

# **PILGRIMS AND PILGRIMAGE WORKSHOP**

## **Note for schools – Pilgrims workshop**

Please see below for the pilgrim information each child will need to be able to take part in the workshop on Pilgrimage at Chichester Cathedral. I would stress that the children will really benefit from being familiar with their characters and knowing why they have come as a pilgrim to the Cathedral.

There are three groups of characters (blue, yellow and orange). Each half class should be allocated their personalities in advance. Please ensure an even spread among the three groups. Hopefully there should be too many parts since it assumes a class size of 42 children! Each child will need to know his /her own identity and the colour of the group they are in. Please don't worry too much about gender. Roland the musician (or Rosalind) is most welcome to bring a recorder and play a few notes at the Shrine as his / her offering. I will leave this to your discretion. One child from each group will be asked to light a candle; please ensure that you choose a child who knows this will be part of their role!

From experience I suggest that you photocopy the parts and cut up the pages so each child has a copy of their part, both so they are reminded of their character and also they can be given the right costume to put on!

## PILGRIM INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN

### **BLUE GROUP FROM TARRING – GROUP 1**

(The people in this village have a special devotion to St Richard, as he lived there when King Henry III would not allow him into his Cathedral. They have come on foot.)

#### Father Walter

I am the priest from the village of Tarring. I am taking a group from my church to visit the shrine of St Richard. At Tarring, we often remember St Richard, as he knew Tarring well. He stayed here with the priest called Simon, when the King would not allow him to go into Chichester. The journey should not be too difficult for most of my group, but I shall have to keep an eye on Paul. I have brought some figs from my orchard to feed us on the journey. I hope that at the shrine I shall have enough time to pray. I have brought a candle to leave at the Cathedral.

#### Mark, the village bailiff

I look after all the farming in the village and make sure that everyone does their job well. My wife and daughter are coming with me to Chichester, but I am going to see that Paul behaves himself. I love my daughter very much, but a son would be a great help when I'm older. I shall pray about this at the shrine.

#### Elizabeth

I am the wife of the village bailiff and I've made sure that we are all well dressed for this visit. My daughter and I have embroidered an altar cloth as a gift for the Cathedral. I am still hoping that I might have more children, especially a son. When I come to the shrine I shall offer prayers about this.

#### Matilda

I am the bailiff's daughter. I am looking forward to visiting Chichester, as life at Tarring can be dull. I hope that I shall make some new friends in the City. My mother and I have worked hard making an embroidered cloth to leave at the shrine.

#### Paul

Father Mark has said that I must join this pilgrimage because I have been such a naughty boy. I always seem to be in trouble, stealing food or playing jokes on people. There were very angry when I hid their tools. I have to begin the walk barefoot, but I hope he'll let me put shoes on when I come to Chichester. I would like to keep out of trouble and will ask St Richard to help me to be better.

#### Edward the Blacksmith

Last year one of my tools broke and I got badly burned. I thought I would not be able to work again, but the whole village prayed to St Richard for me and I got better. I've come to thank St Richard for this and I've made a candlestick holder to leave at the shrine.

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**Blue Group contd.**

Mary the Ale House Keeper

I have worked very hard at making ale from barley, especially at harvest time. This year I have sold a lot of ale, as the harvest was good. I have brought a bag of coins from my profits to say thank you. This is the first time I have left Tarring and it is a great adventure.

Thomas the Farrier

I am the village farrier and I make sure the horses have proper shoes on their feet. My father knew Richard when he lived with Simon of Tarring and thought he was a very holy man. I am bringing a horseshoe to offer at the Shrine in memory of my father.

## **YELLOW GROUP FROM OVERSEAS – GROUP 2**

(This group came from different parts of Europe and met up on the boat to Portsmouth. They have come on horseback.)

### Sir Richard de Mandeville – a crusader knight

When I was young I went to the Holy Land to fight. I am proud to wear the cross of a Crusader, but now feel too old to fight. I am going home to my family in Lewes. I was named Richard after Richard of Chichester, so am going there to give thanks for my safe return. I have brought with me a small piece of wood, which is believed to be part of the cross on which Jesus died. I have put it in a special box.

### His Squire – Geoffrey

We have had a hard time travelling across Europe and my master is feeling very tired. I hope that as well as visiting the Cathedral, I shall meet some more young people and have some fun in Chichester. At the shrine I shall pray that I become a good knight and find a good Lord to serve. I know that the King sometimes visits Chichester. I have brought some coins to leave at the shrine.

### An Oxford Scholar – Benedict

I often think of Richard when I study. Like him I have visited the Universities of Bologna and Paris. I have copied out a poem, which a scholar far from home wrote long ago and I am going to leave it at the shrine.

### Brother John

In my monastery I am the chief beekeeper and I have been allowed to leave my monastery to visit other monasteries famous for their beekeeping. I hope to find out all the ways that honey is used in England. I have brought a candle made of the very finest beeswax to leave at the shrine.

### Lord Matthew Duchesne

My wife and I are visiting my lands in England. I have left a good steward looking after my vineyards in France. My wife is tired and we may stay a few days in Chichester if there is somewhere suitable for people like us. At the shrine I shall pray for my parents, who died last year and leave a silver chalice as a gift.

### Lady Anne Duchesne

I am the wife of Lord Matthew. I found the journey from France very tiring and the sea very rough on the crossing to Portsmouth. At the shrine I shall pray that I shall soon have a child of my own. I have brought two jewelled brooches to leave as a gift.

### Eleanor – a maid to Lady Anne

I have been very busy looking after Lady Anne on the journey from France. I hope we shall rest for a few days in Chichester and I shall meet some young people. I would really like to stay in England and would be very happy if I found a husband in Chichester. Perhaps St Richard will help me. I shall light a candle at the shrine.

### **ORANGE GROUP FROM DROITWICH – GROUP 3**

(Richard was born in Droitwich and is still remembered there. A visiting Friar has persuaded some of the townspeople to come to the shrine. A rich widow has paid for the journey and they have all lived as comfortably as possible staying in taverns rather than inns.)

#### Brother Luke – A Dominican Friar

I am the leader of pilgrims from Droitwich. Richard was born here, lived and farmed here and is still remembered here. After our visit to the Cathedral I plan to stay at the priory in Chichester and then go on to the shrine of St Thomas at Canterbury.

#### Agnes – a rich widow

My husband was a cloth merchant and we often travelled together. I miss this, so was pleased when Brother Luke suggested we made a pilgrimage to where St Richard was Bishop. We have had quite a comfortable journey and I have made sure that we always stay in the best places and have only good food. At the shrine I shall ask the priest to say special prayers for my husband. I shall give money to the priest and have brought some beautiful cloth for the Cathedral.

#### Agnes' daughter – Catharine

I am travelling with my mother Agnes. The journey has been fun as we have met lots of new people. Chichester seems to be a lively place too. At the shrine I shall pray for my Father. I have made a chalice cover in his memory.

#### James – a cook

Mistress Agnes has brought me along so that I can cook for them all on the way. I am also there to protect them. I learnt to fight as a young man in the Holy Land. I shall make sure that our group is able to get close to the shrine.

#### Wulfric – the silversmith

When I was young I wanted to be a monk, but my father died and I had to look after my mother and sisters. Then I married and had a daughter. Now my mother and wife are dead and my daughter and sisters are married. I am hoping that it is not too late to become a monk. I shall pray about this at the shrine and also for my daughter who is expecting a baby. I have made a beautiful cross especially for the shrine.

#### Roland – a musician (or Rosalind)

I joined this group just outside Chichester. I am a good musician and enjoy making all sorts of music. I can play several instruments. In the summer I collect quite a lot of money when I play the recorder at shrines. I am hoping that I will find a Lord who will take me into his house for the winter. I have heard a rumour that the King is coming to Chichester!

#### Eloise – a singer (or Edmund)

I travel with Roland (or Rosalind) and make money from singing at weddings and parties. I am hoping to find a job as a singer in a big household over the cold winter months.

## NOTES FOR TEACHERS - MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGE

### ORIGINS OF PILGRIMAGE

The word pilgrim comes from the Latin word peregrinus, meaning stranger or wanderer. Among Christ's healing miracles some involved the simple touching of his robes by the faithful. The apostles' link with Jesus meant they too were treated as having healing powers. Devout people were fascinated with visiting the Holy Land, seeing the Temple site in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives and bathing in the River Jordan – renewing their lives by baptism there. Relics of Jesus' life: the cross, robes, lance, sword etc became divided up and taken to every country to be venerated. The cult of venerating holy relics became firmly established by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. These soon included those of the Apostles, the Virgin Mary and the growing body of saints – holy men whose lives were associated with miraculous intervention and cures – whose tombs were touched by the faithful, prayers offered and gifts presented. Pilgrimages to the shrines of saints and to the Holy Land reached their height in the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### WHY GO ON A PILGRIMAGE?

1. Cures.
2. Penance for sin. This might be voluntary but increasingly was imposed on the sinner by the Church. Henry II at Canterbury is an example of the first.
3. Thanksgiving.
4. Spiritual inspiration.
5. Travel and fellowship

NB Medieval preoccupation with death and judgement were powerful reasons for getting things right with God. A pilgrimage would be an attractive answer and an enormously important event in a person's life.

### PILGRIMAGE AMONG WORLD FAITHS

Pilgrimage is not confined to Christianity. Most faiths lay emphasis upon visiting sites which are especially holy to them. Thus all Moslems are supposed to visit Mecca at least once; Hindus visit the Ganges River; Jews visit Jerusalem and Buddhists, the centres of his work in China.

### THE MAIN CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE SITES

Jerusalem; Rome – Saints Peter and Paul; Compostella in Spain – Saint James; Assisi – Saint Francis; Tours in France – Saint Martin. In England and Wales they included: Canterbury – St Thomas Becket; Lindisfarne and Durham – St Cuthbert; St David's; St Albans; Glastonbury – Joseph of Arimathea, and Walsingham. Such centres gained in wealth and importance to the benefit not only of the shrines themselves but of trades people, craftsmen and innkeepers etc. Those without a saint and martyr made up for this by collecting holy relics instead, e.g. Exeter.

## ORGANISING THE PILGRIMAGE

Travel needed to be in groups for safety. Dress – traditionally consisted of a grey cowl, broad rimmed hat, staff, sack and water carrier. Poor pilgrims went on foot, better off went by horse. Rich and poor were both represented. Hostels on established routes were used for lodging and food. This might be free at abbeys etc., en route. The need for entertainment to keep up the spirits meant the growth of storytelling, (hence Chaucer's Canterbury Tales) and of music and dance. The music associated with the route to Compostella still exists and centres mainly on accounts of miracles attributed to the Virgin Mary sung in verse form to the accompaniment of minstrels. On arrival pilgrims would be led to the holy sites or shrines, where prayers would be said, gifts presented in cash or kind and candles lit. Images were often purchased to hang over the shrine and pilgrim medals were bought as badges.