



S.P.E.A.K. Project

St. Peter's Educational Activities for Kids

Over the last few months a committed group of educationalists have been devising a wide range of exciting learning experiences for children visiting the Ancient St. Peter's Church Monkwearmouth .

The site is undergoing a major redevelopment as the Council prepare to provide a permanent outdoor feature of the ' footprint' of the Wearmouth Monastery that stood has here since 674 AD . This is due for completion in June 2015 .

To encourage children to enjoy this, a whole series of 'experiences' have been created to celebrate the history of this Church , and will we hope, become a useful tool for local schools to enjoy in years to come . The first focus of the group was to match the development of the activities with the New National Curriculum Criteria , so primary aged children can enrich their learning in R.E, History and Geography , with real experiences .

For **KS1** Pupils we offer the activities related to the main features of a church, the symbolism of baptism and symbols in a church .

Our **KS2** offering focuses on the Church as a 'springboard' for a Local Study , the exploration of the Anglo Saxon Monastic life , and the chance to study a local significant person.

What is on offer can be found on the attachment , and has been designed to be flexible to be tailored to each teacher's needs and their class focus .

We offer either a half day or full day's visit. The charge for the experience is £1.00 per child . We are within a 10 minute (safe) walk from the St. Peter's Metro station.

Having piloted these activities over the last two months we have had a lot of favourable feedback from both teachers and children alike.

We have strong links with the National Glass Centre and can arrange shared visits so schools enjoy both experiences.

All bookings for these visits should be made via the Parish Office;

Val Hughes Monday to Friday 9.00am – 1.00 pm tel 0191 5160135

email; monkwearmouth.parish@durham.anglican.org

While ' **teacher questions** ' should be directed to stpeters.speak@gmail.com where particular issues and needs can be discussed to tailor visits to your particular needs .

You are welcome to attend a '**Teachers Open Day**' on **Thursday 12th February** between 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm in St. Peter's Church to become familiar with the activities on offer .



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A typical visit would involve the children entering the Church in the 'role' of archaeologists. (they will be provided with hi-viz jackets and hard hats). They will explore some of the ancient stones held within the church. It will be explained that they need to travel back in time to see what this building has witnessed over the last 1300 years. They will be taken to a physical 20 metre timeline from the present day to AD 674. By walking this journey there will be the opportunity to discover the rich history of Sunderland through artefacts, photographs, drawings and song. When they reach the AD 674 doorway they 'become' Anglo Saxon Monks each wearing their own habits. Here there will be an interactive theatrical performance to engage the children. Following that, we offer a 'carousel' of a wide range of learning activities, craft activities and interactive experiences to demonstrate how life was back in Anglo Saxon times. There is even the opportunity to share an authentic monastic hot meal (eaten in silence!)

