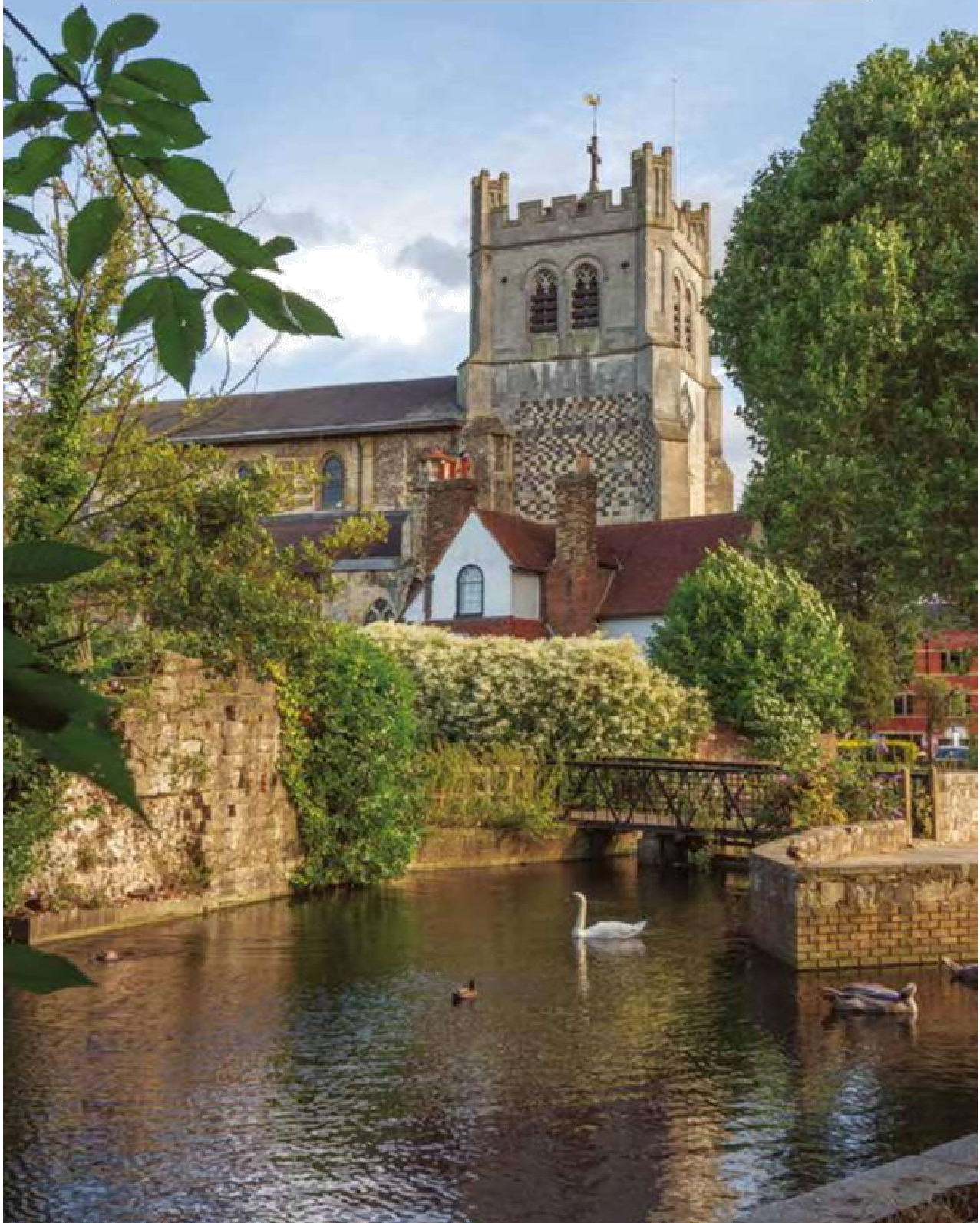
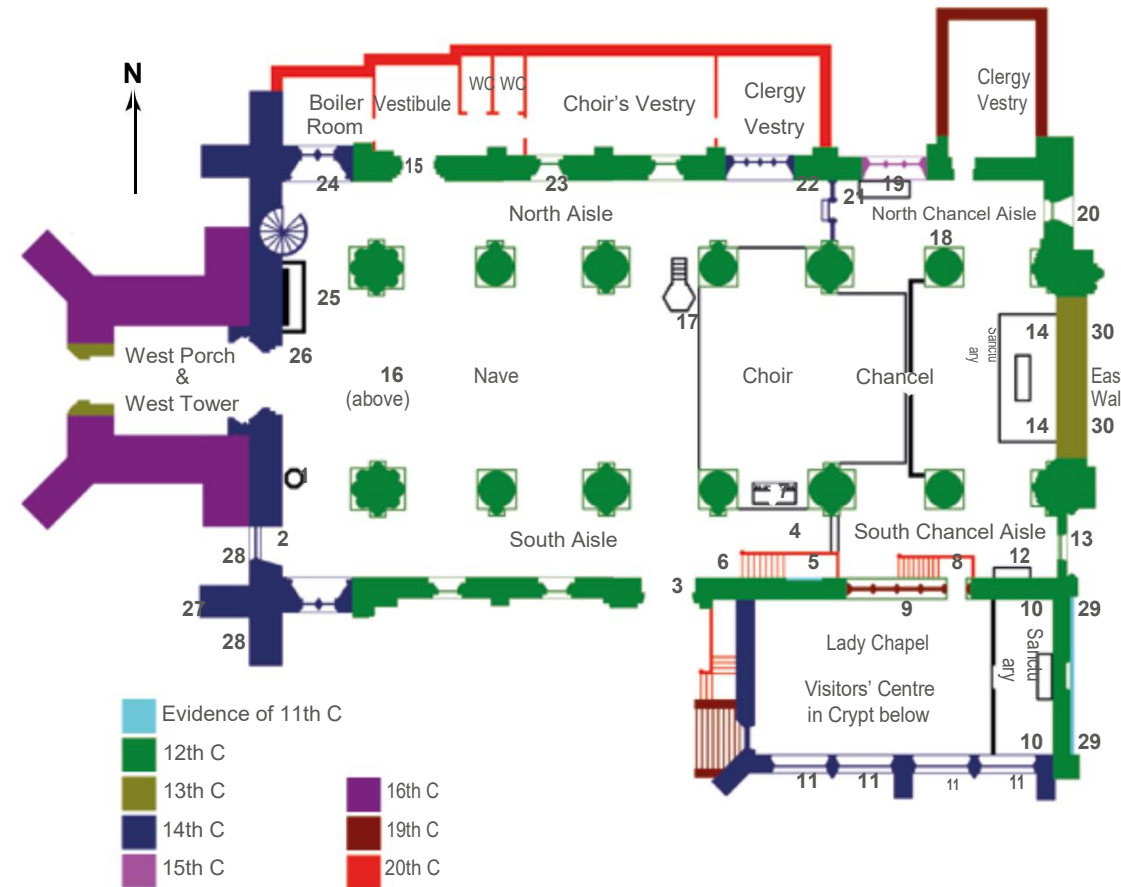


**A GUIDE TO  
THE ABBEY CHURCH, WALTHAM ABBEY  
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS AND ST LAWRENCE**





## FLOOR PLAN



- 1 Purbeck Marble Font, 12th C; Rough Riders' Memorial, 1902, on wall above
- 2 Acts of the Apostles Window, late 19th C, over early 14th C door
- 3 Norman South Door (see it also from outside) early 13th C
- 4 Stairwell down to the Crypt
- 5 Visitors' Centre, installed 1984
- 6 Chamfered Base-Course visible in the Stairwell, probably of Harold's Church (Church 3)
- 7 Painted Window Panel by Henry Holliday, 1860
- 8 Organ Console, 1950s
- 9 Staircase up to the Lady Chapel, installed 1930s
- 10 Francis Memorial Screen, 1886 (glazing 1989, engraved by David Peace)
- 11 Day of Judgement or Doom Painting, late 15th C
- 12 Lady Chapel Windows, three eastern ones with 1930s stained glass
- 13 Denny Monument, c.1600
- 14 Stained Glass Window by Henry Holliday, 1867, above Effigy of Lady Greville, 1619/20
- 15 East End Façade, designed by William Burges 1860; Windows by Edward Burne-Jones 1860; Reredos by William Burges 1875
- 16 Norman North Door, probably originally in the West Front
- 17 Royal Arms of Elizabeth I, 16th C, displayed on Organ Gallery, 1860
- 18 Pulpit, c.1658
- 19 Ledger Stone of an Abbot, late 13th C
- 19 Smith Tomb, c.1697
- 20 Stained Glass Window, 1960s, above a private door, once the entrance for Lords of the Manor, 16/17th C
- 21 Wooden Screen, 14th C
- 22 Wollaston Bust, 1684/5
- 23 Cleall Memorial Window. 1947
- 24 Old Tower Clock, 1637, on ledge of 13th C Window
- 25 War Memorial, 20th C
- 26 Green Man, 13th C
- 27 Statue of King Harold. 1964
- 28 Western Façade, Gothic, 14th C
- 29 Outside East Wall, Herringbone Masonry below drip-mould, probably of Harold's Church (Church 3)
- 30 Stone Wall with two blocked doorways, late 12th C, which once divided abbey from the parish church



## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

A warm welcome to the Church of the Holy Cross and St. Lawrence, or as most people prefer to call it – Waltham Abbey.

Over the centuries this building, standing proudly at the centre of the town that bears its name, has been a visual witness to the presence of God in this community. These stones have witnessed all the events of life; baptisms, confirmations, weddings, ordinations, funerals, and state occasions, the list is as endless as the need that we as human beings have to involve Christ in the events of our lives. It continues to be a vibrant and active parish church open every day to those who come to seek him here. We hope that you will enjoy your time with us and that your visit will be just one of many.

### The Rector of Waltham Abbey

*The numbers in brackets in the following text refer to a list of pamphlets and books at the back of this guide, that are on sale in the visitors' centre, and give more information about the subject to which the number refers.*



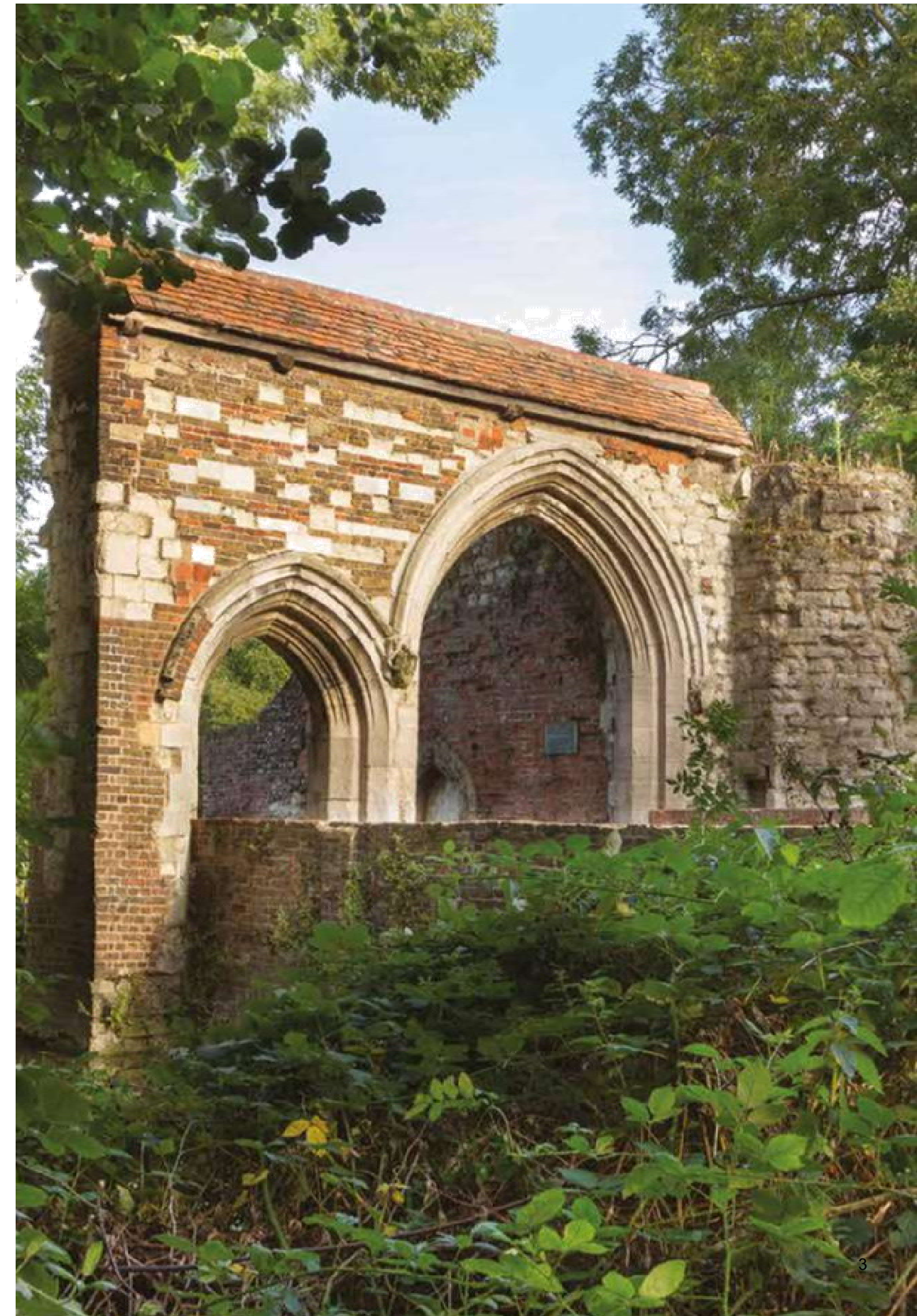


## THE BUILDING AND ITS PREDECESSORS

The present building is the fourth to have been built on this site. Church 1 appears to have been a small wooden building within the area of the present choir, and to be dated c610 when Sabert (nephew of Ethelbert of Kent) was king of the East Saxons. Waltham at that time was the centre of a royal hunting park. Church 2 was built in the second half of the eighth century when Offa of Mercia had added Essex to his kingdom. It was a stone building stretching as far west as the step up to the choir in the present building, and the same width, but with side chapels instead of north and south aisles. No trace has yet been found of its eastern end.

During the reign of Canute in the first three decades of the eleventh century the manor of Waltham was held by Tofig (Tovi), a friend of the king. He also owned a manor in Somerset where a stone crucifix was discovered which was brought to Waltham and soon became a magnet for pilgrims seeking healing from their ills (1). During the 1050s, Harold Godwinson, then Earl of East Anglia and Lord of the Manor of Waltham, was stricken by an illness while he was fighting in Wales. No cure could be found for him until Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester, advised him to pray through the Holy Cross of Waltham. He did so and was cured, so in thanks, he rebuilt the church creating church 3. He also added considerable property to the ownership of the church to support a college of sixteen canons (priests) to serve his new church and surrounding parishes. His building which was consecrated on Holy Cross Day, May 3rd 1060 was T-shaped like the old St Peter's in Rome which Harold had visited. It was partly built on the old foundations of church 2 but with a great cross transept at the eastern end beyond the present east wall. It was before the altar of that church that Harold was entombed after his death at Hastings.

● The Gateway to the Abbey, built 1369.



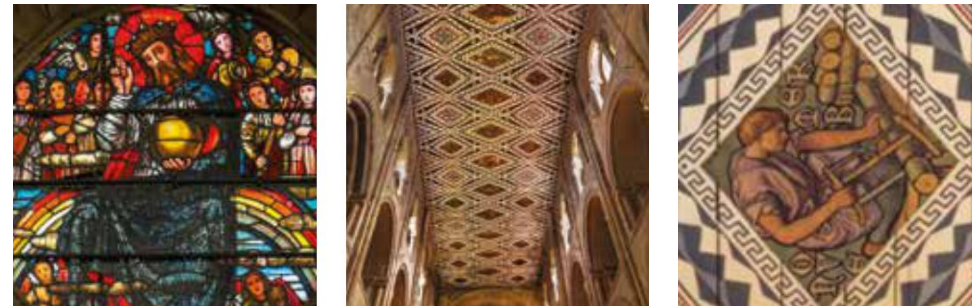


Pages 4 & 5 are not available in this preview.



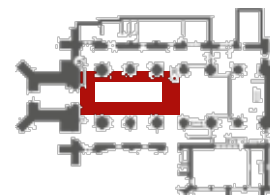


## A WALK ROUND THE INTERIOR

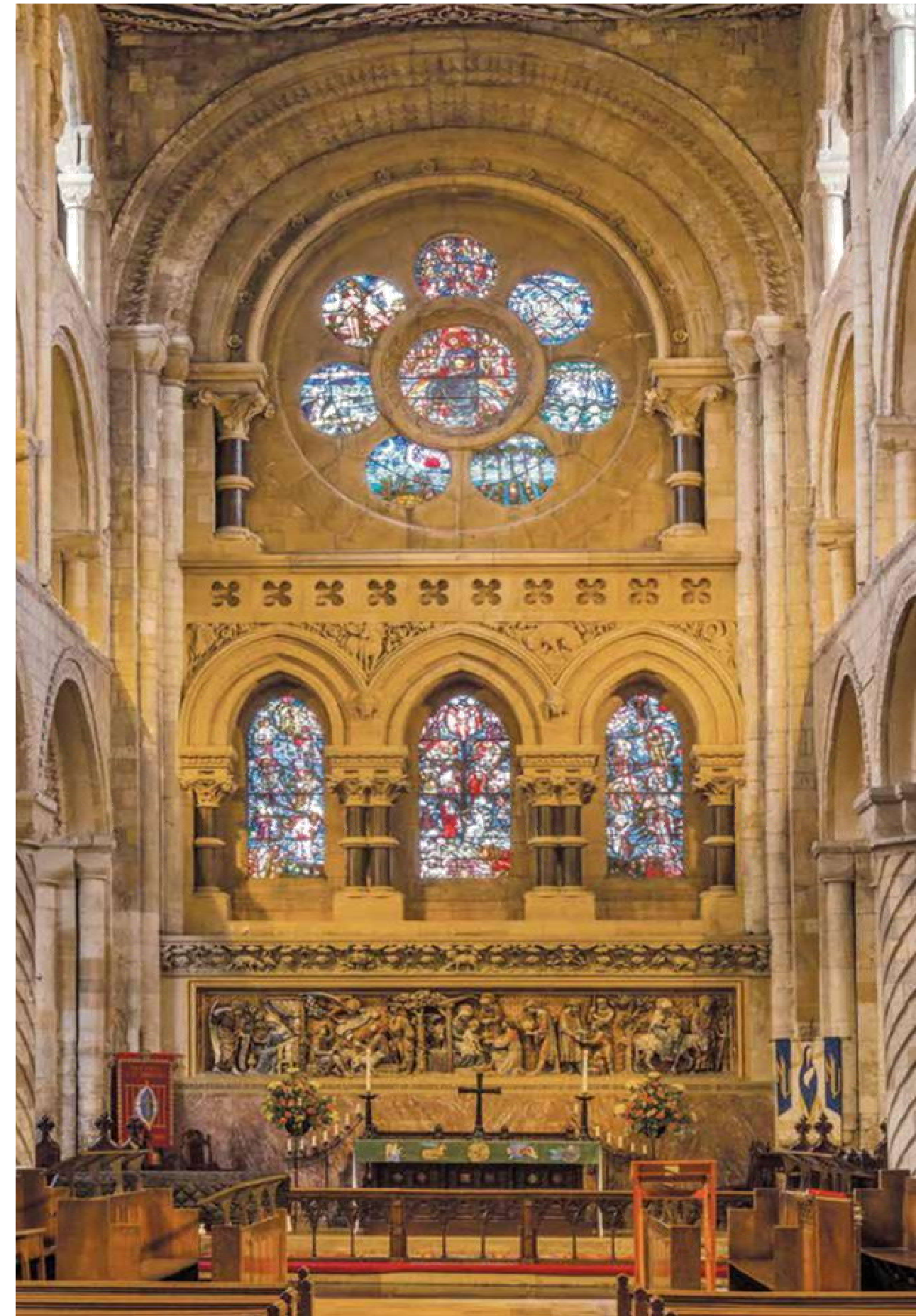


### The Nave - Looking East

Starting from the inside of the west door, look up the nave at the great east window. This was designed by Edward Burne-Jones in the 1860s and made by Powells of Whitefriars. Below the rose window showing the Creation, are three lancet windows. The descent of Jesus from Jesse is shown in the middle window in the form of a Jesse tree. The left hand window shows the Patriarchs of the Old Testament and the right hand one shows the Prophets. The painted ceiling also dates from the 1860s and is based on the thirteenth century ceiling of Peterborough Cathedral. The pictures, in the diamond shapes, were painted on canvas in his studio by Edward Poynter (Burne-Jones' brother in law) and the background pattern, painted on the narrow boards on each side, was painted by Harland & Fisher but repainted in 1964 by Campbell, Smith & Co. The pictures represent the Past and Future and the four elements at the far end, then the signs of the Zodiac and the labours of the months on the nearer ones (4). There is a moveable trolley with a mirror which can be used to enable the ceiling to be seen more easily.



- The Burne-Jones Rose window.
- The paintings on the Nave ceiling representing the Four Elements, the Past and Future, the Signs of the Zodiac and the Labours of the Months.
- The Chancel and East End with the Reredos and Lancet windows.



Pages 8-21 are not available in this preview

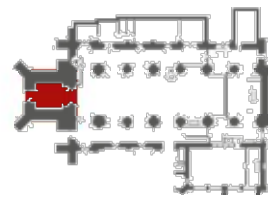






## The Visitors' Centre

We suggest you should now make your way back along the south aisle to the VISITORS' CENTRE. On the window sill facing the entrance you will see a mutilated figure of the VIRGIN MARY which probably once stood in the original Lady Chapel. It is carved from Reigate stone and has been dated by the Virgin's fashionable dress to the 1380s.



☛ The mutilated Statue of the Madonna, dated circa 1380, found in 1974, carefully buried in a ditch on the North side of Sun Street.



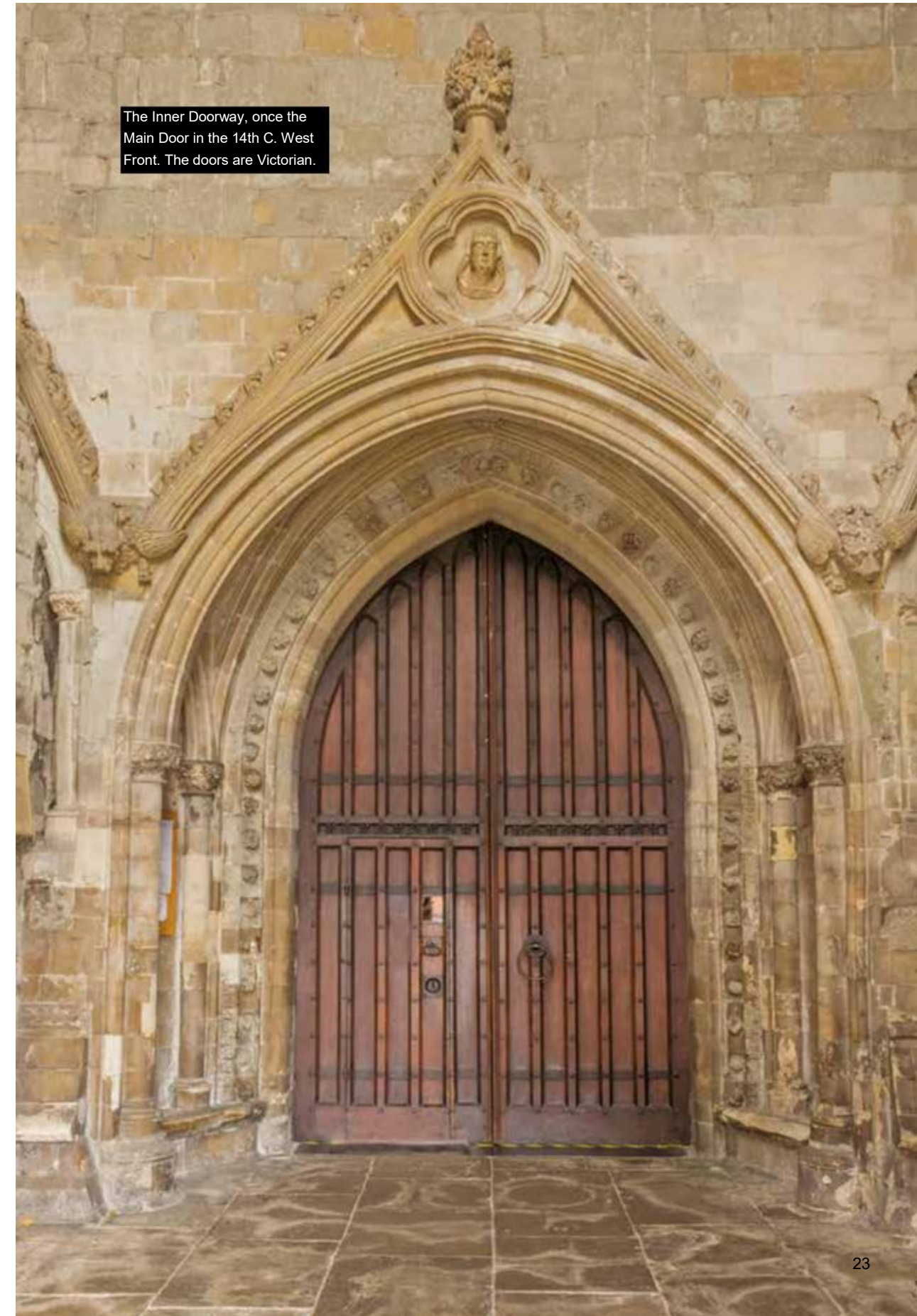
## The Porch

Before you leave the church please look around inside the porch, notice the various Benefactor boards and the surround of the inner doorway, originally the main door in the fourteenth century west front before the tower was built in front of it in 1556. Look for a hedgehog and a dog on the north side and a pelican in her piety (feeding her young with her own blood) on the south side. On the outermost pillar on the south side there is a small dragon with two winged lions above the doorway. Also, above the doorway is a bust of St Lawrence the patron saint of the parish church and the arms of Charles II. As you turn to go out of the outer door you will see the rest of the monument of Francis Wollaston whose bust is in the north aisle.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to our church and have time to say a prayer before you leave, to light a candle or to write a prayer request. If you wish to see the memorial to King Harold in the churchyard please follow the path which runs close beside the south wall of the church. On the way look up at the statue of King Harold in the south-west buttress (15). You will also find in the Abbey Gardens a number of illustrated guide signs which will tell you more about the different churches and the Abbey (13).

**Thank you for coming and we hope you will come again in the near future.**

**May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He make His face to shine upon you and grant you His peace. Amen**







The West Front. The Tower, originally built in 1556, not too successively restored in 1798, required extensive restorations to the upper section circa 1903.

# BOOK LIST

All available in the Visitor's Centre in the crypt.  
A full range of other leaflets, guides, postcards and gifts is also available.

- 1. The Legend of the Miraculous Cross of Waltham
- 2. The Church at Waltham, An Archaeological and Historical Review.
- 3. The Guilds and Guild Chapels of Waltham Abbey
- 4. The Christian Symbolism of the Zodiac.
- 5. Waltham Abbey Church. Stained Glass Windows
- 6. The Funerary Hatchments in Waltham Abbey Church, Essex.
- 7. An Historical Tour of the Lady Chapel and Crypt of the parish Church of Waltham Holy Cross and St. Lawrence, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
- 8. The Waltham Abbey Doom Painting.
- 9. The Denny Monument.
- 10. The Smith Tomb.
- 11. Lifetimes of Achievement. The People Commemorated in the Waltham Abbey Memorial
- 12. The Bells of Waltham Abbey.
- 13. A Walk round Waltham Abbey.
- 14. The Memorial Inscriptions in the Church of the Holy Cross and St. Lawrence at Waltham Abbey.
- 15. King Harold's Statue at Waltham Abbey.

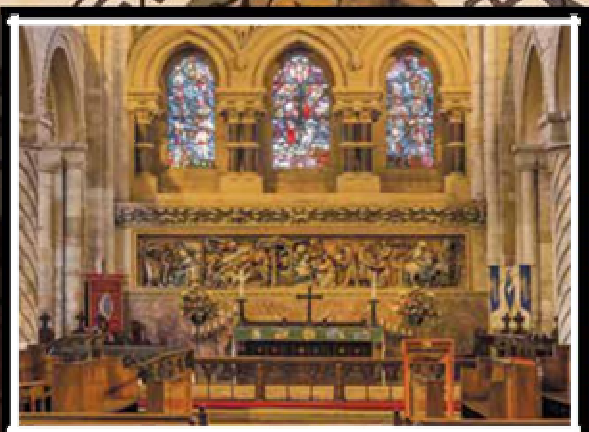


The Elizabeth Muntz 1964 Statue of King Harold can be seen on leaving the Church in a niche in the South West Buttress.

Designed by Jamieson Eley  
Photography by David Tyrell, with additional photography by Christopher Parkinson.  
Text by Grenville Welch, based on the work of the late Dinah Dean.  
Floor Plan by Lawrence Greenall, and the Plan of Churches 4 & 5 and the Monastic Buildings by the late Peter Huggins.

Published by Jarrold Publishing  
publications@jarrold-publishing.co.uk  
www.jarrold-publishing.co.uk

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission of the publisher and any other copyright holders.  
© Jarrold Publishing and Waltham Abbey Church 2017 92308 - 04/17



## WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH

The Parish Office,  
Abbey Church Centre, Abbey Farmhouse,  
Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey,  
Essex, EN9 1XQ.

Telephone: 01992 767897  
Email: [parish.office@walthamabbeychurch.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@walthamabbeychurch.co.uk)

ISBN 978-0-85101-616-0



9 780851 016160 >