

	Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Timeline
70 - 410AD	The Romans had a legionary fortress with 5000 men stationed at Chester (Deva) which was used to attack the Druids on Anglesey. The fortified settlement continued to develop in size and significance as a border stronghold until their departure in the 5 th century.
500-800	Whilst there was Anglo Saxon settlement on the south and east sides of Britannia, the western and northern regions including parts of Wales and Scotland, were occupied by the Britons, and Northumbrians. This middle western region became known as the kingdom of Mercia and it had to defend itself from its warring neighbours (Welsh, Saxon, Anglian and Northumbrian). St Chad established the Diocese of Lichfield in 670 AD which extended into what is now Cheshire and Lancashire. In Chester the church of St John the Baptist was founded in 689 by Aethelred, next to the Roman Amphitheatre, where the enlarged Norman church stands today.
800-1040	Viking raids and settlement devastated many of the coastal towns, and the native population was not organised to resist the scale of Scandinavian force, especially in eastern regions, which fell under Danelaw. Western regions were attacked by Norwegian Vikings from Dublin and the Isle of Man. In spite of this onslaught the Chester church of St Peter and St Paul was founded in the 9 th century and was refounded in 907 as St Werburgh's collegiate church (the saint's body was buried in the church). The Anglo Saxons eventually managed to push back the Viking armies and establish a unified England by 960. Despite military successes by Danish King Knut in the early 11 th century, the English Kings retained control until the death of Edward the Confessor.
1066-1250	The Norman conquest overcame resistance in the north of England c1070 with a campaign of castle building, originally timber built on the motte and bailey model. Castles were built at West Derby, Warrington and Newton-le-Willows presumably to control activity on the River Mersey and defend the Norman settlements. King John in 1207 gave the small settlement of Livpul Royal Borough status and 30 years later a large stone castle was built by William de Ferrers complete with Hall, chapel, drawbridge, moat and facilities for a small garrison. A settlement developed around the castle. In Chester, St John the Baptist's church was refounded as Chester Cathedral in 1075 to become the cathedral church of Lichfield Diocese until 1237, when the bishopric returned to Lichfield. St Werburgh's collegiate church was rebuilt and refounded as St Werburgh's Abbey from 1092 (Benedictine) by Hugh Lupus.
1300-1500	The settlement at Livpul was enlarged and by 1360 had 2 small chapels, St Mary del Key and Our Lady and St Nicholas, both Chapels of Ease to the parish church at Walton. Very few buildings of this period have survived but the Norman family names established in the 12 th century are still with us, the Stanley's and the Molyneux's (later generations of Stanleys were to become major funders of Liverpool Cathedral from 1900). Birkenhead Priory established 1170 was granted exclusive rights to run the ferry across the Mersey from 1330 which would have enabled passage of both people and trade.

1539-1660	<p>At the Reformation Lichfield Diocese was reduced in size, giving Cheshire and Lancashire to the new Diocese of Chester, and dissolving St Werburgh's Abbey to refound it as Chester Cathedral governed by Dean and Chapter.</p> <p>The English civil war and the Commonwealth governed by Oliver Cromwell brought a dark period for the Church of England when most cathedral churches were vandalised and considered redundant. With the death of Cromwell in 1559, all of this was to change.</p> <p>The Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 brought the Stewarts back to the throne and restored prosperity to the country and to the church.</p>
1700-1880	<p>This was a period of great prosperity for Liverpool which began in the mid 18th century. The population was only 5,715 in 1700, but had risen to 18,000 in 1740. By 1800 the population had risen to 78,000 and by 1871 to 493,000. The growth in prosperity was a result of ship building, the trade with both Ireland and America, the industrial revolution, growing the Empire, but mostly a result of the success of the slave trade, which operated from Liverpool to West Africa, from there to the West Indies and America and from there back to Liverpool. In 1740 Liverpool was the chief port in Europe for slavery. Abolition in 1807 was not fully achieved for some 20 years. The port of Liverpool continued to prosper throughout the 19th century despite the loss of the slave trade. The burgeoning population, poverty and the pressing need for adequate housing was a problem throughout this period.</p> <p>The Catholic Relief Acts of the late 18th century and the Emancipation Act of 1828 saw Roman Catholic churches built for the first time since 1539. Throughout this period there were also growing numbers of protestants who worshipped in non-conformists chapels.</p>
1880-1902	<p>The Chester Diocese was reduced in size when Manchester Diocese was created in 1848, and in 1880 it was again reduced to cover only the county of Cheshire, allowing for a new diocese, the Liverpool Diocese to be formed extending from the Mersey to the border of Westmorland. The Parish Church of St Peter Liverpool was made Pro Cathedral in 1880 in anticipation that a new cathedral would be built to serve the diocese. In 1901 an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the building of the new Cathedral and a competition was launched to select an Architect. A committee was formed to find a suitable site, and fund raising began in earnest. The 1901 census showed that the population in Liverpool was now 685,000.</p>
1903-78	<p>The competition for Cathedral Architect was won by Giles Gilbert Scott aged 22 who was to share the role with the acknowledged master of high gothic G.F. Bodley. Bodley had been one of the assessors of the competition and no doubt had been given joint authorship to balance Scott's lack of experience. Within 4 years Bodley died leaving Scott as sole architect until his death in 1960 aged 79 (and still working).</p>
1910	<p>The Lady Chapel was completed first and consecrated. Scott now revised his overall design for the cathedral, simplifying the east end chapels and removing the twin towers proposed above the eastern transepts, replacing them with a massive central Tower positioned between east and west transepts.</p>
1914-18	<p>The war had an impact on the construction labour force with large numbers of men either volunteering or being conscripted in the armed services</p>
1924	<p>The choir and east transepts were consecrated.</p>

1930-45	The RC Arch Diocese of Liverpool started to plan for their new cathedral at the east end of Hope Street, and appointed Edwin Lutyens as architect. He was one of the most talented architects in the world at this time and his work (mostly on a monumental scale) was known across the British Empire. Work began with the foundations and crypt but came to a halt during the war, and was considered to be too costly (and too large) to proceed further.
1939-45	The Anglican cathedral continued to move forward with the completion of the 'under tower' space, the western transepts and the central tower in 1942. As in the first world war there was a slowing down of progress due to conscription and worse still bombardment from German air raids in 1941. The glass on the south side was shattered and there was shrapnel damage to the masonry. During this period Scott reworked his plan for the nave, reducing the floor level by 4 feet and adding the magnificent bridge east of the nave. The organ was to be placed over the bridge, but Scott repositioned it to the choir and east transepts.
1946-78	The Nave was completed in 2 phases, with the 2 nave bays closest to the west transept, followed by the western most bay and the west front. The completed Cathedral is 457 feet long from east to west (internal) 615ft (external) Both externally and internally the cathedral has fine sculpture at all levels, this is mostly the work of Edward Carter Preston 1885-1965 who spent most of his life at Liverpool Cathedral.
1960-7	During this period the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool put Lutyens scheme behind them and appointed Frederick Gibberd to design a contemporary style cathedral which would sit on top of the Lutyens crypt. Work began on site in 1962 and was completed and consecrated in 1967 to great acclaim. It was unlike any other cathedral in the UK, built mostly in concrete, its plan was circular with central altar and 13 peripheral chapels each accessed from the outer aisle.