

DURHAM CATHEDRAL

FACT SHEET: A short history of the building and major events of Durham Cathedral

687

Death of St Cuthbert on the Farne Islands.

995



The Community of St Cuthbert settle at Dunholme. (The legend of the Dun Cow). A wooden church was built on the peninsula around the Shrine of St Cuthbert.

1017

A Saxon stone church, known as the White Church was completed.

1022

Bede's bones were brought from Jarrow by Aelfred Westou and placed in St Cuthbert's Shrine.

1072

A Norman bishop appointed to Durham.

1083



Monastery founded by William of St Calais, Monk, Bishop of Durham.

1093

The foundations of the present cathedral laid by Bishop William of St Calais.

1133

The Nave, choir, apse and transepts were completed.

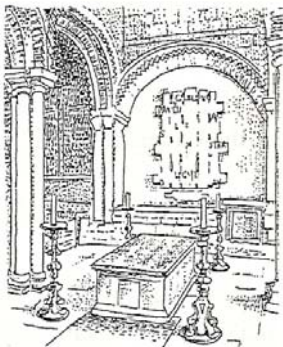
1175

The Galilee Chapel was built in late Norman style. (Bishop Hugh le Puiset).

1242

The building of the Chapel of the Nine Altars commenced. (Richard le Poor - translated from Bishop Salisbury)

1346



The Battle of Neville's Cross (Prior John Fossor).

1370

The bones of the Venerable Bede are transferred to a shrine in the Galilee Chapel.

1372

The Neville family gave the Caen Stone to build the screen at the High Altar. It contained 107 statues of the Saints. (Prior Robert of Berrington).

1494

Prior Thomas Castell installs a clock in the cathedral.

1539

Reformation. The destruction of the shrines and statues. The monastery was dissolved.

1541

The cathedral is given a new charter and is reopened. The last Prior, Hugh Whitehead, became the first Dean. Twelve former monks became the first canons.



1542

St Cuthbert re-buried in present tomb.

1650

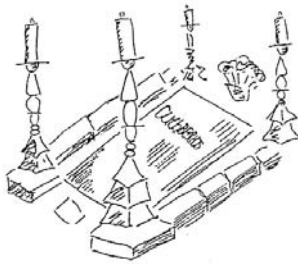
Scottish prisoners imprisoned in Durham Cathedral.

1662-70

Bishop John Cosin restores the choir stalls and the font.

1827

St Cuthbert's burial place in the Feretory, excavated under the direction of James Raine and the cross, apparel, tomb and altar together with the fragments of the coffins were removed.



1836

Palatinate and secular authority of Bishops of Durham abolished.

1840

17th century choir screen removed and organ console and pipes put in the choir.

1870

Sir George Gilbert Scott installs pulpit, lectern, choir screen, and marble floor in the choir.

1933

Dean Cyril Alington founded the Friends of the Cathedral.

1937-38

Prior Castell's clock restored and placed in original position.

1993

900 Celebrations commemorating the building of the Norman Cathedral commenced in 1093.



1995

Millennium of the Diocese commemorating the coming to Durham of the Shrine of St Cuthbert and his community

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