

Signs and Symbols in the Minster

In churches like Southwell Minster, there are lots of signs and symbols which help people to think about Jesus. Here are some you will see at the Minster when you come as a pilgrim at Time Travelling.



Christians believe that Jesus died on a cross because he loves us.

You will find this cross if you do "The Stations of the Cross" activity at Time Travelling.

The stations of the cross tell the story of Jesus' death on a cross and how he came alive again.

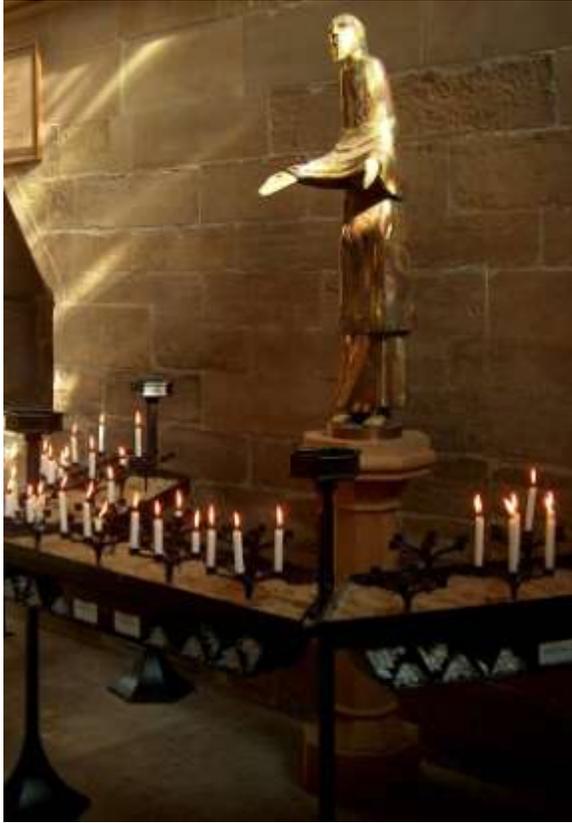
Jesus wanted us to remember him. Just before he died, he taught his friends to eat bread to remember his body and drink red wine to remember his blood.

In church we do this together at a special celebration service called communion.

We use a silver cup and plate at the Minster, called a chalice and patten.



Jesus said "I am the light of the world".



Some of the things Jesus said are hard to understand.

People light candles because it helps them to think about him when they pray.

You can always see a lit candle in a very dark place.

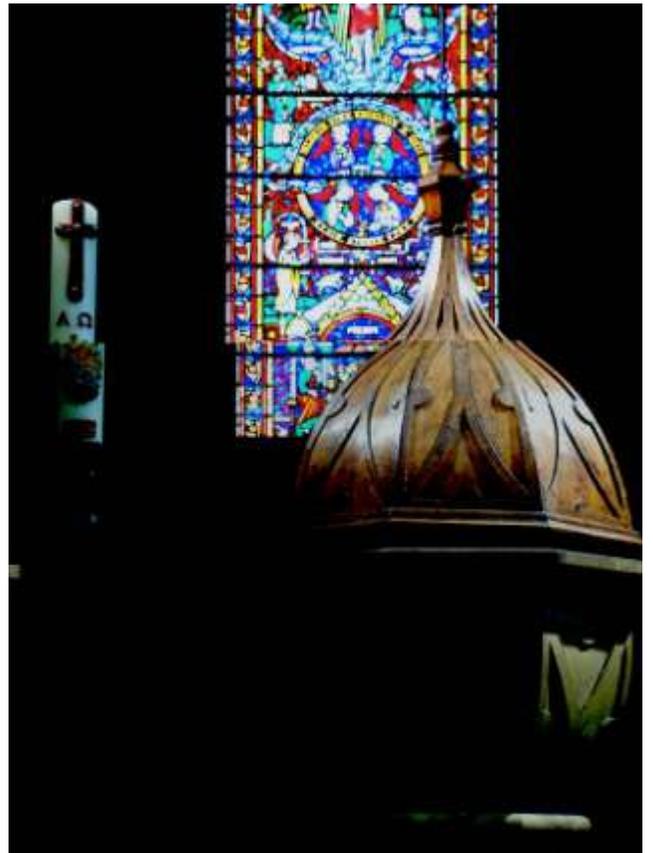
Sometimes life can seem very hard. Christians believe that Jesus can make it seem better - like a candle in the dark.

You will see this statue in the Candle Chapel at Southwell.

This is a big stone basin with a wooden lid. It is called a font.

Christians wash with water as a sign of belonging to God's family at a special service called baptism.

At Southwell Minster it is usually babies who are baptized by splashing them with water from the font, but anyone, any age can be baptized to show that they belong to God's family.





This table is called an altar. Bread and wine is prepared here.

It is in the Airmen's Chapel. Here we might pray for peace and remember people who died in the wars.

This side of the painting shows lilies, water and doves - signs of peace.

This side shows signs of war - poppies, black ravens, mud, barbed wire and a dead soldier.

Here are some of the famous leaves of Southwell.

You will find these in the Chapter House at Southwell. It shows that God made the world a beautiful place.

People come from all over the world to see them. They show all the types of tree that grew in Sherwood Forest.

Once the Minster was surrounded by Sherwood forest!



How much have you learned about signs and symbols?

See if you can answer the questions.

1. Why will you find signs of the cross in the Minster?
2. What are the silver chalice and patten for?
3. What did Jesus say about himself?
4. What is the name of the stone basin with the wooden lid?
5. What signs of peace would you find on the painting in the Airmen's Chapel?
6. Which famous carvings will you find in the Chapter House?