

# LOOK AROUND YOU

A REFLECTIVE WALK AROUND CHRIST CHURCH RADLETT



## WELCOME

THIS LEAFLET MAY HELP AS YOU WALK  
ROUND THE CHURCH.

TAKE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT.

## THE DOORS

The large doors of the church, open today, are a symbol of the God who welcomes us. His doors are always open.

As you enter this place of prayer, worship and reflection, remember JESUS IS HERE, and will be with you always wherever you go.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever. Psalm 100:4,5*



These large, rectangular, oak double doors mark the entrance to the church.

They are open every day of the week from 9am to 5pm to welcome you inside.

God, thank you that you are here. Thank you that you know who I am and you welcome me.

## THE FONT

The font is where Baptism takes place; a place of new beginnings, where the past can be left behind and a journey into the love of God begins. Through the act of baptism, or christening, we identify ourselves with the church community. While you are in this sacred space today, perhaps there are things you would like to “leave behind”.

*Jesus said; “come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls”. Matthew 11:28-30*



The hemispherical bowl, set on shafts and a base, is carved with six panels depicting angels at prayer. Some have hands clasped, others have hands crossed over the chest. Two have closed eyes and the others' eyes are open.

The circular wooden font cover bears a plaque to show that it replaces a previous cover given to the church by the family of Peter Mack. More detail of this cover can be found in a picture on a nearby wall.

Christ like God, help me to leave behind the negative things that make life's journey more difficult; share with me your love and peace, so that I may pass them on to others.

## THE PULPIT

Look towards the pulpit. This is where God's good news is told. There is no one speaking from there now, but God's voice can still be heard if we listen in the stillness and beauty of this place.

*God's.... love is patient, His love is kind. 1 Corithinians 13:4*



An octagonal oak drum approached by steps and carved with floral and foliate designs. Each rectangular facet has a pierced cinquefoil arch with cylindrical columns which have bell capitals and bases.

The dedication on the brass plate translates as "Dedicated to the greater glory of God by Dora Woolley".

The pulpit dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

God, help me to hear you speaking, in the stillness and beauty of this place.

## THE AISLE

In Christ Church, there are two aisles. As you walk slowly down them, pause for a while and imagine the people who have walked here before you. Some have come here weekly, some for Christmas or Easter, some as occasional visitors. Others have walked down the aisle to be married, to bring their children for Baptism, to bid farewell to loved ones. Pause, and feel the peace which they found, and thank God who loves you and will help you as you learn to follow Him.

*Jesus said, where two or three come together in my name, there am I, with them.*

*Matthew 8:20.*



God, thank you that you are with me "in my going out and my coming in", from this time forward and for evermore.

## THE WALLS, PILLARS AND ROOF

Look around at the walls and pillars and up to the roof. Think how long they have stood there. Consider the storms they have weathered; the rain, sun, and snow that has fallen across them. For more than one hundred and fifty years people have come here for refuge from storms raging in their lives; for forgiveness and release from past mistakes; to thank God that He accepts us, warts and all. Take this opportunity to speak to God. Think of Him loving you and longing for you to respond.

*Jesus said, apart from me, you can do nothing. John 15:5*



The central arcade of six bays is supported on alternate octagonal (Portland stone) and cylindrical (York stone) pillars, with octagonal and cylindrical stepped and molded capitals. Both roofs are double framed and arch braced with the principal braces resting on stone corbels.

The sanctuary roof on the more recent aisle (right side) aisle is painted in a brown and red wave pattern and with chevrons in red and white or blue and white. On the older aisle (left side), the plain boarding is painted with sacred monograms (ihc and chi rho) in red with a white roundel and four cruciform trefoil leafed motifs. Ihc stands for "Jesus Christ" and chi rho for "Christ reigning"

The side chapel roof has a painted ceiling comprising square panels each bearing the same sacred monograms ihc or chi rho.

God, watch over me and keep me safe. Protect me and the ones I love from all that can harm us.

## THE WINDOWS

Look now at the windows. See the light that fills the church. Think about light, how it reveals beauty and colour in our lives, shows us the pitfalls and obstacles in our path, guides us forward to where we want to be. The Gospel speaks of God's presence as light and brightness that illuminates, guides, and inspires. If you want that kind of light, in your life, ask God for it today.

*Jesus said; "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". John 8:12*



Our windows are dedicated to various benefactors and former members of the congregation. There are four main subjects illustrated. The life of Christ; the Apostles; Saints of the church; scenes from scripture; all embellished with the usual decorative additions of angels and Christian symbols.

Further information about the windows can be found in the booklet at the back of church.

God be my light today. Guide me and inspire me. Let me see clearly, and show me the way ahead.

## THE ALTAR

Move forward now to one of the three altars. It is on these that the bread and wine are blessed and then shared at the communion rail. The broken bread and wine outpoured speak to us of Jesus taking on himself the violence and wickedness of the world. They also tell us that Jesus is alive and able to express His love in us, so that, little by little, the world may become more like Jesus' "Kingdom of Heaven".

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.*  
2 Corinthians 5:17,19.



In Christ Church there are three altars; one in the meditation chapel, one in the old aisle of the church and our main altar is in the new aisle. In addition, there is a table that we use at our regular services.

Beneath the embroidered fabric Altar Frontals, the Altars are of oak construction panelled in various designs.

The High Altar dates from 1907. The Altar in the Meditation Chapel dates from 1932.

Altars are dressed with frontals of different colours according to seasons of the Christian calendar e.g. green for growth; white for Christmas.

Thank you, God, for the new life you offer me through Jesus. Help me to accept your gift, and to learn how to share it with others.

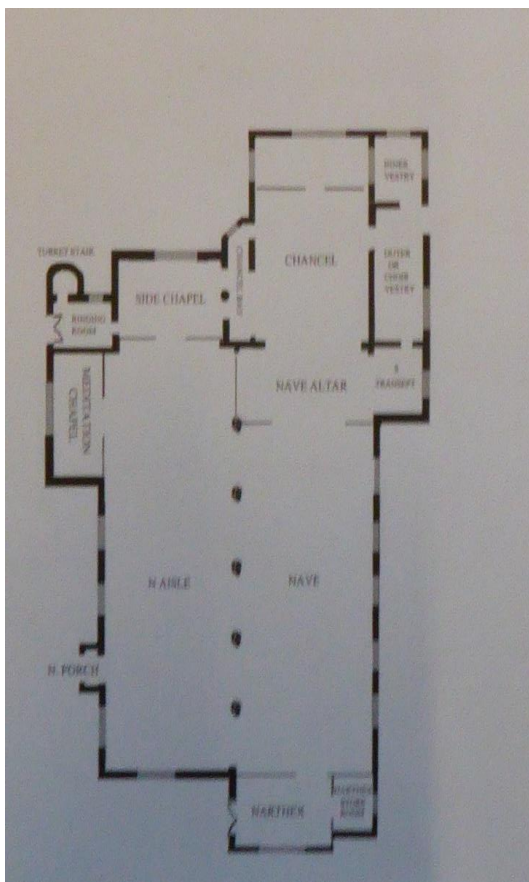


## THE CENTRE

The floor plan of many churches is in the shape of a cross, but not here in Christ Church. Move into the centre of the building, and standing here perhaps you would like to reflect on where God features in your life. Maybe, God is central to who you are and the choices you make; maybe, he rarely crosses your mind. Either way, God loves you and wants to be involved in your everyday life. Would you like to be more aware of God?

*Take your everyday, ordinary life, your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life, and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.*

*Romans 12:1.*



What we call "the old church" was built in 1865 and was too small to be built as a cross lying on the ground. When the main aisle was added in 1905, it was decided to build it alongside, and what we have can be described as a "side by side" church.

God, help me to walk closer with you, and to know you better. Show me how I can live with you, and for you, in my everyday living.

## OUTWARDS

**You may wish to stay longer to explore, to think, to pray, or just to enjoy the peace and quiet. As you leave, consider what you will take with you. The church is called God's house; but God is not confined within these walls. Why not look for him outside the building; in the church grounds, in the garden of remembrance, in the grave yard, in your street, in your own home, in the place where you work or learn and in the people around you?**

*The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth, and does not live in temples built by human hands.....he gives life, breath and everything else to all people.....God did this, so that we will seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being.  
Acts 17:24-25, 27-28.*



God, go with me today as I leave this church. Go ahead of me and reveal yourself to me in your world, and in my own life.

We hope you have been blessed by your time here.  
If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, you may like to join  
one of our Alpha courses, or to come back for a service.

Or you may prefer to speak to one of our ministers.

Rev'd OLIVER BLEASE. VICAR, CHRIST CHURCH & ST JOHN'S. Tel: 01923 289720

The church is open every day of the week, from 9am to 2pm.  
The church office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12.30 pm.

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