

St Alphege of Canterbury (died 19th April 1012)

Possible activities for school groups:

In the Activity Room (1 hour)

- Investigate and interpret the stained glass windows telling the story of the siege of Canterbury. Design your own window based on Alphege's story.
- What do we know about the Vikings? Find out the origins of our days of the week and practice writing in runes.

or

- Reflection & discussion time: What is a saint? Should Alphege have been made a saint? Some of the later Normans thought not, others thought he should as he sacrificed himself for others.

In the Cathedral (1 hour)

- Explore Canterbury Cathedral with our trail-sheet and find references to Saxon saints and a Viking king.

or

- Be led on a St Alphege costume trail around the Cathedral. Find out what life was like in the Monastery and act out the story of the siege of Canterbury and the martyrdom of St Alphege.

In the Library (30 minutes)

- Visit our beautiful Library and be shown a copy of the Codex Aureus (the Golden Gospels stolen by the Vikings from Canterbury), Sumner's Antiquities – a dictionary of Anglo-Saxon words, the Saxon Gospels and the Golden Lives (lives of the Saints) looking at the entry for Saint Alphege.

