

## The Lectern

At the east end of the nave, the glittering eagle of the lectern (symbol of St John), on which the book of Bible readings rests, is a reminder of the soaring heights of inspiration of the gospel, and encourages us to listen carefully to receive the holy Word into our hearts.

O Lord, heavenly Father, in whom is the fullness of light and wisdom, enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit, and give us grace to receive your word with reverence and humility, without which no one can understand your truth, for Christ's sake.

*John Calvin 1509-64*

## The Pulpit

The Pulpit, on the other side of the nave from the lectern, is the place where God's words is explained and interpreted, and all who hear are encouraged in applying its wisdom in their own lives. Pray with those who preach:

Holy Spirit, you make alive, bless also this our gathering, the speaker and the hearer; fresh from the heart it will come, by your help; Lord, may it also go to the heart.

*Søren Kierkegaard 1813-55*

## The Chancel

Travelling eastwards, it is another step up into the chancel, through the chancel screen (the present one dates from the 1930s). Here the choir and other ministers lead and serve in worship. The organ is tucked around the corner, poking into the vestry. Around the walls of the chancel is the text: 'O ye Saints and Souls of the Righteous bless ye the Lord; praise Him and magnify Him for ever', an exhortation which tells us that the praises of the church on earth mingle with those of the church in heaven.

Worthy of praise from every mouth, of confession from every tongue, of worship from every creature, is your glorious name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: who created the world in your grace and by your compassion saved it. To your majesty, O God, ten thousand times ten thousand bow down and

adore, singing and praising without ceasing and saying, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of your praises; hosanna in the highest.'

*Nestorian Liturgy, 5th century*

## The Sanctuary

It is another step up to the Sanctuary at the east end of the church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated. Through the ordinary tokens of bread and wine we are blessed with Christ's own life, given to us in sacrificial love.

May our minds, O Lord, lay hold on that which we have received with our mouths; and let that which is given to us in time avail to us in eternity.

*Gothic Missal, circa700*

## The Altar

More steps go up to the altar, which is both the table at which we share the holy meal, and a symbol of Christ's sacrifice - Christ who is both priest and victim.

Lord God, in this holy celebration you have fed us with life and hope, grant us in this life a heart to love you, faith to trust you, and a will to obey you, and in the world to come eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Going out ...

O God, from whom to turn away is to fall, to whom to turn is to rise, and in whom to abide is to stand fast for ever, guard us we pray now and always, here and everywhere, within and without, above, beneath and on every side, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*St Augustine of Hippo 354-430*

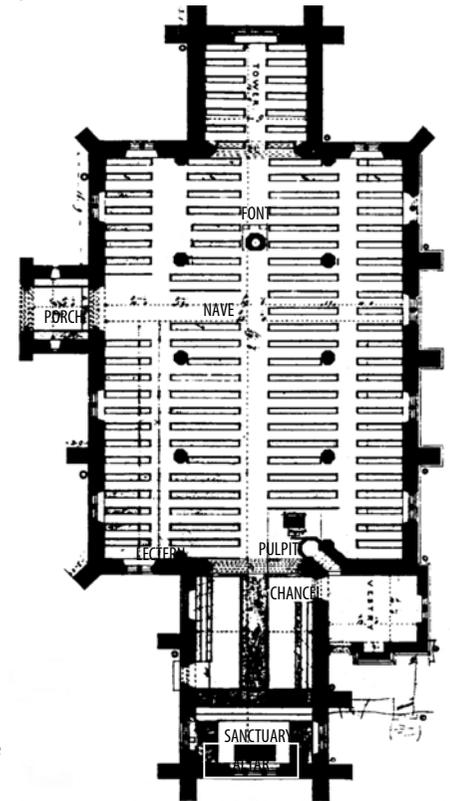
Heavenly Lord, nourished by word and sacrament, may we go from here to share from what we have received, that all the world may know the tenderness of your love and the splendour of your glory in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## A prayer walk around ...

# St Saviour's Church Coalpit Heath

### A pilgrim's prayer

O God, the source and the destination of our journey, give to your people who seek you the guidance and the help of your Holy Spirit. May all who come before you in your house of prayer be drawn into your presence. Banish all darkness from our hearts and minds, and shine on us with the pure light of your love; that our hearts may be lit by your divine flame, and our minds firmly set on the way that leads from the shadows of this world to the divine radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



St Saviour's Church was built in 1845, and consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol on 9 October that year. As you stand outside, imagine what an impact the erection of this building and the worship life within it must have had at the very beginning.

The first incumbent was James Russell Woodford (1820–85), who was ordained in 1843, and became Curate of Saint John the Baptist, Broad Street, before becoming Vicar of Coalpit Heath in 1845. He went on to become the incumbent of St Mark's, Easton, in 1848. He was consecrated bishop in Westminster Abbey in 1873, becoming the 58th Bishop of Ely.

## The Porch

The church porch is an entrance before the entrance – a moment to reflect and prepare. As you stand at the entrance to the porch notice the step up to it. As you enter you are set on an ascending journey.

May your Spirit guide my mind,  
Which is so often dull and empty.  
Let my thoughts always be on you,  
And let me see you in all things.

May your Spirit quicken my soul,  
Which is so often listless and lethargic.  
Let my soul be awake to your presence,  
And let me know you in all things.

May your Spirit melt my heart,  
Which is so often cold and indifferent.  
Let my heart be warmed by your love,  
And let me feel you in all things.

*Johann Freylinghausen, 1670–1739*

Lord, come to me, my door is open.

*Michel Quoist 1921–97*

## The Entrance

The door of the church is large and wide. All may enter, the old and the young, the wealthy and the poor, the well and the infirm, the humble and the proud, for all are equal before God.

As you enter the main body of the church, the nave, there is another step up – the journey continues upwards.

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and in rest we shall be saved, and in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: by the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*John Wallace Suter, Jr, 1890–1977*

## The Nave

The nave is the biggest part of the church, the place where the people gather to worship. In pews that have been used for over 160 years people have come to quieten their minds before God, to confess their sins, to offer praise and thanksgiving, to seek help and healing, to bless and ask for blessing for themselves and for others. Looking up, we can reflect on the prayers that have risen to the highest in all these ways.

## Inviting

Most high and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give us a true faith, a certain hope, and a perfect love. Give us a sense of the divine and knowledge of yourself, so that we may do everything in fulfilment of your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*St Francis of Assisi 1181or2–1226*

## Confessing

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.

*Common Worship (Church of England)*

## Asking

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;  
teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to seek reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your will.

*St Ignatius Loyola 1491or5–1556*

## Thanking

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into a heritage that can never be spoiled or soiled or fade away.

*1 Peter 1.3–4*

## The Tower

A tower can be a fortress or a beacon. The bells in the tower, installed first in the 1920s, ring out with praise week by week in proclamation and celebration, inviting the people of the village to join in worship.

O Lord, grant that as these bells sound so the hearts of those who hear them will be stirred to worship you, to the glory of your Holy Name.

## The Font

Through water and the Spirit people become members of the Church. Every time water is blessed and sprinkled so we are reminded of our own baptism, for which we give thanks.

God of grace and life,  
in your love you have given us  
a place among your people;  
keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and prepare us for that glorious day  
when the whole creation will be made perfect  
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Common Worship (Church of England)*