



Cathedral Investigator Trail

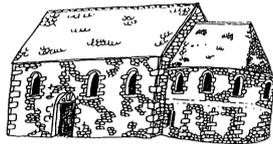


Welcome to Rochester Cathedral. Your mission is to search for clues which tell us about the history of this building, the second oldest cathedral in the country!

Name of Investigator _____

Start at the West Door

The first Rochester Cathedral was built in 604. It looked very different to the cathedral we have today. Find the photo of St Peter's Chapel on the notice-board by the West Door. The first cathedral would have looked like this. It was about 28 steps long and 18 steps wide. Measure this out with a friend. Can you find two brass lines on the floor? These show you where the east end of the first cathedral was.



The Norman Arches

The building you are in now was built by the Normans in about 1080. The Normans built with rounded tops to their arches, windows and doorways. Draw a Norman arch here.



Decoration

When the cathedral was first built, the walls, pillars and even the ceiling would have been covered in beautiful paintings telling stories from the Bible. These have mostly disappeared, but if you look closely you can still see traces of paint. You can also find graffiti—outlines scratched into the stone. Can you find an eagle and some faces?



Early English Arches

The Norman cathedral was damaged by fire and needed to be rebuilt. Work began in 1200. By this time there was a new style of building, Early English. The arches in this style have pointed tops. Draw one here.

The Fresco

This is a new painting, it was finished in 2004. The picture is all about baptism. Can you see Jesus being baptised? Now find the King in the bath. His name was Ethelbert. He gave the land on which this cathedral was built. The picture shows him being baptised. He was the first English King to be baptised. Draw a picture of his baptism opposite.



The Baptism of King Ethelbert

The Story of William of Perth

William was a baker from Scotland. He set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1201 and stayed in Rochester whilst on his journey. Sadly he was murdered just outside Rochester, and his body was buried in the cathedral. Healing miracles were said to happen at his tomb, which is why Rochester became an important place of pilgrimage. Where might pilgrims visit today?



The scallop shell is the sign of a pilgrim. See if you can spot any around the cathedral.

The Pilgrim Steps

Hundreds of years ago thousands of Pilgrims (people who travel to holy places) came here to pray at William of Perth's tomb. They went up these steps on their knees. Look carefully at the steps. What has happened to them? Why has this happened? Draw someone walking up the steps on their knees.

The Presbytery

In medieval times only monks and priests were allowed in this area. Can you see the altar? What do we use this for? The picture carved in stone behind it may give you a clue. Now find the Chapter Library door. This was used by the monks coming into the Cathedral to pray at night. The doorway has carved figures and faces around it. Draw your favourite.



Can you spot the naked man? Why is he naked?

The Crypt

This is the oldest part of the Cathedral. Look at the pillars. Draw the two different styles of pillar you see. Can you guess which are the oldest?

Before you leave. Find the model of the cathedral and monastery. You are now going to visit the garden where the monastery once stood.

The Garden (This area can be viewed from the porch if it is raining)

Bishop Gundulf, one of our Norman bishops, was a Benedictine monk. He built a monastery here. The monastery is now a ruin, but you can see where some of the buildings were. Sketch part of the monastery here.

Windows

Stained glass windows tell stories and give messages. Look at some of our windows. What message are they giving? Design your own window below. What message does it give?



Well done you have now completed your investigation into the history of this special building. Perhaps you could decorate the borders of these pages with patterns you find around the cathedral.

