

Kingston-on-Soar St Winifred The Babington Monument

Aim: To explore the Babington Monument

Objective: The children will look in detail at the monument and some of the meaning behind the images on it

Curriculum links:

Local history
Tudors

Activity: In small groups the children will look at the monument, draw parts of it and decipher some of the symbolism used. This would be most suitable for Key Stage 2 children.

Resources:

Paper and pens



heritage learning welcome



Information for Leader

Check with the school beforehand to see if they have covered the Babington plot in history. If they have you can use this as an introduction to the monument. It was built by Anthony Babington's grandparents and it is rumoured that he hid on top of the monument before he was captured.

Introduction (15 mins)

- Welcome the children into church and sit them where they will be able to see the monument. Introduce yourself and the Babington monument. If this is their first time in the church, what is their first reaction to the monument?
- Explain some of the features of the monument
 - There are 200 'babes in tuns' (tun being another name for a barrel or wine cask) which is a pun on the name 'Babington'.
 - There is not a tomb under the monument – if you look at similar monuments they will have a tomb and figures under the archway.
 - The carved stones on the wall of the arch to the nave were originally on top of the monument.
 - The monument was cleaned and restored in 1992 and it was discovered then that some of the original paint remained on the altar side of the monument, try imagining it would have looked like painted.

Activity (30-50 mins)

- Divide the children into groups, each with an adult, and rotate round the following activities as appropriate (there may not be time for all children to attempt all the activities).
 - The children look at the judgement carving and see if they can find the following features:
 - Jesus sitting on a rainbow
 - Dead people coming from graves
 - Angels blowing trumpets
 - The tower to the left of Jesus. This was the 'narrow way' Jesus described the way to heaven as being through the narrow gate.
 - Hell is shown as a huge mouth with frightened people going in
 - The children can draw the lower carving on the wall of the arch. Can they find the following?

- The rose and crown of Henry VIII being held by a greyhound and a dragon
 - The Babington coat of arms held by two chained baboons (which were commonly associated with the family)
 - A wyvern's head (a two-legged dragon)
 - The tuns (barrels)
- How many versions of the Babington coat of arms can the children find in church?
 - Look at the hexagons on the pillars. Most of these have lost the carvings that would originally have been in them, but a few remain. What can the children see? Why might those have been included? What would they put in the spaces, and why?
 - Going outside church, what evidence can the children find of the Babington family?

Plenary (5 mins)

- Bring the children back together, sitting where they can see the monument. In pairs they can share what has most impressed them about the monument.

Extension

- Look at other monuments and compare them to the Babington monument
 - <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/langar/hmonumnt.php>
 - <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/ratcliffe-on-soar/hpics.php>
 - <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/wysall/hpics.php>
 - <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/daybrook/hmonumnt.php>
- Painting pictures of the monument but imagine it was still coloured. What might it look like? Look at other monuments that are coloured for ideas
 - <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/averham/hmonumnt.php>
 - <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/colwick-old-church/hmonumnt.php>