

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Topic Material - Pilgrims and Pilgrimage.

The word "pilgrim" comes from the Latin adjective "perager" which means traveller (*per = through, ager = land or field*). People from all major religions undertake pilgrimages: travelling to a holy site for a variety of reasons - seeking forgiveness or healing, to offer thanksgiving and worship, or to explore their faith and relationship with God. In medieval times Christian pilgrimage was at its height, but declined in popularity following the Reformation.

The belief that Saints had the power to work miracles was strong in the Middle Ages. Many churches, cathedrals and monasteries displayed relics in reliquaries. Pilgrims would be attracted to these places feeling that their prayers would carry more strength if offered up from such holy places.

To undertake a pilgrimage in the Middle Ages was a major commitment. The journey would be undertaken on foot, horseback or by sea, and could take the pilgrim away from home and family for many months or even years. There were many dangers to be faced: storms, war, thieves and murderers. Pilgrims would need the permission and blessing of their parish priest before undertaking their trek. Many would sew red crosses on the back of their cloaks to mark them out as a pilgrim. Although the journey had a serious purpose, it could also be fun. Some pilgrims chose to travel alone, whilst others preferred the company of a group.

Popular destinations for medieval pilgrims included: Jerusalem, Rome, the Cathedral of St. James in the Spanish city of Compostela, and many English cathedrals, such as Durham, Canterbury and Rochester. Each centre produced its own badge, made from metal or cloth, which the pilgrim could buy as a souvenir of the journey.

Pilgrims travelled to Rochester to visit the shrine of St. William of Perth. William had himself been a pilgrim en route to the Holy Land. In 1201, after resting for several nights at the Priory of St. Andrew here in Rochester, William set out for Canterbury but was robbed and murdered just outside the city. His body was brought back to the cathedral. Miracles were reported at his tomb and thus pilgrims were attracted to the site.

Preparing for Your Visit

Your visit will incorporate a number of curriculum areas

Religious Education

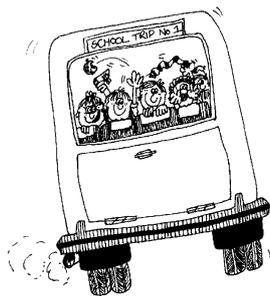
History

Literacy

Art and Design

Geography

Citizenship



Careful preparation before you come to the cathedral greatly enhances the educational benefits obtained from your visit.

Preparing for the Religious Education element

- ❖ Research pilgrimage in religions other than Christianity
- ❖ Find out which places are special to people of various faiths
- ❖ Why do people go on pilgrimages
- ❖ What are relics and why are they important

Preparing for the History element

- ❖ Research life in medieval England
- ❖ How was the church organised at this time
- ❖ Read an account of a medieval pilgrim other than St. William
- ❖ What were the motives of medieval pilgrims
- ❖ How would pilgrims have travelled in the Middle Ages

Preparing for the Literacy element

- ❖ Read extracts from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales
- ❖ Compare some medieval English words to their modern derivatives

Preparing for the Art and Design element

- ❖ Look at the design of tombs and shrines
- ❖ Explore designs of logos and motifs

Preparing for the Geography element

- ❖ Locate on world maps the main areas populated by various religions
- ❖ On a world map pinpoint places of pilgrimage for the main world religions
- ❖ Consider modes of transport from pilgrims homes to their destinations

Preparing for the Citizenship element

- ❖ Why do people go on pilgrimages



Background Research

Booklist: -

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Medieval People | Sarah Howarth
Simon & Schuster 1991
ISBN 0-7500-0879-2 |
| Understanding Religions | Katherine Prior
Wayland 1992
ISBN 0-7502-0422-2 |
| Pilgrim's England | William Purcell
Longman 1981
ISBN 0-582-50290-x |
| The Middle Ages | Fiona Macdonald
Watts 1995
ISBN 0-7496-1677-6 |
| Sacred Places, Pilgrim Paths | Martin Robinson
Harper Collins 1997
ISBN 0-551-03051-8 |
| World Religions | David Self
Lion 1993
ISBN 0-7459-3603-2 |
| Medieval Cathedral | Fiona Macdonald & John James
Simon & Schuster 1991
ISBN 0-7500-0787-7 |
| Castles & Cathedrals | David Aldred
Cambridge University Press
ISBN 0-521-42842-4 |
| Medieval Monastery | Fiona Macdonald & Gerald Wood
Simon & Schuster 1994
ISBN 0-7500-1415-6 |
| Life in a Medieval Abbey | Tony McAleavy
English Heritage
ISBN 1-85074-592-7 |

General information on pilgrimage www.pilgrimsprogress.org.uk
www.york.ac.uk/projects/pilgrimage/

Vocabulary List

Pilgrim	Saint	St. William of Perth	Holy
Pilgrimage	Lourdes	Worship	Sin
Monastery	Purify	Penance	Relic
Cathedral	Shrine	Jerusalem	Monks
Compostela	Rome	Canterbury	Scrip
Reliquary	Faith	Christian	Sacrist
Forgiveness	Priest	Thanksgiving	Staff
Reformation	Medieval	Miracle	Tomb

RE Writing Frames

Visit to a Place of Worship

We visited a.....
First we looked at.....
Then we looked at.....
Next we looked at.....
The most interesting thing to me was
a..... because.....
I learnt that.....

Research

I was asked to find out about.....
I went about it by.....
The main thing I learnt was that....
I also learnt that.....
I would like to learn more about.....
because.....

Special Journeys

Some people of faith make special
journeys because.....
One place Christians visit is.....
They go there because.....
I would like to know.....

General

I was puzzled about.....
I also wondered why.....
A question I would like answered
is.....

Your Visit

The Pilgrim Trail

Pupils will start the Pilgrim Trail in the Tudor Lady Chapel. A brief introduction to Christian Pilgrimage past and present will be given. The group will then be asked to use their imaginations to travel back in time to the thirteenth century and take on the role of medieval pilgrims.

The Pilgrim Trail will guide your class around the cathedral, stopping off at: the site of the Benedictine monastery of St. Andrew; the façade of the cathedral, where comparisons with the castle will be made; the cathedral nave; the pilgrim steps; and finally the site of the shrine of William of Perth.

During the trail pupils will discover a little about the history of the cathedral, they will also learn about medieval pilgrimages, the motives of the pilgrims and will be told the story of one medieval pilgrim, William of Perth, whose tomb, after his death, became a site of pilgrimage in itself.

Work booklets

Your visit can be enhanced by the use of one of the following workbooks:

- ❖ The Rochester Cathedral Trail (*RE / History, KS2*)
- ❖ Time Travellers (*History, KS 3*)
- ❖ Art & Architecture at Rochester Cathedral (*Art / DT, KS2/3*)
- ❖ Signs & Symbols (*RE KS3*)

Please supply your own pencils for use with the above

Additional Activities

You may wish to further explore medieval life in this centre of pilgrimage by also booking the **Monks Experience**. A separate book of teacher's notes is available for this session.

Classroom Extension Work

RE

- ❖ Find out more about famous saints and the reasons for canonisation
- ❖ Research holy places from a variety of religions, what makes a place “holy”?
- ❖ Would you go on a pilgrimage? Why? Where would you go? If not, why not?

History

- ❖ Why were relics so important in the Middle Ages?
- ❖ What effect did the Reformation have on pilgrimage and the organisation of Church in England.

Literacy

- ❖ Write your own tale or diary of a pilgrim.
- ❖ Look at poems and stories about other kinds of journeys.
- ❖ Is the picture of pilgrims as portrayed in The Canterbury Tales an accurate one?

Art and Design

- ❖ Design a new shrine for St. William of Perth.
- ❖ Design and make a souvenir badge for pilgrims visiting Rochester.

Geography

- ❖ Trace the Pilgrims Way on a map looking at the terrain and settlements it passes through.
- ❖ Why does it follow this route?
- ❖ What impact may the route have had on the surrounding area?
- ❖ Was pilgrimage an early form of tourism?

Citizenship

- ❖ What are the advantages / disadvantages of travelling in a group / alone?
- ❖ What considerations have to be taken if you choose to undertake a journey as part of a group?