



St Catherine's Seminary is the name of the internal study and training program of the Old Catholic Apostolic Church

Types of Church Building

The church is not the buildings, but the people of God gathered to worship Him. However, the buildings say something about the worship held within, and about the original intention of those who founded them. There are, and always have been, different buildings for different worship 'purposes'. Cathedrals for the focus of worship of whole regions, to small chapels for simple ordinary prayer. Some church buildings had political importance, some not. As you will see by following the links below, just by looking at this list of different buildings, you will find a wide range of diverse and unique witness to faith. Here we explore the different types of building:



Abbey

A large, grand building usually, originally the seat of worship for a religious community led by an Abbot. Abbeys in England were abolished at the reformation and many destroyed by King Henry 8th. Those that survived from that period did so because they adapted to becoming churches within

the reformed church of England under the sovereign King Henry. Famous examples include Westminster Abbey, London; Sherborne Abbey, Dorset, England. In some cases the abbey as a unit survives, such as when it became a school, the church often giving the name to the school that takes over its buildings, for example Milton Abbey, Dorset, England. In this example, the abbey church is still a functioning public church, and the school has its 'own' church within its grounds. Picture: Sherborne Abbey, England.

Cathedral



Usually very large buildings indeed, although not always. The seat of and focus of worship in a region or district called a diocese. They have the throne of the Bishop within. Famous examples include St Paul's Cathedral, London; Salisbury Cathedral; Durham Cathedral. Not all cathedrals are old, Coventry Cathedral being rebuilt after the second war. Southwark Roman Catholic Cathedral has similar

wartime history. Some cathedrals share the same name: there are two Southwark Cathedrals, one Roman Catholic, the other Anglican. Not all Cathedrals are big, St Davids Cathedral (in Wales) is no bigger than some parish churches. The picture here is of All Saints cathedral in Putney, formerly cathedral of the Liberal Catholic Church – forerunner to OCAC, sadly no longer there.

Cemetery

Usually these are municipal and not ecclesiastically managed burial grounds. They are therefore not strictly Christian, as the dead of other faiths and none are buried within. However, in many places they are filled with Christian symbols and monuments.



Chapel - non-conformist

Many small communities around the world have a chapel, a small 'church' building usually plain and simple, as a functional place where worship may be held. The term chapel was used by many to differentiate between the 'church' which was the established or national establishments offering in the community. Many chapels were very popular when the Christians wanted to worship in ways which were 'free' from constraint as they saw it of the established or official church. Many

denominations which call themselves Free Church had chapels in this sense. Some of the non-conformist or free church organisations built chapels which had Gothic and grand architecture and in some ways emulated the 'church' building. Many evangelical congregations call their buildings 'chapel'. The picture here shows a building typical of the type.

Chapel of rest

The name given to the place where the coffin of the deceased is placed prior to the burial service. Mostly private and run by those making the funeral arrangements, these are not strictly places of worship and not necessarily Christian.

Chapel - part of cathedral

Most if not all, large churches and cathedrals have chapels within them, smaller places within the main building, with an altar which can be used for worship by smaller congregations. Many of these chapels are themselves dedicated to a patron saint different to the patronal saint of the cathedral as a whole. Many such chapels are called 'Lady Chapel' in reverence to Mary Mother of Jesus. Sometimes an especially important part of the cathedral, often a part reserved for the clergy, is called a chapel, for example the Trinity Chapel in Salisbury Cathedral.

Chapels Peculiar

This is a technical term: the Church of England is an Established Church, that is; it is the state church in England, whose head is the monarch. Chapels peculiar are state churches that come directly under the monarch rather than via the Church of England. St Georges in Windsor Castle is a good example. Built like a cathedral, it serves as the official church building for all occasions within the castle grounds. It doesn't come under the Archbishop of Canterbury's control, although, being the monarch's chaplain he is often *invited* to take part.

Church - country parish



The archetypal 'country church', very often with a tower or spire, and set in its own churchyard with graves of the faithful within. This picture is of St Andrews (Church of England) parish church on the outskirts of Bournemouth.



Church - town

Fulfils the same basic purpose as a country church but set in an urban or sub-urban environment. Sometimes the door opens straight out onto the street, and often there was insufficient land to build a churchyard. Anyhow, there would be a municipal cemetery so this was less of a consideration. An example is Rosebery Park Baptist Church, Bournemouth, England.

Church - unusual

Some churches (church being body of Christ – the people – the living stones) hold their worship in schools, warehouses etc. These are not specific places of worship, and those who attend are not interested in having a place which is consecrated ground: their worship is perfectly valid where ever it is held. These buildings mean that large congregations can have access to a place with electricity, toilet facilities, seating etc and very often good car parking facilities for a small sum of rent paid to the school authority, or warehouse owner each week. Some congregations do this with the municipal cemetery chapel, by renting it for use on a Sunday when burials do not take place. Many of these buildings look and feel ecclesial and are well suited to this.

Citadel

Some Salvation Army places of worship are called 'Citadels'. This organisation being recognisably different from other churches in clothing, governance, and buildings too.

Convent

The buildings of a religious community of women. Not just the place of worship, but accommodation, kitchens and often school buildings too.

Crematorium

The place where cremations take place. Usually a chapel or two in the centre of a municipal cemetery, with the cremation rooms below.

Crypt



This term means a below ground chamber or room, often below a church or cathedral building, used as a tomb for a number of coffins of the deceased.

Free Church

The term is applied to the system of government of the organisation which runs the place of worship. It is not terminology for the building. However, many of the constructions used by Free Churches are readily identifiable as they attempted to be visually different from the 'parish' church.

Graveyard

The term used of the area of ground around (or if not adjacent, then associated with) a church and used as a place where their dead are buried and their gravestones (memorial stones) placed. This term usually implies a church connection, as it will be called cemetery if not.

Hall



Some 'free churches' did not call their buildings either 'church' or 'chapel'. They would call their buildings 'Hall' instead. This was popular around 1880 to 1920, and does not seem to be used in the same way today. An example is the 'Emmanuel Hall' which was the main church building of the Apostolic Faith Church.

Perhaps the most famous example of this, the Methodist Central Hall, in London came about in a different way:

Methodism was not episcopal, and so did not have cathedrals. How do you call your principal building? Central Hall was a name which was readily identifiable as the principal building without inferring any other form of 'superiority' over the rest.



Some 'fellowships' and congregations deliberately use a style of building similar to a village hall. This picture is of a hall used by a congregation called 'The church of God' in Bournemouth, UK.

Kingdom Hall

This is the name that the Church of the Latterday Saints use. The buildings have little or no architectural significance.

Kirk

The name of Scotland's established church, and therefore her buildings are called 'kirk'. If one applies a hard sound to the 'ch' of church (as in chemist) then they are pronounced the same. Church buildings in Scotland are called kirks. Being non episcopalian, the 'cathedral' of the kirk is simply called the High Kirk, which is in Glasgow.

Mausoleum

A large or grand tomb. Very often a small (or not so small) building, with the coffin, or coffins inside. Usually in cemeteries or in the grounds of palaces and very large houses. Not strictly Christian, although many examples of these in memorium of Christians exist.

Meeting Rooms/Hall

Unitarians, and Christadelphians etc. Use buildings for their meetings and call them 'meeting rooms or meeting halls. There's usually nothing architecturally significant about these buildings.

Minster

The place of worship of a monastery, Minster Church. Post reformation some Minsters continued as important churches, for example York Minster, England. Some remain as large parish churches like Wimborne Minster, Dorset, England.



Picture Left: York Minster, England.

Monastery

The buildings of a religious community. See Abbey and Priory

Oratory



(usually) A private chapel or room set aside as a chapel, often at a priests residence. Principally for prayer but used to say or sing the daily offices and offer Mass. This picture is of The Oratory of St Michael & All Angels, Old Catholic Apostolic Church. Not all oratories are small: the second largest Roman Catholic church in London is the church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, better

known as the Brompton Oratory.

Priory



Similar to Abbey (see above) in being a large, grand building usually originally the seat of worship for a religious community. Abbeys and Priors often had other associated buildings attached, Chapter houses, refectories, accommodation etc. Christchurch Priory in Dorset, England is a superb example of a surviving Priory church. Lanercost Priory in Cumbria, England still survives, but was less fortunate. The word 'priory' means 'prayer house' or '...dedicated to prayer'.

Pro-Cathedral

Some denominations occasionally find for various reasons to be without a cathedral as seat of the bishop. Sometimes, like Coventry whose cathedral was bombed during the war. A church building which, although not a cathedral, is being used as one on a temporary basis is a pro-cathedral. Sometimes due to schism, where there are two

entities now and don't, won't or can't share the same cathedral. Perhaps the most famous example is in Dublin, which has two cathedrals, but both are Anglican (Church In Ireland). At the reformation the Holy Trinity transferred to the Church of Ireland, who already had St Patrick's. The Roman Catholics still regard Holy Trinity as the official cathedral of Ireland, but it has been Anglican for about 500 years! So Dublin has St Mary's Pro-Cathedral as its acting Roman Catholic cathedral. Often a small church like the Old Catholic Apostolic Church cannot have a cathedral and so will use another church building for its ordinations and synods. For the duration of these, the building being used is a pro-cathedral.

Reading Rooms



The name of premises for Christian Science. Not so much a place of worship as a place to study or read scripture. Usually a former shop on a high street. At one time there was a number of these, although there are fewer nowadays. These tend to be of the First Church of Christ Scientist denomination, although Christadelphians have some too.

Tabernacle



The term is used as a place of worship from earliest times (Exodus in the Bible). In the 1620's a baptist congregation in London was formed (although banned by parliament). Their building could not be named 'church' and this name was chosen as fitting. A place where God could be worshiped, where God 'lived'. Example is the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London.

Temple



This term usually applies to places of worship which are not Christian, however there are occasions when it is used: there are Christian Temples. Many protestant or non-conformist churches in predominantly Catholic surroundings are called Temples. There are many examples in France. Sometimes the name was chosen as a means of ensuring identity, sometimes because the architecture lends itself to the name. The Temple Church in London is a connection between the world of God and the world of the legal profession and hence the outside world.

Old Catholic Apostolic Church – Ecclesial Training Program

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