

Thomas Becket
murder and the
making of a saint

Create a pendant

Who was Thomas Becket?

Thomas Becket was a leading political and religious figure in 12th-century England. Becket had a bitter dispute with the king and was brutally and publicly murdered. The story of his murder became legendary and he was made a saint. Thomas Becket was one of medieval Europe's most popular saints and his shrine at Canterbury was a major centre of pilgrimage.

Buying and wearing jewellery to show you had made a pilgrimage was common. Many different souvenirs would have been available, depending on what each pilgrim could afford.

Materials you will need to create your pendant

Kitchen foil (the thicker the better!), gluestick, scissors, pencil, magazine or pad of paper, tape, piece of string or cord, piece of card from a cereal packet.



Reliquary pendant showing Becket as archbishop. England, 15th century.

Be inspired

Use the picture of the Thomas Becket pendant as a starting point for your design. Your design could just include a face with hat, a whole person or a motif, such as a cross or rose flower. It's a bit like drawing a cartoon.

Quick draw

Start by drawing your design on a sheet of paper with a pencil. Try using dots, dashes and crosshatching to add texture. Remember, simpler designs work the best.

Once you are happy with your design put it on top of the dull side of your foil. You can tape them both together to stop your design moving around.



Trace, trace, trace!



Place both sheets on your soft pad of paper or magazine and using your pencil - make sure it is a bit blunt, not too sharp - trace over your design, pressing hard, so that it becomes embossed onto the silver foil below.



Sticky moments

Now turn your foil over and gently stick it to the piece of card from a cereal packet. Carefully cut around your design to make your pendant. Ask an adult for help if you find this tricky.



Let's go loopy!

Stick a strip of foil to a piece of card and cut it out into a long thin rectangle.



Gently bend the strip in half around a pencil to make a loop.



Using a piece of tape, attach this to the back of your pendant to create a loop for your string or cord.



And ta-da! It is finished

Well done! Now thread your string or cord through the silver loop and your pendant is ready to wear.

Don't forget to ask your adult to share your designs with us on Twitter @britishmuseum #ThomasBecket

