

# **ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

## **PREPARING FOR A KEY STAGE 2 VISIT**

### **Topic Material – The Easter Story**

**Because the death and resurrection of Jesus is the central belief for Christians the theme of Easter is relevant throughout the whole year, not just during the Easter period.**

**Before most people could read and write they would learn their stories of the life of Jesus through pictures on church walls and in the stained glass windows.**

**In Rochester Cathedral the Lady Chapel has a set of windows that cover the story of Jesus from the annunciation to his mother, Mary, by the angel Gabriel, through to the ascension into heaven forty days after his resurrection at Easter.**

**Easter is the most important festival of the year for Christians, showing the love of God, who gave his only son to redeem Mankind, and the love of Jesus, who suffered and died for the sins of Mankind. His resurrection shows the power of God over death.**

**Using the windows to tell the story of Holy Week, the crucifixion, the resurrection and ascension we take your pupils through a significant part of the Christian year.**

**Not only will the pupils learn about important facets of Christian belief, their visit will cover a number of curriculum areas which are outlined below.**

**As communication through means other than the written word is central to this visit it is suitable for pupils whose learning difficulties make reading and writing hard for them.**

# **PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT**

**Your visit will incorporate a number of curriculum areas**

**Religious Education**

**History**

**Literacy**

**Art and Design**

**Design Technology**

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

**Preparing for the Religious Education element**

- ❖ Study at least two different gospel accounts of the Easter story**
- ❖ Learn about the Jewish feast of the Passover, described in the bible accounts**
- ❖ Discuss the events from the viewpoints of different participants**
- ❖ How could the outcome have been different**
- ❖ What would it mean to Christians if Christ had not died**
- ❖ What would it mean to Christians if Christ had not risen**
- ❖ What symbols are associated with Easter**

**Preparing for the History element**

- ❖ Who wrote the accounts of the Easter story**
- ❖ How long after the event were they written**
- ❖ Make a timeline of the events of Holy Week and Easter**
- ❖ What effect did these events have on the people at the time**

## **Preparing for the Literacy element**

- ❖ **How do the different gospel versions vary**
- ❖ **Are there any words we would not use now**
- ❖ **Find alternative modern words for out-of-date words**
- ❖ **Find out the meanings of unknown words using contextual clues**

## **Preparing for the Art and Design element**

- ❖ **Find out about art in churches**
- ❖ **Why were there pictures and stained glass windows in churches**

## **Preparing for the Design Technology element**

- ❖ **Find out about how stained glass windows were made**
- ❖ **Find examples of very old stained glass windows and modern stained glass windows**
- ❖ **See if the techniques have changed**

## **Background Information**

**RE** - There are Bible narratives in all four gospels – Matthew chapters 21 – 28, Mark chapters 11 – 16, Luke 19:28 – 48 and chapters 20 – 24, and John 11:55 – 57 and chapters 12 - 21. The particular events to note are Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm / Passion Sunday), the Last Supper, time in the Garden of Gethsemene, Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial (Maundy Thursday), the trials, crucifixion and burial (Good Friday) the resurrection (Easter) and Ascension (40 days after Easter). A children's Bible, such as The New Light Children's Bible, will provide easily understood versions of the gospel stories.

Jesus could have fought or run away, and the outcome would have possibly been different, but he didn't. Discuss why Jesus did not run away. Christians believe that Jesus died to redeem them and this shows his love and forgiveness for the faults of mankind. His resurrection proves he was truly God and that God has power over death.

Symbols of Easter include palm crosses (triumphant entry into Jerusalem), crucifix (death of Jesus), empty cross (resurrection), eggs (new life / spring). The word "Easter" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "Oestre", the goddess of the dawn, or new life.

**History** – The gospel accounts were by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The stories were related orally at first, then written down on clay tablets followed by papyrus scrolls. Finally, in about the 4<sup>th</sup> century, they were written on vellum. The word "bible" comes from "byblos" – Greek for "book".

A timeline of Holy Week would start with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and include the death, resurrection and ascension into heaven (40 days after Easter). Note how the feeling of euphoria on what we now call Palm / Passion Sunday changed to the death cry within days. The crowd were easily swayed by events. The disciples felt bewildered and frightened.

**Literacy** – Using a children's Bible (The New Light Bible: Children's Version, ISBN 0-304-68670-7, published by Hodder and Stoughton) look at the narratives mentioned above. The children's version could be compared to a standard version, particularly to find archaic language.

**Art and Design** – Pictures (paintings and stained glass windows, and Stations of the Cross in particular relating to Holy Week / Easter) existed in churches when the majority of people were unable to read. Through these they learned their stories of Christ.

**Design Technology** – Stained glass windows and wall paintings were an important way for those who could not read to learn Bible stories and stories of the life of Christ and of the saints. In England, at the time of the Reformation much church art was destroyed, as it was thought to be a distraction rather than an aid to prayer.

At Rochester cathedral the first fresco to be painted in an English cathedral for 800 years is nearing completion. The technique of Fresco painting is different to that of mural painting.

## Background Research

### Useful internet sites:-

History of the Bible –	<a href="http://www.education.bl.uk/projects/bibles">www.education.bl.uk/projects/bibles</a>
Medieval writing –	<a href="http://www.beaconlc.org/ctech/medieval/SCRIPT.HTM">www.beaconlc.org/ctech/medieval/SCRIPT.HTM</a>
	<a href="http://www.medievalwriting.50megs.com/writing.htm">www.medievalwriting.50megs.com/writing.htm</a>
Stained glass -	<a href="http://www.stainedglassmuseum.com">www.stainedglassmuseum.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.agsa.org/history.html">www.agsa.org/history.html</a>
	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/culture">www.bbc.co.uk/history/culture</a>
Fresco Painting	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/6981/fresco.htm">www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/6981/fresco.htm</a>

### Booklist:-

Medieval Cathedral	Fiona MacDonald Simon and Schuster 1991 ISBN 0-7500-0787-7
Medieval Monastery	Fiona MacDonald Simon and Schuster 1994 ISBN 0-7500-1415-6
Life in a Medieval Abbey	Tony McAleavy English Heritage ISBN 1-85074-592-7
Cathedral, forge and waterwheel	Francis and Joseph Gies Harper Perennial 1994 ISBN 0-06-092581-7
Life in a Medieval City	Francis and Joseph Gies Harper Collins 1981 ISBN 0-06-090880-7
Life in a Medieval Village	Francis and Joseph Gies Harperperennial Library 1991 ISBN 0-06-092046-7
The Easter Angels	Bob Hartman Lion Children's Books ISBN 0-7459-4420-5
Cathedral	David Macaulay HarperCollins Children's Books 1991 ISBN 0-00-192160-6
The Christian Faith and its Symbols	Jan Thompson Hodder and Stoughton 1996 ISBN 0-340-66379-0

## Vocabulary List

CHURCH	CATHEDRAL	SYNAGOGUE	LADY CHAPEL
NAZARETH	JERUSALEM	GALILEE	GETHSEMANE
PASSOVER	UNLEAVENED	PROPHET	SABBATH
CRUCIFIXION	EASTER	RESURRECTION	ASCENSION
SCRIPTURE	BIBLE	PARABLE	SANHEDRIN
APOSTLE	DISCIPLE	PHARISEE	JUDAS
CAESAR	HEROD	PONTIUS PILATE	BARABBAS
ARCHITECTURE	PERPENDICULAR	TRACERY	GOthic

## RE Writing Frames

### Events

A major event in the life of Christ was ....  
The main people involved were ....  
The event is important to believers because ....  
Believers remember this event today by ....

### Stories

An important story in Christianity is ....  
The part I remember best is ....  
The story teaches that ....  
It also teaches believers ....  
The message in the story for me was ....

### Visit to a place of worship

We visited the Cathedral  
First we looked at ....  
Then we saw ....  
We also looked at ....  
It was interesting to me because ....  
I learnt that ....

### General

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

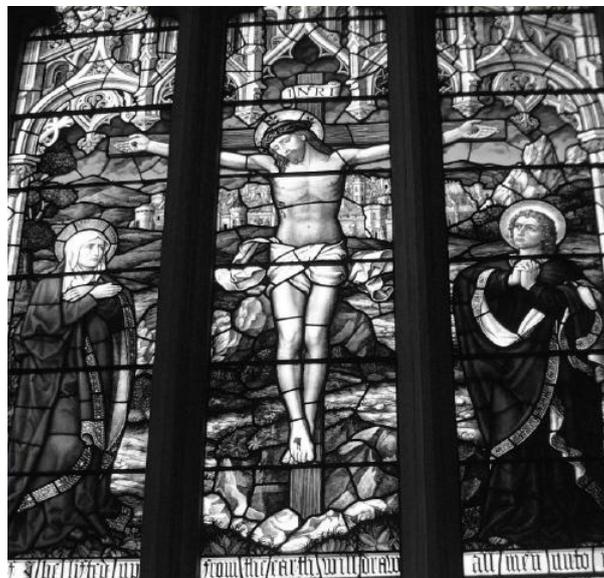
## YOUR VISIT

Your visit will divide into sections

- ❖ Discussion of the need for stained glass windows and church art as a way of telling the story of the life of Jesus without using the written word
- ❖ Looking at the Easter windows in the Lady Chapel
- ❖ An alternative view of Easter – using the story *The Easter Angels* (Bob Hartman, published by Lion Children’s Books, ISBN 0-7459-4420-5)
- ❖ Discussion about the above story
- ❖ Activity – designing the “missing” window (the angel announcing the resurrection of Jesus)
- ❖ Sharing ideas on the design of the window and how to tell the story in pictures, giving story clues non-verbally
- ❖ Reviewing the whole story

*The pupils will need clipboards and pencils. A template will be provided for the design session.*

An activity which gives further insight on the cathedral as a centre of Medieval Learning, as well as prayer and worship, is the Monks Experience. A separate set of teacher’s notes is available for this complementary activity, which would further enhance your visit.



## CLASS-ROOM EXTENSION WORK

**RE** - Having learnt about the events of Easter and the resurrection think about how Jesus felt in the situations in which he found himself.

The religious festivals of many faiths occur at about the same time. How do Christian pupils celebrate Easter.

How do pupils of other faiths celebrate new life and what other faiths have celebrations in the springtime.

**History** – Look at the ways in which history was passed on before the majority of people could read / write and before the printing press made books more available to more people.

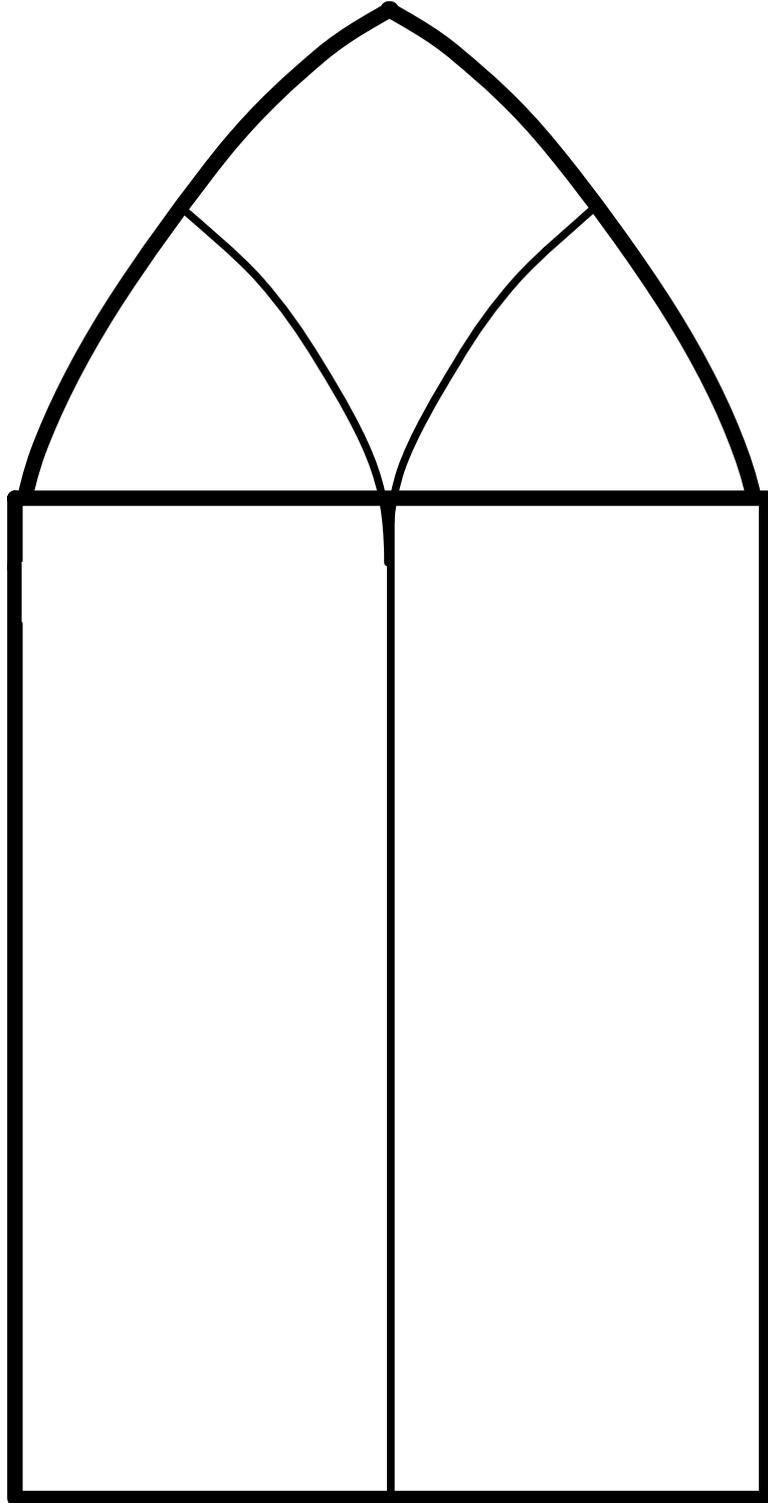
**Literacy** – Write your own version of the events of the Easter period, using different genres (personal diary, newspaper article, official report back to Rome, letter to a friend etc.).

**Art and Design** – Complete the stained glass window design, and select colours for the window. Make sure you “tell the story” in the picture.

**Design Technology** – Make the window designs in materials such as coloured tissues, coloured acetates etc.



**ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL**



Draw the missing window for the Lady Chapel, telling the story of Jesus rising from His tomb at Easter