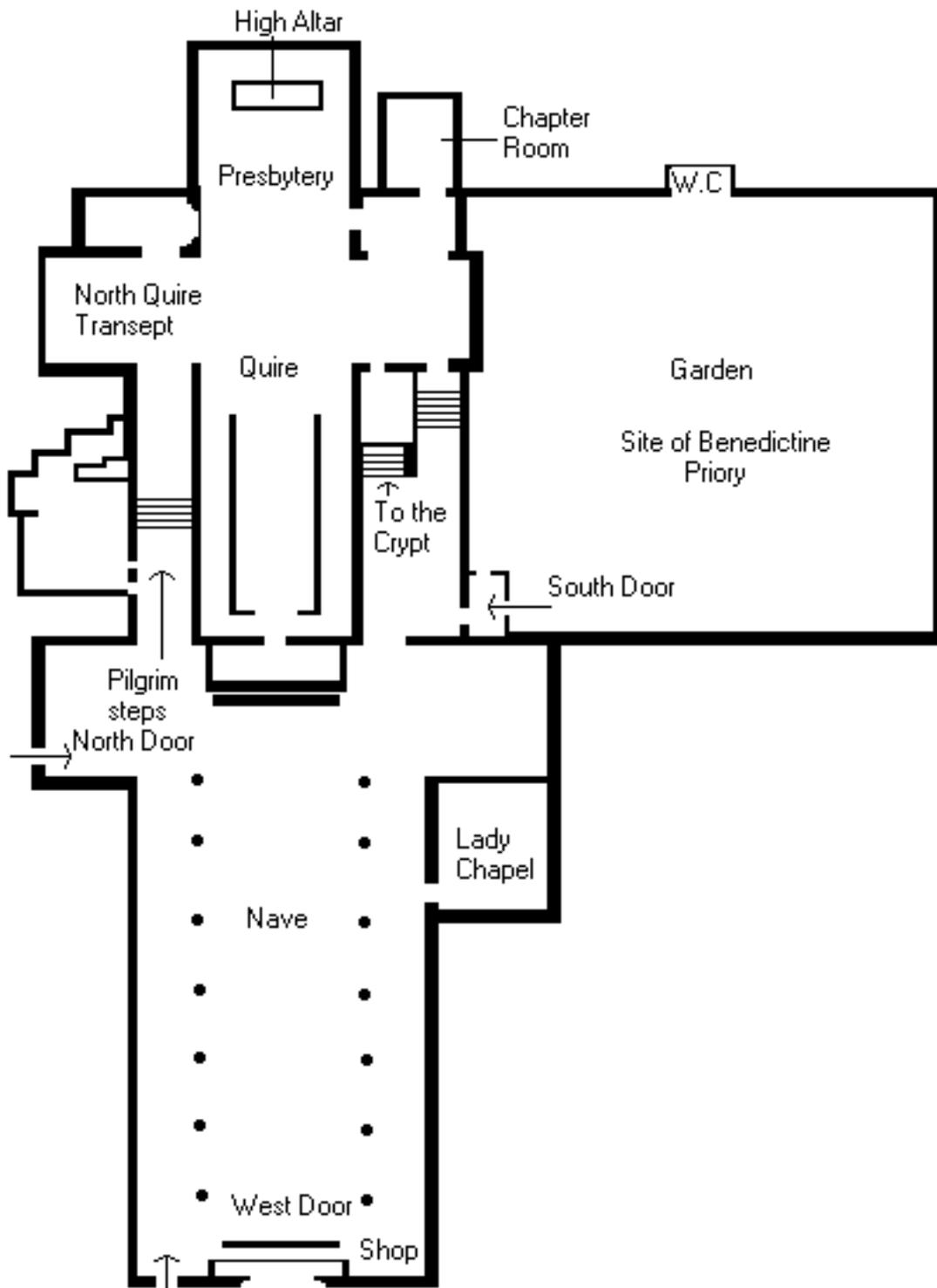


# Art, Science & Maths at Rochester Cathedral



Over the page are descriptions of what you will find at each of the marked points. There are also some suggestions for questions and activities for you to use with your group. It is not necessary to follow the trail in the order indicated (it is usually easier to focus on an area not being covered by others). Please remind the children to keep their belongings with them at all times. Please do ask for assistance if you need it.

We hope that you enjoy your visit, but please remind your group that they are in a living, working place of worship and that the fabric of the cathedral is old and delicate. Sketching and photography are permitted, but please do not take rubbings.

# **Rochester Cathedral – Art, Science and Maths Visit**

Rochester Cathedral is a rich resource for art, science and maths. This guide will help you to select the areas you wish to focus on with your group.

## **1. Norman Arches and Pillars**

These are over 900 years old. Look at the shape of the arches. The zig-zag pattern is called chevron and the pyramid shaped pattern is nail head.

Look at the pillars themselves. They are built in pairs, each pair being different from the next.

Look closely at the pillars for the outlines of faces, birds, ships. These are the remains of murals (paintings telling stories from the bible) that once covered the pillars and walls.

The material is stone. How does it feel (texture, temperature, quality)?

Can your group guess how many children holding hands are needed to form a circle around one of the pillars? Test out their estimate.

## **2. Early English Arches and Pillars**

These are over 700 years old. Look at the shape and compare the shape to the Norman arches.

The material is stone. Is it the same type of stone as used in the Norman arches?

## **3. Carved Faces**

Look up high all around the walls in this area. There are many faces carved in stone. All are different. How many can the children see? Encourage them to sketch their favourite face.

## **4. The Fresco**

A fresco is a painting done on wet plaster. This is the first fresco to be painted in an English Church for over 800 years. The picture shows Jesus at his baptism. Can the children think of any other events from Jesus life which would make a good theme for a fresco?

## **5. Green Men**

Look up at the ceiling. Above you, carved in wood are Green Men. These are male faces surrounded by leaves. They are there to remind us that we are all part of nature. Can the children draw their own design for a Green Man?

## **6. Tomb of Hamo de Hythe**

Look carefully at the stone carvings around the top of the tomb. There are more Green Men. How many can the children see? How are they different to the Green men you saw on the ceiling?

## **7. Floor Tiles**

These are clay tiles. Look at the shapes, patterns and colours. Look at how the tiles tessellate (fit together).

Look at the different patterns and pictures on the tiles here and in the Presbytery. Can the children design a pattern or a picture for a tile?

## **8. Pulpit**

The pulpit is made from wood. This is where the priest stands to give the sermon (the talk). Can the children sketch some of the things carved on the lectern?

## **9. Eagle Lectern**

Made of brass, a metal. It is in the shape of a large golden eagle sitting on a globe. The lectern holds the Bible. There are words around the globe, what do they say?

## **10. The Cathedra**

This is the Bishop's throne. It is made of wood. Look at the carvings which decorate the throne.

## **11. Stained Glass Windows**

The windows here in the Lady Chapel tell the life story of Jesus. Can the children find the windows which tell the Christmas story? Are the children aware that glass is made from sand?

## **12. The Tapestries**

The theme of the tapestries is "meetings". Look for the "v" shapes, a symbol of meeting. Look at how the colours of the woven wool reflect the colours of the stained glass windows above.

## **13. The Font**

Made from marble. A font is used in the ceremony of baptism. There are three baptism scenes carved on the font. Can the children find marble anywhere else in the cathedral?