



# Westminster Abbey

## Changemakers at the Abbey



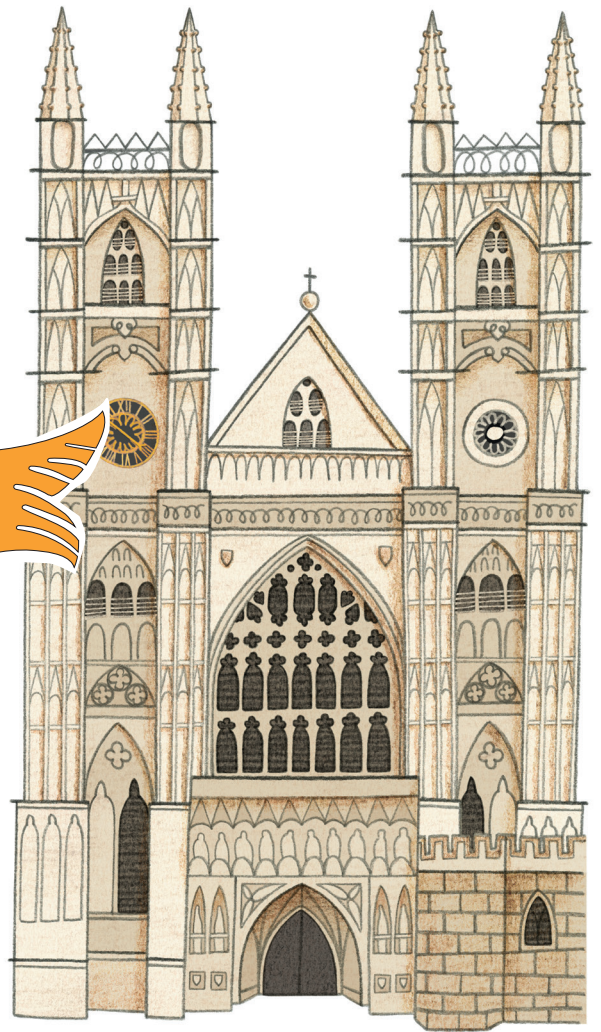
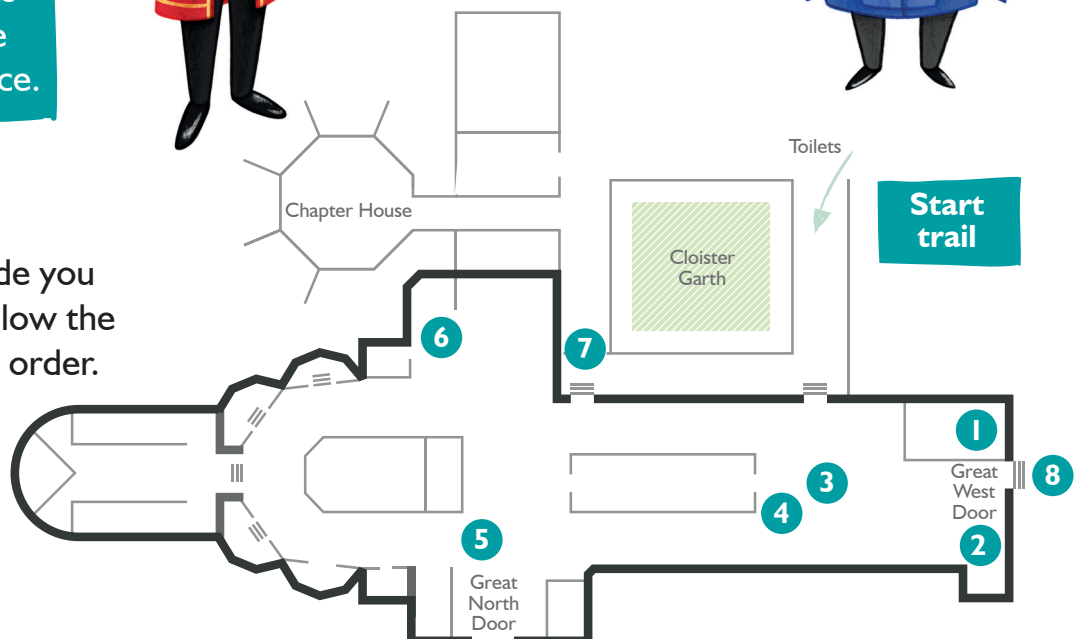
**Westminster Abbey tells the stories of thousands of individuals and their impact on society.**

It's not just kings and queens who have the power to make change. From suffragists to scientists, explore some of the many changemakers remembered here at the Abbey.

**Changemaker:**  
Someone who chooses to take action to make the world a better place.

## Site Map

This map will help guide you around the Abbey. Follow the blue dots in numerical order.



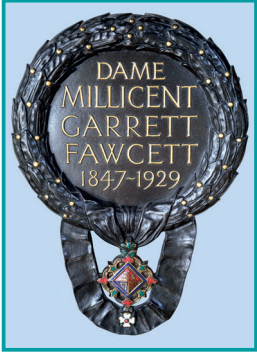
**Top tip!** If you have any questions, feel free to ask an Abbey Marshal or Abbey Guide in a red or blue gown.





## 1 The Coronation Chair: Suffragists and suffragettes

Inside this chapel is a memorial to the suffragist Dame Millicent Fawcett. At the start of the 20th century, the suffragist and suffragette movements campaigned for women's right to vote. They wanted to create equality between men and women by allowing women a say in politics.



Suffragists used peaceful methods of protest. Suffragettes took action that sometimes broke the law.

In 1914, suffragettes were suspected of planting a small bomb near the Coronation Chair. They wanted to raise awareness for their cause by targeting an important object. Luckily no one was hurt, but the chair was damaged. Can you spot the damage on the top right corner?



**Discuss:** Do you think causing damage is a good way to protest for a cause?

## 2 Lord Shaftesbury and Baroness Burdett-Coutts: Social reformers

To the right of the Great West Door, can you find the memorials to Lord Shaftesbury and Baroness Burdett-Coutts?



They were Victorian philanthropists who gave large amounts of their money to charity. They wanted to help others by making the world a better and fairer place.



They spent time campaigning for important causes, including:

- ☐ Protecting children from cruelty
- ☐ Protecting animals from cruelty
- ☐ Providing good-quality housing for the poor
- ☐ Providing education to all children
- ☐ Helping hospitals find treatments for diseases
- ☐ Protecting children from being forced to work

**Number these causes in order of importance to you, 1 being the most important and 6 the least. Why is your number 1 the most important? What do others in your group think?**

These philanthropists were able to make a positive impact on Britain through social reform. They stood up for what they believed in.

**Ask to be let through the barrier by one of the Abbey Marshals.**





### 3 Nelson Mandela: Activists

**As you approach the golden screen look down and find the memorial to Nelson Mandela.**

Mandela was a South African politician and activist. He believed people should be treated as equals and spent much of his life fighting apartheid. He was imprisoned for 27 years.

**Apartheid** was a system in South Africa where people were separated, and had different rights, according to the colour of their skin.

In 1994 he was elected the first black President of South Africa and faced the task of uniting the country.

**What are the words that encircle his memorial stone?**

**Why do you think these are important when trying to make positive change?**

**Reconciliation** is the act of restoring the relationship between people after a conflict or disagreement.



### 4 Scientists' Corner: Discoverers

**Can you find the graves of Sir Isaac Newton and Professor Stephen Hawking?**

These scientists lived at very different times, but both spent their lives pursuing greater knowledge. Their discoveries changed the way we think about the universe.

Isaac Newton is most famous for discovering the laws of gravity – the force that keeps us on Earth. But he also made many other important scientific discoveries.

**Look closely at his memorial and see how many you can find.**



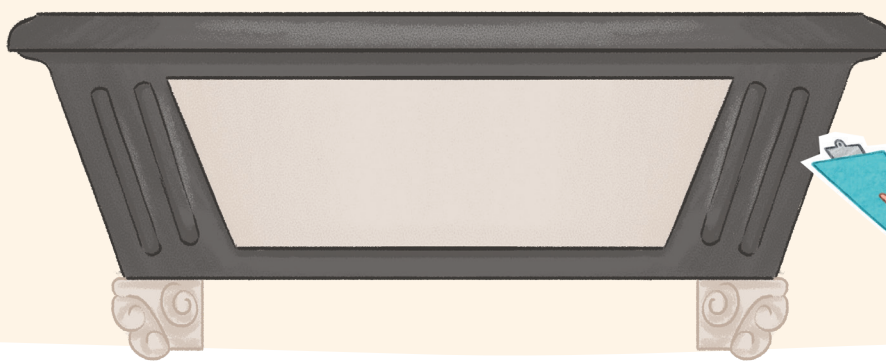
Stephen Hawking was a physicist and cosmologist. He came up with many theories about space. There's even an illustration of a black hole on his gravestone.

**The equation inside it is one of his important scientific ideas. Can you finish it?**

$$T = \frac{\hbar c^3}{8 \pi \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ }}$$

Stephen Hawking had motor neurone disease which meant he gradually lost control of his body's movement. He made incredible scientific discoveries and was an inspiration to many.

Think about your special talents. What would you like to be remembered for?  
**Design your own memorial (like Newton's) to highlight your achievements.**



### 5 Statesmen's Aisle: Lawmakers

This part of the Abbey remembers politicians.

**Can you find these prime ministers? Tick them off as you find them.**

- ☐ Benjamin Disraeli
- ☐ William Gladstone
- ☐ Robert Peel



Politicians are elected to represent the views of their constituents and can make significant positive change.

**Constituents:** The people who vote for and elect individual politicians, usually in a specific geographical area.

Within Britain, they all helped to widen democracy, ensured more people could vote, and increased people's rights and freedoms.

The Houses of Parliament, just across the road, is the place where politicians make decisions about the laws of this country.



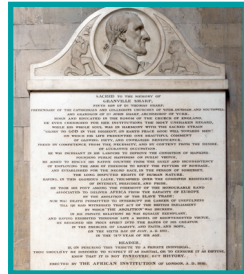
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How can we impact what happens in Parliament? What could you do if you don't agree with the rules set by our politicians? **Write down three ways you could make change.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 6 Poets' Corner: Abolitionists

Can you find the memorials to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Granville Sharp?



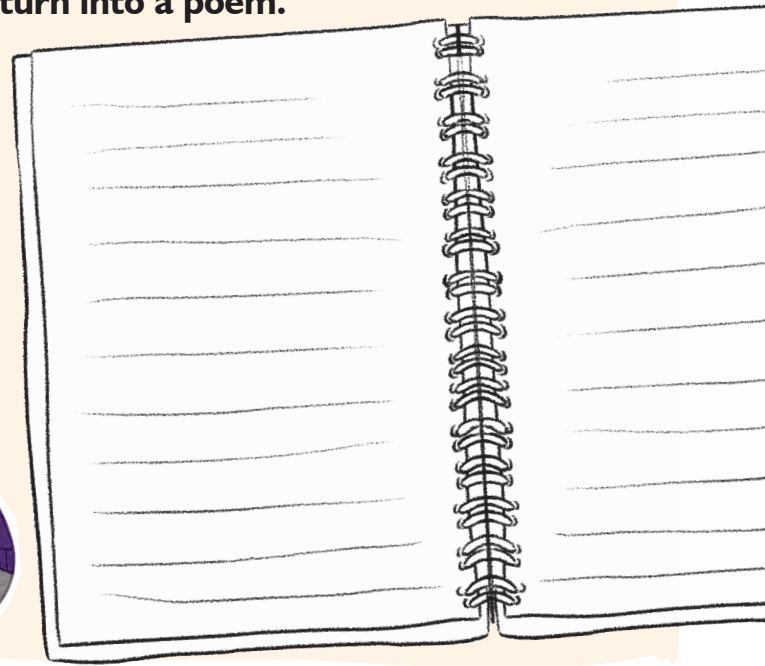
These people had very different jobs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning was a writer and Granville Sharp was a lawyer. However, they both believed that enslavement and the transatlantic slave trade – the trading of millions of enslaved people from West Africa – was wrong. In different ways, they fought to bring it to an end.

Sometimes many different people, for many different reasons, can work together to bring about the same change.



In her poem *A Curse for a Nation*, Browning criticises those who 'shall never dare' to speak out against the cruelties of enslavement.

Do you have a cause that is important to you?  
**Write down some ideas that you could turn into a poem.**



## 7 The cloisters: Pioneers

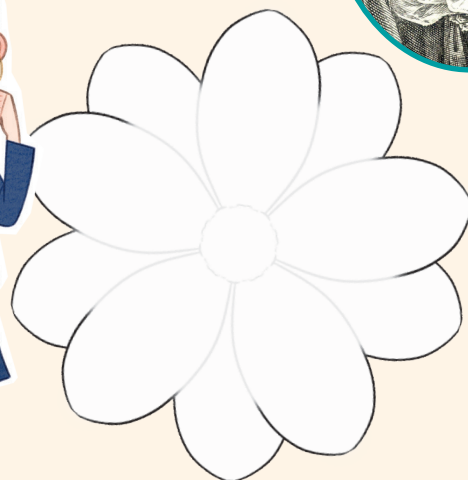
As you enter the cloisters, find the grave of Aphra Behn.



She was the first female playwright to earn a living from her writing. Although there were many women writers before her, they were never paid for their work in the same way as men.

Virginia Woolf, a later female author, said, 'All women together ought to let flowers fall upon the tomb of Aphra Behn, for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds'. Aphra Behn was a pioneer: she showed other women that they could be professional writers too.

Think of someone who inspires you, the way Aphra Behn inspired Virginia Woolf. Write their name in the flower.

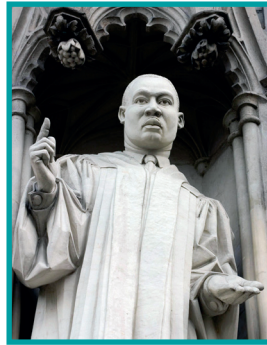
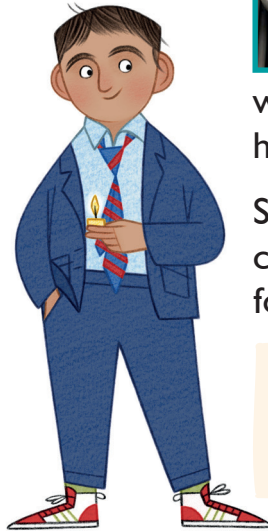




## 8 The Great West Door: Martyrs



Before you leave, walk to the west entrance of the Abbey and look for the statues of the 20th century Modern Martyrs. They commemorate ten Christians from all over the world who gave up their lives for their religious beliefs.



In the centre is Dr Martin Luther King Jr, a civil rights activist who fought against racial segregation and discrimination in the United States of America. He received many threats from those opposed to his work, but he continued because he believed in his cause. He was assassinated in April 1968.

Sacrifice is something these people have in common. They all gave up something important for their beliefs.

**Discuss as a group:** Can you think of something small you could give up to help others?

At the Abbey you have learnt about different ways people have worked to change the world. **Reflect on your visit and the fact that everyone has the power to be a changemaker.**

Use this space to make notes and sketches.

**We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Westminster Abbey today!**