

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary

Sedilia and Piscina

A Sedilia, whether constructed of stone, or wood, as in today's churches, must have three seats for three ministers, or, in small churches, for the celebrant and two acolytes. In some old churches the seats are graded with the celebrant sitting at the highest level

The Piscina in medieval churches was placed eastward of the sedilia. It was a bowl with a drain to receive the water after the lavabo or washing of the priest's fingers



This sedilia from Hodgeston Church, Pembrokeshire, England, is constructed of stone and built into the fabric of the church. The piscine, on the other side of the high window, is ornamented with carvings.