

## 8 Mixed up Mortuary Chests

**TASK** How could we test the bones today to find out which bones belong to which person?

Look up on top of the walls to see the six chests. They contain the bones of early kings, bishops and a queen. When the Roundheads raided, they opened the chests and threw the bones at the windows! Local people put the bones back in the chests, but they were all mixed up.

Gimme back my funny bone!

Only if you return my spine!

## 7 Carvings in the Quire

This is where the choir sings. Look at the carvings above the wooden benches.

**TASK** Find a monkey, lion and dragon.



## 6 Private Presbytery

This is the holiest part of the Cathedral, where in the past only monks were allowed. They came here seven times a day to pray. Services are still held here every day.

The statues on the Great Screen were added in Victorian times. Can you see the statue of Saint Swithun (he's holding a bridge)? The mirror table has a plan that shows who all the statues are.

**TASK** Now lie down on the steps. It might not be comfy, but it's the best way to look at the fantastic ceiling. Can you find the white greyhound, the gold pelican and three dice?



## 5 Painful Pilgrim Steps

On their way to Saint Swithun's shrine, pilgrims would crawl up these steps on their knees to show God that they were sorry for their sins.

**TASK** Try it for yourself. Painful, isn't it!



## 4 Creepy Crypt

The word 'crypt' means 'hidden place'. It wasn't used for burials, but for prayer. Imagine what it was like, full of flickering candlelight, long shadows and the low chanting of the monks...

**TASK** The Crypt often floods in winter, and the water can rise to the knees of the statue. Is it wet or dry today?

## 3 Ancient North Transept

This is one of the oldest parts of the Cathedral. It took 14 years just to build this bit! How are the arches here different from the ones in the nave?

**TASK** Can you find the hedgehogs on two of the gravestones?



## 2 Fantastic Font

The font is used for baptisms. On one of the sides the carvings tell a story of three boys who had been murdered by an innkeeper. He was about to pickle them for eating later, when Saint Nicholas brought them back to life. Phew!

**TASK** Find the 'Pickle Boys' in the carving. What else can you see?

**START HERE**  
Find the numbers...follow the trail

## 1 Enormous Nave

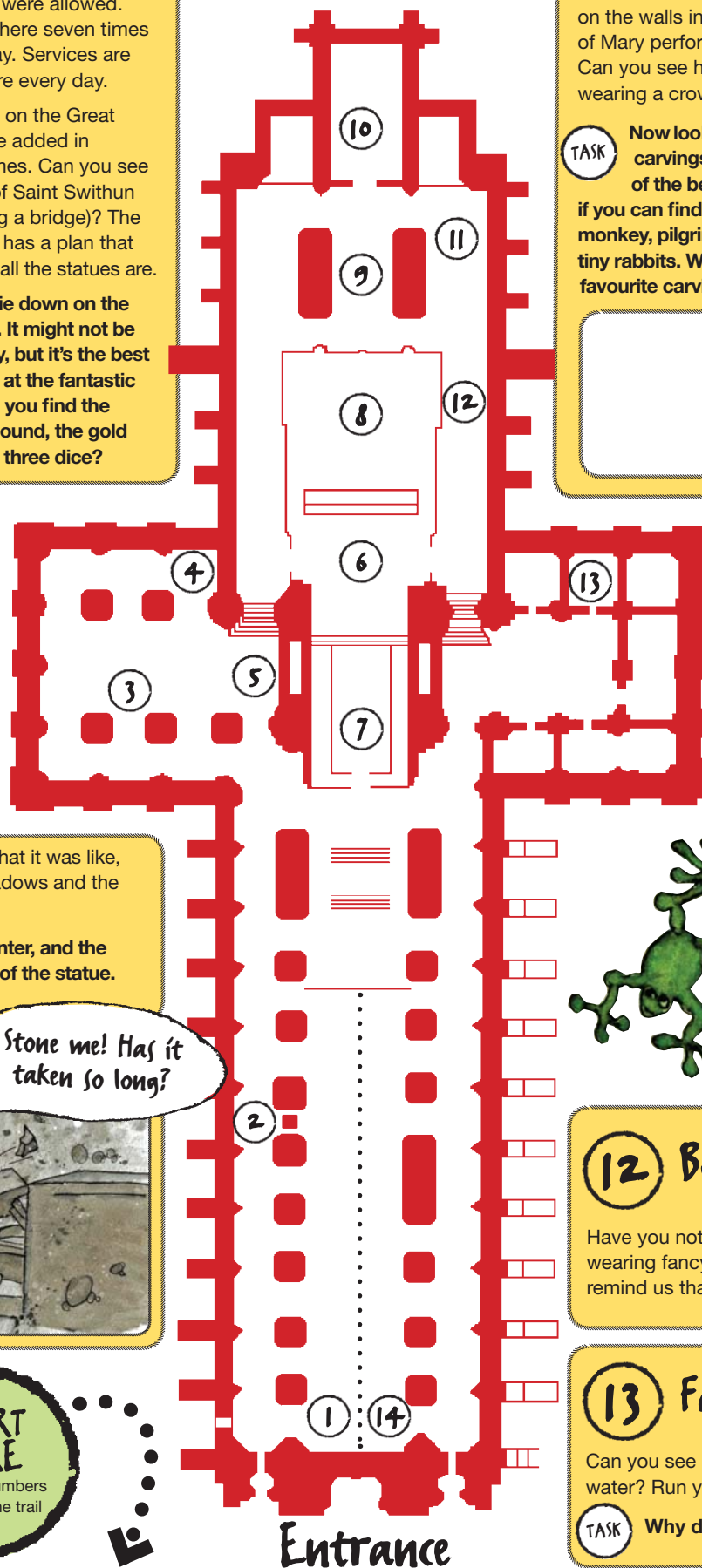
Wow! Just look at the size of this room, called the nave. It was once the longest nave in Europe.

**TASK** Measure it by counting your footsteps from here to the altar rail (use the dotted line on the plan to help you).

Look up at the ceiling above the windows. Can you see the ugly faces and strange beasts? In medieval times, people thought that if you were bad inside, it would show in your face!

**TASK** Who can pull the ugliest face in your group?

## Floor Plan



Entrance



## 10 Lovely Lady Chapel

This chapel is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. Most of the paintings on the walls include pictures of Mary performing miracles. Can you see her (clue: she's wearing a crown)?

**TASK** Now look at the amazing carvings on the ends of the benches. See if you can find a dragon, monkey, pilgrim, bishop and tiny rabbits. Which is your favourite carving? Draw it:



## 9 Saint Swithun's Holy Hole

Can you find a tiny 'doorway'? This was the entrance to a tunnel that led underneath Saint Swithun's shrine. Pilgrims crawled into the tunnel to get as close as possible to his bones, then they asked Saint Swithun to pray for them in heaven for God to cure their illnesses.

In 1538, the king's men raided the Cathedral and Saint Swithun's bones were lost forever. Can you find Saint Swithun's metal memorial?

**TASK** Which two dates can you find on the metal memorial?



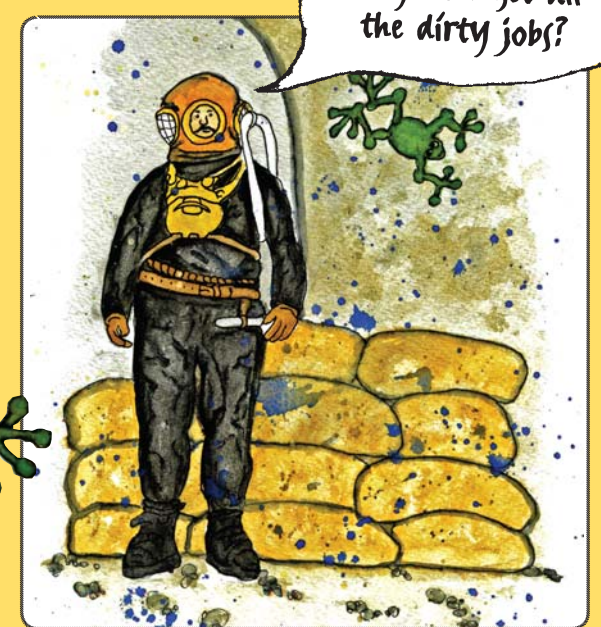
## 11 William Walker saves the day

About 100 years ago, this part of the Cathedral was sinking. The foundations were underwater, so a deep sea diver called William Walker helped to repair the sinking foundations with concrete. He had to work in a diving suit, in darkness, for six hours a day, for six years to make the Cathedral safe again. What a hero!

Imagine what might have happened if William hadn't done the work...

**TASK** Look down: Can you see proof that the floor was sinking?

**TASK** Look up: Count the metal rods that hold the walls together.



## 12 Bony Bishop Fox

Have you noticed all the statues of bishops? Most of them are shown wearing fancy clothes. Bishop Fox wanted his statue to be a skeleton, to remind us that we are all the same under our skin!

## 13 Fab Fisherman's Chapel

Can you see how the furniture in this chapel is carved to look like ripples on water? Run your fingers over the seats. Describe what they feel like.

**TASK** Why do you think there might be a special chapel for fishermen?



## 14 Wonderful West Window

The West Window was smashed to pieces by the Roundheads. Local people saved the glass, then the window was later rebuilt as a mosaic.

**TASK** Look for this coat of arms in the window. As well as some faces and bodies, what else can you see?

**WELL DONE**  
You've completed the trail!



# Welcome to Winchester Cathedral

Winchester Cathedral was built by the Normans almost 1,000 years ago. This was in the days of castles, crusades and courageous knights. It has always been a place where people come to worship God and His Son Jesus Christ.

## Did You Know?

A cathedral is a church that has a bishop's throne in it. A bishop is a very important priest.

The Cathedral is still used today for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Baptism is when anyone of any age becomes a member of the Christian family. The sign of the cross is drawn on their heads with holy water drawn from the font. Some people call it Christening.

Christians have worshipped on this site for more than 1400 years.

**TASK**  
Look carefully at this picture of the Cathedral being built. It shows the nave before the roof was added. What other things are different today?

## William the Conqueror

William, Duke of Normandy, invaded England and became king in 1066. He had lots of castles and cathedrals built to show off his great power. His people were called the 'Normans'.

He was Bishop of Winchester in Anglo Saxon times, and is a patron saint of the Cathedral. For many years his bones were kept here in a beautiful casket. Pilgrims would ask Saint Swithun for his prayers in heaven for God to cure their illnesses.

## Saint Swithun

## Who Was Who?

Here are some of the people who are mentioned in the trail.

## Roundheads

In the English Civil War the Roundheads (on the side of Oliver Cromwell and Parliament) fought the Cavaliers (on the side of King Charles I). The Roundheads damaged many cathedrals, including Winchester.

## Pilgrims

These people travelled to holy places to pray, or to find cures for their illnesses. They often wore broad-brimmed hats and gowns tied with ropes.

## Monks

Monks are holy men who give their lives to God. Winchester Cathedral was run by Benedictine monks until 1539. They wore long black robes with hoods (called habits).

**TASK**  
Can you find the monks in the picture?



1348 Victims of the Plague



1642-48 Roundheads attack the Cathedral

## Winchester Cathedral's 'Wicked' History

- 648** The first of two Saxon cathedrals is built here
- 828** Winchester becomes the capital of England
- 852-862** Saint Swithun is Bishop of Winchester
- 1079** The Normans start to build this Cathedral
- 1093** Saint Swithun's bones are brought here from the Saxon Cathedral, which was the demolished
- 1348** The Plague (or Black Death) kills about half the population of Winchester. Victims had boils and fever, then died within days.
- 1538** Saint Swithun's shrine is destroyed by King Henry VIII's men. His bones are lost forever.
- 1642-48** English Civil War. The Roundheads attack the Cathedral, smashing windows and scattering bones. Local people gather up all the broken bits.
- 1660** The west window is put back together.
- 1906-11** The Cathedral is sinking. William Walker works underwater to repair the foundations

Now fill in the date you visited and what the best bit was:

date: \_\_\_\_\_  
the best bit was... \_\_\_\_\_

Most of the pictures in the trail are from the illustrator's imagination, with a little help from our history experts. Do they help you imagine what the Cathedral was like in the past?

## 'Wicked' Winchester Cathedral

Bones, bodies, beasts and baddies  
A very horrid children's trail

