

## Norwich's Cathedrals

Norwich is one of the cities that has two cathedrals -to the left is the pre-Reformation building, now the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity,(Anglican).

Photo - Diego Delso  
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On the right is the late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist, (Roman Catholic)

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Our reflection will focus on the Anglican Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.



Norwich Cathedral dates back to 1096 and, as with most post Norman Conquest cathedrals it had a Benedictine priory.

Using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, you may wish to use these Cathedral webpage links to explore the cathedral in more detail.

### Cathedral webpage links

#### Web page

<https://cathedral.org.uk/>

**Explore – A Cathedral of stories**, this is not a Timeline but rather a series of short stories

<https://cathedral.org.uk/our-story/>

and or click this link to go on a

**Virtual Tour** of parts of the cathedral.

<https://cathedral.org.uk/virtual-tour/>

Simon Jenkins in England's Cathedrals (page 175) recounts the period after the Norman Conquest and some of the early issues regarding the founding of a new diocese in East Anglia about where the new cathedral should be located. Eventually, Norwich became the location of the new cathedral. The Norman Herbert de Losinga, who came from a wealthy Normandy family, and was Bishop of Thetford, became the first bishop of Norfolk. He allegedly offered the sum of £1000 to become a bishop, thus committing the act of simony, the buying or selling of ecclesiastical privileges.

Herbert de Losinga was ruthless when it came to building the cathedral, about a third of the town was demolished, including two churches. De Losinga was lavish to the extreme in building the cathedral and it is thought that the cathedral close covered about a tenth of the area of the mediaeval city.

England's Cathedrals provide examples of the marvels of human achievements, but they came at a cost, showing there is fine line between strong committed leadership within the Church and arrogant, abusive and oppressive leadership. The riots of 1272 by local people against the monastery was evidence of the gulf between church and people.

The end of the Middle Ages was followed by the Renaissance in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century and a period where the music of the cathedral was under the influence of a remarkable man, Osbert (Osberto) Parsley (1510/1511 – 1585). He was a composer, chorister and lay clerk in Norwich Cathedral for 50 years. He brought his passion to the cathedral during the difficult period of the Reformation.

## Some cathedral historical events from the Norman Conquest to the Civil War

### **1272**

There was serious rioting by local people directed towards the monastery. The cathedral was damaged along with other monastic buildings.

### **1278**

Advent Sunday the cathedral was reconsecrated following the restoration of the cathedral.

### **1297-1430**

Following the rioting of 1272 the cloisters were rebuilt.

### **1463**

Lightening damages the roof. The timber was replaced by stone vaults.

### **1538**

The monastery was dissolved without too much upheaval. The Prior became the Dean of the Cathedral with monks becoming residentiary canons

### **1535 – 1585**

The daily office was sung by Osbert Parsley. He made the transition from Latin to English and from Roman Catholic to Church of England.

### **1643**

Civil War, the Puritans damaged the cathedral removing 'popish' items. The cathedral was to remain semi derelict until restoration in 1660

Adapted from:

<https://aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Norwich-Cathedral-timeline.pdf>



Osbert (Osberto) Parsley is buried in the cathedral with this memorial:



Evelyn Simak - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0

Here lies the man whose Name in  
Spight of Death,  
Renowned lives by Blast of Golden  
Fame:  
Whose Harmony survives his vital  
Breath.  
Whose Skill no Pride did spot whose  
Life no Blame.  
Whose low Estate was blest with quiet  
Mind:  
As our sweet Cords with Discords  
mixed be:  
Whose life in Seventy and Four Years  
entwin'd,  
As falleth mellowed Apples from the  
Tree.  
Whose Deeds were Rules whose  
Words were Verity:  
Who here a Singing-man did spend  
his Days.  
Full Fifty Years in our Church Melody  
His Memory shines bright whom thus  
we praise.



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Diliff - Creative Commons Attribution  
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Osbert Parsley was clearly a person of talent and passion who had a commitment to the life of Norwich Cathedral.

Like many cathedrals, Norwich experienced dark times where its history was at odds with the teaching of Jesus. Alongside these periods of darkness, there were often flickers of light, which could be found in the sounds of the choristers and musicians, as their voices and chords reached out to the people gathered for prayer and worship.

In our time of reflective prayer, we will hear some of Osbert Parsley's compositions for the cathedral and the girl choristers singing 'Dear Lord and Father'.

## **A familiar start to our time of reflective prayer**

**Find your favourite space for this time  
of prayerful reflection**

**light a candle**

**Slow down, breathe calmly, be  
comfortable  
and relax.**

**Set aside time**

**Sense the presence of God in this  
stillness.**

**Opening words from the Psalms**

We say Psalms that record God's good gifts to us and also tell stories of difficulties we experience today. We hear readings from the Bible and offer prayers for the new day, for those in need and for the world. (Norwich Cathedral web page)



This was the Lord's doing;  
It *is* marvellous in our eyes.  
This *is* the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Psalm 118:23-25 New King James Version

We listen to 'This is the day which the Lord hath made' by Osbert Parsley

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/s-zNMDI-VaA?si=beoIXGtaM-l2LaYh>

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—  
From whence comes my help?  
My help *comes* from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
Psalm 121:1-2 New King James Version





Let us pray:

- ❖ *for those who work and worship in the cathedral.*
- ❖ *For those who make music and enrich our worship*
- ❖ *for those who lighten our days and a bring a smile to our face.*
- ❖ *for those who seek peace and sanctuary within the cathedral.*
- ❖ *for our local community*

### **A prayer for cathedrals**

*Loving God, draw us on the journey  
to the places of holiness,  
the places of peace,  
the places of encounter,  
the places of beauty,  
the places where faith has been lived,  
your love made known,  
your hope held out in the past,  
for the present, into your future.  
Amen.*

(This prayer is provided by the Association of English Cathedrals)

We listen to Dear Lord and Father sung by the Girl Choristers of the Cathedral Choir



<https://youtu.be/f0rHWW0BMuA?si=EI9RG1iObZ1BV5PW>

Let us pray in confidence using the words our Saviour gave us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen*

We close with Salvatore mundi Domine (Saviour of the world) by Osbert Parsley

 **YouTube** [https://youtu.be/BI\\_59qAHTWM?si=2vrtFwvq-OvdJJco](https://youtu.be/BI_59qAHTWM?si=2vrtFwvq-OvdJJco)

Fr Derek Akker

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(Derek is a retired Anglican Parish Priest and a member of the congregations of All Saints & St James. Prior to his ordination he was accredited as a Methodist Preacher in 1968 and served within the Methodist Church until returning to the Anglican Church in the mid 1980's)

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Parish of Kirklees Valley, Bury, (All Saints, Elton & St James, Woolfold) - In the Diocese of Manchester  
While I seek to use only reliable sources when using websites, I cannot guarantee that the content on these websites is or will remain accurate or appropriate.

### **Cathedral candles**

Simon Burchell - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0

### **The Sanctuary**

Diliff - Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 3.0

### **This is the day**

Recorded at First Baptist Church of Austin, Texas Summer 2021

Vocalists Lauren Lafferty Amy Farnell Ross Tarpley Chase Gaines Chris Peters

**Salvatore mundi Domine** (Saviour of the world)

Arranged by Katherine Baeth