

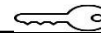
What do I need to know:

- The significance of Norman Cathedrals
- The Romanesque design of churches.
- The impact of these buildings.

Normans: How did William change Church Buildings?

Key Words:

Buffer Zone, benefactor, quire, perpendicular style, shrine, nave

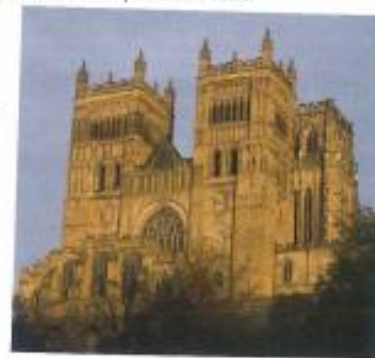


Durham Cathedral



- Durham was politically important
- It was the main English town within the buffer zone along the border with Scotland.
- Earls found it difficult to control the area
- The Norman Kings gave the Bishop of Durham additional secular powers (this meant he had legal powers outside of the Church)
- This is because people were likely to obey the church
- From 1075, the bishop became a prince bishop.

- The cathedral contains the relics of St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, the head of St Oswald and remains of the Venerable Bede. So it became a site of pilgrimage in medieval times.
- Durham was of strategic importance. The Bishop of Durham had more power than most bishops at the time. He was a Prince-Bishop. Durham was border country so he had quite a lot of independence in how he ran the area. He had military power as well as power within the Church. Durham demonstrates how the Church was used to support the military conquest of England.
- The independence given to the Bishop of Durham demonstrates the vulnerability of Norman rule in border areas.
- Ranulf Flambard, one of the King's closest allies and his former clerk, was appointed bishop in 1099. This shows the close relationship between the king's court and the Church.



Romanesque Architecture:

- This style was favoured by the Normans
- It combined Roman style and Byzantium buildings.
- The buildings were high quality
- They had thick walls, round decorative arches and large towers.
- Building had symmetrical patterns, simple with little decoration.
- Southwell Minister is a good example of a Romanesque abbey.
- Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals were similar to this.

How did William change church buildings?

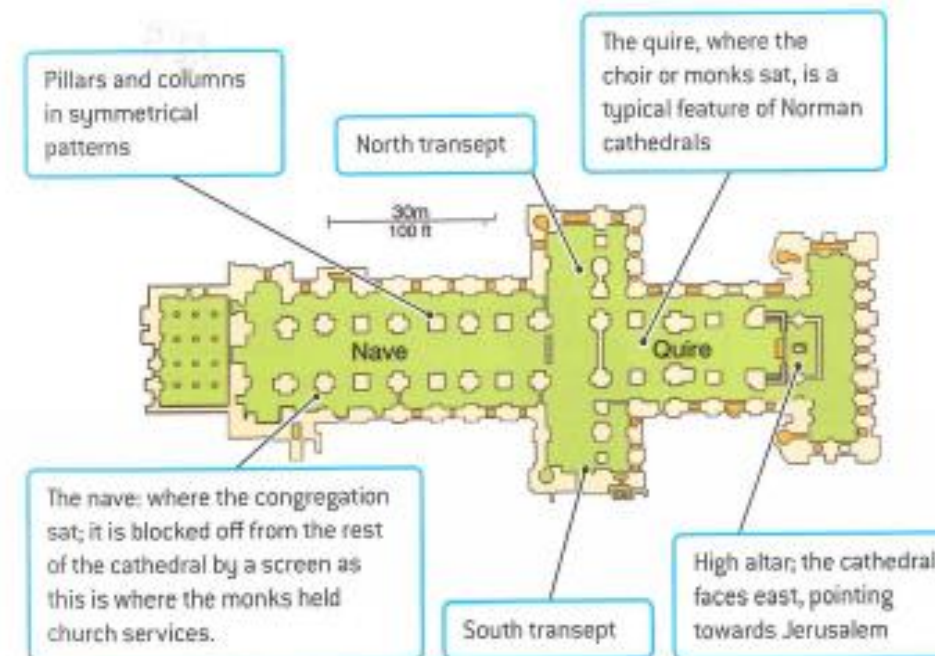
- Major building programme.
- By the early 1100s every major Anglo-Saxon cathedral and abbey apart from Westminster Abbey had been knocked down and rebuilt in a Romanesque style.
- Many wooden parish churches were rebuilt in stone.
- England was a wealthy country and this allowed the Normans to rebuild on a huge scale.
- They used forced labour.

Why did they change Cathedrals?

- To show that God favoured the new regime.
- The impressive churches were a display of Norman power and prestige.

Where were Cathedrals built?

- Winchester, Ely, London, Bury St Edmunds, Norwich were far larger than anything built by the Anglo-Saxons.
- Ely had been a wealthy Benedictine monastery. But Ely was the centre of the Hereward the Wake rebellion and was an island virtually cut off.
- After crushing the rebellion William put a Norman Abbot Simeon in charge and rebuilt a grand new church in the Romanesque style.
- In 1083 work started on the Cathedral but it was a slow process.



▲ B The floor-plan shape of Durham Cathedral represents the cross on which Christ died