

# MY GUIDE TO LIVING THINGS AT YORK MINSTER



Botanists and Zoologists are Scientists who study plants and animals using detailed drawings and photographs. Can you create your own guide to living things at York Minster?

Choose your favourite example from each category below and

- Describe it accurately (include the name if you know what it is)
- Measure it using the ruler below (if you can!)
- Sketch it
- Label it (stem, leaf, vein, flower, petal, feather, fur, number of legs)

**Did you know?**  
Animals are split into two groups: vertebrates, animals with a backbone, and invertebrates, animals without a backbone. Worms and insects are invertebrates.

**Leaf**

**Flower**

**Bird**

**Animal (Vertebrate or non-vertebrate?)**

The letters of three words from today's quest are mixed up. Can you work out what they should say?

ear nut

owl ref

flea

Answers: ear nut = nature, owl ref = flower and flea = leaf



If you want to take your Nature Quest to the next level, you could download the **Seek by iNaturalist app** to help you identify and learn more about nature around you.

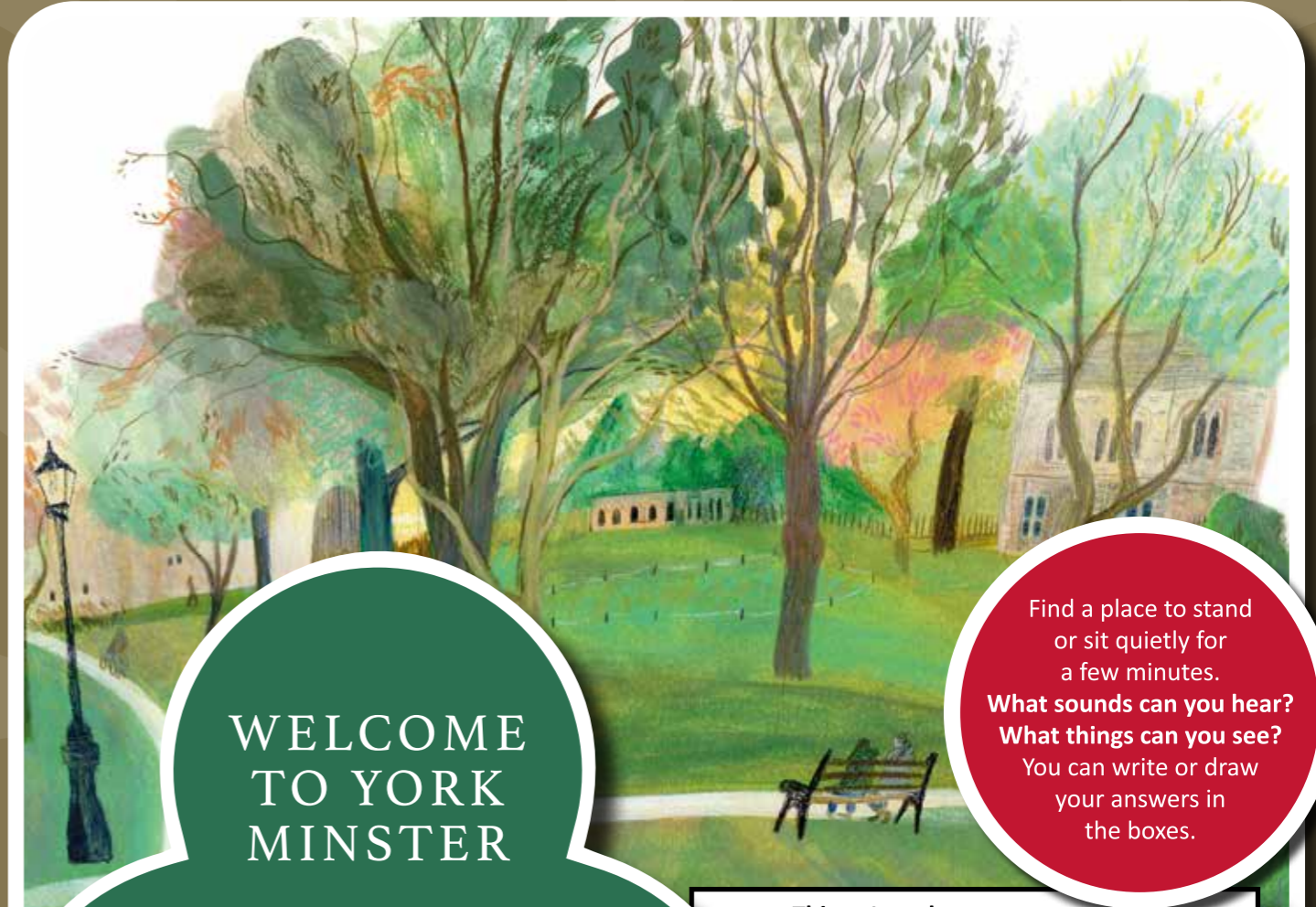


We hope you enjoyed your Nature Quest at the Minster.



# NATURE QUEST

There are many different ways to explore York Minster. Today we are looking at nature OUTSIDE the Minster.



**WELCOME TO YORK MINSTER**

Enter Dean's Park through the gates at the North West side of the Minster. What flowers can you see on your left? There may be some some purple flowers called Lavender and some brightly coloured flowers called Nasturtiums. Can you find a sign for the York Minster Roses? What colour are these roses?

**Start your quest to discover more.**

Find a place to stand or sit quietly for a few minutes.  
**What sounds can you hear?**  
**What things can you see?**  
You can write or draw your answers in the boxes.

**Things I can hear**

**Things I can see**

# FIND THE LEAF

As you make your way around the park, have a look for these leaves. Tick the box when you have identified one and then see if you can sketch it below. If you can find a leaf on the ground you could use it to help you make an accurate drawing.



 **Holly Tree**



 **Plane Tree**



 **Oak Tree**

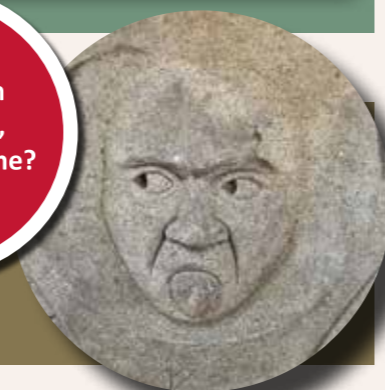


 **Lime Tree**

## Did you know?

Medieval Masons wanted to create a little piece of Heaven on Earth when they built the Minster and they used nature to inspire them. For example, you can see all sorts of leaves, flowers and animals in the stone carvings and stained glass windows of the Minster.

**I am hidden in the Park, can you find me?**



# SENSORY GARDEN

Make your way down to the end of the Park and on your left you will find our sensory garden. There are lots of herbs planted here. If you want to, you can touch the leaves and smell their scent. Can you find a plant that smells like lemons? Or one that reminds you of toothpaste? Or one that smells like garlic bread? Choose your favourite smelling plant and draw the shape of the leaf in the box.



# BUG HOTEL

While you are here, stop and check out our Bug Hotel. If you are very lucky you might be able to spot a worm, woodlouse or earwig. Our Gardeners have been creating habitats for wildlife to make their homes here. We also have hedgehogs that have been rescued and now live in our grounds.



# WILD FLOWER MEADOW

At the back of the park you will also find our wildflower meadow that attracts insects and bees. Can you see or hear any here? How many different colours can you count in the flower meadow?

## Did you know?

In Medieval times when York Minster was built, plants, flowers and leaves had meanings. For example, roses and lilies were symbols of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Holly leaves represent the crown of thorns worn by Christ on Good Friday and the berries represent his blood. The leaves are also evergreen which represents everlasting life. The oak tree is also used in the Bible as a metaphor to describe God's strength and Power.



If the ground is dry, kneel down and stay still. Can you spot any insects or flowers in the grass?

Now stand up and have a look around you. Can you see or hear any birds?

During spring and summer we have a pair of Peregrines nesting at the Minster. They are called Mr and Mrs Minster!