



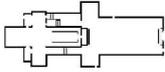
Rochester Cathedral Detective Trail

Answer sheet



This sheet will help you to explore the outside of the Cathedral with your group.

The answers to the Detective Sheet are given, as well as discussion points to extend learning. On the reverse is a map to help you to find your way around.

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| <p><u>Old buildings tell many stories</u></p> <p>The cathedral is built in the shape of a cross. The cross is one of the most important symbols in Christianity.</p>  | <p><u>The Castle</u></p> <p>The castle is a ruin - it is no longer used for the purpose for which it was built (defence). The cathedral is in good condition because it is a living church, used every single day for the purpose for which it was built - the worship of God.</p> |
| <p><u>The Spire</u></p> <p>The spire is a symbol of reaching towards heaven and God. The first spire was built in 1343 but had to be taken down later. This spire was built in 1904. It has a clock (to tell the time!) and a weather vane (to tell the direction the wind is blowing).</p> | <p><u>Pilgrims' Passage</u></p> <p>Pilgrims came through here, into the cathedral through the north door and up the Pilgrim steps to the shrine of William of Perth. People went on pilgrimage as a sign of their faith, perhaps to ask forgiveness for wrong-doing, to ask for healing or to give thanks to God for the good things he has done.</p> |
| <p><u>The Story of William of Perth</u></p> <p>Pilgrims came to William's shrine in Rochester after 1201 when he was murdered. They now go to places like Canterbury (shrine of Thomas Becket and "mother" church of the Christian church in England), Rome (home of the Pope and "mother" church of all the Christian world), the Holy Lands and Lourdes (as well as many other places).</p> | <p><u>Gundulf's Tower</u></p> <p>Bishop Gundulf was the Norman bishop who came to Rochester in 1077. He organised the building of the Norman cathedral, as well as The White Tower (of London), parts of Rochester Castle and St. Bartholomew's Hospital (Rochester). This tower was probably defensive in origin and later a bell-tower. It is now the choir practice rooms.</p> |
| <p><u>St. Nicholas Church</u></p> <p>The monks here were an enclosed Benedictine order. This meant that they wanted to be shut away from the distractions of the world, and they didn't like the townsfolk disturbing them in their cathedral! The townsfolk were only allowed in the cathedral for the special services of the year.</p> | <p><u>West Front</u></p> <p>Each day the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. The entrance to the cathedral is at the "dark" end, symbolising the darkness of ignorance, sin and eventually death. At the east end is the High Altar, and the symbol of new light each day, and the light of knowledge, forgiveness and resurrection.</p> |
| <p><u>The First Cathedral</u></p> <p>The first cathedral was started in 604 A.D. and was very small compared to today's cathedral. The lines of cobbles on the paving outside the West door show where excavations had identified the walls of the first cathedral.</p> | <p><u>The West Façade</u></p> <p>The tympanum shows Christ sitting in glory, surrounded by angels and the symbols of the four evangelists (angel - Matthew, eagle - John, winged bull - Luke and winged lion - Mark). The figures are now mutilated and weather beaten. The western half of the cathedral was built by the Normans.</p> |
| <p><u>The Garden</u></p> <p>Good (Caen) stone was used for the imposing West front and less good local stone for the side walls. The east part of the cathedral was built in the 12th century (the light coloured facing is 19th century restoration). The statue in the centre of the garden depicts a mother and a child, Mary and Jesus, reflecting the present day dedication of the cathedral to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.</p> | <p><u>The Monastery</u></p> <p>This area was the centre of the medieval Benedictine monastery, at that time known as the Priory of St. Andrew. The three big windows were the windows of the Chapter Room where the monks met each day to discuss the running of the monastery and read a chapter of the Rule of Benedict, which was written by St. Benedict in the 6th Century to help those who wanted to devote their lives to God.</p> |

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