



A VISIT TO A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB



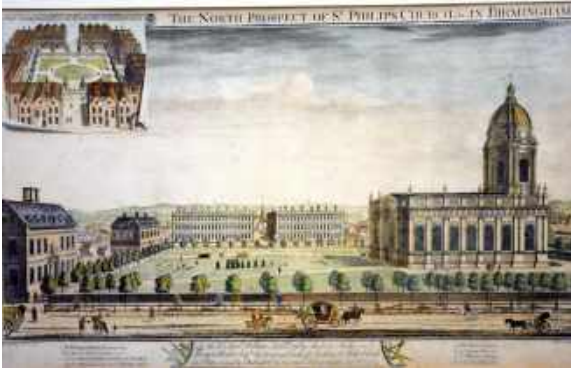
WELCOME TO ST PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL IN BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham is known as the 'Second City' of the United Kingdom - second to London. A thousand years ago, Birmingham used to be a village. As it grew and many trades were developed, people moved from the countryside to find work. Birmingham needed another church in which Christians could worship because, by 1700, the population had grown to 15,000.

The Phillips family gave some land on top of a hill for a new church to be built. The church was designed by an architect, Thomas Archer, who was inspired by grand designs he had seen in churches when he travelled to Italy as a young man.

This wonderful church opened in 1715. It was called St Philip's in honour of the family. The town continued to grow and nearly 200 years later, the church became a cathedral in a town that had

become a city. Birmingham was known as the 'City of 1,000 trades'. It was famous for metalwork and jewellery. Today, over one million people from many different cultures have made Birmingham their home.



North Prospect W. Westley 1732. Photo R. Jones



The Bell Tower at the west end.

The Diocese of Birmingham and the Bishop



The Bishop of Birmingham was appointed by the Queen to take charge of the **Diocese of Birmingham**. A **Diocese** is a district of the Church of England. This diocese was created in 1905 and the area stretches beyond Birmingham to include nearly 200 churches. **Every Diocese has a cathedral** as its main church. In 1905, St Philip's Church became Birmingham Cathedral.

The Bishop attends ceremonies in the cathedral when he wears special robes and a headdress called a **mitre**. He

carries a **staff** which is the symbol of a 'Good Shepherd'. In the cathedral, the Bishop has a special seat which is called a **cathedra**. Can you see the mitre on the Birmingham Diocese Coat of Arms?



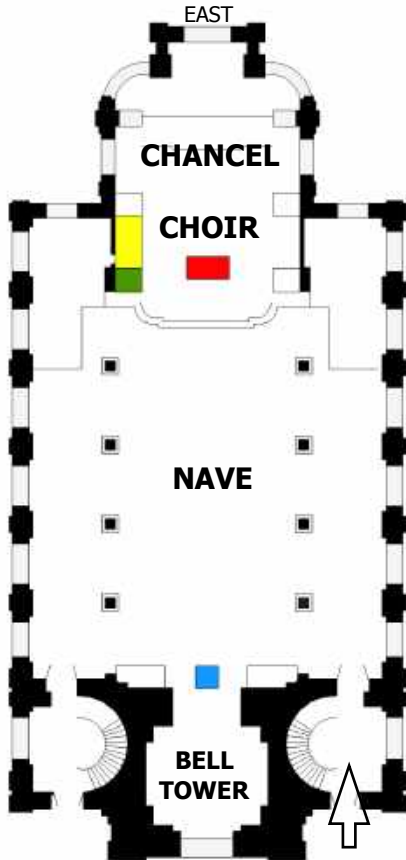
The Cathedral and the Dean



The Dean is in charge of the cathedral. Here is Dean Matt Thompson who leads a team of clergy, staff and volunteers at the cathedral. They support everyone who worships here. They organise the calendar of services and special events, look after this beautiful building and work closely with organisations in the city and people of other faiths.



PLAN OF CATHEDRAL



The **Font** contains holy water. It is where the ceremony of baptism takes place. Baptism marks the moment a person enters the Christian church. **Water** is used to cleanse, **oil** to bless and a **candle** is lit to symbolise **Jesus**, as the **Light of the World**.



■ **Font**

The Holy Bible



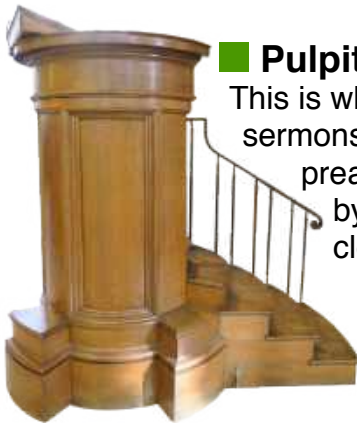
The **Bible** is the Christian holy book. It is made up of a collection of books. The Bible is a central resource for guiding Christian practice and prayer.

Jesus said
 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
 You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
 St Matthew's Gospel



■ **Altar**

This is a focal point for Christian worship. It is where bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, are shared to remember Jesus' Last Supper.

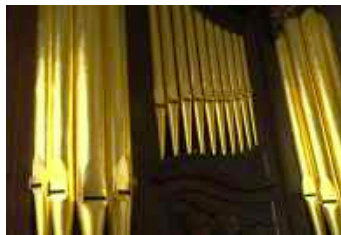


■ **Pulpit**

This is where sermons are preached by the clergy.

■ **Organ and Choir**

These support worship. **Hymns of praise** are sung. They are mostly based on texts from the Holy Bible.



Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God.



Bell Tower

This contains a **peal of 12 bells**. These are rung by **bell ringers** pulling on ropes. The bells call people to worship and mark important events.



There are **quiet spaces** for **private prayer** where people can give thanks, pray for a loved one, find peace with God or just sit quietly.



THE CHRISTIAN STORY IN STAINED GLASS

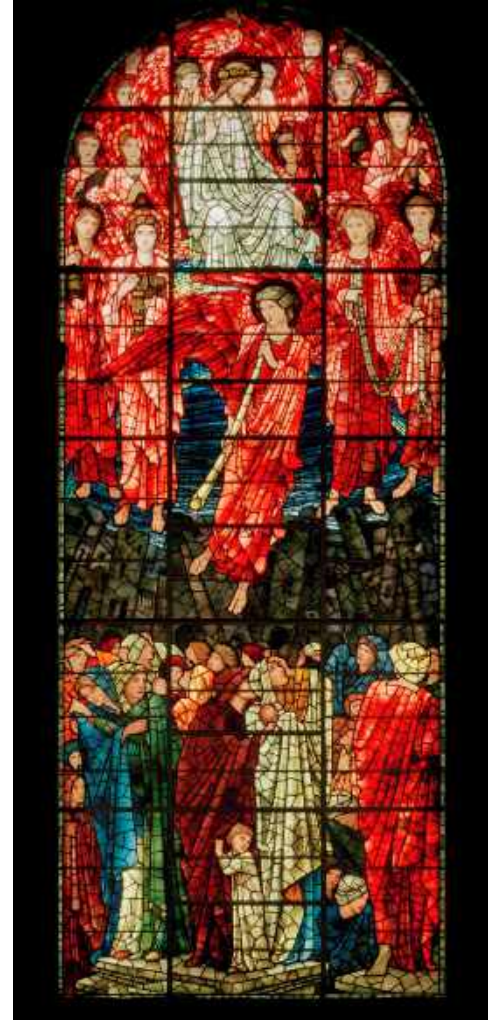
These spectacular windows, designed by Edward Burne-Jones and made by William Morris, were installed in the Cathedral between 1885 and 1897. Stained glass was often used to tell stories. These windows tell the Christian story. The windows are intricately made with a great variety of brilliant colours.



Nativity — The birth of Jesus



Crucifixion—The death of Jesus Christ



The Ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven

The three windows above are at the East end of the cathedral. Photos: A. Carew-Cox

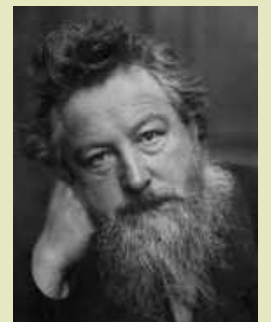


Last Judgement 1897 (West end)

SIR EDWARD BURNE-JONES Artist and designer



Edward Burne-Jones was born and brought up in Birmingham. He was baptised at St Philip's Church. At Oxford University he met William Morris. They left university and William Morris set up a company, William Morris & Co, to design and make stained glass, metal work, carpets and wall paper. Burne-Jones specialised in designing stained glass windows mainly for churches. The three windows at the east end were paid for by Emma Villers- Wilkes in memory of her brother.



William Morris

Can you see that Jesus' birth is shown as bringing light into a dark cave? This is a symbol of Jesus, 'Light of the World'.

THE CATHEDRAL IN THE COMMUNITY

This is a grand building, built in the English Baroque style of architecture. Look at the high decorated arches and elegant pillars. However, it is first and foremost a cathedral, a place of worship which is at the heart of the community in the city of Birmingham.



In addition to weekly services, there are special services, such as weddings and funerals.



Visitors of all ages and from all parts of the world are welcomed.

The cathedral also hosts concerts and arts events, such as artist Jake Lever's 'Soul Boats', when personal reflections and prayers



were carried up to the cathedral roof space in golden boats designed and made by hundreds of people of all ages from all faiths or none.



Twice a week, in the Cathedral Square, the cathedral hosts 'Let's Feed Brum'. (Above) Canon Andy Delmege can be seen on the left, meeting people who live on the streets of Birmingham. They are provided with food, drink, essential supplies and friendship by volunteers.

(Left) Birmingham Cathedral is a member of the Birmingham Malawi partnership. Malawi, in South Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. The cathedral visits, supports and encourages the Christian churches in Malawi with various educational and environmental projects.



Singing and dancing is a traditional way to greet visitors.

Three short films : 'Birmingham Faith Visits: St Philip's Cathedral (Parts 1,2 and 3) and a quiz accompany this guide, available on both the cathedral and Arts Society websites.

Designed by The Arts Society Birmingham, in collaboration with members of Birmingham Cathedral 2021.



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