



ALNWICK U3A Architecture Group

Thursday 23rd May 2019

Visit to Ripon Cathedral & Markenfield Hall

Timetable:

9.25 am	Depart from Alnwick (Playhouse first then Leisure Centre busstop)
11.30 am	Arrive in Ripon. Coffee at Cathedral
12 noon	Tour of Cathedral. (Tour lasts approximately 45 minutes)
2.30 pm	Depart from Ripon
3 pm	Arrive at Markenfield
5 pm	Depart from Markenfield
7 pm	Arrive back at Alnwick



RIPON CATHEDRAL

A monastery was founded at Ripon in 657 by monks from Melrose. In the following year, Wilfrid became the Abbott and he rebuilt the monastery's church on the site of the present cathedral. The building was, according to Wilfrid's biographer, built of dressed stone supported with columns and complete with side aisles. This building was demolished in 950 by King Eadred's army sent to show rebellious Northumbrians who was boss. The crypt of this building still remains.

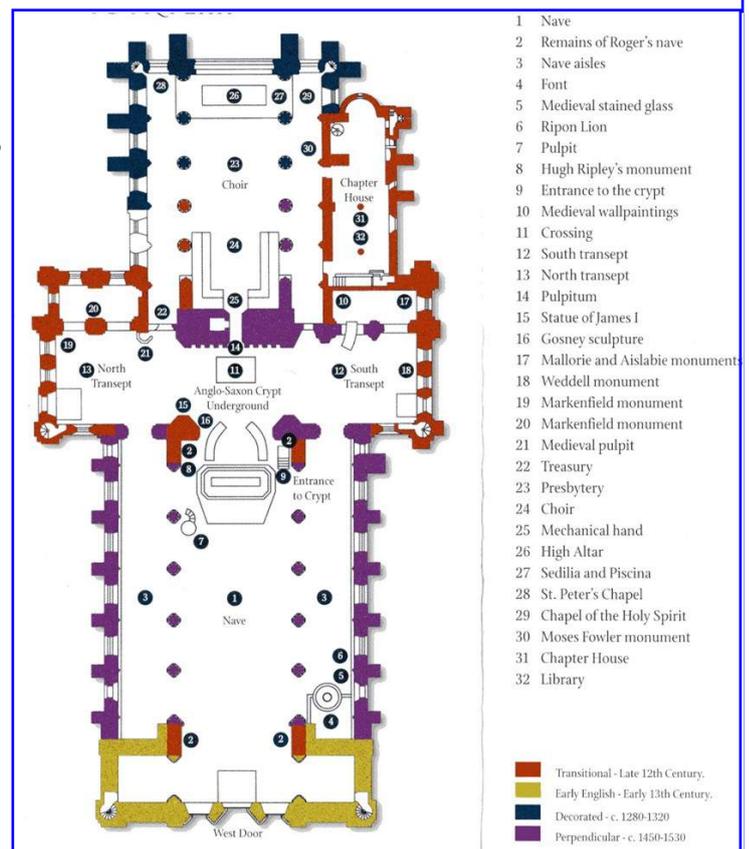
Apart from the crypt, the building we see now is of various dates. Although there is some Norman work, it mostly dates from the later 12th century onwards. There were several restorations in the nineteenth century. The west front dates from 1220-50 (above) and is composed almost entirely of lancet windows. Both these towers and the crossing tower originally had spires; that of the crossing tower collapsed in 1615 and those of the west towers were taken down in 1664.

The east end, with its fine window is of about 1300. Like most medieval churches, the building of Ripon began at the east, at Ripon in the 12th century. The church's increasing importance led to the need for a longer chancel and therefore, a new east front.

Entering from the west, we do not see the chancel, but an impressive crossing screen of the late 15th century with more recent figures. Much, but rather well, restored.

Passing into the chancel, we can see the fine east window with stained glass of 1854 by the well known north eastern glazier William Wailes, and richly decorated stalls, much restored, but including 15th century parts with a very fine collection of misericords (with many animals).

Other items to note are the Arts and Crafts style nave pulpit by H Wilson, 1913, monument to William Weddell (south transept) by Joseph Nollekens, 1789 and one to Thomas Markenfield, 1497 (north transept).





MARKENFIELD HALL

Markenfield is a fortified house surrounded with a moat. It dates from 1310.

The rectangular site is entered through a 16th century gate house (above) and the hall itself (right) occupies the north east corner with farm buildings along the west side. The arrangement is clear in the painting (above right).

The Markenfield family lived at the hall until 1569 when, as staunch Catholics, they took part in the Rising of the North. The hall was forfeited and after passing through a number of hands became the property of the Egerton family. The hall was sold in 1761 to Fletcher Norton, whose descendants still own it.

Over the years there have been alterations and periods of neglect of the hall. Serious restoration began in the 1980s - and continues.

We enter the hall through the undercroft, since the staircase that would have provided entry to the great hall has long since disappeared. The other main rooms that we will see are the great hall, the chapel and a bedroom that may have been part of an earlier (c 1230) house.

