

## King Richard III White Rose Activity Pack

2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Reinterment of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral. To mark this significant moment in history, get ready to join us for a spectacular three-week programme of services, events, and activities in March 2025.

We would like to reach out to members of Leicester's diverse community to help us create 540 white roses, one for every year since the death of Richard III. As well as honouring Richard's anniversary, each rose will represent the memory of the loss of a loved one.

Richard III, who was killed in battle at Bosworth in 1485, was the head of the House of York, which had the white rose as its symbol. During the Middle Ages, roses were considered common symbols of divinity and royalty.

White roses are often included in floral arrangements, honouring a loved one's memory with their quiet elegance and purity. These blooms represent a farewell, a gesture of eternal love, and a reminder of cherished moments shared, often expressing hope and comfort during a loss.

It doesn't matter how they are created or with what so that everyone, no matter their ability, can be part of this moving participatory installation. Shown below is a step by step guide to creating a white rose, the first method uses repurposed fabrics and the second is created with a repurposed book.

### Repurposed White Fabric Rose

Step 1 –



These beautiful fabric roses are easy to make and can be created using any white repurposed fabrics that you may have at home. They look extra special when mixing types of fabrics to give extra texture and tone, this can be from old clothes and even net curtains! You will also need some sharp scissors as well as a needle and thread or glue if you prefer.

Step 2 –



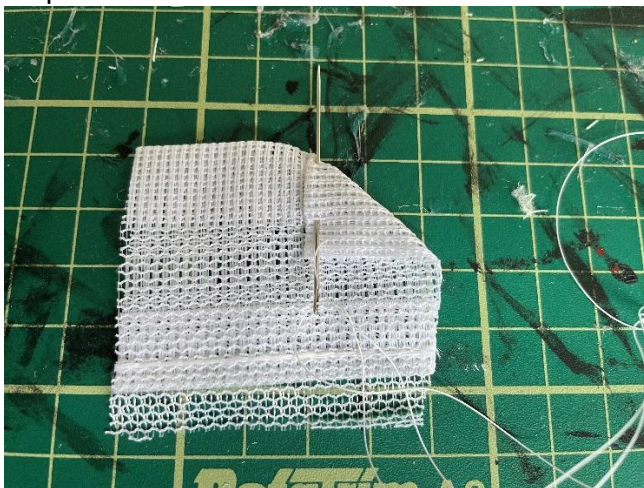
Cut your selected fabric into squares. It doesn't matter if they are all exactly the same, just chop the fabric into rough squares. The size will determine how large your finished rose will be. Put one of the squares to one side for the centre of the rose.

Step 3 -



Cut your fabric square to a petal shape. If you find it easier to cut round a template to create the petals then there is one included here, or you could cut a shape freestyle. They don't have to be the same or be perfect! Cut the petal shape from your range of white fabrics.

Step 4 -





Using the square you put to one side, fold over the top right hand corner. Using a needle and thread, (or you could use glue), fix into place.

Step 5 –



Roll the square over from right to left to create a coil and sew or glue in place. This becomes the centre of your rose to which all the other petals will connect.

Step 6 -



Choose your first petal from the ones you have cut out. If your fabric has two different finishes front and back, choose the finish you wish to see most of and make sure that is the side that faces the central coil of the rose.

Wrap the chosen petal around the coil and fix in place with thread or glue.

Step 7 -



Every time you add a new petal, place the centre of the next petal over the top of where the last petal finished so that they overlap.

Step 8 -



Keep going adding petals from different fabrics to add texture until you reach your desired size of rose.

Step 9 –





When the rose is finished, add a white ribbon or string and fix in place by sewing or gluing in place. This is how it will fix in place as part of the installation.

### Repurposed White Paper Rose

Step 1 –



These paper roses are easy to make and can be created using any pages of a repurposed book that you may have at home. They look beautiful when created with discarded vintage book pages but they could also be created from any white paper. You could also use a book or text that is linked in some way to the loved one you are creating the rose in memory of. Perhaps their favourite story? You will also need scissors and glue or a hot glue gun and something like a pencil to roll the petals around.

Step 2 –



Fold your paper into squares. I folded mine into 6. It doesn't matter if they are all exactly the same, just chop the paper into rough squares. The size will determine how large your finished rose will be. Put one of the squares to one side for the centre of the rose.

Step 3 –



If you find it easier to cut round a template to create the petals then there is one included here, or you could cut a shape freestyle. They don't have to be the same or be perfect! Cut the petal shape from your range of papers.

Step 4 -



Using the pencil, roll the edges of each petal to create a more natural shape.

Step 5 –







Using the square you put to one side, fold over the top right-hand corner and glue into place.

Step 6 -



Roll the square over from right to left to create a coil and glue in place. This becomes the centre of your rose to which all the other petals will connect.

Step 7 -



Choose your first petal from the ones you have cut out. Wrap the chosen petal around the coil and fix in place with glue.



Every time you add a new petal, place the centre of the next petal over the top of where the last petal finished so that they overlap.

Step 8 –



Keep going adding petals to add texture until you reach your desired size of rose.

Step 9 –



When the rose is finished, add a white ribbon or string and glue in place. This is how it will fix in place as part of the installation.

These are only a few ideas for creating your white rose.. there are so many more! You could even try mixing book pages and fabric together in one rose.

You could crochet, knit, create a rose from white ribbon or even painted cardboard!

I have found a few interesting online videos that you could look at for inspiration below:

Ribbon Roses:

<https://youtu.be/KPXy-IC1a1w>

Crepe Paper:

<https://youtu.be/5a98B0lcktA>

Crochet:

<https://youtu.be/wjvJ5w9dsrw?si=Hw6QF4Dx0g33596A>

Knitted:

<https://youtu.be/0oGXfizifEM?si=87zDWis3Vkd9PN4y>

Cardboard:

[https://youtu.be/c98g3\\_yyro0?si=L6ronUYBWQhfDqzg](https://youtu.be/c98g3_yyro0?si=L6ronUYBWQhfDqzg)

If you would like any help or support please don't hesitate to pop along to Mission Magpie where we can help you create your rose.

Printed guides will be able to be collected from the reception desk at the Cathedral and from our activity hub at Mission Magpie, Community Hub, Haymarket Shopping Centre on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Access to extra fabric and paper supplies will also be available from Mission Magpie.

