

## SELBY ABBEY

# 1906 SELBY ABBEY FIRE



### THE FIRE: ORIGINS AND RESPONSE

Just before midnight on October 19th 1906 the fire at Selby Abbey was spotted by Mr and Mrs Sykes who alerted the vergers Mr Bagshaw. The origin of the fire has never been proved, however rumor suggests a candle was left burning by a workman who was installing a new organ. Fighting the fire proved to be difficult for the fire brigade as the town's water supply used to be cut off at night. To help tackle the blaze fire engines arrived from York and Leeds via train and pulled by horses. By the morning the blaze had settled and work began to raise funds to help repair the Abbey. This family fun sheet will help you to explore the story of the Abbey fire through artefacts and fun activities!



### ARTEFACT: CHARRED ROOF BOSS

The fire destroyed much of the roof over the choir and chancel. This included the roof bosses. Roof bosses are often ornately carved and are placed at an intersection where cross beams meet. Many of the bosses damaged in the fire were unrecognisable, however, this one remained intact, though badly damaged. It now sits in our south transept and is available to view.



### ONLINE COLOURING

These online colouring sheets are great if you do not have access to a printer.

<https://www.thecolor.com/Coloring/Fire-truck-coloring-page.aspx>

<https://www.online-coloring.com/coloring-page/fire-truck-151.html>

### FIGHT THE FIRE: ACTIVITY

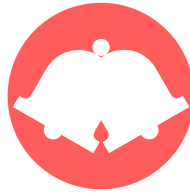
Help fight the Selby Abbey fire by playing this game!

You will need:

- disposable cups
- pens/paper
- ball



Each cup should be decorated with flames to resemble a fire. Stack the cups on top of one another in a pyramid. Each player should try and knock down the cups with their ball. First to knock them down wins!



## RESTORATION

After the fire the people of Selby as well as those from across the nation set to work fundraising for the Abbey's rebuild. Three years later the Abbey rose from the ashes ready for public use once more. From the damaged wood several items were made by locals and sold to raise funds for the rebuild. In addition, some walking sticks were made and given to notable people including the Arch Bishop of York. You can see our artefacts in the south transept of the Abbey.



## ARTEFACT: PENDANT

One of the items produced to raise money for the Abbey rebuild was a pendant. This pendant was made from fire damaged wood. It was purchased by Mr Keld shortly after the fire. Mr Keld can be seen in the picture below on the left of the barrow. The others in the picture are workmen who helped to restore the Abbey.

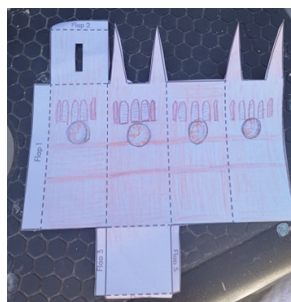


## MAKE YOUR OWN SELBY ABBEY MONEY BOX!

It took a lot of fundraising to help restore the Abbey after the fire. One way the people of Selby did this was by saving up small amounts over a period time. People do this today through the use of money boxes. Use the template on the following page to create a money box of a Selby Abbey tower. You can either print this page and cut the template out of try to draw your own to use from it if you do not have a printer. You will need:

- Scissors
- glue
- A4 card
- printer (or pens if you want to trace this copy or try to copy it for your own template)
- optional: colouring crayons, pens and decorating items to decorate the Abbey tower.

Below is a finished example of the tower to save your pennies!



Tip: enlarge the template to A3 for a bigger box!

**SELBY ABBEY**

# SELBY ABBEY MONEY BOX TOWER

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Copy, print or trace this template
2. Cut along all the solid black lines
3. Decorate your tower. Our example uses our clock, you could be more creative if you wish.
4. Fold along the dotted lines
5. Glue flap 1 to the opposite side of the money box.
6. Glue flap 2 to the box to secure the lid. You may need to use sellotape to secure it.
7. Glue flaps 3, 4 & 5 to the sides of the box to secure the bottom. Again, this may require sellotape.
8. Well done! Your money box is ready.

