



Guided visits

We can put together a full day or half day visit package to suit your requirements. A full day would include a visit to the Priory ruins and also to Southover church. Visits to either of these can be arranged separately as half-day visits.

St John the Baptist Church, Southover was originally the guest house (hospitium) of the Priory built on the edge of the Priory precinct. Some pillars from this early building can be seen inside the church.

The remains of the founders of the Priory, Gundrada and William de Warenne, are now buried in a small chapel built onto the main church. They had been buried in the Chapter House of the Priory, but in 1845 when the railway line was being dug across this area workmen discovered the two lead caskets containing their bones. These caskets can now be seen in the Gundrada chapel which was built specially to house them. Also in the Gundrada chapel is the magnificently carved 12th century black Tournai marble tomb slab that had been made for Gundrada. The slab had been discovered in 1775 at Isfield church, re-used, upside-down, over a tomb.

The Church

The visit to the Church can include:

- small groups to visit the Gundrada chapel (not generally open to the public) for a short talk;
- church quiz focusing on looking at items in the Church;
- brass rubbing using replicas of the brass of Thomas Nelond, who was Prior between 1414 and 1432;
- stone rubbing taking rubbings from lettering and designs from stone slabs on the church floor.

The Priory

The visit to the Priory ruins can include:

- acting out the Battle of Lewes Role Play on site, complete with monks costumes;
 - learning the sign language used by the monks to communicate when they weren't allowed to speak;
 - finding out what it was like to be a monk at the Priory and how they spent their day;
 - discovering how herbs from the Priory herb garden were used to treat illnesses.
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Cost: 2011-2012 (based on a class of 30) full day : £230 half day : £120

The cost includes use of the toilet facilities at the church, a room in the Church for lunch and all materials for the activities. Activities will be run by qualified teachers associated with the Lewes Priory Trust.

For more information, bookings and availability contact

education@lewespriory.org.uk