
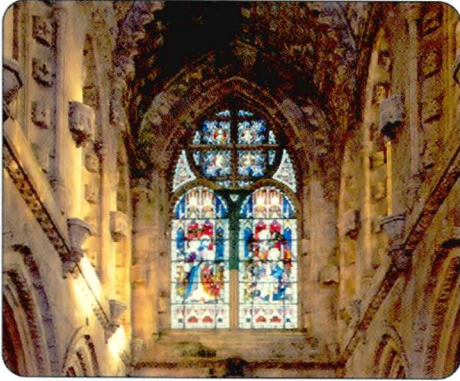




ROSSLYN
CHAPEL 
1446



protect your history ... and secure our future



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Dear friend ...

protect your history ... and secure our future

To be found in one of the most romantic settings imaginable, Rosslyn Chapel is one of Scotland's most important historic buildings.

It has been part of our family since 1446 when it was founded by Sir William St Clair, Prince of Orkney. Not only is Rosslyn close to our hearts and the heart of the Scottish nation, it's also close to the hearts of the hundreds of thousands of people who visit us every year.

Rosslyn Chapel has survived the Reformation and centuries of wars. But time and the Scottish weather have taken their toll. This beautiful medieval building is now in desperate need of our care and attention.

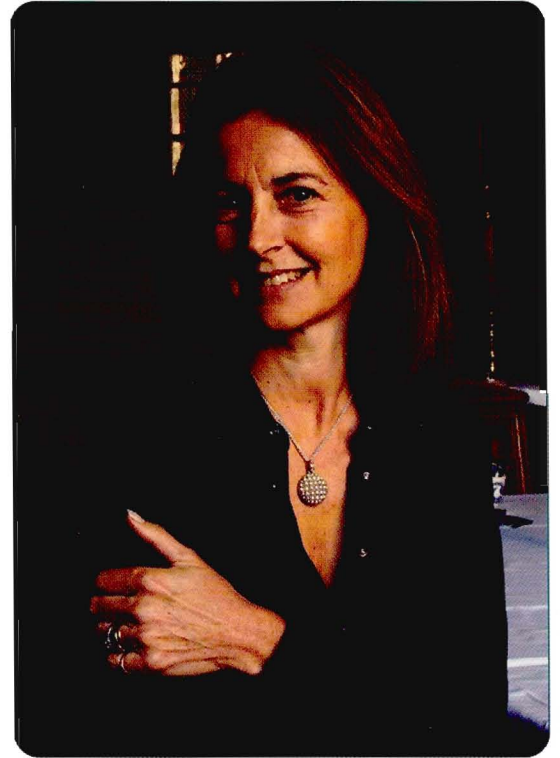
Those of us who love architecture, sculpture and our medieval heritage must now come to its aid. We must stop the decay and restore the Chapel to its former glory.

Our five-year conservation project is ambitious and complex. When complete, this precious building and its artifacts will be restored, protected and secured for prosperity.

Please help us to protect this national treasure so that many more generations are inspired by the Chapel's beauty, and understand what Rosslyn Chapel means and what it tells us about history.

Thank you.

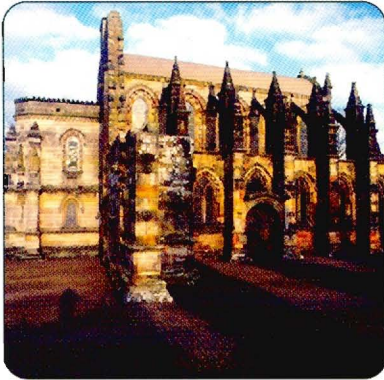
Helen Rosslyn



Helen, Countess of Rosslyn

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The Chapel's character ...



Rosslyn Chapel is architecturally unique. Its architecture and sculpture are unsurpassed – not only in their aesthetic merit, but also in the controversy surrounding their meaning.

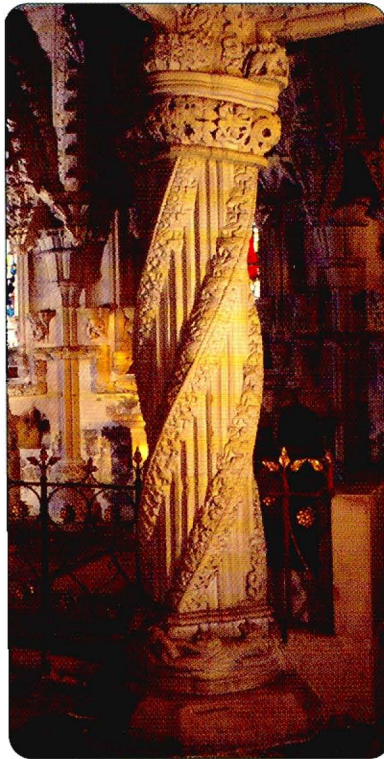
A 15th century medieval collegiate church, Rosslyn Chapel captures the historical events that have shaped the Scottish nation – from medieval religious mysticism, through the upheaval of the Reformation and wars of religion, to the Romantic period and beyond.

The Chapel is relatively small, yet in its compact space it contains a truly extraordinary series of carvings whose meanings have been debated by scholars, mystics, the suspicious and the sceptical through the centuries.

As well as an artistic masterpiece, Rosslyn Chapel is an intriguing puzzle. It is a place of Christian worship yet it has also attracted the attention of freemasons, templars, druids, mystics, esoterics and others. Above all, it is a beautiful medieval building which must be conserved. It's a pocket-cathedral in an earthly paradise.

What is beyond debate is that the combination of its intrinsic appearance, its aesthetic merit, its historical significance and symbolic associations, render Rosslyn Chapel one of the most entrancing and important buildings in Scotland.

The Chapel's setting in ancient woodland on a knoll above the River Esk, is beautiful and romantic – a feature not lost on poets ranging from Robert Burns to William Wordsworth.



The quality and intricacy of its architecture and stone masonry are beyond compare. The Apprentice Pillar is perhaps the most extraordinarily beautiful and intricate piece of sculpture.

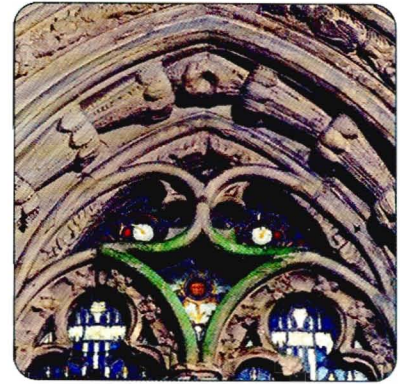
Eight dragons intertwine around its base, from whose mouths emerge spiral vines which curve up around the pillar to the capital at the top on which is a carving depicting the sacrifice of Isaac.

There are many stone carvings, including stories from *The Holy Bible*:

- ⊕ the Prodigal Son
- ⊕ Samson and the Lion
- ⊕ the Nativity
- ⊕ the Passion
- ⊕ the Seven Deadly Sins
- ⊕ the Seven Virtues
- ⊕ the Dance of Death.

The choir roof is decorated with daisies, lilies, wild flowers, roses and stars. It is even suggested that the carving of what is known as Indian Corn may be of maize, and that this shows that one of the 14th century St Sinclairs had visited the New World well before Christopher Columbus.

Some of the symbolism is apparently Freemasonic, while others have drawn significance from the Apocryphal text which forms the Chapel's one and only full quotation.



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The Chapel's history ...

Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 by Sir William St Clair, the last St Clair Prince of Orkney. It survived as a working collegiate church for over 100 years until the Reformation took its toll. By 1592 the altars had been demolished on the instruction of the General Assembly. The Chapel was no longer a place of worship and it began to fall into disrepair.

In 1650 Cromwell's troops, under General Monk, used the chapel as a stable during the siege of nearby Rosslyn Castle.

In 1688 a mob from Edinburgh, celebrating the arrival of William of Orange in England, ransacked the Chapel, intent on removing all signs of idolatry.

When William Wordsworth, JMW Turner and other artists and writers visited in the early 19th century, the Chapel was semi-derelict.

It was only in the mid 19th century that the long period of neglect came to an end under the direction of the third and fourth Earls of Rosslyn. In 1862, the Chapel was rededicated and once again became a place of regular worship.

Further alterations, extensions and conservation work followed which saw the Rosslyn Chapel Trust being set up in 1995. The role of the Trust is to manage the building, promote public understanding of the Chapel, and to preserve it as a place of worship.



The family tree ...

The St Clairs came from Normandy with William the Conqueror and later settled in Scotland.

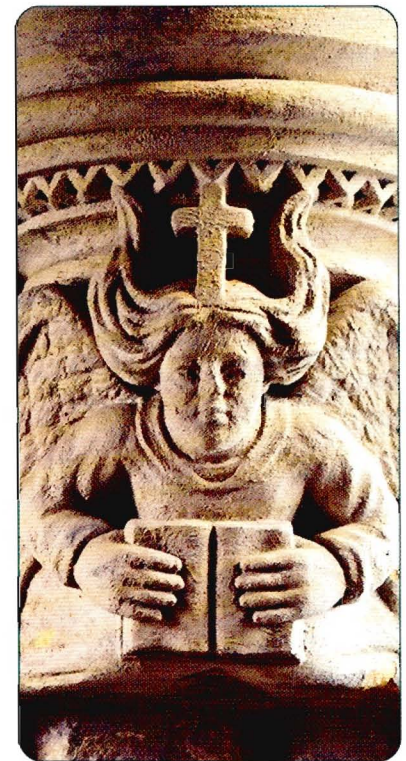
Sir Henry St Clair fought alongside Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314. His son is said to have been one of three knights entrusted with carrying the dead King's heart to Jerusalem in around 1330.

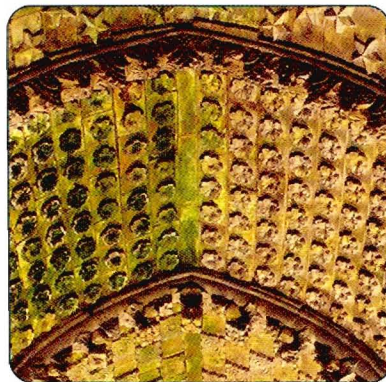
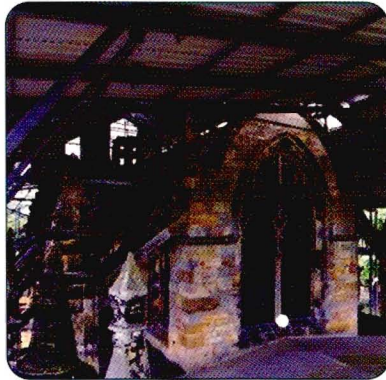
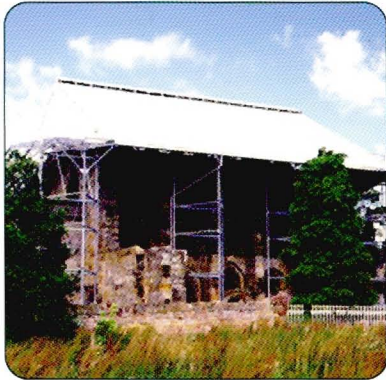
Sir Henry's son perished in the attempt and it is easy to see how connections have been made between Rosslyn and the Knights Templar.

By the 14th century the St Clairs had many titles:

- ⌘ Admiral of the Seas
- ⌘ Great Protector and Keeper and Defender of the Prince of Scotland
- ⌘ Lord Chief Justice of Scotland
- ⌘ Lord Shetland
- ⌘ Lord Sinclair
- ⌘ Prince of Orkney

With this elevated position in medieval Scotland, it is no surprise that two generations later, the devoutly catholic Sir William St Clair – the last Prince of Orkney – decided to build his own chapel. The result was the foundation in 1446 of the extraordinary building we see today.





The dilemma ...

The Chapel is one of Scotland's most important historic buildings and yet all this could be lost. This precious building is now in need of a major programme of conservation.

The ravages of time and the Scottish climate, the neglect and abuse by man – and the well-meaning but misguided attempts at restoration in the 19th and 20th centuries – have taken their toll. And with major damage due to damp, not only is the sculpture threatened by deterioration, the building itself is too.

During a storm in autumn 2006 one of the Chapel's stone finials could be seen visibly swaying in high wind and was in danger of falling from its position on top of one of the columns which support the Chapel.

Emergency work by stone conservators saved the finial but a thorough programme of conservation is now needed to secure the rest of the fabric of the Chapel. If we leave it, the decay will get worse. The Chapel's artistry, meaning and history, will crumble into obscurity until they are lost forever.

The Chapel was constructed from stone quarried in nearby Roslin Glen. It was an understandable choice given that it was close at hand, and the stone has a fine grain which makes it ideal for the kind of intricate carved stonework we see in the Chapel today. But the very quality which made it so popular with the medieval masons has also contributed to its downfall. Because it's a soft stone, it is very prone to the harmful effects of cold,

wind and rain. Those who visit today see the Chapel protected by an ugly but essential metal canopy – its last defence against the elements. Erected over the Chapel in 1997, it has allowed the building to start a long process of drying out, and already the extensive internal algal growth has substantially diminished.

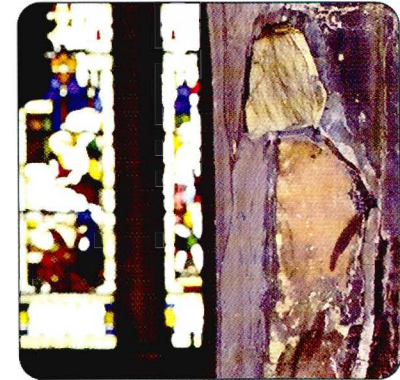
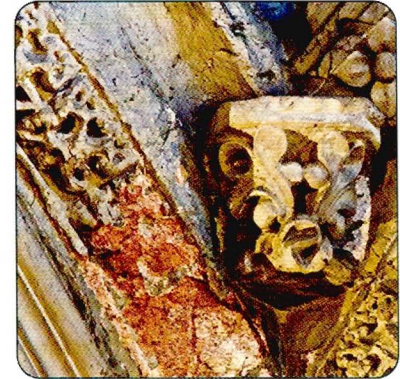
The drying out process has also allowed the full extent of the work needed to be seen:

- ⊕ Stone is crumbling
- ⊕ The roof needs to be reconstructed
- ⊕ Walls are bulging
- ⊕ At least one buttress is at significant risk of collapse

Giving visitors a memorable experience

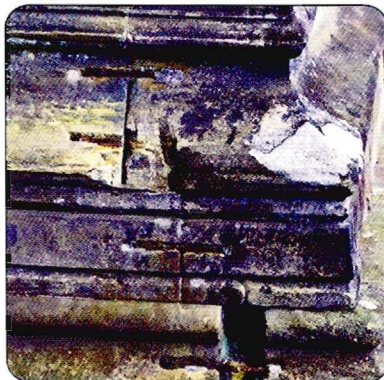
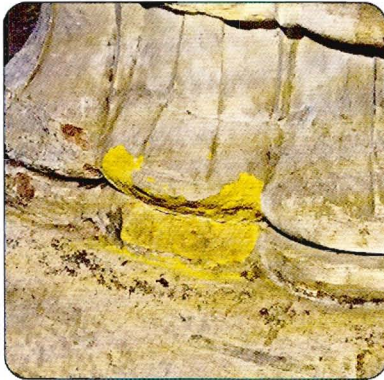
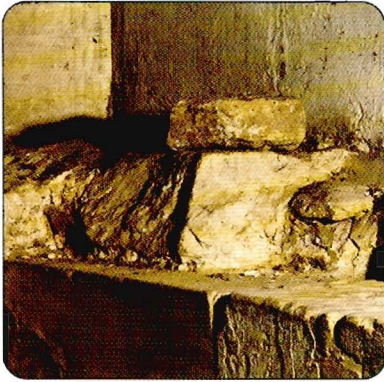
The number of visitors has grown and grown over the past decade. Many are drawn to the Chapel by the publication of the *Da Vinci Code* and other books and films.

We want every visitor to Rosslyn Chapel to remember an enjoyable visit. But the sheer numbers puts a great strain on the Chapel. Our modest visitor centre also feels the pressure. It was originally designed to cater for no more than 25,000 visitors a year – in 2007 we recorded 160,000.



protect your history ... and secure our future

The solution ...



We want visitors to the Chapel to be inspired by its beauty, and to leave with a much deeper understanding of what Rosslyn Chapel means and what it tells us about history. To do this, we need a full conservation programme and a new visitor & education centre.

Our five-year project poses a challenge of unparalleled scale and complexity. It will be a model for others to follow.

Most conservation projects use conventional stonemasonry techniques, but the delicate nature of Rosslyn Chapel's ornate stone carvings commands a very different approach. Techniques more usually associated with single pieces of museum sculpture will be painstakingly applied right through the Chapel.

While plying their skill, the highly specialised conservators will train a new generation of skilled craftspeople. So as well as protecting an historic building, we'll be protecting skills that will be practiced and passed on for years to come.

There's no time to lose

It is no exaggeration to say that 'now is the time, now is the hour' when those who love architecture, sculpture and our medieval heritage should come to Rosslyn Chapel's aid. It's our shared responsibility to:

- ⊕ stop the decay in the fabric of Rosslyn Chapel
- ⊕ secure its future
- ⊕ offer visitors to the Chapel an enjoyable and memorable experience.

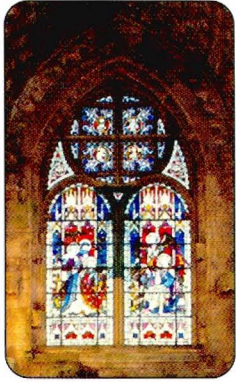
The plan in detail ...

A lot has been learned about how best to care for historic buildings and artifacts. We have a much better scientific understanding of what materials to use and not use.

- ⊕ We will strip away the current bitumen roof and replace it with a watertight lead covering on a wooden framework
- ⊕ We will remove the temporary steel canopy that blights views of the Chapel
- ⊕ We will painstakingly remove the large iron pins the Victorians used to hold cracked stonework together. Because they have expanded, the pins, now rusted, are exacerbating the deterioration of the building's fabric – further cracking the surrounding stonework they are supposed to support. We will replace them with stainless steel pins that we'll conceal with lime mortar
- ⊕ We will carefully chip away the cement mortar that's been applied over the years to repair damaged pointing and replace it with a more sympathetic lime mortar
- ⊕ We will manually clean away the lichen and algae that's damaging the stonework using miniature steam cleaners and soft tools
- ⊕ We will inject reversible acrylic resin into the cracks in the stonework that are letting in water and cover them up with lime mortar
- ⊕ We will lift, repoint and carefully lower back into place, all unstable stonework
- ⊕ We will remove and clean the stained glass windows
- ⊕ We will replace rusting iron window frames, which have caused cracks in the surrounding stonework, with non-ferrous metal frames
- ⊕ We will restore the badly dilapidated organ
- ⊕ We will repair the stone flooring
- ⊕ We will install new heating and ventilation systems so that we can carefully control the humidity levels in the Chapel

At the end of the project, the Chapel will be watertight. Decay to the stonework will be stopped and reversed – and the Chapel will be safe and secure for prosperity.

The next generation ...

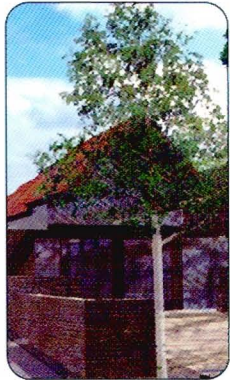


One of the big challenges facing Rosslyn Chapel Trust is to help visitors understand the Chapel in its historical context. For people to fully appreciate the atmosphere, beauty and significance of Rosslyn Chapel, we desperately need a new visitor & education centre.

As a small building, a working church – and an ancient monument, there is little scope for exhibitions in the Chapel itself. At the moment, former stables house a small tea room and gift shop. Tickets are sold in an adjacent shed and temporary washroom facilities are provided in the car park.

A new centre of knowledge

The new visitor & education centre will make sure that all who come to the Chapel experience a comfortable, informative and enjoyable visit. It will offer something for all ages – school children and adults.



We want people to explore the history of the Chapel and find answers to their questions.

- ⊕ How and why was the Chapel built?
- ⊕ How do we interpret the mysteries of its stone carvings?
- ⊕ Why has the Chapel inspired successive generations of artists and writers?
- ⊕ Why does it continue to have such a hold on popular imagination today?
- ⊕ How has it survived almost 600 years of often turbulent Scottish history?

Using hi and low-tech media, visitors will interpret such themes as:

- ⊕ the building
- ⊕ the mysteries
- ⊕ the inspiration.



Computer-animated models will explain the architecture of the Chapel:

- ⊕ Multi-language touch-screens will let visitors explore the carvings
- ⊕ Audio recordings will relay some of Rosslyn Chapel's fascinating tales and mysteries
- ⊕ Children will learn and explore through a series of hands-on interactive machines

With advice from Historic Scotland, we have drawn up architectural plans to keep the new building in sympathy with its surroundings and to make the most of the aesthetic appeal of the Chapel and its setting.

Protecting our future

When the new visitor & education centre opens in early 2010, it will offer a range of formal and informal education options for visiting schoolchildren and adults who are interested in learning more about the Chapel.

Professional education advisers have developed a detailed education programme and we are soon to appoint our first education officer. We have also set aside a budget so that we can offer school parties free transport for coming to Rosslyn.

There will be 12 education programmes in all and each has been designed to suit specific groups – from primary school pupils to adult learners.

- ⊕ Primary to lower secondary school [children aged five to 12 years]
- ⊕ Upper secondary school pupils
- ⊕ Family, day visit and crafts
- ⊕ Adult learners
- ⊕ Community and youth organisations

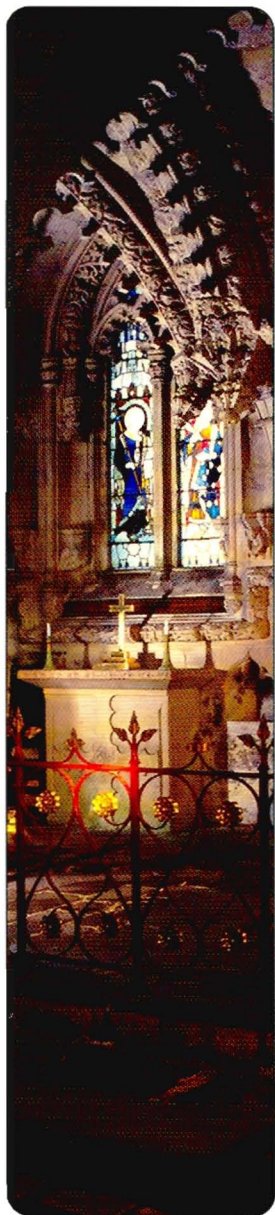
We have designed the school programme to address themes in the national curriculum so that a visit to Rosslyn Chapel is an integral part of a pupil's education which connects to studies at school, rather than simply being an isolated single event. Our educational philosophy underpinning the strategy is to use the Chapel and its surroundings to explore and explain our:

- ⊕ architecture
- ⊕ conservation
- ⊕ history
- ⊕ literature – particularly poetry
- ⊕ music
- ⊕ science
- ⊕ the industrial past
- ⊕ the natural environment
- ⊕ visual arts

The programme will help children to consider the concept that the current generation is conserving a building which a previous generation, during the Reformation, wished to destroy. This is a story which tells us something about the journey we have undergone from religious violence to toleration, a lesson which is as relevant today as it has ever been.

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How you can help ...



Rosslyn Chapel Trust has planned a comprehensive five-year programme costing £12.6 million to:

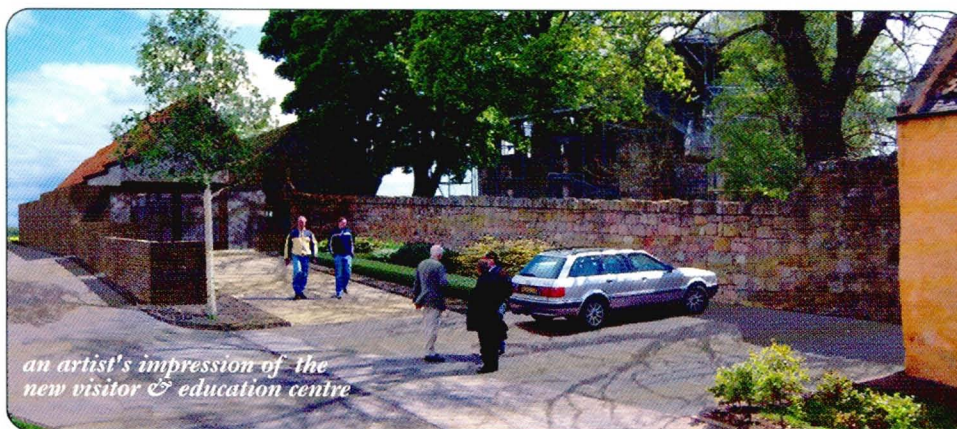
- ⊕ Conserve and secure the Chapel itself
- ⊕ Build and equip a much-needed new visitor & education centre
- ⊕ Create an education programme for school children and adults
- ⊕ Secure the Chapel's future as one of Scotland's most influential historic sites

Where is the money coming from?

Recognising the value and significance of this work, Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded a combined grant of £7.1 million.

Rosslyn Chapel Trust will invest £3.25 million based on projected income from ticket sales. This leaves us with £2.25 million to attract from private sources.

We believe this is a small price to pay to protect history, and to secure the Chapel's future.



The Rosslyn Chapel appeal ...

Chapel conservation costs

£520,000 to re cover the roof

£5,507,000 to conserve the stonework

£113,000 to restore the stone flooring

£912,000 to conserve the stained glass windows

£76,000 to restore the organ

£146,000 to install conservation grade climate control to preserve
the fabric of the building

Total £7,972,000 *includes other conservation costs*

New amenities costs

£671,000 interim visitor facilities

£821,000 to realign access road and landscaping

£2,788,000 visitor & education centre

Total £4,641,000 *includes other new facilities' costs*

Funding from

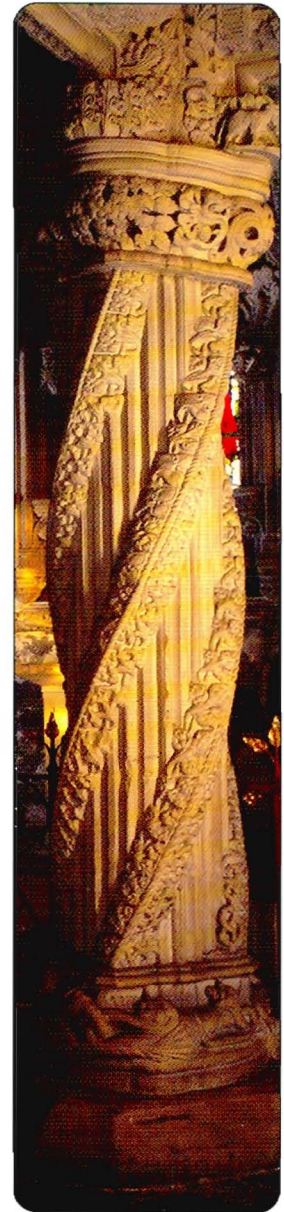
£4,500,000 Heritage Lottery Fund

£2,600,000 Historic Scotland

£3,263,000 Rosslyn Chapel Trust

£2,250,000 Donors and other sources

£12,613,000 total Rosslyn Chapel appeal costs



protect your history ... and secure our future

Thank you ... for protecting a very special building

Your support will protect the history and decide the future of Rosslyn Chapel.

Its history, architecture and religious connections are not only hugely important to us in Scotland, but also to hundreds of thousands of people in every corner of the world.

To thank you for donating £10,000 or more you can, if you wish, have your name:

- ✠ etched in glass in the new visitor & education centre
- ✠ entered in a bound volume of donors that will be placed in the Chapel
- ✠ published on the Rosslyn Chapel Trust website.

We will happily discuss other ways you can be associated with the conservation project. We recognise too, that you may prefer to remain anonymous and will, of course, respect your wishes.

To find out more, please contact:

Colin Glynn-Percy director

✉ director@rosslynchapel.com



Dianne Stein
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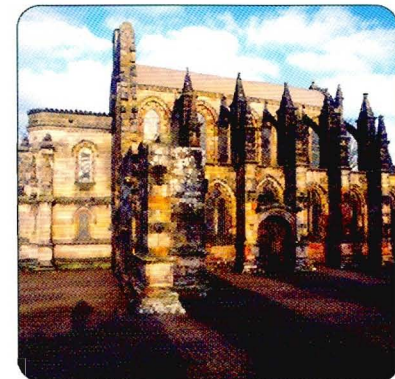
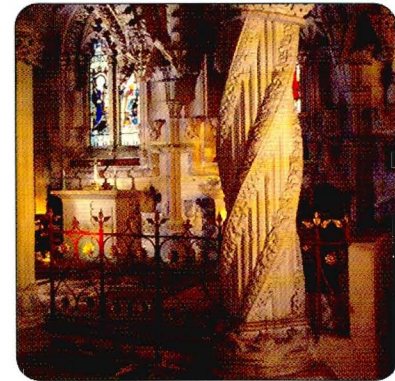
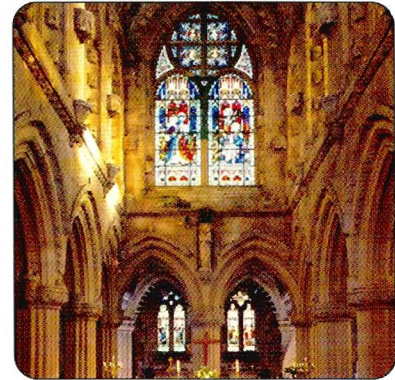
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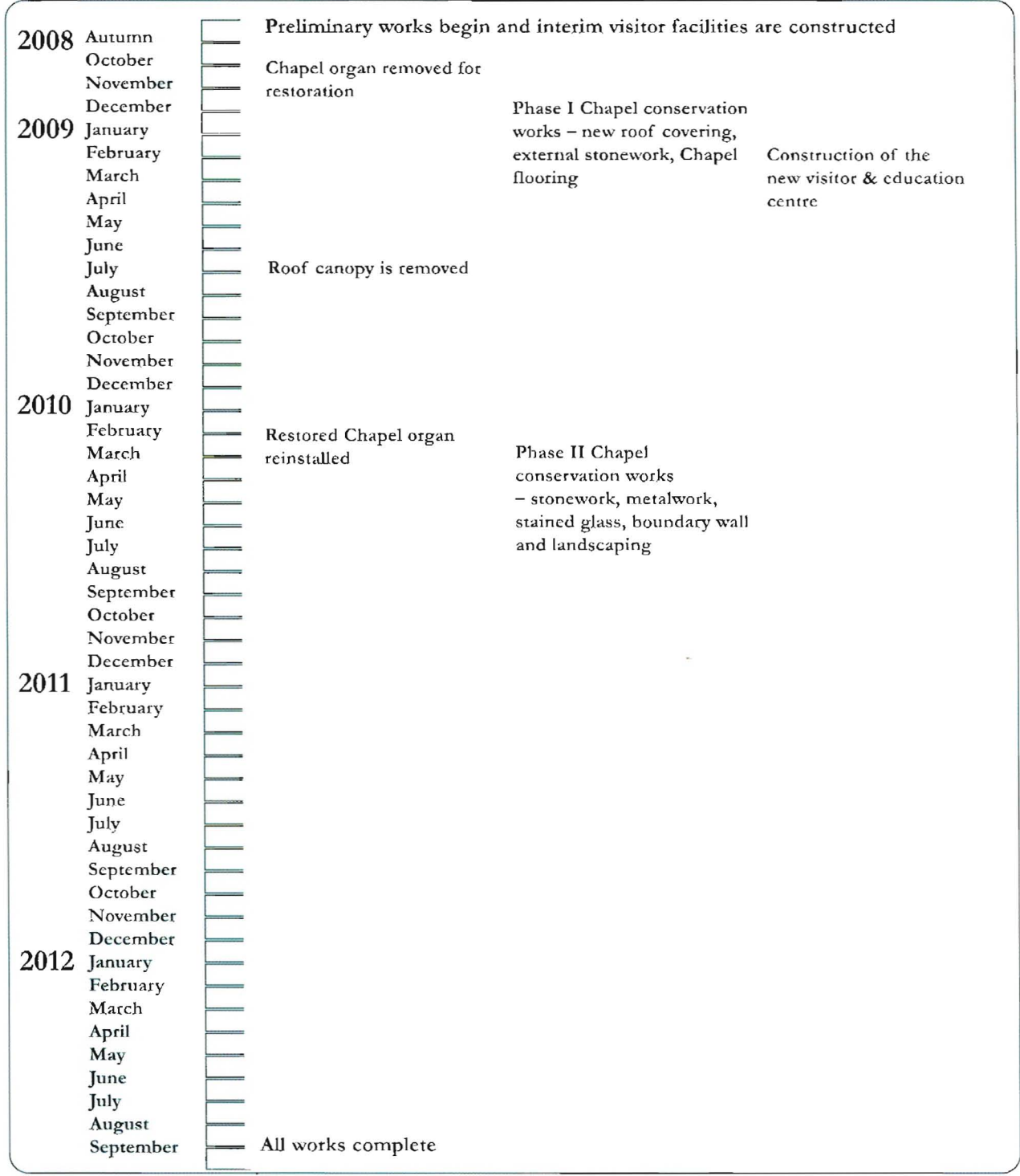


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Project timeline...



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