



## Education at Salisbury Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Salisbury – commonly known as Salisbury Cathedral – is the Cathedral Church of the Salisbury diocese and thus the Mother Church of several hundred parishes in Wiltshire and Dorset. It is a centre of pilgrimage for hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Each day, week in week out, as for century after century, God is worshipped here. Above all it is a place of prayer, contemplation and deep spirituality.

Donations from our congregation, visitors and local supporters ensure that our daily work is funded, but we do need support for our Education Centre. We are always grateful for donations to support our work to teach children and young people across the diocese about the Christian faith. Through careful use of volunteers, we manage to keep our education costs very low, but we still need to raise £29,954 in 2009/2010 to support our work. We would be very grateful for a donation of any size to support our work, and hope you will be able to support us.

### Introduction to Salisbury Cathedral Education Centre

Our Education Centre is based in a small Georgian building opposite the Cathedral, and it runs specially designed classes and workshops for school children and young people. Using the Cathedral as the backdrop for all of our activities, the aim of each visit is to inspire a sense of awe and wonder, as well as developing learning through a range of first-hand experiences and practical sessions. We aim to enthuse and inspire children and young people with the ideals of Christianity, and tell the story of Christ in surroundings which make it truly come to life.

Our Education Department welcomes over 8,000 children and adults every year (around 6,400 are in formal educational groups), and yet manages with only one full-time and three part-time employees. We have over 90 volunteers who assist with the wide range of classes, yet still keep costs low, especially for school children. We charge £1.50 per student for an individually designed tour, and £3.50 for a full day of activities during one of our “set days” (following a programme already designed).

These days for children are very popular, and we can work with up to 150 children per day. We run ten set days per year on a variety of topics. An example of one of these is the Advent Day we hold in November for children aged seven to eleven. The children are encouraged to explore the meaning of Advent through five interactive workstations. These include activities such as exploring the impact of the annunciation of Mary through drama and role play, or making handwritten promises in response to hearing the Old Testament

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prophecies. Further days in the spring term look at the building as a place of worship and the significance of Easter. These set days open up aspects of the Christian faith.

Our education services offer children a unique and memorable experience which cannot be gained from smaller churches, books or even museums. Through events such as Medieval Days, we present the Christian faith and the Cathedral in a historical context and explore the vital role that Christianity has to play in our lives today.

## Outcomes of our Education Services

Action	Outcome
Set days	Learning about the work of Christ and the Cathedral in a fun and accessible way. Inspiring children and their families to learn more.
Formal education classes for primary school children	Using the Cathedral and our work and worship to support the national curriculum with Key Stage focused content.  Encouraging an understanding and curiosity in young children about the life and teachings of Christ.
Formal education classes for secondary school children, college and university students	As above, but focusing on developing their understanding.
Informal education for adults (e.g. special interest sessions or arts classes not linked to any qualifications)	Encouraging personal discovery and learning through a broad spectrum of interests.

## Finances

Our annual education expenditure is approximately £67,000, and we raise money each year through the fees charged to students and in grants, but we still have a predicted shortfall of £29,954 in 2009/2010. We have been funding the shortfall out of our general income and reserves, but the Cathedral also needs urgent repairs to its physical structure, and we can no longer afford to keep funding the education shortfall. We do not want to increase the costs to schools, as our education services could then become unaffordable for the many children to whom we reach out.

Please help us by making a donation. You can make donations by credit card, CAF Account, cheque and cash, and we are very happy to discuss other forms of gift such as shares or legacies. You can call us to make a donation on 01722 555107, or contact us at [j.wright@salcath.co.uk](mailto:j.wright@salcath.co.uk); Development Office, The Chapter Office, 6 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EF.

**However you decide to help us – thank you.**

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