



Cathedral Investigator Trail



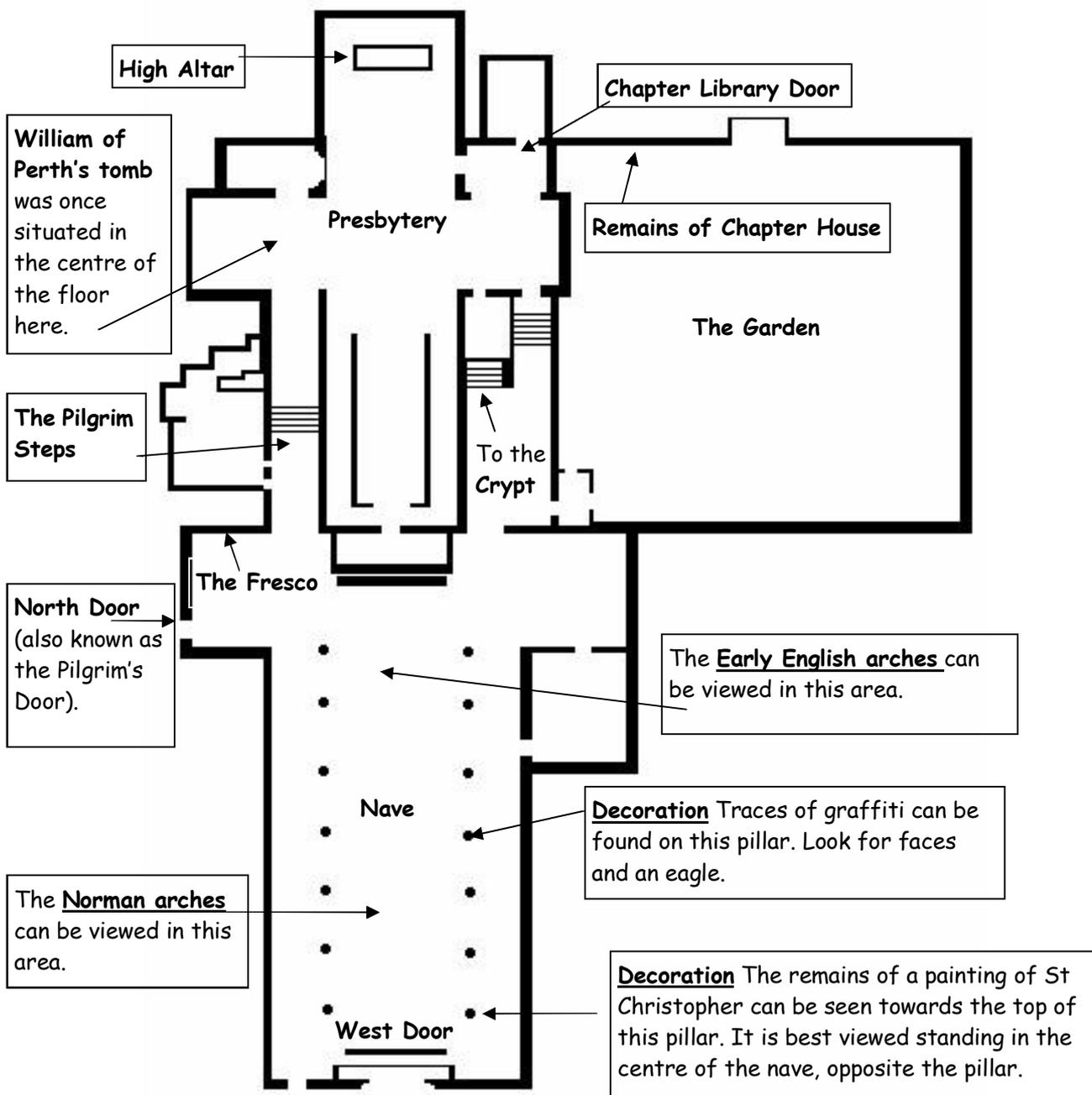
Answer Sheet

This sheet contains guidance, answers and further discussion points for adults working with small groups exploring the cathedral using the "Cathedral Investigator Trail".

The map below indicates the areas you need to visit with your group.

Before you start exploring, sit with your group in the nave. Ask them to be silent for a few seconds. Encourage the children to soak in the atmosphere by looking, listening and seeing how it feels to them to be in this special place. After a few seconds brainstorm words to describe how the cathedral looks, sounds and feels. You might want to note these down.

This is the second oldest cathedral in England (Canterbury being the oldest). For over 1400 years people have worshipped God on this site. Remind your group that this is a living, working place of worship.



<p><u>The West Door</u> The measuring activity is best carried out in pairs with one child measuring the length whilst the other paces out the width. The brass marks are on the floor just to the left of the small West door. Step outside with your group and find the cobbles on the road marking the north and south sides of the Saxon cathedral.</p>	<p><u>The Norman Arches</u> One of the first Norman bishops was Bishop Gundulf. He was a great builder. He began building the cathedral in 1080 and a few years later also began to build the castle (which has identical Norman arches inside). Bishop Gundulf also built the White Tower of the Tower of London. Look for a statue of him below the organ.</p>
<p><u>Decoration</u> The cathedral was built at a time before schools as we know them existed. Most people could not read or write. Churches services were in Latin. People learned the stories and messages of the Christian faith by looking at the paintings on the walls, pillars and even in some places on the ceiling.</p>	<p><u>Early English Arches</u> Following the fires, rebuilding of the cathedral began in 1200. Building style had changed by this time after the discovery that pointed arches were stronger and could therefore be built higher. The rebuilding programme had to come to a sudden stop when the money ran out, leaving the rebuilding of the nave incomplete.</p>
<p><u>The Fresco</u> To create a fresco the painter first makes the wall smooth by applying plaster. The plaster is painted on while still wet ("<i>fresh</i>"). This is the first fresco to be painted in an English church in 800 years. It should last for 1000 years! The theme of the picture is "baptism". Have any of your group been to a Christening? Ask them to explain what happened.</p>	<p><u>The Baptism of King Ethelbert</u> Can the group spot the King's page holding his crown? On the inner side of the right hand protruding stone the artist has painted a monk peeping out of a window. Can the group spot the spirit of Jesus watching over the proceedings? (<i>Left hand protruding stone</i>)</p>
<p><u>The Story of William of Perth</u> Pilgrims came to William's shrine after 1201 when he was murdered. They left gifts of money which the monks used to rebuild the fire damaged cathedral. The monks built a special door for the pilgrims to enter by. The "Pilgrim's Door" is to the left of the fresco. Today pilgrims visit places such as Canterbury Cathedral, Rome, Lourdes and Israel. The scallop shell is on the cathedral crest.</p>	<p><u>The Pilgrim Steps</u> Thousands of pilgrims travelled to pray at William of Perth's tomb (see map over for site of tomb). The pilgrims walked up these steps on their knees as a sign of respect. They climbed up slowly, praying as they went. The steps were worn away by the thousands of pilgrims who visited. William's tomb was destroyed when Henry VIII reorganized the church.</p>
<p><u>The Presbytery</u> The High Altar is the most special place in the church. The carving behind the altar shows the Last Supper when Jesus gave his disciples bread and wine, symbols of his body and blood. The service of Holy Communion takes place at the altar. The naked figure on the door reminds us that we come into this world with nothing and we leave it the same way.</p>	<p><u>The Crypt</u> As you come down the stairs the area immediately to your left is the oldest part of the crypt. The pillars, arches and ceiling are quite different in shape and design to the rest of the crypt. The newer pillars look rather like trees! Spend time looking at the model of the cathedral. Focus on the monastery and its buildings.</p>
<p><u>The Garden</u> To your far left as you step out of the cathedral you will see a large ruined wall. This was the Chapter House where the monks met daily to discuss business and to hear a chapter of their rule book read. This garden once had a covered walkway all the way round it. This was called the cloister. If it is dry explore this area looking for other ruins.</p>	<p><u>Windows</u> Stained glass windows serve the same purpose as the paintings which once covered the walls. They tell stories and give messages. Look at some of the windows with your group. Discuss what message they might be communicating. The children could try to communicate a message about the Christian faith in their window design.</p>