

About the Cathedral

Worcester Cathedral has been a place of prayer and worship for fourteen centuries and is dedicated to Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has been described as possibly the most interesting of all England's cathedrals, especially architecturally. The first Cathedral was founded in 680. Saint Oswald then built another cathedral in 983, and established a monastery attached to it. Saint Wulfstan began the present building in 1084 replacing the earlier cathedrals.

During Anglo-Saxon times, Worcester was one of the most important monastic cathedrals in the country. It was a centre of great learning, which continued into the later middle ages, when Worcester's Benedictine monks went to university to study a variety of subjects, such as theology, medicine, law, history, mathematics, physics and astronomy. Some of these medieval university textbooks still survive in the cathedral library today.

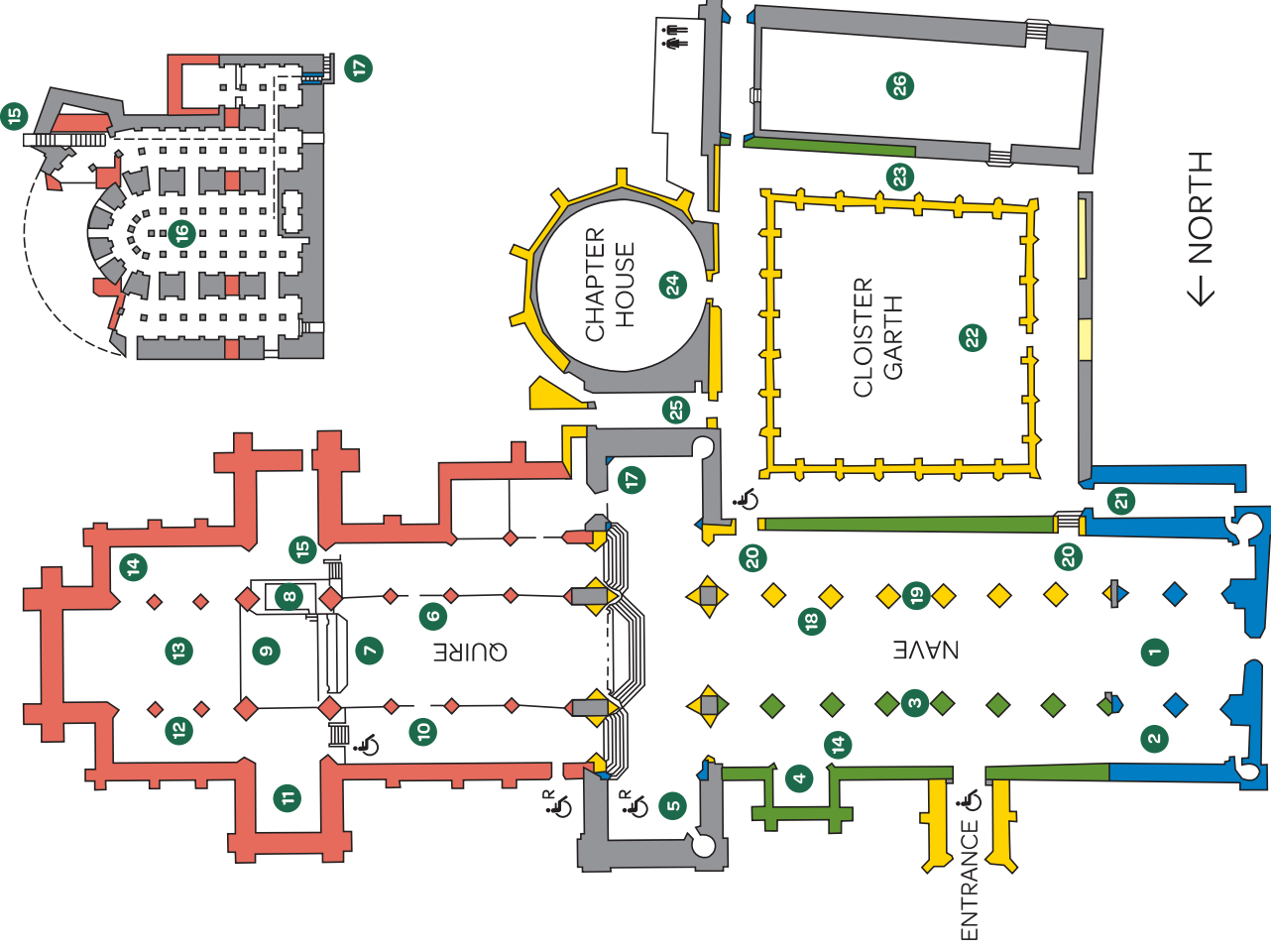
The monastery continued until 1540 when Henry VIII dissolved it, and some of the last monks became the first Dean and Chapter. The cathedral was badly damaged in the Civil Wars, and as a consequence a major programme of rebuilding was required after the Restoration of Charles II. From the late seventeenth until the nineteenth centuries there were several campaigns to restore parts of the cathedral, but the Victorians from 1854-75 carried out the largest of these. Worcester also has a famous musical tradition. Sir Edward Elgar performed in the cathedral at many Three Choirs Festival concerts.

The Cathedral's attractions include **King John's Tomb**, **Prince Arthur's Chantry**, the early **12th Century Chapter House**, **St Wulfstan's Crypt**, medieval cloisters and magnificent **Victorian stained glass**.



Your guide to Worcester Cathedral

1. West end and West window and Baldwin Memorial (d.1947)
2. Elgar plaque and window
3. Beauchamp tomb (d.1388)
4. Jesus Chapel
5. Entrance to Tower
6. Bishop's throne (19th Century)
7. Misericords (14th Century)
8. King John's Tomb (d.1216)
9. Prince Arthur's chantry (d.1502)
10. High Altar
11. Duke of Hamilton plaque (d.1651)
12. St George's Chapel; Studdert Kennedy (Woodbine Willie) memorial
13. Spandrel carvings
14. Lady Chapel & East window
15. Prayer candlestands
16. Dean's Chapel and entrance to the crypt
17. Norman crypt (including an exhibition in south aisle)
18. Exit from crypt
19. Pulpit (19th Century)
20. Wide monument (d.1608)
21. Entrance to Cloister
22. Gift Shop
23. Herb garden
24. Millennium Window
25. Chapter House
26. Cloister Café (refreshments)
27. College Hall / Undercroft



ENTRANCE

← NORTH

- Norman (11th/early 12th Century)
- Transitional Norman (late 12th Century)
- Early English (13th Century)
- Decorated (early 14th Century)
- Perpendicular (late 14th Century)

680 First Cathedral dedicated to St Peter

983 Present Cathedral started by Wulfstan

1084 Tower collapsed

1175 King John buried

1224 Rebuilding of Nave started

1216 Lady Chapel started

1317 Present Tower completed

1374 Prince Arthur buried

1502 Dissolution of Monastery

1540 Civil War damage

1642-1651 Start of 20 year restoration

c1854 Major Restoration work

1988-2012