

## York Minster: Building time line with significant historic events

### Pre Conquest

- 306 Constantine proclaimed Emperor in York, as emperor he embraced Christianity. Eborius First Bishop of York attended the Council of Arles in 314.
- 627 Following Augustine's mission to Canterbury, a new Minster (wooden) was built in York by King Edwin of Northumbria with Paulinus made Bishop. Paulinus rebuilt it in stone in 640 (dedication St Peter).
- 669 Bishop Wilfred makes major repair to York Minster, in following year rebuilds Ripon Minster and in 674 Hexham Minster. Wilfred driven out by Bishop Bosa in 678.
- 735 York Diocese becomes an Arch Diocese, first Archbishop is Egbert. Paulinus's church rebuilt following a fire in 741.
- 865-8 [First Viking invasion by Danes](#), York Minster is unmolested and remains so until 1069.
- 875 [York becomes Jorvik as eastern side of the country is occupied by Danish armies](#)
- 919 [Dublin Vikings under Raegnald \(Norwegian\) take control of York.](#)
- 939 [King Athelstan dies, Olaf \(Norwegian\) takes over Kingdom of Northumbria](#)
- 954 [King Eadred conquers the Scandinavian Kingdom of York driving out King Eric Bloodaxe. Eadred negotiates the new county boundaries with the King of Northumbria. Yorkshire and Lancashire are added to Eadreds kingdom. A quarter century of peace follows.](#)
- 1013 [King Swein of Denmark conquers much of the south east and English midlands, He dies in 1014 and is succeeded by King Canute.](#)
- 1030 The Archbishop of York has 4 suffragan Bishops in his large Diocese, at Ripon Minster, Beverley Minster, Southwell Minster and Hexham Minster.
- 1043 [King Edward the Confessor is made King and reigns until 1066](#)
- 1066 [Danish armies gather 3 miles north of York at Stamford Bridge but are defeated by Harold](#)
- 1066 [William the Conqueror defeats English armies at Hastings and establishes control in the Southern and Midland counties and holds court at Winchester, London and Gloucester.](#)

### Post Conquest

- 1068 Resistance in the north by Edgar the Atheling in alliance with the Scottish King Malcolm, Northumbrian earls and Danish princes, William builds a castle at York

- 1069 Harrying of the north by Norman armies to crush resistance, causes significant damage to York Minster. Construction of second Norman Castle and extending town walls follows. Widespread slaughter by Normans of civilians, livestock and destruction of dwellings.
- 1075 Danish invasion lead by Prince Cnut sacks York and Minster destroyed. Invaders repelled.
- 1075 Archbishop Thomas commenced the building of a large new Cathedral in Romanesque Style, with cruciform plan and no aisles. This was to be served by secular clergy and was complete c.1100.
- 1170 Archbishop Roger Pont L'Eveque constructs new Episcopal Palace. In the same year he Rebuilt and enlarged the quire with aisles.
- 1220 Archbishop Walter de Gray commences the rebuilding of the Minster in EE gothic style. He started with both Transepts and Crossing completed c1255.
- 1275 Chapter House with octo-pyramidal roof, flying buttresses and vestibule in 'geometric' style, complete in 1290.
- 1291 Nave and aisles begun with clerestory and triforium combined, complete c1340. Nave Vault (timber), W. Front (curvilinear style), glazing and 3 Portals, complete c1360, excl. Twin Towers.
- 1361 Arch Bishop Thoresby commences the extension of the east end, including Retro Choir, 3 bays long, new east transept and Great East Window, all perpendicular style. From 1369, Robert de Patrington is master mason. Windows glazed 1408, master glazer J. Thornton.
- 1394 Romanesque Choir demolished and perpendicular style 4 bay Choir built to link extension to crossing. Central tower collapsed 1407, rebuilding of eastern arm complete c.1420 including lierne vaulting (timber). Pulpitum completed 1450, central tower c 1470.
- 1465 Paired west towers added to West Front in perp style completed c1472. West towers and central tower are all the same height, 60 metres, all have 'curvilinear' flourishes

## Post Reformation

- 1731 Nave paving replaced with black marble/ York stone to a design by Lord Burlington and William Kent.
- 1829 Fire causes major damage to roof and timber furnishings. Robert Smirke (architect) Restores lierne vaults to nave and eastern arm, and barrel vault in south transept. Also Bishops Throne, choir stalls, pulpit, reredos and organ case are renewed.