

A place for  
heritage...



## A Guide to Sheffield Cathedral

WELCOME to one of Sheffield's oldest buildings, where God has been worshipped for over a thousand years.

The building is a fascinating mix of architectural styles from the Sanctuary built in the 1430s to the Community Resource Centre opened in 2007. It is a place of prayer and sanctuary, of care and exploration: a place for all people.

### 1 The Lantern

Look up at the Lantern window above the west end (1966) and be greeted by a blaze of colour. Light streams in through a wooden representation of the Crown of Thorns, reminding us of the suffering of Christ. The glass (by Amber Hiscott) is an abstract interpretation of Resurrection and the Holy Spirit (golds and reds), transforming human conflict and struggle (blues and violets) and leading to healing, growth and new life (greens).

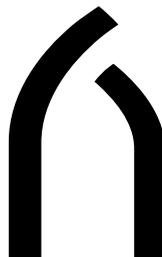
### 2 The Font

The font is where people begin their Christian pilgrimage through baptism, often known as Christening. Look at the bronze figures, particularly the one of Christ as the Good Shepherd carrying a child. Nearby is the bell of the first HMS Sheffield, a famous cruiser in the Second World War.



### 3 The 1554 Gallery

The glass doors are etched with the crest of the Church Burgesses (founded in 1554) who gave the Gallery to the Community Resource Centre. Downstairs, the Cathedral Archer Project works with people who are homeless and vulnerable.



#### 4 The Nave

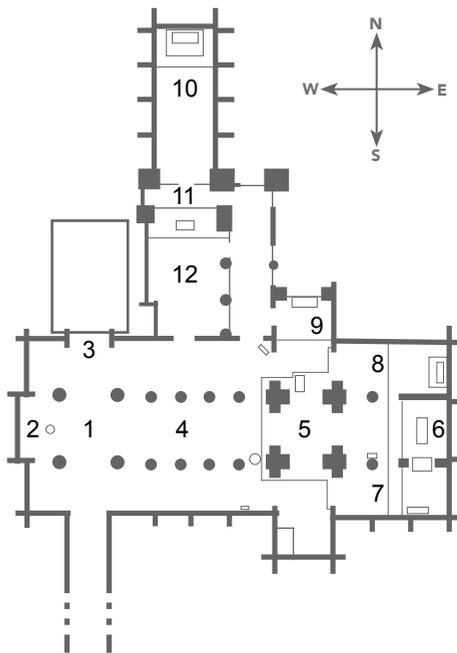
The nave is where the congregation worships. It is called a nave from the word 'navis' (Latin for boat), because the roof resembles a boat. Walk up the nave past the lectern where the Scriptures are read and the carved oak pulpit, from which the Christian message is preached.

#### 5 The Chancel

This area (with the sanctuary, tower and spire) dates from the 1430s. Note the hammer beam roof with its 'choir' of eight gilded angels to cheer us on our way.

Here, musicians, organists and choirs lead the singing of God's praises.

On the right is the Bishop's Throne (called a 'cathedra' in Latin) where the Bishop sits in his Cathedral. Note the coat of arms of the Diocese of Sheffield and the figures of St Peter and St Paul, our patron saints.



#### 6 The Sanctuary

In the sanctuary, at the high altar, we share bread and wine to remember Christ's life, death, resurrection and presence with us now. Behind the altar are the remains of Norman stonework with chevron carvings.

The east window is a memorial to James Montgomery (1771-1854), Sheffield's prominent social reformer, newspaper editor, hymn writer, poet and supporter of the Sunday School movement. There is a monument to him in the churchyard.



#### 7 The Shrewsbury Chapel (1520s)

The chapel was built by George Talbot, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shrewsbury, as a family chapel with a burial vault. The monument on the north side shows him with his two countesses. The family dogs, medieval hunting dogs called Talbots, attend upon his monument.

Against the south wall is the monument of George, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shrewsbury and custodian of Mary, Queen of Scots, during her 14 years of imprisonment in Sheffield (1570-1584).

The ceiling bosses in this area include both Christian and pre-Christian imagery: the tree of life, the Lamb and Flag, the green man and the Sheela-na-gig (a carving of a female figure representing the goddess of fertility).



### **8 St Katharine's Chapel (1936)**

This chapel celebrates the ministry of women in the church. The stained glass east window is by Christopher Webb. The painted panel behind the altar shows the risen Christ with his disciples. Note the carving of St Katharine with her wheel on which she was martyred for her faith.

On the south wall is a rare canopied black oak seat, a sedilia, made in the 15<sup>th</sup> century as seating for the clergy. It has carvings of roses and of hounds which bear a likeness to the Talbot dogs.

### **9 The Window of The Six Sheffield Worthies**

Beyond the beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century screen is a lovely window, with 15<sup>th</sup> century mullions and tracery. Into this have been placed portraits in glass of the 'Six Sheffield Worthies' by Christopher Webb. These were all soldiers and benefactors of this church. The Cathedral's Guidebook tells their story.

You now go into the 1930s/1940s extension of the Cathedral, down the steps to:

### **10 The Chapel of the Holy Spirit**

This chapel was inspired by the beautiful 700 year old Lady Chapel at Llandaff.

The great Te Deum window is by Christopher Webb. At its apex the Dove, representing the Holy Spirit, broods over creation and streams light on to the central figure of Christ in glory, surrounded by the prophets, saints, martyrs and believers throughout the ages.

The reredos below this window is part of the memorial given by the Freemasons of Sheffield for those who died in the First World War.

### **11 The Crypt Chapel of All Saints**

The crypt chapel was designed as a place for the ashes of the departed. It was the first chapel set apart for this purpose in an English cathedral. Within the Crypt is the Regimental Columbarium in which are interred the ashes of some members of the York and Lancaster Regiment. To the right of the altar, there is a small, unusual window by Keith New in 1971. It is made of clear perspex cylinders glued together and painted, giving a jewel like effect to represent a vision of the heavenly city.



## 12 The Chapel of St George

Retrace your steps, and go up into the Chapel of St George, passing the bronze anchor memorial with its plaque on your right.

This is the Regimental Chapel of the York and Lancaster Regiment. Regimental colours hang above the windows. The four small stained glass windows, made by Keith New, depict emblems and episodes in the history of the Regiment. From left to right: Salonika, Burma, Combined Operations - Europe and Suvla Bay. Have a look at the 'Roll of Honour' books beneath the windows.

A unique feature of the chapel is the screen of swords and bayonets. It was given by 'All Ranks of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment' on its disbandment in 1968 in memory of all who gave their lives while serving with the Regiment. It signifies the continuance of service, with the swords being pointed upwards; the bayonets pointed downwards signify the laying aside of weapons of war.

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We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Sheffield Cathedral. There are many more interpretative leaflets available, detailing specific aspects of our building and its heritage. There is also a detailed and beautifully illustrated guidebook, available to buy at the west end or from reception.

**Please come back again soon.**

If you would like to arrange a guided tour of the Cathedral please contact staff at the Cathedral reception on 0114 275 3434 or [enquiries@sheffield-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sheffield-cathedral.org.uk)



[www.sheffieldcathedral.org](http://www.sheffieldcathedral.org)

Text: Margaret Garner & Gill MacGregor, Volunteer Guide Welcomers  
Design: HERITAGE INSPIRED: south yorkshire's faith tourism initiative

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