



Welcome to Romsey Abbey

Romsey Abbey is a Christian Church
It was built over 1000 years ago.

Enter church either by North Door or
South Door

1. THE FONT

At the back of The Abbey
is the font.
To become a Christian you
get Christened with water.
The water in the bowl of
the font is blessed and
poured over the person's
head.
We usually cheer and clap
when someone, young or
old, is Christened.



*There are two smaller fonts in the Abbey, see if you
can spot them as you walk around the Abbey.*

2. THE NAVE

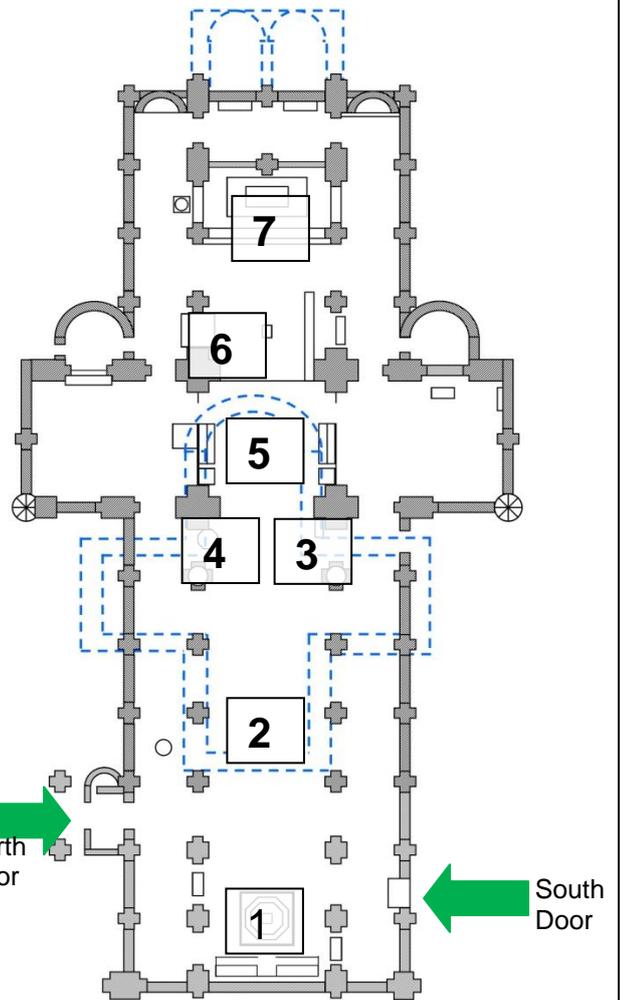
The main part of a church is called the nave. This is
where we sit and stand in church. It needs to be big
enough for everybody to fit in. Look up to the ceiling.



Some people say it
looks like an upturned
ship. A ship in Latin is
navis and this gives us
the word nave.

The nave is very tall –
it is X metres high.
The nave is very long
- it is X metres long.

*Walk slowly down
the nave to the big
arch and pillars.*



3. THE LECTERN

All you need to know about Christianity is in a book we call the Bible.

The lectern is where we have a special Bible which we read from when we meet
for a service.

A service is when Christians come together:

- to say thank you to God for our wonderful world and all the wonderful people, plants, creatures
- to say sorry to God when we have not been as good and loving as we should have been.
- To ask for God's help to be the best possible person God wants us to be.



Just think how special it must be when someone reads from the Bible and we listen carefully to what God wants us to hear.

4. THE PULPIT

This is another place where someone speaks.

The pulpit is used for the Sermon. The sermon is a special part of a service when we try to understand the Bible reading or story we heard from the Lectern.

If you have an adult with you, you can walk carefully up the stairs and look into the nave just like the person who does in our services.



5. THE CHOIR / CROSSING



This is the centre of the building.

Look in every direction, do you see the Abbey is in the shape of a cross?

You are standing in the crossing, this is where the people who lead our services and the choir sit.

One of our leaders is Tim. Have you seen Canon Tim on your visit today?

6. THE ORGAN

Music and singing are very important in our services.

The organ and the choir help lead us in the singing we do in services.

Singing is one way we can praise God and say thank you. While you are here you could try singing a happy song.



7. THE ALTAR

Stand in front of the Altar. You are standing in the most special place in the Abbey. It is called The Chancel.

Look above the Altar. You can see a carving of the baby Jesus and his mother Mary.



Christians believe that when God wanted to get really close to us as human beings, God sent Jesus to live with us and teach us how God wanted us to live. The carving shows us the time when Jesus was a little baby.

Underneath the carving is a table we call the Altar. The altar reminds us of Jesus at the end of his life. Jesus got his friends together around a table and shared his last meal with them. It was a meal of bread and a drink (in those days it was wine). Jesus blessed the bread and shared it with his friends. He did the same with the wine and said to his friends, every time you share bread and wine remember me.

Christians remember Jesus every time they meet and share bread and wine. It is a very special part of a Christian's life.

This might be a good time to think about someone who is important to you and say a quiet thank you. You can also think of how you could be special to someone else.

MORE TO SEE AND DO

If you have more time, walk carefully round the other parts of the Abbey.

- How many altars can you find? Remember how special these tables are to Christians.
 - Can you find a statue of St Nicholas? You might know him as Santa Claus.
 - How many statues can you count in the Abbey?
 - Look at the coloured windows, which one is your favourite and why?
- The Abbey was started as a place for Nuns to worship God. Can you find any statues or pictures of nuns?
- On the floor in the chancel near the organ is a stone with the names of four people who bought the Abbey from Henry VIII for the people of Romsey. One of the names is John Salt. Can you find the names of the others on the stone?
- The bill of sale for the Abbey is in a display nearby in a side aisle. The four people paid Henry VIII £100 for the Abbey. So now the Abbey belongs to everyone in Romsey.
 - Count the number of columns that hold up the Abbey.