

The Synagogue

Room	Function
Sanctuary	The main worship hall. Contains important artefacts like the Torah scrolls.
Library	Contains books on Jewish religion, history and the holocaust.
Rabbi's Study	Where members of the community can meet with the Rabbi for guidance and counselling.
School/Schul	Where Jewish children learn Hebrew and the Jewish faith.
Social Hall	Hired out for community events and celebrations like weddings and bar mitzvahs.



Torah Scrolls: The sacred writings of the Jewish faith. Treated with great respect and cannot be directly touched.



Tik: Highly decorated silver or wooden cases. The Torah scrolls are kept in these when not in use.



Yad: Silver pointers - in the shape of a finger - used for reading the Torah scrolls.



Ner Tamid: Everlasting Light. Hangs in front of the Ark. Often old fashioned gas lights. Burn 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

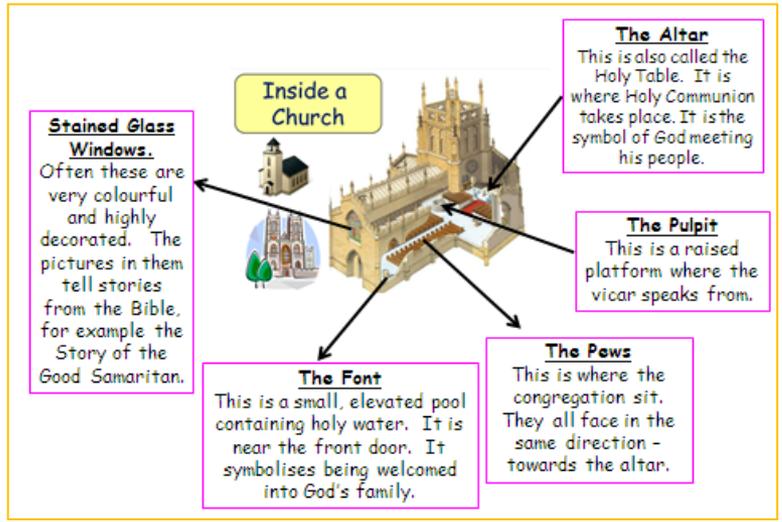


Ark: Contains the Torah Scrolls. Is on the wall facing Jerusalem. [Jews pray facing Jerusalem.]

Key Terms

- Church
Christian place of worship.
- Gurdwara
Sikh place of worship.
- Mosque
Muslim place of worship.
- Mandir
Hindu place of worship.
- Synagogue
Jewish place of worship.
- Sacred
Something that is holy and special because it is linked with God.
- Prayer
Spending time communicating with God.
- Worship
When people give praise to God by singing, praying, or reading special books.
- Community
A group of people who have something in common.
- Artefact
A religious object that is worthy of respect - often used in prayer.
- Holy
Something precious and linked with God.

The Church



- Fundraisers
- Pre-School
- Counselling
- Holiday Club
- Tea & Coffee Mornings
- Keep Fit classes
- Weddings
- Community Events
- Parties
- Scouts/Guides/Brownies
- Sunday School
- Evening Classes, eg: pottery, languages
- Summer Fetes
- Youth Club
- Messy Church

The Mosque

MINBAR	A platform from where the <u>imam</u> leads the worship. It is from here that he will deliver the <u>khutbar</u> (Friday sermon).
QIBLAH WALL	The wall that marks the direction of <u>Mecca</u> , in Saudi Arabia. Muslims face this direction as the city is the home of the Kabah shrine.
WASHING FACILITIES	The place where Muslims will perform <u>wudu</u> (ritual washing).
MIHRAB	The alcove in the Qiblah wall which marks the direction of Mecca. It is often shaped like a shell and regarded as the sacred ear that hears Muslims' prayers.
MINARET	The tower on purpose-built mosques. In Islamic countries, this is where the muezzin will make the adhan (call to prayer). The first muezzin was Bilal, a black slave and one of the first converts to Islam in the 7 th century.
NO STATUES	This is due to the fact that idol worship is not permitted in Islam as it would break <u>tawhid</u> (belief in the oneness of God) and would commit the sin of <u>shirk</u> (comparing anything to God).
DOMES	Represents the universe and the oneness of Allah. It allows air to circulate, which is important in hot countries, and amplifies the imam's voice.
SHOE RACK	Shoes are removed before entering a mosque out of respect for Allah.
SEPARATE PRAYER AREAS	Men and women pray separately in order to maintain a sense of modesty and so not to be distracted during prayer. Muslims should be focused on god alone and maintain the correct intention (niyyah).
CARPETED PRAYER AREA & NO SEATS	The prayer hall will be carpeted. Thus, there is no need for individuals to bring their prayer mats. Often the carpet will have prayer mats designed on it. No seats are needed due to the prayer actions (rakahs).

Muslims worship in a Mosque. Outside every mosque, or just inside the entrance, is a place where worshippers can remove and leave their shoes. There is also a place where they can carry out the ritual washing required before prayer. The main hall of a mosque is a bare room without any furniture. There are no pictures or statues. Everyone sits on the floor and everywhere in the Mosque is equal in status. A niche in one of the walls, called a Mihrab, shows the direction that the worshippers should face in order to face Mecca. Many Mosques have a minaret which is a tall thin tower. A muezzin stands at the top of the tower and calls Muslims to prayer at the five ritual times of the day. Not all mosques in the UK have a minaret. Women can attend the mosque and when they do they sit separately from the men.

Other Functions:

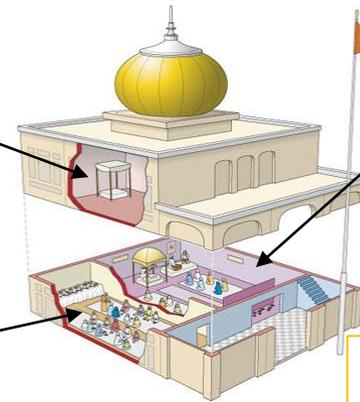
School / madrassah; hosts lectures and classes, law courts for issues of Shariah Law, celebration hall, marriages, place for community discussion. Some have crèches for young children.

The Gurdwara

Although Sikhs can worship on their own, they see public worship at the Gurdwara as having its own special merits. They don't use statues or images. Sikhs believe that God is visible in the Sikh congregation or Sangat, and that God is pleased by the act of serving the Sangat. Public Sikh worship takes place in a Gurdwara. Sikh public worship can be led by any Sikh, male or female.

The Rest Room - where the Guru Granth Sahib is laid to rest each evening like a king.

The Langar
Food is cooked communally and distributed for free to demonstrate service (sewa) and equality.

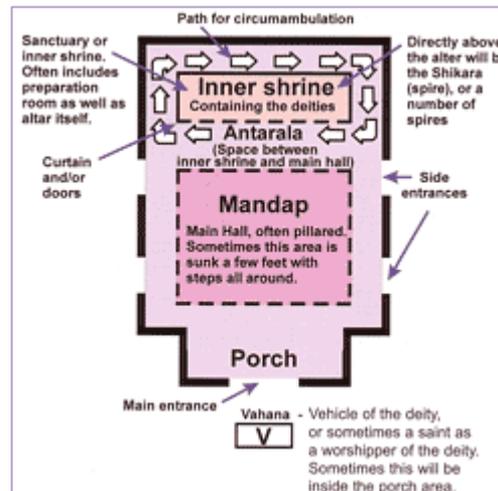


The Nishan Sahib
Flag found outside every Gurdwara.

The Diwan Hall
This is where worship happens. Men and women sit on separate sides on the floor, with legs crossed, facing the canopy with the Guru Granth Sahib, the Granthi and the Raggis.

Also: School Rooms, Wash Room, Shoe Room, library of Sikh literature, rooms for private study/reading of the Guru Granth Sahib.

The Mandir



Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god

At a Hindu temple, different parts of the building have a different spiritual or symbolic meaning.

- The central shrine is the heart of the worshipper
- The tower represents the flight of the spirit to heaven