

Norwich Cathedral: Building timeline and significant historic events

Pre Conquest

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| 650 | Burgundian missionary, St Felix, becomes first bishop of the East Angles at Dunwich. |
| 670 | Archbishop Theodore of Tarsus divides the diocese of the East Angles into two, with a second see to the West, at North Elmham. |
| 870 | No records of East Anglian bishops, due to Danish invasions and settlements. |
| 955 | |
| 955 | Bishops return and the two dioceses are re-united, with the see at North Elmham. |

Post Conquest

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| 1068 | Normans start work on building Norwich castle. |
| 1070 | The see was transferred to Thetford from North Elmham, but the growing pre-eminence of Norwich was already signified by the granting of a site for a cathedral by William 1st. A Saxon settlement and two churches are reported being demolished to make room for the new building. |
| 1091 | Bishop Herbert de Losinga started the process of moving the see from Thetford to Norwich, the final transfer being made in 1094. |
| 1096 | Herbert de Losinga laid the foundation stone for the new monastery church and |
| 1119 | work carried on apace, with the cathedral consecrated for use on 24 th September 1101. By the time of Herbert's death, in 1119, the chancel and the first five bays of the nave had also been built, along with the transepts and the crossing tower, up to the height of the nave roof level. Herbert also built accommodation and offices for the sixty Benedictine monks of his foundation, with a cloister and the first bishop's palace. |
| 1121 | Under Herbert's successor, Eborard de Montgomery, the nave and aisles were |
| 1145 | completed and the tower heightened to the level of the present-day battlements. |
| 1169 | The timber spire was partly rebuilt after a lightning strike, 2 years after being erected. |
| c.1250 | Suffield's Lady chapel completed. |
| 1272 | Serious rioting of the townspeople against the monastery, the cathedral survived, but was damaged, there was much plundering and the cloisters and other monastic buildings were more severely damaged. |
| 1278 | The cathedral was re-consecrated on Advent Sunday, after the rebuilding. |
| 1297 | After being almost completely destroyed in the 1272 rioting the cloisters were |
| 1430 | rebuilt over an extended time period, with details of the tracery and vaulting |

	illustrating the transitions from pure Geometrical, through Curvilinear and Flamboyant to Perpendicular style. However, a visual uniformity was retained by the shape of the window arches remaining the same throughout. These are the largest monastic cloisters in Britain and uniquely three-storied along three ranges.
1320	St Ethelbert's gate was erected, as part of the protection of the monastery precinct following the earlier riots.
1362	The Norman spire blew down onto the presbytery roof in a heavy storm and rebuilding in stone was started under Bishop Percy (1355 – 1369)
1416	Choir stalls and canopies were installed under Bishop John Wakering
1425	
1420	The Erpingham Gate was erected by Sir Thomas Erpingham in an enriched perpendicular style with expertly knapped flintwork.
1426	On the West front the Norman door was masked by a new Perpendicular one by
1436	Bishop Alnwick, who also had the Great Window installed with nine lights and four tiers of Perpendicular tracery. His successor, Bishop Walter Lyhart, (1446 – 1472) completed the tracery and installation of the stained glass.
1463	The timber rooves of the crossing and nave were burned out by a lightning strike on tower. Stone lierne vaults replaced the timber rooves under Bishop Walter Lyhart.
1480	Stone spire completed in time of Bishop James Goldwell (1472 to 1499) he also had the presbytery re-vaulted with stone lierne vaults to tie in with the nave and crossing. During his time the Norman lean-to rooves of the triforium were replaced by higher flatter rooves and ranges of rectangular windows added above the original triforium arcades.
1509	A fire destroyed the timber rooves of the transepts, allowing Bishop Nykke to extend the stone lierne vaulting over the transepts also.

The Reformation

1538	The Monastery was dissolved with a very smooth transition, the church became a 'New Foundation' cathedral, the last prior became the first dean and former monks filled the residentiary canonries. In another instance Osbert Parsley sang daily offices from 1535 to 1585, through Latin and English phases, from Roman catholic to Anglican.
1643	Puritan soldiery destroyed all 'popish' items such as crucifixes, brasses and stained-glass windows. The cathedral remained semi-derelict until the restoration of 1660.

	Saxon
	Norman
	Gothic

	Tudor
	Stuart