Glossary

Aisle Part of the Church running parallel to the nave or a transept: often separated by pillars. Also the passage between the pews.

Aumbry (or Ambry) Small cupboard in the wall of the Church.

Belfry Tower in which bells are housed.

Chancel Part of the Church reserved for the choir and clergy, near to the Altar.

Chantry Endowment for the singing of masses for the founders soul, e.g. Chantry chapel in which prayers are offered for the soul of a deceased person of importance.

Chiming Ringing a bell by swinging it through a small arc, so that the clapper only strikes on one side of the bell. Sometimes used to describe ringing in which the bell is struck by a hammer.

Clerestory A raised wall in a large church, above the aisles roofs, which contains a series of windows.

Clocking Ringing a bell by attaching a rope to the clapper and thus striking the bell by moving the clapper whilst the bell remains stationary.

Corbel A stone or timber projection, that juts out of a wall, to act as a support.

Credence Niche, or Table Small niche or table for the Eucharistic elements before consecration.

Crocketting Ornamental buds or leaves carved on the inclined side of a pinnacle.

Decorated Period Architectural period 1275 - 1350.

Early English Period Architectural period 1175 - 1275.

Ellacombe Chime A mechanism for operating chiming hammers which strike the bells when in the downward position. All the bells may be chimed by one person. Promoted by the Rev. Ellacombe in the late 19th century.

Gild or Guild A society formed to pursue a common object, often a trade, for the mutual benefit of all members.

Gothic Pointed-arch style of architecture in Churches from the twelfth to the early sixteenth centuries.

Lancet Window Narrow window, pointed at the top.

Minster The Church of a Monastery.

Miserichord A shelf (often carved) on the under-side of a hinged moat in the choir stalls. When the seat is turned up the shelf provides support for someone standing in front of the seat.

Nave Main body of the Church, usually extending from the West door In the Chancel and separated from the aisles by pillars.

Norman Period Architectural period 1066 - 1175..

Perpendicular period Architectural period 1350 - early 1500's.

Piscina Stone basin situated near the altar for carrying away water used for washing the chalice.

Priory Either a Monastery or a Nunnery which is governed by a Prior (a Prior is next in seniority to an Abbot).

!Sanctus Bell The bell rung at the Sanctus during the Eucharist, the Sanctus is the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" at the end of the Eucharistic preface.

Sedilia Three stone seats set in the South wall of the chancel, generally canopied and decorated.

Stucco Cement or plaster coating for walls moulded into architectural decorations.

Tenor The bell with the deepest\_ note (generally the heaviest h,I1) in a ring of bells.

Transept Either the North or South arms of a Cruciform church, I.e. the transverse parts.

Treble The bell with the highest note (generally the lightest brill) in a ring of bells.

Vestry A room in a Church in which the vestments are kept and put on. It is also used to describe a meeting of parishioners, very often held in the vestry, to discuss parochial business.