of beautiful coloured glass and are called **stained glass windows**. Stained glass windows are there to tell stories and give messages.

Most of the windows in this room are a set, they are like pages from a book telling the story of the life of Jesus. Can you find the Christmas windows and the Easter windows?

Choose your favourite window and draw a sketch of it here.

Can you find the window showing 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. See how many crosses you can spot as you travel around the building.



Did you know that lots of churches and cathedrals are built in the shape of a cross? Look at the map of Rochester Cathedral on the front cover of this book. Can you spot two crosses in the building shape?

Find the oval shaped rubber mat on the floor. Lift it up and look at the carved picture underneath. What is happening in the picture?

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The picture shows part of the story of "The Good Samaritan", a story Jesus told. You can read this story in the Bible (Luke 10 verses 25 –37).

Before you leave this room find somewhere to sit down quietly for a few minutes. Circle those words below that you might use to describe the Lady Chapel. Add some more of your own.

quiet

colourful

dull

scary

calm

The Fresco

Can you find the very large wall painting near the North Door?

This is the **fresco**.

The **fresco** is very special. It was finished in 2004 and is the first new fresco to be painted in a church in England in 800 years!!!



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

It is there to tell stories.

Look at the top of the picture.

Who is the man standing in the river?.....

What is happening to him? (*Clue—remember what the font is used for*).....

.....

Can you see God's hand high in the sky?

Just below God's hand is a something which represents the Holy Spirit. Once you have spotted it draw it in this box.

Now look at the lower part of the picture. Can you see a man sitting in a bath? This is King Ethelbert and he is being baptised in Canterbury. He was the first king of this country to get baptised.

Can you see the boy kneeling in front of the King?

Use this box to draw what he is holding in his hands.

Can you see King Ethelbert somewhere else in the picture? This time he is in Rochester watching people getting baptised in the river Medway.

How many people are in the river?.....

The Quire & Presbytery

The cathedral choir sing in a room called the **quire**.
The words sound the same but they same spelled differently.

Can you see the special wooden seats where the choir sit?
These are called **stalls**.

Hundreds of years ago this is where the monks would have
sung their prayers to God. You will find out more about the
monks when you visit the garden.



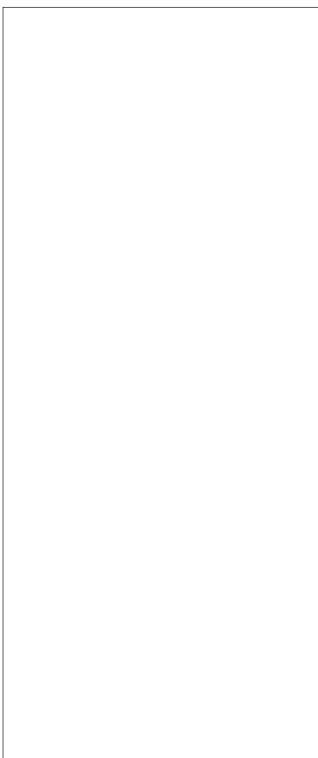
The Cathedra

Now look for a large wooden seat with a canopy over the top. This is the Bishop's throne, it is called the **cathedra**. The throne gives its name to the building, the Cathedral.
Can you spot which one letter makes the words different?

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Can you find the case next to the **cathedra**?
Inside is the bishop's staff, this is called a **crozier**. It looks like a shepherds crook. It reminds the bishop that God wants him to be like a good shepherd taking care of his flock, the people in his area.

Draw the **crozier** here.



The top part of the **crozier** is in the shape of a letter, which one?

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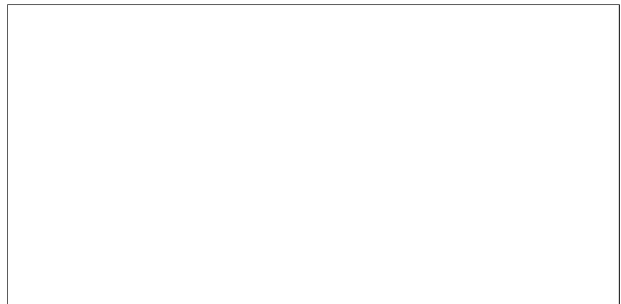
Can you guess what this letter stands for?
Clue: Which town are you visiting?

.....



The High Altar

Look for a table covered with a beautiful cloth. This is the **High Altar**. Can you see a cross and two candles near the altar? Draw them here



The **altar** is where Christians celebrate a special meal called **Holy Communion**. They eat bread and drink wine to remember the final meal Jesus had with his disciples, the Last Supper. You can see a carving telling the story of the Last supper behind the altar.

The Lectern

Time to use "eagle" eyes! Can you spot a large golden bird perched on a globe? This is the **lectern**. The lectern holds a special book, can you guess which one?

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Opposite the **lectern** is another **pulpit**, it is made of wood. In which room did you see the other very large pulpit?

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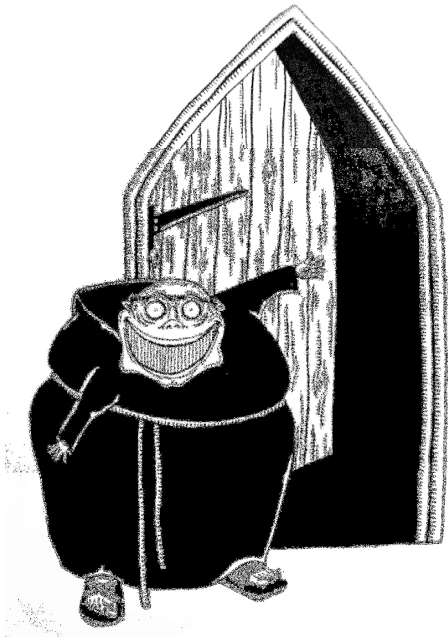
The Garden

Go outside into the garden with one of your adult helpers. Be still and quiet for one minute. Write down all of the things you can hear. Listen really carefully and you will hear lots of different things.

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Hundreds of years ago men called **monks** lived and worked at Rochester Cathedral. Monks are men who spend their lives helping people and worshipping God.

If you look around the garden you can see the ruins of the buildings where the monks lived and worked, the **monastery**.

The monks didn't talk very much. The monastery would have been a peaceful place. Is the garden peaceful today?

Can you see the statue of a mother and her child? This is Mary with Jesus. The statue gives a clue to Rochester Cathedral's full name, The Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Use this box to draw a sketch of something interesting you can see in the garden.

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Secret Messages

Go back to the presbytery (near the High Altar). You will see lots of different patterned tiles on the floor. Find the tiles with this picture on them.

This is meant to be a wolf.



Stand on the wolf tiles facing the High Altar. Look down at the picture again. It now looks like a bird. Can you see its beak and its wing?

The tiles remind us that God made everything, the creatures of the land and the creatures of the sky.

The tiles are laid so that the wolves are facing the High Altar. One or two tiles have been placed upside down to remind us that we are not perfect, only God is perfect.

See if you can find an upside down wolf.

Before you leave

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

Which is your favourite room in the cathedral? Why do you like it?

What did you like best about your visit?

Did anything about the cathedral surprise you?

Get creative!

Rochester Cathedral is full of clues to tell you that it is a Christian place of worship. The decoration on the walls and floor, the windows and the carvings all tell stories and give messages.

If you have time draw a design for one of the following:

A new stained glass window

A new statue

Some new floor tiles

Try to tell a story or give a message in your design.