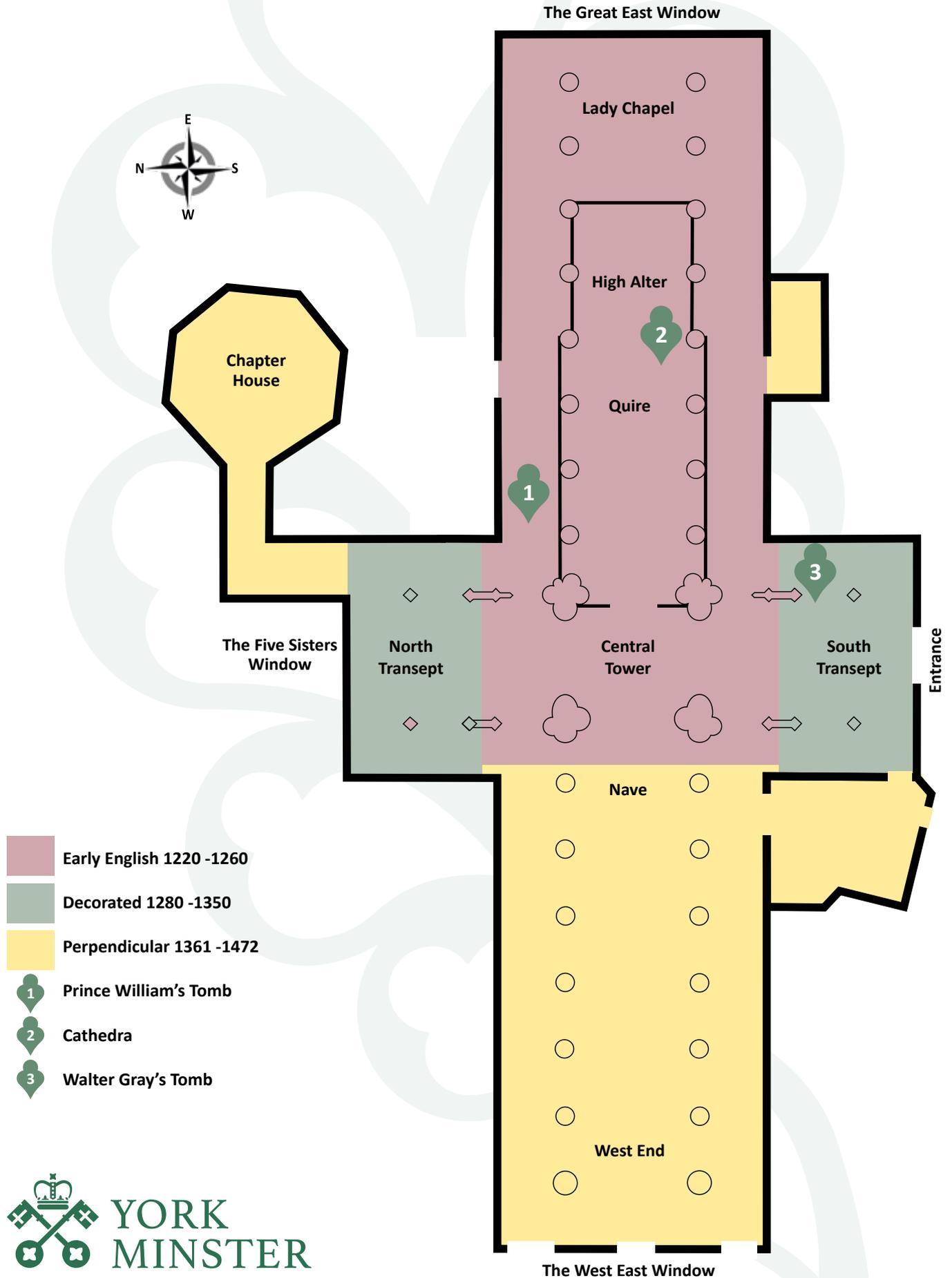


A MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL



- Early English 1220 -1260
- Decorated 1280 -1350
- Perpendicular 1361 -1472

- 1 Prince William's Tomb
- 2 Cathedra
- 3 Walter Gray's Tomb

A MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL

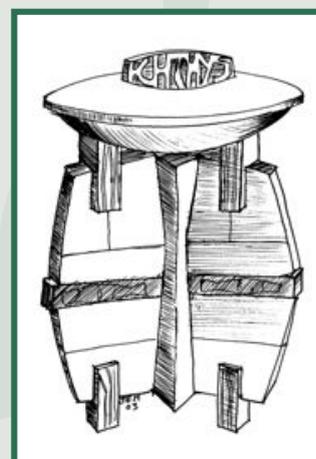
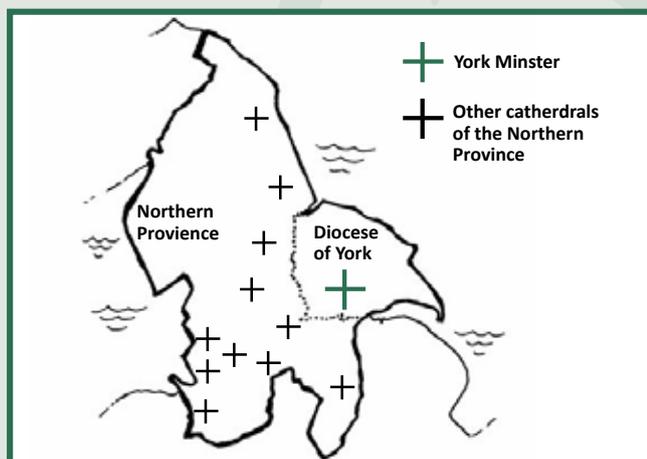
KS3 RE: A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP

The full title of this building is the **Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York**. You will see Peter's chief symbol (the crossed keys of Heaven) throughout. It is a *cathedral* because it is a church where a bishop has his throne, or *cathedra*. It is a *metropolitan* church because our bishop is also an **archbishop**, also known as a Metropolitan Primate. *Minster* is essentially an Old English word, which can mean *either* "monastery" or "mission-church". York Minster was never a monastery, but *was* originally founded by a missionary-bishop, St Paulinus, in AD **627**. Not all cathedrals are minsters; not all minsters are cathedrals, but we are both.

A bishop of the Anglican Church (Church of England) is responsible for all the parish churches and their priests in an area called a *diocese*. An *archbishop*, however, is also responsible for a group of dioceses, known as a *province*. The Anglican Church is divided into two provinces: **YORK** and **CANTERBURY**. Thus the Minster is the Mother Church for both the Diocese *and* Province of York. (The Church of England did not abandon its bishops at the Reformation, and so retained its cathedrals).

As in most cathedrals, worship takes place daily, with at *least* three services Monday to Saturday: Matins (Morning Prayer), Holy Communion and Evensong. Of these, the best attended is Evensong, which normally takes place in the Quire at 5.30 pm, sung either by our boy or girl choristers, accompanied by adults known as Song Men. On Sundays, there are always at least four services, including a major **Eucharist** (Holy Communion) in the Nave at 10.00AM. Many other services, large and small, take place throughout the year.

In the Nave you will find all the principal items of furniture that you would expect to see in an ordinary parish church, but on a rather larger scale! However, the Nave has only been used for regular worship since mid-Victorian times, and the **pulpit** (for preaching) and **altar** (communion table) are, in fact, 20th century. The altar stands on a wheeled platform and can be repositioned, or removed altogether when the Nave is being used for concerts etc. Also portable, is the very modern **font** in wood and bronze. It is usually kept in St Cuthbert's Chapel at the far west end, but can be moved almost anywhere as required.



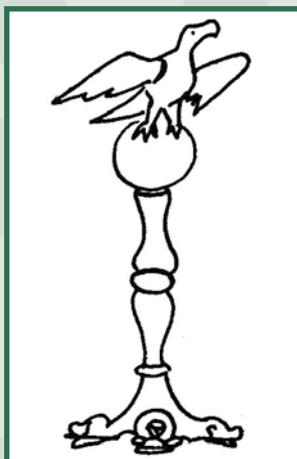
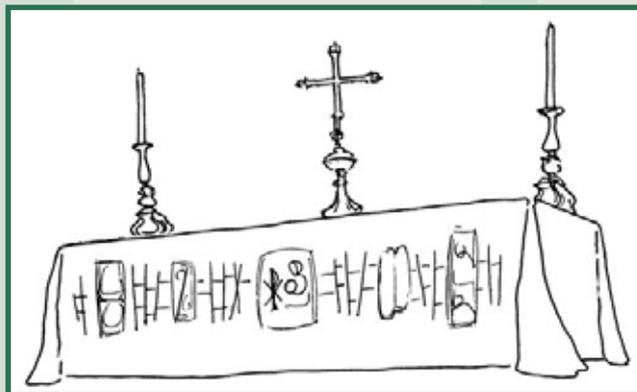
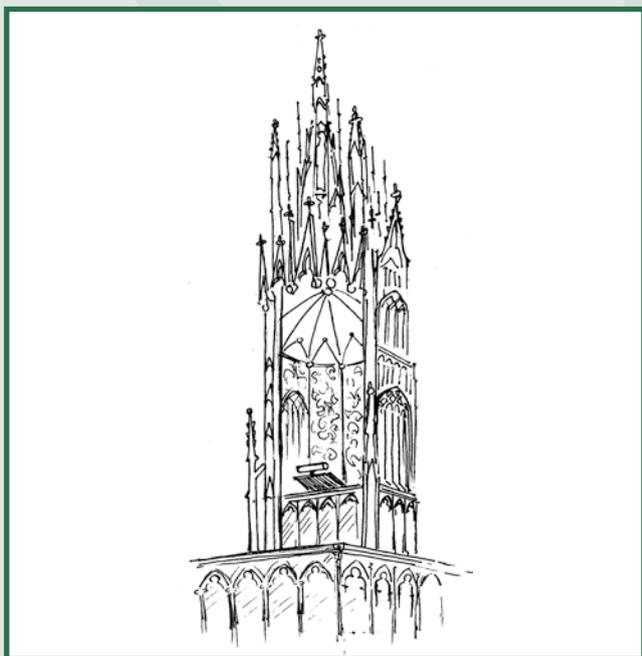
A MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL

KS3 RE: A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP

There are seventeen altars in the Minster. Most are still used for the celebration of Holy Communion, even if only occasionally. Some, such as the **High Altar** in the Quire, are a little unusual now in that the priest consecrating (blessing) the bread and the wine has to stand with his back to the people. (In both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, the usual *modern* practice is for the priest to stand behind the altar, *facing* the people.)

Some of the side chapels, such as St John's and St George's, are now associated with local Regiments. They contain war memorials and "colours" (flags) recalling battles and campaigns in the recent (and more distant) past. English cathedrals have long played a major ceremonial role in both civil and military matters, as well as more obviously church-related affairs. Daily Matins and Holy Communion usually take place in one of these chapels.

The Archbishop's official Cathedra is in the Quire, but he also has an elaborate seat in the Nave, which is usually about level with the North end of the altar. The Zouche Chapel (named after Archbishop William Zouche 1342-52) is off the South Quire Aisle. This Chapel is not open for sight-seeing, but set aside for private prayer. The Reserved Sacrament is kept here. This is a small collection of consecrated communion wafers, which can be used in an emergency. Some Anglicans (and most Roman Catholics) like to pray before the Reserved Sacrament in order to focus on Christ's gift of himself to his followers through Holy Communion. A white lamp burns near the place where it is kept. (The Sacrament is reserved in some parish churches too.)



A MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL

KS3 RE: A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP

The Lady Chapel

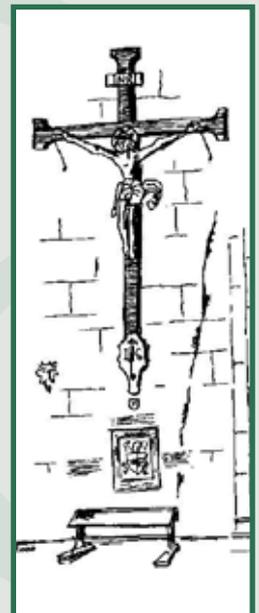
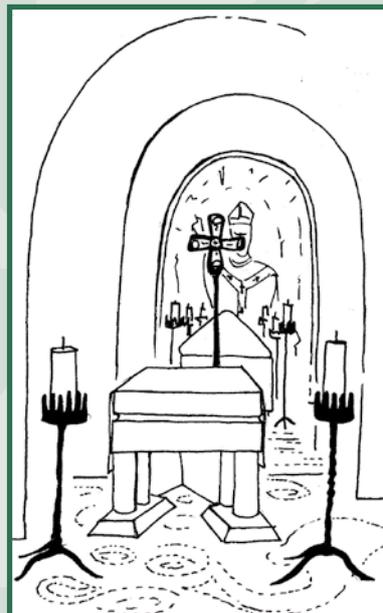
(Dedicated to Mary the Mother of Jesus) is at the far East End, and is often used for additional weekday services, such as lunch-time Communion. St Stephen's Chapel, to the North of the Lady Chapel, contains a bust of Mother Theresa, and is a focus of prayer for Christian unity throughout the world.

There has been a revival of interest in pilgrimage. In 1968, a stone coffin was discovered under the Nave floor during work on the foundations. The bones within are probably those of St William of York, reburied after the destruction of his shrine during the Reformation. The coffin has since been moved into a modern shrine in the crypt, in order to create a special chapel where Roman Catholics, Anglicans and other Christians can worship together. This kind of worship is now so popular that "ecumenical" services, as they are called, usually require a much bigger space!

All are welcome to attend our normal services too. In York Minster (as in parish churches) visiting members of other Christian denominations who would normally receive Communion in their own churches are free to do so.

If you stand under the Central Tower you will see that the building is cross-shaped. This is partly to support the tower itself, but is also symbolic of the Christian faith.

Note the large crucifix on the wall in the South Transept. This was undamaged by the fire of 1984, despite the falling timbers and streams of molten lead from the roof. The marks on the wall to either side were left because it was felt that, together with the crucifix, they made a suitable memorial to the fact that the cross-shaped Minster (and all it stands for) has survived not only three great fires, but a great many other potential disasters as well.



A MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL

KS3 RE: A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP

The Bishop is the person in charge of a diocese. There are 43 dioceses which cover England. The bishop oversees the work of the churches carried out in each parish of his diocese. He visits local churches for special services and takes Confirmation services. At York he is called the Archbishop, because he is the senior bishop in the Northern Province.

A bishop wears a purple cassock. He has a pectoral cross around his neck, and a ring on the third finger of his right hand to show he belongs to the Church. When he leads services he carries a crozier (a shepherd's crook); the mitre (bishop's hat) is worn for important or processional services. The ring, mitre and crozier are all signs of his authority as a bishop.



For ordinary services, a bishop wears a purple cassock, a white rochet (like a long surplice with gathered sleeves), and a red chimere (a full length sleeveless coat).



In a special, or processional service he would not wear the chimere, but would add a stole, a cope and the mitre.



To celebrate a service of Holy Communion, a bishop will usually wear a white alb, stole and chasuble (or cope) like his clergy colleagues. He would also wear his mitre.