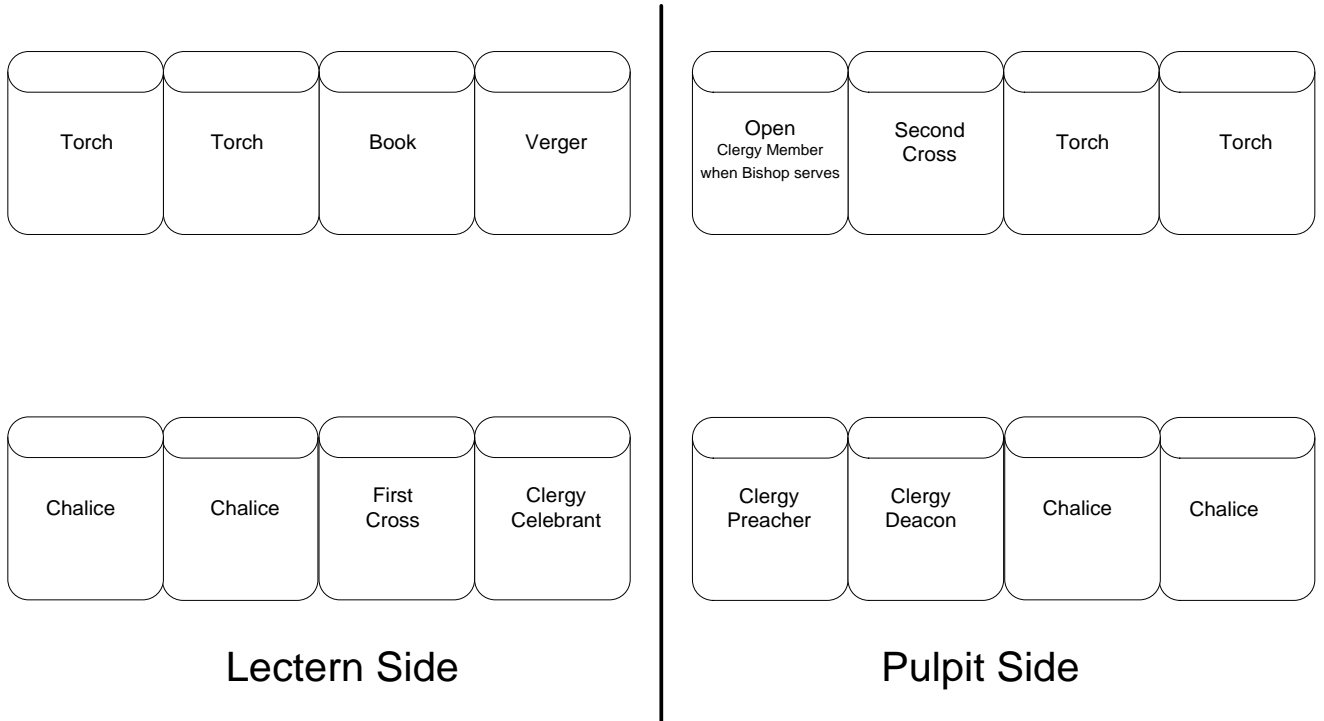


## Chancel Seating

### Chancel Seating During Service



2011-02-13

Flags and Banners sit in Transepts on respective sides

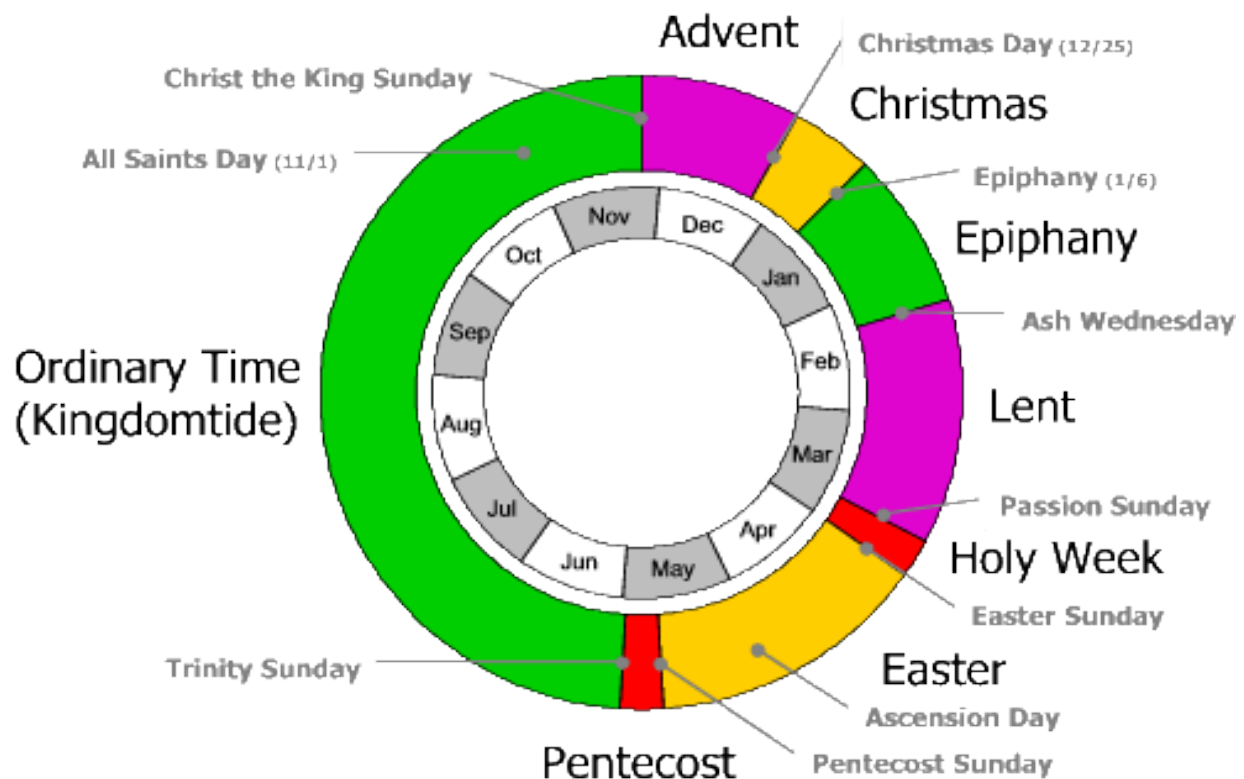
### 1: Chancel Seating

## Order of Procession & Acolyte Assignment

The exact procession order is determined by the Verger. This guide will give the senior acolyte an outline of the assignments to be made, depending on the number of team members present. Consult with the verger as necessary, especially about who will carry the Gospel book. Acolyte roles are underlined and in italics.

# Acolytes	Order of Procession	# Acolytes	Order of Procession
1	Verger <u>First Cross</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers Gospel (by Deacon/LEM) Priest(s)	6	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross + 2 torches</u> Gospel (by Deacon/LEM) Priest(s)
2	Verger <u>First Cross</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross</u> Gospel (by Deacon/LEM) Priest(s)	7	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross + 2 torches</u> <u>Gospel Book</u> Priest(s)
3	Verger <u>First Cross</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross</u> <u>Gospel Book</u> Priest(s)	8	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> Choir <u>SPSP Banner</u> Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross + 2 torches</u> <u>Gospel Book</u> Priest(s)
4	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross</u> Gospel (by Deacon/LEM) Priest(s)	9	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> <u>2 Flags</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross + 2 torches</u> <u>Gospel Book</u> Priest(s)
5	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> Choir Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross</u> <u>Gospel Book</u> Priest(s)	10 +	Verger <u>First Cross + 2 torches</u> <u>2 Flags</u> Choir <u>SPSP Banner</u> <u>Additional Banner(s)</u> Eucharistic Ministers <u>Second Cross + 2 torches</u> <u>Gospel Book</u> Priest(s)

## Church Seasons and Holidays



## 2: The Church Year

### Seasons

A way of marking time in the Church. There are six seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and the season after Pentecost. The church new year begins with the season of Advent, which marks the Advent (Latin: *adventus*) or coming of our Lord. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas day. Christmas is a twelve-day season that begins Christmas day and continues to January 6th. Epiphany is both a day (Jan.6) and a season, and represents the manifestation (epiphany) of the gospel into the world. Lent begins 46 days before Easter with Ash Wednesday, and is a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Easter is a six week (50 day) season which ends on Pentecost Sunday. The season after Pentecost runs from Pentecost to Advent.

### Advent

From the Latin: *Adventus*: "Coming." Advent is the first season of the Church year. In Advent we prepare for our Lord's coming in three ways: at Christmas; for his coming into our hearts; and for his coming again at the end of time.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas day. The color of Advent is traditionally dark "royal" purple or Sarum blue (from the Medieval Sarum rite), marking the preparational aspects of the season. Many churches use blue for Advent to move away from the penitential color purple used for Lent.

An Advent wreath is a green wreath with candles (purple or blue), one for each of the four Sundays. The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete ("Rejoice," from an ancient antiphon based on Philippians 4:4) Sunday, has an especially joyous emphasis, so often the candle on the wreath is rose or pink as a symbol of joy. A fifth, white candle, the Christ candle, is often added in the center when Christ is born in our hearts again, on Christmas.

## **Christmas**

Besides being December 25th and the day Christians mark as the celebration of the birth of Jesus (Christ's Mass), Christmas is also a Church season, running from December 25th to Epiphany (January 6th). It is this twelve-day period that is sometimes referred to as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The color for Christmas is white.

## **Epiphany**

Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation" and during this season, we see Christ as revealed to the whole world. It is a time for rededicating ourselves to our own ministries and our missionary task – to continue to spread Jesus' light in the world. Just as the disciples were called, we received our calling or vocation as Christians through our baptism.

January 6; the feast celebrating the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Epiphany marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas (the Christmas season).

Epiphany is also one of the seasons of the Church, running from the end of Christmas to Ash Wednesday. The feast day color is white; other days during Epiphany are green.

## **Shrove Tuesday**

The final day before the season of Lent begins, usually marked by pancake suppers in parish halls throughout the Episcopal church. Shrove Tuesday is also the final day of Mardi Gras, and various Carnivals throughout the world.

## **Lent**

From an Anglo-Saxon word, lencten, meaning, "spring," the time of the lengthening of the days. Lent is one of the six seasons of the church year and is the forty-day period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). The period is actually 46 days, but since Sundays are feast days, they are never included in the count. Lent is intended to be a period of preparation and penitence marked by fasting, meditation and sobriety. Lent is widely associated with denial -- "giving something up for Lent."

Purple marks the season of Lent.

## **Ash Wednesday**

The Wednesday marking the beginning of the season of Lent, usually observed with a period of fasting and spiritual preparation. In the Ash Wednesday liturgy, the celebrant usually smears ashes on a person's forehead as a mark of their mortality ("Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.") The ashes are often burned palms saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

## **Holy Week**

The week preceding Easter -- the last week in Lent. Holy Week is the most important period of the church year, observed with many special services, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding on Holy Saturday. Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

## **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday in Holy Week; the name is from a corruption of the Old English word for "commandment" in Christ's commandment given in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another." The word "command" was originally spelled "commaundment" and was shortened to "Maundy" through careless enunciation. The command is closely tied to another "commaund" given by Jesus at the same time: "Do this in remembrance of me." Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) was the day on which the first Lord's Supper, the Last Supper, was celebrated with the 12 Disciples. Maundy Thursday services often include "stripping the altar" (removing all items including hangings) and in some parishes, foot washing (see John 13:5).

## **Good Friday**

This is the day in Holy Week in which we remember Christ's arrest, crucifixion, and death. It is unclear where the name "Good Friday" originated. Some have said it is a corruption of "God's Friday," in the same manner that "Commandment Thursday" became "Maundy Thursday." Others insist it is called "Good" because of the great benefits given to humanity by Christ's death and resurrection.

Appointments are spare, and the crosses and crucifixes are covered in black.

## **Easter**

The festival that commemorates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the third day after he was crucified. It is called Easter Day in our prayer book, but has come to be called (redundantly) Easter Sunday by the media, most laity, and some clergy, all of whom ought to know better. Easter is a movable feast, which means it does not always fall on the same day each year. Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox (first day of Spring). By this calculation, Easter could occur anytime from March 22, to April 25. The length of Epiphany and the Season after Pentecost, as well as the dates of Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension Day, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday are all determined by the date of Easter. Easter is also a Church season, spanning the 50 days (six Sundays) after Easter, to Ascension Day.

White marks the greatest feast day of Christianity.

## **Pentecost**

The Festival Sunday that comes fifty days after Easter in which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the twelve Disciples after Christ's Resurrection (Acts 2). Pentecost is traditionally seen as the birthday of the church. It is also the beginning of the longest season in the church - the season after Pentecost.

Red, signifying the Holy Spirit, is the color of Pentecost.

# *The Acolyte Guide*

The season after Pentecost runs from the day of Pentecost to the first Sunday in Advent; it is called “ordinary time” for which the color is green.

Adapted from:

- The Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education - <http://prayerbookguide.wordpress.com/living-the-season/>
- The Christian Calendar – [www.chirstianitysite.com/calendar.htm](http://www.chirstianitysite.com/calendar.htm)
- *Why Does the Priest Wear Different Colors at Different Times of the Year?* - <http://www.holyspiritme.org/Olio%20page/Vestments/vestments.htm>
- The Church Year - <http://www.acr-nh.org/churchyear.html>

## Glossary - Terminology

Ablutions	Ceremonial washing of communion vessels and/or the ceremonial washing of the hands of the celebrant.
Absolution	A declaration by a bishop or priest, announcing forgiveness by God to those who have confessed their sins and repented.
Acolyte	From a Greek word meaning, "to follow." Acolytes are lay volunteers who follow the Cross in the procession and recession and assist the priest in worship. An acolyte lights and sometimes carries candles, and helps in the preparation of communion.
Advent Wreath	A wreath with four or five candles, used in most Episcopal churches and in some homes during the season of Advent. Four candles are placed in a circle, and a fifth may be placed in the center. One candle is lit on the first Sunday in Advent, two on the second Sunday, three on the third and four on the fourth Sunday in Advent. On Christmas day, the fifth candle is lighted.
Alb	A white robe worn by many priests when celebrating communion, generally worn over daily clothes but under other vestments. A polyester variation of the alb called the cassock-alb has become the de facto standard Eucharistic garment for many, if not most Episcopal, Lutheran and Roman Catholic clergy.
All Saints' Day	November 1st - a day we commemorate all the saints of the Church and those we know who've joined the saints in worship at the heavenly banquet table. Originally known as "All Hallows Day," and followed "all hallows eve" (Halloween).
Alms	From the Greek word eleos, meaning "pity." Money given by the Church to the poor. According to the canons, the loose offering (cash and undesignated checks) on the first Sunday of every month is supposed to go into an Alms account.
Alms Basin	An Episcopalian "offering plate."
Altar	A table, usually in the sanctuary, on which the bread and wine used in the Communion service are consecrated. Also known as and referred to in the prayer book as the Holy Table.
Altar Guild	A special lay service group in a church who prepare the altar and maintain the furnishings in a church building. The altar guild usually supervises all seasonal church decorations and is usually responsible for all flower arrangements.
Amen	From Hebrew, meaning, "So be it." Episcopalians say "ah-men," while most other communions say "eh-men."
Anglican	A term which simply means "English." The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion -- a collection of Churches around the world that has their origins in the Church of England.
Anthem	A hymn or choral piece sung only by a choir, without the congregation.
Apostolic Succession	The doctrine that holds that bishops are the direct successors of the original eleven apostles (excluding Judas) and are thus inheritors in an unbroken line to the ministry to which Jesus Himself ordained the Apostles. In the Episcopal Church, we believe that our bishops had hands laid upon them by bishops who had hands laid upon them by bishops who had hands laid upon them... all the way back to the original apostles.

Archbishop	The term used by most of the Anglican Communion (America being the largest exception) to define a bishop in charge of a group of dioceses in a geographical area, or a national church. His superiority over other bishops is only a matter of organizational rank. As the saying goes, "He (or conceivably she) is first among equals." In writing or speaking to an archbishop, the form of address is "The Most Reverend." The Archbishop of Canterbury has an additional title: The Most Reverend and Right Honorable Dr. Rowan Williams. In speaking to him directly, you call an archbishop "Your Grace."
Archbishop of Canterbury	The equivalent of a Presiding Bishop for the Church of England. Most Episcopalians (in an honorary sense) acknowledge the Archbishop of Canterbury to be the spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Increasingly, the letters "ABC" are being used as a shorthand code for the title.
Aumbry	A box or cupboard in the wall of a church building or in a sacristy where the Reserved Sacrament is kept.
Baptism	The sacrament that celebrates a person's joining of the Church. At our baptisms we are cleansed from sin, and adopted by God into His family, and made heirs of His eternal Kingdom. Since we can only be adopted once, baptism is a final, non-repeatable act. The Episcopal Church recognizes both adult and infant baptism and offers both. Also, in the Episcopal Church, one can be baptized by being immersed, by being sprinkled, or by having water poured on them. Baptism and Holy Communion are the two great sacraments of the Episcopal Church.
Bible, The	The primary source of inspiration and the single most important book for Episcopalians. Three or more Bible readings are included in a typical worship service. Over 80% of the prayer book comes directly from the Bible.
Bishop	From the Greek word episcopos, meaning overseer. A Bishop is a member of the highest of the orders of ministry in the Church. In the Episcopal Church, there are five kinds of Bishops - Presiding, Diocesan, Assistant, Coadjutor, and Suffragan. No bishop is "higher" in rank than another. The five kinds merely define their function. Bishops are the only order allowed to wear purple shirts, and their crosses are usually gold, while priests' crosses are usually silver.
Bishop, Diocesan	The primary bishop of a diocese, elected by the people of the diocese he or she serves. Sometimes referred to as "the diocesan."
Book Of Common Prayer	The worship book of the Anglican Church since its inception in 1549. Commonly called the "prayer book," commonly abbreviated as the BCP, the Book of Common Prayer is a collection of classic and contemporary prayers, devotions, services and psalms designed to allow the entire Church to worship in common union. The current prayer book was last revised in the 1970's. 1979 Prayer Book - The single largest update of a prayer book in Episcopal Church history. Begun in the late 1960's with numerous and often controversial trial liturgies, compiled in 1976 as the Proposed Book of Common Prayer, and ratified by the 1979 General Convention. The book attempted to retain traditional Episcopal liturgies while incorporating many innovative forms of worship. The Convention mandated its exclusive usage, thus alienating many traditional parishioners who, in the 2000's, still refer to the book as the "new" prayer book. The book has the distinction of being copyright free, so that its pages may be used by anyone at any time. See Rite I, Rite II, Rite III
Bread	One of the two elements of communion, signifying to us the Body of Christ. As Scripture reminds us, "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." (Matthew 26:26)

Broad Church	One of three popular designations to define the style of worship in a particular Episcopal church. "Broad church" worship is vaguely midway between low and high, and may or may not include elaborate liturgy, incense, and/or sanctus bells. See High Church, Low Church.
Burse	From the Greek byrsa, meaning, "a bag." A burse is one of the furnishings of the altar for communion, and is a pocket case made from two squares of some rigid material covered in cloth. The burse sits on top of the chalice, paten and veil, and serves to hold a corporal. Often, the burse also serves to hide an extra purificator.
Canterbury	The top diocese in the Church of England, and by tradition, the entire Anglican Church. Although all the branches of the Anglican Church are autonomous, each maintains a traditional connection with England, and therefore looks to the Archbishop of Canterbury as the spiritual leader of the Church. It was at Canterbury cathedral (officially titled, the Cathedral Church of Christ) that St. Thomas Becket was assassinated by King Henry's friends in 1170. Soon after Thomas' death, pilgrimages to his Canterbury shrine began. (The shrine was destroyed by Henry VIII in 1538) It was one of these pilgrimages that served as the setting for Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.
Carol	A festival hymn, simple in tune, sung during the Christmas Season. Traditionally Episcopalians do not sing carols before sundown on December 24th, and will sing carols right up until Epiphany, at least two weeks after the rest of America has abandoned them.
Cassock	A black robe worn by priests or deacons, and are usually worn with a white overgarment called a surplice. A Canon may wear a black cassock with red piping, or (with permission) may wear a purple cassock. Deans and archdeacons may wear black cassocks with red or purple piping. Lay readers, choir members and acolytes can also (and often do) wear cassocks.
Catechism	An elementary instruction in the principles of Christianity, in the form of questions and answers. (See pages 845-862, BCP) In past generations, one had to memorize the entire catechism before he or she could be confirmed.
Cathedral	The Greek word meaning "seat." A cathedra is special sanctuary chair only used by a bishop. The chair remains empty except during bishop's visitations and serves as a visible reminder that the parish priest represents the bishop, and that the bishop is the spiritual head of the diocese.
Cathedral	The church in which the diocesan bishop's throne or cathedra is kept, and often the gathering place for many of the diocese's official functions and major worship celebrations. If the cathedral is a parish church (i.e. has a congregation of worshipers) their rector is given the title of Dean of the Cathedral.
Catholic	A word usually thought of as a reference to the Roman Catholic Church, however "catholic" literally means "universal" or "found everywhere." (from the Greek word katholikos, meaning "general" or "universal") In the Nicene Creed, we say we believe in the holy catholic [universal] church.
Celebrant	The person who leads the worship service. In a Eucharist, the celebrant is the bishop, or someone who the bishop appoints to lead the service for him or her. In a service of Morning Prayer, the celebrant may be either lay or clergy.
Censer	(Also called a thurible) - a vessel in which incense is burned on charcoal. A censer is usually carried in processions and recessionals by a special acolyte called a thurifer.
Chalice	From Latin, calix, meaning "cup." A chalice is the cup used to contain the wine used at Communion.
Chancel	From the Latin cancelli, meaning "a grating" or "lattice." Chancel is the name for the section of a church building between the nave and the sanctuary; usually the place the choir sits; sometimes also called the "choir". It is also usually a few steps higher than the nave.

Chant	Not exactly singing, nor reading, chanting is a recitation midway between singing and reading. Chanting originated in the monastic orders in the early centuries of the Church.
Chapel	From Latin, cappella, meaning "a cape." When the kings of France went on military campaigns, they would carry the cape of St. Martin with them. The tent or other temporary structure that housed the cappella was called a chapel. A chapel now refers to a small building or room set apart for worship and meditation.
Chasuble	From Latin, casula, meaning "little house". A chasuble is a type of vestment worn by the celebrant during Communion. It is usually oval in shape, with a hole for the head to pass through. The chasuble may have been derived from an ancient Roman cloak only worn outdoors and shaped like a tent (hence the name, "little house"). Many Low Church clergy will tell you the that chasuble's liturgical origins were from an identically shaped garment that Hebrew priests would wear to keep blood off them as they were sacrificing animals.
Choir	From Latin, chorus, meaning a group of singers. A choir is group of lay people (voluntary or paid) that help lead the singing during a worship service and sometimes offer special anthems to enhance worship. The word "choir" can also used to define the chancel, the part of the church building where the choir sits.
Chrism	A mixture of olive oil and balsam, and sometimes used at baptisms, confirmations, ordinations and some blessings of altars and other church fixtures. Chrism is not the same as other holy oils such as those used for the unction of the sick. No balsam is added to oil used for unction.
Church	The English word comes from the Greek word kurios, meaning, "master" or "lord." A form of this word, kuriakon, had the meaning of "...pertaining to, or belonging to the lord." Originally, the word referred to the building used by the Lord's people. However, the French and other Romance languages get their word for church from the another Greek word - ekklesia (lit. "called out") - in French, eglise, which means an assembly of people. We use both terms when speaking of the church; we speak of the building and of the people inside the building. It is interesting to note that when the Bible speaks of the church, the word used is ekklesia. The Bible's authors never thought of the church as a building. When the word is capitalized, it usually refers to the universal, or catholic church.
Church of England	The official name of the original Church in England, the Anglican Church. During the reign of King Henry VIII, the Church, in England, broke formal ties with Rome and became the Church OF England. Sometimes referred to as the "C of E."
Ciborium	A cup that resembles a chalice, except that it has a removable lid. A ciborium is used to hold communion wafers during the Eucharist
Clergy	The group of ordained people, consecrated for unique ministry for a particular church or denomination.
Collect	From the Latin word collecta, meaning "assembly." The word is normally used to refer to the prayer near the beginning of the Eucharist that precedes the lessons. The collect was supposedly designed to "collect" the thoughts of the lessons and bind the thoughts together, back in the days when only one lesson and a Gospel were read. A collect is actually any short prayer that contains an invocation, a petition, and a pleading in Christ's Name (in that order).

Colors	Color plays an important part in the designation of seasons and feasts in the Episcopal Church. Each church season has a color associated with it. Advent is purple (the color of preparation and penitence) or Sarum Blue, Christmas is white (the color of celebration), Epiphany is green (the color of growth; growth of the gospel message from Jew to Gentile - re: the three Wise Men), Lent is purple, Easter is white, and the season after Pentecost is green (for the growth of the church). Weddings and funerals are usually occasions for white (the color of celebration) while Pentecost Sunday and ordinations are red, to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit. Black is occasionally used one day a year -- Good Friday.
Communicants	From the Latin word <i>communicare</i> , meaning "to share, or partake." Communicants are the members of a local church who do or who are eligible to receive communion.
Communion	1. The Christian sacramental meal, the Lord's Supper, commanded by our Lord ("Do this in remembrance of me."). For centuries the service used to celebrate the meal was called Holy Communion, but is now more commonly called the "Eucharist" in Episcopal churches. Also known as Mass in Roman Catholic churches. 2. The term describing a group of autonomous churches who recognize common ties and share a common faith, for example, the worldwide Anglican Communion.
Compline	A monastic evening service used to end the day, and included for the first time in the 1979 prayer book. It is pronounced "comp-lyn," not "comp-line."
Confirmation	From two Latin words - <i>firmare</i> , which means "to strengthen," and <i>com</i> , which adds force to the word. Literally to confirm is to "strengthen greatly." At Confirmation a person makes a mature, public confession that he or she accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior, thus owning up to the vows his or her godparents made for him or her at his or her baptism. The bishop then lays his or her hands on the confirmand, and prays for the Holy Spirit to "strengthen greatly" the person in the rest of his or her life. Confirmation is considered to be one of the five sacramental acts, or minor sacraments of the Church.
Congregation	The groups of people who make up the local church, or the members of a local church who are present for worship.
Consecration	The word literally means, "to set aside." At the Eucharist, the elements are consecrated before we partake in communion. Consecration services include dedications and ordinations. In 1835, the Chapel of the Cross was consecrated for God's service on Sullivan's Island. In 1990, Bishop Edward Salmon was consecrated as the 13th Bishop of South Carolina.
Convention	A diocesan meeting (usually held annually) to elect officials, propose resolutions, and to pass laws to govern the diocesan body.
Cope	A vestment of dignity which may be worn by any order of the clergy, but is usually thought of as being worn by a bishop, along with his miter. The cope is a long and heavy semicircular cloak of rich material, generally matching other vestments in the color of the season.
Corporal	From Latin: <i>corpus</i> , meaning "body." A square piece of linen laid on top of the altar cloth at Communion.
Credence Table	A small table or shelf on the epistle side of the altar that holds the bread, wine and water before consecration.
Crosier	The bishop's staff ( a shepherd's crook) carried in a procession and held when giving the absolution or blessing.
Crucifer	A person in a religious procession who carries a large cross (a processional cross), and leads the procession into the church and the recession out of the church.
Crucifix	From Latin, <i>crux</i> , meaning "cross." A crucifix is a cross bearing the likeness of the body of Christ on it.

Cruet	From old French, crue, meaning "a vial or a glass." A cruet is the vessel (glass or metal) used to hold the water and wine for the Eucharist.
Deacon	The subservient rank in the three orders of the Church's ministry (Bishop, Priest, Deacon). There are two types of deacons - transitional deacons, who will soon be ordained to the priesthood, and permanent deacons, who chose the order as a permanent servant ministry. Priests are first ordained to the diaconate to remind them and the Church that they are, and that they always will be servants (see Matthew 20:25-28).
Dean	From Latin, decanus, meaning "ten." Originally the title was given to a minor official who served in some supervisory position over ten people. The title is now used to refer to the resident clergyman of a cathedral, the chief academic officer of a college or seminary, or the head of a diocesan deanery. If the dean is ordained, the title "The Very Reverend" is appropriate; if the dean is a lay person, this title is not used..
Deanery	A geographical division of a diocese, roughly equivalent to counties in a state, also sometimes known as a convocation or an archdeanery.
Deputy	An official church or diocesan delegate to a meeting. A deputy may be clergy or lay, but the term usually applies to the lay people chosen to attend a convention.
Diaconate	The state of being a deacon; also, the life of deacon-like service in the church.
Diocesan Seals	Heraldic insignia of a diocese; diocesan seals are sometimes cut into rings or dies for impressing wax on official diocesan documents.
Diocese	A unit of church organization; the spiritual domain under a bishop. A diocese may contain many parishes and missions. When used as an adjective, the term is diocesan. The diocese is most often thought of as the primary and basic unit of the Church.
Diocesan Council	A group that advises the bishop on diocesan affairs. The Diocesan Council's duties are similar to the duties that the vestry carries out at the parish level.
DFMS, or Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society	The corporation founded to carry out the work of the Episcopal Church. The DFMS headquarters are at 815 Second Avenue in New York City.
Elements	The bread and wine of Holy Communion.
Episcopal	The name of a form of church organization which means government by an overseer. From the Greek word episcopos, meaning overseer. See Bishop.
Episcopal Church, The	The official name for the American branch of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Episcopal Church welcomes you!
Episcopalian	1. A member of the Episcopal Church. 2.The noun form of the word. Proper grammarians would point out that "episcopal" is an adjective and "Episcopalian" is a noun.
Epistle, The	Usually (but not always) included in a Sunday service, the epistle is a reading from one of the New Testament books other than the Gospels. The epistle and the Old Testament lessons are typically read by a Lay reader.
Epistle Side	The side of the building from which the Epistle lesson is read. The side depends on whether the altar is located against a wall or free standing, meaning the priest celebrates the Eucharist from behind it. If the altar is free standing, the Epistle side is the right side of the church building when one is facing the altar.
Eucharist	Literally means a "good gift" or "thanksgiving." The current usage in the Episcopal Church to refers to the entire Communion service. According to the current prayer book, the Eucharist is intended to be the principal service on a Sunday.
Eucharistic Minister	A lay person authorized and licensed by the Bishop to administer the consecrated elements at the Eucharist. Formerly called a chalice bearer. Eucharistic ministers operate under the supervision of deacon or other clergy.

Eucharistic Visitor	A lay person authorized and licensed by the Bishop to take the consecrated elements to someone who was unable to be at the service because of illness or infirmity. Formerly called a lay Eucharistic minister, or LEM.
Evensong	An evening worship service; evening prayer; and especially evening prayer service featuring a choir.
Fair Linen	A white linen cloth cover for the altar, used during Eucharist.
Father	A familiar or direct way of referring to some ordained clergy. "Low Church" Episcopalians usually never use the term. The title is abbreviated as "Fr."
Fast Days	Special days set aside for abstinence. On these days, one typically eats less, or eats nothing at all. While any day may be observed as a fast day, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are officially designated as fast days.
Feast Days	Days of celebration, as opposed to fast days. The primary feast day is Easter. All Sundays are miniature celebrations of Easter, and thus all Sundays are feast days. Other feast days include saint's days and all special days like Ascension, Epiphany, Holy Cross Day, etc.
Flagon	A container that is larger than a cruet and is used instead of, or in addition to cruets at larger celebrations of Communion.
Font	A basin for water to be used in church baptisms.
Fraction	The part of the Communion liturgy where the Communion bread is broken by the celebrant. According to the prayer book, a period of silence is to follow, and then can be said or sung, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." (prayer book pages 337 and 364)
General Convention	The national triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church. General Convention is dividend into two governmental bodies: the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. Each diocese sends deputies to General Convention to enact laws to govern the Episcopal Church, and to pass resolutions stating the "mind of the church" on topical issues.
Genuflection	From the Latin words genu, meaning "knee," and flectere, meaning "to bend." A genuflection is a sort of deep curtsey where the right knee touches the ground. The appropriate times for genuflection (if you do it at all) are when passing before the Reserved Sacrament, when entering or leaving your pew when the consecrated bread and wine are on the altar, and in the Nicene Creed at the words, "who for us and our salvation."
Godparents	Godfathers and godmothers, persons who sponsor an infant or young child at his or her baptism. Godparents make vows that they will, by their example, help the child know what it means to be a Christian, so that later in his or her life the child can confirm that fact for himself or herself at Confirmation.
Gospel, The	Any reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. We stand for the gospel reading in the Eucharist, to show reverence for Jesus, since he is speaking to us when the gospel is read.
Gospel Side	An older usage for designating the interior of a church. The gospel side is on the right-hand side of the priest, as determined by where he/she is facing when celebrating the Holy Communion. The Gospel side is thus dependant on whether the altar is located against the wall or free-standing. Originally, the priest celebrated communion facing the people and thus the Gospel Side was the north side of the Church building [the left side, when facing the altar]. In medieval times the altar was pushed against the west wall, and the Gospel side then became the right side, when facing the altar.
High Church	One of three popular designation for styles of worship in an Episcopal Church. "High Church" worship emphasizes theological or liturgical formality. Parts or all of a "high" service are often sung or chanted rather than reading or speaking them. Services often include several vested assistants, incense and sanctus bells.

Holy Orders	A way of referring to ordination among Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and a few others: an ordained person is spoken of as "being in holy orders"--meaning that the person has made priestly vows and has been admitted by a bishop into one of the several levels of ordination.
Homily	A short sermon often on a single topic of devotion or morality. The difference between a sermon and a homily is primarily the length. Some wags are known to refer to homilies as "sermonettes."
Host	The consecrated "bread" part of the Holy Communion. In most Episcopal churches a wafer is used as the host, but an increasing number of churches are using actual baked bread. The wafer the priest breaks at the fraction is called a "priest's host."
Hymn	From the Greek word, hymnos, meaning "song of praise." A hymn is a poem or other metrical composition adapted for singing in a church service. Hymns have only been allowed in the Anglican Church since 1820.
Incense	From the Latin word, incendere, meaning "to burn," incense is the "smell" element in "smells & bells"; a fragrant powder burned in a small dish or pot; used during the service or in the processions. Some say incense is used to recall of one of the three gifts of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. Scripture commends its usage, particularly in Psalm 141, where prayers are asked to be like incense.
Kyrie	From the Greek for the actual name, Kyrie Eleison, which means, "Lord have mercy." The Kyrie comes after the Ten Commandments or the summary of the law in the Rite I Eucharist, to serve as a reminder to us that we cannot, by our own effort, keep the commandments. It is a plea for grace by fallen sinners. In Rite II, where there is no recitation of the Ten Commandments or a summary of the law, the Kyrie seems out of place, and is, for that reason, often omitted.
Laity	From the Greek word, laos, meaning "people," the laity are the non-ordained members of a church, as distinguished from "the clergy". An single member of the laity would be referred to as a "lay person."
Lavabo	From Latin, meaning, "I will wash." The name originally referred to the ceremonial washing of the priests hands before he or she celebrated Communion, while saying the words, "I will wash my hands in innocence." (Psalm 26:6). Now used primarily to refer to the bowl into which the water is poured during the washing.
Lay person	Any non-ordained person; in the Episcopal church today, lay person is often used instead of the older (and politically incorrect) Episcopal usage "layman".
Lectern	From the Latin, lectrum, meaning "reading desk" - A raised platform used for reading prayers or scripture; usually located at the front of the nave, opposite the pulpit, on the epistle side.
Lectionary	The complex series of Biblical readings used in the Episcopal Church throughout the year. The Church uses a three-year cycle of lessons for Sunday readings and a two-year cycle for daily readings.
Lesson	A reading from the Bible during a worship service. Lessons are usually read by a lay person and are not taken from the Gospel or the Psalms. Lessons are usually read from the epistle side of the church building and conclude with the reader saying, "The word of the Lord" or "Here ends the reading."
Lesson and Carols	Popular name of the Festival of Lessons and Carols held during late Advent or early Christmas at Anglican Churches throughout the world.
Litany	A solemn form of supplication for God's mercy, composed of short responsive prayers. The traditional Anglican Litany (page 54 in the 1928 BCP) is almost recognizable in the words of The Great Litany (BCP page 148) in the 1979 Prayer Book.

Liturgical	From "liturgy," used to describe a particular style of worship that requires active participation (standing, sitting, kneeling, recitation, common prayer, etc.) from both the clergy and laity. Episcopal, Lutheran, Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches are generally considered to be liturgical churches, while most Protestant denominations are not.
Liturgy	From a combination of two Greek words, laos (people) and ergon (work). Literally the word means "the work of the people, " and is generally used to refer to the entire, complete worship service.
Low Church	A popular designation for a church that is, on the whole, less formal. Most low churches tend to emphasize good sermons as being more important than good liturgy, and do not chant or sing their services or use incense or sanctus bells. A low church might alternate Morning Prayer with the Eucharist for their primary Sunday worship. See High Church, Broad Church.
Low Sunday	Specifically, the term refers to the Sunday that follows the highest Sunday of the year -- Easter. Some wags will insist that the name refers to the low attendance on that Sunday following Easter.
Minister	In olden days, the word was synonymous with the clergy. While the ordained do indeed have special ministries to perform, we Episcopalians recognize that every baptized Christian has ministry to do for God's greater glory. We therefore believe that all Christians are ministers. In our Catechism we state, "The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons." (page 855, BCP)
Ministry Of All The Baptized	Ecclesiastical, professional and vocational ministries derived from our Baptismal Covenant. See Page 304-305 and 855-856 of our prayer book for a description of ministry.
Missal	The altar book - The big book on the Altar or Holy Table containing the services of Holy Eucharist.
Miter, or Mitre	The tall, pointed liturgical hat worn by a bishop during formal worship. Its shape is said to be symbolic of the tongues of fire which rested on the original bishops at the first Pentecost.
Morning Prayer	A daily morning worship service without communion; Also known as the Daily Office and found on pages 37 (Rite I) and 75 (Rite II) in the prayer book. In some churches, Morning Prayer is alternated with Eucharist as the principal Sunday service. Since Morning Prayer does not require the presence of ordained clergy, the service is sometimes used in the absence of the rector or vicar.
Narthex	In Greek, the word literally means "a large fennel" (a tall herb). In church architecture, the narthex is an enclosed space at the entry end of the nave of a building; the area in the church building inside the doors and in front of the nave. The narthex is usually enclosed (primarily to provide a buffer between the outside weather and the heating/cooling inside), and is the area where the procession gathers prior to the service.
Nave	The main part of a church building; the place where the congregation sits. Probably derived from the Latin word navis, meaning "ship." (As in Noah's ark) In medieval England the derogatory term "knave" (commoner) developed from nave, because the nave is the area of the building where the "common" people sit.
Offertory	Most think of the offertory as the time in the worship service where the offering is taken up. The offering of money is part of the offertory, but the offertory also includes the offering of bread and wine that is to be consecrated during the communion, and the offering of "...ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice." (BCP Page 336.) Or, as Rite II says, "Sanctify us also." (BCP page 363))
Oil Stock	A special container designed to hold holy oil used in unction and at baptisms. Oil stocks are usually about as wide as a quarter, and about an inch in length. A cotton ball inside the oil stock holds the holy oil.

Ordination	From Latin, ordo, meaning "order." Ordination is one of the five sacramental acts (or minor sacraments) of the Episcopal Church. At an ordination, an individual is commissioned and empowered for the work of ministry. Ordination is the ritual used to make someone a priest or deacon, by the laying on of hands by a bishop. Bishops, in turn, are not ordained; they are consecrated.
Palm Sunday	The Sunday before Easter, where Jesus' final and triumphal entry into Jerusalem is observed. In many Episcopal congregations the passion narrative read is also read. Real palm branches or crosses made from palms (or both) are usually distributed to the congregation. In some churches, Palm Sunday palms are saved and later burned to make the ashes for the next year's Ash Wednesday service.
Parish hall/house	A gathering place for a local congregation separate from the church building. The term "parish hall" also is used to refer to a large room inside the Parish Hall/House.
Parish	The group of people of a certain area who are organized into a local, self-supporting church. Sometimes the word is used to refer to the geographic region around a church
Parson	From the Latin word persona, meaning "person." From the eleventh century English, where there term was a legal one, applying to the parish priest, because in all matters he was the designated "person" to deal with. Today, the term is not used as often as it was, and often evokes rural connotations.
Paschal Candle	From the Hebrew word Pesach, meaning Passover. A very large candle in a very tall holder and placed in a prominent display in the epistle side of the sanctuary. The candle is lighted throughout the Easter season, and during baptisms, weddings, and funerals.
Passion Narrative	The name given to the gospel reading on the Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday. The reading chronicles the final hours of Jesus' earthly ministry. The reading traditionally begins with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and continues through his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death. It is the longest lesson read in the Church year (see: seasons), and the only gospel reading with an option allowing the congregation to sit during the first part of the reading. In many parishes the narrative becomes a passion play. Specific roles (Pilate, Peter, etc.) are assigned to different persons, and the congregation plays the part of the crowd assenting to the crucifixion.
Pastor	Another name for a clergy person. In both Latin and English the word simply means "shepherd." All Lutheran clergy are called pastors, and many Episcopal and Roman Catholic clergy are comfortable enough with the term to use it to describe them.
Paten	From Greek, patane: a shallow vessel. The paten is the vessel used to contain the consecrated bread during a Communion.
Peace, The	Also known as "passing the peace." A part of the ritual in the Episcopal Church in which members of the congregation, including the clergy, greet one another. The priest says, "The Peace of the Lord be always with you." The congregation responds, "And also with you." (When using Rite I, the response is "And with thy Spirit.") Immediately after these words people shake hands or speak or sometimes embrace in the church.
Pews	Long, single, and usually permanent seats in the nave of a church building. In the earliest times there were no chairs except for the clergy, and the congregation "congregated" in the nave. Later individual seating was added particularly for older members. Pews came into existence as a way for local churches to support themselves financially, by renting or selling pews to families. After the American Revolution and the disestablishment of the state-owned Anglican church, pew rental was the sole means of income for many colonial churches. In some parishes today, the family pew still exists. Today, however, the family does not actually own the pew. They only think that they do.

Piscina	From Latin, meaning "fish pond." The piscina is the stone or porcelain basin (traditionally set in the south wall of the Sanctuary) from which a drain pipe carries to the ground the water used in the ablutions. It is also the most convenient way for many Altar Guilds to dispose of the remaining consecrated wine after a service. The piscina is never, ever to be hooked up to the building's plumbing.
Presbyter	The actual, official name for an Episcopal priest. The word is a Celtic contradiction of the Greek word presbyteros, meaning "elder." The presbyter represents the bishop in a parish or mission, as he or she has since the earliest of Church times, when older members of a congregation were chosen to represent the bishop.
Presiding Bishop	The elected episcopal head of the Episcopal Church in America [PECUSA]; the chief administrator and spiritual head of the Episcopal Church. Until the 1920's, the Presiding Bishop was simply a diocesan bishop elected to preside over General Convention. In more recent history the Presiding Bishop has become the American equivalent of an Archbishop and the head of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Title: The Most Reverend.
Priest	A special term for an ordained minister of a Roman Catholic or Episcopal or Orthodox church; In Roman circles, the term refers to those who recite the Mass, but the Episcopal Church traces the word's origin to a Celtic corruption of the official term for Clergy - Presbyters. The duty of a priest, according to the prayer book, is to baptize, preach the Word of God, and to celebrate the Eucharist, and to pronounce Absolution and Blessing in God's Name.
Procession	The line of choir, clergy, acolytes, crucifer, torchbearers and others walking into a church building to begin a service.
Processional	Pertaining to the procession. A processional hymn is a hymn sung while the procession is entering the church building.
Proper	(Often referred to as "the propers") "The Proper of the Church Year includes the appointed Collects; the Proper Prefaces... and the appointed Psalms and Lessons..." (page 158, BCP)
Proper Preface	An addition to the words of the Communion part of the Eucharist which follows the Sursam Corda. There are Proper Prefaces provided for all the the Church's seasons, as well as for major feasts of the Church. The Prefaces are found beginning on pages 345 and 378 in the BCP.
Processional Cross	The large cross carried by the crucifer during the procession.
Protestant	From the Latin pro, meaning "for," and testare, meaning "witness." Thus literally, if one was to be a protestant it would mean he or she would be a witness for something. The word was first used in 1529 as part of Martin Luther's reform movement. The Episcopal Church does not officially consider itself to be a Protestant church, but is considered to be Protestant by Roman Catholics, as well as by many lay members of the Episcopal Church.
Pulpit	From the Latin, pulpitum, meaning "a platform." A raised platform or podium used for the sermon or homily; generally located in the front of the gospel side of the nave. In some Colonial church buildings and in many non-Episcopal churches, the pulpit is in the center, to signify the importance of the sermon.
Purificator	From Latin purus (pure) and facare (to make). A purificator is a small piece of white linen used at Communion to cleanse the chalice, by wiping the rim of the chalice with the purificator.
Purple	The primary color used in the season of Lent, and the most popular color used in Advent. Purple signifies penitence and preparation. Purple was originally a sign of royalty, as purple dye was rare. Thus, a purple clergy shirt (or some shade of violet) usually indicates that the wearer is a bishop.
Pyx	A small container used for transporting the Host. Most commonly used by a priest or LEM when taking Communion to a sick person or shut-in.

Reader	Anyone who reads a lesson, psalm or prayer in a service. Lay persons may read any lesson but if the service is Eucharist, the Gospel reading must be read by a deacon or priest.
Real Presence	A distinctively Anglican doctrine that emphasizes the actual presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. This is in contrast to theologies that hold that the Body and Blood are present only figuratively or symbolically. The Anglican doctrine of Real Presence stops short of Transubstantiation in defining how the presence happens. (Transubstantiation says that at a specified point in the liturgy the wine and bread become actual flesh and actual blood.)
Readings	The lessons that are read during a worship service.
Recession	The procession of the crucifer, acolytes, choir, readers, clergy and other assistants out of a church building at the end of a service.
Recessional	The final hymn sung as the recession takes place.
Rector	The head priest of a parish; the word, in Latin means "ruler." If a parish has more than one clergy, the others are called Assistant Rectors or Associate Rectors. A mission cannot have a rector. A mission has a priest-in-charge, who is often called a vicar.
Rectory	The residence of a rector; the place where an Episcopal (or Roman Catholic) clergy lives. Called a parsonage or manse in most other Christian denominations.
Reredos	[rear-re-doss] any decoration behind or above an altar; may be in the form of statues, screens, or tapestries.
Reserved Sacrament	Consecrated bread and wine kept in the church building after a Communion service; kept primarily for distribution to the sick of the Church.
Retable	Also called a gradine, the retable is a narrow shelf located behind an altar that is placed against the wall. Candles and flowers are sometimes placed on the retable. The retable is also sometimes used to house a tabernacle.
Reverend, The	An honorific title given to ordained clergy in most Christian churches. The correct form of address is "The Reverend John Doe," and never "Reverend John Doe."
Reverend Doctor	An ordained person [hence Reverend] who also holds some degree at the doctorate level [hence Doctor]--a way of referring to a clergy person who was also a professor, or to a member of the clergy who holds an honorary or earned doctorate. A bishop who held a doctorate would be referred to as the Right Reverend Doctor.
Reverend Father	An affectionate, devotional or pietistic way of referring to a priest who has accepted the term Father.
Right Reverend, The	A form of address for a bishop in the Episcopal Church, as in "The Right Reverend Peter Lee."
Rite I	A portion of the Book of Common Prayer which contains worship services using the traditional worship language of the Church from as used from the 1600's until 1976.
Rite II	A portion of the Book of Common Prayer containing worship services which use more modern language and place importance on a different theological emphasis than traditional Episcopal worship.
Rite III	There is no Rite III service in the prayer book, but the alternative forms 1 and 2 (pages 402 -405) have been euphemistically called Rite III since the introduction of the 1979 prayer book. These forms for Eucharist are intended for informal use, and never intended for a regular, weekly worship service.

Sacraments	From the Latin word <i>sacrare</i> , meaning to "consecrate." According to the prayer book, sacraments are "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace." Sacraments are physical actions that point us to deeper realities than we are able to experience with our five senses. The Episcopal Church recognizes two major, or "gospel" sacraments, and five minor sacraments, or sacramental acts. The two major sacraments, Baptism and Communion, and called gospel sacraments because Jesus told us (in the gospels) to do them until he comes again. The five sacramental acts (or minor sacraments) are not all necessarily required of all Christians. They are Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, Reconciliation, and Unction.
Sacristy	A room near the altar where the communion vessels, altar hangings, candlesticks, etc. are kept and cleaned. The room is often seen as the exclusive domain of the Altar Guild.
Sanctuary	From the Latin word <i>sanctus</i> , meaning "holy." The sanctuary is the part of the church building where the altar or holy table is -- the area behind the altar rail.
Sanctuary Lamp	A lamp hanging somewhere in the sanctuary. Sometimes there are three lamps, sometimes seven, but usually only one. A single, continuously burning sanctuary lamp indicates the presence of the Reserved Sacrament.
Sanctus	The part of the Holy Communion service that begins with the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy."
Sedilia	The seats inside the sanctuary, used by clergy and acolytes.
Seminarian	A student enrolled in a seminary.
Seminary	A general term for a residential academic program for the study of theology. Priests in the Episcopal Church are usually (but not always) required to be seminary graduates. The academic program is generally three years, and culminates with the conferring of a masters degree called a Masters of Divinity, or M.Div.
Sermon	A verbal address given after the readings, and hopefully given to further explain the readings and to put them in a modern context. In the Anglican Church the sermon is seen as a bridge between the Biblical world and the modern world.
Server	Someone who assists the celebrant at the altar, helping him or her set the table and perform ablutions.
Stole	A long strip of cloth (often silk) worn around the neck of the priest and allowed to hang down the front of the clerical vestments. Only bishops, priests and deacons are allowed to wear stoles. The stole is usually worn at all Eucharistic services, weddings and funerals, but never worn at Morning Prayer services. The stole is said to represent the yoke of obedience to Christ.
Surplice	A white over-garment worn over other vestments (usually a cassock); somewhat longer and fuller than a cotta; The surplice and cassock are the traditional garments of the Anglican Church.
Sursum Corda	Latin for "Lift up your hearts." The Sursum Corda is part of an antiphon that has been in the Eucharist since the third century.
Tabernacle	A small cabinet (sometimes a vessel) designed to contain the Reserved Sacrament. The tabernacle may be found built into the altar, sitting on the altar, on the reredos, or it may be built into another part of the sanctuary. In very Low Churches the tabernacle will not be found anywhere.
Torch [Torch Bearer]	A person who carries a candle in a religious procession; often the Crucifer is followed by two "Torches" -- two persons each carrying a candle mounted on a short staff.
Trinity, The	A fundamental symbol of the Christian faith and a critically important, basic, core doctrine in Christianity. The Trinity refers to the oneness and essential unity of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Twelve Days of Christmas	The time from December 25th to January 6th, that is from Christmas day to Epiphany. The time from the first Sunday in Advent until Christmas Eve is, properly, Advent; the time from December 25th to January 6th is the Christmas season or the "Twelve Days of Christmas."
Veil	From Latin vela: a sail or curtain. In the Church, the veil refers to the solid cloth that covers the chalice and paten at the Eucharist, or the loose-woven netting that is draped over crosses (and sometimes pictures) during Lent and Holy Week.
Verger	From the Latin word, verga, meaning "a rod." Someone who carries a mace or ceremonial staff in a procession, and comes before some dignitary. Verger's Guild definition: A verger is a committed lay minister within the Church who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshalling of processions.
Very Reverend, The	A form of address for clergy who hold the office of dean in a diocese, church or school.
Vestments	From the Latin word vestis, meaning "garment." Vestments are clothing worn by clergy or people leading a worship service. A monk or nun's clothing is usually named a "habit," and the clothing worn by choir members is usually called a "robe." The clothing worn by some pastors of Protestant denominations and by college professors is usually called a "gown."
Vestry	The vestry is the governing board of a local Episcopal parish consisting of the rector, the wardens, and lay members. In many parishes, the rectors, wardens and the treasurer form an executive committee, and will often meet separately from the whole vestry between vestry meetings.
Via media	A Latin phrase which means "by the way of the middle." Many would say that the adherence to the middle way in all matters is one of the major identifying characteristics of classical Anglicanism.
Vigil	Originally, a vigil was a Fast Day observed on the day before certain major Feast Days. In the 1979 Prayer Book a new service called the Great Vigil of Easter (BCP page 285) became a way to celebrate Easter on Holy Saturday.
Visitation	An official appearance by a diocesan bishop. According to the national canons, the bishop must visit each congregation within his or her jurisdiction at least once every three years.
Votive candle	A devotional candle placed in a church or chapel in some "higher" Episcopal Churches. Votive candles are usually small, short candles in a special glass holder.
Wafer	The bread part of the Lord's Supper signifying to us the Body of Christ, and is often an unleavened, and very thin cracker-like substance. After the wafer is consecrated, it is usually called the Host. Sometimes the wafer is imprinted with a cross, sometimes it is smooth. Wafers that will serve as priest's hosts are larger than the people's hosts, and can range from one inch to several inches in diameter. The people's host is usually about a half inch in size.
Warden, Junior	One of two vestry members chosen to serve his or her parish in a special capacity. Wardens (both junior and senior) can either be elected or appointed, depending on local parish or diocesan canons. Junior wardens are often elected by the parish at the annual congregational meeting, and are thus referred to as "the people's warden."
Warden, Senior	The other of two vestry members chosen to serve his or her parish in a special capacity. Although the duties vary widely due to local canons, in most cases the Senior Warden is viewed as the "top" lay person in a parish. In many parishes the Senior Warden is chosen by the rector, and serves as a liaison between the rector and the parish.

Wine	The beverage portion of the Lord's Supper. As Scripture reminds us, "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many, for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:27-28) In the Episcopal Church, wine is used at communion (instead of grape juice) and is often a port wine.
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Adapted from: An Online Dictionary, Episcopalian Terminology, found at:  
<http://www.holycross.net/>

The majority of the inspiration for this work (especially the etymology) came from an out-of-print book by Howard Harper, entitled the Episcopalian's Dictionary (Seabury Press, 1974).

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For more information, here are some books and web sites that may be useful:

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