



The Tudors

The Tudors were powerful Kings and Queens who ruled England and Wales from 1485 until 1603. Much of the decoration in St George's Chapel is Tudor.

Work began on the present Chapel in 1475 but took a long time and cost a lot of money. Most of the building was finished by the end of the reign of the first Tudor King (Henry VII), but it was not fully complete until 1528 when Henry VIII was on the throne - more than 50 years after construction started.

1. The Nave Crossing



Windsor was one of Henry VIII's favourite places. When St George's Chapel was almost finished he had the crossing that separates the **Nave** (the main body of the Chapel) from the **Quire** (where the Garter stalls are) decorated.

How can you tell that the arms in the middle are the King's?

Who do you think the other smaller badges belong to?

2. Sir Reginald Bray

The **Nave** was completed in the early 16th century thanks to Sir Reginald Bray (a close friend of Henry VII), who died in 1503 and left money in his will to finish the building.

To recognise Reginald Bray's generosity, his badge is displayed around the Chapel. The badge shows a hemp-bray: a toothed piece of machinery used for crushing hemp fibres which were then used to make rope.



There are 175 hemp-bray decorations in St George's Chapel. Tick the box when you find one in each location:

Ceiling

Door

Window

3. The West Window (Nave)

The **West Window** in the **Nave** of St George's Chapel is thought to be the third largest stained glass window in England – it is 11 metres high and 8.8 metres wide. Most of the glass in the West Window is over 500 years old.

The images in the window were made using pieces of glass stained in different colours. This was the grandest and most expensive sort of window, so stained glass was only used by very rich people for important buildings.



See if you can find kings, saints and popes on the window:

Why do you think that they were chosen to be in the window?

Who would you include in a window for an important building?

4. West Window Mystery Man



This man on the left is in the West Window but he is not a king, a saint or a pope...

Who do you think he is?

Why do you think this?

Why do you think that he is included in the window?

5. Henry VII's Coat of Arms (Nave)

This photograph shows the arms of Henry VII above the **Urswick Chantry Chapel**. What are the two animals on the arms?



Henry Tudor became Henry VII of England by beating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. To stop more wars breaking out Henry VII married Richard's niece, Elizabeth of York.

Before Henry Tudor became King his family's badge was a red rose. His wife's family used the symbol of a white rose. Look carefully at Henry VII's arms. How does Henry show that he has married Elizabeth and that there will be no more wars between their families?

6. Katherine of Aragon's Window (Quire)

Henry VIII was Henry VII's younger son. He only became King because his older brother Arthur died. Henry married his brother's widow, Katherine of Aragon in 1509.

Henry VIII had an oak window fitted above the **Quire** for Katherine and her ladies in waiting to watch Garter services from.

Look for the wooden carvings of Katherine of Aragon's badge of a pomegranate and Henry VIII's Tudor rose.



Why did Katherine have a pomegranate as her badge?

Why did Henry have a window fitted – why didn't Katherine and her ladies just sit in the main part of the Chapel to watch the Knights of the Garter?

7. Henry VIII's Ledger Stone (Quire)

Henry VIII is buried in a vault underneath the **Quire** in St George's Chapel.

Which of his wives is he buried with?

Why do you think he chose her?

Who else is buried in the vault with Henry VIII?



Why do you think a powerful King like Henry VIII has such a plain burial place?

8. Katherine of Aragon's Book (South Quire Aisle)



This book, in an exhibition case in the **South Quire Aisle**, belonged to Henry VIII's first wife Katherine of Aragon.

Tick the boxes when you find the decorations on the book which show the book belonged to Katherine:

A pomegranate

A Tudor rose

A garter around Henry VIII's arms

The book is by a Spanish man called Juan Vives who became friends with Katherine and tutored her daughter Princess Mary.

The book asks people to be peaceful instead of fighting wars.

Would Katherine's husband, Henry VIII have liked this book?

Do you think that a book about peace is a good idea?

9. Stained Glass of Henry VIII (South Quire Aisle)



This stained glass window in the **South Quire Aisle** shows Henry VIII with his son Edward VI, his third wife Jane Seymour and his daughter Elizabeth I. It was installed in 1846.

How can you tell that the people in the window are rich and powerful?

How is Henry VIII shown to be the most important person?

Why has Henry VIII's other child, Mary I, been missed out of the window?

10. Degraded Knight (South Quire Aisle)

When a person is made a Knight of the Garter, he has a metal plate with his name and arms put up at the back of his stall in the Quire. The stall plate stays in the Quire even after the Knight's death.

This stall plate (in the **South Quire Aisle**) is the only one in the Chapel which is not fixed in the Quire itself.

Look on the third line of writing to find this Knight's name

He was forced to leave the Order of the Garter (he was **degraded**) in 1572 because he wanted to marry Queen Elizabeth I's enemy, Mary Queen of Scots.

