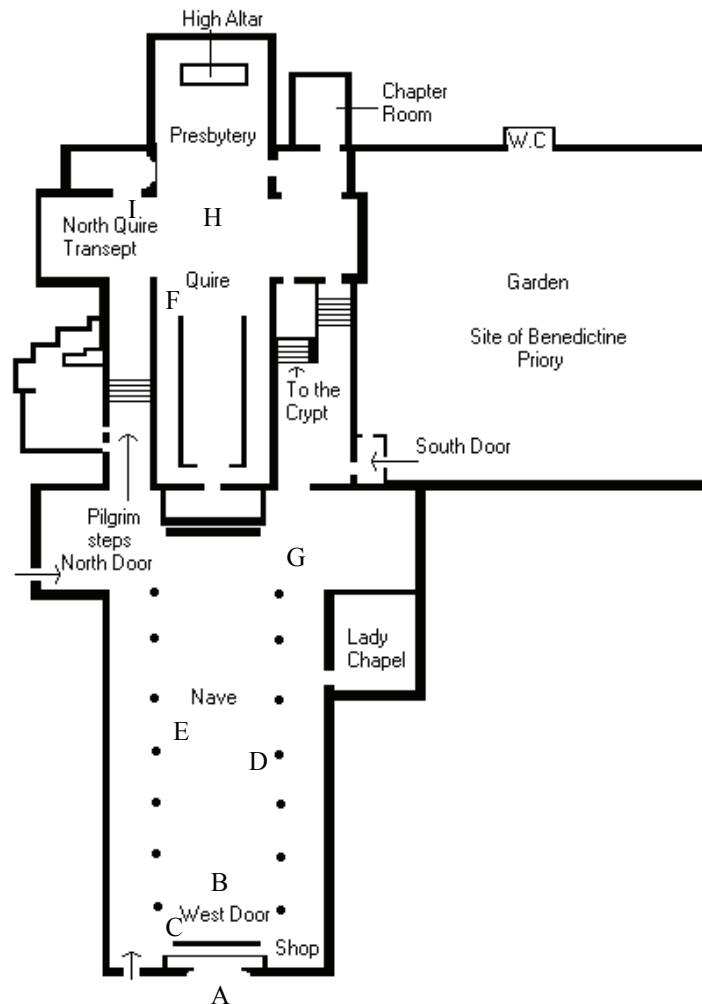


ART AND ARCHITECTURE AT ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

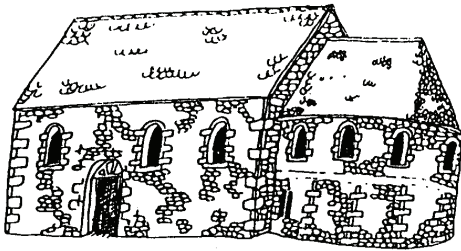
Welcome to Rochester Cathedral. This is a very old and beautiful building with many art and architectural treasures for you to enjoy. The Cathedral is also a Christian place of worship, please respect this fact during your visit.



This plan of the Cathedral will help you find your way around. Stand with our back to the West Door and hold the plan in front of you to find your way around. There is a word list, a "glossary", on the last page.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

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



There has been a living, working Cathedral here at Rochester since 604. Since that time there have been many changes in architectural style. The original Saxon Cathedral is no longer standing, but markings on the floor of the Cathedral and on the road outside will give you some idea as to its size.

The Cathedral you are standing in today has a Norman Nave, a Medieval Presbytery and a Tudor Lady Chapel. There is lots to look at and compare and lots to learn about the changes and developments in building style and architectural fashion.



Please remember that you are in a **living, working Cathedral** with many visitors coming to pray and reflect. Enjoy your visit, but please help us by following a few simple rules.

Photography is allowed.

Please do not eat or drink in the Cathedral.

Please try to move about the Cathedral quietly and safely.

Please leave the Cathedral as you found it.

Keep your belongings with you at all times.

At some time during your visit try to find a few moments to sit down quietly and think about this special place and all of the people who have worshipped and worked here since the first cathedral was built. If you wish to you could even say a quiet prayer.

THE FACADE

Go outside to **point A**. (Take an adult with you).

Look at the front of the Cathedral, this is called the **facade**. Look closely at the facade. Are there any clues which tell you what kind of building you are looking at? If you spot any clues make a note of them below either in words or as a sketch.

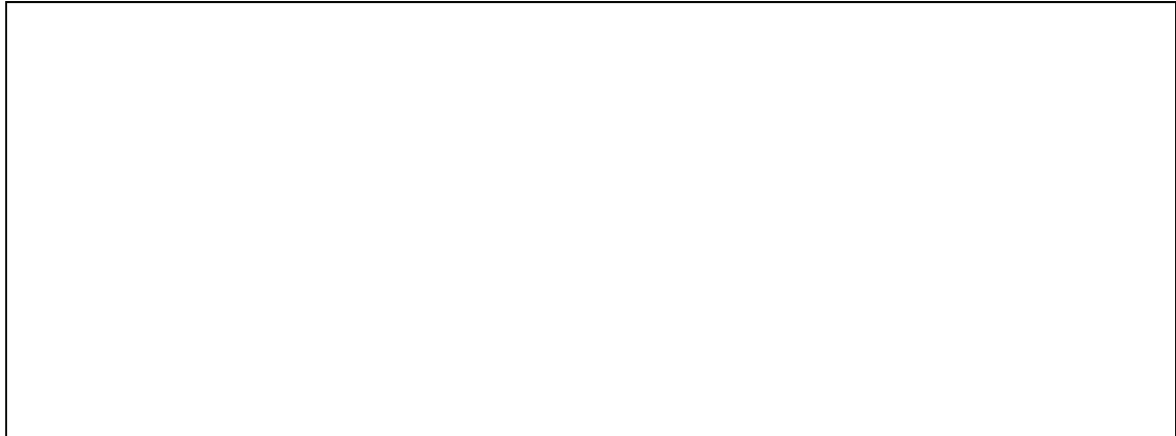
Look at the West Door.
The **tympanum** shows Jesus surrounded by angels. There are other carvings too. What can you see and why do you think they are carved here? Make notes in words or sketches below.



A Cathedral is a holy place where people meet to worship God. All are welcome. If you were to design a facade for a new Cathedral how could you show these things in its design? Note down some ideas below.

ARCHES AND PILLARS

Go into the centre of the Nave. Find somewhere to sit down and look around at the arches. Sketch the different shaped arches you see. Use the glossary in the back of this book to identify which are Norman arches and which are Early English. Make a note of these on your sketch.



The row of pillars and arches rising from ground level are called the **arcade**. Draw the different types of decoration you see. Which of these can you find?



Chevron



Nail head

Go to point B. Slowly walk down the central aisle of the Nave. As you go look closely at the pillars to your left and right. Each pair of pillars is different to the next pair. How are they different?

.....
.....

Can you identify the **triforium** and the **clerestory**? (*Look in the glossary to find out what these are*). Why don't the windows of the clerestory line up with the arches of the triforium?
(*Clue: what do their shapes tell you about their ages?*). Sketch some of the triforium and some of the clerestory. Don't forget to draw the decoration on and around them.



PAINTING AND DECORATION

Go to the North Transept.

A new fresco has been painted on the eastern wall. This is the first fresco to be painted in an English Cathedral since the twelfth century.

What ceremony in Christian faith is shown in the fresco?

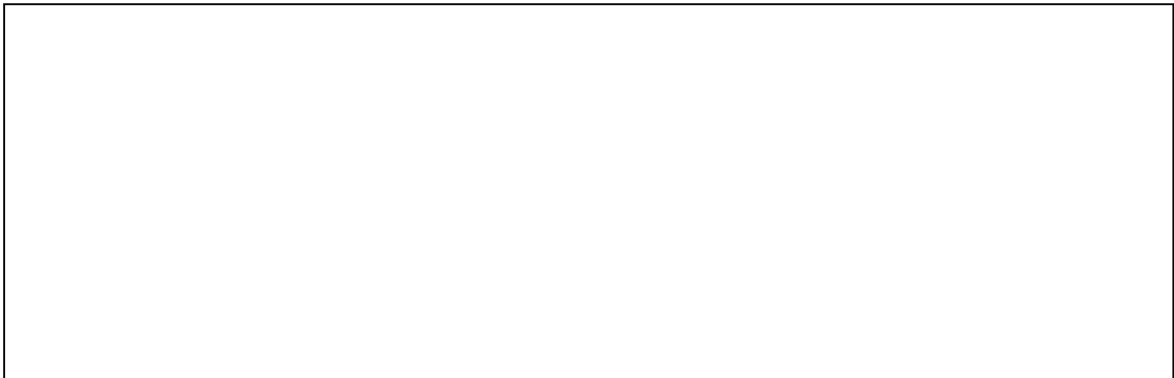
Who is shown in the picture and why do you think these images were chosen?.....

.....

.....

.....

If you were to design a new fresco for another part of Rochester Cathedral what would you put in it? Draw some ideas below.



At one time the Cathedral walls, and in some parts the ceilings, would have been covered in paintings. These paintings often depicted scenes from bible stories and events.

Go to point B.

There is a faint outline of a painting of St Christopher on the first pillar to your left (when standing facing the West Door). What purpose do you think these paintings served?.....

.....

.....

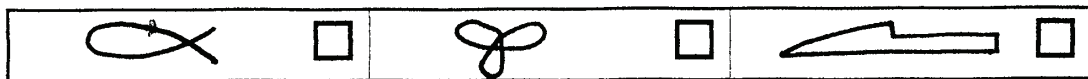
Go to point C .



If you look carefully you will see the outline of other drawings carved into the stone. These markings are evidence of a series of **murals** which once covered the walls.

Walk slowly down the Nave. Look closely at the pillars for more outlines. *The pillar at point D is a good one to look at!* The paintings were covered over. It was believed that they distracted worshippers.

Find point E. Look high up on this pillar and try to spot the **Masons marks**. A mason would put his own unique mark on stones he had cut either to show pride in his work or so that the chief mason would know how much to pay each person. Can you find any of the following marks on these pillars?



Please do not add any of your own marks!

Go to point F and find the picture called “**The Wheel of Fortune**”

The picture shows a queen, “fortune”, controlling the wheel. At the base is a poor man trying to climb higher. Above him is a slightly richer man. At the top of the wheel is the queen’s present favourite who is richly dressed and comfortable. He is looking to the missing half of the wheel where others would have been shown falling off.



Draw in your own version of the second half of the wheel.
What do you think the picture means?

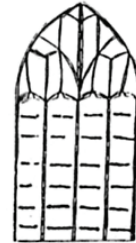
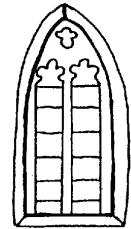
.....
.....
.....
.....



If you have time, visit the Crypt and look for the remains of a ceiling painting and also the outline of a carving of Jesus and His disciples on the wall at the entrance to the Ithamar Chapel.

WINDOWS

By looking at the shape of a window you can tell when it was built. As you walk around the Cathedral note on your plan where you see windows from the following periods (they are listed from oldest to newest).



Norman
(1077-1130)*

Early English
(1200-1255)*

Decorated
(1280-1400)*

Perpendicular
(1400-1500)*

**Dates refer to periods of building at Rochester Cathedral.*

Go to point G . How many of the above can you see from here?

Go and sit in the Lady Chapel. The **stained glass** windows here tell part of the life story of someone. Who is that person and which events are depicted?

Why do you think these events were chosen?
.....
.....

What purpose do stained glass windows serve?
.....
.....

Look around the Cathedral and find a window which you find interesting. Make a quick sketch of it in box **a**. What message is the window giving?

<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
----------	----------

In box **b** sketch ideas for your own stained glass window. What are you trying to say through the design of your window?

.....
.....

Most of the glass in Rochester Cathedral dates from Victorian times onwards, as problems during the Civil War left little original glass.

CEILINGS AND FLOORS

Ceilings

Go to point G in the Nave.

Look up at the ceiling. Looking down at you are many strange faces, these are **Green Men**. There are many ideas about what these faces represent. Some people believe they represent natural life, death and decay.

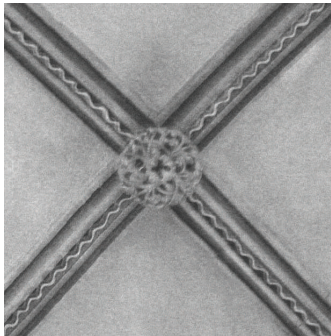


How many can you see?.....What do you think they could represent?

.....
.....

Vaulting

Go to point H between the Quire and the Presbytery.



Look up at the ceiling. You will see a series of arch-like structures which are divided into sections by **ribs**. This is called **vaulting**. In some places **bosses** can be found where the ribs meet.

Look up at the vaulting here. Draw the two different designs of vaulting and note down on your sketch how they are different.

Floors

Go to point I. Look at the floor tiles in the roped-off area. These are Medieval **encaustic tiles**. If you look carefully you can still see the pattern on some. The other tiles in this area are Victorian. Sketch some tile patterns around the borders of this page.

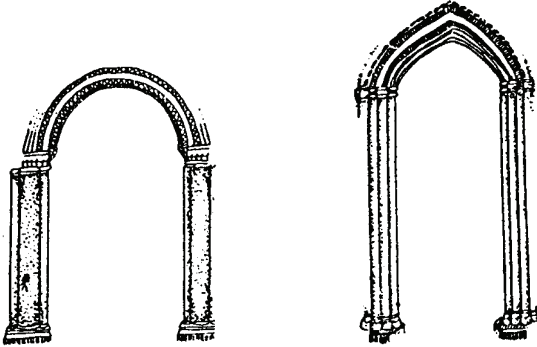
Look at the diamond shaped tiles in the Presbytery. They are meant to depict birds and beasts. Can you guess why?

GLOSSARY

Tick the features you find in the Cathedral. Mark some of them on the Cathedral plan.

Arcade : Arches separating the nave from the aisles.

Arch : Curved or pointed construction made from stone.



Base : Lowest part of pillar, made up of the plinth with moulding.

Boss : Ornament placed at the meeting of ribs on a ceiling, used to cover the join. They are usually made in painted wood or stone and often depict figures or foliage.

Capital : Top of pillar supporting the arch, often carved.

Chevron: Zig-zag pattern used to decorate arches.

Clerestory: Upper level of the Nave. Windows let in more light.

Encaustic Tiles: Glazed clay tiles in varying colours used on the floor.

Facade: Outside of a building usually facing the street.

Fresco: A method of painting on wet plaster.

Gargoyle: Carved stone waterspout in the form of animals, humans or mythical beasts.

Green Man : Wood or stone carving of a face amidst foliage.

Mason's mark : Trade mark of a mason, often found on pillars.

Nail Head : Ornamental moulding of raised pyramid shapes from late Norman period.

Ribs : Arched supports dividing the ceiling into sections.

Stained glass : Painted pieces of glass held together by lead-work.

Tracery : Ornamental stonework in a window or a screen.

Triforium: Series of arches above the main arcade and below the clerestory.

Tympanum : Space between top of doorway and arch above it.

