

The Pychester Glossary



compiled by Richard Barnes

The Pythagoras Institute for Indisciplinary Studies, Mons Dinhamensis, Pychester.

Acolyte – one who holds a candle for their Priest

Altar Ego – self-important priest

Apse – download for smartphone or tablet to upgrade its architecture

Asperges Syndrome – splashing everyone with Holy Water at the start of Mass

Augustus Pingu – architect responsible for the Gothic Revival in Igloos

Campanologist – gay bell-ringer

Chair Practice – replaces Choir Practice when a Church is re-ordered

Choroclasm – destruction of robed choirs in the late 20th century, replaced by worship groups

Church Plant – new way of being Church, for clergy bored with grumpy PCCs and looking to revive their flagging liturgy

Consultant – someone who tells you what to do

Decadence – 10 years of being naughty

Decameron – barely believable stories of 2016

Earthy Churchy – Messy Church goes gardening

Ecclesiastically – narrow lane where church supplies are sold

Episcopally – (i) friendly with the Bishop, (ii) Dickensian street where Bishops and actresses ply their trade

Eve – wife of most saints, e.g. Eve of St Peter

Exaudi me – Latin phrase meaning, I used to drive a German car

Fast forward – way to speed up Lent

Grey-friendly – welcomes older worshippers

Higgs boson – science behind Solemn High Mass

Indestructible – (i) Captain Scarlet, (ii) Love in the worship song “Meekness and Majesty”

Indistinguishable – male or female Priests once they’ve put on a Chasuble or Cope

Ineffably – without swearing

Inestimable – excessive rise in Parish Share to fund the Diocese's Groat Strategy

Inextinguishable – longest word in any hymn

Jubilatte – coffee after the service

Justin Pediment – architect in the classical style

Lars Pewsgone – architect in the modernist style

L'Église – French Expression of Church

Little St Pythag's – church plant, one of Bishop Rick's "50 Sheds of Pray", down by the River Pyke

Maccabees – Scottish Taxi firm

Maniple – (i) vestment malfunction, (ii) cry during chest-waxing

Messy Solennelle – Catholic version of Messy Church

O Llama God – version of the Agnus Dei for use with the Peruvian Gloria

Panna Cotta – favourite dessert of Servers

Penile Substitution – theory of the Atonement involving male headship

Plantagenet – better than Church Plant at bringing in new people, especially for a Cathedral

Polyphonic – music where voices come in one after another, Parrot fashion

Pret a Manger – food outlet preferred by Joseph & Mary

Professional – someone who has been trained never to admit they might have been wrong

Pychester – a Cathedral city not so far away

Set-in-Stone - traditionalists whose Priests are male, speak Aramaic and retire at 33

So excited! – begins any tweet from an evangelical

Spring – when an old man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of gardening

Same-sex Marriage – (i) between two people of the same gender, (ii) it's become rather routine

Some-sex Marriage – owing to poor proofreading the House of Bishops has forbidden this

St Anna – God's granny and patron saint of stair-lifts

St Eward's Hip – miraculous relic that would solve church's financial problems

St Pythagoras – little known 3rd century saint, mathematician, musician & mystic

St Simon Says – conservative evangelical church in Pychester

Summa Squarum Hypotenuse – theological treatise by St Pythagoras

Sursum Corduroy – pull your trousers up

Syntax – penance or indulgence

Tantrum ergo – hymn written by Thomas Aquinas as a toddler

Transponteferro – across the Iron Bridge with its Narnia street-lights

Unleashed – Pychester's Youth Church

West Gallery Band – historical worship group

Worship Group – half-a-dozen 30-somethings playing sanitised popular music from their teens

THE CHURCHES OF PYCHESTER – a humorous guide.

The ancient city of Pychester, founded as a Roman fort, is situated on seven hills overlooking the River Pyke. It has many places of worship, some of which are its Churches.

Pychester Cathedral, dedicated to St Peregrine, contains the Throne of Bishop Rick; mother Church of the Diocese offering Choral Eucharist, Choral Evensong and Choral Tea-lights & Pebbles; Lego in piece – Thanks be to God.

St Pythagoras & All Angles, Victorian Gothic architecture & liturgy, with beautiful music matured by decades or centuries of incense. Gay-friendly & grey-friendly.

Little St Pythag's, church plant near the River Pyke Allotments doing Earthy Churchy.

St Simon Says, Conservative Evangelical, where people are judged by biblical standards.

St David's at the West End, near Pychester St David's railway station, setting out point for pilgrimages to Wales; rumoured to be the site of St Pythagoras' miracle of the golden Madonna.

St Giles' Without, after folding as a Christian bookshop it will be redeveloped as accommodation for luxury students.

St Peter's Avuncular, traditionalist, a member of Set In Stone, whose male priests speak Aramaic, walk on water and retire in their 30s.

St Pancras, medieval city centre church famous for its Stations of the Cross.

St Michael & All Angels, failed to pay its Parish Share to the Diocese Groat Strategy, so taken over by St Muscularius' Training College (making fit disciples for leadership) to become a Resource Church cloning a new generation of inspirational alpha male leaders; rebranded as “Mick & Ange”.

New Wind, Charismatic Evangelical, but rather subdued since their Inspirational Leader was caught disciplining fit young women too enthusiastically. He resigned, but what's wrong with a bit of good manly heterosexual infidelity? It's not like he was same-sex attracted or anything nasty like that.

Sage Methodists, believe in good hymns and good works, and host the Pychester FoodBank.

John Street Baptists, family-friendly with well-structured spontaneous worship.

Pymont Chapel, popular active non-aligned evangelical church using its abundant resources to do a purpose-driven proper job of faith in action.

United Reformed Churches, there are two, East & West, the one you go to and the one you don't go to, one a little liberal, the other a little conservative.

Our Lady of Perpetual Mercy, Roman Catholic, next door to the Pyfordshire County Council offices, which are therefore known locally as our Lady of Perpetual Roadworks.

Pychester Network Church, Charismatic Evangelical with smartphone apse, purple uplighting and loud Worshipped Group.

Scandinavian Knitwear Church meets in the Transpontferro Community Centre with a Playmokirche Lutheran Sunday School.

Calvinist Brethren, only those predestined to know will know where to find them, famous for their Christian Punk Band, Total Depravity.

Unleashed, the CofE #YouthChurch, meets in medieval St Geoffrey Arches, which also serves as prayer base for Pychester Street Pastors.

St Thomas, Nether Pyke, thriving rural church decimated by choroclastic new Vicar.

St George, Nitcombe Regis, country estate church, with massive Georgian Rectory.

Richard Barnes – 19 February 2017.