Rosslyn Chapel - Junior Tour Guides 2021 FILM

SCRIPT

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Welcome and Scribe's Introduction

Scribe: (*To camera*) Who are this rabble?! Do they wish to see Rosslyn Chapel? Well I hope they shall be able to behave – they are about to meet some very important people from the past!

This magnificent place was built by Sir William St Clair almost 700 years ago. I am his scribe and servant. I am one of the educated few who can read and write at the time the Chapel was built. As we have heard you people want to LEARN, they have sent me to help you. Some of us have travelled through time today to show you around and tell you the story of Rosslyn Chapel.

Stonemason: I'm a stone mason. I will tell you about how we built the Chapel in the crypt in episode 2.

Green Man: I'm one of the green men who decorate the walls of the Chapel. My mates and I will tell you all about Green Men outside the Chapel in episode 3.

Angel: I'm an angel. I will tell you about the musical angels in the Lady Chapel in episode 4.

Victorian: - And I am a Victorian lady. I will tell you all about the Victorian visitors in the Baptistery in episode 5.

Scribe: First you will have the honour of meeting Sir William St Clair and his wife in episode one. I hope you know how to bow and curtsey to an important man and his lady wife. I think we better teach you just in case. Boys – you should bow low and use your right hand to make a graceful gesture which will remove your hat, should you be wearing one. *(Show them)* You may pause the video to practice. Boys – let me see you bow. Well done! Very graceful.

Now girls. Put your right foot behind your left (*show them*) and curtsey down low, bowing your head as you do so. You may pause the video to practice.

Girls – let me see you curtsey

That's it! Now remember – when you stand in front of Sir William and Lady St Clair you must bow and curtsey!

Episode 1 – Sir William and Lady St Clair

Characters: Sir William St Clair, Lady St Clair, Scribe

Scribe: All bow to my Lord and Lady!

Sir William: (to camera) We are so glad to see you – you look like just what we need!

Lady St Clair: Yes, they do Sir William – what beautiful bows and curtseys! Perhaps some of these fine modern children could be the new apprentices you are looking for!

Sir William: Indeed, indeed – just what I was thinking my dear Lady St Clair. I am Sir William St Clair and this Chapel is my vision. I started work on it over 500 years ago ... and yet it's STILL not finished! My dream was for the Chapel to be much bigger.

(We see him outdoors unfurling large original plans – pointing things out on plans and ground to scribe who is nodding & pointing etc)

Sir William: This was my original plan. You can see the cross shape on the floor and that it would have been the size of a grand cathedral. Sadly, I died before it was finished, and my grand plan was never completed. I have an idea! Perhaps some of you could help me complete my dream?

Lady St Clair: What we need are the very brightest and best young people. Our apprentices learn skills from the masters until they can do the job themselves. It is a great honour to become an apprentice here. I have an idea Sir William! Let's find out what these young people can do and then see if you would like to take them on as apprentices!

Sir William: A wonderful idea! Let's set you a test. Before you leave us today I want to hear two things you can do that would make us want to take you on as apprentices. In our time children your age would begin work so that they can earn money for their families.

Lady St Clair: There are many different jobs to help build the Chapel.

Think about what job you could be good at and we will ask you about your talents in a few moments.

We employ stonemasons here. They carve out the beautiful images you see in the stone all around you.

We also have quarriers who dig out the stone we use.

We employ blacksmiths who make and look after the tools needed to make a medieval building.

There are also carpenters who make anything we need from wood including platforms and scaffolding to reach the heights of the building.

We also need general labourers who must be strong and determined to move around the heavy stone, tools and scaffolding to where it is required.

Sir William: In exchange for your work you would be rewarded. I want my workers to build something extraordinary, so I built a village for the workers to live in. It's called Roslin village. Every worker is given a house and land and a decent wage. I want only the finest workers to bring my vision of a beautiful Chapel to life.

In my lifetime I sought out the finest stonemasons I could find. Some of them came all the way from France with the most modern designs and ideas.

Lady St Clair: And we do like to keep up with the latest fashions as you can see (*she points to her dress and does a little twirl*) Shall we move inside the Chapel and show these children where they would work?

Scribe: (clears throat. He thinks he is very grand!) Ahem. Forgive me for interrupting sir but I am most alarmed at the prospect of your gracious Lordship being surrounded by these ragamuffins. Are you serious you may give them employment? I doubt these children can read or write or would be able to understand the magnificent designs our master stonemason would provide them with. Nor do they look as though they have the physical strength and determination to work twelve hours a day. Of course it is only the very few – like me for instance– wo are able to read and write and provide these services to your Lordship.....

Sir William: Well of course I know these ordinary people won't be able to read or write – after all isn't that a part of the reason why I built the Chapel? Dear guests – I wanted the ordinary people to be able to SEE

the stories of the bible on the walls of the Chapel even if they couldn't read the stories themselves.

Lady St Clair: It was our duty to warn those that can't read of the dreadful fate that may meet them if they fail to be good during their life. There is one *(camera shows it)* carving of a dragon with his mouth open to represent being swallowed up in hell. The people being swallowed up are all doing wrong or bad things like being greedy or jealous.

Sir William: I also built the Chapel because I wanted God to know I think He's great. I wanted to be sure that when I died I wouldn't have to hang around but would get straight into Heaven!

Lady St Clair: I think it's time to find out what these children could do at work here in the Chapel. In a moment you will pause the video, find a partner and tell them two skills you have that you think would make you a good apprentice. For example, you might be very hard working, be good at listening, you might be very strong or have a talent for art or making things. Prove my husband's scribe wrong and that you could bring your talents and skills to make the Chapel even bigger and better! (*Pause button on screen?*)

Scribe: My Lord. Some of these children are claiming that they can read and write. And yet none of them carry a pot and quill *(hold up for audience to see)* like mine.

Sir William: I know! Can you believe it! How wonderful – these children can write and draw! However if they wish to work for me they will need to learn to use a quill and ink. You can watch our activity video later to apply for a job with us.

In the next episode you will meet the master stonemason for yourself. Pay close attention to him and pay him the respect he deserves and you may well find yourself as one of my apprentices!

Episode 2 - Stonemasons

Characters: Master Stonemason, Stonemason, Apprentice

Master Stonemason: *(to camera)* You're late! Hurry up – you have much to learn!

We are a kind of builders known as stonemasons. I am the Master Stonemason – the boss. I was in charge of this magnificent place while it was being built.

Stonemason: I am also a stonemason.

Apprentice: And we are apprentice stonemasons, the youngest and least experienced. We learn from the master stonemason how to become experts. This takes many years of practice and hard work.

Stonemason: This is the crypt. This was our workshop while we built the Chapel.

Master Stonemason: On the wall here you can see I have etched out one of my design plans for the arches upstairs.

You can also see some of our mason's marks (point to one of them). These are special marks, like a signature that shows our boss which work is ours to make sure we get paid! Though don't confuse them with the marks people have made from modern times like this one (camera shows). Some people didn't understand how important it is to care and preserve a building like this one and they have made their own graffiti marks.

Now if you want to work for me you will need to know which tools we use for different jobs. I have set you a test. I want you to work out what you would use each of these tools for.

Stonemason: We will show you each one and you can pause the video and discuss them in class.

Stonemason: (*Assistant hold up mallet*) What do you think this is and what would it have been used for?

Apprentice: (Assistant hold up chisels) What do you think this is and what would it have been used for?

Master Stonemason: (Assistant hold up set square) What do you think this is and what would it have been used for?

Stonemason: (Assistant hold up plumb line) What do you think this is and what would it have been used for?

Apprentice: (Assistant hold up wing compass) What do you think this is and what would it have been used for?

Stonemason: This is a mallet. It's made from wood. It's a type of tool that was used to help build the Chapel.

Apprentice: These are chisels. They're made from metal. They were used the help build the Chapel. You can use the mallet to hit the chisels to give them force.

Master Stonemason: This is a set square. It's made from wood. It was used to help plan and draw designs for this building. It gives a straight edge and correct angles.

Stonemason: This is a plumb line. It us used to give a perfect vertical line.

Apprentice: This is a wing compass. It's made from metal. It would be used to draw perfect circles and arcs. It can also be used to measure distances.

Master Stonemason: These are the tools we used to build, plan and carve the Chapel in the 1400s. These objects are still used by stonemasons in your time.

We would carve our designs and ideas into wood first and if Sir William likes it then we would then carve them into the stone. All over the Chapel are different images of creatures, people, nature, angels and bible stories. If you'd like to try carving a design you can try it out in our soap carving activity video later.

(He picks up mallet and waves it a bit) This tool is.....

Apprentice: (*let out scream*!) Please sir no! No! I've been telling you for 700 years I am sorry – please don't hit me with the mallet again!!

(Apprentice hides under table quivering)

Master Stonemason: I was only about to explain to these people how we use the mallet! Get up boy! Will you never forget what happened?

Stonemason: To be fair sir, you did kill him with that thing.

Master Stonemason: I'm sorry to say that's true. Sir William St Clair ordered me to carve something very special on one of the pillars in the Lady Chapel. I decided to travel to Italy to look at the latest fashions and techniques in stone carving. When I returned the pillar had been completed.. by my own apprentice. And it was beautiful. It is still known in your time as the Apprentice Pillar. *(shots of pillar)*

Apprentice: (Coming out from under the table) It was wrong of me to have taken over your work while you were away, but I couldn't help it! I had dreams and visions about how the pillar should look and I couldn't rest until I had tried them out.

Master Stonemason: When I returned and saw what he had done I flew into a jealous rage and I killed him by hitting him over the head with my mallet here. *(cutaway to action shot)* I'm sorry apprentice but you're safe now. Look – I've put it down!

My fellow stonemasons found a way to punish me for eternity. If you look carefully you can see my face and the face of my apprentice with a gash on his forehead carved into the Chapel wall. *(camera shows carved faces)* I am destined to look upon the splendour of the Apprentice Pillar forever as my final punishment.

Stonemason: Well done everyone, you did some great investigation work today; we hope it helped you imagine what it was like for us working away everyday....

Apprentice : For 40 years!!

Stonemason: (*Sigh*) and still we didn't finish it.

Master Stonemason: My friend – we made a fine job, something we should be proud of that might stand here forever.

Master Stonemason: In the next episode, you are going to meet the green men – the fascinating creatures we stonemasons carved all over the Chapel. Well – on you go, run along now...

Episode 3 - The Green Men

Characters: 3-4 green men Greenie, Greengro, Greeners and Greens their cheeky friend)

Greenie: Ok guys – they're here! Let's go!

I'm a silly green man With a funny green hat I'll dance all about And that is that!

We love things green As you'll have seen Like boogies and slime and mouldy old cheese Oh if it's green yes please, yes please!!

The green men talk with lots of energy and enthusiasm!

Greengro: We're the green men – in case you hadn't guessed already!

Greeners: You're probably wondering what we are.

Greengro: We told them – we're green men!

Greeners: Yes, but they probably don't know about us!

Greengro: What! But we're the famous green men of Rosslyn Chapel. Haven't you heard of us? You – have you heard of us? No! What about you! What you do mean? I thought we were famous! (Throws hat on ground and jumps on it/has a tantrum)

Greenie: We could tell them about us and then they'd know why we're famous.

Greengro: Good idea. You go first Greeners.

Greeners: No – you Greenie, you go first.

Greenie: Not me – Greengro you go first.

Greengro: I'll go first. You can see over 100 green men like us carved into the Chapel walls. We look like this *(Camera shows green men around Chapel)*

Greenie: Green men are part of a belief people had before they knew about Christianity. There are carvings of green men on old churches all over Europe.

Greengro: The stonemasons who built this Chapel believed that green men would bring them good luck – and sometimes we did, when we felt like it. We're a bit naughty and mischievous. You might see some of our mates in the carvings sticking their tongue out at you or laughing at you. Let's see if you can make a green man face. Think of your naughtiest face and on the count of three we'll all be green men together. 1, 2, 3 – go!

Greenie: Haha! You'd all make brilliant green men – some of you are really gruesome!

Greengro: We're very old – some people think green men have been around since Roman times. I think green is the best colour in the world!

Greenie: Green is the colour of nature. We make people think of spring and how things grow again even after a hard winter. That was very important hundreds of years ago when there wasn't much to eat during the winter months. We'd cheer people up making them think of all the fun things to do and nice things to eat when the leaves are green on the trees!

Greengro: You can see beautiful nature all around you at Rosslyn Chapel. *(shots of Roslin Glen)* In Roslin Glen you might see butterflies, bats, wild flowers, birds of prey, ferns and all sorts of trees. All these things probably inspired the stonemasons who carved things from nature into the Chapel walls. Look out for carvings of ferns, ivy, roses and lilies.

Greenie: Can you see the stone rectangle walls that come out the side of the building? *(Camera shows)*. They are called 'buttresses'.

Greengro: (laughing/giggling and pointing) Butts?!!!

Greenie: Grow up – you're almost 700 years old now! No. <u>Buttresses</u>. They are supporting the arches inside the Chapel so that columns weren't needed inside in the centre of the Chapel to hold up the arches. *(You can use your arms to demonstrate an arch).* This was a very clever new idea 700 years ago when the Chapel was built. It might be hard to understand so let's see if we can explain it better using you.

Greengro: You can pause the video during the next activity so you can try this out in your class. Get into pairs and raise your arms to make 2 halves of an arch *(show them)*. Keep holding that for a few moments. Are you tired yet? What happens when your arms get really, really tired? You'd drop them? Right – so you need some support.

Greenie: Get one pair who are an arch to come to the front of the class.. keep being the arch but you're a tired arch and you're starting to slump. Choose another pair to help – they're going to become the buttresses. *(green men show this).* Stand back to back with each side of the arch. Arch - if you're tired you can <u>gently</u> lean against the buttress. Your friends the buttresses are helping you to stay up! The buttresses are the reason the Chapel is still standing after hundreds of years.

Greeners: I think the buttresses could be prettier though – like the ones on the Chapel. *(camera shows buttresses/pinnacles)* The people who built the Chapel put something called pinnacles on top to decorate the buttresses. They are the pointy bits right at the top. Buttresses – do something with your hands to turn them into a pretty shape!

Greenie: Now all it needs is a green man to make it look really beautiful! Choose a green man from your class to pull a green man face to decorate your arch and buttress.

Well done – you've recreated the outside of the Chapel!

Greeners: If you'd like to play a Green Man game or try making your own Green Man design you can watch our activity video later.

Greengro: In the next episode you will meet the angels in the Lady Chapel. Are you musical? It might be better if you're not – one of them is

just learning. Follow the din and you'll find them that way in the Lady Chapel.....

Episode 4 – Angels in the Lady Chapel

Characters: Three angels Hark (psaltry) Harold (harp) Jean (bone flute)

(Jean is singing "Hark the herald angels sing ..." We see Hark and Harold with fingers in ears/wincing/reacting to Jean's bad singing....)

Harold: So – umm how did that sound to you angel Jean?

Jean: (very enthusiastically) Oh I really think I'm getting better thank you! I think it must be having an audience in to watch us now. I'm trying so hard I really am. I just want to be the best, most musical, musical angel you've ever had in the Lady Chapel. God told me only yesterday He thinks that I try the very hardest out of everyone and He might give me a new special feather for my wings soon! (she could give her feathers a little shake – perhaps her wings are a little smaller/less grand than the others and her halo squint?)

Hark: (*sighs...then, to camera*) We really should welcome you to the beautiful Lady Chapel and introduce ourselves. I am Head Angel Hark

Harold: I'm Harold.

Jean: And I'm Jean! I'm an apprentice angel. Hoping to get my full flying wings any day now!

(Michael and Helena look at one another with raised eyebrows!)

Hark: If you look carefully around the Lady Chapel, you can see that there are many carvings of angels playing musical instruments (camera shows)

Harold: We are here to make music to celebrate the birth of Christ. Hanging from the ceiling here you can see a very special carving of the nativity scene with the Virgin and child in the manger, the three wise men and shepherds. *(camera shows)* Jean: The angels are here making beautiful music to celebrate His birth – just like I am learning to do!

Harold: Ahem. Yes, dear Jean. That reminded Head Angel and I that many of the angels here are actually playing musical instruments not singing. And maybe your gift is playing a musical instrument!

Jean: Oh Helena yes please!! The angels in the carvings are playing all sorts of wonderful instruments. This angel is playing the psaltry *(camera shows)*. It looks like a small harp in a box – and I've always dreamed of playing it. I can just see myself, sitting on a cloud, plucking the strings and making that most angelic of sounds....

Hark: Weelll actually Jean the psaltry here (*Hark pick it up*) is very difficult to well – make sound nice. (*she plays it*) How about if we start with something a smidgen less ambitious Jean?

Jean: Oh, oh I know.. the rebec! Like that one *(camera shows carving playing the rebec)* All the most fashionable children of the Lords and Ladies are learning that one! I hear they play it at parties for dancing. Can I learn that one please, please?!

Harold: Ah the rebec. Uhhuh. *(To audience)* That one is the ancestor of your modern violin. Well. It can be a little umm... screechy. We had something else in mind....

Jean: Is it the harp? (*Helena pick it up and strum strings*). Angels are famous for playing the harp!

Hark: No, not the harp.

Jean: Oh! I know I know! It's the bagpipes isn't it! Like this one (camera shows)

Hark and Harold: Noooo! Oh no, no, no! A bit too noisy!(*shaking heads quickly and making signs with hands to indicate definitely not*!)

Hark: What we mean our dear, enthusiastic Jean is that the bagpipe is indeed a wonderful and ancient instrument. The bagpipes are even mentioned in the Bible. And there are lots of wonderful musical

instruments our fellow angels are playing here in the Lady Chapel. There's the Gittern (camera) – the medieval ancestor of your guitar. There's the Shawm (camera) – which sounds a little like the oboe. We just had something a little *smaller* in mind for your delicate little fingers Jean....

Harold: It's this... (they point to a bone flute lying nearby)

Hark: Ta-da!!!! (both indicate the flute, sweeping hands up and down, trying to "sell" it to Jean)

Jean: Oh. A bone flute. Like the children play. Oh wait a minute – isn't this angel here *(camera)* playing a kind of flute – but with a drum AND wrist bells. I could do that! I could be a one man angel band!

Hark: Oh well actually that angel is playing the pipe and you're right she's playing with just one hand so that she can also beat that drum called a tabor and yes you can see the little bells on her wrist....

Harold: But let's just take one step at a time shall we Jean? A drum may be a little umm....noisy for us just now. Perhaps if we master the bone flute we could maybe get some wrist bells later?

Jean: Alright head angel. I'll try very hard.

Hark: Keep trying Jean – once you have the hang of it we're sure you'll be making heavenly music. Now if you'd like to try making some heavenly Rosslyn Chapel music of your own you can watch our video later on how to make your own drum.

Harold: In the next episode you will meet the Victorians. I hope you are sitting up straight! Goodbye!

Episode 5 – Victorian Visitors

Characters: Four Victorian travellers: Agnes, Winifred, Wilfred and Hugo

Baptistery exterior.

Agnes: Look! More visitors! And from another time judging by their strange clothes!

Winifred: Oh yes! Don't they look funny! Does she know I can see her ankles? (*Camera shows modern tourists admiring the Chapel. The Victorians all gasp in horror and point.*)

Agnes, Wilfred and Hugo: Shocking!!

Wilfred: We are Victorians and these people have shocked us they really have. Ladies must not reveal their arms or ankles in company.

Winifred: My mother would have fainted at the outrage of these ankles! Oh, bring me my smelling salts, I feel a little faint myself! (*Fans herself* and pretends to look faint. Hugo helps her/fans her)

Agnes: But we are modern Victorian travellers are we not my dears? We wouldn't be so rude as to reveal our ankles like this young ... ahem.. 'lady'. But look at us out here at Rosslyn Chapel all by ourselves being inspired by all this *beauty*!

Hugo: It's the height of fashion amongst our friends to travel around Scotland admiring beautiful things, like Rosslyn Chapel.

Wilfred: Then boasting at parties about what we saw and where we've been!

Winifred: We are standing outside the Victorian part of Rosslyn Chapel called the Baptistery. Can you see where the building looks different? This part is much newer than the original building. It's from our time – the second half of the 1800s. Come inside.

(into Baptistery)

Agnes: You could really all use a Victorian make over boys and girls. We shall transform you into respectable Victorians. You may pause the video and try this in your class. First, stand up straight! Oh, much straighter than that – you boy could do better than that! Now put your nose in the air and try to look as though you can smell something bad.

Hugo: (*sniffing group*) | think | can, Agnes!

Agnes: Don't be so rude Hugo!

Winifred: You all look much better already, even if some of you only have half of your clothes on. Boys – put your hands behind your back like this. Girls – put your hands together like this. No fidgeting!

Wilfred: No smiling and no having fun!

Agnes: Oh, that's much better. Now let us tell you why we came to visit the Chapel. Our Queen, Queen Victoria, came here and thought it was a wonderful place. But it had become very run down. The walls were crumbling, and ivy crept around all the pillars. It looked like a fairytale.

Wildred: But it was causing very serious damage and we Victorians did what we could to fix it up. For example most of the windows were broken or empty so during our time the stained glass windows were put in.

Hugo: Many of the great writers and artists from our time came here to Rosslyn to paint it or be inspired to write poems. One of Britain's most famous painters, Turner, came to Roslin to paint the Castle. And two of Scotland's most famous writers, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott both came here to admire the Chapel's beauty.

Winifred: The part of the Chapel we are standing in is called the Baptistery. This is where babies would be christened – or baptised. *(show font)* The original Chapel would have ended here *(point to wall)*.

Wilfred: In the 1600s – that is over 400 years ago – this was the outside wall of the Chapel. Britain was ruled then by a man named Oliver Cromwell. Oliver Cromwell and his army had overthrown the King so that he could rule instead. Not everyone liked Oliver and his friends. His

army marched all over the land and when they first came to Rosslyn they used it to stable their horses and then fired at the Chapel walls and statues! Can you see the holes in the walls? These are bullet holes made by lead bullets from Cromwell's army.

Hugo: And these are some of the bullets!

Agnes: We've told you a lot about the area of the Chapel you are standing in and about our time, the Victorian era. We've told you that famous artists and writers came here to be inspired.

Winifred: I'm feeling quite creative my dears I really am. Shall we get our watercolours and do a little painting? Perhaps these boys and girls could run along now and make something themselves back at school like a painting or stained-glass window, now they've been inspired by this beautiful place.

Hugo: What a good idea Winifred. You can watch our activity video later to learn how to make your own stained glass window. Most of the stained glass in the Chapel is from our time *(camera shows).* This window shows St George and the Dragon – it tells the story of St George the good guy triumphing over the evil dragon to make us feel brave and calm. The way the sun shines through stained glass can make those inside feel calm and stop to enjoy their beauty. I wonder how beautiful you can make your stained glass. (camera shows sun through stained glass)

Farewell

St Clair Character: Thank you all for coming to Rosslyn Chapel today and taking part in our film tour. We are the children of Roslin Primary School and since 2009 our P7s have been giving tours of this amazing place to other schools and to visitors from all over the world.

Stonemason Character: Its thanks to people like you who are learning about the chapel that it still exists today. For a long time, there wasn't anyone who had enough money or skills to protect the Chapel properly and it was beginning to tumble down.

Green Man: If you'd visited a few years ago you would have seen the Chapel covered in scaffolding and stonemasons working to protect and preserve the building. Which was lucky for my green man friends. My nose was starting to fall off and I really had turned a disgusting shade of slime green....

Victorian Lady: It's lucky that the Chapel became famous thanks to a very famous book and film called "The Da Vinci Code". In 2019, 180,000 people came here from countries all over the world to marvel at this wonder in stone and investigate all its mysteries for themselves.

Angel Character: We hope you enjoyed our tour and now you can click on the activity videos for more fun learning with us.