



# S.P.E.A.K. Project

**St. Peter's Educational Activities for Kids**

A group of educationalists devised a wide range of exciting learning experiences for children visiting the ancient St. Peter's Church, Monkwearmouth. The site has undergone major redevelopment to provide a permanent outdoor feature of the 'footprint' of the Wearmouth Monastery that has stood here since 674 AD.

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 also have strong links with the National Glass Centre and can arrange shared visits so schools enjoy both experiences. The feedback about the school visits has been favourable from both teachers and children so we hope you find your visit interesting and fun.

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.

**All bookings for these visits should be made via Val Hughes at the Parish Office: Open Monday to Friday, 9 am - 1 pm Tel: 0191 5160135 or email: [monkwearmouth@btconnect.com](mailto:monkwearmouth@btconnect.com)**



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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!)

