

## Hassocks (Kneelers)

The monks knelt on the stone floor to say their prayers. Nowadays people prefer to kneel on something softer.

Kneelers are made by stitching wool on to canvas. The design is painted on the canvas and the stitcher follows this, selecting wool that matches the colour chosen by the designer. Some kneelers show the date they were made and give the initials of the stitcher.

Look at the kneelers in the nave. Which symbols can you see?

Now look up at the ceiling. Can you spot similar symbols on the roof bosses? Is there a kneeler for Abbot Ramsam?

*Hint: Roof bosses are the round pictorial shapes to be found where ribs in the vaulting meet.*

The **Lady Chapel** kneelers hanging on the chairs. Some show regimental symbols, others illustrate important events in the history of the Abbey.

What was used to start the fire in 1437?

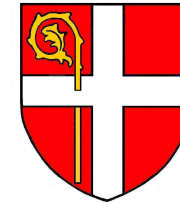
For how long was the Abbey a Benedictine Monastery?

From what was the Abbey saved in 1940?

*Hint: Laus Deo means Praise be to God.*

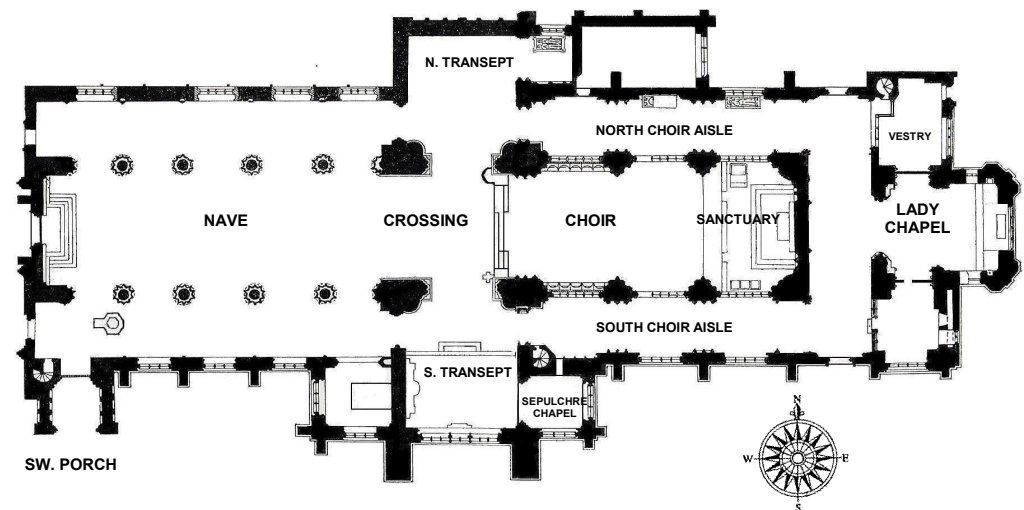
**Don't forget to collect the sticker for your passport.**

## SHERBORNE ABBEY



### TRAILS — 2

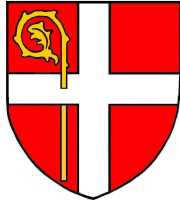
### SYMBOLS and TEXTILES



Name: ..... Age: .....

A symbol is a sign, often in the form of a picture.  
(Symbols and signs tell us things without using words)

The Abbey's symbol looks like this:



As you walk round the Abbey look for its symbol.  
It may be high up or low down, carved in wood,  
painted or stitched.

Count how many you see. It could be over 100.

I found  Abbey symbols.

In early times an Abbot was in charge of the Abbey.  
Many abbots had their own symbol, known as a  
rebus.

Abbot Ramsam liked jokes. His rebus makes a joke  
of his name, *Peter RamSam*. When you find give it  
yourself a tick.



*Clue: Try looking to the left of the nave organ.*

Christmas and Easter are times of celebration so the  
pink frontal reflects joyful music and song. There are  
instruments from early times as well as those we still  
play. How many do you recognise?

Which is the sackbut?

*(When not in use the frontals are kept in a special cupboard.  
The Verger might let you see them but only if he is not busy).*

The **Lady Chapel** has only two frontals, one blue  
and the other cream. The blue one has regimental  
crests on it. Which regiments do they represent?

The cream one is the newest in the Abbey. Which  
saint does it represent?

*(More answers to find in the **Lady Chapel** overleaf)*

**Sepulchre Chapel** The frontal here symbolises  
Jesus' tomb. Kneel down and look at it carefully. What  
fabrics or other materials were used? How are the  
colours varied?

*(This chapel is used by people who want to be quiet and talk  
to God. Peep in first to make sure you will not disturb anyone).*

## Altar Frontals

The church has seasons but not Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The main Church seasons are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Trinity, and each has a special colour. In the Abbey we use a sequence of colours different from most churches. Advent and Lent are blue, Christmas and Easter pink, Holy Week is old red, and Good Friday is black. The rest of the year ('Ordinary Time') is red.

### Look at the High Altar.

In which season are you visiting the Abbey?

*Hint: Advent is in December, Epiphany is early January, Lent is just before Easter. Trinity lasts a very long time and starts in late Spring.*

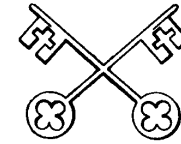
The red frontal has pictures of the fan vaulting and the roof bosses. Which bosses do you recognise?

Is the mermaid there?

The design on the blue frontal was inspired by the tiles in the Lady Chapel. Whose symbol does it depict?

Many saints have their own symbols.

St. Peter has crossed keys



St. Paul a sword



St. Andrew a diagonal cross

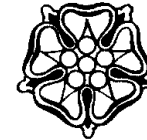


The Virgin Mary has several symbols.

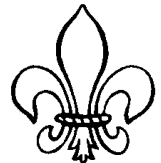
lily



rose



fleur de lys

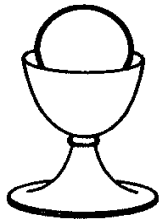


The Abbey is dedicated to the Virgin Mary so you will find a number of her symbols, especially in the Lady Chapel.

You will also find symbols of many other saints as well.

**Banners** are kept in the North Choir Aisle. They are carried in procession for important services.

Look carefully at the big one on the right. It is very heavy and is usually carried by a tall man. At least six different textiles were used to make it. Can you identify leather, silk, satin, brocade and lamé?

These are symbols of the bread and wine used in the Communion Service.

Can you see two other symbols for bread and wine on the banner?

What are they?

St. Aldhelm is in the middle of the fawn woven banner. What is he holding in his hand?

There are four other symbols on this banner.

Can you work out who, or what, each one represents?

One symbol appears on all five banners.

Which symbol is it?

The very small red banner was designed and made by children. In the space below design your own banner.

