

DID YOU KNOW...

1. York Minster's full title is The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York.
2. There are 16 miles of scaffolding covering the East Front: enough to stretch from the Minster to Castle Howard.
3. In the carvings of the Great West Doorway you can spot the heads of a Klingon and Ferengi from the Star Trek series. These characters from the show are on two decorative corbels, each no bigger than the nail on a little finger.

4. York Minster is the largest mediaeval gothic cathedral in Northern Europe.

5. Six of the roof bosses in the South Transept were designed by children. One of the bosses shows Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon.

6. York Minster has a paid staff of about 150 people, and 500 volunteers.



7. The Great East Window is the size of a tennis court and is largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world.

8. York Minster is the only cathedral in Britain to place mistletoe as well as holly on the High Altar at Christmas.



9. On one of the Minster's pinnacles is a carving portraying Trevor Cuttill (one of the longest serving Minster masons) lovingly holding a pint of beer.

10. York Minster has its own Police force – one of only two cathedrals in the world to do so.

York Minster: Restoring the East Front

York Minster is one of Britain's great treasures. It was voted one of the Seven Wonders of Britain in a poll in 2002, and voted Yorkshire's Best Loved Building in 2004. Maintaining the fabric of the Minster is a constant task, but one that is necessary to protect its beauty and grandeur, and to preserve it for future generations.



The Minster's current great project is the restoration of the East Front. The East Front was one of the last parts of the present cathedral to be built. Construction began in 1361, and it was completed by the 1420s. It is one of the finest examples of the Perpendicular style of architecture, which was unique to England. The focal point of the East Front is the magnificent Great East Window, which is the biggest single expanse of medieval stained glass in the world. It is roughly the size of a tennis court, and has been described as "the Sistine Chapel of the stained glass world".

The East Front is over 600 years old, and the centuries take their toll on the stone and glass. Some high level masonry has become unsafe and needs securing. There is widespread erosion of the stonework, including the delicate stone tracery of the Great East Window.

Many areas of stonework will have to be replaced completely. The medieval glass needs re-leading, and greater protection against the elements must be put in place. Since much of the stonework surrounding the Great East Window needs to be replaced, the window itself will need to be removed, panel-by-panel.

The stonework on the East Front will be restored by the Minster's Works Department (Stoneyard). There has been a Stoneyard attached to the Minster since at least 1360. The carvers and masons today produce first-class work which is equal to the standards of their medieval predecessors, and although they are ready and willing to meet this challenge, the scale of this project means that the Dean and Chapter cannot meet the necessary funds.

York Minster needs £23,000,000 to restore the East Front. A Development Campaign has been launched to raise this money, which is supported by celebrities such as Dame Judi Dench, Michael Palin and Greg Dyke. The Minster receives no funding from national or local Government: it relies on the generosity of the public to help maintain the building for future generations.

A new scheme was launched in November by the Duke of York, the Patron of the Development Campaign. The Sponsor a Stone scheme allows people to fund the restoration of one of the 2,500 stones that need to be replaced. These stones can be sponsored for £10 a month for 5 years, or £5 a month for 10 years. The Duke of York, who is Patron of the York Minster Development Campaign, has sponsored the first stone in this scheme.



If people are able to help restore the East Front, donations should be sent to the Development Office, Church House, Ogleforth, York YO1 7JN; telephone 01904 557245 or email development@yorkminster.org. Cheques should be made payable to the York Minster Fund.

If you would like to view the state of the East Front and see for yourself why it needs restoring, or if you would like to visit the Minster Stoneyard and see our masons and carvers at work, please contact Alix Peacock, York Minster Press Co-ordinator on 01904 557216, or email alixp@yorkminster.org

READY-SCANNED IMAGES

We can provide you with any of these images via email or on CD, either as JPEG or TIFF images.

If you need any further images, please contact
Alix Peacock

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York Minster from the South East



York Minster—south side



The North Transept seen from the South Transept



Minster Carver Martin Coward
working on a gargoyle



Nave and 14th century Great
West Window



The Crypt Font

A BRIEF HISTORY OF YORK MINSTER

306 Constantine is proclaimed Emperor of the Western Roman Empire in York. This probably happened in the Roman Basilica, where York Minster now stands

627 The first York Minster is built for the baptism of King Edwin. Edwin was the king of Northumbria, who two years earlier had married Princess Ethelburga of Kent. Ethelburga was a Christian, and only agreed to the marriage as long as she was able to worship freely, and take her chaplain, Bishop Paulinus, to York. After two years of marriage, Edwin became a Christian, and was baptised. This first Minster was probably a wooden structure, which was later replaced by a stone building. No one knows where the first Minster was built!

c640 The wooden Minster was replaced by a stone church dedicated to St Peter. This church was destroyed in the 'harrying of the north' in 1069

1080 Building started on the Norman Minster, which stood where the present Minster now stands. It would have been much larger than the Saxon church, highly decorated, and painted white, with red lines to give the appearance of neat masonry.

c1220 The construction of the present Minster was started by Archbishop Walter Grey. The South Transept was built first, followed by the North Transept, and the Chapter House in 1260. The Nave was completed in 1360, and the East End was completed by 1420.

1407 The Central Tower collapsed in a storm. Some people blamed the heavy storm, others held careless masons to account. The Tower was rebuilt by William of Colchester, and it has been suggested that Colchester planned for the Tower to have a second stage containing a belfry, and possibly even a spire. Visitors to the Minster can now climb the Tower for outstanding views of the city of York.

1472 Building of the current Minster was completed. The Minster you see today took about 250 years to build.

1829 Jonathan Martin deliberately set fire to the cathedral. Martin had escaped from a lunatic asylum and travelled to York, where he believed he was chosen by God to cleanse the Minster of wickedness. On the night of Sunday 1st February he hid in the Minster after Evensong, and created a large fire in the Quire at 2:30 am. It was not until 7:00am that the fire was discovered. Martin was tried for arson but was not hanged, since the jury decided he was insane.

1967 Work began to stabilise the pillars supporting the Central Tower, which were beginning to crack. The foundations of these pillars had to be shored up, leading to massive engineering works. This ambitious project led to the discovery of the Roman Basilica and the Norman cathedral under the present Minster, the story of which is now told in the highly acclaimed audio tour of the Undercroft, Treasury and Crypt.

1984 During an electric storm the South Transept was set on fire by lightning, destroying the roof and vaulting and cracking the glass of the Rose Window into 40,000 pieces. The window was saved, however, and the roof and vaulting were replaced in a restoration project which lasted four years. As part of this, the children's program Blue Peter held a competition for children to design six of the roof bosses to decorate the new roof.

2005 The Dean and Chapter launched a major development campaign to raise £30 million, principally to restore the East Front of the Minster. A detailed study had revealed that both the stonework and glass require urgent attention, to repair damaged areas and conserve what is one of the finest examples of medieval architecture in the world. The Campaign is supported by HRH Duke of York, who is acting as its Patron.

VISITING YORK MINSTER

What to see and do at the Minster

Entry to the Minster includes a guided tour (when available) conducted by one of our qualified voluntary guides. Our guides will unravel the mysteries of the Minster, and explore the cathedral's treasures. York Minster is justly famous for its collection of stained glass. The Great East, Great West, Five Sisters and the Rose Windows are internationally famous, and the Minster has one of the most complete collections of medieval glass in the world. The Minster is the largest gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, and the sheer size and spaciousness of the building overawes every visitor.

All our visitors are welcome to attend our services at the Minster: we have about four services a day. One of the most popular services is Evensong (Monday – Saturday 5.15pm and Sunday 4.00pm). In term-time, this is sung by the Minster's choir; we have a girls' and a boys' choir, accompanied by adult Songmen. Choral music is one of the country's most significant cultural achievements, and the Minster choir is one of the finest in the country.

The Undercroft, Treasury and Crypt are the areas under the Minster. The Undercroft is formed from the space excavated between 1969 – 1972, when work was done to stabilise the pillars supporting the Central Tower, which were beginning to crack. The excavation during the engineering works led to the unearthing of the Roman Basilica and the Norman cathedral under the present Minster, the story of which is now told in the highly acclaimed audio tour of the Undercroft, Treasury and Crypt.

The Central Tower is the highest point of the Minster, standing 60 metres tall with 275 steps. Visitors can climb the spiral stairs for an unrivalled view of York and the surrounding countryside.

Charging for entry

York Minster is one of Britain's top tourist attractions, and we welcome about 1 million people through our doors each year. The Minster's routine of worship, looking after its visitors, and maintaining the buildings requires a large and able staff and considerable sums of money. We receive no funding from the Government to help. The Minster costs over £10,000 per day, over £415 per hour, or nearly £7 per minute to run.

Neither the Government nor the Church of England help financially to maintain this national treasure, so the burden falls on the Dean and Chapter. Since our main source of income is from visitors, the only way to meet these costs is to charge for admission. Entry charges to maintain this holy and historic building were reluctantly introduced on 2 August 2003.

Worshippers and those wishing to enter the Minster for private prayer are able to do so without payment. York residents and parishioners in the diocese of York are also allowed free access. Our current prices are as follows:

Entry to the Minster

Adults	£5.00
Concessions	£4.00
Children (under 16s)	Free

Entry to the Undercroft

Adults	£4.00
Concessions	£3.00
Children	£2.00

Entry to the Tower

Adults	£3.50
Children	£2.00

Combined ticket (includes Minster and Undercroft)

Adults	£7.00 (would be £9.00)
Concessions	£5.00 (would be £7.00)

WHAT IS YORK MINSTER?

What is the difference between a Church, a Minster and a Cathedral?

A **church** is a Christian place of worship. All minsters and cathedrals are churches, but not all churches are minsters or cathedrals! York Minster's proper title is 'The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York': it is a Minster, a Cathedral and a Church. York Minster exists for the glory of God and as a sign of God's kingdom in the world. This is worked out through daily worship and prayer, in welcome and pastoral care, education and learning, and in service to the community.

'**Minster**' comes from the Latin word 'monasterium'. Towards the end of the sixth century, Pope Gregory sent Christian missionaries to convert Saxon England. They built churches to be centres for worship from which they could go to preach in the surrounding countryside. Priests lived there communally, though not necessarily as monks subject to St Benedict's Rule of Life. Such a centre was known as a 'monasterium', a word that entered the Saxon language as 'mynster'. Today the spelling has changed and 'minster' can describe churches ranging from small parish churches to large cathedrals such as York.

A **cathedral** is the most important church in a bishop's diocese – the geographical area over which he has authority. In the early days of the church, a bishop wore the same vestments as any other priest. To distinguish him as leader, he was given a chair in which only he could sit. In both Greek and Latin the word for chair is 'cathedra', from which cathedral has been derived. The 'cathedra' can be found in the Quire of the Minster on the south side.

The Archbishop of York is the Right Reverend Dr John Sentamu. He is bishop of the Diocese of York, but is not in charge of the day to day running of the Minster: The Diocese of York is an area of land bounded roughly by the North Sea, the River Tees, the A1, the River Humber. As Archbishop he is also the chief Anglican Bishop in the Northern Province. He is the Preacher at Christmas and Easter and uses the Minster for diocesan services but he does not have any responsibility for running the Minster nor is he usually present at services. You can find a list of the Archbishops of York at the west end of the Minster near the great West door.

Who's Who

The governing body of York Minster is the Chapter, which is made up of the following people:

- The Dean** The Very Rev'd Keith Jones
- Residentiary Clergy Canons**
 - Canon Glyn Webster (Chancellor)
 - Canon Dr Jonathan Draper (Theologian)
 - Canon Jeremy Fletcher (Precentor)
- The Chapter Steward** Canon Stephen Anderson
- 3 Lay Canons**
 - Canon Lindsay Mackinlay
 - Canon Maureen Loffill
 - Canon Dr Ann Lees



The Dean of York, the Very Rev'd Keith Jones