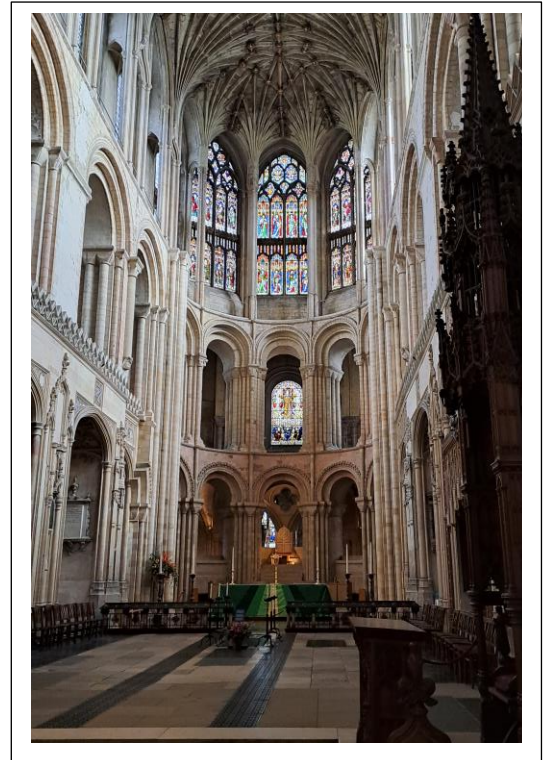


Norwich Anglican Cathedral was our venue, and we had booked two experienced guides. We split into two groups for a formal tour that also provided the unusual history and quirks of the building.

The original building, (1096) the majority of which has survived to this day was founded by Herbert De Losinga the first Bishop. It took 50 years to build and was designed for his 60 monks as a monastery. It survived many kings and queens with Catholic and Protestant religions.



The photograph shows examples of the magnificent Gothic and Romanesque architecture and stained-glass windows

One of the most delightful relics was a five panelled screen, (shown below) found in St Saviours Chapel, which had survived from the 1400, by being turned upside down and turned into a tabletop for centuries, the lack of light explaining the beautiful colours remaining today.



Where the Choir sits now used to be the Monks prayer seats, as they spent many hours having to stand. Under the seats are carved comfort leans. Each seat is under an intricately carved wooden canopy, most of which are nodules of acorns or flower buds, but two are different. One has cat's faces and the other has human faces.



We were told about and shown history that without an experienced tour guide we may well have missed. Examples being:

- a) the columns at the main entrance that do not match in height, and there are two arches, the original and another added at a later date, leaving an unfilled gap between.
- b) historical medieval graffiti, a ship, animals, people, initials
- c) The visit of Queen Elizabeth 1st in 1578
- d) the design similarities with Peterborough Cathedral, and Wymondham Abbey which used the same building stone
- e) ceiling bosses on the joints and most being of the same bishop
- f) examples of the use of a Rebus to convey messages as most people could not read or write

An ancient Stone Carved effigy of St Felix one of the first Christian missionaries to East Anglia during the 11th Century.



These were just some of the facts told and shown to us by our tour guides . It was very interesting and informative tour, but we need to recognise that we only saw a small part of the history of this magnificent building.