

ROSSLYN
CHAPEL 1446

[illegible]

The Da Vinci Code and the Search for the Holy Grail

The renewed interest in Rosslyn Chapel led to an explosion in visitor numbers, which reached 176,000 the year following the première of *The Da Vinci Code* Film. By this time the Rosslyn Chapel Trust had been formed to try and save the Chapel from almost certain collapse. A fundraising drive had begun to undertake a significant conservation programme, and, for the first time in centuries, the building had a complement of staff looking after it. This allowed them to respond to a request from a Hollywood Film Company which had the rights to film *The Da Vinci Code*.

Despite the fact that the Chapel features for less than two minutes, the potential link to all the myths and legends associated with the Grail led to a huge interest in this unique little building. More books, more theories, and more stories emerged, and the Chapel became a place of spiritual journey or pilgrimage for many.

Today's visitors often wonder why we do not simply explore the Chapel vaults and learn once and for all what lies beneath. The vaults under Rosslyn Chapel are the final resting place of a number of Barons of Rosslyn. It is not surprising that the Earl of Rosslyn does not wish to disturb the resting place of his ancestors. In addition, the vaults were filled with earth hundreds of years ago. It would take extensive work to remove the infill, and this could potentially jeopardize the structural integrity of the Chapel.

Because no primary source material or original documents on Rosslyn Chapel exist, it is difficult to say anything for certain about the Chapel's origins. Different people find their own meanings in the carvings and architecture at the Chapel, and it is possible to interpret the carvings so that they fit into any number of theories. Proving or disproving the many myths at Rosslyn Chapel is difficult, but perhaps that is the true treasure: a building that keeps its secrets!

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Useful Reading

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www.rosslynchapel.com