

### Significant figures of the Bavo Church:

- Length 108 metres
- Width of the nave + side aisles 31 metres
- Widest point of the church 47 metres
- Height of the nave 29 metres
- Height of the roof 10 metres
- Height of the church + tower 76 metres
- Weight of the tower 250.000 kg
- Weight of the leaded panelling of the tower 85.000 kg
- Weight of the great Roelant bell 5.000 kg
- Christian Müller organ 68 registers and 5068 pipes
- Length of the longest pipe 32 feet (10 metres)

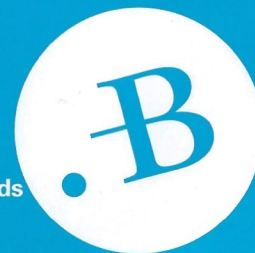
### Significant dates of the Bavo Church:

- 1 October 653** Death of Saint Bavo, patron of the church
- 1347 and 1351** Town fires which damaged the church
- 1370 - 1538** Construction of the present church
- 1500 - 1508** Construction of the first tower
- 1503** The Roelant bell is installed
- 1518 - 1520** Construction of the present tower
- 1559 - 1578** The Bavo becomes a cathedral church
- 1562** The Damiaatjes (2 small bells) are installed
- 1572** The Reformation
- 1578** Definitive transition of St. Bavo's Church to the Protestantism
- 1663** Installation of the Hemony Carillon
- 1685** Construction of the Vestry and Church Warden Chambers
- 1735 - 1738** Construction of the Christian Müller organ
- 1870 - 1928** First great restoration by P. Cuypers and J.A.G. van der Steur
- 1964 - 1969** Restoration of the tower and extension of the carillon
- 1981 - 1985** Second great restoration of the church
- 2001** Second great renovation of the tower
- 2021 - 2022** Restoration of the Christian Müller organ

### Interesting facts

- \* The floor of the Bavo Church consists entirely of gravestones. There are about 1500 gravestones altogether, the oldest of which date back as far as the fifteenth century.
- \* Every evening between 9:00 and 9:30 pm you can hear the ringing of two small bells, the Damiaatjes, a tradition that started in the 16th century. This ringing served as a warning for the citizens that the town gates were about to be closed.
- \* In summer (May through October) services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm (Evensong). Everyone is welcome.  
In winter the local parish congregates in the New Church (Nieuwe Kerk) in the Nieuwe Kerkplein.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to our Bavo Church. We aim to preserve this historic treasure for future generations. For this purpose we depend on donations and government subsidies. Due to a steady decline of these funds we are obliged to ask for an entrance fee. We are grateful for your understanding.



Great Church or St. Bavo's  
Grote Markt 22  
2011 RD Haarlem, The Netherlands  
telephone +31 (0)23-55 32 040  
e-mail [info@bavo.nl](mailto:info@bavo.nl)  
[www.bavo.nl](http://www.bavo.nl)  
 [GroteofSintBavokerkHaarlem](https://www.facebook.com/GroteofSintBavokerkHaarlem)

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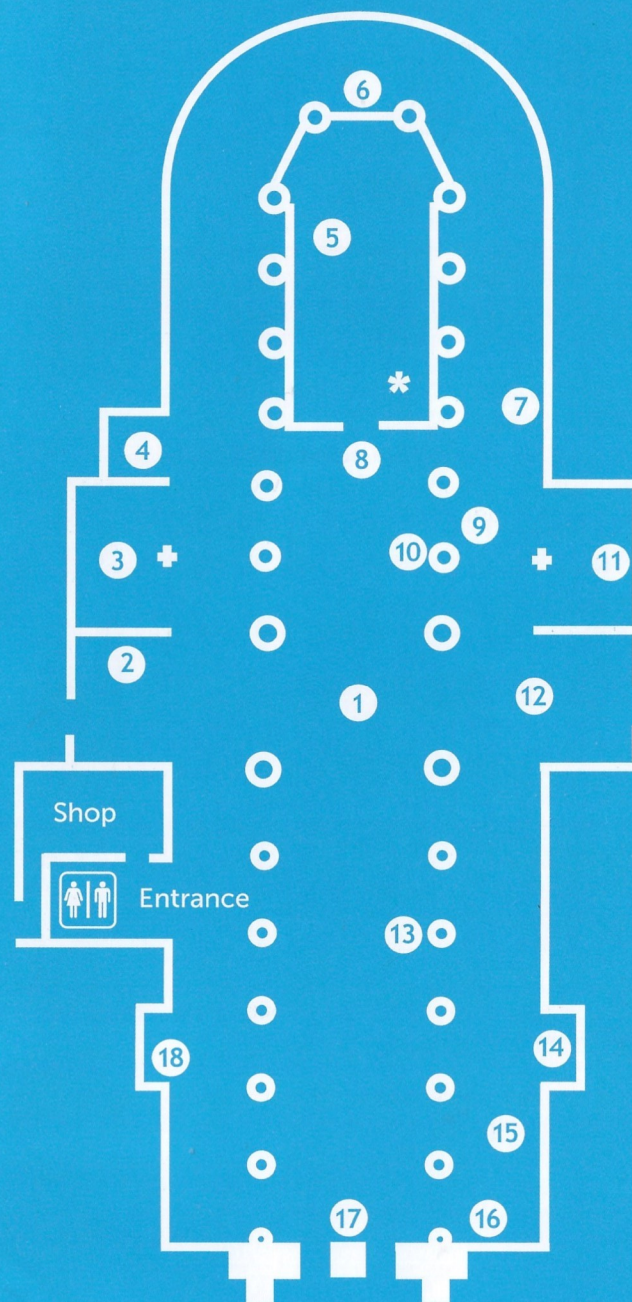
English



Great Church  
or St. Bavo's  
Haarlem



- 1 You are standing in **the crossing** of the church, where all sides of the church come together. The tower of the church rests upon four big pillars. From here you have a good view of the tapestry paintings on the columns. The oldest date back to early 15th century.
- 2 **The North transept.** In the wall you see the bust of King William I, placed here on the occasion of the opening of the Industrial Exhibition in Haarlem in 1825. The stained-glass window «Peace and Tolerance» is by artist Michel Van Overbeeke and was unveiled by Queen Beatrix in 2008.
- 3 In **the Christmas chapel** you see the weather-beaten, original (1496) statue of Mary. It was removed from the northern facade of the church in 1847 and later replaced by a modern one.
- 4 In **Mary's Chapel** you can light a candle, take a seat and rest for a while. This meditative area welcomes people of all faiths. You are invited to take a moment for private prayer, remembrance or reflection.
- 5 In the choir you can see a **brass lectern** which is shaped like a pelican. At least this is what a pelican was thought to look like in 1499.
- 6 On the reverse side of the **communion board** a report of the siege of Haarlem (1573) is written. Line 8 tells you that the people of Haarlem were so hungry that "Ja honden en catten waren wilbraet gheheten" – "dogs and cats were called roast game".
- 7 Painted **wooden panel** dated 1518, which served as a "model" of the church as yet not finished. Here you also see a 17th century "bird's-eye view" plan of Haarlem.
- 8 The **Choir** is closed off at the front by a masterpiece of medieval craftsmanship, a copper choir screen from 1517. Inside the Choir you can see the grave(\*) of painter Frans Hals. Every day (Mo – Fr) 12.30 – 1.00 pm at the doors of the choir-screen, you're invited with a candle to reflect on your own joys and sorrows. On Mondays there is a small service with music.



- 9 **The ship models** were a gift from the Shipbuilders Guild. The ships date from the 16th and 17th centuries and are modelled on the ships that were built in Haarlem at the time.
- 10 **The memorial tomb** of two well-known Dutch hydraulic engineers of the 19th century: Christiaan Brunings and Frederik Willem Conrad.
- 11 This is the chapel of the former Brewers Guild: **Brewers Chapel**. On the walls hang lists of names of the clergymen who have served the parish since the Reformation.
- 12 Here you see **the "Orphan box"**, where money was collected for benefit of the orphans.
- 13 The oldest part of **the pulpit** dates from ca. 1434. The banisters are formed by two brass snakes. They symbolise evil fleeing the word.
- 14 The Font or **Baptistry Chapel** was used as a burial chapel for the mayor's family De Raet. Left of the chapel a cannonball is immured as a reminder of the Spanish siege of Haarlem in 1573.
- 15 This is the oldest **"safe"** in Haarlem, dating back to the 15th century. It contained, among other things, the city rights of Haarlem.
- 16 At the **Holy Ghost Bench** (Bread Bench) the Holy Ghost Masters handed out bread to the poor. The bench dates from 1470.
- 17 In 1766 Mozart, who was then 10 years old, played the **Christian Müller organ**. G.F. Händel also played this organ. The organ counts 5068 pipes and is almost 30 m high.
- 18 Here you see the **Dog-Whipper's Chapel**, named after the figure on the left supporting stone. In the Middle Ages a dog-whipper's task was to discipline unruly dogs and to maintain order in the church.