

# Shrewsbury Abbey welcomes you to "Open Door"



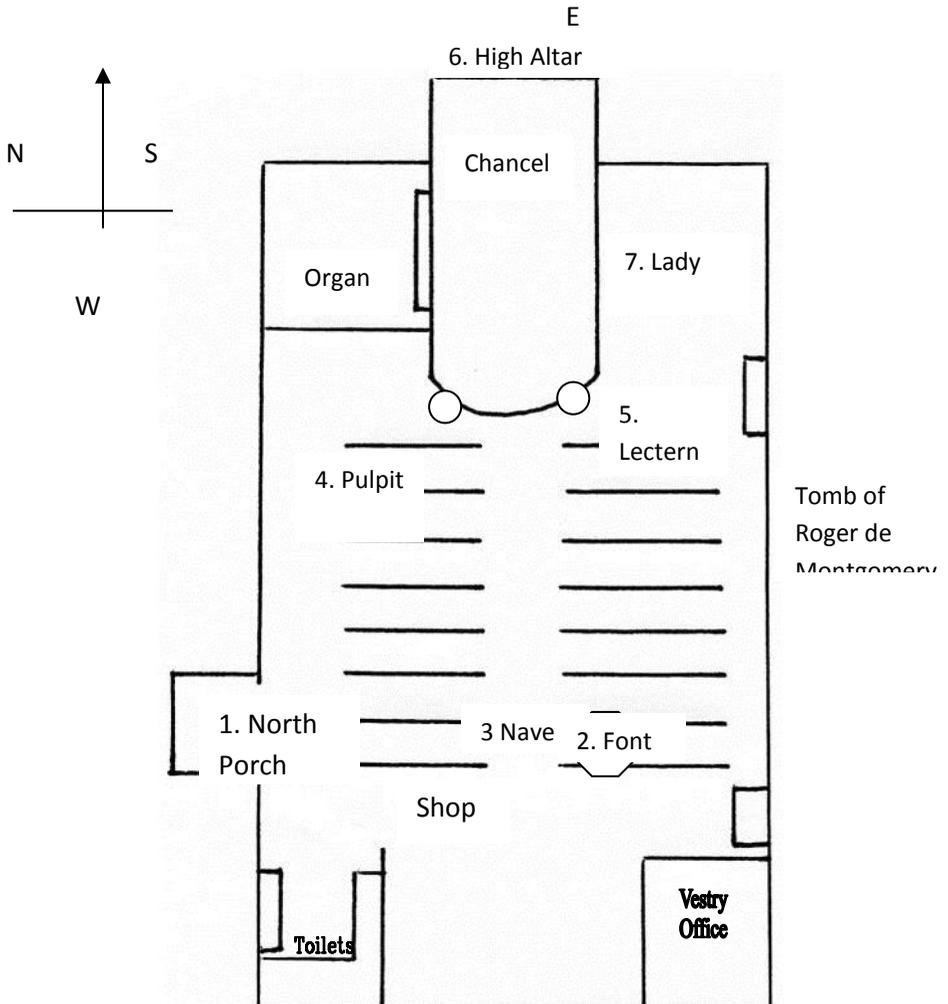
*The Abbey Church c. 1900*

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**NAME –**

# Your plan of the Abbey

Use this plan to help you with your visit.



1. North Porch, 2. Font, 3. Nave,  
4. Pulpit, 5. Lectern, 6. High Altar, 7. Lady Chapel,

# 1. The North Porch



Fill in the words and the date on the picture of the door.

**Sanctuary** is a place of safety.

**Reverence** is another word for respect.

This has been a place of prayer for 1000 years.

It's a special place where people come for happy times like weddings and christenings and also sad times like funerals.

It has not always been peaceful here. During the Civil War of 1642 this was a Royalist town. See if you can find the two holes made by musket balls at the side of the door. Look for the marks where they sharpened their daggers and arrow heads by the door.

## 2. The Font

This is where people are baptised when they become Christians. It marks the beginning of their Christian life.

Do you know another name for baptism? Ch\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the **font** is placed near to the main door? \_\_\_\_\_



The base of the font is the oldest worked stone in the Abbey. It is an upside down pillar, probably from the Roman city of Viroconium. The top is a very heavy carved lid.

What would the vicar put into the font at a baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

# 3. The Nave

Sit down in one of the long seats called a p\_\_\_\_\_.

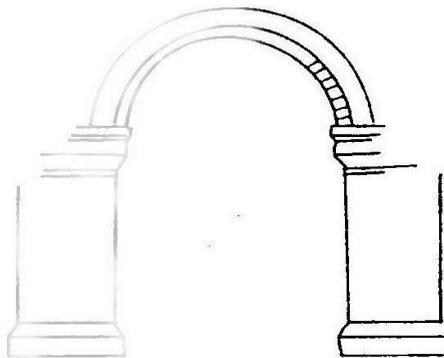
You are in the **nave**, the oldest part, built in 1083 by the Norman, Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury.

The original Abbey was much larger than it is today.

Henry VIII knocked down the East End and the monastery buildings in 1539 and it is said that he stole all the treasures and money. The parish priest was allowed to stay. The nave is all that is left of the original building.

The Norman **arches** are low and rounded and have large round pillars to support them. How many Norman arches can you see? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you complete the rest of the Norman arch?



# 4. The Pulpit



At the front of the Abbey on the left of the chancel is the **pulpit**. This is where the priest stands to talk to the people in the congregation.

Can you think of two reasons why it is so high?

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Can you find the lion guarding the pulpit?

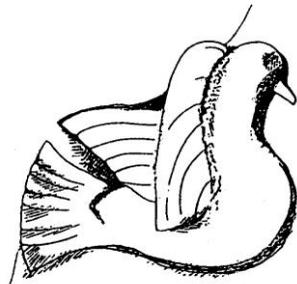
Why has a lion been chosen for this job?

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There are two more stone animals to find near here. At the base of the arched doorway near the pulpit is a coiled snake. At the bottom of a pillar to the left of the organ is a dove. If you have time, look up a story about them in the Lectern Bible.



Genesis chapter 3 verse 1



Luke chapter 3 verse 22

# 5. The Lectern

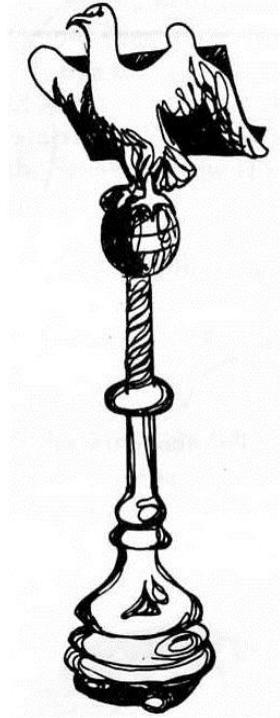
On the other side opposite the pulpit is the **lectern**.

The Bible is read from here during services.

The lectern is in the shape of an eagle standing on a globe.

The Bible rests on the eagle's out-stretched wings.

What do you think the globe represents? \_\_\_\_\_



# The Organ

In the chancel you will also find the **organ**. The organist has to use his hands to play the keys and his feet to play the pedals. Air is pumped through the pipes to make the sound. Can you estimate how many organ pipes there are?

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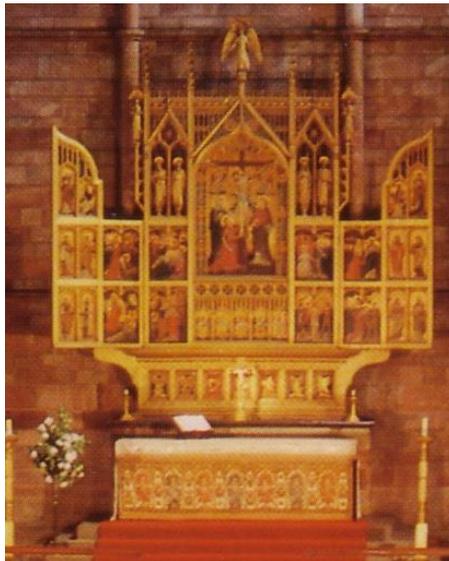
## 6. The High Altar

At the end of the chancel we come to the **High Altar**. This is a special place where the Holy Communion is celebrated. What can you see on this Holy Table?

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Behind the table is a beautiful, decorated painting. It is called a reredos and is in 3 parts so it is called a triptych.

During Lent, the solemn time before Easter, the triptych is closed to give a very dull picture. On Easter Day it is opened again to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.



# 7 The Lady Chapel

At the side of the chancel is the **Lady Chapel**.

Who is this Lady? \_\_\_\_\_

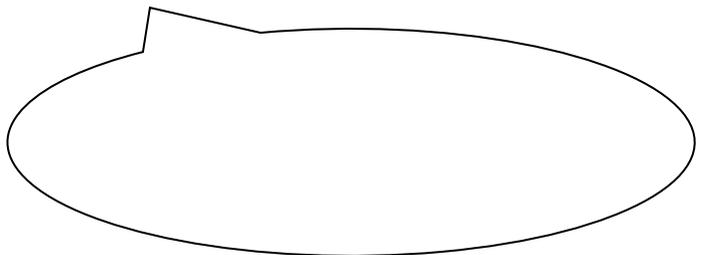
Which season of the year does the window and the reredos remind you of? \_\_\_\_\_

This chapel is set aside for prayer. People come here at all times of the day to light a candle and to say a prayer. Sometimes they write their prayer requests on the board so that the Abbey congregation can pray for them too.

When we pray we can talk to God about anyone and anything. He always listens to us.

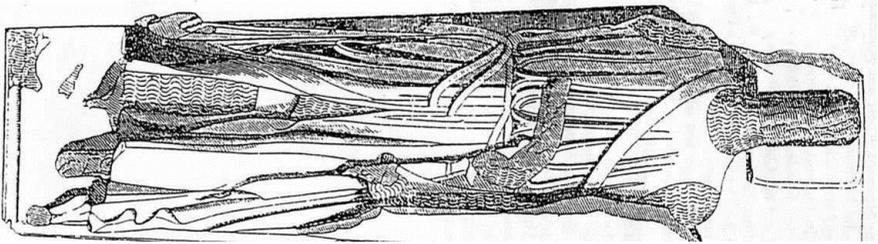
You might like to write your own prayer here.

Dear God,



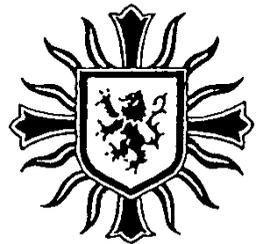
# 8 The tomb of Roger de Montgomery

Roger de Montgomery founded the Abbey in 1083. He was a Norman knight who was given land in Shrewsbury by William the Conqueror. He built the castle in the town and then brought over French-speaking Benedictine monks to build and then to run the Abbey for him. He died in the Abbey infirmary in 1094.



This tomb slab was found lying, damaged, in the Abbey grounds, after the reformation, and was brought back into the Abbey.

See if you can fill in the missing words.



He has no sh \_\_\_\_\_ or h \_\_\_\_\_.

He sleeps on a pillow of st \_\_\_\_\_ with his sh \_\_\_\_\_ by his side.

He has ch \_\_\_\_\_ m \_\_\_\_\_ under his tunic and around his n \_\_\_\_\_.

## I visited Shrewsbury Abbey

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

I really enjoyed –

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There are so many more things to see! You will want to come back again!

You might like to visit the Abbey to worship on a Sunday morning at 10.00am. There are special services for children at Christmas time too.