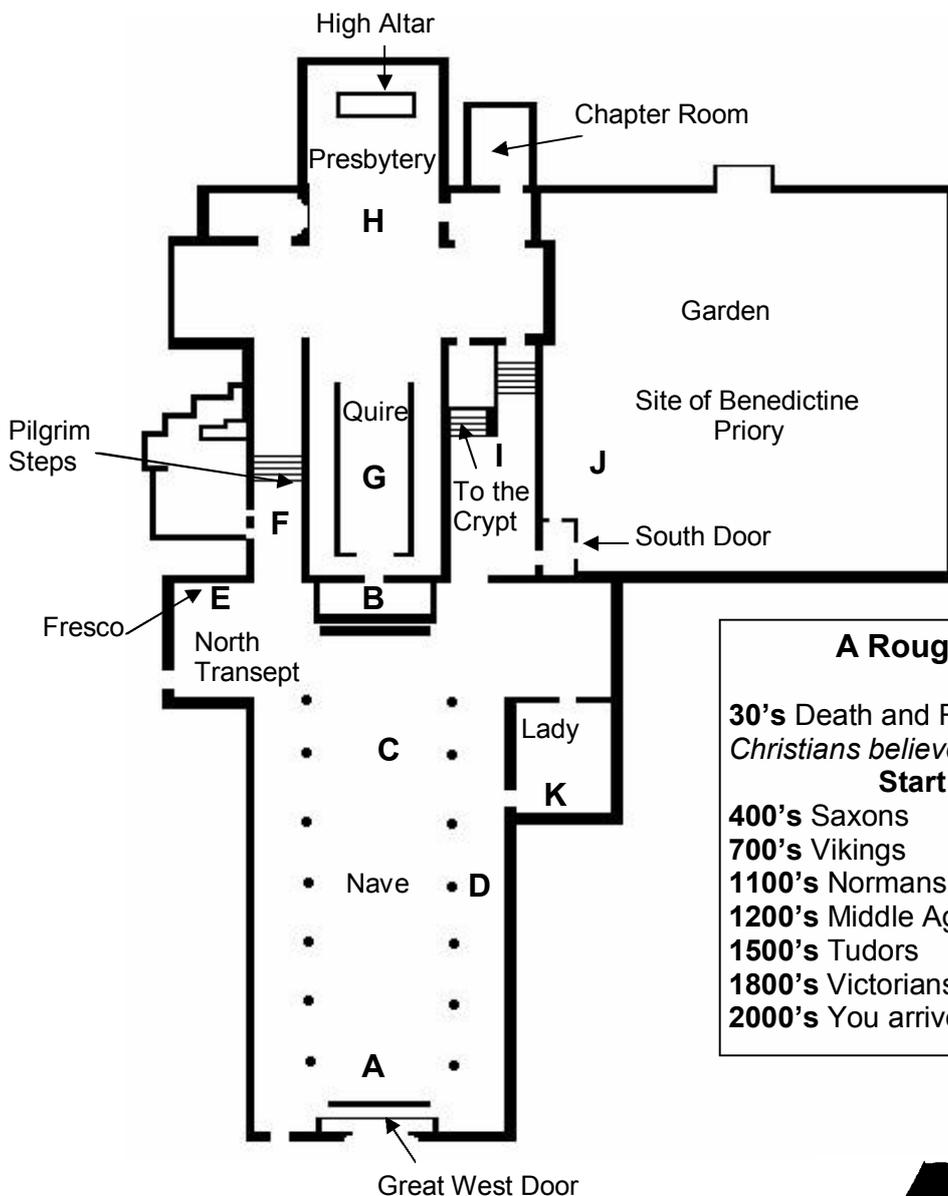


TIME TRAVELLERS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Welcome to Rochester Cathedral. This is a very old and beautiful building. You are about to travel back in time, long before computers were invented, to discover how this Cathedral has grown and developed. There are lots of clues to help you in your quest, look carefully as you journey through the history of this remarkable building!



A Rough Guide to Time

30's Death and Resurrection of Jesus (*as Christians believe*)

Start of Christianity

400's Saxons

700's Vikings

1100's Normans

1200's Middle Ages

1500's Tudors

1800's Victorians

2000's You arrive!

This plan of the Cathedral will help you to find your way around. The building you are in is a living, working place of worship, please remember this as you explore.



Welcome to Rochester Cathedral



Rochester Cathedral is the “mother church” of the Anglican Diocese of Rochester. A diocese is a group of churches looked after by a bishop. You can find a map of the Rochester Diocese in the Cathedral Crypt.

You are visiting a living, working place of worship, please remember this as you explore the building. Before you start you might like to find a place to sit quietly and just spend a few minutes thinking about the thousands of people who have visited this Cathedral in its 1400 years of existence.

Who’s who in Rochester Cathedral?



The Dean is the senior clergyman. He is responsible for the worship and everything that goes on in the Cathedral.

The Canons are clergy who assist the Dean. Rochester Cathedral has several Canons. Each one has a special responsibility within the Cathedral.

The Vergers look after the day to day running of the Cathedral. They make sure everything is prepared for the services. They also take care of the building.

The Choir sing for Cathedral services. Rochester Cathedral has three choirs and three organists.

There are many other people who work at the Cathedral. There are people in the office dealing with phone-calls, letters and paperwork. The staff in the Education and Visits Department welcome school groups and adult visitors. There are people working in the shop and tearooms. We employ gardeners and housekeepers.

There are also hundreds of volunteers who help in the shop, the tearooms, arrange flowers, clean brass and welcome visitors.

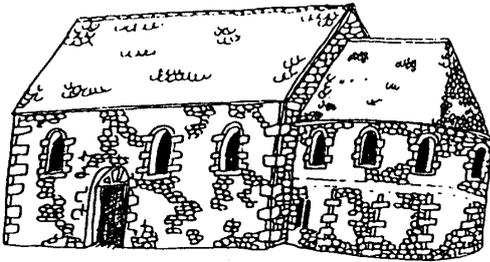
You will only see a little of what goes on in a Cathedral during your visit. Come back another time and see more!

The Nave

This is the largest space in the Cathedral. You can do lots of time travelling here. We will find lots of clues to show how this building has changed since the first Cathedral was built in 604.

How many years has there been a cathedral on this site? (Clue - take 604 from the current year)

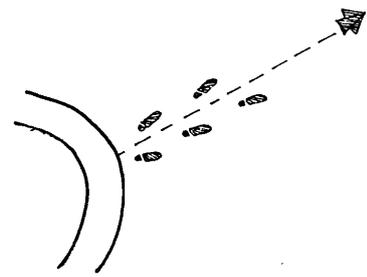
Point A



A cathedral is a holy building where Christians meet together to worship God. The first Rochester Cathedral might have looked like this. It was built by the Saxon King Ethelbert and was much smaller than the building you are in now. It was only about 28 steps long and 18 steps wide.

Outside there are cobbled lines marking where the old Saxon Cathedral used to be. The remains are now buried under the road. Inside, between the large and small doorways find two brass curves. These show where the eastern end of the first Cathedral would have been.

In pairs measure out how big it was. Start at the small door at the back. One person should take 28 small steps down the Nave. The other person should take 18 small steps across the Nave. You can now see how long and wide the very first Cathedral was.



The present Nave can seat about 400 people. How many people do you think would have fitted into the Saxon Cathedral?

Point B

At the far end of the Nave is a screen with 8 stone statues. The man who was in charge of the Saxon Cathedral is the 3rd figure from the left. Write his name below.

He was Rochester's first bishop.



Let's travel forward in time. In 1066 there was a great battle at Hastings in Sussex between the English and the French. King Harold was killed and King William of Normandy was crowned King of England. King William started to put Norman bishops in charge of the English cathedrals.



Rochester's second Norman bishop is also shown on the screen. He is the 5th figure from the left. Write his name here

Bishop.....

He was a French monk who came here in 1077 and in 1080 began building the Cathedral you are now in. He was a good builder as well as a good bishop. He also built the Benedictine Priory of St Andrew where he and the other monks could live, work and study.

Point C

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The Norman arches are rounded. The more pointed ones are the Early English style. They were built later than the Norman ones, after a great fire which destroyed much of the Cathedral. Label your sketches "Norman" and "Early English".



Bishop Ernulf was another good Norman builder. He changed a lot of Gundulf's work by rebuilding and adding decoration. Look at the patterns on the Norman arches. Draw some of them here.

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Point C

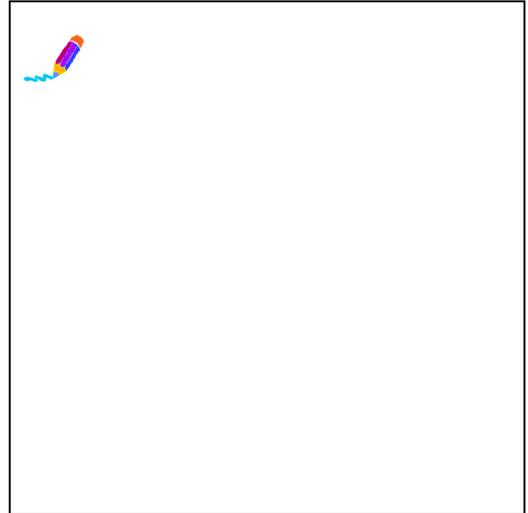
Look carefully at the pillars. How many different styles can you find?

Draw one of the pillars here.
Guess how many people could hold hands around it.

My guess is

Get some friends to help you see if you were right
(*please be careful not to move any furniture*).

How many people did you actually need?



Some of the pillars have drawings and secret marks on them. Look closely at one of the pillars in this area and see if you can find any of these marks. Tick the ones you find (*Clue - look high up on the pillars*)

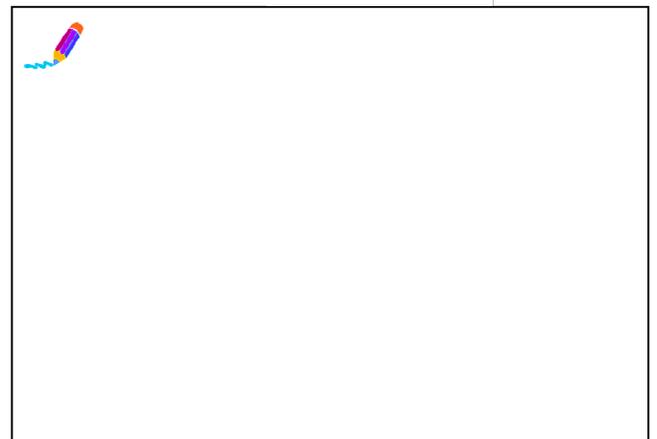


These shapes were put there by the stone masons who helped to build the Cathedral. Each mason would have his own mark. They helped the chief mason to know how much each person should get paid.



Point D

Look closely at this pillar. Can you find outlines of faces. There is also an eagle and a boat on this pillar. Draw the images that you find.



When the Cathedral was first built there would have been paintings and decoration on the walls, pillars and in some places the ceilings. The pictures told stories from the Bible and stories of the lives of famous saints. At that time in history most people did not have access to the Bible. The pictures helped them to learn about Christianity. Most of the pictures have now gone, but we can see where some would have been.

We are now going to travel forward in time to see a very new picture.

North Transept

Point E - The Fresco

This picture is called a Fresco. The artist paints on wet , or fresh plaster (*fresco* means “fresh”). The colour sinks deep into the wall and helps the picture to last a long time. This fresco was finished in summer 2004 and should last for 1000 years, so time travellers hundreds of years from now can enjoy looking at the image you see before you.

The picture tells two stories. What story is told in the upper part of the picture?

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The lower part of the picture tells the story of the baptism of the first Christian King in England, Ethelbert, around the time that the original Cathedral was built.

How many people can you see being baptised in the river?.....

King Ethelbert is not wearing his crown for his baptism. Where is it?.....

.....



Look high up in this area. Can you see faces carved in stone? Perhaps these are the faces of the masons who built the Cathedral, or monks who lived here, or of the medieval townsfolk of Rochester. How many faces can you count?

Draw your favourite face here.

Who do you think this person could have been?.....

.....

There is one modern face here. He is Edward Shotter who retired as Dean in 2003. Can you find his face? (*Clue - it is near the Fresco*)

Point F - The Pilgrim Steps

Look at the stone under the wooden steps. What do you notice about it?

.....

Hundreds of medieval pilgrims climbed these steps to visit the shrine of William of Perth. They usually went up on their knees!



William was a baker who set out from his home in Scotland on a pilgrimage in 1201. He stopped in Rochester for the night but was murdered next day as he continued his journey. His body was buried in the Cathedral and miracles of healing were said to have occurred at his tomb. Many, many people came on pilgrimage here. Their gifts of money helped pay for the rebuilding of the Cathedral after the fires of the 1100's.

The Crypt

Point I

Go down the stairs and then turn left. This is the Crypt. **Please be quiet down here.** You have now travelled back in time and are standing in the oldest part of the Cathedral. How would you describe it (*compare it to the rooms upstairs*).

.....

.....

Now explore the rest of the Crypt. Can you find the remains of ceiling paintings? Also look for the following things.

A stone basin called a **piscina**. This once held water for the priest to wash his hands and sacred vessels during a communion service. The piscina shows us where a chapel was once located.



A picture of Jesus and his disciples. There is a similar picture on one of the pillars in the Nave. When you go back upstairs see if you can find it.



Go back upstairs and out of the door to your left. This leads into the garden. If it is raining you can see the garden from the porch.

The Garden

Point J

This is the site of the medieval Priory of St Andrew where the monks would have lived and worked. Sketch some of the ruined buildings you can see.

If the weather is dry walk around the path looking for the blue plaques. Note down the names of the buildings you find.

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We are now going to travel forward in time to Tudor Rochester. Go back into the Cathedral, turn left and walk to the Lady Chapel.

The Lady Chapel

Point K

You have travelled forward in time to 1500. This area of the Cathedral was completed at that time. This room has some very special stained glass windows. The windows tell stories and give messages.

Whose life story is told in these windows?

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The chapel is dedicated to a special lady who is shown in most of the windows. Who is she?

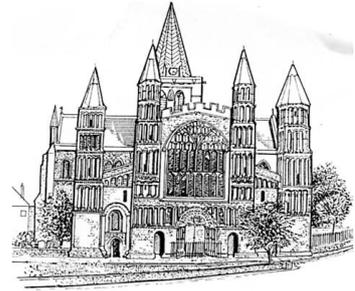
.....

Choose a window to draw here. Write a sentence to explain what it tells us.

Back to the Future!

You have now completed your time travelling in Rochester Cathedral. Before you leave go back to your favourite part of the Cathedral and find a place to sit quietly for a few moments.

This is a special building for many people. What do you think about Rochester Cathedral? Use the space below to describe how this building looks, sounds and feels to you. You can use words, picture or both to record your thoughts.



Glossary

Bishop - The person in charge of a large number of churches, called a diocese. The Bishop has a special throne in the Cathedral.

Christian - Someone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and tries to follow his teaching.

Masons - Skilled workmen who helped to build the Cathedral.

Monks - Men who take religious vows and dedicate their lives to God. They live together in monasteries.

Pilgrim - A person who makes a journey to a holy place.

Saxons - A group of North German people who conquered Britain in the 5th & 6th centuries.

Shrine - A holy place such as the tomb of a saint.

For 1400 years this Cathedral has been a place where Christians have gathered to worship God. It is still a place where God is worshipped every day.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. Please come back to visit us again soon!