

Perlethorpe St John

The natural world

Aim: To look closely at the carvings in church and reflect these in their own work.

Objective: To create something based on the carvings in church which reflects the glory of the natural world.

Curriculum links:

KS1: using art and design . . . to develop their creative talents and imagination

KS2: expressing and communicating their own and others' insights through art and design . . .

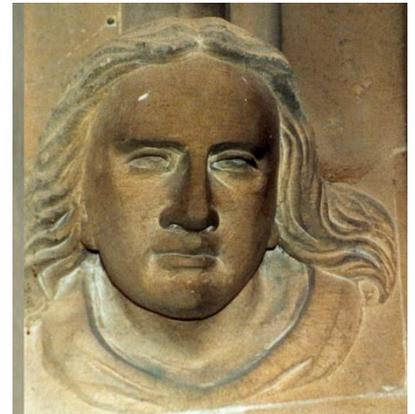
Activity: After looking at some of the carvings the children will create their own designs

Resources: This will depend on the activities you choose:

- Paper plates, glue, scissors (in bad weather you could bring natural materials into church for the children to use)
- Cereal boxes that have been unstuck, turned inside out and glued together again (so the boxes are plain), glue, scissors (again, in bad weather it might be appropriate to bring natural materials in from outside)
- Plain paper, pencils, boards to rest on
- Play dough (recipes are readily available to make this – add colouring as appropriate), tools for shaping (old knives, lollipop sticks, etc.) Boards or plastic to work on, boards to keep finished work on
- Bars of soap, old knives, cutlery, nails, lollipop sticks, etc to carve with. This is very messy and might be best done outside, or with a large sheet of plastic to catch the shavings.
- Paper, pens, pencils, boards to rest on



heritage learning welcome



Information for Leader

There is a selection of activities to choose from in this session. You could choose one activity for all the children, or you could have a range of activities and the children choose which they would like to do, or a range and have the children in groups (which the teacher will usually arrange for you) and then rotate some or all of the activities.

Introduction (20 mins)

- Welcome the children into church. Settle them down in the pews, and then give them a moment to look around at the building from their seats. Ask what they see that they like.
- One of the most impressive things about this church is the carving. There's all sorts of things carved here, mythical (imaginary) animals, real animals, people, plants, patterns . . . Some are carved from wood and some from stone. Ask the children to wander round and find their favourite three carvings. They need to find;
 - A plant or something that grows on a plant
 - An animal – this can be real or mythical
 - A person – this can be a whole person or just their headAs they look for their favourites they should be thinking about why they like that particular carving, and what it is made from.
- Bring the children back together and ask them to take their partner to see their three favourite carvings and explain why they liked them.

Activity (20-40 mins)

- Bring the children back together. Ask a few children which carvings they chose and why.
- Choose from the following activities:
 - Ask the children to look at the ends of the pews and the patterns in the circles. Give each child a plate and take them outside to look for leaves, twigs, berries, etc., to make their own patterns on the plate.
 - Give pairs of children an empty cereal box. Take them outside and ask them to decorate the box as if it is the end of a pew.
 - The children could draw one of their favourite carvings. As they draw, talk with them about what they can see and encourage them to look carefully at what they see. Older children may be able to include some shading to show the relief of the carving.
 - Give each child some dough and ask them to make their own model. This could be a real or imaginary animal or based on the foliage and plants in some of the carvings.
 - Children can carve their own animals or leaves from a bar of soap. Encourage them to keep the overall shape simple and to add details later if they have time. This can be very messy and might be best done outside.
 - The children can make up a story or plot about some of the creatures they can see. This could be about when the carvings came alive in the night, or about the creatures in their natural habitat.

Plenary (5 mins)

- Bring the children together with their work. Look at some examples, talking about the detail they have included and how well they have looked at the carvings.
- The carvings were originally put in church as a reminder of God's great creation. Either spend a moment reflecting on the variety and beauty of the creation they have been considering in the session, or use the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the variety of your creation and for the skill of the men who over the years have made this building so beautiful. We thank you, that you made us with creative talents and that we can reflect your world in our work.

Amen