

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



Chancel and Choir

The chancel began as the part immediately around the altar: the Sanctuary and seats reserved for the clergy. This was expanded to include the area west of the nave.

Facing pews for choral recitation or chanting of the Divine office were essential to medieval churches attached to abbeys. Today, residual “choir stalls” are used by clergy and the parish choir. Even in small churches the side pews reflect this use.



(Left above: an Anglican church with choir stalls, Below: Monks chanting the Divine Office in a Benedictine Monastery.)