

Canterbury Cathedral Viking Saga competition

Enter our children's creative writing competition by creating your own Viking Saga, either in poetry, prose or pictures, inspired by the Siege of Canterbury that happened in September 1011. The stained glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral tell us the story.

Competition deadline: 11th November 2011

The Siege of Canterbury in 1011



In the reign of King Ethelred the Unready, the Danes were continuing their plunder of England, holding villages and towns to ransom. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles tell us that for 20 days, between the 8th and 29th of September, Canterbury was besieged due to the treachery of Abbot Ælfmaer who let them into the city.

The Cathedral and city were sacked and burned and Archbishop Alphege (also written as Ælfheah) was carried off as a hostage, with other citizens of Canterbury, to Greenwich to be ransomed.



He refused that a personal ransom be paid and he was murdered in London on the 19th April 1012. He was pelted with bones then killed by an axe-man.

St Alphege was buried in London until the reign of King Cnut (also written as Canute) who ordered his body to be brought home to Canterbury.





Canterbury Cathedral Viking Saga competition for children aged 7-14

The Competition: Re-tell the story of the Siege of Canterbury and the murder of Archbishop Alphege either as a story, a poem or in pictures.
Why not find out more by using the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles to research the story.

Closing date: Friday 11th November 2011

Prizes include: a certificate; a book token; your work displayed on the Cathedral website; a visit for your class to the Cathedral Archives to see Anglo-Saxon charters and a copy of the Codex Aureus of Canterbury which has the four Gospels written in Latin and beautifully illuminated with gold leaf. The original Codex was stolen by the Vikings.

The entries will be read by a panel of judges and prizes awarded in two categories: Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.

Post or email your entry to: "Canterbury Cathedral Viking Saga competition",
The Schools Department,
The International Studies Centre,
The Precincts,
Canterbury CT1 2EH

Email: schools@canterbury-cathedral.org

Telephone: 01227 865262

Contact details:

My name is.....

My address/ my school's address is.....

.....

My age is..... I am in Key Stage

Telephone number (parent/guardian).....

E-mail (parent/guardian).....

Use of the story by Canterbury Cathedral

I agree that the story created for the Canterbury Cathedral Viking Saga competition may be used freely by Canterbury Cathedral for an indefinite period for the usual purposes of the Cathedral including use in whole or in part in Cathedral leaflets, posters, graphics, and on the Cathedral websites.

Signed (parent/guardian)..... date.....

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we have a legal duty to protect any personal information we collect from you and will only use information you supply for the purposes outlined above.

Completed entries should be received by Canterbury Cathedral Schools Department by 5pm on Friday 11th November 2011. Competition winners will be notified by Monday 21st November 2011 and the prize-giving will take place on Saturday 3rd December.