St Salvator’s Chapel is one of two surviving collegiate chapels belonging to the University of St Andrews, the other being St Leonard’s Chapel. It is a rare and beautiful example of late Gothic architecture. The chapel was founded in 1450 by Bishop Kennedy and has had a long and varied history. From its beginnings, the building had a dual role as the college chapel and as a collegiate church serving the wider community.

1. The Ante Chapel – Ceiling Bosses

Historically, churches have used symbols to invest objects with an inner meaning, expressing Christian ideology.

Identify the symbols on the ceiling bosses, one of which is shown on the right.

For the Answers, refer to the QR at the end.

2. The Ante Chapel – Consecration cross

Consecration crosses are found in many Medieval churches.

Examples of three can be found on the walls of the Ante Chapel.

How does one identify a consecration cross?

3 The Ante Chapel – Hugo Spens’ Grave Slab

On the back wall of the ante-chapel is the grave slab of Hugo Spens, Provost of the College from 1505 -1534.

What is significant about this slab?

4. The Nave - Wooden carvings

As you walk down the aisle towards the Communion Table, you will see intricate wooden carvings.

Note the carved ends to the front rows. These are called Poppyheads. Consider why that might be.

At the very top of the Principal’s Chair you can see the University Coat of arms. Heraldry has its own language. Which heraldic colours have been used here?
5. Bishop Kennedy’s Tomb
On the left (north) you will see Bishop Kennedy’s Tomb. Bishop Kennedy was the founder – in 1450 – of St Salvator’s College.

Scholars are unsure what this sculpture originally looked like.

What caused the defacement of this ornate sculpture?

6. Sacrament House
To the right of the tomb is the Sacrament House and further evidence of defacement.

What might this Sacrament House have held?

Why was the centre shield, at the top, erased?

7. Apse
The 13 Romanesque blind-arcading panels (including the 5 mosaics) were designed by Douglas Strachan, as a memorial.

What do the mosaics commemorate?

Which biblical scenes are depicted in the mosaics?

8. Pulpit
The pulpit, located at the southeast of the church, dates from the sixteenth century.

It features a wrought-iron bracket, which, formerly, would have held an hourglass used to measure the duration of the sermon.

When in use, what was the expected time of the average sermon?

9. Organ
The chapel’s third organ and was made by Gregor Hradetsky and installed in 1974.

As a reflection of the town of St Andrews, what do the colours grey and red in the organ represent?

10 Stained Glass windows
None of the Medieval glass survives and we have no evidence of what the original Medieval scheme looked like, but it is probable that finely patterned grisaille glass played an essential role in the decoration of the church. However, many of the replaced windows are fine examples of their period.

One window is in the style of a major artistic movement of the 19th century.

Identify the window and the artistic style.

11. Latin inscription
As you leave the Nave, turn to read the Latin inscription over the entrance.

Can you translate some of it?
Identify the source of this inscription.

12. Patrick Hamilton
On leaving the Chapel and moving into North Street, you will see the initials PH on the cobbles of the pavement.

What event took place on this spot?
And why?

Answers:
churchtrails.nadfas.net